

JBB
CD

HEADQUARTERS
1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE) 8TH CAVALRY
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO San Francisco, California 96490

AVCIC-60

20 April 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (MACV/RCS/J3/32)

TO: Commanding Officer
1st Airborne Brigade
1st Air Cavalry Division
ATTN: S3
APO US Forces 96490

1. NAME AND TYPE OPERATION:

a. Name: LINCOLN
b. Type: Reconnaissance in Force

2. DATE OF OPERATION: 250730 Mar - 110800 Apr 66

3. LOCATION: Reference, Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000 Sheets 6551 I, II, III, and IV; 6552 I, II, III and IV; 6651 III and IV, 6652 III and IV.

4. COMMAND HEADQUARTERS: 1st Airborne Brigade

5. REPORTING OFFICER: Lt Col Levin B Broughton

6. TASK ORGANIZATION:

A 1/8
Tm A/8 Engr

C 1/8
Tm A/8 Engr

Bn Control
Recon Tm 1/9 Cav
Pathfinder Tm

B 1/8
Tm A/8 Engr

D 1/8

7. TAC Air, Artillery and ARA were used throughout the operation mainly in LZ preparation and improvement. Engineer support was again used in preparation and improvement of LZ's. Air Cavalry was used for screen and search operations on a mission basis. Pathfinder support was used extensively for the air traffic control of PZ's/LZ's.

8. INTELLIGENCE: The purpose of the operation was to interdict VC/NVA logistical points, infiltration routes, and units operating along the Cambodian-SVN border in Pleiku and Darlac Provinces.

Intelligence reports indicated the movement of the 32nd and 66th Regiments from their base areas vic Chu Pong Mountain, South into Darlac Province where they had been operating for at least a month. The 33rd Regiment was reportedly in the vicinity of the Chutai Mountain area.

On 25 March all units closed into the AO without enemy contact. During preparation of LZ TIGER at 0945 hours, 26 March 1966, an Air Force TAC aircraft received one round of SA fire from vicinity YA 785150. Negative further contact was made that day.

27 March A Co reported numerous punji stakes and foxholes along trail vic 829089. No other intelligence was reported of significance.

28 March B Co destroyed an old campsite consisting of 15 huts w/sleeping racks vic 818106.

29 March negative enemy information.

30 March A and G Co spotted 5 VC w/khaki uniforms vic 899139 and destroyed several campsites. Negative enemy contact was made by any unit.

31 March - April 8 the Bn secured LZ CAT and conducted intensive local patrolling with negative enemy contact. On 8 April the Bn returned to LZ OASIS.

The weather throughout the operation was favorable for airmobile operations. Cover and concealment along the ridges and on high ground was poor. Excellent cover and concealment prevailed in draws and stream beds. The local water supply was insufficient near small streams. Adequate water was found only along larger streams and rivers. Landing zones available north of the La Drang River Valley, but were scarce in the Chu Pong Mountain area.

9. MISSION: 1/8th Cavalry executed air assault operations into assigned AO to conduct reconnaissance in force operations throughout the assigned sector.
10. CONCEPT OF OPERATION: Beginning 251200 Mar 66, 1/8 Cav executed an air assault into LZ BEAR (YA 822162), to secure and establish a battalion base of operation and prepare for reconnaissance in force operation in assigned AO.
11. EXECUTION: Commencing 251200 Mar 66, 1/8 Cav executed air assault into LZ BEAR (YA 822162) with B 1/8 and C 1/8 landing with negative enemy contact. The assault was preceded by TAC Air strike, artillery and ARA preparations. Upon the Bn closing at 1300 hours, local security patrols were conducted around the area with negative enemy contact. Upon the return of the patrols and the arrival of C Btry 2/19 Artillery the Bn established the defensive perimeter for the night. An active H & I program was conducted during the hours of darkness with mortars and artillery.
Commencing 260900 B 1/8 air assaulted into LZ DOE (YA 784214) preceded by an artillery preparation. Negative enemy contact was made and B 1/8 then conducted reconnaissance in force operations closing into LZ BUCK (YA 780185) at 1640, hours followed by the air movement of the Mortar Plat B 1/8 and the attached recon platoon from LZ DOE to LZ BUCK. The company established a perimeter defense for the night. At 1030 hours A 1/8 conducted an air assault into LZ TIGER (YA 785150) preceded by TAC Air, Artillery and ARA preparations. Negative enemy contact was made and A 1/8 continued reconnaissance in force until approximately 1730 hours when they established a perimeter defense for the night at coordinates YA 793171. Negative enemy contact was made during the period. Active H & I program was fired during the hours of darkness.
Commencing 270800 A 1/8 and B 1/8 continued the reconnaissance in force operations following firing of the mad minute at all locations. A 1/8 closed LZ BEAR at 1705 hours with negative enemy contact. B 1/8 closed coordinates YA 790209 at 1530 hours where they extracted and air lifted to LZ BEAR closing 1550 hours. Battalion established a perimeter defense for the night. Negative enemy contact was made during the period. H & I fires were conducted during the night.
Commencing 280825 B 1/8 air assaulted in LZ BOBCAT (YA 800107) followed by C 1/8. Negative enemy contact was made. The assault was preceded by TAC Air and an Artillery preparation. Bn Recon Platoon was used to secure the two mortar platoons at LZ BOBCAT while the two companies returned to LZ BEAR with negative enemy contact and the two mortar platoons and the reconnaissance platoon lifted back to LZ BEAR closing at 1730 hours. The Battalion established the perimeter defense for the night and conducted H & I fires.

Commencing 290930 A 1/8 air assaulted into LZ PINE (YA 840093) with negative enemy contact. The assault was preceded by an artillery preparation. At 1000 hours the recon platoon air assaulted into LZ OAK (YA 847124) to secure the position for companies A and C mortar platoons. An artillery preparation was fired on the LZ prior to the assault; negative enemy contact was made and the mortar platoons closed at 1030 hours. Following the positioning of the mortar platoons at LZ OAK C 1/8 air assaulted into LZ DOGWOOD (YA 869180). Companies A and C then conducted reconnaissance in force operations moving toward LZ OAK and established a perimeter defense for the night.

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Commencing 300800 B 1/8 began an air assault into LZ WALNUT (YA 918156) following an artillery preparation on the LZ. Negative enemy contact was made and the Bn (-) and an artillery was air lifted to LZ WALNUT closing at 1009 hours. A 1/8 and C 1/8 continued their reconnaissance in force operations towards LZ WALNUT. At 1605 hours the Bn was alerted for moving a company to the Turkey Farm to secure the 227th AHB. A 1/8 was extracted and air lifted to the Turkey Farm closing at 1900 hours. C 1/8 closed into LZ WALNUT at 1805 hours. At 2305 hours A 1/8 was alerted for night assault to secure LZ CAT (YA 945895) and an artillery battery.

Commencing 310143 A 1/8 air assaulted into LZ CAT with negative enemy contact. On 311010 the Bn (-) was air lifted from LZ WALNUT and LZ OAK to LZ CAT closing at 1255 hours. Local security patrols were conducted during the day and a perimeter defense was established for the defense of LZ CAT. Negative enemy contact was made during the operation. H & I fires were conducted during the night.

During the period from 01 April through 08 April 66 the Bn remained at LZ CAT Div/Bde Reserve/Reaction Force securing LZ CAT and conducted local security patrols throughout the local area. Negative enemy contact was made during the entire period.

Commencing 081349 hours the Bn began an air lift by CV-2 to Psn OASIS, closing at 1817 hours and establishing a defensive perimeter to secure position Oasis (YA 123282). The Bn continued this security mission until 11 April with negative enemy contact.

12. RESULTS:

- a. Enemy KIA-0, EST KIA-0, VCC-0, VCS-0
- b. Friendly Forces - KIA-0, WIA-10
- c. Rice Destroyed - Approx 1 ton
- d. US equipment destroyed during operation - None

13. ADMINISTRATION MATTERS:

- a. Logistical and service support were excellent.
- b. The proximity of the base to the operational area during this opn simplified resupply by allowing timely resupply. Resupply could be effected directly from base to companies rapidly and without a second handling in the forward area.

14. COMMANDERS ANALYSIS:

- a. Operation was a success in that it afforded additional training for personnel of this unit though enemy contact was not made.
- b. TAC Air and Artillery was effective except in a few areas where pre-planned TAC Air was late arriving at the objective which caused delay in some air assaults.
- c. Air Cavalry was effectively used on a mission type basis.
- d. Pathfinders were again used to the maximum in controlling air traffic in conjunction with artillery firing, where again they were a vital part in the success of this operation.

15. COMMANDERS RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. That more emphasis be placed on intelligence to maximize the chances of closing with and destroying the enemy. Indigenous units, O.S. USSF/CIDG should be pumped for latest intelligence.
- b. That more ambush type operations be employed. Units conducting the ambushes should work in a "green" area for a minimum of three days without resupply before moving to a new area.
- c. That a coordinator be designated by the Brigade Commander to handle allocations of space and related matters for each LZ. The need for such a coordinator was apparent at LZ CAT.

LEVIN B. BROUGHTON
Lt Col, Infantry
Commanding

TAC AIR ARTY ARA SUMMARY

25 March 1966

TAC AIR:
1120-1132 YA 817155
1145-1157 YA 811165

ARTY:
54 rds

ARA:
84 rds

26 March 1966

TAC AIR:
0930-0939 YA 786147

ARTY:
240 rds

ARA:
131 rds

27 March 1966

TAC AIR:
1130-1145 YA 820140

ARTY:
279 rds

ARA:
None

28 March 1966

TAC AIR:
0803-0820 YA 804097

ARTY:
284 rds

ARA:
121 rkts

29 March 1966

TAC AIR:
None

ARTY:
336 rds

ARA:
482 rkts

30 March 1966

TAC AIR:
0750-0756 YA 932147

ARTY:
357 rds

ARA:
168 rkts

31 March 1966

TAC AIR:
None

ARTY:
84 rds

ARA:
None

01 April 1966

TAC AIR:
None

ARTY:
78 rds

ARA:
None

02 April 1966

TAC AIR:
1440-1453 YV 838974
1510-1525 YV 838974

ARTY:
78 rds

ARA:
None

03 April 1966

TAC AIR:
None

ARTY:
92 rds

ARA:
None

04 April 1966

TAC AIR:
None

ARTY:
88 rds

ARA:
None

05 April 1966

TAC AIR:
None

ARTY:
90 rds

ARA:
None

TOTAL

TAC AIR

8 Strikes

22 Sorties

ARTY

2056 rounds

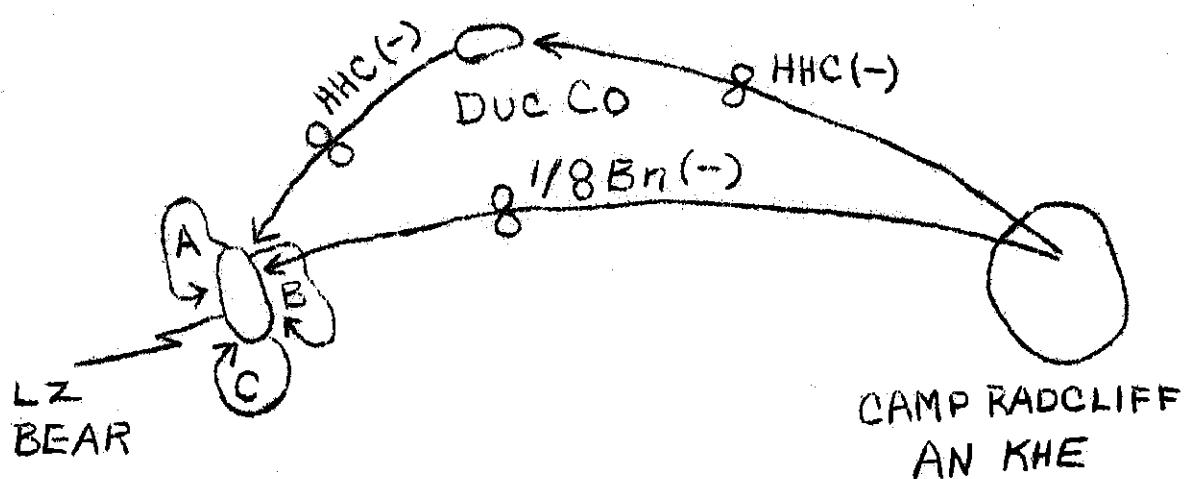
ARA

986 Rkts

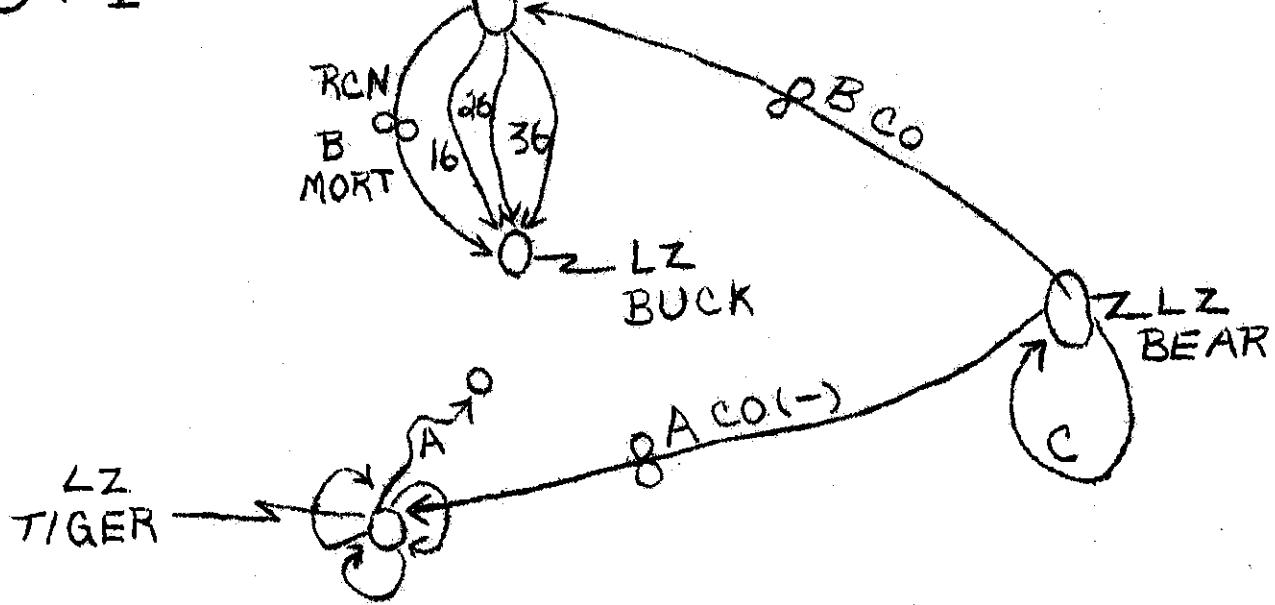
Incl # 1, To Combat Operations After Action Report, dtd 20 April 66 (Cont'd)

LINCOLN

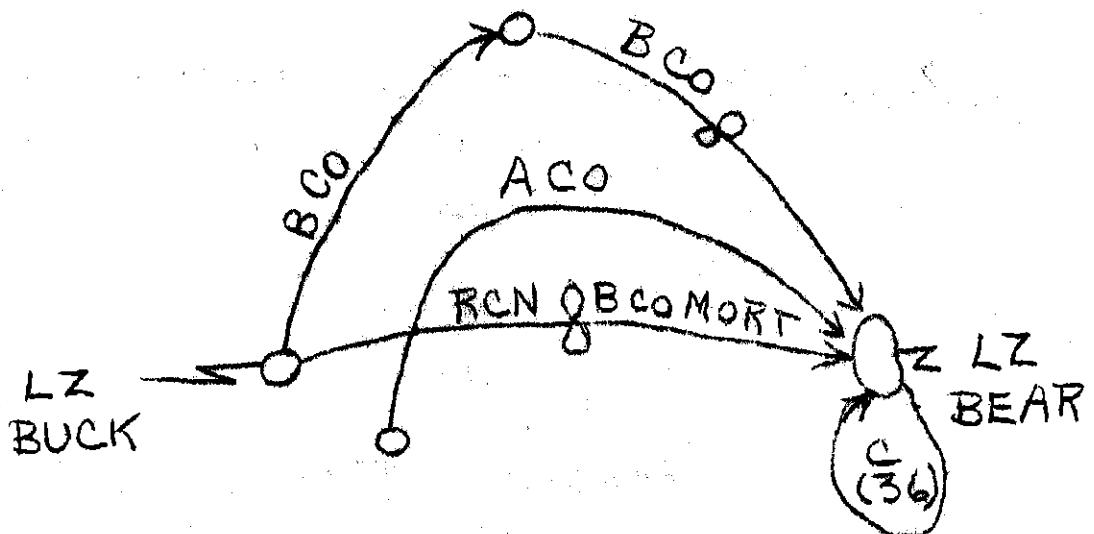
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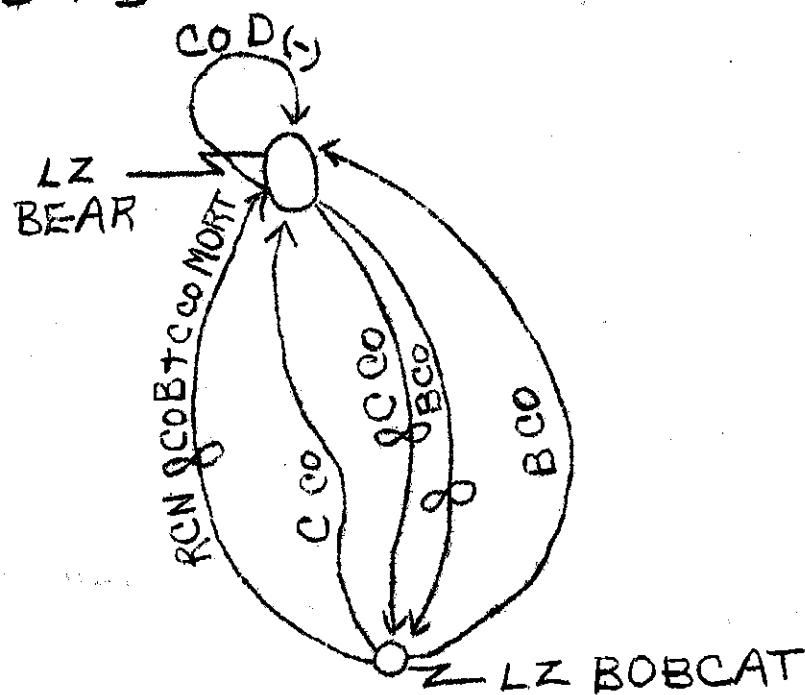
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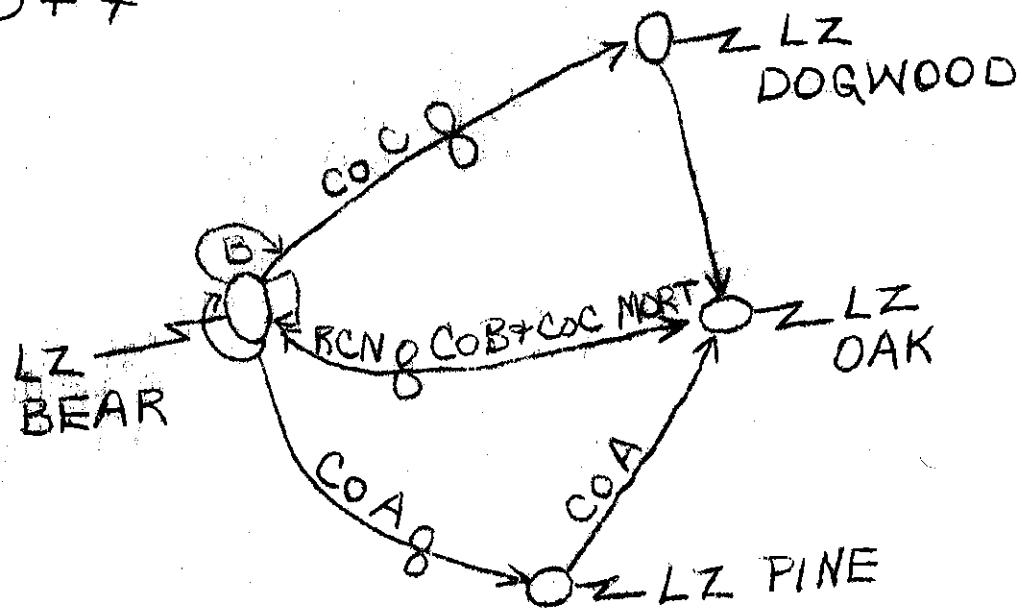
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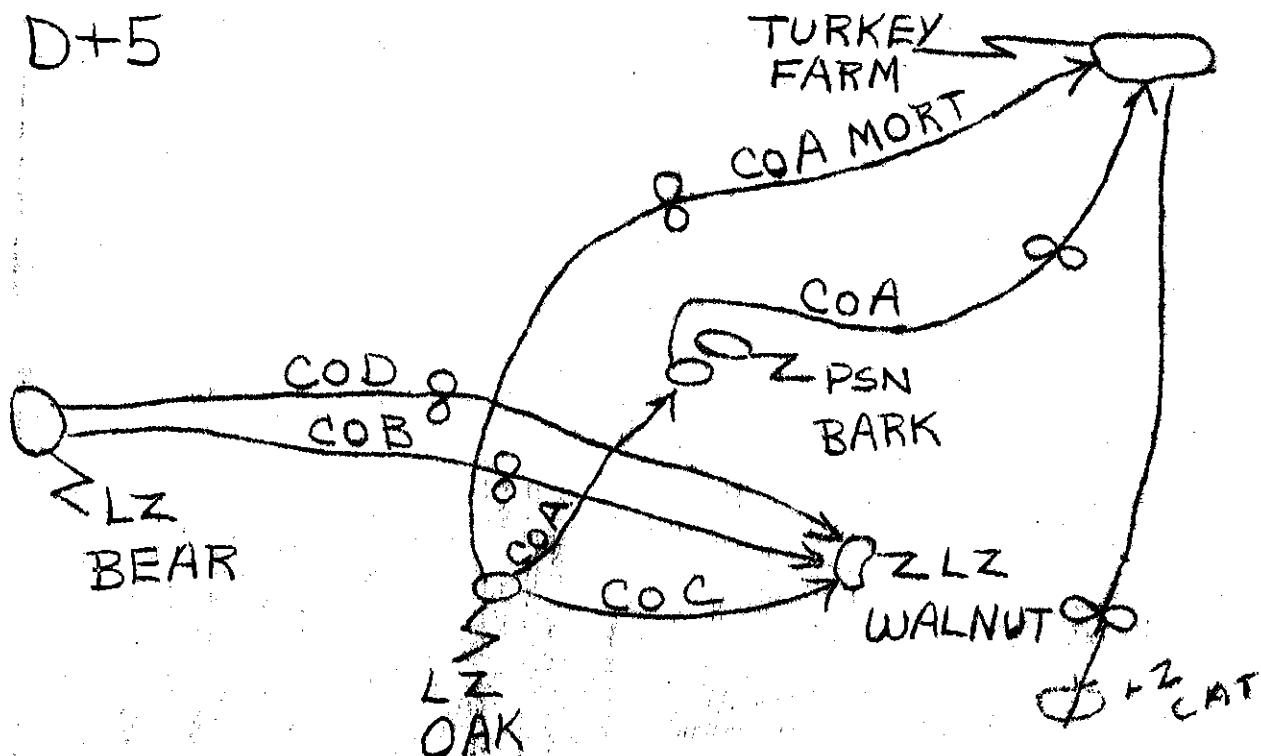
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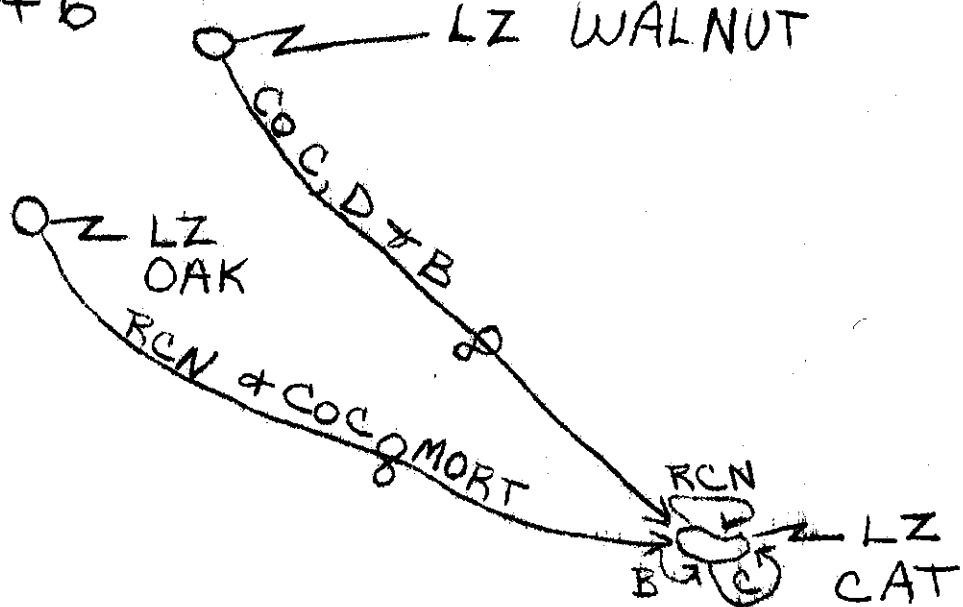
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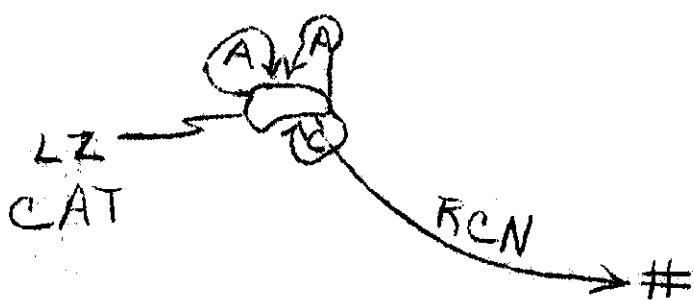
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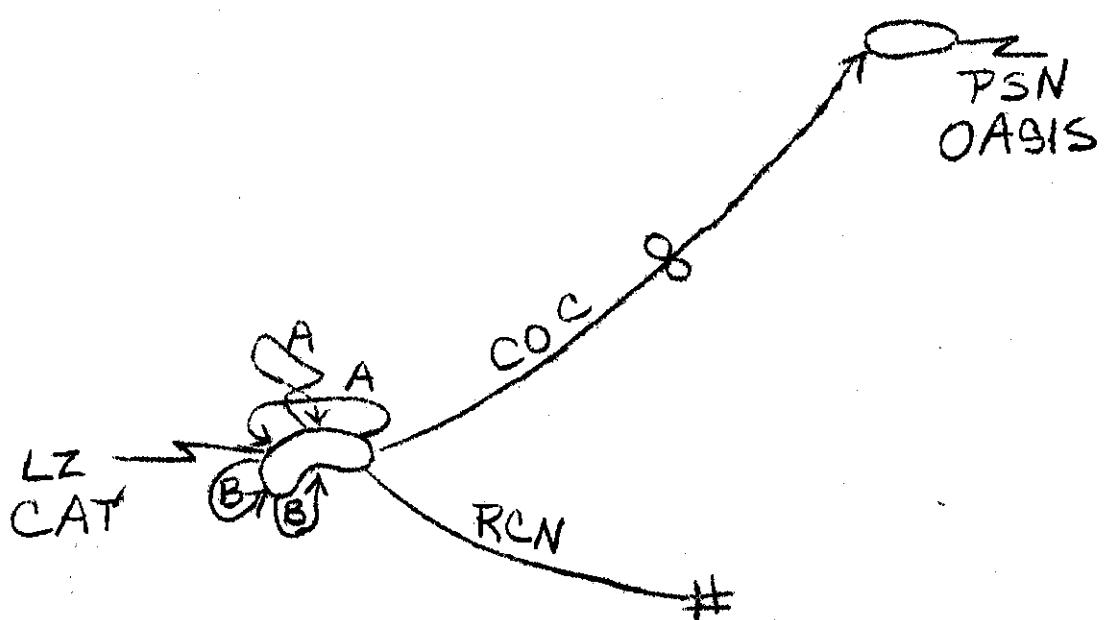
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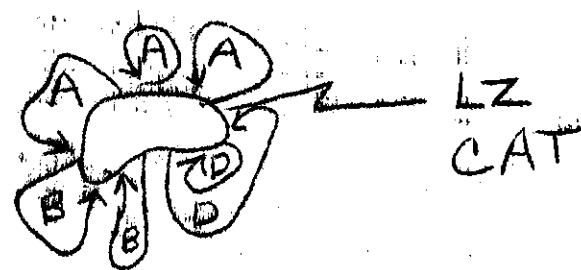
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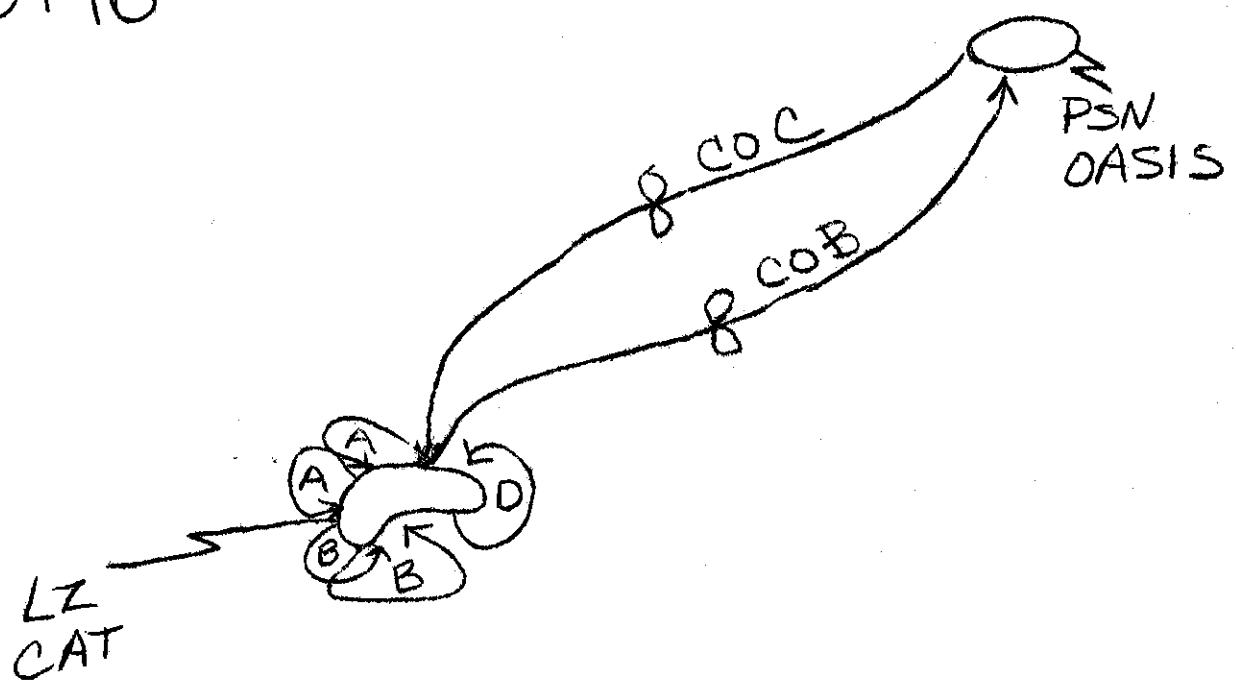
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D+9



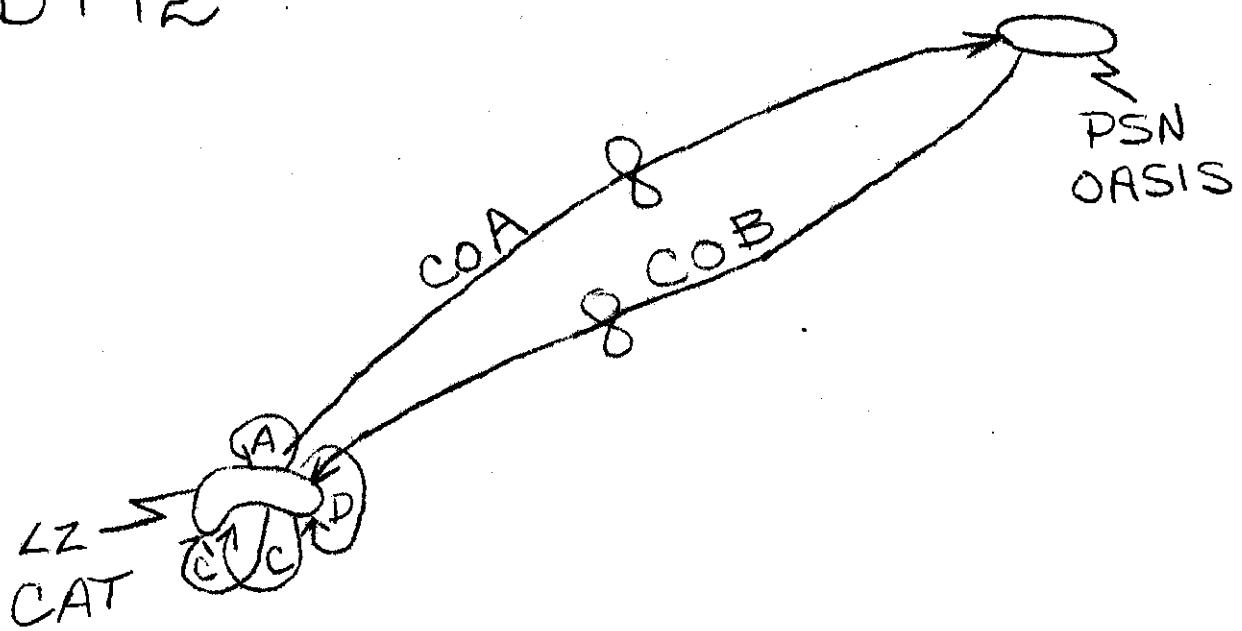
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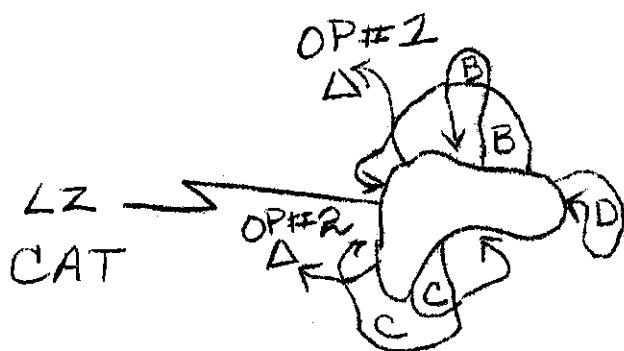
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D+12



D+13



D+14

