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Hq, 1st Bn, 52d Inf
CHU LAI (BS573964) RVN
LZ GATOR
160030 July 1968

OPLAN 1-68 Relief/Reinforcement/Counterattack of Refugee Camps, Resettlement Areas, CAP Posts and Installations

References: Map, Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheets 6739 I and 6739 IV.

1. SITUATION:

a. Enemy Forces: Current Intsum (Annex A).

b. Friendly Forces:

- (1) 198th Inf Bde (Lt) continues opns in the Chu Lai TAOR.
- (2) 7th Tactical Air Force provides close air support as required.
- (3) Division 14th Aviation Bn provide lift aircraft and gunship support as required.
- (4) 1-14 Arty Bn and reinforcing Arty provide close fire support
- (5) Combined Action Company 13 (CACO 13) maintains eight (8) Combined Action Platoons (CAP) and conducts combat opns in the Bn AO.
- (6) Bde Forward Air Controllers (FAC) and Div Arty Aerial Observers (AO) support ground opns.
- (7) Swift Boats patrol coastal waters (Market Time Opns) adjacent to Bn AO and provide direct and indirect mortar fire on call.
- (8) GVN Forces to include ARVN and RF/PF conduct opns in Bn AO and provide primary security forces for refugee centers and installations in their area of responsibility. Revolutionary Development (RD) Teams conduct opns in the Binh Son District and assist in defense of some refugee centers.

c. Attachments: The tactical situation dictating the execution of this plan may also dictate the attachment of additional troops.

d. Assumptions:

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(1) Artillery support is in range of the objective area and fires can be requested and adjusted through US advisors at the objective area, Aerial Observers, or US units in the immediate vicinity.

(2) The battalion affecting the relief/reinforcement/counter-attack can provide at least one reaction force platoon within 30 minutes and a company(-) in one (1) hour.

(3) Sufficient helicopters will be available to lift one rifle platoon within 30 minutes from notification, and a rifle company(-) in one hour.

(4) GVN/US Forces in the area of contact can maintain their positions for at least 45 minutes, or until reaction forces arrive.

(5) All forces provided to the reaction battalion will be Opcon immediately upon entry into the Bn AO.

(6) Final authority to initiate the reaction plan and identification of the specific objective rests with the CO, 198th LIB.

(7) Specific Landing Zones and overland routes may be selected beforehand only in an area of coverage. The final commitment will be dictated by the tactical situation.

2. MISSION: Inf prepares to relieve/reinforce/counterattack to destroy or capture enemy forces and to secure or reestablish installations, Refugee Camps and Centers, Resettlement Areas, CAP Posts and Fire Support Bases held or secured by FWF by the use of ground assault forces and multiple fire support elements.

3. EXECUTION:

a. Concept of Operation.

(1) Battalion provides Relief/Reinforcement/Counterattack Forces and assistance to designated installations, Refugee Centers, Resettlement Areas, CAP Posts or Fire Support Bases by means of Artillery, organic mortars, gunships/flareships and troops in that order. Indirect fires will be fired on request by GVN/US Forces in the contact area.

(2) Upon identification of a need to dispatch reinforcements to the threatened area or when requested by District/Province Hq, appropriate US ground troops will be inserted either by foot movement, armored vehicle, air assault, swift boat, or a combination of the foregoing.

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(3) The reinforcing units will be positioned to block probable avenues of withdrawal of the enemy force and to attack his flank(s) and to destroy him before he can withdraw.

(4) Circumstances may permit the insertion of a reaction force directly into a secure Landing Zone at any one of the eight CLP Posts, secure installation or prepositioned ground troops in the AO. The reaction force mission will be oriented on the enemy activity and will be adjusted as dictated by the current tactical situation.

(5) Reaction forces will be selected from fire bases whenever possible to take maximum advantage of their ability to assemble quickly in a secure area.

(6) US ground forces operating in the area of the contact will assemble and move to blocking positions as directed by the Battalion Commander.

(7) Supporting GS and DS Artillery Batteries within range of the area of contact provide support as required (see Annex B - Fire Support Plan).

b. Scheme of Maneuver and Operations Overlays: Annex C - M.

c. A Co, B Co, C Co, D Co.

(1) Provide a one platoon reaction force in 30 minutes, on order.

(2) Be prepared to provide company(-) for movement in one hour.

(3) Be prepared to assume command of all reaction forces in the area of contact.

(4) Be prepared to conduct a night CL into a secure or insecure LZ or conduct overland move either by foot or supported by armored personnel carriers or by swift boats into the area of contact as dictated by the tactical situation.

(5) Be prepared to conduct a ground attack against enemy forces in the area of contact immediately upon insertion into the objective area.

(6) Units being reinforced are to be prepared to use patrols to secure and identify Landing Zones for helicopter combat assault force, and to provide a briefing for the commander of the CL force on the ground situation.

(7) Be prepared to secure additional fire bases/static security missions of forces committed to the objective area.

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d. E Co.

(1) Provide one platoon reaction force for air or surface movement in 30 minutes.

(2) Be prepared to relocate part or all of 4.2 mortar platoon in order to provide close support in the area of contact as required.

e. H Troop, 17th Cav. (-).

(1) Be prepared to move from present positions in the battalion AO and to link up with and conduct assaults with ground forces to destroy enemy forces investing CAP Posts, Refugee Centers or installations.

(2) All elements committed Opcon to ground commander upon linkup or radio contact.

(3) Prepare to support ground attacks by fire or assist in securing facilities as required.

f. Bn Surgeon.

(1) Prepare emergency medical supplies and a medical team to be inserted into the installation requiring assistance on order.

(2) Medical Team and supplies to be ready for movement within 30 minutes of alert.

g. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Platoon reaction forces will consist of at least 25 personnel, augmented, if necessary, with M-60 Machineguns.

(2) All company commanders and platoon leaders/platoon sergeants will VR all installations, areas of responsibility as listed in the annexes.

(3) All fire bases be prepared to mark PZ's and LZ's within fire support base perimeters during hours of darkness.

(4) Fires in close proximity to friendly positions will be observed and adjusted by US Forces on the ground or relayed to GVN Forces through US Advisor or as directed by Airborne Observer.

(5) Gunships and flareships will be controlled initially by the Battalion Tactical Operations Center (BTOC) as they enter the AO and then directed by forces on the ground in the objective area. Lack of communication with ground controller and gunships at the objective area may be reason enough to negate their engagement of area targets.

(6) The same rules of engagement apply to the use of USAF C-47 (SPOOKY) gunships.

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4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS:

a. Administration: Current Admin SOP applies.

b. Logistics:

- (1) Current Logistics SOP applies.
- (2) Reaction force carry minimum of three (3) "C" ration/LRRP meals and two (2) canteens of water.
- (3) Each plat carry minimum of one (1) mine detector and each sqd one (1) M-72 (LAW).
- (4) All personnel will wear flak jackets and carry protective masks when committed as a night or day reaction force.
- (5) Particular emphasis will be placed on supplying reaction forces with night lighting devices such as Strobe Lights, trip flares, and flashlights to insure positive means for marking troop's location for night air support requirements. Units will insure each platoon carries a minimum of 15 cans of smoke and at least one (1) air-ground panel.
- (6) Each man will carry 5 sandbags when the rucksacks are carried.
- (7) Each platoon will carry 5 lbs of C4, 5 blasting caps and 10 feet of det cord.
- (8) For planning purposes, prepare to insert one 81mm, with crew and ammunition after reaction force reaches the objective area.

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL:

a. Signal.

- (1) See current SOI & SSI.
- (2) Night CA to be conducted on Bn Air/Ground frequency. Change to frequency of unit ground commander, on order.
- (3) All air support, gunships, flareships, and Spooky contact on Battalion Command initially then to ground commander frequency, on order.

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b. Command: Ground forces participation in the reaction force be prepared to execute plans under control of ground commander designated by battalion commander.

Acknowledge.

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ANNEXES: A - Intelligence
B - Fire Support Plan
C - Phuoc Tien, LZ Paradise, CAP 135
D - CAP 133, Thuan Hoc
E - Son Tra, CAP 134, River Boat South
F - CAP 132
G - CAP 131
H - CAP 136, CAP 138, Phu Le(3), Tien Dao, Binh Son Bridge
I - Binh Son Dist Hq, Chau-O, Tu-Van, Thong My, CAP 137, An Chau
J - Vinh Xuan(1), Vinh Xuan(2), Vinh Xuan(3), My Yen
K - Lien Tri, LZ Dottie
L - LZ Bayonet
M - LZ Gator
N - Medical Assistance, Mass Casualties

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ROUTINE

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LZ Gator (B9568965) RVN
272200 Jul 68

FROM: CO, 1-52 Inf, 198th Inf Bde (Lt), CHU LAI, RVN

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUBJECT: FRAG ORD 1 to OPOD 2-68 (1-52 Mission)

1. (C) A Co.

- a. Provide security for LZ GATOR.
- b. Conduct squad-size patrols, ambushes and surveillance operations in AO vicinity LZ GATOR. Operations to be conducted primarily at night.
- c. Provide one plat as the Battalion Reaction Force.
- d. One plat Opcon to E Co to assist in security of LZ CHIPPEWA and continue patrols and ambushes in AO.

2. (C) B Co.

- a. Provide one plat reinforced for security of LZ PARADISE.
- b. Conduct squad-size patrols and ambushes in AO vicinity LZ PARADISE to deny enemy routes of approach into Phuoc Tien Refugee Center.
- c. Two platoons secure River Boat South and conduct squad-size ambush patrols and combat patrols in AO west of River Boat South in coordination with CAP 134.

3. (C) C Co.

- a. Provide security for LZ DOTTIE.
- b. Conduct interdiction activities and cordon and search of villages in the area of LZ DOTTIE to eliminate probable VC transportation units and movement of supplies through the area.
- c. One plat continue combat patrols and ambushes in Rocket Pocket Area.

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