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HQ, 198TH INF BDE
CHU LAI, (BT537073), RVN
031530 AUGUST 1971
AAG

OPLAN 7-71 (Rapid Reaction) (U).

Reference:

- a. 23d Infantry Division OPLAN 7-71 (Rapid Reaction) (U).
- b. Map, Vietnam, 1:100,000 Series L607, Sheets 6640, 6739, and 6639.

Task Organization: No Change.

1. (C) SITUATION:

a. Enemy Forces: The enemy will make every effort to hinder the pacification program by conducting simultaneous and coordinated attacks against RF/PF forces in the populated areas and surrounding outposts. The enemy will attempt to lower the morale of the Territorial Forces and cause the people to lose faith in the GVN. Enemy attacks on RF units are most likely to occur during the hours of darkness. The enemy may be expected to establish ambushes along likely avenues of approach used by ground relief forces and to interdict likely helicopter landing zones within their capability. The survival of the Territorial Forces and the pacification program will depend on the speed with which friendly air, artillery and ground support can be rendered.

b. Friendly Forces:

- (1) 23d Infantry Division continues current operations.
- (2) 11th Infantry Brigade continues current operations.
- (3) 196th Infantry Brigade continues current operations.
- (4) 5th Regiment (ARVN) continues current operations.
- (5) 6th Regiment (ARVN) continues current operations.
- (6) 16th CAG continues current mission.
- (7) Division Artillery continues current artillery support.

c. Attachments and Detachments: Task organization.

d. Assumptions:

- (1) Adequate aviation assets will be made available.
- (2) RF forces will be adequately trained in airmobile operations.

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GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
Declassified after 12 years.

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(3) RF reaction force will be ready for airlift within one (1) hour after request for assistance is received.

(4) US assets will not be committed until RWAFF assets have been used to the maximum.

2. (C) MISSION

198th Infantry Brigade provides support to the GVN for the employment of Regional Forces for reaction operation against enemy attack on pacification target areas within the 198th Infantry Brigade TAOI.

3. (C) EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation. RF provide reaction forces to conduct combat assaults into appropriate LZ's within areas of likely attack or contact. RF units will be ready for airlift one (1) hour after 23d Infantry Division receives request for support. Additional RF and ARVN forces may be committed as necessary. Aviation assets and artillery support to RF forces for reaction operations in priority areas will be provided by 23d Infantry Division. 198th Infantry Brigade Battalions will be prepared to provide reaction forces when directed by Commanding Officer 198th Infantry Brigade.

b. 4-3 Infantry:

(1) Continue current operations.

(2) On order, provide one company reaction force to assist Tam Ky, Hau Duc and Tien Phouc District Headquarters as directed.

c. 1-6 Infantry:

(1) Continue current operations.

(2) On order, provide one company reaction force to assist Ly Tin, Tra Bong and Binh Son District Headquarters as directed.

d. 1-14 Artillery:

(1) Continue current artillery support mission.

(2) Be prepared to provide artillery support for reaction force as required.

e. B Company 26th Engineers:

(1) Continue current support mission.

(2) Be prepared to provide engineer support as required.

f. Coordinating Instructions:

(1) Direct coordination between units is authorized and directed.

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(2) Liaison will be established with each District.

(3) Priority areas are defined as follows:

(a) Priority I: Areas within the secure and consolidation zones.

(b) Priority II: Remote outposts.

(c) Priority III: Mountain districts.

(4) Conduct reconnaissance in assigned TAOR of reaction priority areas to include, but not limited to possible FZ's, LZ's and number of ships each will hold.

(5) Effect coordination with Province/District Chiefs in assigned TAOR for FZ's, LZ's, points of contact and exchange of communications frequencies.

(6) ARVN forces will be committed prior to commitment of US forces.

(7) US Forces will be committed only when necessary and after approval of CO, 198th Infantry Brigade.

(8) H-Hour: H-Hour will be first FZ time.

(9) This plan is effective for planning upon receipt, execution on order.

(10) This plan supersedes OPLAN 12-69, dated 011200H October 1969.

4. (U) SERVICE SUPPORT:

198th Infantry Brigade Admin SOP.

5. (U) COMMAND AND SIGNAL:

a. Signal: Current SOI in effect.

b. Command: Brigade CP at Chu Lai.

Acknowledge:

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Annexes: A-Distribution

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Annex A (Distribution) to OPLAN 7-71.

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