

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 6TH BATTALION, 56TH ARTILLERY  
APO 96491

AVG HFCO

23 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 6th Bn, 56th Arty for  
Period ~~ending 30 April 1968~~ RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)Commanding Officer  
97th Artillery Group (AD)  
APO 963091. (C) Section 1 Operations: Significant Activities

## a. General:

(1) The battalion continued its assigned mission of providing combat ready US Army Air Defense units in the defense of assigned areas, RVN.

(2) During the reporting period, this unit had two new counter-mortar radar detachments assigned and three were detached.

(3) Improvement of site facilities continued during this quarter to include additional bunkers in all units.

(4) Savings Bond Participation: 83.4%

(5) The civic action effort in the Nhon Trach District has been terminated because of the increased security and support problems encountered during the Lunar New Year Tet Offensive.

(6) A new civic action project has been initiated at the Chieu Hoi center located in Tan Hiep Village, Bien Hoa Province. Headquarters and Headquarters, Bravo and Delta Batteries will participate in the new civic action program. Present plans include assisting the Chieu Hoi Center in constructing a dispensary, motor pool, flagpole, recreation facilities, and repairing existing facilities. In addition, a training program in auto mechanics, electricity, carpentry and other technical courses will be initiated. Batteries Alpha and Charlie have initiated a civic action program in the village of Tan Thoi Hiep. The batteries are assisting in the reconstruction and repair of facilities damaged during the offensive since January. The two batteries have combined their efforts in the reconstruction of the school building which is presently 85% completed.

## b. Personnel:

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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(1) During the quarter, this organization had an average total assigned strength of 980. The total authorized is 858 (40 Officers, 15 Warrant Officers and 803 Enlisted Men). There were 399 losses and 282 gains for a net loss of 117 personnel.

(2) Critical MOS Shortages (All positions are currently filled by individuals undergoing QJT, possessing another MOS, or having lower rank than position calls for).

<u>MOS</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>
36C20	Lineman	5	1
52B30	Power Generator Equipment Mechanic	58	16
63A10	Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic's Helper	16	1
91B20	Medical Specialist	10	5
94A10	Cook's Helper	5	0
95B4D	Senior Dog Handler	5	2

c. Intelligence:

(1) During the reporting period, continued emphasis was placed on intelligence activities and physical security. No problems were encountered in military security, safety or CBR.

(2) The physical security of the batteries throughout the battalion is very good.

(a) During the dry season, all the vegetation was burned or cleared away from the perimeter fencing. Tanglefoot barriers were emplaced in the clear zones between the fencing. In some batteries, a third row of triple roll, pyramid stacked concertina wire has been added. Planned improvements include emplacing double apron barbed wire barriers and permanently emplaced claymore mines at Headquarters Battery.

(b) During the Tet Offensive, it was found highly desirable to have a clear area at least 400 meters out from all sides of the site perimeter. Buildings or construction of any type should not be permitted within this "sterile" area. If vegetation and brush is in the area, Rome Plows should be used to clean it out and keep it cleared. This area facilitates clear zones of fire, prevents the undetected approach of enemy personnel and limits the use of RPG rockets against bunkers and equipment.

(c) Prior to the Tet Offensive, Headquarters Battery was

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utilizing sentry dog teams outside the compound perimeter in areas not illuminated by perimeter lighting. After the Tet Offensive, lighting was installed all around the perimeter. Because of the increased lighting and the enemy threat outside the perimeter, the sentry dog teams now patrol inside the compound. At first, this presented a problem in that the dogs would alert on guards in bunkers near the patrol path. After a one week period, the dogs became accustomed to the personnel in the bunkers and learned to concentrate on scents and sounds outside the perimeter.

(3) During the reporting period, there were 142 Secret clearances validated. Processing personnel for security clearances has not presented any problems.

(4) Safety: There has been a 60% reduction in the number of vehicle accidents over the previous period. This is due to better vehicle control and personnel indoctrination on defensive driving techniques. The current firearms safety program continues to receive command emphasis, and personnel are constantly reminded of the hazards involved in handling firearms. Some of the safety devices utilized in the current program are:

(a) Embossed plastic tape on rifle stocks reminding personnel not to chamber a round unless they are to fire the weapon immediately.

(b) "Burma-Shave" type signs have been emplaced at the entrance to each site promoting safety.

(c) Signs have been posted at the entrance to billets and inside each billet reminding personnel to insure that their weapons are cleared.

(d) Security personnel insure that all personnel clear their weapons in the clearing barrel at the entrance to each site.

d. Operations and Training:

(1) Daily air defense exercises have continued to be effective in maintaining a high state of unit training.

(2) This unit has made maximum use of the AN/TPQ-21 Target Simulator to provide practical and realistic training for the HAWK Battery firing crews.

(3) Extensive training is also being conducted to prepare all units for annual service practice firings.

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e. Logisitics:

(1) Tactical Vehicles: During the quarter, the battalion has replaced thirteen M35's ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks) with M35A2's. Maintenance is less of a problem due to the greater availability of repair parts for the newer M35A2's. The battalion is short ten  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks, six 5 ton tractors and one scooploader. Numerous inquiries and repeated visits were made to the 14th ICC and 1st Logistical Command. With the exception of  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton vehicles, which will be made available after 30 June 1968, it was found that our priority is too low to obtain the 5 ton tractors and the scooploader. Also, this battalion has 80 M36's ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks) which should be replaced by the newer M36A2's. The deadline rate for vehicles during this reporting period was 5.45%. This represents a decrease of 1.35% over the last quarter.

(2) Repair Parts (HAWK):

(a) During this period, the following requisitions were received and processed by the Direct Support Platoon:

Total Requisitions Received	4534
Total Processed at DSP	2937
Total Forwarded to 79th Ord Det	1324
Total Due Out	173
Demand Satisfaction	80%

(b) The Technical Supply Section now carries 9514 line items, of which 907 are at zero balance. There were 661 direct exchange transactions during this period.

(3) Construction:

(a) The Battalion Operations Center Command Bunker is complete and the Battalion Headquarters ground defense command bunker is 95% complete. The Assembly and Service Building at "D" Battery is 65% complete.

(b) The Direct Support Platoon Building at Headquarters and Headquarters Battery has been approved by the Long Binh Post Base Development Board; however, USARV funding is still pending.

(c) The new headquarters building for "D" Battery has been approved by the Bien Hoa Base Development Board; however, USARV funding is still pending.

2. (C) Section 2 Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel: None

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## b. Operations:

## (1) Protection of HAWK Equipment:

(a) Observation: The HAWK fire control equipment, launchers and missiles are very vulnerable to not only rockets and mortars, but also small arms fire. Any of these could prevent a firing unit from accomplishing its mission.

(b) Evaluation: Protective barriers constructed around all HAWK peculiar equipment (radars, launchers, missiles) prevented costly damage to several radars and launchers when all batteries received small arms fire and came under rocket attack.

(c) Recommendation: Recommend that all missile units in overseas theaters construct similar barriers (See attached drawings).

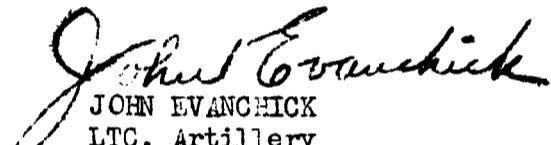
c. Training: None

d. Intelligence: None

e. Logistics: None

f. Organization: None

g. Other: None

1 Incl  
as  
JOHN EVANCHICK  
LTC, Artillery  
Commanding

(b) (1) (A) (i) (b) (1) (C) (i) (b) (1) (D) (i) (b) (1) (E) (i) (b) (1) (F) (i) (b) (1) (G) (i) (b) (1) (H) (i) (b) (1) (I) (i) (b) (1) (J) (i) (b) (1) (K) (i) (b) (1) (L) (i) (b) (1) (M) (i) (b) (1) (N) (i) (b) (1) (O) (i) (b) (1) (P) (i) (b) (1) (Q) (i) (b) (1) (R) (i) (b) (1) (S) (i) (b) (1) (T) (i) (b) (1) (U) (i) (b) (1) (V) (i) (b) (1) (W) (i) (b) (1) (X) (i) (b) (1) (Y) (i) (b) (1) (Z)

1. (U) Recommendation should be amended to read combat zones instead of overseas theater. This is in accordance with the recent resolution of the Security Council which has been issued in regulation and have issued their word during the recent New Year (TET) Offensive.

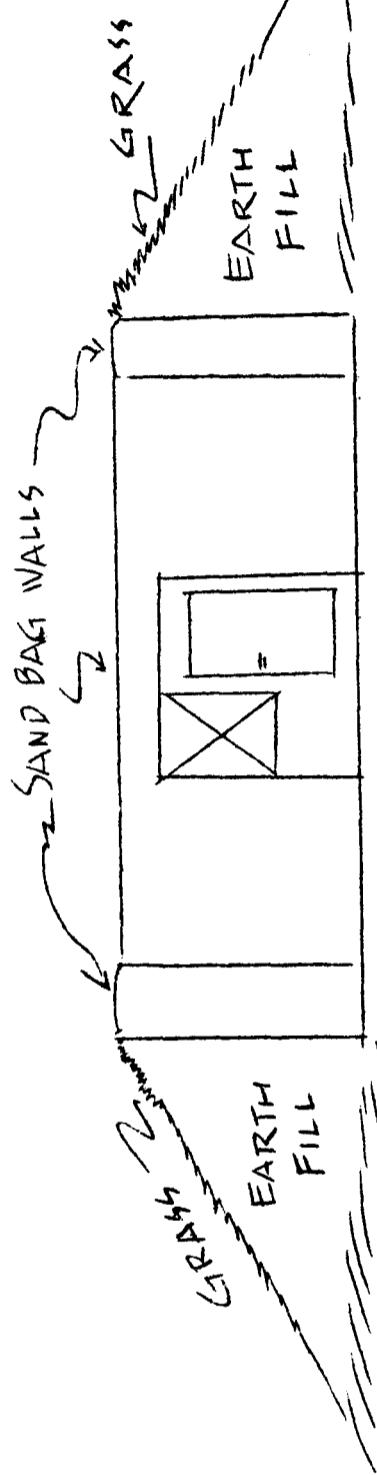
b. Recommendation should be amended to read combat zones instead of overseas theater.

3. (U) Sufficient copies of Inclusions 2 are attached for distribution.

2 Incl  
Added 1 Incl  
2- Sys Organizational  
Structure

2 Incl  
Added 1 Incl  
2- Sys Organizational  
Structure

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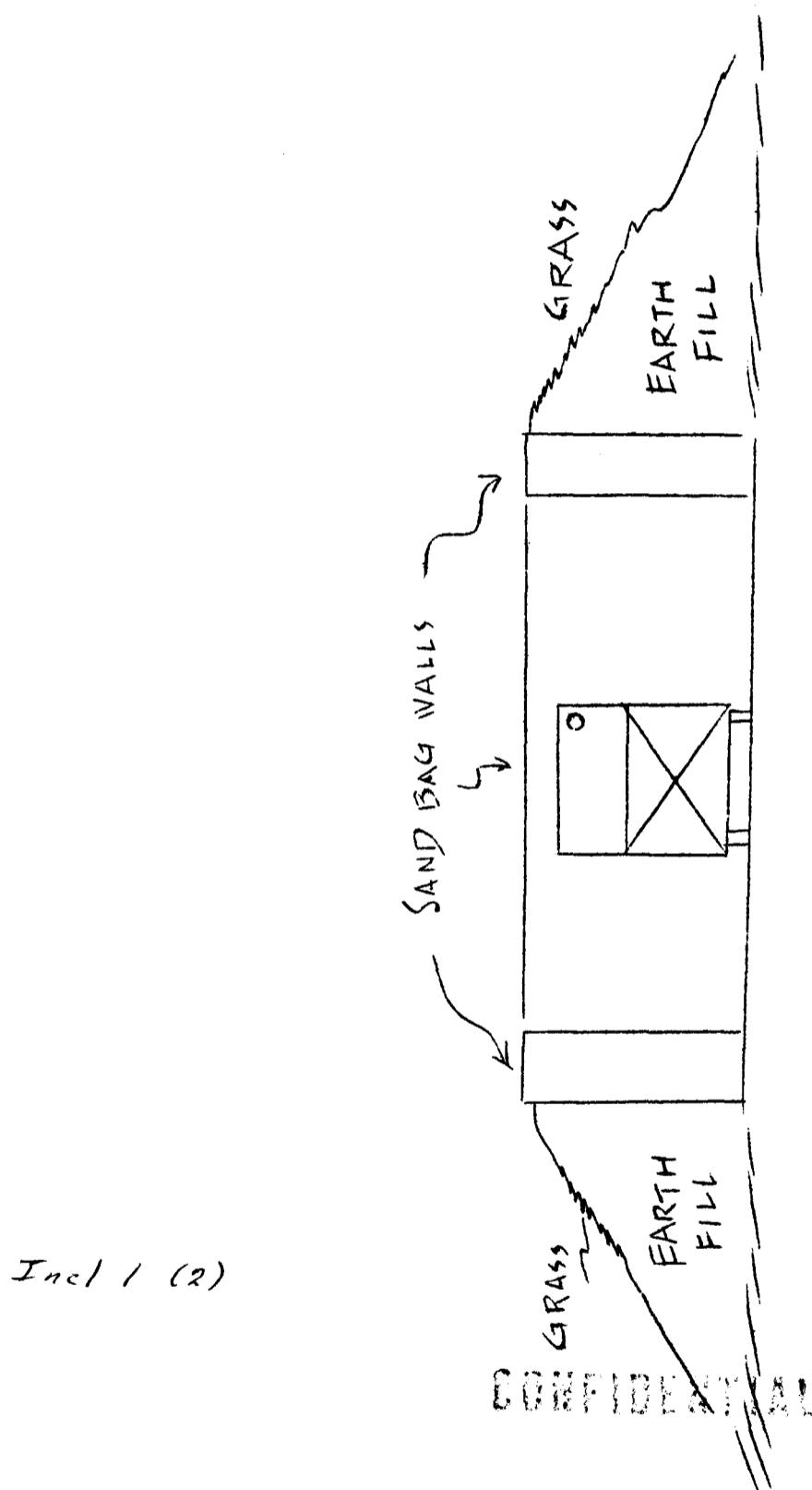
Annex A

BCC

Incl 1 (1)

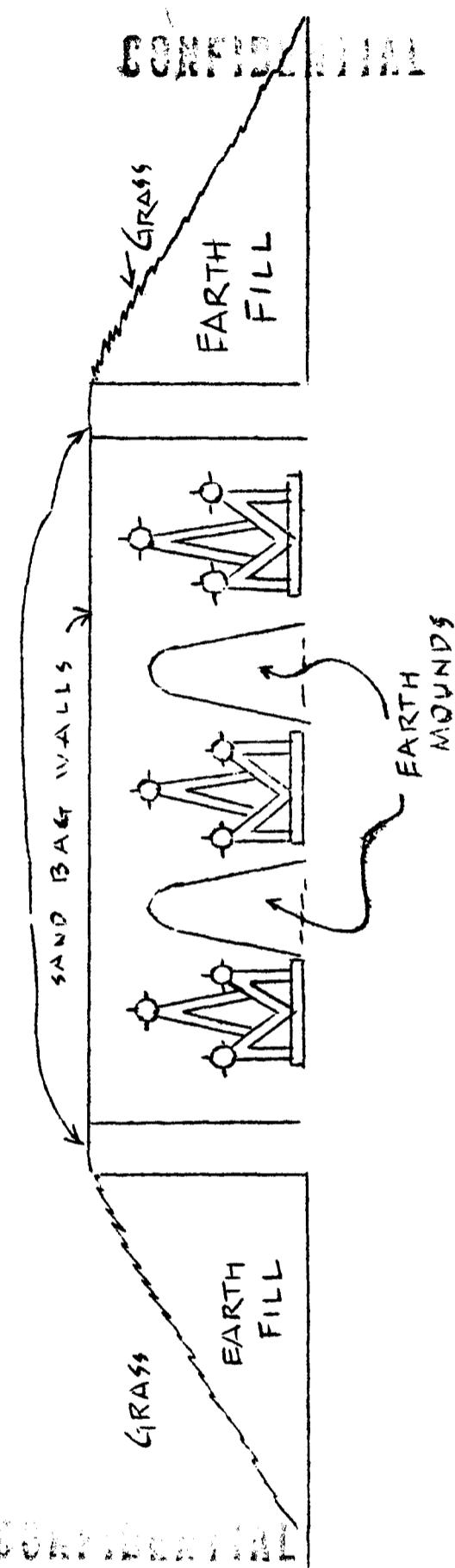
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Annex B

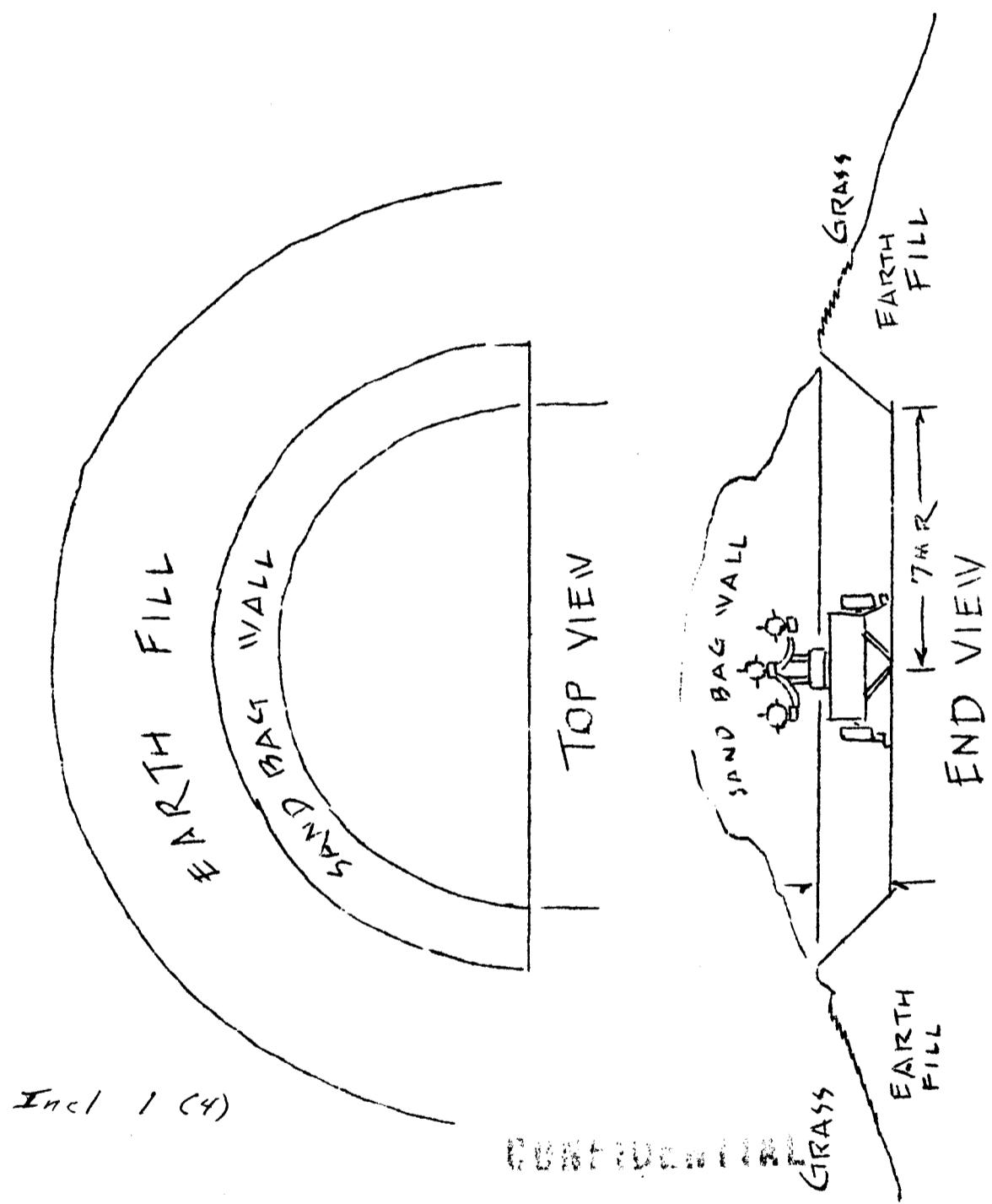
GENERATOR

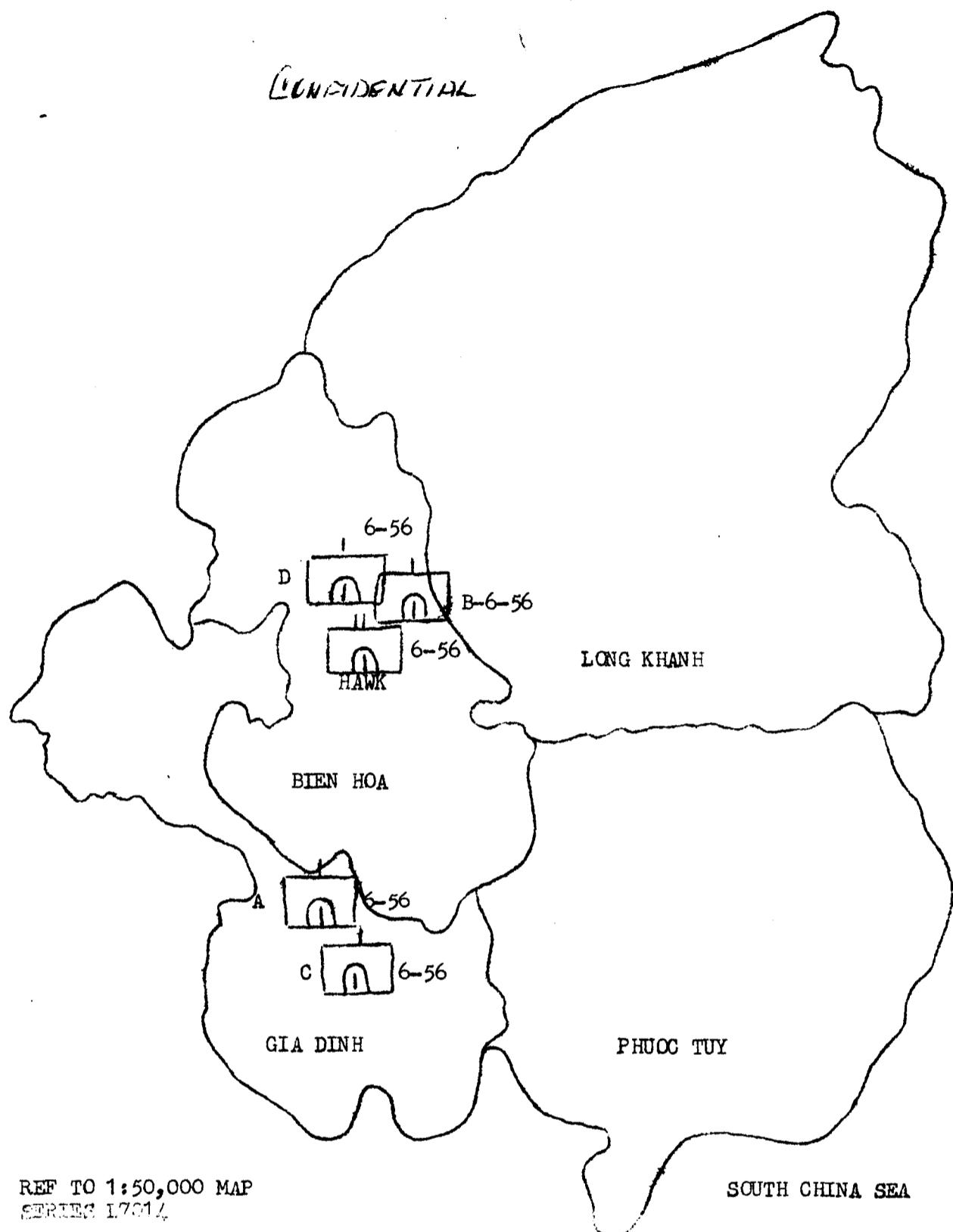


Annex C

Incl 1 (3)

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CONFIDENTIALREF TO 1:50,000 MAP  
SERIES 17614

SQUARES THAT COMPREHEND THE AREA

533° 11, 111  
533° 11, 112