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HQ 4-3 Inf
LZ SAN JUAN (BS635382) HVN
021600 January 1971
GPL-18

OPORD 1-71

Reference: Maps, South Vietnam: 1:50,000; Series L7014: Sheets 6738I, 6738II, 6738III, 6738IV.

(c) TASK ORGANIZATION:

A 4-3 Inf Bn Control
B 4-3 Inf Recon
C 4-3 Inf B 6-11 Arty (DS)
D 4-3 Inf Heavy Mortar Platoon

1. (c) SITUATION:

- a. Enemy Forces: Annex A, Intelligence Overlay.
- b. Friendly Forces: Annex B, Operations Overlay.

2. (C) MISSION: 4-3 Inf conducts combat operations and combined operations within Battalion AO in order to interdict and destroy VC/NVA forces.

3. (c) EXECUTION:

a. **Concept of Operation:**

(1) Maneuver.. 4-3 Inf conducts operations 02-11 January 71 with Co A and Co B continuing operations in assigned AO. Co C conducts CA 031400 Jan for combined operations with ARVN Ranger Battalions at Ba To and Minh Long. Co D extracts from field location to San Juan Hill for retraining; Recon platoon conducts CA into LZ vic Iron Mountain and conducts reconnaissance and search/ambush patrols in sector.

(2) Fires:

- (a) An Arty prep will be fired on all LZ's beginning at H-05 minutes.
- (b) Priority of fires to unit involved in air movement.

b. Co A:

- (1) Continue squad-size search and ambush patrols in sector.
- (2) Be prepared for extraction and return to LZ San Juan Hill 07 Jan from

PZ 1 (BS611473), PZ 2 (BS622458) and PZ 3 (BS598462).

c. Go B: Continue squad-size search and ambush patrols in assigned AO.

d. Co. C:

(1) Conduct CA 031400 Jan in combined operations with the Ranger Battalions (ARVN) from Ba To and Minh Long. LZ's for Co C: LZ 1 (BS519430), LZ 2 (BS552413), LZ 3 (BS532410) and LZ 4 (BS548404). LZ for Ba To 031000 Jan BS521399 and LZ for Minh Long 031200 Jan BS498429. Conduct search and ambush patrols in assigned AO thereafter.

(2) Maintain continuous coordination with US advisors with ARVN Rangers.

(3) Be prepared to assist one or both of the ARVN Companies by foot or

air movement.

e. Co D:

(1) Conduct extraction 031400 Jan to San Juan Hill for retraining.

(2) Be prepared to conduct CA 071000 Jan LZ and AO to be announced. Conduct search and ambush patrols upon reentry into the AO.

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Weight at 3 Year
Not to be classified

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f. Recon platoon:

(1) Conduct CA 031600 to LZ vic (BS653462); thereafter conduct team-size reconnaissance and ambush patrols.

(2) Initially concentrate operations within the Suoi Chi River Valley; upon completion locate enemy base camp at BS644465.

4. (C) SUPPLY AND SERVICES:

a. Supply:

(1) Deploy with a 3 day supply of all materials needed.

(2) 3 day resupply cycle. Rations, water and emergency items only. Submit resupply requirements NLT 1600 hours on day prior to receipt.

(3) 1 meal per man will be carried as an emergency ration.

b. Services: Unit CO will ensure adequate quantity of malaria pills and salt tablets are carried and used during the operation.

5. (C) COMMAND AND SIGNAL:

a. Command: LZ San Juan Hill.

b. Signal:

(1) CA frequency: secure plain.

(2) Sufficient hand flares will be carried by each patrol to provide emergency ground-to-air location marking during hours of darkness.

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ANNEX A, INTELLIGENCE OVERLAY

ANNEX B, OPERATIONS OVERLAY

DISTRIBUTION A

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After 12 Years

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LZ SAN JUAN (BS635382) RVN
020600 January 1971

Reference: Map, Vietnam; 1:50,000; BaTo Sheet

I. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (01 November 70 - 01 January 71)

1. At 211215 Dec 70, D 4-3 spotted 5 VC/NVA in the open. D Co fired 36 rounds of 105mm HE. Results were negative.
2. On 201315 Dec 70, 70th ARVN Rangers burned 8 huts, captured 1 AK-47 magazine, 1 pig and 11 lbs. of documents.
3. On 241530 Dec 70, a 21st AVN airborne observer spotted 7 VC evading to the west. He also saw 3 huts and numerous tunnel entrances.
4. On 161205 Dec 70, ARVN Rangers made contact with an estimated VC Co. In the area of contact they found a hospital, 12 chickens, 2 pigs, 10 five gallon cans of oil, plasma, IV fluid and other medical supplies.
5. On 161645 Dec 70, gunships of B/123 AVN engaged 10 huts.
6. On 161100 Dec 70, 70th ARVN Rangers found and destroyed 1100 lbs. of rice and 14 huts.
7. An agent report, rated C-4, located an unidentified battalion with a strength of 300 at BS530425. Their equipment included 2 82mm mortars, 2 60mm mortars and 4 machine guns (NFI).
8. B/6-11 engaged 20 VC at BS537438 on 181850 Dec 70. Results were 2 VC KIA.
9. On 131900 Dec 70, B/4-3 had a MA detonate. Results were 1 VC KIA.
10. On 131530 Dec 70, B/4-3 found three huts three feet off the ground.
11. On 140900 Dec 70, B/4-3 engaged 1 VC/NVA wearing black clothes and carrying a pack. A search of the area revealed only a knife.
12. On 141330 Dec 70, B/4-3 killed 1 VC/NVA with SAF. They captured 12 lbs. of rice and 1 AK-47 with 8 rounds.
13. On 131600 Dec 70, B/4-3 found 1 hut with 60 M-16 rounds, 42 M-60 rounds, 1 bag of female clothes and 1 rice knife.
14. On 131400 Dec 70, B/4-3 received sniper fire. They suffered no casualties and found 6 huts inside of which were 170 M-16 rounds, 30 M-14 rounds and 7 M-16 magazines. The sniper fire originated from the huts.
15. On 130920 Dec 70, B/4-3 captured 1 VC suspect who was carrying 2 loaded M-16 magazines, 1 knife and 1 razor blade. Individual had no identification.
16. On 131200 Dec 70, B/4-3 found 8 huts in side of which were miscellaneous items. In the area they also found a tunnel with 2 SKS rifles inside. The rifles were on top of a mine which was destroyed after the rifles were removed. The tunnel was destroyed.
17. On 150720 Dec 70, B/4-3 engaged 3 VC/NVA in a rice paddy with 4 rounds of 105mm HE. Results were negative.
18. On 121230 Dec 70, B/4-3 engaged 2 VC/NVA. There were no enemy casualties. In the area of the contact they found 10 huts inside of which were 10 lbs. of rice, 2 M-16 magazines and 16 rounds of M-16 ammunition. In one hut warm coals from a cooking fire were found.
19. On 281030 Dec 70, a Div arty aerial observer engaged 1 hut with arty. Results were 1 hut destroyed.
20. On 230800 Nov 70, C-38 ARVN ambushed 1 VC/NVA. Results were 1 VC KIA (SAF) and 1 carbine (NFI) captured.

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21. On 061405 Dec 70, Recon/4-3 engaged 1 VC with SAF. Results were 1 VC KIA and 1 AK-47 CIA. At 1445, Recon then engaged 3-4 VC/NVA. Enemy evaded to the south with negative results.

22. On 081442 Nov 70, Recon/4-3 (sniper) engaged 2 VC/NVA at 300 meters. Results were 1 VC KIA and 1 VC WIA who evaded to the south. Recon captured documents and various military items.

23. On 071000 Nov 70, Recon/4-3 found a small base camp comprised of 6 huts, 2 water buffalo and 5 pigs. Last use was within 24 hours. On a well used trail (E-W), Recon spotted 1 VC evading to the west.

24. On 061145 Dec 70, Recon/4-3 found 1 hut used within last 24 hours.

25. On 061200 Dec 70, Recon/4-3 found 1 hut used within last 24 hours.

26. On 051745 Dec 70, Recon/4-3 found 2 huts and spotted 8-12 VC/NVA moving west. Sniper engaged with 2-5 rounds at 700 meters. Negative results.

27. On 061000 Dec 70, Recon/4-3 found 3 huts on a trail (NW-SE). Last use was within 24 hours.

28. On 061043 Dec 70, Recon/4-3 found 2 huts used for storing rice. One hut had a small tunnel used within the last 24 hours.

29. On 061115 Dec 70, Recon/4-3 found 2 huts with tunnels.

30. On 061530 Dec 70, B/4-3 found 7 huts above stream (N-S).

31. An agent report, rated C-3, located the 120th Mont. battalion at BS499463 on 5 Nov 70. Their mission was to provide security for a provincial task team which was collecting food. Their equipment included 1 60mm mortar, 1 M-60 machine gun and submachine guns (NFI).

32. On 031000 Dec 70, an agent report from BaTo located 1 platoon of C29 (LF) company at BS520403. They were wearing grey uniforms. Mission unknown.

33. On 291928 Nov 70, an agent report located 20 guerrillas with weapons at BS545390.

34. On 251230 Nov 70, 1-20 captured 1 NVA who reported that the B25 hospital was located at BS569474. Security was provided by C75 (LF) company, strength 25. Their equipment includes 2 60mm mortars, 2 B40 rocket launchers and individual weapons.

35. On 071415 Dec 70, B-123 engaged 1 VC with arty. Results 1 VC KBA.

36. On 071430 Dec 70, B-123 aero rifle platoon engaged 3 VC with SAF. Results were 3 VC KIA & 3 packs CIA.

II. ENEMY LOCATIONS AND CAPABILITIES

1. Based on PW interrogations, document exploitation and other sources the following general locations of enemy units are given:

Unit	Str	Loc	Date
70th NVA Bn	120	BS5144	18 Nov 70
C212 (LF) Co (QN)	50	BS5238	16 Sep 70

2. The Dong-Xuan campaign to defeat the Saigon government pacification program began in late Dec. Preparation for this campaign began as early as Sep for the Quang Ngai Province forces. Of the three normal aspects of the enemy campaigns, the political is probably the most important. However, in the area covered by the operations order and overlay, the economic factor becomes predominant. In this area it is suspected that food is being grown and transported by local forces (possibly Mont.) to support larger (MF or NVA) units operating to the north and east.

3. All reports of enemy intentions indicate a concentration on the pacification program, in particular the refugee camps, RF/PF units, outposts and GVN installations. Current assignments of enemy strength indicate the ability to conduct limited sapper attacks and indirect fire attacks.

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4. The Dec high point of enemy activity did not develop as expected due to Allied operations. The enemy is now believed to be in a training/preparing posture for Tet. The Tet offensive rehearsals should begin soon with an increase of reconnaissance by local force units and occupation of final staging areas by MF/NVA units sometime in January.

5. Aside from rehearsals, some indications of the actual time for the beginning of the Tet offensive which Allied units should be alert for include: establishment of new hospitals in forward areas, purchase of rice cakes or meats for early celebration of Tet, restriction of civilian travel in certain areas and an increase in the number of Hoi Chanhs. (For example, C/4-3 recently captured a complete medical kit, indicating a possible build-up of medical supplies in anticipation of Tet.) No single incident is conclusive; it is only through the reporting of all incidents of the type mentioned above that an accurate intelligence estimate for the up-coming Tet offensive can be made.

III. CLIMATIC SUMMARY FOR JANUARY

JANUARY

1. During the northeast monsoon develops to its fullest extent. Cloudiness and precipitation occur on the windward slopes of the major mountain range (Annam) and along the east coast, resulting in generally poor weather in this region.

2. January mean temperatures are the lowest of the year. Daily high's are in the mid 70's and daily lows are in the upper 60's. Ground fog tends to form over local "cold spots" earlier in the evening than it does in the surrounding areas.

3. Relative humidity remains high causing favorable conditions for mildew, corrosion and decay of susceptible items.

4. During Jan, an average of 3-5 days with an inch or more of rain and 15-20 days of measureable rainfall can be expected at most locations along the coast. Average precipitation varies from 8-14 inches along the coast to 25-30 inches in exposed mountain locations. Thunderstorms are nearly non-existent.

5. During Jan, cloudiness decreases from the maximum of Dec. Ceilings below 1500 feet occur frequently along the eastern regions. These low ceilings have a tendency to lift with the day's warming except during periods of strong northeast flow. These periods last generally no longer than 3 days and are usually followed by 1-3 days of scattered clouds in the coastal regions and broken to scattered clouds in the mountains.

6. During a period of strong northeast flow visibility can be as low as $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in the drizzle and fog along the coast and as low as zero in places which may become completely enclouded. During the improved weather periods which generally follow the northeast "surges", visibility may increase to 2-4 miles during the night and early morning and to 4-7 miles during the day.

7. Fog is as frequent in Jaanuary as in December. It occurs on nearly 60% of the days, mostly in the morning hours, but it may persist all day.

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ANNEX A to OPORD 1-71

Reference: Map, VIETNAM, 1:50,000,
BA TO Sheet

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BASE
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CAMP →
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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

The following is an itemized recapitulation of all the intelligence gathered in the AO covered by the overlay. The numeral preceding each item refers to the legend on the overlay.

1-BS764318. An unidentified radio transmission by an unknown size enemy force was reported to have originated from within 1 kilometer of the above coordinates on 230720 Dec 70.

1-BS764336. An unidentified radio transmission from an (estimated) company size enemy unit was reported from within 1 kilometer of the above coordinates on 231100 Dec 70.

1-BS743302. An unidentified radio transmission from an (estimated) battalion size enemy force was reported to have originated from within 1 kilometer of the above coordinates on 26 Dec 70.

1-BS741301. An unidentified radio transmission from a suspected battalion headquarters was reported to have originated from within 1 kilometer of the above coordinates on 261725 Dec 70.

2-BS744366, BS701339, BS771355, BS763344. These four "hotspots" were reported by an APD on 191530 Dec 70.

3-BS750330 to BS752336. An agent report (rated C-3) located the 403d Sapper Bn with 300 men, 2 82mm mortars, 10 B40 rockets, and individual weapons at the above coordinates on 15 Dec 70.

4-BS735355. C 4-3 found 4 structures at the above location on 271100 Dec 70. Inside the structures were 20 lbs of rice and 20 lbs of salt.

4-BS750342. C 4-3 found 1 structure with a bomb shelter alongside of it. Inside the structure they found approximately 70 Chicom (handmade) fragmentation grenades 2 Bangalore torpedoes, 4 RPG rounds and various documents.

4-BS749349. C 4-3 found a cache consisting of 200 AK rounds, 10 RPG boosters, 2 25 lb shape charges and two sandbags full of PETN.

5-BS747380. On 27 Dec 70, C 4-3 engaged 1 suspected VC and one other individual who appeared to be a Caucasian. Results were negative except for two blood trails leading to the east.

5-BS745361. C 4-3 killed 1 VC in a MA on 27 Dec 70. The individual was carrying a 9mm Chicom pistol and 20 lbs of polished rice.

5-BS750346. On 281430 Dec 70, C 4-3 engaged 2 VC/NVA. They engaged with SAF. Results were 1 KIA and 1 AK-47 with 2 full magazines CIA.

6-BS734360. C 4-3 detonated a booby trap consisting of a buried Chicom hand grenade with trip wire and pressure-release firing device on 201413 Dec 70.

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BS744330. C 4-3 found a booby trap consisting of an M64 hand grenade with trip wire.

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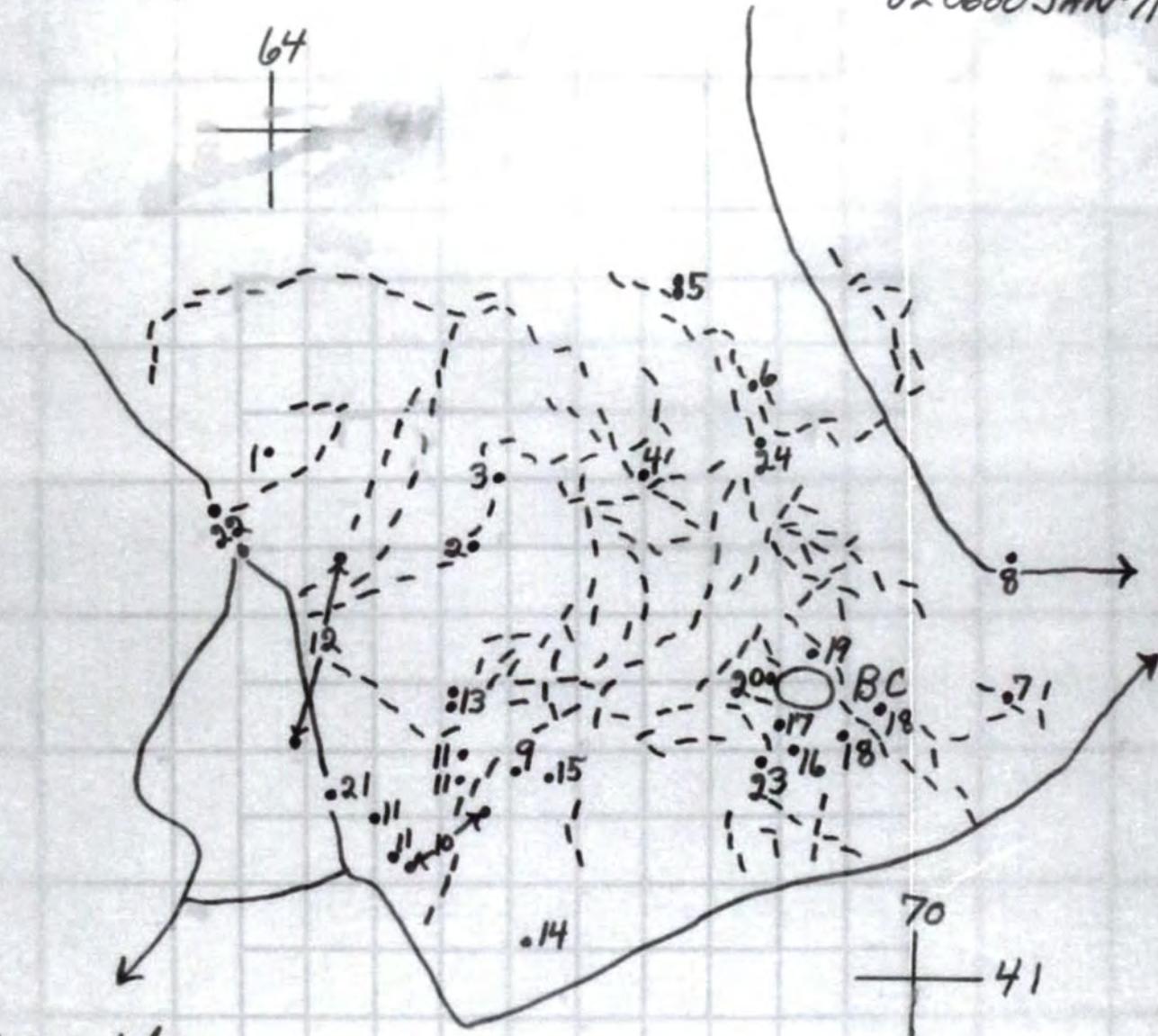
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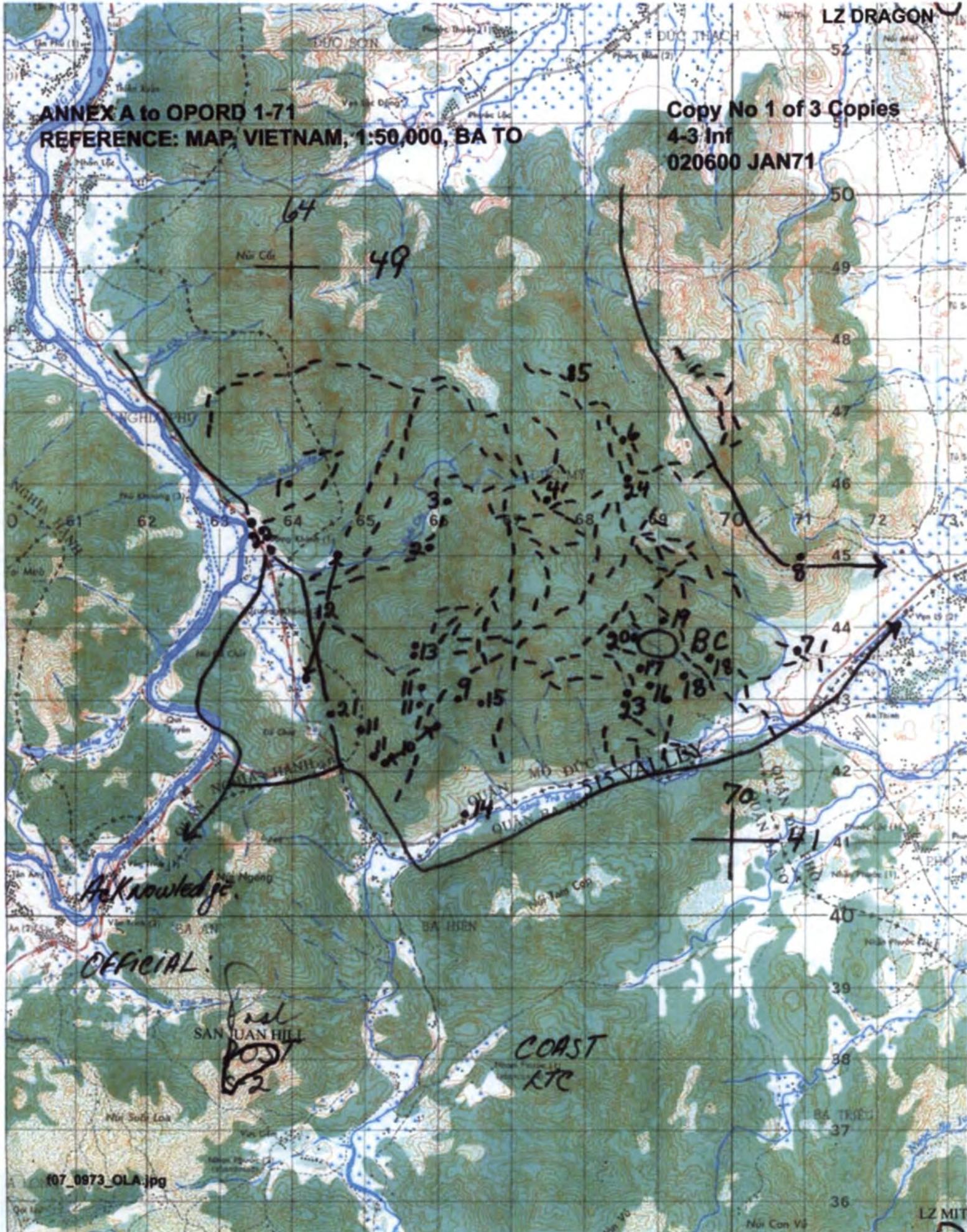
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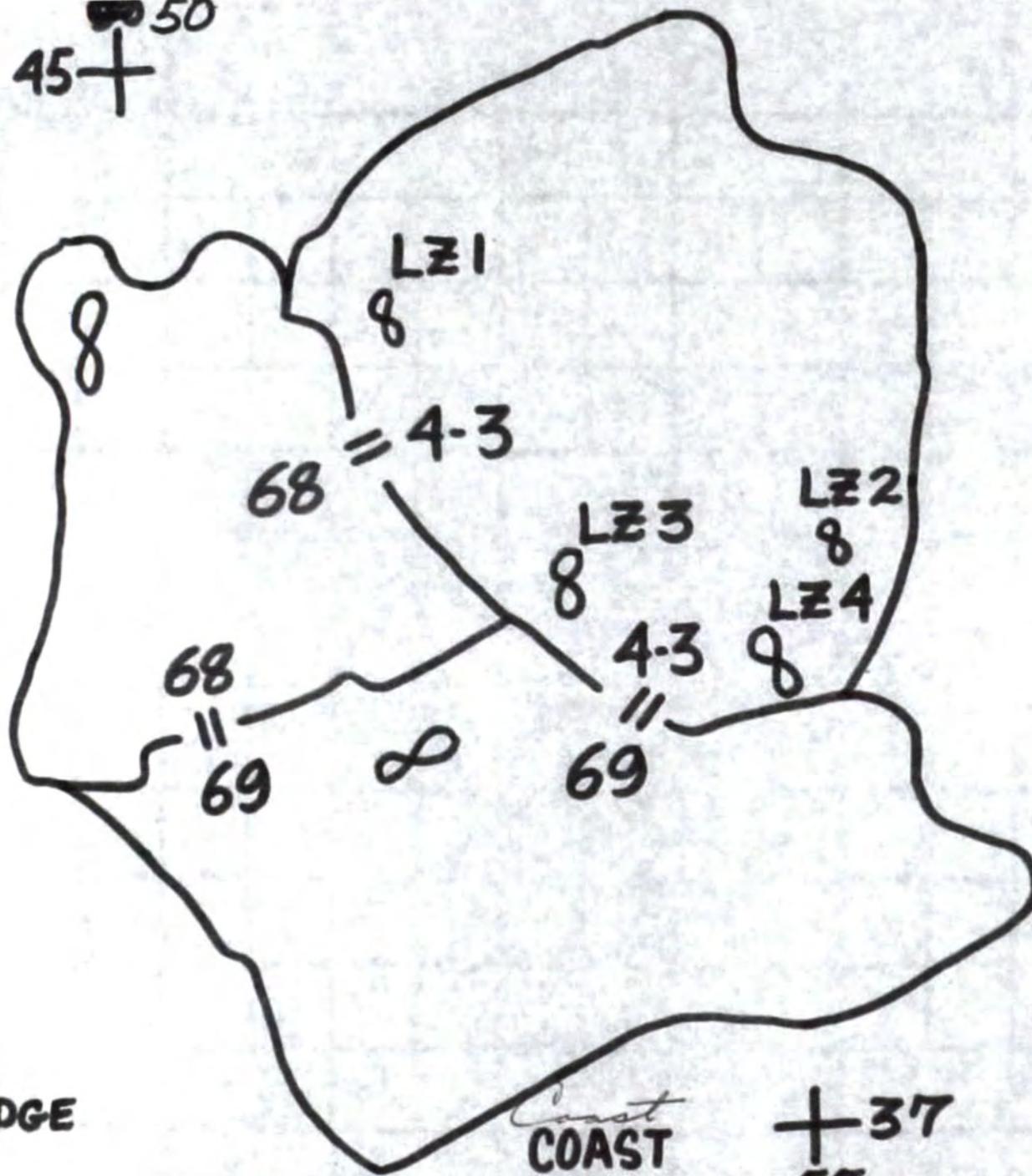
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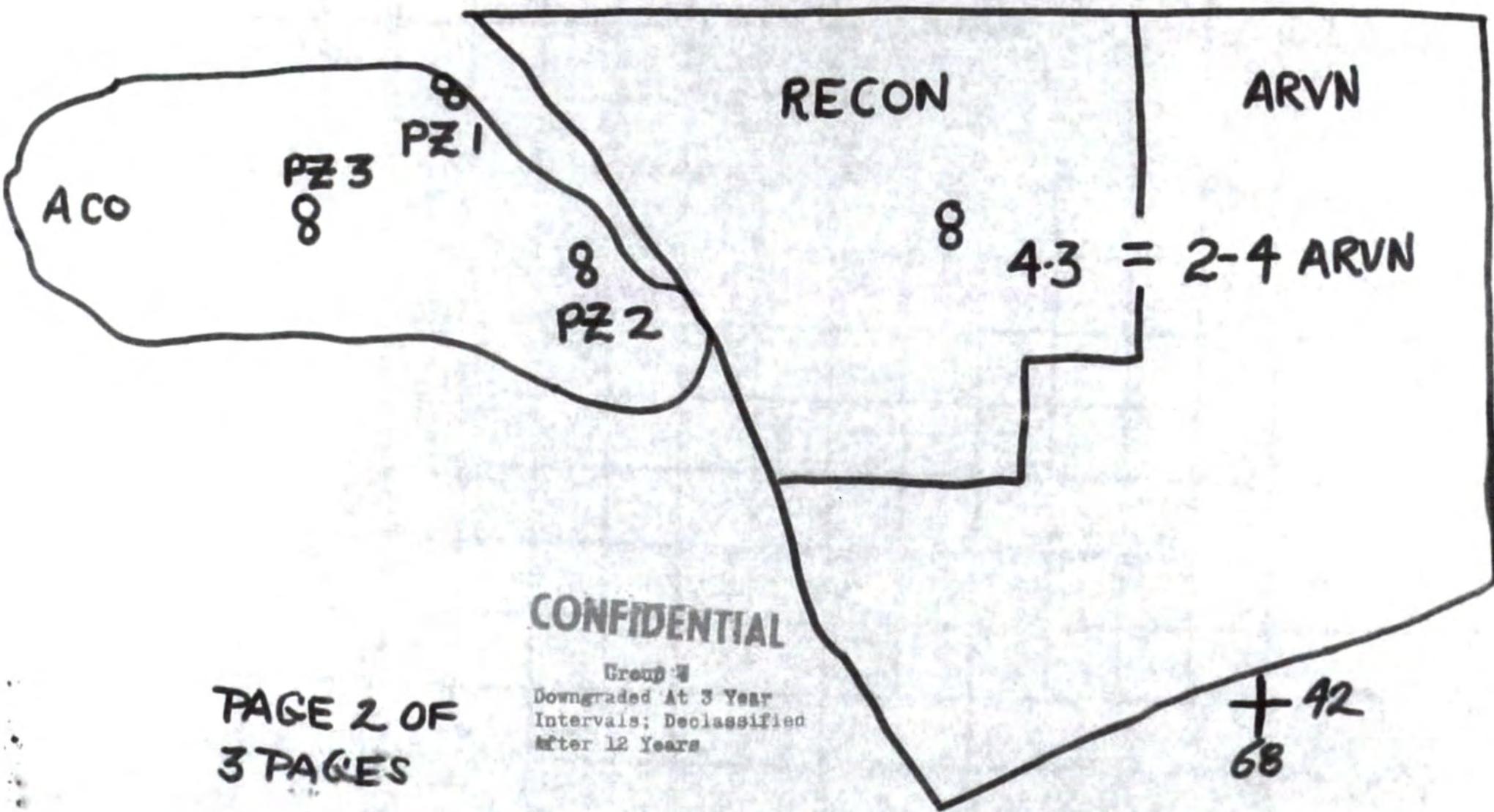
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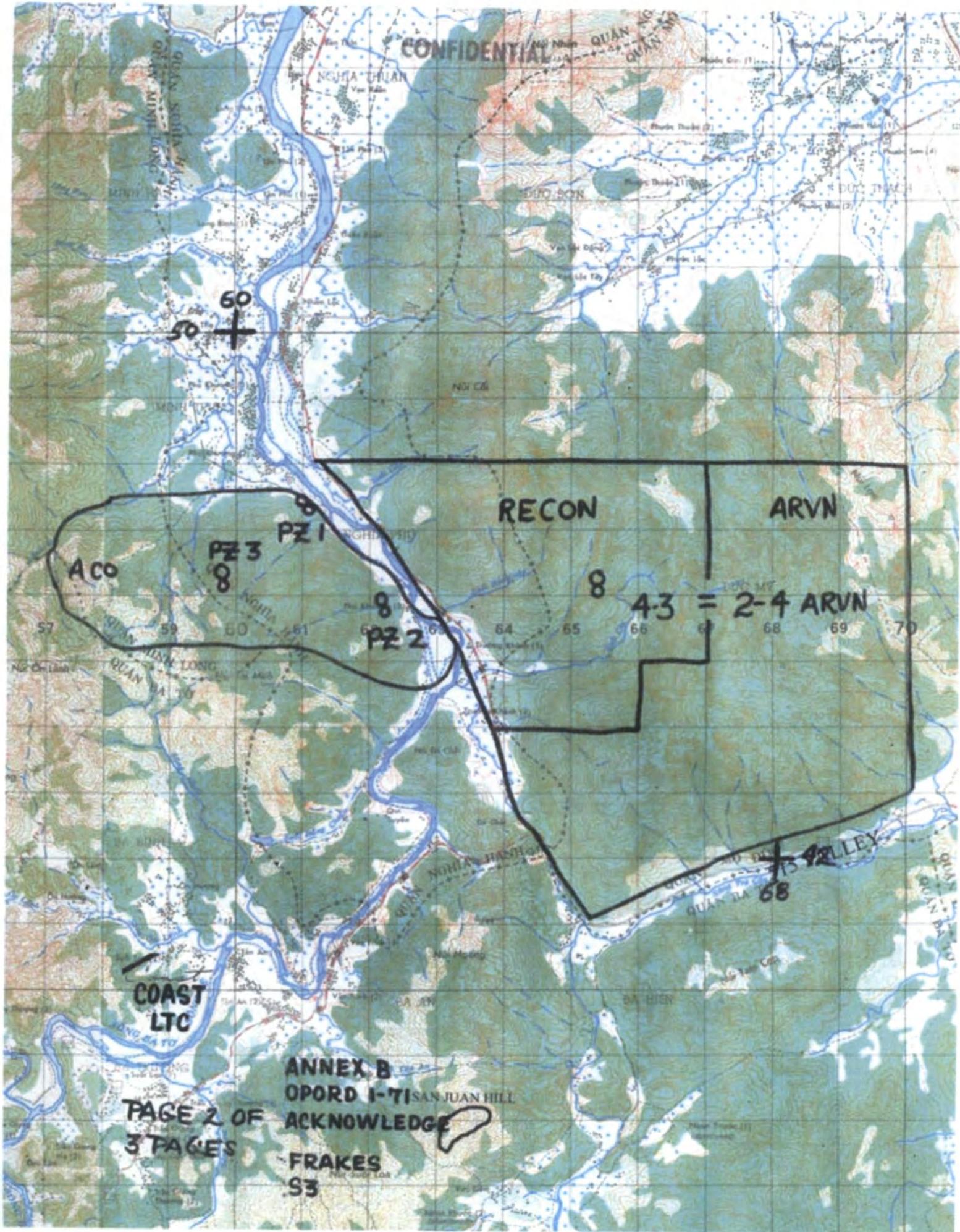


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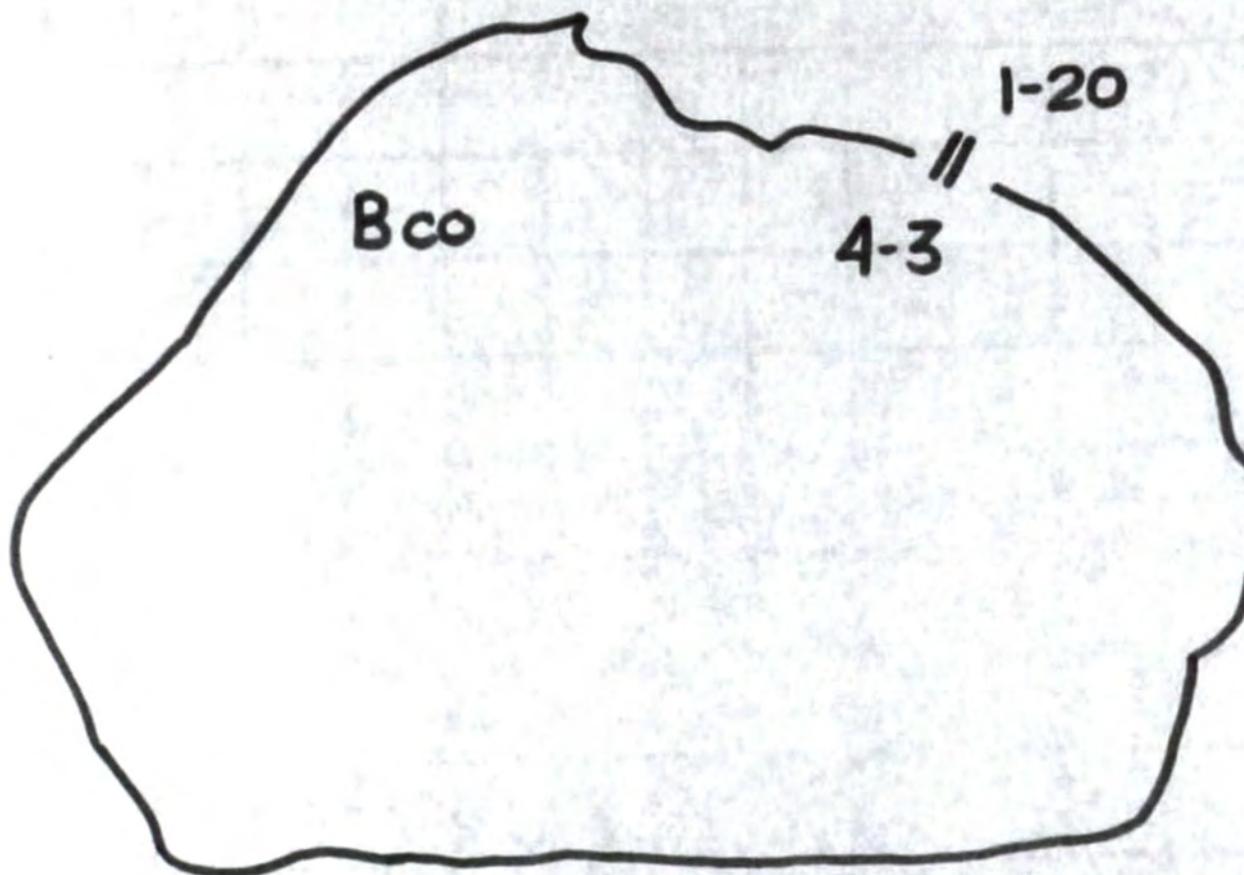
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PAGE 3 OF
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ANNEX B
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2	Brigade	
3	Ba To	
4	Minh Long	
5	Co A	
6	Co B	
7	Co C	
8	Co D	
9	Recon	
10		

4-3 Inf OPLAN 1-71

20 August 1971

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1 S-3 File

2 Brigade

3 ~~Brigade~~ (Bn Lead) BAC
XO

4 MACV (Tam Ky)

5 MACV (Tien Phuoc)

6 MACV (New Hau Duc)

7 A Company

8 B Company

9 C Company

10 D Company

11 E Company

12 C/1-14 Arty

Gen. (?) De Stephan