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Copy No. 5

1/9 Cav, 1st Cav Div

AN KHE, RVN (BR 475075)

231800 JAN 66

BGW.1

OPORD 1-66, ~~OPERATION MASHEN~~

Reference: 3rd Bde OPORD 1-66, OPERATION MASHEN

Maps VN 1:50,000 sheets 6854 IV, 6854 III, 6853 IV, 6753 I,
6754 II, 6754 I, 6855 III, 6755 II

Task Org:

Tm C (-)

Tm D

TF Con

1. SITUATION:

a. Enemy Forces: Annex A (Intelligence)

b. Friendly Forces:

- (1) 3rd Bde w/4 Bns atks north from vic BONG SON in area bound by Hwy 1 on the East and on the West by the crest of hill mass overlooking the coastal plains, maintains recon and surveillance in AN LAO Valley, and be prep to atk East out of zone.
- (2) ARVN Abn Bde (five bns) commences search and destroy operations on D-day, 28 Jan 66, in conj with 1st Air Cav Div; atks in zone North of BONG SON, along and East of Hwy 1 inclusive.
- (3) 2d Air Div provides tactical air support as required.
- (4) 7th Fleet provides naval gunfire support for OP MASHEN.

c. Atch and Detach: Task Org.

2. MISSION: 1/9 Cav (-) moves to PHU CAT op area on D-3. Supports 3rd Bde elements moving by road, provide aerial screen for infantry bns in the atk, and conduct zone recon opns.

3. EXECUTION:

a. Concept of operation: 1/9 Cav (-) provides aerial and/or ground escort for Bde elements moving by road, provide one (1) Sct Tm OPCON to each infantry bn in the atk, conduct zone recon commencing D-3 utilizing Sqdn aerial and gnd elements.

b. Tm C:

- (1) D-4 one (1) Sct Tm becomes and remains OPCON 1/7 effective 241500 Jan 66. 1/7 loc vic PHU CAT.
- (2) D-3 provide aerial screen for Sqdn convoy (Annex B).
- (3) D-3 one (1) Sct Tm becomes and remains OPCON 2/7.
- (4) D-3 thru D-1 conduct zone recon in area Grey commencing 251200 Jan 66, be prepared to conduct zone recon of areas Indigo, Maroon, and Coral.
- (5) D-Day one (1) Sct Tm becomes and remains OPCON 2/12.

(6) On D-Day conduct zone recon in areas Black, Yellow and Violet.

c. Tm D:

- (1) D-3 provide escort for 11th Avn Gp and Sqdn vehicle convoy (Annex B).
- (2) Be prepared to provide plts in Infantry configuration in area Grey, commencing 251200 Jan 66.
- (3) Be prepared to conduct convoy opns from PHU CAT to BONG SON and other security missions on order.

d. Coordinating Instructions:

- (1) D-Day 28 January 66.
- (2) Counter ambush plan will be rehearsed by D Troop after leaving AN KHE and prior to lead vehicle entering AN KHE Pass.
- (3) All personnel in wheel vehicle convoy will wear steel helmets and flak vests.
- (4) Special emphasis will be given to air space control within the AO.

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OPORD 1-66, OPERATION MASHER

(5) Unit boundaries will be strictly observed.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS:

- a. Admin: Annex E (TBP)
- b. Logistics: Annex F

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL:

- a. Signal: Current SOI in effect
- b. Command:
 - (1) Fwd CP loc initially via 1/7 CP (area Pink).
 - (2) Rear CP remains operational

ACKNOWLEDGE:

ANNEX: A - Intelligence
B - Road Movement
C - Fire Support Plan
D - Army Avn
E - Administration (TBP)
F - Logistics
G - Civil Affairs

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 AN KHE (BR 475475)
 231800 Jan 66
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Annex A (Intelligence) to 1/9 Cav OPORD 1-66 OPERATION MASHER (U)

Reference: Maps Vietnam 1:50,000, sheets 6854 IV, 6854 III, 6853 IV, 6753 I, 6754 II, 6754 I, 6855 III, 6755 II.

1. SUMMARY OF ENEMY SITUATION:

a. Enemy Locations:

(1) DATE	COMPOSITION	DISPOSITION
4 Jan	210 Regt	BR 8678
17 Jan	9 Bn, 18 Regt	BR 8988
19 Jan	8 Bn, 18 Regt	BR 9690
19 Jan	7 Bn, 18 Regt	BR 9690
30 Dec	DUONG MINH TAN Bn	BR 9079
23 Dec	UI Co	BR 7479
19 Dec	PHAM SO Bn	BR 7082
3 Jan	UI Bn	BR 7782
14 Dec	TAY SON Bn	BR 9290
1 Jan	342 Bn, 18 Regt	BR 8491
?	UI Co	BR 8194
?	UI Co	BR 9398
10 Dec	UI Bn	BR 9001
Jan	120th Mort Bn	BR 7512
4 Jan	CHI NGUYEN QUAN (2 Bns)	BS 8810
?	UI Bn	BS 8506
?	UI Bn	BS 9170
2 Dec	D-22 Co	BR 7982
19 Dec	QUYET Co	BR 8687
?	UI Co	BR 8194
?	LF Co	BR 8398
?	UI Co	BS 8704
?	UI Co	BS 8517
?	UI Co	BS 7819
29 Dec	2 Cos (324 Div)	BS 5900

Innumerable LF Flats in area

(2) Other information:

VC Tng Co BR 675850
 VC Dist Hq BS 830172
 Rice storage BR 696810
 Rice storage BR 633960
 Rice storage BR 635974
 Rice storage BR 775840
 Rice storage BR 872860
 Obstacles BR 883905, BR 827953
 Roadblocks BS 887060, BS 887050, BS 886050
 Fortifications BR 7381, BS 8700, BS 8701, BR 8589, BS 8601, BS 8801
 Infiltration routes: from the sea, at the BINH DINH and QUANG NGAI Border, Northwest up the valley. Along the SONG AN LAO close to the BINH DINH Border, Southeast down the valley.
 AA Wpns: are numerous near proposed Bde CP location.

b. Enemy Capabilities:

- (1) Attack: VC/PAVN forces can attack the FSE or Sqdn CP with up to four Bns, assisted by several LF Cos and platoons within 24 hours after start of operations. Within 48 hours that force can be reinforced by two Regiments, (18th PAVN & 2nd RF)
- (2) Defend: VC/PAVN units can defend in place with up to four Battalions supported by several LF units initially, and reinforce (conducting counterattack from another direction) with two Regiments supported by LF units.
- (3) Reinforce: If VC/PAVN Hqs considers the control of Northern BINH DINH Province vital to their interests they could reinforce in the area with all units listed in para a (1) above.

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Annex A (Intelligence) to 1/9 Cav OrOad 1-66 OPERATION MASHAN (U)

- (4) Withdraw: If warned of forthcoming operations he can withdraw to hill masses immediately, or within 24 hours after start of operations. The withdrawal can be covered by local forces conducting diversions.
- (5) Ambush LZ's with 1 Bn.

c. Possible courses of action:

- (1) It is not probable that VC/PAVN Bns will defend their present positions unless trapped - nor will they defend terrain features nor remain in villages to conduct a defense.
- (2) Most likely, they will withdraw to locations on high ground, conduct extensive reconnaissance to determine our disposition of forces, then mass Bns for offensive operations against our units when and if the opportunity is presented. One opportunity would be the Sqdn CP if lightly defended. Another would be a Bn sweeping the SONG AN LAO Valley. Attacks there would come from hills on both sides during periods of low visibility.
- (3) If VC/PAVN forces are surrounded and trapped in hill masses and are subjected to massive firepower they will attempt to break out. This would be an opportunity for allied forces to exploit.
- (4) Peculiarities and Weaknesses: The time of the operation coincides the Vietnamese New Year period (TET). An exceptionally large number of VC/PAVN forces can be induced to surrender using the CHIEU HOI theme, if Psy Ops are programmed to the maximum.

2. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION:

- a. Will enemy ambush LZs?
- b. Where are enemy units and headquarters?
- c. Priority to:
 - (1) Fortified areas.
 - (2) Logistical facilities.
 - (3) Training areas.
- d. Does the enemy have 12.7mm CHICOM MGs or 120mm mortars in area? If so, where and how much ammo is available?
- e. Will enemy attack Sqdn CP or other units?
- f. What routes and bases are used by the enemy for infiltration of units, replacements and supplies into area of operation?

3. OTHER INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Report incidents or acts of hostility by civilian populace.
- b. Report enemy contact or movement of enemy forces.
- c. Report well used trails and trails and villages not on maps.

4. WEATHER: Weather forecasts will be issued daily.

5. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. Viet Cong Captives (VCC) and Viet Cong Suspects (VCS):

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Annex A (Intelligence) to 1/9 Cav OPOD 1-66 OPERATION MASHAN (U)

- (1) VCC captured during a combat operation may be detained for tactical exploitation until the close of that specific operation. VCC will then be transported by the quickest available means to the nearest VCC collecting point for disposition.
- (2) Each Troop is responsible for the proper and humane handling of VCC or VCS whom it apprehends. VCC and VCS will, in all circumstances, be treated humanely while under the responsibility of US personnel. Medical aid will be administered to the sick and wounded.

b. Captured Documents and Material:

- (1) Captured documents will be initially screened for tactically valuable information, then forwarded to Sqdn S2. If the document is translated at Troop level, a copy of the translation will accompany the document.
- (2) All captured weapons, mines, booby traps, snares, explosives, medicines, commo equipment and uniforms will be marked or tagged, as appropriate, and reported in accordance with Div TnC SOP. Unusual equipment or material should be left in place and guarded until MI personnel can investigate.

- c. COMINT: The VC is active in COMINT and jamming. Troops will stress commo security and net discipline at all times. Date, time, frequency, description and effectiveness of radio jamming will be reported through the Sqdn S2 to the Div Sig O.

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Annex B (Movement Plan) to OPORD 1-66 (OPERATION MASHER)

Reference: Map, OPORD 1-66

1. SITUATION: OPORD 1-66

2. MISSION: 1/9 Cav moves by ground and air on 25 Jan 66 to assy areas via PHU CAT and via BR 915855.

3. EXECUTION:

- a. Concept of operation: 1/9 Cav elements move to two (2) assy areas. C Trp moves to assy area via PHU CAT. Hq and D Trp move to assy area George via BR 915855.
- b. C Trp w/C depart 251000 Jan 66 for PHU CAT. Vehicles move under control Sqdn convoy cmdr.
- c. D Trp provides one (1) plt for escort of Sqdn convoy, provides two (2) plts for escort of 11th Avn Gp convoy.
- d. Coordinating instructions:
 - (1) CO D Trp is Sqdn convoy cmdr.
 - (2) Sqdn vehicle convoy SP time 250900 Jan 66.
 - (3) All vehicles monitor D Trp command freq 41.60 FM.
 - (4) Wpns Tm providing aerial escort under control of convoy cmdr, and monitors D Trp command freq 41.60 FM.
 - (5) Convoy clearance nr is 0526, and this nr will be printed on right front windshield of first and last veh in convoy.
 - (6) Convoy arrive intersection Hwy 1 and Hwy 19 at 251110 Jan 66.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS: OPORD 1-66

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL:

- a. Signal
 - (1) Current SOI in effect.
- b. Command
 - (1) Capt Fritz convoy cmdr.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

APPENDIX I (Strip Map for Raos Movement)
APPENDIX II (Road Movement Table)SHOENAKER
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Appendix II (Road Movement Table) to OPORD 1-66 (OPN MASHER)

Reference: Map OPORD 1-66

1. Time 250900 Jan 66. SP is intersection Rt 70 and Rt 19 (453444).
2. Avg speed 30 MPH - catch up speed 40 MPH.
3. Halts: None.
4. Route: National Rt 19 and 1.
 - a. RP: C Trp RP - PHU Cat Rifle Rng
Sqd (-) RP - 909852
 - d. Check Points
 1. BR 581438
 2. BR 627471
 3. BR 748386
 4. BR 884325
 5. BR 988332
 6. BR 913448
 7. BR 887586
 8. BR 931753
 9. BR 913844

ACKNOWLEDGE:

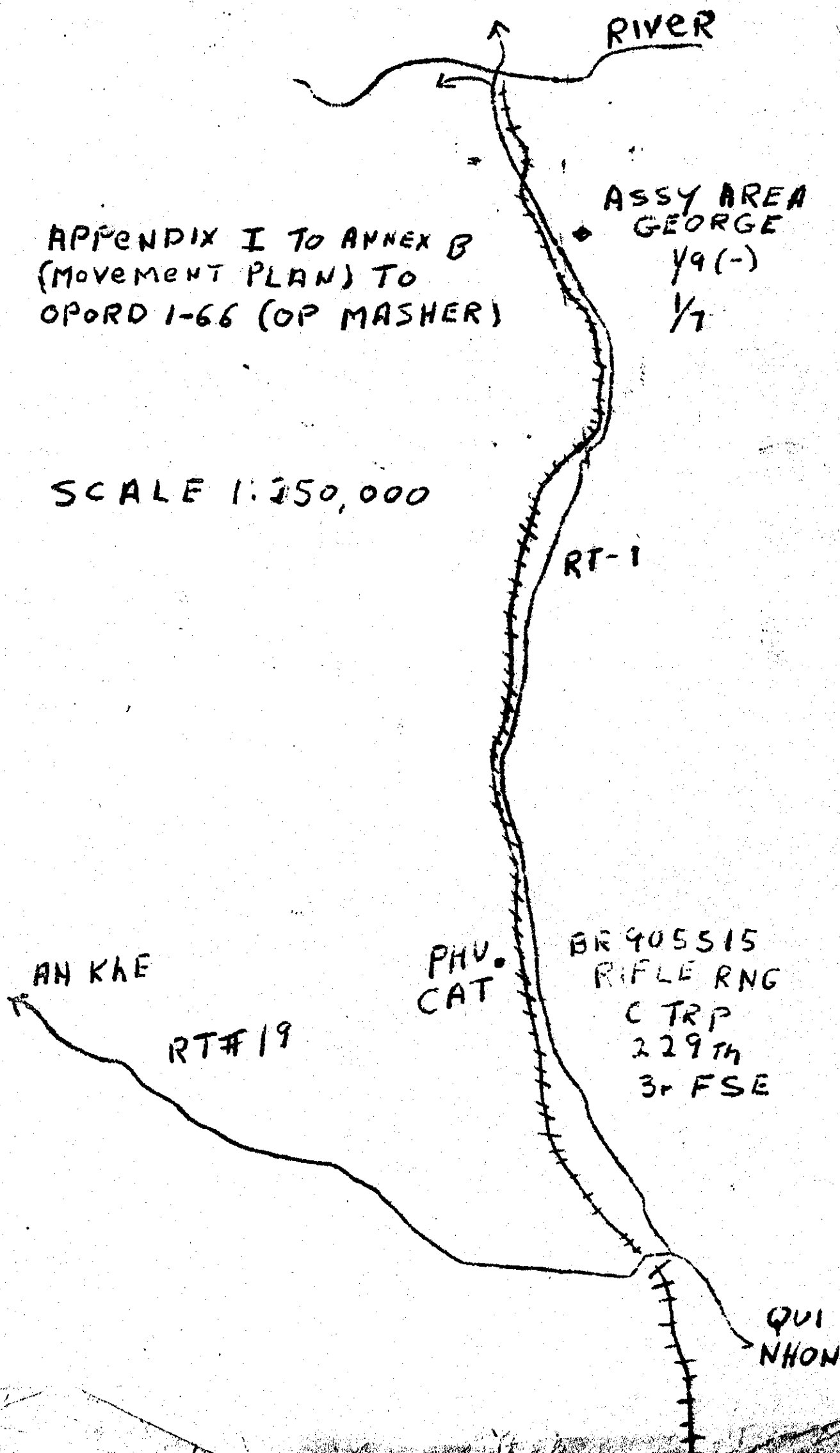
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APPENDIX I TO ANNEX B
(MOVEMENT PLAN) TO
OPORD 1-66 (OP MASHER)

SCALE 1:250,000



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232100 Jan 66

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Annex C (Fire Support Plan) to OPORD 1-66, OPERATION MASHEN

Reference: Maps OPORD 1-66

1. SITUATION:

- a. Enemy Forces: See Annex B (Intelligence) to OPORD 1-66
- b. Friendly Forces:
 - (1) See Annex A (Task Organization) to OPORD 1-66
 - (2) Artillery Support:
 - (a) 1st Bn 21 Arty (+) (105mm) (Towed)
 - (b) 2d Bn 20 Arty (-) (MIA)
 - (c) 3d Bn 18 Arty (-) (175/8") (SP)
 - (d) 1st Bn 30 Arty (-) (155mm) (Towed)
 - (e) 2d Bn 17 Arty (105mm) (Towed)
 - (3) 2d Air Division provides close air support to 3d Bde, 1st Air Cav Div.
 - (4) Naval Support: Naval gun fire support will be available thru fire support channels.
- c. Attachments and Detachments:
 - (1) Attached effective 240600 Jan 66, B Btry 2/19 Arty to 1/21 Arty.
 - (2) Attached effective 240600 Jan 66, 4 Sects B/29 Arty to 1/21 Arty.

2. MISSION: See OPORD 1-66**3. EXECUTION:**

- a. Concept of operation
 - (1) General: 1/9 Cav (-) provides aerial and/or ground escort for Bde elements moving by road, provides one (1) Sct Tm OPCON to ea Inf Bn in the atk, conducts zone recon commencing D-3 utilizing aerial and ground elements.
 - (2) Maneuver: D-3 1/9 Cav (-) provides air and ground escort for Bde elements moving by road and commences aerial recon area Grey.
 - (3) Fire Support: On call concentrations will be fired utilizing 1st Air Cav Arty Fire Plan for march route commencing D-3. On call preparations and concentrations will be fired on selected LZ's and PZ's in area Grey commencing D-3. Priority of fires: D-3 thru D-1, 1/7 Cav, on D-Day 2/7 Cav initially, thereafter 1/7 Cav then 2/12 Cav when committed.
- b. Air Support
 - (1) 2d Air Div provides close air support to 3d Bde, 1st Air Cav Div.
 - (2) Allocations: Priority of air support from D-3 thru D-1 to 1/7 Cav.
- c. Artillery Support
 - (1) General: Artillery will support ground movement commencing D-4. All artillery allocated for OPERATION MASHEN will be obtained thru FSE 3d Bde, 1st Air Cav Div (FM 41.30) Wild Bronco 15 or 1st Air Cav Div Arty (FM 31.10 Fast Draw 85). No artillery is attached or direct support 1/9 Cav.
 - (2) Organization for combat
 - (a) Div Arty
 - 1st Bn 21st Arty (+) DS, 3d Bde.
 - 2d Bn 20th Arty (-) GS, one Btry, GSR 1/21 Arty.
 - 3d Bn 18th Arty (-) GS.
 - (b) Reinforce Arty
 - 1st Bn 30th Arty (-).
 - (3) Miscellaneous: Arty LNO 1/9 plan fires for all selected LZ's and PZ's in area Grey.

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Annex C (Fire Support Plan) to OPOD 1-66, OPERATION MASHER

- d. Naval Support: Naval gun fire support is available thru fire support channels.
- e. Coordinating Instructions: Emergency lifting of fires to be given in the clear.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS: SOP

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL: SOP

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 AN KHE, RVN (BR 476479)
 231630 Jan 66
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Annex D (Aviation) to OPORD 1-66, Operation Masher.

Reference: MAP, ANNEX E (Aviation) to OPORD 1-66, Operation Masher
 Hq's, 3rd Bde, 1st Cav Div (Air)

1. Situation:

a. Enemy Forces: Annex A, Intelligence

b. Friendly Forces: OPORD 1-66

c. Attachments and Detachments: Task Orgn

2. Mission: See OPORD 1-66

3. Execution:

a. Concept of Operation: OPORD 1-66

(1) Aviation Platoon:

(a) Provide 4 aircraft at Squadron CP. 2 for Squadron CO, 1 for S-3, and 1 for S-4.

(b) Establish heliport con for Squadron CP when Squadron operates at a separate location from 3rd Bde.

b. Coordinating Instructions:

(1) Aircraft entering 3rd Bde AO contact the following on the appropriate freq for airspace utilization and Arty firing:

Dagger Control	FM Freq 39.40
Dagger Control or Bayonet 83	UF Freq 255.3
Bronco 8	FM Freq 41.30

(2) Aircraft landing at 3rd Bde CP helipad will contact Dagger Control on FM 39.40 or UF 255.3 prior to landing and takeoff.

(3) Takeoffs and landings from 3rd Bde CP helipad will not be made over the tented area.

(4) Aircraft entering the 3rd Fwd Support laager and refueling area contact Phu Cat Control on FM 37.30 for landing instructions.

4. Administration and Logistics: Annex F

5. Command and Signal: OPORD 1-66

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Hq 1st Sqdn 9th Cav
An Khe RVN (BR476479)
240900 Jan 66
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ANNEX E to Op Ord 1-66 OPERATION MASHER (Administration)

Reference: Op Ord 1-66 3d Bde (OPERATION MASHER)

1. Strengths:

PDS to Sqdn base 0800 as of 0600 daily

2. Replacements:

Report to base for assignment to troops. Troops determine disposition.

3. Discipline, Law and Order:

TAC SOP

4. VCC, VCS:

TAC SOP

5. Graves Registration:

a. Located via 3rd FSE

b. Personal effects remain with body

c. Isolated burial prohibited

d. VC & Civilians: TAC SOP

6. Morale & Personal Services:

a. R&R personnel returned to base in time to meet connections and complete financial activities.

b. Decorations & Awards: USARV Reg 672-1, dtd 12 Nov 65

c. Pay: Class A Agents must pick up payrolls at Div Finance between 31 Jan & 15 Feb 66.

d. Mail:

(1) Mail for field delivery will be pre-sorted and delivered to Sqdn Mail Clerk prior to 0800 daily for transportation forward.

(2) Mail from field locations will be brought to base with carrier aircraft and delivered to Sqdn Mail Clerk.

(3) Mail and no other items will be in authorized mail bags.

(4) No accountable mail will be sent to field locations.

e. No PX facilities available; gratuitous issue distributed upon receipt.

7. Casualty Reporting:

a. AG Team via 15th Med

b. Troop casualty reports to Sqdn base by fastest means available, in no case more than 9 hours after occurrence.

c. Troop casualty reports will be independent and not copied from AG.

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Miscellaneous:

3d Brigade daily courier run available for papers only, through prior arrangement with Sqdn S-1.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

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LT COL

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JUDSON
S-1

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An Khe, RVN (BR 475475)
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Annex F (Logistics) to OPORD 1-66 OPERATION MASHER

Ref: Map OPORD 1-66 Hq 3rd Bde, 1st Cav.

1. General Situation: OPORD 1-66.
2. Mission: Provide logistical support to 1/9 Cav (-) during operation in assigned sector.
3. Location:
 - a. Establish supply point vic 3rd Forward Spt coord 905520.
 - b. Establish additional supply points as required.
4. Material and Services:
 - a. Supply
 - (1) Class I
 - a. Troop distribution by spt plt.
 - b. Rations
 - (1) Head count for 22, 23, 24, Jan to S4 by 251200.
 - (2) Ration requests for the 29th in by 251200.
 - c. All personnel carry minimum of one "C" ration meal for consumption on order of unit commander.
 - d. Troops carry basic load of "C" ration. D Troop carry basic load of "C" rations for Hq's personnel.
 - (2) Class II and IV
 - a. All troops carry three day supply dry batteries.
 - b. All troops carry all 5 gal water cans and lug-a-jugs available.
 - c. All troops carry 250 gal water bag and/or water trl.
 - d. Barrier material available on request.
 - (3) Class III and IIIA
 - a. Class III, vehicle and generator tanks 3/4 full 5 gal cans full.
 - b. IIIA, JP4 and Avgas refueling point vic 905520.
 - (4) Class V
 - a. Troops carry and maintain basic load class V.
 - b. Available supply rate, Ltr ASR Hq, 1st Cav Div dtd 30 Dec 65.
5. Water: All personnel carry two canteens and water purification tablets.
6. Transportation
 - a. Surface movement Annex G to OPORD 1-66, Hq 3rd Bde.
 - b. Request for air movement of supplies and equipment to S4 ASAP.
7. Services
 - a. Engr, Ord and ground maintenance by Co C 15th Trans vic Fwd Spt location.
8. Med Evacuation and Hospitalization
 - a. Clearing station vic Fwd Spt.
 - b. Med Evac requests on freq 34.0, call sign Med Evac 3.
 - c. Information required for Med Evac.
 - (1) Coordinates and marking of LZ.
 - (2) Number and type patients.
 - (3) Nature of injuries.

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Annex F (Logistics) to OPORD 1-66 OPERATION MASHEN

9. Miscellaneous

- a. Request for supplies and materials to Supt Plt Ldr ASAP daily on Admin/Log.
- b. All rice and other useable materials will be evacuated whenever possible.

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Annex G (Civil Affairs/Psy War) to OPORD 1-66 OPERATION MASHER

Reference: OPORD 1-66 3rd Bde (OPERATION MASHER)

1. (B) District Headquarters within operational area:
 - (a) PHU CAT BR 902487, Capt Johnson 42.40 "True Dipper Papa".
 - (b) PHU NY BR 900673, Capt Powers 42.20 "True Dipper Tango".
 - (c) HOAI AN BR 817883, Capt Buckley 42.40 "True Dipper Victor".
 - (d) HOAI NHON BR 867958 (BONG SON USSF) Capt Snyder 41.90 "Minerva 28".
 - (e) BONG SON BR 867958, 41.90 "Minerva 28".
 - (f) AN TAO, no district chief, contact HOAI AN and BONG SON Capt Snyder 41.90 "Minerva 28".
2. (C) The majority of civilians in the operational area are Vietnamese, except in the An Lao Valley where the majority are Montagnard of the Phade Tribe. The civilian population have not shown pro VC sympathies even though the area has been VC dominated for several years. Command emphasis will be used by all Troop Commanders to minimize non-combatant injuries by US fires.
3. (C) In unpopulated areas:
 - (a) Report all sightings of domestic livestock of any quantity to S5 and leave live stock in place until further directed.
 - (b) If evacuation of live stock is impossible the GVN may request destruction of live stock found.
 - (c) Salt caches of less than 1000 lbs are to be destroyed. Report larger quantities found to S5.

Captured foods:

 - (1) Report type, quantity and location to S5.
 - (2) S5 will contact 3rd Bde for instructions on disposition. If situation doesn't permit, the Sqdn Commander may make decision to destroy.
 - (3) Report all cases of destroyed supplies to S5.
4. (C) Populated areas:
 - (a) Do not confiscate, evacuate or destroy livestock or food.
 - (b) If quantities found are excessive for the size local population, report quantities and location to S5.
5. (C) Refugees:
 - (a) District chiefs will provide, upon request, Popular Force, Police, or Village Chiefs to assist in refugee control. Contact S5 in cases where assistance is needed.
 - (b) Attempt to keep the populace in place.
 - (c) Request medical aid and administrative support through S5.
 - (d) Any refugees who wish to leave the area should be advised to move down Hwy 1 toward BONG SON.
6. (C) Psy war: Airborn loudspeakers and leaflets are available, on a mission basis from 3rd Bde. Request thru S5.
7. General:
 - (a) Since the GVN is presently unable to remain in the area of operation, the VC will return. The following apply in relation to the population:
 - (1) No action should be taken that will cause VC retaliation against the populace.
 - (2) Nothing essential for or in excess to the needs of the population should be left for the VC to confiscate.
 - (b) When the situation permits, civic action should be performed. The following is suggested:

- (1) Sick call
 - (2) Distribution of gifts (depending on available C/A supplies)
 - (3) All such CA projects to be reported to S5.
- (c) Civil affairs teams attached to the 3rd Bde are available to assist on civil affairs and psy war by request through S5.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

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