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AGDA (M) (26 Feb 70) FOR OT-UT-694287

6 March 1970

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, [REDACTED]

AD 507791

Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 31 Oct 69.
SEE DISSEM

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

11 14 Nov 69

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

ROBERT E. LYNCH
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE), 1ST SPECIAL FORCES
APO San Francisco 96240

AVGP-C

14 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of 5th Special Forces
Group (Abn) for the Period Ending 31 October 1969 RCS
OSFOR-65 (R2)

Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam
ATTN: AVHQC-DST, APO San Francisco 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army, Pacific
ATTN: GROP-DT, APO San Francisco 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. (C) Section I, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. General.

*(1) Mission: The missions assigned to the 5th SFGA, that have a classification of not higher than Confidential are as follows:

- (1) To exercise command and control of subordinate detachments,
- (2) To advise and assist the Vietnamese Special Forces (VSSF) and support the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Program,
- (3) To provide intelligence to COMUSMACV,
- (4) To conduct special operations,
- (5) To conduct the MACV Recondo School,
- (6) To act as Sector/Subsector advisors as directed by COMUSMACV.

* - NOTE: Missions with Secret classification are found in MACV Directive 10-21, dtd 1 Nov 68 and Combined Campaign Plan AP 114, dtd 31 Sep 68.

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(2) Organizational Structure. See organizational chart at Inclosure 1, troop disposition lists at Inclosure 3, and Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ) maps at Inclosure 4.

(3) Commanders and Key Personnel. See list at Inclosure 2.

(4) Situation at the Beginning of the Period. The enemy continued his stand-off attacks-by-fire throughout the Republic of Vietnam. Over all the enemy continued to regroup and resupply possibly in preparation for the upcoming "Monsoon Offensive". In I CTZ the enemy was coming to the end of the regrouping period, but failed to launch a comprehensive attack throughout the Corps. The most threatened camps in I CTZ were NONG SON, with elements of the 90th NVA Regiment moving through its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR), and TRA BONG which was surrounded by elements of the 21st NVA Regiment. The enemy subjected Camp TRA BONG to increased attacks-by-fire during the quarter, but failed to assault it with ground troops as they had on fire support bases of the AMERICAL DIVISION in the same area. In II CTZ the enemy was also drawing his regrouping phase to an end. By the beginning of the reporting period many camps in II CTZ were being hit with attacks-by-fire. The most threatened camps in II CTZ were BEN HET and DUC LAP. Troop concentrations of two to three regiments were reported in the NAM LXR base area west of Camp DUC LAP. In III CTZ the most threatened camps were TAY NINH and LOC NINH. The 9th VC Division was moving in the area of TAY NINH City, with increasing reports of an upcoming offensive, and the 7th VC Division was in the area of LOC NINH with the same reports; neither location was hit however. In IV CTZ the enemy operated extensively from the border areas of Cambodia, remaining in his Cambodian sanctuaries to regroup and resupply. Camp THANH TRI received attacks-by-fire during this time. Throughout the four CTZ's the enemy seemed to be following the same pattern. His period of resupply and regrouping seemed to be coming to a close and another offensive sometime around the Monsoon season is likely.

(5) Operations. The statistical data on operations conducted this quarter are shown in Inclosure 5. CIDG Camp Strike Forces (CSF) were engaged in squad, platoon and company size operations throughout their TAOR's to provide intelligence, hamper enemy movement, and to otherwise conduct offensive operations.

(6) Situation at the End of the Reporting Period. The enemy initiated activity has remained at a low level throughout the Republic of Vietnam. The enemy was engaged mainly in troop redeployment, resupply, reorganization and attacks-by-fire. The anticipated "Monsoon Offensive" has failed to materialize. In I CTZ the enemy conducted repeated attacks-by-fire against Camp TRA BONG during August. In September, the capture of a document 18

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kilometers southeast of AN HOA, QUANG NAM Province (as well as other intelligence sources) indicated the reorganization of several NVA/VC units into sapper units. At the end of the reporting period, a low level of enemy activity prevailed throughout the CTZ as enemy units remained deployed in base areas. In II CTZ, enemy initiated activity during the first two months was at a low level. During October, activity increased to a moderate level as enemy troops infiltrated into and through CTDG camp TAOR's. During late October in the area around camp BU PRANG, enemy activity increased significantly with a heavy build up of troops and attacks-by-fire against Fire Support Bases KATE and ANNIE. In III CTZ the enemy has been increasing his troop strength by infiltration from Cambodia. Camp Strike Force operations have made several contacts along the enemy infiltration routes from Cambodia. The enemy has initiated light ground probes against border installations in TAY NINH and HAU NGHIA Provinces. Elements of the 3d MSFC (3d Mobile Strike Force Command) made heavy contact with elements of the 5th VC Division in August and September in Operation BULL RUN I in an area northwest of Camp DUC PHONG. In October enemy activity indicated that he was engaged in resupply operations, making light attacks-by-fire and limited probes of CTDG camps. In IV CTZ, during August enemy activity was at a low level as the enemy concentrated his efforts on logistical efforts and infiltration of personnel into border areas. In September, enemy activity increased in the Seven Mountains area. In October enemy activity remains at a moderate level with attacks-by-fire and increased troop and supply movement throughout the border areas.

(7) Changes in Organization. The Mobile Strike Force Training Center at AN KHE, BRN6611775, was deactivated on 23 October 1969. This facility will be replaced by four Camp Strike Force Training Centers, one located in each Corps Tactical Zone. The Mobile Strike Force Training Center is being relocated to the National Training Center at DONG RA THIN.

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b. Intelligence.

(1) I Corps Tactical Zone.

(a) In early August enemy strength* in I CTZ was approximately 72,000 men, of which 54,000 were combat troops. Contacts and enemy activity remained light, as the enemy probably utilized this period of time to realign, retrain and resupply his units. At the end of October the total enemy strength was estimated to be approximately 67,000 men, of which 57,000 were combat troops. Throughout the period, enemy forces operated with three confirmed divisions, 27 independent regiments, and approximately 89 maneuver battalions.

(b) During August, enemy activity within CIDG camp TAORS was characterized by unit movements. Although enemy offensive activity was at a moderate level throughout the month, it increased significantly during the period 12-19 August in the vicinity of Camp TRA BONG, QUANG NGAI Province. During this time the 21st Regiment, 2nd NVA Division relocated from the southeastern portion of TRA BONG's TAOR and attempted to encircle the camp. Continuous attacks-by-fire were conducted by the enemy against the camp, RF/PF outposts, and AMERICAL Division fire support bases in an attempt to draw reaction forces from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, AMERICAL Division, and CSF operations from TRA BONG into ambush sites. However, friendly reaction forces were not committed, and the 21st Regiment withdrew to its base area in the southeastern portion of the camp's TAOR. Other significant movements in I CTZ during August involved the 141st NVA Regiment and the 3rd NVA Division. Elements of the 141st NVA Regiment deployed to the northern portion of THUCHUNG DUC's TAOR in QUANG NAM Province, thus significantly increasing the possibility of a major attack against the camp. During the latter part of August, the 3rd NVA Division relocated from the southwestern portion of MINH LONG's TAOR, QUANG NGAI Province, to an area 12 kilometers west of the camp in the SONG RE Valley. The 1st VC Main Force Regiment and elements of the 2nd (AKA the 21st) NVA Regiment, 2nd NVA Division, conducted frequent attacks against the AMERICAL and Marine assets in the QUE SON Valley-HIEP DUC area of QUANG TIN Province. Approximately 1,000 VC/NVA were estimated to have been killed during these contacts which rendered the 1st Regiment combat ineffective and forced the regiment to redeploy, in order to resupply and regroup, to

* Includes those units within the DMZ and those in RVN and LAOS in close enough proximity to pose a significant tactical threat to I CTZ.

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the southern portion of NGON SON's TAOR, QUANG NAM Province. During September, the enemy in I CTZ continued to emphasize economy of force tactics while attempting to maintain his personnel strength at a combat effective level. The most significant activity during this period was the capture of a document, 18 kilometers southeast of AN HOA (BT008399), QUANG NAM Province. This document, which was confirmed by agent reports, indicated enemy interest in sapper tactics and reorganization of VC/NVA units. The 31st, 36th, 90th and 141st NVA Infantry Regiments were mentioned as being selected for sapper training. Following this training the units will be redesignated and will operate entirely as sapper units. During future combat missions the document advocates that regardless of disadvantages due to open terrain, subordinate units should make maximum use of diversionary, surprise, and deep thrust tactics to include raids and ambushes. Elsewhere in I CTZ, intelligence sources indicated a regimental-sized force operating in the BA TO TAOR, QUANG NGAI Province. The 22nd NVA and 2nd VC Main Force Regiments both of the 3rd NV Div., and the 9th NVA Sapper Battalion were located east and west of the camp. Although attack indicators were present the enemy initiated no offensive actions against BA TO. During October the enemy continued his low level of activity. Several significant events, however, did occur to include the disbanding of the 368th NVA Artillery Regiment and the enemy build-up along the DMZ and northern QUANG TRI Province. Analysis of PW statements and documents captured 11 kilometers northwest of THUCNG DUC (ZC209621) stated that the 368th Regiment had been deactivated and that its three battalions were resubordinated to the three commands of Group 44 (AKA 4th Front). The 3rd Battalion was redesignated as the 573rd Rocket Battalion, and the 1st and 2nd Battalions combined to form the 575th Battalion. Other PW reports and captured documents identified several new units in the DMZ and northern QUANG TRI Province, to include the 2nd Battalion, 84th NVA Artillery Regiment; the 9th Regiment, 304th NVA Division; the 45th Battalion of the QUANG BINH NVA Provincial Force; the 246th Regiment, 338th NVA Division and the 33rd NVA Independent Sapper Battalion. The PHU LOC Artillery Battalion was also identified in THUA THIEN Province, while the 78th VC Main Force Heavy Weapons Battalion was located in QUANG TIN Province. There was a decline in morale and an increase in dissension among the VC and NVA forces. A PW captured 12 kilometers west of HOI AN (BT024595), QUANG NAM Province, stated that relations between the VC and NVA were sometimes strained to the point that they would fight. Another PW captured on 15 September, 15 kilometers north of AN HOA (AT855587) revealed that a serious food problem existed within the 141st NVA Regiment. The PW stated that during the 30-day period

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prior to his capture the unit had not received food for 11 of those days and the situation was becoming worse. In addition, 60% of the 2nd Battalion, 141st Regiment, was suffering from malaria and medical supplies were at a minimum.

(c) At the end of the reporting period, a low level of enemy activity prevailed throughout the CTZ as enemy units remained deployed in base areas. The enemy, however, is capable of employing forces for widespread attacks-by-fire and sapper attacks against isolated outposts, fire support bases, and district towns. A major offensive is not expected at this time; however, the enemy may conduct a coordinated series of attacks-by-fire and sapper attacks following the monsoon season.

(2) II Corps Tactical Zone.

(a) In early August the estimated enemy strength in II CTZ was 56,500 personnel of which 35,000 were combat troops. Enemy-initiated activity during the first two months was at a low level throughout the CTZ, with the enemy engaged mainly in troop redeployment, resupply, and reorganization. After a two-month lull, activity increased during October to a moderate level as enemy troops infiltrated into and through CIDG camp TAORS. At the end of October the estimated enemy strength was 54,000 of which 34,500 were combat troops.

(b) During the period August-October enemy-initiated activity in the BEN HET area was almost non-existent. After the May-June siege of the camp, the 66th and 28th NVA Regiments, supported by the 40th NVA Artillery Regiment, were believed to have withdrawn into Base Area 609 to receive replacements, retrain and resupply. The 66th and 28th NVA Regiments then remained out of contact and were believed to have moved to southwestern II CTZ near the Cambodian border. The 40th NVA Artillery Regiment also remained out of contact and, according to documents captured in early October, was believed to have split into two elements, designated 40A and 40B. Elsewhere in the CTZ, enemy activity during the first two months was at a low level, with the enemy redeploying some units to new areas of operations. In August, the 5th Battalion, 24th NVA Regiment relocated in northern KONTUM Province from the DAK TO-TAN CANH area to Camp MANG BUK's TAOR and conducted attacks-by-fire against hamlets in the MANG BUK area. During this same period, the 4th Battalion, 95B NVA Regiment redeployed from its normal area of operations west of AN XHE, BINH DINH Province, to an area east of Camp PLEI ME, PLEIKU Province. The battalion is probably

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transporting rice from Cambodian sanctuaries back to its normal area of operations. In southern PLEIKU Province, PW's and captured documents revealed that the 966th NVA Battalion and the K-31 Battalion, 40th NVA Artillery Regiment had merged to form a K-631 NVA Artillery Battalion. Agent reports and captured documents mentioned that a Fall Offensive was to have been initiated sometime during August. It was believed that the offensive had begun when PLEIKU (PLEIKU Province), KONTUM (KONTUM Province), BAN ME THUOT (DARLAC Province), AN KHE and CAM RANH Bay and LAM TRANG (KHANH HOA Province) received attacks-by-fire and snapper attacks on the 7th, 11th and 12th of August. However, no follow-up attacks-by-fire nor ground assaults against Special Forces assets materialized. During the month of September enemy activity was at a low level. During October the enemy continued to avoid making large scale contacts; however, reports were received that enemy units were infiltrating from Cambodian base areas into South Vietnam with the mission of attacking major allied installations. Agent reports also revealed that a large enemy unit had infiltrated into Camp PLEI DJERENG's TAOR, PLEIKU Province, with the mission of attacking the camp. Although the camp received no attacks-by-fire, joint operations conducted by elements of the 4th US Infantry Division and CSF personnel from the camp made heavy contact with unknown-sized enemy forces north of the camp. Enemy activity in the southern portion of the CTZ also remained light; however, agent and informant reports continued to indicate a large buildup of enemy troops in the NAM LYR Base Area west of Camp DUC LAP, QUANG DUC Province. Two HOI CHANH identified the D251 Local Force Battalion, as operating in the NAM LYR Base Area. During the first week of October, a PW captured northwest of PLEIKU City identified his unit as the G-2 Transportation Battalion, which had the mission of supplying the 24th NV^A Regiment from Cambodian way stations. As the month progressed, enemy-initiated activity began to increase as the enemy continued to infiltrate into PLEIKU and KONTUM Provinces. During late October, KONTUM and PLEIKU Cities received attacks-by-fire. Also CSF elements from Camp PLEI MRONG, PLEIKU Province, and US elements in the KONTUM-PLEIKU area made company-sized contacts with elements of the 24th NVA Regiment. A PW captured in one of these contacts stated that the Regiment had the mission of conducting ambushes along Highway 14 between KONTUM and PLEIKU.

(c) Current enemy disposition indicates that the enemy may be positioning units for a possible offensive that could begin in early November. Although intelligence and propaganda reports have stated that CIDG camps in PLEIKU Province as well as PLEIKU and KONTUM

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Cities are targets for offensive activities, the enemy will probably conduct his major drive in southwestern II CTZ against Camps BU PRANG and DUC LAP. The enemy will probably continue to conduct sporadic attacks-by-fire against the major population centers and military installations throughout the CTZ.

(3) III Corps Tactical Zone.

(a) In early August enemy strength in III Corps was estimated to be between 53,000 and 55,000 personnel, of which 41,000 were combat troops. Contacts and enemy-initiated incidents remained at a moderate level throughout the entire period. Enemy strength increased slightly during September with the addition of approximately 1,000 combat troops. October saw a significant rise in enemy strength, with the total estimated being 58,460 personnel, of which 42,440 were combat troops. Throughout the period enemy forces operated with four confirmed divisions, 12 independent regiments, and 53 independent battalions.

(b) During August, enemy activity was characterized by light attacks-by-fire and ground probes against border installations in TAY NINH and HAU NGHIA Provinces and heavy attacks-by-fire in BINH LONG Province against CIDG Camp LOC MINH. In TAY NINH Province CSF operations made several light contacts during the month with squad to company-sized enemy units. The majority of these contacts in TAY NINH and HAU NGHIA Provinces occurred along known enemy infiltration routes from Cambodia. The largest of these contacts occurred on 8 August when a reconnaissance element from PHUOC TAI Outpost, Camp BEN SOI, TAY NINH Province, engaged an estimated VC company, killing 19 enemy. Elements of the 82th NVA Regiment, 9th VC Division, were believed to have been the enemy unit in contact. The enemy also used light attacks-by-fire in TAY NINH and HAU NGHIA Provinces probably to cover infiltration of new troops. Camp DUC HUE, HAU NGHIA Province, received 17 rounds of 120mm mortar fire on 12 and 13 August; while Camp KATUM, TAY NINH Province, received 19 rounds of 82mm mortar fire on 1 August. The movement of the 183 NVA Regiment, 1st NVA Division, was also conducted during the month from III Corps to CHAU DOC Province in western IV Corps. The regiment was identified in the Seven Mountains Area, IV Corps, on 22 August. The heavy attacks-by-fire in BINH LONG Province were targeted against Camp LOC MINH, which received a total of 293 mixed artillery rounds during the period 12-13 August. The camp also made nine contacts with squad to platoon-sized units believed to be elements of the 209th NVA Regiment, 7th NVA

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Division, which operated west of the camp during the month. The 165th NVA Regiment, 7th NVA Division, operated in an area northwest of HON QUAN; while the 141st NVA Regiment, 7th NVA Division, operated west of HON QUAN. The 141st Regiment, along with elements of the D368 Local Force Battalion, was identified in contact on 17 August with operations from CHI LINH west of HON QUAN. Also identified as operating in the HON QUAN area during August were the 271st and 272nd VC Regiments, 9th VC Division. However, with the relocation of these regiments to the Fishhook area in late August and the beginning of September, enemy activity in BINH LONG Province began to subside. The reported presence of the 5th VC Division in an area northwest of Camp DUC PHONG, PHUOC LONG Province, prompted the initiation of the 3rd MSFC's Operation Bull Run I. The operation was initiated on 18 August, with the first contact on 24 August resulting in 27 enemy killed. Elements of the 3rd MSFC continued to engage the enemy in heavy contacts from 31 August to 3 September, when they were extracted. The 95A NVA Regiment, 5th VC Division, was identified by a HOI CHANH who rallied to the 3rd MSFC on 13 September, and the 174th NVA Regiment, 5th VC Division, was identified in a light ground probe against Camp DUC PHONG on 4 September. The 275th VC Regiment, 5th VC Division, remained relatively inactive in the area southeast of SONG BE, PHUOC LONG Province, until 3 September when it was identified in an attack against Camp BUNARD, PHUOC LONG Province. With the termination of the 3rd MSFC's operation, enemy activity decreased in PHUOC LONG Province, with the 5th Division probably initiating resupply and regrouping activities. Throughout other areas of the corps, intelligence sources indicated that the enemy was beginning to experience severe logistical problems. Enemy activity throughout III Corps during September was characterized by light attacks-by-fire probably conducted to cover the movement of personnel and supplies, and ground contacts against border outposts in TAY NINH and HAU NGHIA Provinces and Camp LOC NINH in BINH LONG Province. PHUOC TAN Outpost, Camp BEN SCI, was the center of activity during early September, when it received several light attacks-by-fire and a small ground probe. During the last week of September, there was a slight increase in activity in THIEN NGON's TAOR, TAY NINH Province, as intelligence sources indicated that the 272nd VC Regiment, 9th VC Division, and the 101D NVA Regiment, 1st NVA Division, were moving into staging areas north of the camp. This movement resulted in one squad, two platoon, and two company-sized contacts with enemy units on 21 and 22 September. In BINH LONG Province, the 209th NVA Regiment, 7th NVA Division, continued to operate west of LOC NINH; while the 165th NVA Regiment, 7th NVA Division, moved to an area southwest of BU DOP, PHUOC LONG Province, and was probably the enemy unit

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responsible for the slight increase in activity in the BU DOP area during the first week of September. Intelligence sources also indicated that the 141st NVA Regiment, 7th NVA Division, was moving to Base Area 350, north of LOC NINH, from its former location, west of HON QUAN. The level of activity in October was similar to that in September as intelligence sources continued to indicate the enemy was experiencing severe logistical problems. CIDG camps continued to receive light attacks-by-fire, while ground operations continued to make squad to platoon-sized contacts with enemy personnel engaged in logistical activities. Activity in III Corps during the month of October was centered around the 5th MSF's Operation Homeward Bound in THIEN NGON's TAOR. Elements of the 5th MSF made several contacts with squad to platoon-sized enemy units and discovered four ammunition caches. The enemy unit in contact was identified as the 3rd Battalion, 70th Guard Regiment. The 70th Guard Regiment was incorporated into the 66th Base Security Regiment, COSVN, in December of 1968. Intelligence sources indicated during October that the 272nd VC and 271st VC Regiments, 9th VC Division, and the 101D NVA Regiment, 1st NVA Division, were redeploying from their former locations in BINH LONG Province into central War Zone C. With the indicated movement of these regiments back into central War Zone C, it appears the enemy will again target its forces against TAY NINH City.

(c) On 5 September, personnel at Camp DUC HUE observed tracked vehicles, believed to have been PT-76 tanks, northwest of the Camp. Shortly after observing the tracked vehicles, the Camp received four separate attacks-by-fire from an unknown type caliber weapon, totaling eight rounds. An examination of recovered shrapnel revealed the rounds to have been either 75mm recoilless rifle or 76mm rounds. PT-76 tanks were sighted by personnel at the camp in April and July of this year.

(d) In mid-to-late October, numerous intelligence sources reported that the enemy may initiate a Winter-Spring Offensive in mid-November. Analysis of available intelligence indicates that the enemy is fully capable of launching such attacks at this time. TAY NINH City has been frequently mentioned as the primary target of the offensive.

(4) IV Corps Tactical Zone.

(a) In early August, enemy strength in IV CTZ was estimated at 46,000 personnel, of which 39,500 were combat troops. Enemy strength

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Increased significantly during the reporting period, due to the infiltration of the 18B NVA Regiment, 1st NVA Division, and filler personnel from North Vietnam. At present, the enemy has seven confirmed regiments and 40 confirmed independent battalions with a combined estimated strength of 48,700 troops. Of these, 41,100 are in a combat role.

(b) During August, enemy activity was at a low level, as the enemy concentrated his efforts on logistical movements and infiltration of personnel into border base areas. During this period the 273rd VC Regiment began its relocation from Base Area 400 in CHAU DOC Province to Base 483 in KIEN GIANG Province. Elements of the 18B NVA Regiment then replaced the 273rd Regiment in the Seven Mountains area, CHAU DOC Province. The relocation of the 18B Regiment from III CTZ to IV CTZ increased the enemy's capabilities and combat strength in IV CTZ by approximately 1,300 personnel. In early September, enemy activity increased in the Seven Mountains area, as the 18B NVA Regiment set up permanent bases in the NUI GIAI-NUI CAM area. Reports of large, unconfirmed enemy units infiltrating from III CTZ were received frequently. Incidents of ground probes and attacks-by-fire increased following the infiltration of the 18B NVA Regiment. A sharp increase in enemy-initiated activity occurred during the period 13-26 September, covering the movement of the remaining support and combat service support elements of the 18B Regiment into the mountain base area. During the same period of time, activity increased in the CAI CAI area of northern KHAM PHONG Province; while numerous sightings of large enemy truck convoys were reported in the border regions. Intelligence reports continued to indicate enemy plans to create an equivalent force level with friendly units throughout the CTZ. In October, enemy activity remained at a moderate level and was characterized by attacks-by-fire and increased troop and supply movements throughout the border regions. Intelligence sources continued to report the infiltration of enemy combat units into the CTZ usually from the TAY NINH-HAU NGHIA Province area of III CTZ. Various unit designations were reported, possibly to mask actual unit strengths and intentions. Indications were received of the possible creation of two or three enemy divisions within IV CTZ. The 273rd VC Regiment and the 18B NVA Regiment are believed to be the key units in the divisional formations. Although no divisions have been formed at present, the frequent reporting of elements of the 1st, 5th, 7th and 9th Divisions in the border areas of KIEN TUONG, KIEN PHONG and CHAU DOC Provinces occurred simultaneously with reported infiltration of battalion and regimental-sized units. During the monsoon season, from April to August, the 261B Main Force Battalion, DT1 VC Regiment, relocated from its normal operational area of Base Area 470, in western

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DINH TUONG Province, to Cambodia, north of Camp CAI CAI. The 502nd Local Force VC Battalion moved from the CAO LANH City area, KIEN PHONG Province, to Base Area 470 and remained out of contact until after the crest of the flood waters on 26 September. As in the past, many of the battalion and company-sized provincial units conducted minimal combat operations during the rainy season. Most enemy units are believed to have concentrated their attention on political indoctrination and administrative activities during these periods. The end of the rainy season in October also marked an increase in enemy aircraft sightings, and attacks-by-fire, utilizing rockets and 105mm howitzer fire. Six sightings of unidentified aircraft were reported during the period 14 September to 24 October. One of the sightings occurred in the BA XOAI area of CHAU DOC Province, and the others occurred at Camp CAI CAI. Camp CAI CAI also received 107mm and 122mm rockets on several occasions and six rounds of 105mm howitzer fire on 24 October. To date no 122mm rockets have been used by the enemy in the Seven Mountains area or against any interior target within the 44th STZ.

(c) During the next three months the enemy is expected to continue his plan of creating a force equivalent in size to FVMAF in IV CTZ. Intelligence sources have indicated that an offensive is to take place when equivalent force levels are established. Infiltration of NVA personnel is expected to continue. The enemy will continue to place emphasis on propaganda activities, and the disruption of friendly pacifications programs. No major increase in enemy-initiated attacks is expected until late January or February 1970. Enemy offensive action will consist primarily of attacks-by-fire and ground probes against outposts, RF-PF units, and villages under the influence of pacification programs.

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c. Operations.

(1) I Corps Tactical Zone. (Co C)

During the reporting period, Company C assets conducted a total of 236 company or larger, 1086 platoon, and 1653 squad size operations. A total of 216 contacts were made with the following results: Enemy 307 KIA, 20 captured and 130 weapons captured. Friendly 22 CSF KIA, 9 USASF, 4 VNSF and 120 CSF WIA. One weapon was lost and one CSF is MIA. Camps HA THANH, A-104 and MINH LONG, A-108, also advised district chiefs and RF/PF units in their areas. During the reporting period, RF/PF units advised by USASF conducted 46 company, 109 platoon and 409 squad size operations and engaged in 41 contacts. Results: 20 enemy KIA; Frd - 4 FF KIA, 5 PF WIA. The following significant contacts occurred during the reporting period.

(a) On 6 Aug, a MSF company operation at HA THANH, A-104, QUANG NGAI Province, was ambushed by an NVA company 11 km SW of HA THANH. Results: Frd - one MSF KIA and 18 MSF WIA.

(b) On 7 Aug, a CSF company operation from TIEN PHUOC, A-102, QUANG TIN Province, engaged ten VC eight km W of camp. Results: En - four KIA, one female nurse and one SA cptr; 750 kilos of rice and one hut destroyed.

(c) On 11 Aug, a CSF company operation from NONG SON, A-105, QUANG NAM Province, engaged two NVA platoons six km SW of the camp. Results: En - six NVA KIA; one 82mm mortar, one AK-47 and four rounds of 82mm ammo cptr.

(d) On 11 Aug, a CSF company operation from NONG SON, A-105, was ambushed by an NVA/VC platoon five km W of the camp. Results: En - three NVA/VC KIA; two SA, one B-40 rkt launcher and one unk type warhead cptr; Frd - two CSF KIA; one USASF and two CSF WIA.

(e) On 12 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from TRA BONG, A-107, QUANG NGAI Province, initiated contact with an unk number of NVA in bunkers two km W of camp. Results: En - three NVA KIA; two SA, one B-40 rkt launcher, one 60mm mortar and 30 rds of B-40 rkt ammo cptr.

(f) On 13 Aug, a combined CSF company and 100 RF/PF troops from TRA BONG, A-107, received SA and 30 rds of B-40 rkt fire from a village one km S of camp. Results: En - seven NVA KIA; Frd - two CSF KIA; five CSF WIA.

(g) On 14 Aug, a CSF company operation from NONG SON, A-105, initiated contact with an unk size enemy force three km NW of camp. Results: En - five NVA/VC KIA; 20 82mm mortar rds cptr.

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(h) On 24 Aug, a CSF company operation from TRA BONG, A-107, engaged an NVA/VC platoon five km W of camp. Results: En - five en KIA and two AK-47's cptr.

(i) On 27 Aug, a HOI CHANH from district headquarters, lead a CSF Co from TIEN PHUOC, A-102, to a wpns cache three km NE of camp. Results: En two 82mm mortars, two 60mm mortars, two soviet MG's, 12 AK-44's, two K-50 MG's, one M1 rifle, one carbine and one Thompson SMG cptr.

(j) On 2 Sep, a CSF company opn from TIEN PHUOC, A-102, QUANG TIN Province, engaged an est VC company seven km S of camp. Results: En - 21 KIA; one 60mm mortar, one East German MG, three BAR's, one K-44, Two AK-47's, one bipod of 81mm mortar, one M1 rifle, four rucksacks and a medical kit cptr; Frd - one CSF WIA.

(k) On 14 Sep, a four man CSF recon patrol from HA THANH, A-104, QUANG NGAI Province, found eight NVA living in a house nine km S of the camp. Results: En - eight NVA KIA; three sten guns, one K-44 and one pound of documents cptr.

(l) On 27 Sep, a CSF company operation from HA THANH, A-104, QUANG NGAI Province, engaged an estimated two NVA platoons in a hasty ambush six km SE of the camp. Results: En - 10 NVA KIA; three AK-47's, 10 hand grenades and miscellaneous equipment cptr.

(m) On 3 Oct, a CSF company operation from TIEN PHUOC, A-102, QUANG TIN Province, ambushed an unk size enemy force. Results: En - 30 KIA; one 82mm mortar and documents cptr.

(n) On 7 Oct, a CSF platoon operation from HA THANH, A-104, QUANG NGAI Province, engaged an estimated enemy squad. Results: En - six KIA; one B-40 rkt cptr.

(o) On 12 Oct, at 0830 hrs, a company size opn from NONG SON, A-104, QUANG NAM Province, engaged an est two VC squads. Results: En - three VC KIA and two captured.

(p) On 13 Oct at 1940 hrs a CSF company from NONG SON, A-105, QUANG NAM Province, ambushed an unk size enemy force. Results: En - three VC KIA.

(q) On 18 Oct at 0920 hrs a CSF platoon ambushed four VC wearing green uniforms and armed with AK-47's. Results: En - three VC KIA; one female and one AK-47 cptr.

(r) On 24 Oct at 0930 hrs a MSF company operation in BA TO's TAOR made

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contact with an unk size enemy force. Results: En - five VC KIA; two ammo belts, two flares, one grenade, 70 rds SKS ammo, nine rucksacks and nine sacks of rice cptr.

(s) On 25 Oct at 1345 hrs, a MSF company operation in BA TO's TAOR discovered a cache containing one 82mm mortar, one SKS, 10 B-40 rcts, 30 B-41 rcts, 30 cases 50 cal ammo, 500 pounds TNT, seven anti-tank mines, 60 82mm rds, 100 ft time fuse, 20 cases AK-44 ammo, 12 bangalore torpedoes, 10 cases SKS ammo, 20 intrenching tools, 15 AK magazines, 300 82mm fuses, 90 B-41 rct fuses, 70 AK ammo pouches and 10 cooking pots.

(2) II Corps Tactical Zone. (Co B)

During the reporting period, Company B assets conducted a total of 265 company or larger, 1709 platoon, and 4734 squad operations. A total of 177 contacts were made with the following results: Enemy - 194 KIA, 33 VC and 75 weapons captured; Friendly - one USASF and 17 CIDG KIA; one USASF and 61 CIDG WIA. 15 weapons were lost.

(a) On 6 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from DUC LAP, A-239, QUANG DUC Province, engaged an unk size NVA force, 15 km NNW of DUC LAP. Results: En - one VC KIA, one AK-47 cptr; Frd - one CSF KIA, five CSF WIA.

(b) On 7 Aug, an unk size VC force attacked NUI THI outpost, 15 km W of NHA TRANG. Results: En - 14 VC KIA, seven wpns cptr; Frd - one VNSF, 15 CSF KIA, 16 CSF WIA.

(c) On 11 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from MANG BUK, A-246, KONTUM Province, engaged an unk size NVA force eight km NNW of MANG BUK. Results: En - four KIA; one en and four wpns cptr; Frd - three CSF KIA.

(d) On 12 Aug, a CSF company operation from PLATEAU GI, A-111, KONTUM Province, engaged an unk size VC force 15 km S of PLATEAU GI. Results: En 10 VC KIA.

(e) On 19 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from MANG BUK, A-246, KONTUM Province, discovered a mass grave, eight km NNW of MANG BUK. The grave was in the 11 August contact area. Results: En - 15 NVA KIA.

(f) On 21 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from PLEI ME, A-255, PLEIKU Province, encountered three VC, two km W of PLEI ME. Results: En - three VC and three wpns cptr.

(g) On 14 Sep, a CSF platoon operation from DAK SEANG, A-245, KONTUM Province, received artillery fire nine km NNE of DAK SEANG. Results: Frd two CSF KIA; 11 CSF WIA.

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(h) On 19 Sep, a CSF company operation from DUC CO, A-253, PLEIKU Province, discovered 11 MSF and 12 NVA bodies, 11 km SSW of BEN HET. Results: En - 12 KBA; Frd - 11 MSF KIA.

(i) On 22 Sep, the 3rd Bn, 2nd MSFC, PLEIKU discovered a cache, 20 km S of BU PRANG. Results: En - 25 boxes of .50 cal ammo, and 57mm RR rounds nine 90mm RR rounds cptr.

(j) On 26 Sep, a CSF Combat Recon Platoon from DAK PEK, A-242, KONTUM Province, engaged an estimated NVA company, six km NW of DAK PEK. Results: En - five VC KIA, and two wpns cptr.

(k) On 26 Sep, a CSF company operation from MANG BUK, A-246, KONTUM Province, engaged a VC squad, 16 km E of MANG BUK. Results: En - one KIA, five VC and four SA cptr.

(l) On 27 Sep, two CSF platoon operations from DAK PEK, A-242, KONTUM Province, engaged an estimated NVA company 12 km SSW of DAK PEK. Results: En - 15 VC KIA; two SA cptr.

(m) On 27 Sep, a CSF company operation from MANG BUK, A-246, KONTUM Province, engaged an estimated enemy squad 12 km E of MANG BUK. Results: En - eight VC KIA; four SA cptr.

(n) On 7 Oct, a company operation from DAK PEK, A-242, KONTUM Province, engaged an estimated two company size VC force three km W of DAK PEK. Results: En - 15 VC KIA; Frd - one USASF KIA.

(o) On 8 Oct, a company operation from DAK SEANG, A-245, KONTUM Province, engaged an enemy squad 11 km N of DAK SEANG. Results: four 122mm rkts, three 122mm rkt fuzes and 70 kilos of rice cptr.

(p) On 9 Oct, F O-1 aircraft with pilot and one USASF observer from DAK PEK, A-242, KONTUM Province, went down while flying a VR mission in DAK PEK's TACR. Results: Two US MIA, one USASF.

(q) On 10 Oct, A O-1 Aircraft with pilot and one US observer went down in DAK SUT district, KONTUM Province, in DAK PEK's TACR. Results: two US MIA. On the 13th the aircraft was found. Search for missing personnel continues. The cabin portion of the aircraft was extracted.

(r) On 22 Oct, a company operation from DUC LAP, A-239, QUANG DUC Province, engaged an estimated NVA platoon 42 m SE of DUC LAP. Results: En - eight NVA KIA; Frd - three CSF WIA.

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(s) On 28 Oct, a platoon operation from BU PRANG, A-236, QUANG DUC Province, initiated contact with an unk size NVA unit. Results: En - two NVA KIA, two AK-47's, one carbine cptr. Frd - one CSF KIA and three CSF WIA.

(t) On 29 Oct, FSB ANNIE, BU PRANG, A-236, QUANG DUC Province, received ten rounds of recoilless rifle fire. Artillery fired on suspected enemy locations. Results: En - unk; Frd - one CSF WIA.

(u) On 29 Oct, FSB KATE, BU PRANG, A-236, QUANG DUC Province, received 10 rounds of recoilless rifle fire. Artillery fired on suspected enemy locations with unknown results.

(v) On 29 Oct, Camp BU PRANG, A-236, QUANG DUC Province, received 14 rounds of 82mm mortar. Results: En - unk; Frd - 10 CSF WIA.

(w) From 29-31 Oct, fire support base KATE, QUANG DUC Province received 12 separate attacks-by-fire and was subjected to five light ground assaults. Attacks around FSB KATE were conducted by unidentified battalions size units. Results: Frd - two US and two CSF KIA; four US and six CSF WIA; En - Unk.

(3) III Corps Tactical Zone. (Co A)

During the reporting period, Company A assets conducted a total of 507 company or larger, 1500 platoon, and 4201 squad operations. A total of 317 contacts were made with the following results: En - 334 KIA, 14 enemy and 216 weapons captured; Frd - five USASF, one VNSF and 89 CIDG KIA; 40 USASF, six VNSF, and 534 CIDG WIA; one USASF and 52 CIDG KIA; and 103 wpns lost.

(a) On 8 Aug, a PHUOC TAN outpost recon elem from BEN SOI, A-120, TAY NINH Province, made contact with an est VC company 18 km SW of TAY NINH. Results: En - 19 VC KIA; three SA and two CHICOM radios cptr; Frd - one CSF WIA.

(b) On 12 Aug, a CSF company operation from CHI LINH, A-333, BINH LONG Province, engaged an unk size NVA force in two separate contacts, 14 km NNE of HON QUAN. Results: En - 11 KIA; three SA and one CS wpn cptr; Frd - two CSF KIA; seven CSF WIA.

(c) On 15 Aug, a CSF company operation from CHI LINH, A-333, BINH LONG Province, ambushed an est NVA Bn and discovered a large base camp, 15 km E of HON QUAN. Results: En - 16 KIA; a large quantity of ammunition, equipment and documents cptr.

(d) On 18 and 20 Aug, a CSF company operation from LOC NINH, A-331, BINH LONG Province, made contact with an unk size enemy element 21 km WNW of HON QUAN. Results: En - 15 KIA; eight SA and three CS wpns, 20 rifle grenades, eight B-40 rds, and a small amount of equipment and documents cptr.

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(e) On 24 Aug, the 1st Bn, 3rd MSFC, engaged one NVA Bn seven km N of DUC PHONG, PHUOC LONG Province. Results: En - 27 KIA; two CS wpns cptr; Frd - one USASF and four MSF KIA; 14 MSF WIA.

(f) On 28 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from MINH THANH, A-332, BINH LONG Province, discovered one M-41 tank in excellent condition 29 km SW of HON QUAN. The tank was camouflaged and heavily booby trapped in an underground base camp.

(g) On 5 Sep, the 2nd Bn, 3rd MSFC, PHUOC LONG Province, made contact with an unk size en force 6 km NW of DUC PHONG. Results: En - 28 KIA; four SA and a small amount of ammo and equipment cptr; Frd - two MSF WIA.

(h) On 5 Sep, a CSF company operation from LOC NINH, A-331, BINH LONG Province, made contact with an est two NVA platoons 27 km NNW of HON QUAN. Results: En - 12 KIA; four SA and a small amount of equip and documents cptr; Frd - one Sheridan tank damaged and one SA destroyed.

(i) On 6 Sep, a CSF company operation from LOC NINH, A-331, BINH LONG Province, operating with the 11th ACR, made contact with an unk size en force 25 km NNW of HON QUAN. Results: En - 15 KIA; 15 SA and misc equip and ammo cptr; Frd - one USASF and three CSF WIA.

(j) On 22 Sep, a CSF company operating from THIEN NGON, A-323, TAY NINH Province made contact three different times with an unk size en force approximately six km N of the camp. Results: En - 35 KIA. Frd - seven CSF KIA; four USASF, three VNSF and 61 CSF WIA and eight SA lost.

(k) On 5 Oct, a CSF company operation from LOC NINH, A-331, BINH LONG Province, engaged an estimated reinforced enemy company 4 km W of LOC NINH. Results: En - 11 KIA; one VC, one 60mm mortar complete, two B-40 rds and five SA cptr; Frd - five CSF WIA.

(l) On 16 Oct, the 3rd company, 5th MSFC, operation HOWEWARD BOUND, discovered a wpns cache approximately 8 km N of THIEN NGON. Results: 50 SA, two CS wpns, a large quantity of mixed ammo, magazines, assorted small arms parts, ammo drums, assorted sheet metal parts and 50 hoe heads cptr.

(4) IV Corps Tactical Zone. (Co D)

During the reporting period, Company D assets conducted a total of 1,312 company or larger, 5,141 platoon and 4,355 squad operations. A total of 178 contacts were made with the following results: Enemy - 267 KIA, 61 enemy and 154 weapons captured; Friendly - one USASF, one VNSF and 85 CIDG KIA, six VNSF, seven USASF and 239 CIDG WIA, 49 weapons lost.

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- (a) On 5 Aug, a CRP from THUONG THOI, A-432, KIEN PHONG Province, was engaged by an est VC company 17 km NE of CHAU DOC. Results: En - three KIA, one AK-47 cptr; Frd - one CSF KIA, eight CSF WIA.
- (b) On 12 Aug, a CSF element from TUYEN NHON, A-415, KIEN THONG Province, engaged an est 10 VC 10 km ENE of the camp. Results: En - four KIA, one en cptr.
- (c) On 11 Aug, a CSF company from CAI CAI, A-431, KIEN PHONG Province, while on a Blackhawk operation engaged an unk size enemy force 13 km SW of the camp. Results: Six enemy and three SA captured.
- (d) On 13 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from THUONG THOI, A-432, KIEN PHONG Province, was engaged by an est VC company five km NW of the camp. Results: Frd - two CSF KIA; 10 SA, one PRC-25 and one HT-1 lost.
- (e) On 13 Aug, a CSF company operation from MY PHUOC TAY, A-411, DINH TUONG Province, located a cache six km SE of the camp. Results: En - 37 B-40 rcts, 38 B-41 rcts, 136 booby trap devices, four cratering charges, 18 cases of 12.7 ammo two Mls, four SKS and 14 plastic helmets cptr.
- (f) On 13 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from BINH THANH THON, A-413, KIEN THONG Province, engaged an unk size VC force 23 km SW of MOC HOA. Results: En - five VC KIA; two sampans and one sampan motor cptr.
- (g) On 13 Aug, a CSF company operation from TUYEN NHON, A-415, KIEN THONG Province, discovered a cache 12 km ENE of the camp. Results: En - 18 assorted SA cptr.
- (h) On 14 Aug, elements of the 2nd Bn, 4th MSFC, KIEN PHONG Province, were engaged by an est two VC squads 13 km NW of THUONG THOI. Results: Frd three MSF KIA; one VNSF and three MSF WIA.
- (i) On 16 Aug, a CSF company operation from BA XOAI, A-421, CHAU DOC Province, engaged an est VC company 23 km N of CHAU DOC. Results: En - five KBA, three AK-'7's and five kilos of documents cptr; Frd - eight CSF WIA.
- (j) On 18 Aug, a CSF platoon operation from CAI CAI, A-431, KIEN PHONG Province, received an unk number of mortar rounds 11 km SE of camp. Results: Frd - one VNSF WIA and six CSF MIA.
- (k) On 25 Aug, a CSF company operation from BINH THANH THON, A-413, KIEN THONG Province, engaged five VC 12 km NW of the camp. Results: En - four KIA; one en cptr.

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(l) On 26 Aug, elements of the 1st Bn, 4th MSFC, CHAU DOC Province were involved in a helicopter crash 25 km SW of CHI LANG. Results: Frd - one MSF KIA; eight MSF and four US crewman WIA. One helicopter destroyed.

(m) On 1 Sep, a CSF company operation from BINH THANH THON, A-413, KIEN TUONG Province, engaged an unk size en force 12 km NNW of MOC HOA. An additional platoon was inserted by air assets. Results: En - two KIA; one SA cptr; Frd three CSF KIA; one USASF, one VNSF, and three CSF WIA; two SA and one PRC 25 lost.

(n) On 11 Sep, camp CHI LANG, B-43, CHAU DOC Province received 30 to 40 rounds of mixed 82mm mortar and 107mm rockets and a ground probe. Results: En - seven KIA, 12 KBA, four en, two B-40 rocket launchers, two AK-47's and miscellaneous ammunition cptr.

(o) On 13 Sep, one CSF sqd from VINH GIA, A-149, CHAU DOC Province ambushed an unk size enemy force nine km NW of the camp. Results: En - four NVA KIA; two AK-50's and eight B-40 rocket launchers cptr.

(p) On 14 Sep, one CSF platoon from THUONG THOI, A-432, KIEN PHONG Province, in reaction to an intelligence report discovered a cache ten km W of VINH GIA, A-149, consisting of 1,146 rds of 82mm mortar, 200 rds of 75mm RR, and 3,528 rds of AK-47 ammo.

(q) On 15 Sep, one company from KINH QUAN II, A-416, DINH TUONG Province, operating on NUI CO TO, 17 km S of BA XOAI, CHAU Province received 19 rds of 82mm mortar. Results: En - Negative; Frd - two CSF KIA and 15 CSF WIA.

(r) On 17 Sep, the 3rd Bn, 4th MSFC initiated contact with an unk size en force eight km N of CHI LANG, B-43, CHAU DOC Province. Results: En - Unk; Frd - one USASF KIA; one USASF and nine MSF WIA.

(s) On 22 Sep, a CSF company from VINH GIA, A-149, CHAU DOC Province, on a blackhawk operation engaged an unk size enemy force 25 km E of HA TIEN. Results: En - 14 KIA; six SA, 300 kilos rice and 20 kilos of sugar cptr; 34 sampans destroyed.

(t) On 22 Sep, a CSF company from MY PHUOC TAY, A-411, DINH TUONG Province, on a combined operation with the 4th MSFC, engaged a WU to five km WNW of CHI LANG. Results: En - six KIA; six SA and four 107mm RR cptr.

(u) On 22 and 23 Sep, FOB located two and one half km NW of CAI CAI, A-431, KIEN PHONG Province, received two attacks by fire totaling 55 rds of mixed 82mm mortar, 57mm RR and ASA fire. Results: Frd - two VNSF and one CSF WIA.

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(v) On 23 Sep, a CSF squad operation from CAI CAI, A-431, KIEN PHONG Province, engaged an est VC squad three km NE of the camp. Results: Four en KIA; one AK-47 and 1-107mm rkt cptr.

(w) On 2 Oct, two companies of MSF, 2nd Bn, 4th MSFC, KIEN TUONG Province, engaged an unknown size enemy force, 16 km N of BINH THANH THON. Results: Frd - 2 MSF KIA; 1 USASF and 5 MSF WIA; one helicopter gunship shot down.

(x) On 2 Oct, two companies of CSF from CAI CAI, A-431, KIEN PHONG Province, on an operation with one airboat section of the 4th MSFC engaged an estimated VC Bn six km W of the camp. Results: En - 35 KIA, 7 MG destroyed (not US confirmed); Frd - 3 CIDG KIA, 8 CIDG WIA; 4 SA lost.

(y) On 6 Oct, an airboat section, from the 4th MSFC, KIEN TUONG Province, was engaged by an unknown size enemy force 13 km NW of TUONG THOI. Results: En - nine KIA; one enemy, one wpn and one 30 page document cptr. Frd - one USASF WIA.

(z) On 7 Oct, a CSF platoon operation from MY PHUOC TAY, A-411, DINH TUONG Province initiated contact with an est VC platoon 20 km ESE of the camp. Results: En - eight KIA; seven wpns, 24 rds of 40mm and five cases of 7.62 ammunition cptr.

(aa) On 8 Oct, a CSF company operation from BINH THANH THON, A-413, KIEN TUONG Province engaged an est six VC and discovered a cache. The cpn was then engaged by an est VC company. FAC, airboats, gunships and shadow supported. Results: En - 15 KIA; five en, 25 SA, 200 kilos of documents, 209 rds of 82mm, 184 mortar fuzes, 5,500 rds SKS, 200 AK-47 magazines, 17 grenades, six kilos of TNT and seven sampans cptr; Frd - three CSF WIA.

(bb) On 13 Oct, a CSF squad from BINH THANH THON, A-413, KIEN TUONG Province, on a blackhawk operation engaged an unk size VC force, 15 km NW of MOC HOA. Results: En - one KIA, three KBA, seven SA cptr.

(cc) On 15 Oct, a CSF company operation from MY DIEN II, A-416, DINH TUONG Province engaged three VC 10 km SW of the camp. Results: En - three VC KIA; Frd - one CSF WIA.

(dd) On 16 Oct, a CSF company operation from MY PHUOC TAY, A-411, DINH TUONG Province engaged three VC 10 km SW of the camp. Results: En - three VC KIA, one SA cptr.

(ee) On 20 Oct, a CSF company operation from BINH THANH THON, A-413, KIEN TUONG Province engaged 30 VC 21 km SW of the camp. Results: En - four KIA, five weapons and 324 rds of ammunition cptr.

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(ff) On 22 Oct, a CSF platoon operation from TO CHAU, KIEN GIANG Province, was engaged by an est 50 VC eight km NE of HA TIEN. Results: En - three KIA, two en, eight weapons, and assorted ammunition cptr.

(gg) On 23 Oct, an airboat section and two CRP operations from VINH GIA, A-149, CHAU DUC Province, engaged an est 100 VC in sampans four km NW of the camp. Results: En - four KIA; one CS, two SA, 100 grenades, 88 claymore mines, 98 rds 82mm, 100 B-40 rds, 300 lbs of rice, three binoculars, 10 gas masks, 11 NVA uniforms, 20 rds 75mm, 12 rds of 60mm, 16 sampans and four kilos documents cptr.

(hh) On 27 Oct, three CRP's from THUONG THOI, A-432, KIEN PHONG Province, engaged an est VC platoon five km SSE of the camp. Results: En - seven KIA, one VC, one SKS and three sampans cptr.

(ii) On 27 Oct, two CSF companies from BA XOAI, A-421, CHAU DUC Province were engaged by an est VC platoon six km SW of the camp. Results: En - five KIA, 10 KBA, one 60mm mortar, one AK-47 and 20 rds of 60mm ammunition cptr; Frd - one CSF KIA.

(jj) On 28 Oct, two CSF companies from MY DIEN II, A-416, DINH TUONG Province, were engaged by an est two VC platoons 22 km NW of MY THO. Results: Frd one VNSF and 12 CSF KIA, four CSF WIA, five weapons and two assault boats with motors lost; En - Unknown.

(5) Special Operations.

(a) 5th MSFC operation SEAFLOAT, 2 August through 2 September. One company and one combat recon platoon of the 5th MSFC deployed to NAM CAN, AN XUYEN Province, IV CTZ to provide security for the Navy's Civic Action Program. A total of 24 contacts were made with the following results: En - 30 VC KIA, 69 wps cptr, 76 bunkers, 41 sampans and 109 huts destroyed. Friendly five MSF WIA.

(b) PROJECT DELTA operation TROJAN HORSE, 04-27 August and 08 September through 01 October 1969, I CTZ, QUANG TIN Province, OPCON to CG, 3rd Marine Division. A total of 19 Recon Team, 17 Roadrunner Teams, six Ranger Companies and four Amphibious Recon platoon operations were conducted. Total results: Enemy - one VC KIA; Frd - 10 VC, Six Roadrunners and one USASF WIA.

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d. Plans and Organization:

(1) Phasedown in CTDG Strength Execution of Phasedown was ordered by COMUSMACV on or about 27 Aug 69 after DA had approved the plan and the additional RF spaces. 5th SFGA OPlan 1-69, dated 5 Oct 69, was published and distributed, directing the reduction of CTDG strength to 26,258 by 30 Jun 70.

(2) CTDG Camp Conversions: The following camps entered the conversion cycle on 1 Oct 69 and C-Day is now scheduled for 31 Jan 70:

- (a) HANG BUK, II CTZ.
- (b) TRUNG DUNG, II CTZ (NHA TRANG).
- (c) DONG XOAI, III CTZ.
- (d) MINH THANH, III CTZ.
- (e) KINH QUAN II, IV CTZ.
- (f) MI DA, IV CTZ.

(3) VNSF-HC Proposed Reorganization: The VNSF-HC made a proposal to JCS/MACV on 30 Oct to reorganize the VNSF to a more compatible organization that coincides with requirements after Phasedown and present organizational requirements. This proposal will not raise the VNSF presently authorized strength of 3,878.

(4) USASF MTOE Submission: A decision regarding the concept, structure and strength proposals for the new Group MTOE submission is expected in November, with a formal submission planned for January 1970.

(5) Realignment II: A document was published in October 69 by the Group S3 which indicated a WLT date of 15 Nov 69 to reconfigure all CTDG Strike Force camps that are being retained under Phasedown to the 3, 3, 1 and 1 configuration (3 CSF companies, 3 CRPs, 1 POLMAR Team and 1 Heavy Weapons Section). Those CSF camps that are to convert to Regional Forces were authorized to recruit up to their conversion strength.

(6) CTDG Force Developments: No new CTDG TOEs have been developed or published during the reporting period. Comments and recommendations as a result of the letter from Group S3, dated 28 Sep 69, subject: Reorganization of Camp Strike and Mobile Strike Forces, have been received from each company and a study is now being conducted to develop the optimum CTDG organization. No reorganization of the CSF or MSF is expected until after completion of Phasedown.

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(7) CIDG Artillery: At present, 5th SFGA has 60 105mm Howitzers with 40 deployed country-wide. The remaining pieces will be distributed after adequate ammunition storage capability is available and crew proficiency tests have been completed. The proposed MTOE includes artillery personnel at all levels and a repair capability in the Forward Supply Points (FSP).

(8) Current Plans: Table of Allowances 1-68: Action commenced during the reporting period to revise TA 1-68 and the suspense date for the final draft was 31 Oct 69. The expected date of publication for TA 1-69 is 1 Dec 69.

(9) Combined Campaign Plan for CY 70, AB 145 (U) was published in October 1969. Companies will be required to provide their implementing plan for AB 145 in December.

(10) I CTZ (Company C) Current Plans/Concept:

(a) I CTZ CIDG camps presently have eight 105mm howitzers in position with trained crews. Additional crews have been trained and positions for six more of these guns are being prepared. As of 31 Oct 69, two crews from each camp have completed training. Training for these crews is at Camp THUONG DUC under direction of the ARVN Artillery personnel at that location. One ARVN 1LT and one USASF Artillery CPT have been assigned to monitor all CIDG Artillery training and activities.

(b) As required by current campaign plan, each camp location is continually evaluated with respect to considerations for closure, relocation, transfer to RF/PF, or movement to relocate in respect to the disposition of ARVN or FMARF. With respect to this requirement, major emphasis has been given to the rehabilitation and hardening of Camp MAT LOC (A-101). Withdrawal of the 3d Marine Division from northern I Corps, and the subsequent redistribution of FMARF there, placed MAT LOC in a position of importance. Currently, Project Delta and 3d Bde, 101st Airborne Division are operating from FOB's located adjacent to the camp.

(c) Continued emphasis is placed on recruiting in an attempt to bring each camp up to its authorized strength of 530. At MAT LOC (A-101) it was necessary to introduce a bonus system paid over an extended period to enhance recruiting potential in that area. This proved quite successful as one CSF company has been recruited and it is hoped another will be recruited within the next month.

(d) Increased emphasis will be directed toward expanding the existing training program. This will include small arms weapons repair training, vehicle and generator maintenance, basic medical aid and a considerably expanded CIDG training center for basic combat and refresher training.

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(e) Organization/Force Development: On 1 Sep 69, Detachment R-11 became operational and assumed operational control of the five southern camps in I CTZ. These camps are TRA BONG (A-107), HA THANH (A-104), MINH LONG (A-108), BA TO (A-106) and GIA VUC (VNSF A-103).

(f) Miscellaneous: Camp MAI LOC (A-101) was authorized to maintain operational efficiency of 30% from 12 Sep to date. Camp NOM SON (A-105) has been authorized to maintain 30% operational efficiency since 26 Sep. In both camps, weather has caused considerable damage to bunkers, positions, and trenchlines. Priority has been given to construction and rehabilitation at those camps. However, monsoon rains delayed movement of construction materials and supplies to those locations. Thus, original estimated completion dates for these projects were necessarily extended. Assistance from other FMAF units has been utilized to the maximum extent, as available.

(11) II CTZ (Company B), Current Plans/Concept:

(a) Company B is presently conducting a directed phasedown of CTDG forces. Under the present phasedown concept, four camps will be converted to RF/PF. Camp MANG BUK is presently finishing the first month of conversion cycle with Camps PLATEAU GI, NHON CO and AN LAC to follow.

(b) All camps will be standardized with a total assigned strength of 530 men, consisting of 3 CSF companies, 3 combat recon platoons, 1 heavy weapons section, and 1 POLAR team.

(12) III CTZ (Company A) Current Plans/Concept:

(a) To implement the changeover from ARVN Artillery to CTDG Artillery at Camps THUM NGON and KATUM, an intensified training cycle is underway at Camp TRANG SUP, the III CTZ CTDG Training Center. Upon completion of the training, the 75 selected CTDG personnel from these two camps will be adequately trained for the artillery transition.

(b) In view of the CTDG Phasedown Program, this headquarters has been directed to place all CTDG camps designated for conversion to Regional Force status in a more favorable Phasedown posture, while at the same time standardizing the strength in all camps retained. Annex F, OPlan 1-69 authorizes the CTDG strengths at all "A" camps to be retained under Phasedown to be a total of 530 personnel assigned per camp.

(13) IV CTZ (Company D) Current Plans/Concept:

(a) On 10 August 69, Company D became OPCON to SA 44th STZ. On the same date, VNSF Detachment C-4 and all CTDG units subordinate to C-4 were placed OPCON to CG, 44th STZ.

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(b) Conversion cycle of camps MY DA and KINH QUAN II to Regional Force started on 1 Oct 69. During the month of October inventory of equipment and inspection of camp was conducted by MACV. Conversion of these two camps will completed by 31 Jan 70.

(c) Camps MY PHUOC TAY and MY DIEN II will enter the conversion cycle on 1 Jan 70.

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e. Training:

(1). General.

S3 (Tng)

(a). The Strike Force Training Center (SFTC) at An Khe was closed on 3 Oct 69. During the period 1 Aug through 3 Oct, seven (7) CSF companies and two (2) MSF companies underwent refresher training at An Khe. A proposed CIDG training concept is now being implemented in each CTZ with MSF training to be conducted at Dong Ba Thin. This plan will increase the number of CIDG troops trained annually and improve the caliber of training conducted. Under the centralized system at An Khe, CIDG troops were receiving training once every 23 months. Under the new decentralized system, CIDG troops will undergo training a minimum of one time annually.

(b). The program of instruction for the replacement Combat Orientation Course was evaluated and modified. The course was shortened by four (4) days without a significant loss of training time. The mission of the Combat Orientation Course is to train USASF personnel in the special combat skills required for duty in RVN and to prepare these individuals to deal effectively as counterparts to the Vietnamese Special Forces in the conduct of combat operations and pacification programs. During this reporting period the Combat Orientation Course received 552 students for the eight (8) day course. The following is a breakdown of students for classes 5-70 thru 17-70:

<u>COC Classes</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Comp</u>
5-70	01 Aug - 12 Aug 69	41
6-70	03 Aug - 19 Aug 69	40
7-70	15 Aug - 26 Aug 69	22
8-70	22 Aug - 02 Sep 69	50
9-70	29 Aug - 09 Sep 69	51
10-70	05 Sep - 16 Sep 69	23
11-70	12 Sep - 23 Sep 69	25
12-70	19 Sep - 30 Sep 69	66
13-70	26 Sep - 07 Aug 69	60
14-70	03 Oct - 14 Oct 69	60
15-70	10 Oct - 21 Oct 69	60
16-70	17 Oct - 27 Oct 69	27
17-70	26 Oct - 02 Nov 69	27

(c). Plans are being finalized to establish a Combat Interpreters School for CIDG personnel at Dong Ba Thin. This course will be eight (8) weeks in duration and will eliminate the necessity of training CIDG personnel for six (6) months at the RVN Language School in Saigon.

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(2). MACV Recondo School.

(a). The mission of the MACV Recondo School is to train selected personnel from US/FMIAF units in specialized techniques and skills necessary to conduct successful Long Range Reconnaissance Operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

(b). Average assigned and attached strengths of cadre personnel were as follows:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>ATCH OFF</u>	<u>ATCH EM</u>
AUG 8		43	1 ROK	1 ROK
SEP 6		45	1 ROK	1 ROK
OCT 6		49	1 ROK	1 ROK

(c). During this reporting period, the MACV Recondo School received 287 students for the three (3) week course. Classes R-2-70 thru R-5-70 have graduated. Following is a breakdown of students for R-2-70 thru R-5-70 by Corps and Unit area:

<u>Recondo Classes</u>	<u>Entr</u>	<u>Dropped</u>	<u>Graduated</u>	<u>Cert. of Attendance</u>
<u>IFTV</u>				
4th Inf Div	21	02	19	0
173rd Abn Bde	12	02	10	0
ROK FV	24	05	19	0
75th Inf (Ranger)	25	11	14	0
1st Inf Div	17	03	14	0
9th Inf Div	04	03	01	0
25th Inf Div	16	05	11	0
1st Air Cav Div	17	05	12	0
3rd Fde, 32nd Abn	03	02	06	0
199th IIB	12	06	04	2

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<u>Secondo Classes</u>	<u>Entr</u>	<u>Dropped</u>	<u>Graduated</u>	<u>Cert. of Attendance</u>
<u>IFFY</u>				
RTAVF	04	0	04	0
51st Inf (Ranger)	35	17	17	1
<u>XXIV Corps</u>				
101st Abn Div	20	01	19	0
5th Inf Div	07	03	03	1
Americal Div	18	03	15	0
1st Marine Div	12	02	10	0
3rd Marine Div	11	02	09	0
<u>OTHER</u>				
5th SFCA, 1st SF	10	01	09	0
Navy	09	05	04	0
Air Force	05	01	04	0

(3). I Corps Tactical Zone.

(a). (C) USASF:

During the reporting period, two USASF Basic Airborne courses were conducted, class numbers 17 and 18 respectively. Four (4) personnel from Co C attended course number 17. Of the two (2) that graduated, one was chosen as the Honor Graduate, one of the initial four failed to pass the physical training test at Dong La Thin. For course number 18, four of the five personnel from Co C passed the course, the fifth person failed to meet the physical requirements. Their were no problems encountered.

(b). (U) VNSF: Negative

(c). (C) CIDG:

At Dong Ba Thin, in the Combat Reconnaissance Patrol

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Course number 40, is one CRP platoon from Camp Nong Son. One platoon from Camp Tien Phuoc graduated from course number 39, and one platoon from Camp Ba To graduated from course number 38. At An Khe, one CSF Co from Ba To graduated from the Basic Training Refresher Course on 20 August and one CSF Co from Camp Binh Long graduated from this same course 24 September 1969.

In training at the Armed Forces Language Institute at Saigon are a total of 13 CIDG. Five (5) are attending course number 3-69, four (4) are attending course number 9-69, and four (4) are at course number 10-69.

On 20 September 1969, the first group of recruits began a basic training course at the new I CTZ training center at Ba To Camp (Det A-106) this first group consisted of 54 recruits from Camp Nong Son. Presently training at the same 3 week course are 110 recruits from Mai Loc and from Ba To. They will graduate on or about 6 November 1969.

A maintenance program training program was initiated by Co C on 1 September 1969. The program is set up so that four (4) CIDG from each "A" Detachment will receive sufficient mechanical knowledge to help in the maintenance of vehicles and generators at these locations. Two of the four CIDG are trained as generator operators and repairmen, and two are trained in the repair of light military vehicles. At present, 22 CIDG from different detachments are attending the course and will graduate on or about 20 November 1969.

(4). (U) II Corps Tactical Zone.

(a). CIDG:

The requirement for more intensified training of CSF and MSF elements was illustrated on several occasions during the period. It is apparent that some CSF and MSF elements do not possess the degree of training and discipline or motivation required to effectively combat a well equipped NVA unit.

CSF companies are no longer sent to the MSFTC at An Khe. Preparation to conduct training for CSF will be undertaken by Co B when a suitable site is found.

(b). CIDG Artillery:

Increased emphasis has been placed on training personnel within the camps on all crew served weapons. Company B Artillery

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Officer assisted and will continue to assist in this training. Training programs at Bu Prang have resulted in the 105mm howitzer crews obtaining a satisfactory degree of proficiency.

(5). (C) III Corps Tactical Zone

(a). CIDG Training Center:

The CIDG Training Center at Bat A-301, Trang Sup, continues to provide basic and refresher training on a Corps wide basis to all CIDG personnel. As in the two previous reporting periods, the number of newly recruited personnel being trained is still declining. During this period of reduced training activity, a new PCI was developed emphasizing weapons familiarization and small unit tactics. In addition to the basic CIDG infantry course, a ten week artillery course was conducted with the first two classes graduating on 8 November 69. Instructors are furnished by the 23rd Artillery Group (US) and the classes are administered and controlled by USASF. The students were handpicked from their respective camps for this course. The basis for selection is a mathematics examination administered by the instructor personnel. Included on this test is the common mathematics used in the computation of an artillery fire mission. Based on their individual scores, personnel were selected for the FDC class. The objective of this course is to develop FDC and firing battery teams capable of performing operational missions. Ultimately, CIDG capabilities will be established eventually enabling all Special Forces organic artillery to be controlled by the detachments and operated by the CIDG. Company A presently has four (4) 105mm howitzers earmarked for changeover from ARVN gun crews to CIDG gun crews. A second ten week course is scheduled to commence on or about 17 November. In addition to FDC and firing battery classes, a forward observer class is scheduled to be added to the PCI. Potential CIDG forward observers will be selected from the new group of students or will be retained from the class that graduated on 8 November.

During the reporting period, the following recruits were trained and assigned to Special Forces Camps as indicated:

<u>TRAINING CO</u>	<u>GRADUATION DATE</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>ASSIGNED UNIT</u>
87th Co	14 Aug 69	51	Tong Le Chon
*88th Co	8 Nov 69	38	Thien Ngan
*89th Co	8 Nov 69	38	Katum
* Artillery			

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(b). 3rd MSFG:

The 3rd MSFG at Long Mai continued to devote its stand down time to refresher training programs of four (4) weeks in duration with emphasis being placed on small unit tactics.

(c). "A" Detachment Comments:

Recent after action reports and comments from Detachment Commanders have cited and supported a necessity and need for an "on site" refresher course. The obvious advantage of this program is that large numbers of CIDG personnel would not be absent from their assigned camps for given periods of time on non-operational type missions, but would at the same time, still maintain a high degree of combat readiness through the efforts of the VMSF and USASF personnel at the respective detachments. A proposed POI for a three (3) week course will consist mainly of weapons training and small unit tactics.

(d). CIDG OJT Programs:

The following OJT programs for CIDG troops are either currently being conducted or are planned:

(1). Medical: An OJT course of six (6) weeks duration is now being given at the CIDG hospital in Bien Hoa to train CIDG platoon medics and nurses. It is designed to serve either as a basic course or a refresher course as applicable. Students are presented a certificate with appropriate ceremonies upon graduation.

(2). Vehicle Maintenance: Vehicular maintenance to include generator maintenance OJT training will be given at B Detachment level because each B Detachment area has equipment and problems peculiar to its own area. B Detachment Commanders have been requested to develop this training and to furnish this headquarters with a starting date and a POI.

(2). Communications: Communications repair is considered to be too technical in nature to teach CIDG on an OJT basis. However, classes in operation and elementary first echelon maintenance of communication equipment to be given at C Detachment level are being planned with a scheduled starting date of 30 November.

In all fields of OJT, maximum utilization of disabled CIDG veterans will be made. This serves the two-fold purpose of training and rehabilitation.

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(6). (C) IV Corps Tactical Zone.

(a). MSF:

During the reporting period one MSF battalion completed three (3) weeks of refresher training at Chi Lang. Seventy-five attended the Basic Airborne Course at Dong Ba Thin Training Center from 13 to 23 September 1969.

(b). CSF:

(1). Mobile Training Team from Camp To Chau conducted refresher training for units at Camp Binh Thanh Thon, Thanh Tri, and Cai Cai. The MTT spent ten (10) days at each location.

(2). Two CRPs attended CRP training at Dong Ba Thin.

(c). Status of Training:

(1). The Mobile Training Team from To Chau continued to conduct refresher training at the A Detachment level. At present there is one CRP attending training at Dong Ba Thin, 36 CIDG attending Leadership Course at Dong Ba Thin and 25 CIDG are enrolled in the Armed Forces Language Course at Saigon.

(2). In November, the 67th Artillery (ARVN) at Cao Lanh will conduct artillery and fire direction center training for selected CIDG. DMAC has provided an Artillery MTT, which will visit CIDG camps that have organic 105mm howitzers and give instruction to the gun crews on maintenance and operation of the weapon. A five (5) hour class on mines and booby traps is prepared and will be presented to all CIDG units in Co D during the months of November and December 1969.

(7). (U) Detachment B-51, Dong Ba Thin (VMSF Eng Cntr).

(a). General:

During the last month of this quarter emphasis was placed on the quality of instruction being presented to the students at the training center. This emphasis was placed by means of assigning Non-Commissioned Officers to the various training committees of the training center, i.e; Tactics, Weapons, General Subjects, Airborne and when needed or necessary, calling upon other detachment members to assist in the fields in which they specialize, i.e; Communications, Medical,

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and Political Warfare. Each Non-Commissioned Officer is further assigned classes to monitor in relationship to his committee, rendering a written report on the class that was monitored. The report must indicate, but is not limited to, the following:

- (1). Did the class start on time?
- (2). Was transportation provided?
- (3). Were students properly equipped? (Radio, weapons, ammunition, maps, compasses, etc).
- (4). Were training aids used?
- (5). In this class, what amount of time was spent on the following:
Lecture/Conference _____ Minutes
Demonstration _____ Minutes
Practical Work _____ Minutes
- (6). Was the instructor prepared for the class?
- (7). Was the site appropriate for the class?
- (8). Did the instructor use his lesson plan?
- (9). Did the instructor follow a logical sequence?
- (10). What was the students interest level?
- (11). Do you consider the instructor outstanding, good, mediocre, or poor?
- (12). How much ammunition was fired? Type?
- (13). Was a demonstration team used? If not would one have improved the class?
- (14). Recommendations or suggestions of the monitor.

At the end of each week a summary is prepared for the Commanders of the Training Center and Detachment P-51, in Vietnamese and English. This summary consists of courses monitored, deficiencies noted, deficiencies reoccurring and recommendations as possible solutions to

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improve the instruction.

As well as emphasis being placed on quality of instruction, emphasis was placed on the condition of training facilities and the use of training materials, i.e., ammunition, pyrotechnics and grenades.

A long range program is presently underway in upgrading or re-writing POIs and lesson plans at the Training Center.

During the quarter a new course was presented to the Training Center. The VNSF Officers Orientation Course is designed to orientate the newly assigned officer to Special Forces and the role that Special Forces play within the Army of Vietnam. This is a four (4) week course and the second class is now in progress.

The 17th and 18th USASF Basic Airborne Courses were conducted during the period. The lack of motivation experienced in the previous class was not apparent in the last two classes.

(b). Courses Graduated During the Reporting Period:

<u>COURSES</u>	<u>GRAD DATE</u>	<u>STUDENTS</u>
16th VNSF OFF/WCO Basic	09 Oct 69	72
1st VNSF OFF Orientation	21 Oct 69	29
6th VNSF Radio Operator	21 Sep 69	12
9th VNSF Basic Airborne	02 Aug 69	79
10th VNSF Basic Airborne	01 Oct 69	84
5th Tae Kwon Do	25 Aug 69	30
17th US BAC	30 Aug 69	28
18th US BAC	31 Oct 69	33
38th CRP	04 Sep 69	145
39th CRP	21 Oct 69	183
40th CIDG Ldrs	11 Sep 69	103

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<u>COURSES</u>	<u>GRAD DATE</u>	<u>STUDENTS</u>
2nd CIDG Radio Operator	04 Aug 69	33
14th CIDG BAC	29 Aug 69	180
15th CIDG BAC	23 Oct 69	129

(c). Courses Currently In Progress

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>START DATE</u>
17th VNSF OFF/NCO Basic	29 Oct 69
2nd VNSF Officer Orientation	13 Oct 69
2nd VNSF Medical Specialist	18 Aug 69
6th Tae Kwon Do	15 Sep 69
40th CRP	29 Oct 69
1st CIDG Ldrs	25 Sep 69

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f. Combat Developments.

(1) The Combat Developments Section, 5th SFGA, is responsible for testing, evaluating, and originating development equipment applicable to the mission of Special Forces. All items are tested by field units to determine their potential and application to Special Forces in Vietnam.

(2) The following are projects tasked or under consideration by 5th SFGA, Combat Developments.

(a) Astrolite Astropak: Astrolite is a liquid explosive developed and supplied by the Explosive Corporation of America through the Munitions Command. To create the explosive liquid two nondetonable components are mixed to produce liquid Astrolite with a detonating velocity of 26,500 ft per sec or 500 ft per sec faster than C4. The astropak configuration is a storage, shipping and mixing container that provides separation of the two components until the explosive is needed. This item has been tested by the SCIPA/EOD section with good results. Additional quantities are expected to be received in the near future, at which time the product will be sent to operational detachments for further testing.

(b) SST 201X Miniponder Transponder: This item is a small, compact, lightweight transponder that weighs only 1 3/4 pounds including battery. This transponder will function only with horizontally polarized, X-Band Radar which limits its use to the R-52, F-4, F-105, C-130, C-119K, and F4U6 aircraft. The item will operate for more than 100 hours on stand-by and 8 hours of interrogation. The Miniponder was recently tested with the C-119K at Udon Thailand achieving excellent results. Evaluation of the Miniponder continues with Project Delta.

(c) Illuminated Map Reader: This map reader combines a two power magnifier with an illuminated ring of phosphor which facilitates reading maps at night without disclosing the users position. It also has a night signaling capability. Initial results of testing have achieved excellent results. The evaluation is continuing with Project Delta and MACV Recondo School.

(d) XM 61 Linear Antipersonnel Mine: This mine consists of a 25 foot length of waterproof, flexible explosive cord, with coiled fragmentation rings crimped around the cord. It is specifically designed for use where normal mining techniques are ineffective or impractical. 5th Group is awaiting shipment of 100 which have arrived in Vietnam. Planned use will be as an ambush mine and defense of overnight positions. The mines are capable of being together to make an indefinite length. Each mine weighs 5 pounds.

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(e) Improved Position Locator: The locator consists of a backpack, display and control unit, and boot antennas. The operators step direction is automatically determined by a compass in the back pack and step length automatically measured by the boot antennas. The display and control unit continually displays the operators present location in 8 digit U T M map coordinates. The locator is being tested by Project Delta.

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G. Aviation:

(1) Army Aviation Support. Army aircraft for command support continues to be in short supply with no relief in sight. The OPCON Field Force/Corps HQ are providing only the aircraft directed by COMUSMACV except in II Corps where B Company has received some assistance from IFFV. The two UH-1s provided in I, III, and IV Corps are not adequate to support the C-Detachment.

(2) Tactical Airlift Support. During this month some difficulty was experienced with a requested unit move of Detachment B-55 (5th MSF). A priority O1 Special Mission Airlift Request was submitted on 7 October 1969 to provide airlift for this unit move on 11 October 1969. On 10 October 1969 this unit was advised by Traffic Management Agency (TMA) personnel that the unit move would be delayed 24 hours (an additional delay of 24 hours was necessary on 11 October 1969 due to higher priority missions). In addition, it became apparent that a third 24 hour delay was possible and as the tactical situation required this unit to be in position by 15 October 1969 this headquarters initiated a Combat Essential Special Mission Air Request. This request, initiated at 2300 hours 12 October 1969, required the mission to be completed by 1800 hours 13 October 1969. The unit move was finally completed at approximately 1400 hours, 14 October 1969.

(3) Tactical Air Support. The USAF has attached forward air controllers down to Special Forces company (CTZ) level. Because of the present shortage of attached FACs, CIDG camps normally receive FAC support from OPCON units, nearby US units, or sector ALO teams. This dependence on other units for FAC support frequently means that this support is available on a low priority basis when no other commitments exist, and precludes adequate VRs of operational areas, familiarization by both CIDG elements and FACs with the other's operational techniques, and routine FAC assistance in such areas as air cover and reconnaissance, radio relay, and navigational guidance for long-range, offensive operations. Despite this problem area, immediate TAC air support for CIDG elements in contact has been generally outstanding, effective and highly responsive to tactical requirements. It should be noted that the requirement for CIDG units to operate beyond friendly artillery range on offensive operations increases their reliance on FAC air support during enemy contacts. Pre-planned airstrikes and combatskyspots have been flown approximately 49% of the time, with wide variations existing among the corps tactical zones and monthly periods.

(4) I Corps Tactical Zone (Co C)

(a) Tactical Air Support. Tactical air support for the past quarter was the best it has ever been in I Corps. Best, not in the sense of percentage

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of requests flown, but rather the best percent of air requests flown from what tactical air support is available to ARVN to include CIDG forces.

(b) In this last quarter, the procedures in I CTZ for requesting tactical air support for Special Forces and CIDG operations has been revised. Requests for tactical air support from the A-Detachment up to the C-Detachment are submitted by the VNSF only. The USAF at each level does not submit a request, but confirms the US and FMAF clearances only. The ALO, Co C, 5th SFGA, 1st SF personally briefed all the A-Detachments on the newly revised system of requesting TAC air support. Also seven of the nine A-Detachments have had instruction and practical exercise on the use of the A-6 Beacon transponder with the A-6 intruder aircraft, which, if necessary, will assist the camps in siege operations.

(c) Skyspot requests have been reduced since the USAF have greatly decreased their overall skyspot bombing in I CTZ and the number of skyspots for ARVN and CIDG forces has been cut to two.

(d) Daily Tactical Fighter Support.

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Requested	87	142	69
Flown	39	17	25

(5) II Corps Tactical Zone (Co B).

(a) Army Aviation Support. Army aviation support continues to be adequate for helicopter airlifts with the exception of those camps OPCON to 23d ARVN Division. In the R-23 area, air assets must be requested through the 23d Division, and as of this date, their performance in fulfilling requirements is totally unsatisfactory. At times, exchange of troops on fire support bases took as long as a week, thereby causing morale problems. On one occasion, 40% of the CIDG on PSB KATE deserted due to rotation of companies being delayed day after day. Normal planned combat assaults and daily resupply missions also could not be executed at times because the 23d ARVN Division would arbitrarily declare a tactical emergency and would not release aircraft.

(b) Tactical Airlift. Tactical airlift support for unit troop moves has been excellent over the past several months. All missions have been flown as scheduled with the exception of unavoidable delays caused by adverse weather conditions.

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(c) Tactical fighter support has been excellent for immediate air-strike requests. All immediate strikes have been timely and accurate. Preplanned airstrike support has been satisfactory for the reporting period.

(6) III Corps Tactical Zone (Co A).

(a) Army Aviation Support.

(1) This headquarters receives the same dedicated air assets as was reported during the last reporting period. These assets remain two UH-1D model helicopters utilized as a work chopper and C&C ship.

(2) Two daily helicopters are completely inadequate to meet the normal day-to-day command, control and liaison requirements of the company headquarters and three subordinate B-Detachments (Det B-36 is not included since it operates under special circumstances). The normal method of employment is to retain one helicopter for use at the company level, for command liaison visits, staff visits, courier services of an urgent nature, transportation of visitors from higher headquarters (whose interests seldom coincide with unit priorities), transportation of funds, visual reconnaissance of potential operational areas, etc. The second helicopter is used especially for command/staff liaison and control. Detachment B-32 has this helicopter for three days weekly, and Detachments B-33 and B-34 for only two days each week. As a result, in order to adequately supervise subordinate detachments, and to respond to urgent matters that require their presence at A-Detachments, the B-Detachment commanders are reduced to "scrounging" transport from friendly local US Commanders. The cooperation and willing assistance provided is a source of satisfaction, and is also an indicator of the excellent working relationships normally enjoyed, but Lieutenant Colonels commanding Special Forces B-Detachments should not have to beg from their better endowed contemporaries in conventional units.

(b) Tactical Airlift Support. This headquarters receives two C-7a aircraft (daily missions C-17) five days a week. These aircraft are supplied to Company A from the 834th Air Division through IITFV.

(c) Tactical Fighter Support.

(1) During the reporting period, the tactical fighter support has been outstanding in regards to preplanned and immediate airstrikes even with the cutback of air assets in III CTZ. During the reporting period a total of 518 were requested and 452 of these were flown against preplanned targets. A total of 53 combat Skyspots were nominated and 48 of these

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requests were flown. Preplanned Combat Skyspots are no longer utilized in III CTZ.

(2) Since the last reporting period this headquarters has established an exchange program with the Air Force personnel based at TUY HOA. The 31st Tactical Fighter Wing has the responsibility for providing rapid close air support to Detachments A-344, BUNARD, A-343, DUC PHONG and A-341, BU DOP. Personnel from these camps are exchanged with personnel from Air Force units to get a close up look at each of the operations and to become knowledgeable of each others capabilities.

(7) IV Corps Tactical Zone (Co D)

(a) Army Aviation Support. Army aviation has improved but still is inadequate to support the assigned missions.

(b) Tactical Airlift Support.

(1) Tactical airlift support by Army aviation is controlled and allotted by the 44th Special Tactical Zone.

(2) C7A airlift support is provided seven days a week by the 536th Tactical Airlift Squadron at VUNG TAU. The performance of the crews of mission IRIS 456 is exemplary. Their desire to get the job done with the least amount of delay has resulted in Company D getting extra sorties delivered to our teams.

(3) C-123 airlift support is provided by the 315th Special Operations Wing at PHAN RANG five days a week except Sundays and Thursdays. The support is satisfactory.

(8) II Corps Tactical Zone (B-52) (Project Delta)

(a) Army Aviation Support. Aviation support of Detachment B-52 (PROJECT DELTA) for this period has been furnished by the 281st Assault Helicopter Co. Aircraft commitment from the 281st AHC is six UH-1H and four UH-1C, to be flyable 24 hours per day.

(b) Tactical Air Support. Air Liaison Officers (ALO) and Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) personnel of the 21st TASS are attached to PROJECT DELTA. The ALO-TACP is composed of three officers and four enlisted men, and has been located at the MSS at DON NHA, and then later at QUANG TRI, during Operation TROJAN HORSE and Operation TROJAN HORSE II.

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h. Logistics.

(1) Supply.

(a) The average number of personnel supported during the period
1 August 69 - 31 October 69 were:

USASF	2,632
CSF	35,321
MSF	8,673

(b) During the reporting period the Logistics Support Center (LSC) of the 5th SFGA turned over a total of \$55,000 in excess medical supplies to the 1st Logistical Command. This turn-in gives the Group much needed storage space and also puts equipment back into supply channels. There is a critical shortage of sandbags within the 5th SFGA. For the month of August 69, 100,000 bags were allocated by USARV; however, this proved to be an insufficient quantity and an additional 500,000 bags were requested. The 5th SFGA has placed command emphasis upon improving internal artillery maintenance capabilities. Four artillery contact teams have been organized from within 5th SFGA resources for this purpose. Savings were made in the FY 70 budget by deferring procurement of major FEMA items. The 5th SFGA programmed additional repair parts and major assemblies into its budget which greatly increased internal maintenance capabilities.

(c) Local purchases during the 3 month period:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Rice Purchases	\$141,550	0	\$189,299
Local Purchases	\$ 13,700	\$5,906	\$ 11,609
Total	\$155,250	\$5,906	\$200,908

(2) Maintenance

(a) The percentages of nonavailable equipment for the reporting period were:

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Crew Served Weapons	3%	3%	3%
Small Arms	4%	4%	4%
Mortars	3%	3%	3%
Artillery	0%	0%	0%
Forklifts	11%	6%	6%
Vehicles	6%	6%	6%

(b) Wheel bearings for the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton M151 are in critical supply in the 5th SFGA. At present there is a country-wide shortage of this item. Receipt of this repair part would significantly reduce vehicle unavailabilities for the 5th SFGA.

(c) A country-wide shortage of injector pumps and magnetic amplifiers for generators is a major contributing factor to down time for generators throughout the 5th SFGA.

(3) Movements

Cargo moved in short tons by the Logistics Support Center during the reporting period was:

<u>Mode</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Airlift	1077	115	949

(4) I Corps Tactical Zone (Co C)

(a) Supply. The average number of personnel supported during the period 1 Aug 69 - 31 Oct 69 was:

USASF	347
CSF	3631
MSF	829

(b) Supply emphasis has been placed on maintaining adequate

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basic loads of all classes of supply for normal camp activities and in preparation for the monsoon season. Heavy recruiting by all camps and by the Mobile Strike Force, plus normal replacement of uniforms and field equipment has caused a temporary shortage of these items. Four 105mm howitzers were received during the reporting period. Construction at B-11 is 90% complete for those projects in the initial contract. The S-4 warehouse, motor pool, generator shed, and the wiring and plumbing contracts are being drawn-up by the Group Engineer. Other major construction efforts were at Mai Loc, Thuong Duc and Nong Son. A Training center at Ba To is presently being planned which will be a major project.

(c) Maintenance.

(1) Nonavailability rate for vehicles remained constant at approximately 5%. The maintenance facility is using the "closed loop" system for exchanging subassemblies with the 1st Logistical Command Direct Support Unit. This has been a tremendous help since evacuating vehicles from the detachments to this location for repair often necessitates a long wait due to transportation problem. The generator nonavailability rate decreased to approximately 18%. However, many generators are approaching the maximum life expectancy, and with the addition of electrical equipment in each Detachment, there could be a maintenance problem in the near future. Appliance nonavailability rate remained constant at 10%. Lack of parts, especially compressor motors, is still the problem area in appliance repair.

(d) Cargo Movements. The following tonnages were moved during the reporting period as indicated.

Airlift	2935
Convoy	600
Total	3544 Short tons

(e) Aircraft availability is adequate during good weather periods but after inclement weather, or a Corps wide increase in tactical operations, all units have large backlogs of supplies and with only one C7A available it is difficult to quickly reduce backlogs. The Forward Supply Point (FSP) is using land transportation to a greater degree and has used ARVN convoys. The airstrips at

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Tien Phuoc, Ba To, Tra Bong, Minh Long and Mai Loc have been improved.

(f) Services. The maintenance facility has conducted a school for generator and automotive maintenance operation. Each Detachment trained 2 to 4 personnel in the school which was conducted by the ECCI. Technical representative classes were held each morning on theory and operation, with the afternoons devoted to practical application and maintenance techniques. This should increase the on-site maintenance capability and lower nonavailability rates.

(g) Procedural Changes. There have been no significant procedural changes in logistics during the reporting period.

(h) Facility Improvements. There have been no new significant facility improvements in the S-4 complex during the reporting period.

(i) Adequacy of Logistics Support. This unit receives outstanding support from the Naval Support Activity and 1st Logistical Command located in Da Nang. LSC support is always outstanding, in spite of transportation problems between Nha Trang and Da Nang.

(5) II Corps Tactical Zone (Co B)

(a) Supply: The average number of personnel supported during the period 1 Aug 69 - 31 Oct 69 was:

USASF	447
CSF	6451
MSF	2929

(b) Maintenance: Student quarters have been expanded and classes are being conducted in automotive maintenance, generator maintenance, and driver training. Student capacity is now 40 students per training period. The equipment nonavailability report remains below 10%. An average of fifteen vehicles are completely rebuilt each month and are exchanged with the ones used by A-Detachments. Continual command emphasis is placed on preventive maintenance. Contact teams conducted 64 visits to A-Detachments during this period.

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(c) Movements. Weather has been the most significant problem effecting air movement. There is currently no shortage of air items. The following is a monthly total tonnage of cargo moved during the reporting period:

	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Airlift	96	88	95
Convoy	21	62	61
Total	117	150	156

(d) Services: Logistics support for all categories of supply is provided from the FSP in Pleiku. The maintenance section, with contact teams from 62nd Maintenance Battalion and the Filipino Technical Representatives assigned to Company B, are responsive to all levels requiring maintenance support. Shortages of indigenous patrol rations have caused problems in that Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) personnel are sometimes reluctant to go on operations with rice and mackerel in lieu of Patrol Indigenous Rations (PIR). Construction and barrier materials continue to be in short supply.

(e) Future improvements in the FSP include drainage, relocation of POL Storage, resurfacing of helipad and expansion of the CIDG hospital.

(6) III Corps Tactical Zone (Co A)

(a) Supply: The average number of personnel supported during the period 1 August 69 - 31 Oct 69 was:

USASF	452
CSF	7500
MSF	2000

(b) Due to a shortage of rice in III CTZ the price for a 100 pound bag of rice has increased from 1,350\$VN to 2,000\$VN. To combat this increase in price the FSP has arranged to have all rice for Company A purchased through the Logistical Support Command (LSC) in Nha Trang.

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(c) Logistics support continues at a high level with one exception. A critical shortage has been reached in the resupply of canned mackerel used to supplement the indigenous diet.

(d) Maintenance.

The vehicular nonavailability rate of Company continues at a very low rate. As of September 1969, the percent of nonavailable vehicles was 1.5% out of a total of 250 on hand. The generator nonavailability rate decreased from 16% for the month to 10% for September. This decrease in deadlined generators can be directly attributed to the Generator Operators school for A Detachment CIDG personnel conducted by Detachments B-32 and B-34. These schools were two weeks in duration and were conducted by the ECCI technical representative located at each B Detachment. Similar schools are planned for Detachments B-33 and B-36.

(e) Movements. The following tonnage was moved during the reporting period:

Airlift	26
Convoy	65

(f) The enemy situation in the Katum TAOR is such that all fixed wing flights have been classified as combat essential. In a similar situation, all flights into camp Duc Hue now require TOT for TAC cover, and when possible flights into these Camps are scheduled for the first run of the day.

(g) Services: In the past, when items of equipment in A and B detachments was placed on a nonavailability status for 2nd and 3rd echelon maintenance, the item had to be backloaded to the FSP for repair. The FSP now provides the A and B detachments, at their request, qualified maintenance teams to perform 2nd and 3rd echelon repair on site, for generators, refrigerators and vehicles.

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(h) Improvements. Because of a large voltage loss between the generators and using items of equipment a new system of power propagation is planned for the C Detachment Company A, 5th SFGA. This system will incorporate step-up and step-down transformers to increase the efficiency of the current power. A centralized air conditioning system was installed in our new communications center.

(7) IV Corps Tactical Zone (Co D)

(a) Supply: During the period D Company supported the following number of personnel.

USASF	435
CSF	7,340
MSF	1,880

In the month of September the S-4 started preparing the IV Corp interior Camps for turn over to RF/PF. The FSP is now receiving all ammunition support from the S41st Ammunition Company (ARVN) with good results. The occupation of Nui Coto mountain is now being rotated every fifteen days among the various Detachments of the Co D, with all supplies and support being provided through the Supply Point at Detachment B-43.

(b) Maintenance. During this period a prescribed load list (PLL) and an authorized stockage list (ASL) were established for vehicles covering the requirements of the C team, its subordinate B teams, plus the requirements of the A teams within the IV CTZ. PLL listings and Demand Record Cards were produced and were dispatched to all the B teams to properly implement supply procedures and operations. PLL's for other equipment such as generators, forklifts, refrigerators, etc. are also being prepared. Plans for a PLL orientation are being prepared to initiate a refresher course intended for the Technical Representatives. This will enable them to better handle the PLL's at each B team.

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(c) Movements. The following tonnage was moved during the reporting period.

Airlift	2041
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Convoy	312
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(d) Services: The S-4 has a self service supply containing limited expendable office supplies located at the FSP for the Detachments.

(e) Problems: The major difficulty within the FSP continues to be the lack of qualified maintenance personnel.

(f) Planned Improvements:

(1) Construction of a fence around the FSP for safeguarding material and equipment.

(2) A parking area for civilian workers' motorbikes, is being constructed.

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1. Engineers

(1) Organization: The Commanding Officer of the 31st Engineer Detachment, which is the engineer augmentation to the 5th SFGA, has completed a TO&E revision which when finally approved will bring the detachment under a G series TO&E. In addition, it will specifically include the capability to accomplish those operational (as opposed to advisory) missions which the unit has acquired.

(2) Construction and Rehabilitation:

(a) The following work was completed during the reporting period:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>CONST UNIT</u>
C1 Danang	CIDG dayroom, BOQ #4	Contract
C1 Mai Loc	Tailor/barber shop, 2 latrines, ammunition bunker, rice storage warehouse	Self-Help
C1 Tien Phuoc	Latrine/shower	Contract
C1 Nong Son	2 latrines, overhead cover POL	Self-Help
C1 Ha Thanh	4 fighting bunkers, latrine	Self-Help
C1 Tra Bong	Country store	Self-Help
C1 Thuong Duc	6 latrines, CIDG canteen, school 5 fighting bunkers	Self-Help
C2 Pleiku	Underground POL bladder, S4 building extension, rewire TOC, motor pool office, rewire mess, blast walls for billets, S5 fish pond, hog pens, guard towers, renovation staff BOQ, move POL tanks, latrine, billet & RM messhall	Contract/Self-Help

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C2 Kontum	USASF latrines, USASF BOQ/BEQ	Contract
C2 Ban Me Thuot	Rehabilitate camp	Contract
C2 Dak Seang	Underground bunkers	Self-Help
C2 Mang Buk	Living bunker	Contract
C2 An Loc	Dispensary	Self-Help
C2 Polei Kleng	Rewire camp, messhall, 2 generator sheds	Self-Help
C2 Ben Het	Deep well	31st Engr Det
	12 mortar pits	20th Engr Bn
	58 Living/fighting bunkers	20th Engr Bn
	6 recoilless rifle emplace- ments	
	2 105 howitzer positions	Self-Help
	6 latrines	Self-Help
	2 TOC's	Self-Help
	2 water storage bunkers	Self-Help
	2 ammunition bunkers	Self-Help
	12 fighting bunkers	Self-Help
C2 Dak Seang	Underground bunker	Self-Help
C2 Plei Me	USASF teamhouse, VNSF teamhouse, 2 latrines, 3 dependent houses	Self-Help
C3 Bien Hoa	Convalescent center, communications center, well	Contract

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C3 Trang Sup	Latrine and shower	Self-Help
C3 Duc Phong	Water tower	Self-Help
C3 Loc Ninh	Dispensary	Self-Help
C4 Can Tho (MSF)	School, 6 machine gun bunkers	Self-Help
C4 Thanh Tri	Ammunition bunker	Self-Help
C4 Cai Cai	Market place, teamhouse floor	Self-Help
C4 To Chau	12 machine gun bunkers	Self-Help
C4 Don Phuc	2 latrines	Self-Help
C4 Moc Hoa (MSF)	2 latrines	Self-Help
C4 My Dien II	POL storage	Self-Help
C4 My Da	Helipad	Self-Help

(b) The following are major projects scheduled to be completed during the next quarter:

New Camp at Plei Me: This new camp will be completed on or about 1 January 1970. Although much of the work is being accomplished by self help, the project is being expedited through the advice and assistance of two Special Forces construction advisory teams. In addition, a U.S. Army engineer platoon will arrive on site in early November to accomplish a portion of the vertical construction.

Rehabilitation of Camp Ben Het: This project is scheduled to be completed by 15 November 1969. The Special Forces construction advisory team was withdrawn upon completion of the assigned tasks. Elements of the 20th Engineer Battalion (Combat) have completed in a most outstanding manner the construction of fifty eight 15'x40' living/fighting bunkers. That unit continues work on road and air-field rehabilitation and should finish on schedule.

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New Camp at Chi Lang: This project is being built through the combined efforts of a local Vietnamese labor contractor, a Special Forces construction advisory team, and elements of the 69th Engineer Battalion. It will be complete on or about 9 December 1969. This facility constitutes the first compound built by Special Forces using concrete hollow block in lieu of lumber for the walls.

(3) Well Drilling Operations:

(a) A well has been drilled at Duc Hue utilizing a contractor owned and operated automobile well rig.

(b) Wells were also drilled at An Khe and Ben Het by a U.S. Special Forces well team.

(c) Wells are currently under construction at Duc Co, Duc Lap, and Chi Lang.

(4) Status of CAC 906 Funds:

(a) Obligated: \$288,216.00

(b) Unobligated: \$1,111,784.00

(5) Public Works and Utilities (SFOB)

(a) The repair and utilities (R&U) section processed 381 work orders during the reporting period.

(b) The carpenter shop constructed 3,500 pallets and 10,850 concrete hollow blocks.

(c) The water supply has remained at an acceptable level during the reporting period with an average daily potable water demand of a little over 200,000 gallons. This is in addition to the daily requirement of approximately 300,000 gallons of non-potable water.

(6) Miscellaneous:

(a) Although shortages of construction materials have been a continuing problem through the reporting period, recent arrivals of some lumber shipments have begun to relieve the pressure.

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(b) Emphasis is being placed upon strictly limiting construction to that which is either combat essential or absolutely necessary for the health and welfare of the CIDG soldiers and their families. This policy is oriented toward rehabilitation work rather than new construction.

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j. Political Warfare (POLWAR).

(1) General. During this period the activity of the Group S5 Section consisted of expanding current programs and the initiation of significant new projects.

(2) Plans: (a) Each CTZ has been assigned an S5 Action Officer. This officer will work closely with the AST in his Corps to improve S5 activities.

(b) Budgeted funds for Fiscal Year 70 provide for an expected upsurge in POLWAR spending.

(3) Psychological Operations: Educational and "GVN Image" type leaflets and posters are now being packed with all school kits going to Special Forces Detachments.

(4) Civic Action: (a) All C Detachment S5s have effected close coordination with the Civil Affairs Companies in their respective CTZs. This coordination should increase the capabilities and efficiency of Special Forces CA/PC activities.

(b) Regulation 725-3, reference Civic Action Supply Requisitioning Procedures, was revised to improve efficiency by making the regulation easier to understand.

(c) A Civic Action Survey was initiated which is directed at determining the needs and progress of A camps throughout the country in this area.

(d) A list of agencies supporting S5 activities was prepared and distributed to all Special Forces Detachments. A packet of pictures depicting the civic action kits available was also distributed with the agency list.

(5) I Corps Tactical Zone (Co C)

(a) Psychological Operations: Throughout the reporting period, the largest amount of effort was concentrated toward the development of new Psyops material oriented specifically at the enemy and his various agencies located in the TAORs of the 5th SFGA in I CTZ. Tape recordings for aerial broadcasts have been made in the RHE Language. Efforts are being made to find interpreters who are capable of making tapes in the languages of the other Montagnard tribes living in I CTZ. Due to translation problems (i.e., many translators speak English and Montagnard but do not speak

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Vietnamese) this program has been coming along slowly. The 7th PSYOPS Bn has given Co C outstanding support in both leaflet printing and tape recording, as well as in printing other material for them. With more emphasis and guidance being placed on the A teams by the B and C teams, a marked increase has been noticed in the amount of PSYOPS material ordered and disseminated by the teams in the field. This upward trend is expected to continue, as new, more effective, material and methods of utilizations are developed. Command interest in Co C, as far as PSYOPS is concerned, is probably the largest single contributing factor to the upward trend in PSYOPS in this company.

(b) Social Welfare: I CTZ has approximately 9,000 CIDG dependents comprising more than 2,000 CIDG families. Most of these families live in surrounding villages. It is estimated, however, that approximately 600 families are in need of housing. Housing Projects at A-104, A-102, and A-105 are currently under construction or awaiting materials. The biggest problem with this project is the time lag between project approval and the arrival of the building materials. Since 1 January, more than 21,000 health kits have been distributed to CIDG dependents and the local civilian population. Support of refugees is primarily accomplished through distribution of PL 480 food stuffs obtained through the Catholic Relief Service. Since 1 January, approximately 400,000 lbs of cornmeal, rolled oats, rolled wheat and salad oil have been distributed. MEDCAPS are carried out at every camp and are quite effective in improving public health. The frequency of MEDCAPS varies from daily to twice a month. An average of 4000 to 5000 patients are treated monthly. This number includes dependents, refugees and civilians.

(c) Motivation and Indoctrination: POLWAR teams during the months of August, September, and October conducted 216 classes with 17,280 CIDG being in attendance.

(d) Civic Action: Due to a cutback in 5th SFGA construction, the ability of the Staff Engineer to support Civic Action projects has been limited. During a recent S5 conference in Nha Trang, Co C was informed that the only projects assured approval were CIDG dependent housing and cookhouses, neither of which are directly related to assisting the civilian population. The model farms are still in their early formative stages. Seeds and ducks have been sent to all detachments and coordination has been made with CORDS and the 29th Civil Affairs Company to obtain professional agriculture advice.

(e) Miscellaneous: The major problem existing in the POLWAR area of operation is the misuse of the POLWAR team. The members of the team are being utilized as cooks, secretaries, and stock clerks. Many POLWAR operations are cancelled because the additional non-POLWAR duties interfere with the operational plan. Command emphasis would be the solution

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to this problem.

(6) II Corps Tactical Zone (Co B)

(a) POLWAR Training: During this quarter, training was conducted at the S5 farm in the fields of agriculture, barbering, and blacksmithing. CIDG from B-20 MSFTC, A-251 (Plei Djereng), A-253 (Duc Co), and A-241 (Polei Kleng) attended this training.

(b) Psychological Operations: A leaflet field test questionnaire was sent to all detachments to determine the effectiveness of the standard leaflets provided by Company B, 8th PSYOPS Bn.

(c) Civil Affairs: In the field of agriculture, the primary activity of the quarter was the harvesting of crops at each A-Detachment site. Seeds were sent to B-24 (Kontum) for the next planting. Goats and ducks were shipped to the S5 farm from SFOB. Goats and ducks were then shipped to A-233 (Trang Phuc), A-251 (Plei Djereng) and A-231 (Tieu Atar). Pigs were shipped to A-255 (Plei Me), A-233 (Trang Phuc), and A-251 (Plei Djereng). Construction has been completed on two new fish ponds and one pig pen at the S5 farm. Fruit trees were donated by the Pleiku Minority Affairs Chief for A-253 (Duc Co), and A-251 (Plei Djereng).

(7) III Corps Tactical Zone (Co A)

(a) Political Warfare (POLWAR): Significant activities include projects in Civic Action, Social Welfare, Motivation and Indoctrination, and Psychological Operations. These projects are implemented by the POLWAR teams at all Special Forces A-camps. In addition to the POLWAR teams at A-camps, Company A also has a Cultural/Drama team which circulates to subordinate camps to provide entertainment for the CIDG. The drama team performances are integrated into the Motivation and Indoctrination programs by working current themes into their skits and traditional songs. Presently, some problems are being experienced at many A-Detachments because of lack of trained POLWAR personnel. The POLWAR teams have not received any formal training for almost one year. Since the POLWAR teams are the backbone of the POLWAR program, the lack of training has had an adverse effect on the entire program.

(b) Psychological Warfare (PSYWAR): During the reporting period, Company A continued with an aggressive PSYWAR campaign against the enemy. The most significant PSYWAR campaign during the period was PSYOPS Campaign Achilles Heel I (20 Aug 69 - 30 Sep 69). Achilles Heel I was a three (3) phase PSYOPS in support of the 3d MSF operation Bull Run I. PSYOPS was targeted against subordinate units of the 5th VC Division. The objectives of this campaign were to: promote dissatisfaction among

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units of the 5th VC Division, exploit dissatisfaction between VC Cadre and NVA troops, and encourage defection. These objectives were carried out by means of ground leaflet/loudspeaker and aerial leaflet/loudspeaker missions. One PSYOPS aircraft was provided daily for purpose of immediate PSYOPS response to the tactical situation. Minor PSYOPS campaigns were also conducted against the 7th, 9th, and 1st VC Divisions throughout III CTZ.

(c) Social Welfare: Dependent housing continues to be one of the main Social Welfare activities and is progressing as well as can be expected since there is a shortage of building materials. The majority of the subordinate detachments have a school or are helping a nearby school, thus enabling CIDG dependent children the opportunity to obtain an education even though in some cases they are in isolated areas. Garden plots and agricultural projects continue to be a high point in Social Welfare. Since the last reporting period, Social Welfare projects have doubled. In several of the isolated A-Detachments, social welfare projects have been initiated, supplying the CIDG and their dependents with hard to get items such as clothing for children, cooking oil, health kits, shower shoes, etc. Such projects are an open demonstration to the CIDG and their dependents of the interest that is being taken in them by GVN. In addition to the Psychological gains made, this type program also increases the standards of the dependents' living conditions. A rehabilitation program has been initiated at Company A with the purpose of:

(1) Providing the individual CIDG soldier who has become disabled through his services to his country, the training necessary to seek gainful employment as a civilian.

(2) Training disabled CIDG in specialty areas to fill vacant slots which require qualified technicians.

(3) Offering more security to all soldiers of the CIDG program in that they will know, should they become disabled, that they will not become castouts with a dim future of unemployment to look forward to.

(4) Providing a "complete" medical program at Company A, i.e., treatment and rehabilitation. Project Assist, the program designed to improve the low morale of the CIDG patients in the Company A Convalescence Center continues to be a success.

Motivation and Indoctrination (M&I): Motivation and Indoctrination has been emphasized as the primary POLWAR activity be-

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cause an unmotivated soldier is an incomplete soldier. During this reporting period, Co A has experienced difficulties in Motivation and Indoctrination due to the lack of motivation on the part of the POLWAR team. This problem cannot be resolved until some method is formulated to retrain the POLWAR teams and get rid of the "dead wood" or the teams and replace them with highly trained, motivated individuals. Listed below are Motivation and Indoctrination activities conducted during this reporting period: Wallet cards (six Concepts for CIDG Soldiers) have been developed by Company A S5, printed and disseminated to all CIDG in III CTZ. These cards incorporate the symbols of the GVN and CIDG program and the code of conduct. These cards are to be memorized by all CSF and MSF and are to be carried on their possession at all times. In order to enhance the morale of the CIDG, victory celebrations and sports competition are held, POLWAR bands perform for the troops, movies are shown and in some camps TV sets are available for the CIDG to enjoy during their off duty time. In order for the CIDG to understand more about the GVN, rallies and lectures are given weekly explaining different aspects of the government and its policies. The Soldier-of-the-Month program has had some effect on the troops in improving military discipline and conduct as well as competitive spirit in combat achievement.

(e) Civic Action (CA): The primary Civic Action project continues to be MEDCAPs. All A-Detachments that have a civilian population in their TAOR and all B-Detachments are active in this program. Although MEDCAPs provide the obvious result of improving the health of the civilians, they have proven to be an effective PSYOPS tool for the use of face-to-face communications and intelligence gathering. During a MEDCAP, the POLWAR team provide PSYOPS support by including leaflets and other printed propaganda into the health kits and soap which they distribute. In August, 50 Boy and Girl Scouts were flown from Hon Quan, B-33 area, to Vung Tau for a weekend on the beach. This was the second time that this was done this year, and another trip is being planned for November. The PSYOPS objective is to remove these children from their environment, show them a large part of their country, and let them know what the GVN is doing for the people. After returning home from each trip, it was felt that the PSYOPS objectives had been met and the participants would amount to 50 PSYOPS agents presenting favorable attitude toward the GVN and CIDG for a long time to come. In addition to the above Civic Action projects, the POLWAR teams have assisted the civilian population in constructing and repairing schools, dispensaries, roads, churches, and bridges.

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(8) IV Corps Tactical Zone (Co D):

(a) Psychological Operations (PSYOPS): In support of PSYOPS activities in C4's area of responsibility, voluntary informant tapes and leaflets produced by 10th PSYOPS Bn and disseminated by air have been utilized to full extent in populated areas. Broadcasts were made utilizing equipment and operators from the Naval Beach Jumper Unit attached from Binh Thuy Naval Station.

(b) Social Welfare: The biggest social welfare step in IV CTZ has occurred during the reporting period with the establishment of the CIDG PX/Commissary at A-414. The PX/Commissary Program provides fair market prices on goods such as cigarettes, canned tuna and sardines, canned milk, etc., for purchase by CIDG. A rehabilitation program is actively employed at C4 with motor mechanics, barbering, tailoring, etc., being offered as training programs for disabled CIDG prior to their re-entry to civilian life. Hospital visits are conducted weekly under Operation Assist and are a definite morale booster to hospitalized CIDG at an unfamiliar location.

(c) Problems: PSYOPS aircraft support for Co D has been discontinued. Presently this organization has no aircraft for PSYOPS support. High water level still presents a problem in maintaining the agricultural program. Lack of CA/PO assigned Officers and NCOs continues to hinder S5 activities. The flow of S5 personnel has improved and coordination between the S5 and S1 of Co D has been made in hope of obtaining qualified CA/PO personnel.

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k. Personnel.

(1) Strength: Authorized and assigned strengths at the beginning and at the close of the period were as follows:

(a) Beginning of Period:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>AGG</u>
Authorized	691	24	2765	3480
Assigned	763	27	2623	3413

(b) Close of Period:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>AGG</u>
Authorized	691	24	2765	3480
Assigned	764	28	2949	3741

(2) Replacements: Due to an unusual influx of extensions of foreign service tours by enlisted personnel of 5th Special Forces Group during the reporting period, this unit is presently 265 EM above its authorized strength. The attrition rate normally experienced in a combat zone should have off-set these extensions and kept Group strength at its authorized level; however, combat losses during the reporting period were light and requisitioned replacements continued to arrive. Because of the existing overstrength, HQ, USARV has imposed mandatory reassignments of 150 enlisted personnel from 5th Special Forces Group to units within RVN. This headquarters will approve extension of foreign service tours only in shortage MOS to support HQ, USARV in obtaining an acceptable strength level for 5th SFGA.

(3) Promotions: A total of 324 enlisted personnel were promoted during this period.

(4) Personnel Management (AOR): Junior enlisted non-special category personnel are not receiving their assignment on time. Special category personnel reported on the same AOR receive their assignments normally 60-90 days prior to their DEROS date. On the contrary, non-special category personnel do

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not receive assignments until approximately two weeks prior to return to CONUS. This predicament causes severe impact and hardship to these personnel when shipping hold luggage, applying for concurrent travel, and other personnel actions.

(5) R&R Allocations: The following R&R allocations were received by the 5th SFGA for the months indicated:

<u>CITY</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
TOKYO	23	17	20
BANGKOK	63	59	56
TAIPEI	24	24	29
SYDNEY	34	30	55
PENANG	7	7	N/A
MANILA	10	10	6
HAWAII	76	68	69
HONG KONG	35	30	35
SINGAPORE	16	8	12
TOTAL	307	273	282

5th SFGA has been allocated, on the average, 30 more spaces per month on R&R flights than during the previous reporting period.

(6) Awards and Decorations:

(a) The total number of decorations awarded to 5th SFGA personnel for period ending 31 Oct 1969:

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<u>AWARD</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
MH	0	0	0
DSC	0	2	2
LFC	0	0	0
CE	18	6	3
LM	3	6	4
EM	5	1	1
AI-V	111	36	62
BS	199	204	241
AI-V	0	3	2
LM	31	59	68
ACM-V	67	23	15
ACM	96	54	70
TOTAL	533	394	468
GRN	6	64	110
GRN	6	11	13
GRN	20	47	30

Awards of the Bronze Star and below are approved by 5th SFGA.
Silver Stars to Distinguished Service Cross is approved by
USARV.

(b) Percentage of each unit's personnel who were decorated
for the period ending 31 Oct 1969:

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UNIT	VALOR			SERVICE/ACHIEVEMENT		
	AUG	SEP	OCT	AUG	SEP	OCT
A	11	.8	3.8	8	8.3	9.3
B	9.8	1.4	1.2	11.4	9.3	9.3
C	4.5	1.7	.3	13.9	5.1	5.6
D	4.7	3.3	1.3	14.7	10.7	10.2
E	0	0	0	6.3	1.5	4.1
HHC	.4	0	0	6.2	4.1	9
CCN	7.2	4.3	7.3	11.3	18.8	23.7
CCS	13.7	3.7	8.2	12.6	12.6	12.5
CCC	8.8	2.6	7.5	8.5	14	12.3
OTHER	1.5	2.3	.2	10	10.2	11.9

(c) The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/palm has been awarded to the 5th Special Forces Group (Abn) and its assigned and attached units per Department of the Army General Order 59, dated 25 Sep 69. The period for which the award was given is 1 Oct 64 through 14 May 69.

(7) Special Services:

(a) General: Special Services is presently expanding by acquiring equipment directly from the A.O. Depot. The equipment will be distributed to all units of the 5th SFGA in order to enhance sports at forward operational areas. Inter unit volleyball tournaments between the 5th SFGA and LIDB culminated in defeat for the 5th SFGA volleyball team. Softball and flag football will be played in the future enhancing unit sportsmanship with group and individual trophies to be given to both winners and losers.

(b) Library: The Green Beret Library will become

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a CLASS I library upon completion of an inspection by USARV Librarians. The Green Beret Library reflects the following attendance figures:

	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
	315	472	490

(8) Safety:

(a) Personnel unfamiliar with the local driving habits and rules of the road often encounter difficulty adjusting to common traffic situations in RVN. Common sense and a defensive driving attitude are required in addition to instruction on international traffic signs and local driving habits. Command emphasis has been placed on safe and sane driving habits.

(b) Injury and death by accident:

	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Injury	4	6	4
Death	0	1	1

(9) Civilian Personnel:

(a) The 5th Special Forces Group employs civilians throughout the Republic of Vietnam. The number of civilians employed by units during the period ending 31 Oct 1969 were as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Company A	507	Det B-51	52	CLD	168
Company B	510	Det B-52	71	NEOB	579
Company C	316	Det B-55	85		
Company D	437	Det A-502	40		

TOTAL 2772

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(b) Civilian Personnel strength has again decreased for this reporting period. There have been substantial reductions in various detachments, and the civilian ~~spaces~~ associated with the Mobile Strike Force Training Command have been deleted.

(c) Civilian personnel are recruited on a best qualified basis and are placed within a strict TD that fixes the maximum rating (VGS) that the person may attain in that job.

(10) Reenlistment:

(a) The following are the 5th SFGA reenlistment statistics for the months of Aug, Sep, and Oct.

<u>ELIGIBLE</u>			<u>REENLISTED</u>			<u>PERCENTAGES</u>		
<u>RA</u>	<u>AUS</u>	<u>RESENG</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RA</u>	<u>AUS</u>	<u>RESENG</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENTAGES</u>
205	17	1	223	141	0	1	142	63.5

(b) The following are the overall statistics for the month's of Aug, Sep, and Oct.

	<u>ELIGIBLE</u>	<u>REENLISTED</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Less than four years	105	24	22.8 %
More than four years	118	118	100 %
Total	223	142	63.5 %

(c) Forty-Two EM extended their ETS.

(d) Ten EM discharged OCS, accepting USAF commission.

(e) One EM amended his enlistment.

(11) Chaplain Activities.

Activity Conducted

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Services Conducted 222

Attendance 3680

Group Parish Activities Invocations/Benedictions

Hospital Visits 33 Conducted 16

Counseling 378 Attendance 911

Interviews 3614 Study Meetings 176

Communion Services 1763 Camp Visits 202

Services 142 Camps Visited 179

Communicants 1763

CA/Psycop Activities 26

Activity Conducted

Memorial Services 23

Attendance 1327

(12) Discipline, Law and Order:

	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Poss Violation	2	0	0	2
Off Limits Violation	0	7	8	15
Curfew Violation	0	7	5	12
Traffic Violation	10	34	20	67
Multiple Charges	6	3	2	11
AWOL	0	0	0	0
Others	7	9	15	31
TOTAL	33	60	45	138

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(b) Judicial Punishment:

THIS QUARTER

	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
General Court-Martial	0	0	0	0
Special Court-Martial	0	1	5	6
Summary Court-Martial	0	0	1	1

LAST QUARTER

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
General Court-Martial	0	0	0	0
Special Court-Martial	1	0	2	3
Summary Court-Martial	0	0	0	0

(c) Non-Judicial Punishment:

THIS QUARTER

	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Article 15	27	17	15	59

LAST QUARTER

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Article 15	19	30	24	73

(d) Legal Assistance: Legal assistance was rendered to 404 clients, an increase of 282 cases over the past quarter.

(13) CIDG Strength Accounting. Strength accounting

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statistics revealed that there are 36,043 members of CIDG assigned as of the end of 31 Oct 1969.

(14) I Corps Tactical Zone (Co C).

(a) Strength: Strengths at the beginning and end of the reporting period were:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Authorized		66	66
Assigned		72	70
	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Authorized		205	205
Assigned		172	229

(b) Personnel Management: The flow of replacements during the reporting period was satisfactory. All personnel were well qualified and ready to assume their jobs.

(15) II Corps Tactical Zone (Co B).

(a) Strength: Strengths at the beginning and end of the reporting period were:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Authorized		97	97
Assigned		145	167
	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Authorized		219	219
Assigned		242	365

(b) Personnel Management: At the present time Company B has received 39 officers and 95 new enlisted personnel

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replacements over the reporting period. Personnel gains include a large number who have had no practical experience with the execution of Initial Special Forces Training.

(c) Discipline: Throughout Company B discipline is not a major problem. Non-judicial punishment included four Article 15's and two Special Court Martials. An additional Special Court Martial is still pending.

(16) III Corps Tactical Zone (Co A).

(a) Strength: Strengths at the beginning and end of the reporting period were:

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Authorized	97	97
Assigned	100	111
<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Authorized	286	296
Assigned	241	250

(b) Personnel Management: Projected losses will create serious problems in the medical and communication field, if not covered by projected gains.

(c) Disciplinary Action: A total of 3 Article 15s were administered during this reporting period.

(17) IV Corps Tactical Zone (Co B).

(a) Strength: Strengths at the beginning and end of the reporting period were:

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Authorized	75	75
Assigned	100	85

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<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>NOG</u>	<u>ONT</u>
Authorized	259	259
Assigned	250	316

(b) Personnel Management: 12 officers and 17 enlisted men received promotions during the reporting period.

(c) Disciplinary Actions: No Courts-Martial were held nor Article 15 punishment administered.

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(1) Medical.

(1) USAF Medical Care. Malaria rates continue to run much higher than USAF rates. The overall Group rate has continued to fall since the new Group Commander first placed strong emphasis on the responsibilities of unit commanders regarding malaria prevention. Disease accounted for approximately 75% of all USAF hospitalized. 1,270 dental procedures were performed. During the last quarter, 217 USAF were treated on an inpatient basis. There were 5,586 USAF outpatient visits.

(2) CIDG Medical Care: During the quarter, several medical programs were initiated by joint USAF/VNSF regulation. The most important of these were an immunization-induction physical examination program and a malaria prophylaxis program. In addition, the Group Camp Preventive Medicine Handbook was translated by the LLDB High Command for distribution to our counterparts. All of these programs have the potential of greatly reducing disease rates among CIDG, which run about three times those of USAF. However, during the past two months, Battle Injury admissions among CIDG have exceeded all disease admissions. 2,671 CIDG were treated as inpatients. There were 106,149 CIDG outpatient visits to USAF medical facilities. Med-evac reaction time was noted to be unusually slow in several instances in IV CIZ. The Company Medops officer was asked to make direct coordination with USAF Med-evac operations in IV CIZ.

(3) Veterinary Medicine - Preventive Medicine. Veterinary and PM personnel continued to work together for the prevention of disease at isolated SF detachments. These personnel have been given an objective of 80% of the time in the field by Group Surgeon. Many PM supplies have tended to be in critical supply. Group S-4 is attempting to remedy this, and medical personnel are providing guidance on those items most critical in field units. Extensive livestock and pet immunization programs were conducted in all 4 CIZs by veterinary personnel. Increased emphasis was placed on rabies prevention.

(4) Medical Supply. There were no critical medical items. Initial fill of medical supply requests reached an all-time average high of 96%. Medical supply drawdowns totalled \$278,798. USAFV approved a turn-in to the 32nd Medical Depot of \$58,687 worth of medical supplies. A new stockage list was also distributed.

(5) Training Programs. CIDG Camp Sanitation Team training

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programs were established for the first time by Surgeons at Det B-23 and Company B. These programs will eventually be established in all 4 CIZs. The Camp Strike Force Training Center at Detachment B-51 is presently the only USASF/VNSF medic training program recognized by the VN Ministry of Health. Coordination is being made through USAID with the VN Ministry of Health, in an effort to gain more widespread recognition of our country wide medical training programs. At the direction of the Group Surgeon, the Dental, PM and Veterinary sections are attempting to organize training for LLDB and CIDG to correct the present situation wherein USASF personnel perform nearly all Dental, PM and Veterinary work throughout the CIDG program. The Group Veterinary section is presently coordinating with the VNSF High Command for the establishment of ARVN veterinary consultant for the LLDB. CIDG medical training has been combined with VNSF medic training at the Camp Strike Forces Training Center. This should result in more highly trained CIDG medics. Dental training programs for CIDG medics were conducted at SFOB, B-23, B-51, B-55, A-502, and at C-4.

(6) MEDCAPs. 884 MEDCAP operations were conducted. A total of 127,637 VN civilians were treated by USASF medical personnel. Dental personnel conducted 13 DENICAPs throughout RVN.

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m. Signal:

(1) OPERATIONS: All means of communications utilized by this command continued to function at a high level of efficiency. The change in the reporting period for INTSEPs and STREPs reduced the maximum allowable reporting time for subordinate detachments from approximately 17½ hours to 4½ hours. Minor difficulties encountered initially have been overcome. A review of the Group pocket SOI revealed that aircraft pilots experienced difficulty associating A camps with their corresponding airfields. Airfield location designators were included in the November pocket SOI to eliminate this problem. The pocket SOI for the month of December will be revamped to provide ease of usage and improved readability. In striving to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the SOI, each C detachment is currently issued a block of frequencies and call signs to be utilized at C detachment level and below. This action enables the Signal Officer at C detachment level to quickly effect distribution of his monthly SOI to subordinate detachments. Additionally the C detachment reaction time to frequency changes due to compromises or interference is tremendously enhanced. The SFCB cable installation project has been completed and terminal hardware installed. Telephone instruments are currently being connected to the new cable system after which the remaining old cable and field wire will be removed.

(2) TRAINING: The PIO for the 44 hour communication refresher course is being revised. Increased emphasis is currently being placed on thoroughly familiarizing each newly assigned communicator with the single side band and secure voice equipment presently utilized within the 5th SFGA.

(3) NEW CONCEPTS/EQUIPMENT: During this quarter, significant progress was made in expanding the secure voice network within the 5th SFGA. Each deployed C, B and A detachment has a secure voice capability. The inherent radio-line-of sight limitation of FM equipment coupled with a decrease in range due to use of secure voice equipment precludes installation of a secure voice link between each B and C detachment. This equipment has proven to be an extremely valuable asset especially when speed and security of transmission is mandatory.

(4) MISCELLANEOUS: The Vietnamese Special Forces communications course at Dong Ba Thien has been enhanced by installation of modern

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high speed code training equipment in the CIDG code training facility. Coordination effected by the Group Signal Officer and his counterpart during a recent visit to the Force Structure Branch of MACV has resulted in the receipt by the Vietnamese Special Forces Signal Company of a limited number of single side band radio sets. The issuance of this equipment through ARVN supply channels was based on a recently submitted TOE. Revitalization of the Vietnamese electronic repair training programs is currently being considered by the Group Signal Officer and his counterpart.

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n. Comptroller:

Total expenditures for the 1st quarter of FY 1970 were \$19.553 million. Expenditures were appreciably lower than \$30.248 million as programmed. Command emphasis placed on effective, coordinated management of all resources is the dominant factor behind the low level of expenditures. Future expenditures should continue on at this lower rate as a result of a reduction in stockage levels, elimination of non-essential items, more efficient use of existing resources, and the utilization of experience factors derived from a data base developed during the past twelve months.

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

a. Personnel: Documenting CIDG Personnel.

(HQ, S1)

(1) OBSERVATION: A program of documenting the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) has been instituted by the 5th SFGA, as a means of checking graft in connection with the CIDG payrolls. The program required that each member of the CIDG be issued a serial numbered ID card with photo. A matching serial number pay card would be held by the United States Army Special Forces (USASF) Detachment funds officer. On payday, payment would only be made to those CIDG members who possessed an ID card which matched the pay card maintained by the USASF Detachment. In addition to the ID card, each member of the CIDG was to have been issued a set of ID tags which would speed admittance to an allied hospital in the event he was wounded or injured.

(2) EVALUATION: Each C-Detachment was issued one Polaroid camera with an attachment for taking multiple ID photographs, a laminating machine for use in laminating ID cards and an embossing machine for the manufacturing of ID tags. The control and distribution of the ID cards was the responsibility of the Vietnamese Special Forces (VNSF). While all other aspects of the program were handled by the USASF. Due to a lack of proper coordination many of the ID cards and pay cards were distributed to detachments in different numbered serial blocks. This caused considerable delays in the program as the cards had to be collected and redistributed. The use of a single camera, laminating machine and embossing machine for each Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ) proved to be an unrealistic approach to the program. Because of the enormous number of personnel involved (over 11,000 in II CTZ alone), the fact that not all the CIDG would ever be in a camp at one time, turnover of CIDG personnel and the problems in transportation, this approach has taken an unsatisfactory amount of time to complete the program.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Future efforts at documenting the CIDG should be performed at B-Detachment level. Enough equipment should be furnished so that each B-Detachment will be able to handle the documenting the CIDG personnel under its control. Any future photographing requirements could be handled at the A-Detachment level with the use of 35mm PFM-7E cameras common to the detachments. Finally, responsibility for the documentation and control of supplies should be placed either solely with the USASF or VNSF, not split between the two.

b. Intelligence

(1) Additional Time for the Planning of Mobile Strike Force (MSF) Operations.

(Co D)

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(a) OBSERVATION: The commitment of Mobile Strike Force (MSF) elements to areas of operation where friendly troops have not operated for long periods requires additional time in the planning phase of the operation, in order that adequate reconnaissance may be performed.

(b) EVALUATION: The last three large scale MSF operations have been conducted in areas where increased enemy activity has been reported, but no hard intelligence was available on the true enemy situation in the area. Agent reports are useful for selecting possible areas for future operations, but the level of reliability of most agent reports in South Vietnam is generally not sufficient to use as a basis for operational planning. The problem with recent MSF operations is that the intelligence estimates of enemy strength and disposition within the Areas of Operation (AO's) have not been accurate. The failure of the friendly units to collect information during the conduct of normal operations has further contributed to the lack of information concerning trails, fortifications, booby trapped areas, and general enemy activity in the MSF AO's. When such an area is selected for a MSF operation, steps must be taken to obtain all possible information on factors which could affect the conduct of the operation before the operation order is finalized and troops are committed to the AO.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Under no circumstances should the date for a combat operation be firmly established, or the concept of the operation decided, until sufficient reconnaissance has been conducted as to minimize the possibility of the friendly element encountering significant obstacles without prior knowledge of their existence. All types of reconnaissance should be employed where possible, but the most important type, especially in denied areas where friendly troops have not operated frequently, is ground reconnaissance. This type of reconnaissance can produce the most reliable information available on the operational area and should be conducted both prior to, and during the operation. Other types of intelligence assets can prove valuable, e.g., agent nets in the AO, aerial surveillance, and briefings by friendly units in whose area of responsibility the operation is being conducted without prior reconnaissance. The tendency of friendly forces to neglect this essential phase of the operation has seriously affected our combat success.

(2) Exploitation of Prisoners of War (PW's), Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI), or Suspects. (Co D)

(a) OBSERVATION: It is a disadvantage for the Intelligence MCO to interrogate a PW, VCI or suspect without having some knowledge of the individual.

(b) EVALUATION: None

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(c) RECOMMENDATION: When a PW, VCI, or suspect is brought in for interrogation, he should be questioned first by the VNSF. The information gathered can be quickly compiled and will assist greatly in cross-examination. This procedure will help to put the USASF interrogator in a commanding position and will aid him in finding loopholes in the individual's story, etc.

(3) VC Mines and Booby Traps.

(Co D)

(a) OBSERVATION: The enemy is a battlefield scavenger. Discarded equipment by friendly forces (empty cans, batteries, wire, empty smoke grenades, and even illumination rounds) have cost friendly lives and limbs. The enemy is ingenious in designing simple but lethal weapons. The majority of mines and booby traps are locally manufactured by VC village, district, and provincial munitions workshops. Captured equipment, documents, and PW interrogation indicate the VC have received basic training in how to make use of discarded US Army equipment and how these weapons can be employed. The trainee is taught the importance of policing the battlefield. It is also evident that VC/VVA commanders at the lowest echelon of line units have the authority to install mines as required.

(b) EVALUATION: During past operations it has been evident that the majority of mines and booby traps found were made from allied ordnance and material. The principal source of mine and booby trap materials are dud rounds and USARVN ordnance lost or discarded. The majority of all encountered booby traps are for their nuisance value and to create casualties, fear, and overcautiousness. It appears that the VC have changed their method of mining dirt roads and trails, especially the Seven Mountains Area. Most booby traps located and discovered have been on or immediately to the right or left of the trail, because friendly troops avoid the trail for fear of mining. While disarming booby traps adjacent to mountain trails, it was confirmed that the majority were locally produced from discarded smoke grenades and sardine tins.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS: The detection of enemy mines and booby traps requires skill and alertness. The motto is "Stay alert and stay alive." The way to avoid casualties is to check everything. Check all places newly filled with soil, covered with straw, grass, littered with dung, or always check any suspicious-looking spot. Be patient and continually check and recheck possible mine locations. Do not fall into the trap of assuming there is no mine in a hole because it was not there yesterday. Rushing up to assist a wounded comrade must be avoided since the enemy may take advantage of this by employing claymores to hit the rescuers or the curious. Troops should be cautioned against attempting to disarm a mine or booby trap. All such mines and booby traps should be blown in place.

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If a new type of mine or booby trap is discovered, call for an EOD team to disarm and evacuate it. If this is not possible, obtain a sketch of the item and blow it up in place. Most of all, friendly troops should make maximum attempts to police the battlefield and reduce the enemy's capability to police up discarded items, thus limiting their ability to produce local booby traps.

(4) Order of Battle Analytical Technique.

(HQ, S2)

(a) OBSERVATION: A systematic approach was needed to analyze the mass of intelligence information being produced in the enemy buildup in the Seven Mountains Area of CHAU DOC Province.

(b) EVALUATION: By using the methods presented in Pattern Analysis SOP (U), published by Combined Intelligence Center Vietnam (CICV), dated 3 February 1969, the enemy's exact location, concentration, and lines of communications were plotted. This method had proven to be a very useful approach in compiling and maintaining data on an enemy unit or activity.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: This technique established a plausible relationship between otherwise unconnected bits of information by plotting data geographically and chronologically.

(5) Agent Production.

(HQ, S2)

(a) OBSERVATION: Coded agent production records maintained at this headquarters indicate that many of the informants have been unproductive for periods in excess of 90 days, and some agent personnel have been unproductive since recruitment.

(b) EVALUATION: The apparent nonproduction of agent personnel is believed to be the result of intelligence personnel not levying specific requirements on the agents for which intelligence reports and possible remuneration could result.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Agent personnel should be levied with specific requirements for which they could be tested. After a period of 90 days, those agents who prove unproductive should be released. Spotting and assessing potential agents should be continuous to ensure every effort is made to employ productive agent personnel.

(6) Combined Intelligence (CI) and Collection.

(Co A)

(a) OBSERVATION: Personnel newly assigned to Intel NCO positions, particularly at A-Detachments where they must also assume Case Officer

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duties for Combined Intelligence and Collection operations, are usually insufficiently prepared and trained to handle these duties.

(b) EVALUATION: To function effectively as a Case Officer requires a thorough knowledge of basic intelligence operation procedures. The Case Officer must be familiar with 5th SFGA regulations pertaining to the operations and proper preparation of OPLANS, fund expenditure reports, and numerous other applicable reports.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That all Intel NCO's, particularly those who will also function as Case Officers, receive a comprehensive orientation upon arrival in country, supplemented by several days of briefings, training, and study at the company level prior to going to their places of assignment. The briefing and training would be under the guidance of CI/Collection personnel at the company and would cover in detail all operational and administrative matters relative to CI and Collection operations at the assignment location. In addition, the intelligence Combat Readiness Team (CRT) checklist would be covered in detail and explained, as well as general security matters which would apply to the assignment location.

c. Operations:

(1) Airboat Operations.

(Co D)

(a) OBSERVATION: During the reporting period, several opportunities to make or continue contact were lost when the attached airboats returned to base location because of darkness.

(b) EVALUATION: Airboats are often the only available means of searching large areas during the flood season. Expanding their operations to cover both night and day would be a valuable asset.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A study of the feasibility of operations with airboats at night using lights or other night vision aids should be made.

(2) Authority to Grant Target Clearance.

(Co D)

(a) OBSERVATION: The current concept of two border control centers controlling all anti-infiltration efforts in the border provinces of IV CTZ is not entirely satisfactory.

(b) EVALUATION: The concept makes the Vietnamese Special Forces commanders of Detachments B-18 and B-20 responsible for combating infiltration in those regions but does not give them sufficient authority to effectively accomplish their mission. This is particularly true in

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(c) RECOMMENDATION: When a PW, VCI, or suspect is brought in for interrogation, he should be questioned first by the VNSF. The information gathered can be quickly compiled and will assist greatly in cross-examination. This procedure will help to put the USASF interrogator in a commanding position and will aid him in finding loopholes in the individual's story, etc.

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(b) EVALUATION: During past operations it has been evident that the majority of mines and booby traps found were made from allied ordnance and material. The principal source of mine and booby trap materials are dud rounds and US/ARVN ordnance lost or discarded. The majority of all encountered booby traps are for their nuisance value and to create casualties, fear, and overcautiousness. It appears that the VC have changed their method of mining dirt roads and trails, especially the Seven Mountains Area. Most booby traps located and destroyed have been on or immediately to the right or left of the trail, because friendly troops avoid the trail for fear of mining. While disarming booby traps adjacent to mountain trails, it was confirmed that the majority were locally produced from discarded smoke grenades and sardine tins.

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low and slow can find indications of the enemy presence and/or movement such as, trails leading into enemy positions, camouflaged positions, sampans, and personnel movement. Upon finding enemy positions and/or troops, the gunships are used to fix the enemy by fire while the GFC calls for the two gunships and four slicks to insert the troops that were on strip alert. As opposed to the above operation, the Airmobile operation has generally the same composition, but without the LOH's. The Airmobile operation is hampered by the lack of current intelligence which is provided by the LOH's in an Air Cavalry operation. Therefore the Airmobile operation must either insert the troops "blind" into an area then wait for the troops to search the area, or operate on intelligence reports that are several days old, thereby reducing the possibility of "finding" the enemy.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Every effort must be made to utilize Air Cavalry operations in IV CTZ area. The ability to "find and fix" the enemy prior to committing the troops significantly increases the contact ratio, and at the same time, covers larger areas thereby further reducing the enemy's ability to move supplies, equipment, and personnel.

(7) Deployment of CFC Units.

(a) OBSERVATION: There are too many large operations, company size or larger, when only VC/NVA squads or smaller units are being encountered.

(b) EVALUATION: A company normally moves along one route while on an operation and does little to saturate the area of operation. Normally, the area covered will not exceed 100 meters on either side of the route traveled. This leaves most of the area of operation not covered. Recent contacts and intelligence reports indicate that the enemy is operating in small groups, consisting of three to eleven men in some areas. A platoon size element can encounter a force of this size with as much success as a company. There is also less ammunition expended per contact due to the CFC's tendency to lay down an initial heavy base of fire. A platoon can be moved into an ambush posture more quickly and quietly than can a company size force, thereby eliminating much of the possibility of premature detection of the friendly force. Platoons being employed from the camp or patrol base can operate somewhat independent and therefore cover a much larger area. In the past saturation patrolling has been highly successful in finding enemy caches, detecting enemy movement, and in establishing and maintaining contact.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Commanders should take a closer look at methods of employing their forces. In areas where only small enemy forces are being encountered. Strong consideration should be given to employing platoon size operations in sufficient numbers to saturate the area of operation. Caution

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however, must be exercised to allow for mutual support and/or facilitate reinforcement. A company or larger size force can be sent into an area of operation and establish a patrol base secured by one platoon. The remainder of the platoons can be given areas of operation around the patrol base with the mission of saturating their respective areas. The patrol base can be moved as required to insure coverage of the operation area.

(8) Aircraft Control.

(a) OBSERVATION: On numerous occasions aircraft supporting A-Detachments failed to keep the detachment notified of their locations.

(b) EVALUATION: On 9 October 1969 there were two O-1 (Head-hunters) aircraft flying over the Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) of an A-Detachment in support of a contact. One of the aircraft returned to the detachment airfield in the belief that the other aircraft was following. This was an erroneous assumption. After checking with probable sites where the plane could have landed, the aircraft was declared missing and a search was started. The search was hampered because there was no knowledge of the location of the aircraft.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That all aircraft periodically report locations and flight plans to detachments they are supporting.

(9) Command Relationship on Joint Operations.

(Co R)

(a) OBSERVATION: On a recent joint operation, shortly after it began, it became apparent that the US unit involved did not fully understand the relationship between USAF, VMSF and the CTRG. The US control element was proceeding as though the CTRG element was under strict control of the USAF. When the problem was discovered the VMSF position was clarified and they were brought into the picture.

(b) EVALUATION: Although it was felt that the USAF/VMSF relationship had been clarified during briefing prior to the operation, it was apparent after the operation had begun that this relationship had not been understood, and/or needed more emphasis. US units still look at USAF personnel as having complete command and control over their CTRG units.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That the 5th SFGA, at all levels, continue to stress to Free World Military Advisory Forces (FMAR) that the VMSF have the command responsibility within the CTRG program. Increased emphasis of this during the planning of operations, will enable FMAR commanders and staffs to understand the relationship of VMSF/USAF.

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d. Organization: None

e. Training:

(1) Proper Care and Maintenance of CSF Individual Weapons.

(a) OBSERVATION: Many CSF soldiers do not realize the importance or proper care and maintenance of their personal weapons.

(b) EVALUATION: The CSF soldiers at this location were recently issued M-16 rifles to replace the older family of US weapons. Although they received eight to twelve hours of instruction on the weapon, it obviously was not enough. A refresher course is necessary to further instill in the CSF an awareness of the necessity of a clean weapon.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Mandatory weapons training should be held periodically to improve the state of readiness of the CSF soldier. The S-5, 5th SFGR should make posters depicting the consequences of a malfunction in combat due to a dirty weapon and distribute them to all subordinate units. Normal weapons inspection should be conducted daily, prior to beginning any combat operation and as part of payday procedures to insure that all weapons are clean and functioning properly.

(2) CSF Action During Contacts.

(a) OBSERVATION: Many recent contacts initiated by CSF units from a relatively short distance have produced negative results.

(b) EVALUATION: Reports from the A-Detachments indicate that the CSF habitually fire too high during the initial phases of contact. In addition, premature initiation of an ambush does not allow the enemy to enter the killing zone. Thus, most of the friendly fire is concentrated on one or two individuals allowing the main body to escape. The above mentioned faults are a result of a lack of proper basic training and/or periodic refresher training in marksmanship and fire discipline.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That added emphasis on marksmanship fire control and discipline be stressed at the CTFG training centers. That the CTFG be given extensive training in the emplacement and use of claymore mines, and in the "quick kill" method of firing. This training should be introduced and conducted at the CTFG training centers, with the A-Detachment continuing this training for the CTFG to overcome the above faults.

(3) Radio Operators (CSBLS).

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(a) OBSERVATION: Communications personnel are not prepared for work at the A-Detachment level.

(b) EVALUATION: The training of operators in SFTG (Special Forces Training Group) has not produced personnel sufficiently trained in all aspects of communications. Although operators are competent in receiving and transmitting CW, many of them have not been thoroughly trained in setting up the KTM2 or FM radios. Land line communication techniques have to be passed on from the old operator to the new operator.

(b) RECOMMENDATION: Special Forces Training Group POI should be increased to provide more comprehensive training in the installation and use of the KTM2, FM radios, and land line communications.

(4) Combat Engineer (12PHS).

(HQ, Engr)

(a) OBSERVATION: Combat engineers have not received sufficient training in electrical circuitry, generator maintenance and construction engineering.

(b) EVALUATION: Construction projects are primarily supervised by the combat engineer who in most cases has received little training in construction engineering and electrical circuits. As a result, faulty construction, particularly in placement of supporting members, distribution of load weight and faulty wiring, has produced unsafe buildings and bunkers. Because of such errors, bunkers have collapsed. The lack of generator maintenance coupled with extensive use has caused a high rate of generator failures.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Combat Engineer POI should establish added emphasis on constructional engineering, electrical circuitry and generator maintenance at SFTG.

5. Logistics

(1) Radio Contact on Aerial Resupply Missions.

(Co D)

(a) OBSERVATION: The need for air to ground radio contact on aerial resupply missions has become apparent.

(b) EVALUATION: To facilitate coordination between air and ground crews and to insure that airfields are secure for landing, there needs to be communications between the pilot and ground.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Proper coordination for air to ground communications

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should be established with the pilot being given the call sign and frequencies for camps where equipment is to be airlifted or airdropped before his mission departure. It should also be SOP for the pilot to contact the camp concerned at least 10 minutes prior to ETA to insure the ground crews are prepared for his arrival and security of the areas is established.

(2) Prevention of the Loss of Air Items.

(Co D)

(a) OBSERVATION: There is a need for precautions to be made preventing CIDG personnel from misappropriating air items after aerial resupply operations.

(b) EVALUATION: CIDG personnel are particularly attracted to A7A straps, fifteen foot tie-down straps and various other items used for aerial resupply.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Air items are in critical supply and methods should be imposed by camp commanders to retain them for future use. During an airdrop all available US personnel should be employed on the DZ to break down bundles and to remove the air items. These air items should then be removed to a secure location where they can then be backloaded for future reuse. When the items are broken down and air items removed, then indigenous personnel can be used to help load the cargo.

3. Communications: Mobile Radio Teletype Support.

(HQ, Sig O)

(1) OBSERVATION: Recent and past USF multi-battalion operations have pointed out the continued need for radio teletype support of deployed task force headquarters. During the last three months of 1967 and up to August 1968, mobile radio teletype support was used in the II Corps area, primarily with Project Delta operations. There were two such type radios constructed by Signal Company, in 3/4 ton shelters. These shelters were mounted on small rubber wheels and could be air lifted into an area and then easily wheeled into position by three or four personnel. Secure transmission was then provided.

(2) EVALUATION: During the time that a task force is deployed or an A Detachment is under siege, the amount of administrative traffic is increased significantly. Reports and requests are of such magnitude that they adversely affect tactical operations by monopolizing frequencies and communication personnel.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That each C-Detachment be provided with two mobile radio teletype rigs to support operations as mentioned above. These could be radios such as the AN/GRC-122 or AN/GRC-142 which are self contained,

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air transportable and capable of transmitting secure traffic using the present secure equipment on hand; or by fabricating such a radio as is mentioned in the "observation" of this report. The overall affect would be accurate and timely reports from the area of operation, and the ability to respond rapidly to a changing situation.

h. Material: None

i. Engineer:

(1) Cement Capping of Sandbagged Bunkers. (All Companies)

(a) OBSERVATION: It has been observed in all Corps areas that sandbags deteriorate and must be replaced after a period of only two to four months.

(b) EVALUATION: The sandbags presently being received through USAPV supply channels deteriorate very rapidly. Although expedients are being used, there are still vast requirements for sandbags. Consequently various means of protecting the sandbags in-place were explored. It was determined that cement capping would more than pay for itself in materials alone if one sandbag replacement cycle were avoided.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a cement cap of approximately four inches in thickness be placed with chicken wire reinforcement over the sandbags on those structures which are so protected. The capping will protect the sandbags from exposure to elements and will allow replacement on a selective basis when damage occurs.

(2) Cement Block Construction in Lieu of Wood.

(a) OBSERVATION: Wooden structures which have been built in the TV CTZ, where inundation of the terrain causes extended exposure to moisture, have been observed to deteriorate even more rapidly than in other parts of RVN.

(b) EVALUATION: Structures that have been built in similar environment using cement hollow block have proven substantially more durable and less expensive. In the construction of Detachment 2-043 at Chi Lang, where cement block has been used exclusively, the cost of a 20x60 structure is estimated to cost \$130.00 less than a similar wooden structure. Defensive bunkers built at the same location, in addition to the advantages already listed, require no additional sandbag protection. This further eliminates reconstruction and replacement of facilities.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That cement hollow block construction be considered very carefully for more extensive US Army use in RVN.

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(3) PCI on Generator Operation, Maintenance and Power Distribution Systems.

(a) OBSERVATION: In most A-Detachments proper generator operation and maintenance is at best marginal. Camp wiring has been done in a slip shod fashion and merely accepted as adequate as long as the light comes on and different electrical units function. "Proper Power Distribution" is a phrase that most team members are unfamiliar with, or just do not know what it means in most cases. These facts are evidenced from reports submitted by the Command Readiness Team personnel.

(b) EVALUATION: The proper operation and maintenance of generators is a must in hot, humid climates and especially so where many teams rely on them as the sole source of power. Replacement parts are expensive and very difficult to obtain. Improper power distribution and poor wiring systems increase the maintenance and decrease the usefulness of the generators. Also it causes damage to electrical equipment such as radios, and decreases the efficiency of this type equipment. If a light is activated on an already overloaded circuit, it can cause a drop in power sufficient to make a radio inoperative, or cause the electrical wires to become so hot that they actually burn, then a direct short is placed in the circuit causing either damage to the generator or other equipment in the same circuit, or a fire in the camp area. This can be costly in equipment and possibly in lives.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a Program of Instruction be prepared on generator operation and maintenance and presented to selected personnel. A recommended wiring diagram and power distribution schematic should be presented with this instruction explaining why it is necessary and how to compute power consumption in order to balance the phases of the generators. Radio operators in most areas have the responsibility of operating and maintaining the generators. This instruction could be given to them in conjunction with the Combat Orientation Course (COC). A small team could go to selected areas and instruct personnel on site. The overall effect of this program would cut down on cost of repairs, increase the useful life span of generators and electrical equipment, and in many cases insure that the team will have necessary power to communicate more efficiently.

1. Medical: Medevac Reaction Time.

(1) OBSERVATION: Medevac reaction times have exceeded acceptable limits in many cases, resulting in undue hazard to patients.

(2) EVALUATION: The medevac system has not always reacted as quickly as could be desired. However, this has not always been the fault of the particular Air Ambulance Company involved. Medevac is a flexible system that should be adjusted according to the tactical situation. Units in the

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of 5th Special Forces
Group (Abn) for the Period Ending 31 October 1969 PCS
CSFOR-65 (R2)

field are responsible for reporting the effectiveness of medevac. Unfortunately, the shortages of medevac usually only become apparent at the expense of actual patients.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: The unit medical operations officer of the unit supported by a particular medevac system, should be delegated the responsibility of medevac coordination. This is most effectively accomplished through coordination with the particular Air Ambulance Company and USARV Medical Group controlling all medevac in the given CTZ. This direct coordination should anticipate problems as well as report those already in existence. Only in this way can medevac obtain maximum effectiveness for the benefit of the unit being served.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



9 Incl

Incls 2, 6, 8 and 9 wd HQ, DA

P.B. MERRICK
LTC, Infantry
Adjutant

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AVHCC-DST (14 Nov 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 5th Special Forces Group (Abn)
for the Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, 12 JAN 1970
APO 96558

Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons
Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1969 from Headquarters,
5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces.

2. (C) Comments follow:

a. (U) Reference item concerning "Logistics", page 44, paragraph
1h(2)(b). The bearing kits, FSN 2530-887-1348, referred to in basic letter
are in short supply throughout the command. Additional supplies of these
bearings are expected to be released in CONUS in late November 1969. The
Inventory Control Center, Vietnam is taking action to expedite their delivery
from CONUS.

b. (U) Reference item concerning "Personnel Management (AOR)", page
62, paragraph 1k(4). Experience this headquarters indicates that personnel
in grades E1-E6, special and non-special category included, who were initially
reported on the basic AOR, will normally receive their assignment instructions
at least 30-60 days prior to DEROS. Delay in receipt of assignment instruc-
tions may occur when individuals are reported as late additions to this head-
quarters. All assignment instructions that are received by this headquarters
are forwarded to major subordinate commands within 48 hours after receipt.

c. (C) Reference item concerning "Agent Production", page 81, para-
graph 2b(5); concur. Units and organizations utilizing agents must have a
systematic method of evaluation to insure only productive personnel are retained.
Unproductive agents are a constant problem to covert operations necessitating
continual testing and evaluation.

d. (U) Reference item concerning "Airboat Operations", page 82, para-
graph 2c(1); concur. As the primary user of air boats in Vietnam, the 5th
SFG should conduct this feasibility study in conjunction with their normal
operations.

e. (U) Reference item concerning "Combat Engineer (12B45)", page 87,
paragraph 2e(4); nonconcur. The MOS description for MOS 12B40 contained in
AR 611-201 does not include a requirement for the Combat Engineer to be
qualified in electrical wiring and circuitry or in generator maintenance.
If such additional qualifications are required, training should be provided
within the Special Forces training program provided under ATP 33-300 at the
John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

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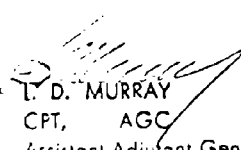
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AVHGC-DST (14 Nov 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 5th Special Forces Group (Abn)
for the Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

- f. (U) Reference item concerning "Mobile radio teletype support", page 88, paragraph 2g. Radio Sets AN/GRC-122 or AN/GRC-142 will be included in MTOE presently being prepared by the 5th Special Forces.
- g. (U) Reference item concerning "Cement Capping of Sandbagged Bunkers", page 89, paragraph 2i(1); nonconcur. Application of a cement covering over sandbags is not recommended. The strike of a projectile on the cemented surface will cause spalling which may present additional hazards to the bunker occupants. In addition, the cemented surface will tend to conceal any structural failure or void caused by sandbag deterioration or by water intrusion.
- h. (U) Reference item concerning "Cement Block Construction in Lieu of Wood", page 89, paragraph 2i(2); concur. USARV is procuring two concrete block plants to provide concrete blocks for use in future construction.
- i. (U) Reference item concerning "POI on Generator Operation, Maintenance and Power Distribution System", page 90, paragraph 2i(3); concur. Implementation of the recommendation is within the capability of the 31st Engineer Detachment, 5th Special Forces Group.
- j. (U) Reference item concerning "Medevac Reaction Time", page 90, paragraph 2j; concur. Direct coordination between supported unit and supporting air ambulance unit is standard procedure in the aeromedical evacuation system. Through this coordination the air ambulance unit commander is able to make maximum utilization of available aircraft and provide the widest possible coverage from assets under his command. No action is deemed necessary at this as the aeromedical system provides for the recommended coordination however, it will be included on the agenda of the next USARV Surgeon's semi-annual conference.
3. Items concerning aviation and operations on pages 40, 41, 82 and 83 will be forwarded to MACV J3-07 for consideration.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


L. D. MURRAY
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
5th SFG
MACV

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GPOP-DT (9 Dec 69) 2d Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne),
1st Special Forces for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS
CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 29 JAN 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

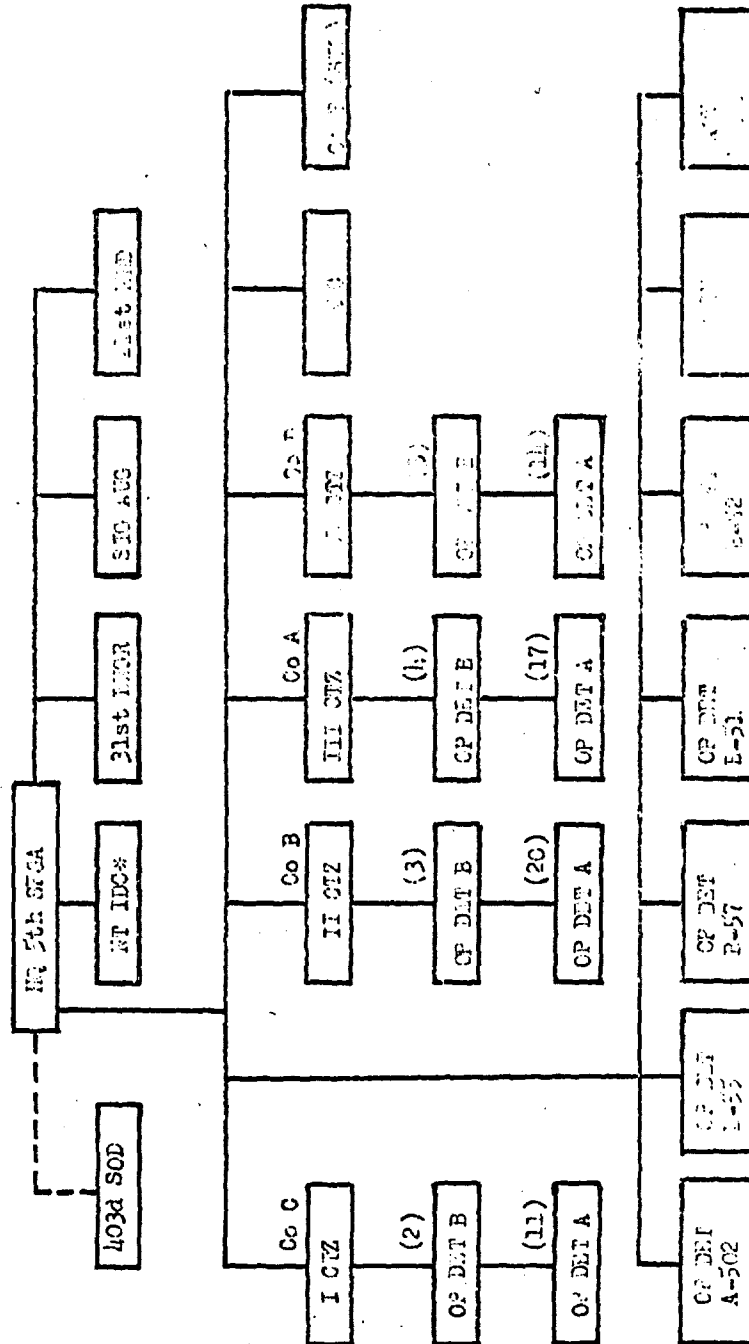
FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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Incl 1 to 5th SFGA ORL for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1969

5th SFGA ORL for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1969



*----- 2d SFGA Installation Defense Co.
 ----- 2d SFGA
 ----- AS signed

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TROOP DISPOSITION LIST - I CTZ										ETHNIC GROUPS	VN
DET	LOCATION	COORD	DATE	OPENED	CSF	RF	PF	NSF	MISSION		
					NO	NO	NO				
C-1	Danang	BT07527193	Sep 62	200	59				C&C	VN	VN/MONT/CHI
B-11	Chu Lai	BT53400306	Aug 69					790	C&C	VN	VN/MONT
B-16	Danang	BT07527193	May 68						C&C	VN	VN/MONT
A-101	Mai Loc	ID09505151	Jun 68						CSF	VN	VN/MONT
A-102	Hien Phuc	BT10571435	Nov 65						CSF/SS	VN	VN/MONT
A-104	Ha Thanh	BS38657005	Apr 65			193	246		CSF	VN	VN/MONT
A-105	Nong Son	AT81483834	Jun 68						CSF/SS	VN	VN/MONT
A-106	Ba To	BS55783262	Mar 65						CSF	VN	VN/MONT
*A-107	Gia Vuc	BS37752710	Feb 63						CSF/SS	VN	VN/MONT
A-107	Tra Bong	BS34548838	Mar 65						CSF/SS	VN	VN/MONT
A-108	Minh Long	BS53555099	Mar 66			86	210		CSF/SS	VN	VN/MONT
A-109	Thuong Duc	BC14175324	Apr 66			311			CSF	VN	VN/MONT
TOTAL					3645	281	456	790			
II CTZ											
C-2	Pleiku	AR76515021	Oct 62		125				C&C	MCNT	MCNT
B-20	Pleiku	AR76515021	Nov 67					3010	MSF	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
B-23	Ban Ke Thuot	AQ78000400	Nov 64		104				C&C	MCNT	MCNT
A-231	Tieu Atar	ZV02206235	De 67		479				CSF/BS	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
A-233	Trang Phuc	ZV03662671	Sep 66		556				CSF/BS	MCNT	MCNT
A-234	An Lac	AP86474847	May 65		570				CSF	MCNT	MCNT
A-235	Nhon Co	YU80402505	May 66		537				CSF/BS	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
A-236	Bu Prang	YU48895610	Oct 67		412				CSF/BS	MCNT/CAMP	MCNT/CAMP
A-239	Duc Lap	YU91327513	Nov 66		411				CSF/BS	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
B-24	Kontum	AR77508920	Jan 66		112				C&C	MCNT	MCNT
A-241	Polei Kleng	ZA03269330	Mar 66		356				CSF/BS	MCNT	MCNT
A-242	Dak Pek	YB94976842	Nov 62		608				CSF/BS	MCNT	MCNT
*A-111	Plateau Gi	ES08651555	Jan 65		457				CSF	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
A-244	Ben Het	YB87242566	May 68		500				CSF/BS	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
A-245	Dak Seang	YB89594051	Jul 66		405				CSF/BS	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
A-246	Mang Buk	AS98411180	Jul 64		432				CSF	MCNT	MCNT
A-251	Plei Djereng	YA87454590	Dec 65		540				CSF/BS	MCNT	MCNT
*A-113	Plei Nrong	ZAL1256700	Nov 62		511				CSF	VN/MONT/LACS/CHI	VN/MONT/LACS/CHI
A-253	Duc Co	YA84602493	Jun 62		442				CSF/BS	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
A-255	Plei Me	ZAL6240592	Oct 63		591				CSF/BS	VN/MONT	VN/MONT
TOTAL					818			3010			
* - VNSF Camps											

Incl 3 to 5th SFGA ORLL for Period Ending 31 October 1969

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TROOP DISPOSITION LIST - (CGCT)

DET	LOCATION	COORD	DATE OPENED	III CTZ		NO PF	NO PF	NO PF	MISSION	ETHNIC GROUPS
				CSF	PF					
C-3	Bien Hoa	YT00901270	Nov 64	100					CAC	CAMB
A-301	Trang Sup	XT16505555	Feb 63	530					CSF/TC	VN/CAMB
B-32	Tay Ninh	XT20455087	Dec 67	100					CAC	VN/MONT/CAMB/CHI
*A-136	Ben Soi	XT09301740	Mar 64	623					CSF/BS	VN/MONT/CAMB/CHI
A-322	Katum	XT32998977	Feb 68	443					CSF/BS	VN/MONT/CAMB
A-323	Thien Ngon	XT07680159	Feb 68	443					RR	VN
A-324	Nui Ba Den	XT28105820	Jul 64	440					CSF/BS	VN/CAMB/CHI
A-325	Duc Hue	XT32000880	Nov 67	505					CSF/BS	VN/CAMB
A-326	Tra Cu	XS47709845	Jan 67	99					CAC	VN/MONT/CAMB
B-33	Hon Quan	XT75768123	Mar 68	574					NSF/EC	VN/MONT/CAMB/CHI
A-331	Loc Ninh	XT73130823	Dec 66	375					CSF	VN/MONT/CAMB
A-332	Ming Thanh	XT64356682	Feb 64	394					CSF/BS	VN/MONT/CAMB
A-333	Chi Ling	XT92160735C	Jan 67	521					CAC	VN/MONT/CAMB
A-334	Tong Le Chon	XT62228109	Nov 67	98					CAC	VN/MONT/CAMB
B-34	Song Be	XT19000968	Nov 67	433					CSF/BS/ES	VN/MONT/CAMB
A-341	Bu Dop	XT97452920	Nov 62	392					CSF/BS	VN/MONT/CAMB
A-342	Daog Xoai	YT07647597	Jun 65	522					CSF/BS	VN/MONT/CAMB
A-343	Duc Phong	YT043900180	Apr 66	250					CSF	VN/MONT/CAMB
A-344	Bunard	YT27108770	Apr 67	6824					CSF	VN/MONT/CAMB/CHI
B-36	Long Hai	YSL3805153	Sep 67	2208					CSF	VN/MONT/CAMB/CHI
TOTAL				6824						

DET	LOCATION	COORD	DATE OPENED	IV CTZ		NO PF	NO PF	NO PF	MISSION	ETHNIC GROUPS
				CSF	PF					
C-4	Can Tho	XS84301160	Jan 63	194					CAC	VN/CAMB/CHI
B-40	Can Tho	XS84301160	Mar 68	51					CAC	VN/CAMB/CHI
B-41	Koc Hoa	XS03050901	Feb 65	574					CSF	VN/CAMB
A-411	My Phuoc Tay	XS20065904	Feb 67	533					CSF	VN
*A-414	Kinh Quan II	XS97657585	Oct 65	510					CSF/BS	VN/CAMB
A-413	Binh Than Thon	XT86180331	May 65	572					CSF/TC	VN/CAMB/MONT/CHI
A-414	Thanh Tri	XS05759953	Mar 68	541					CSF/BS	VN/CAMB
A-415	Tuyen Nhon	XS27877758	Apr 65	483					CSF/BS	VN/CAMB
A-416	My Dien II	XS36506050	Jan 68	895					CSF/BS	VN/CAMB
A-421	Ba Xoai	XS95598279	May 66	728					CSF/BS	VN/CAMB/CHI
*A-419	Vinh Gia	VS75227090	Aug 64	53					CSF/BS	CAMB/VN
B-43	Chi Lang	WS69515616	Feb 67	659					CSF/BS	VN/CAMB
A-431	Cai Cai	WT56160750	Apr 65							
* - VNSF Camps										

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TROOP DISPOSITION LIST - IV CTZ (CONT)

DET	LOCATION	COORD	DATE OPENED	NO CSF	NO RF	NO PF	NO MSF	MISSION	ETHNIC GROUPS
A-432	Thuong Thoi	WS31359555	May 66	519				CSF/BS	VN/CAMB/MONT/CHI
A-433	Ky Da	WS39956205	Mar 67	618				CSF	VN/CAMB/CHI
A-442	To Chau	WS45604552	Mar 68	190				PC	VN/CAMB/CHI
	TOTALS			7447					
B-51	Dong Ba Thin	CP04002900		445					VN/MONT/CAMB
B-52	Nha Trang	CP03105180		194					VN/MONT/CAMB/LAOS/CHI
B-55	Nha Trang	CP03105180							MONT/CHI
A-502	Trung Dung	BP93705571		1278					VN/MONT
Recondo	Nha Trang	CP03105180		182					VN
IFC	Nha Trang	CP03105180							
Co E	Nha Trang	CP03105180							
CLD	Saigon	XS05309245							
	TOTALS			2099					

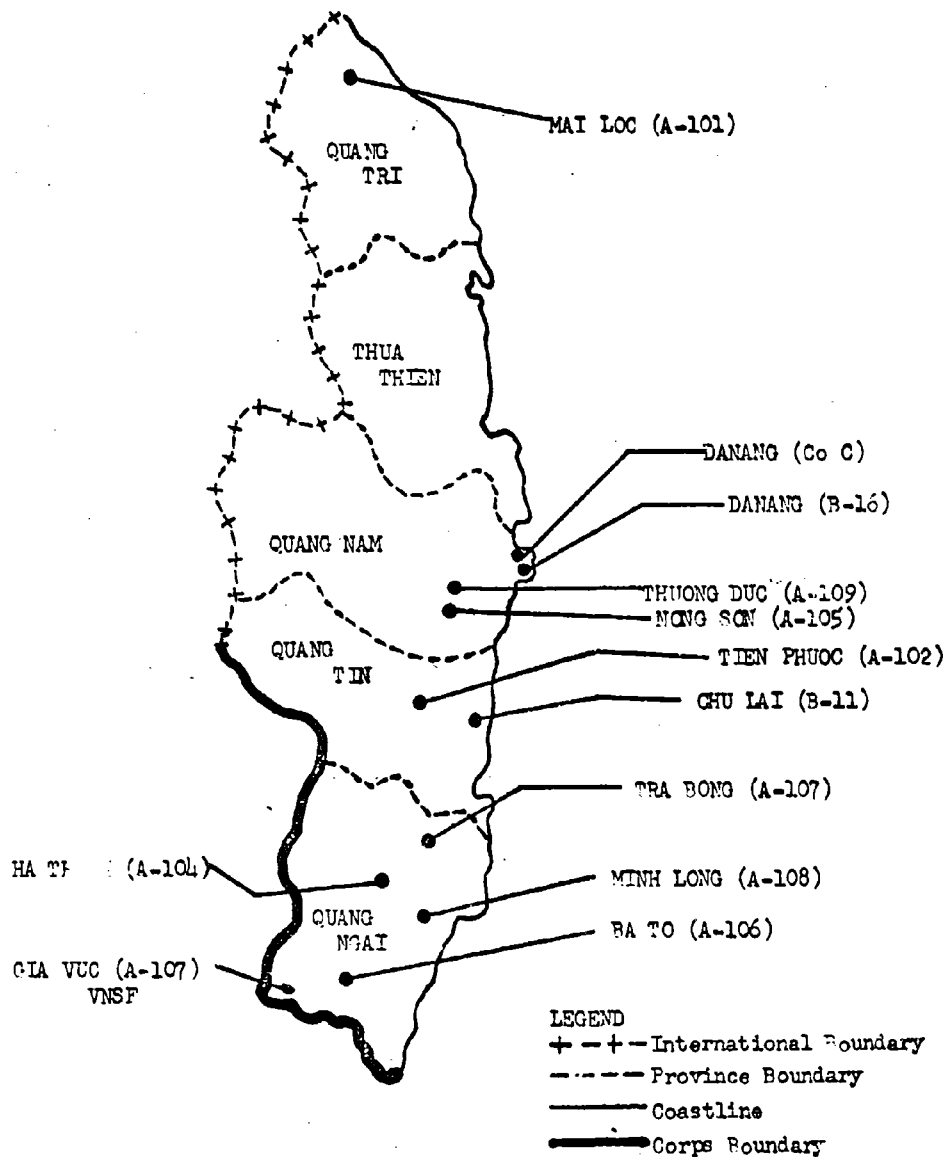
LEGEND:

CSF - Camp Strike Force	VN - Vietnamese
RF - Regional Force	CAMB - Cambodian
PF - Popular Force	MONT - Montagnard
MSF - Mobile Strike Force	CHI - Chinese
BS - Border Surveillance	LAOS - Laotian
S/SS - Sector/Sub-sector	CC - Command and Control
RR - Radio Relay	TC - Training Center

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I Corps Tactical Zone

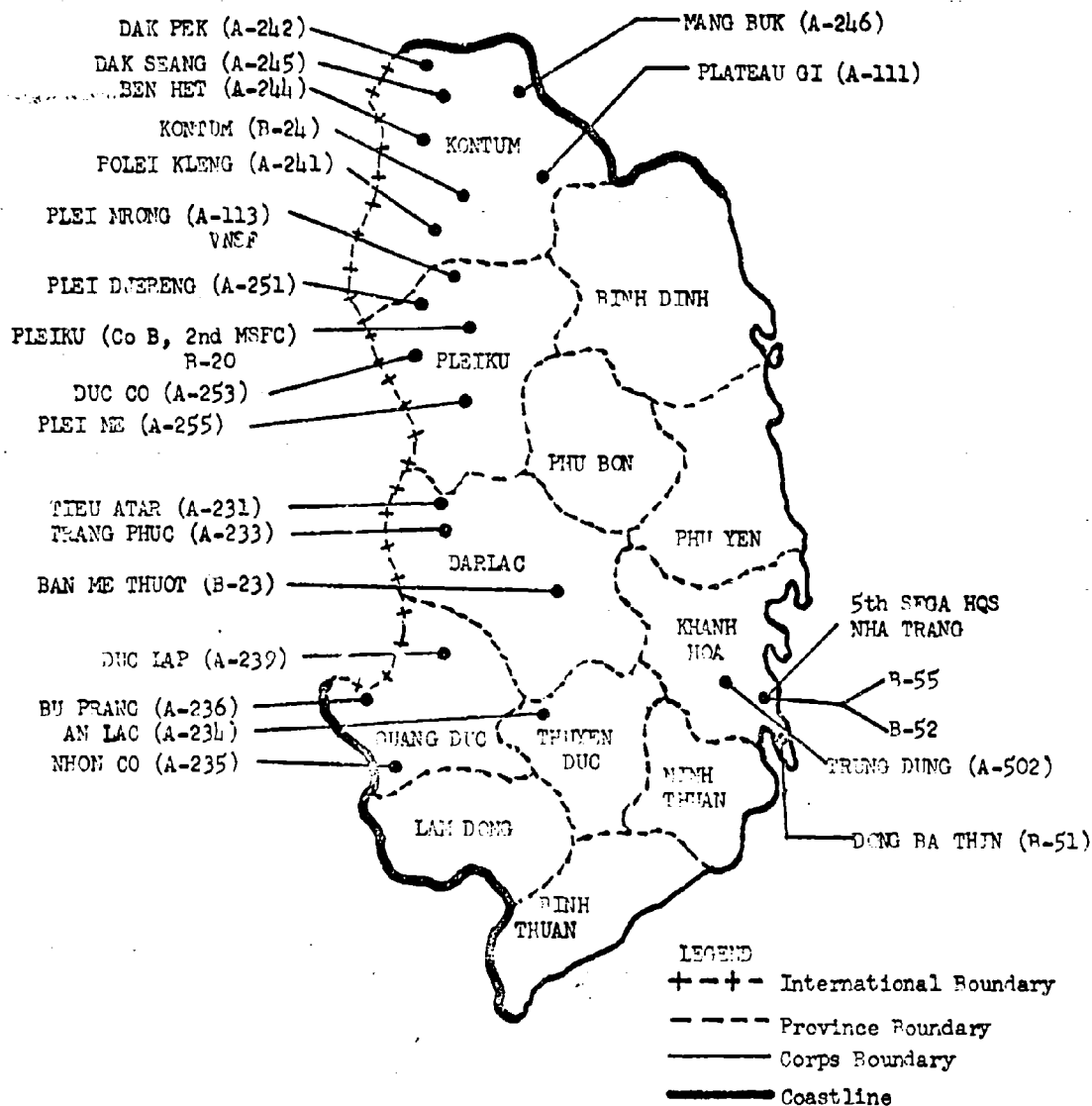


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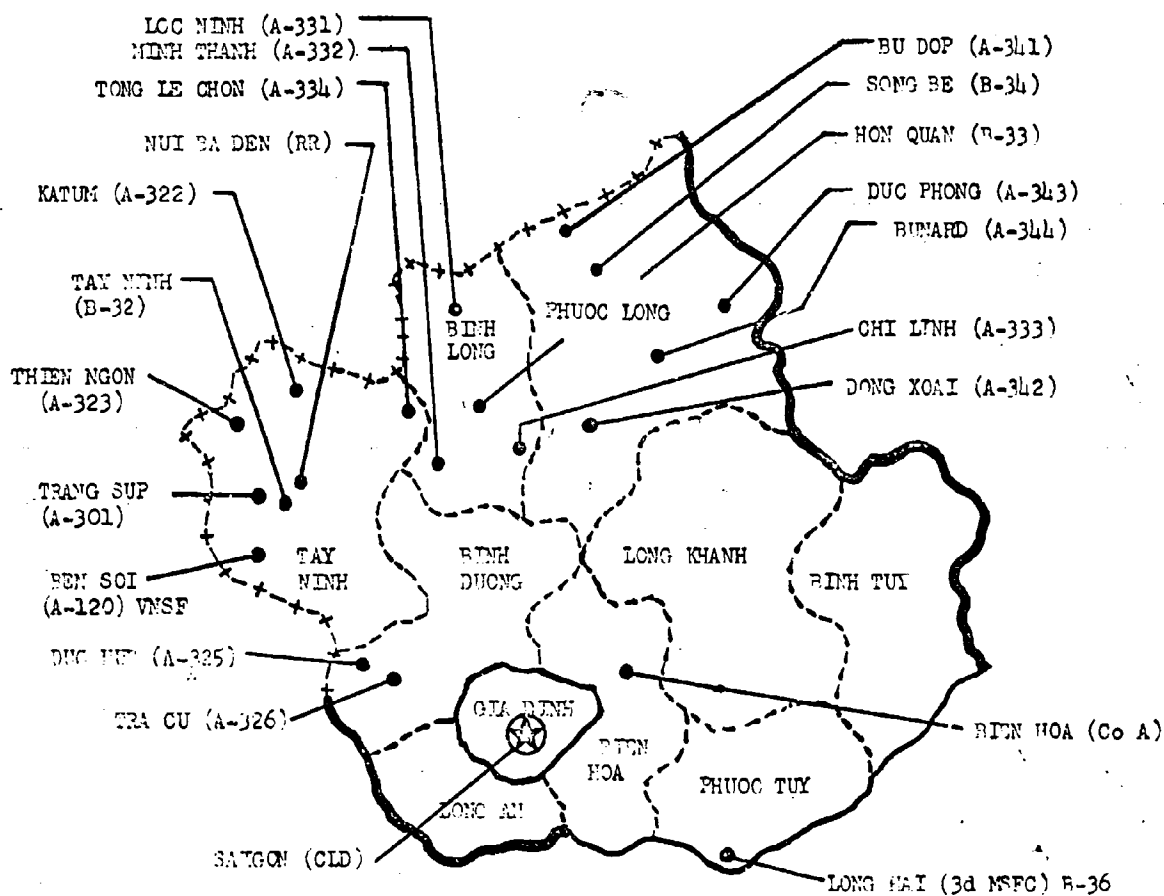
II Corps Tactical Zone



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III Corps Tactical Zone



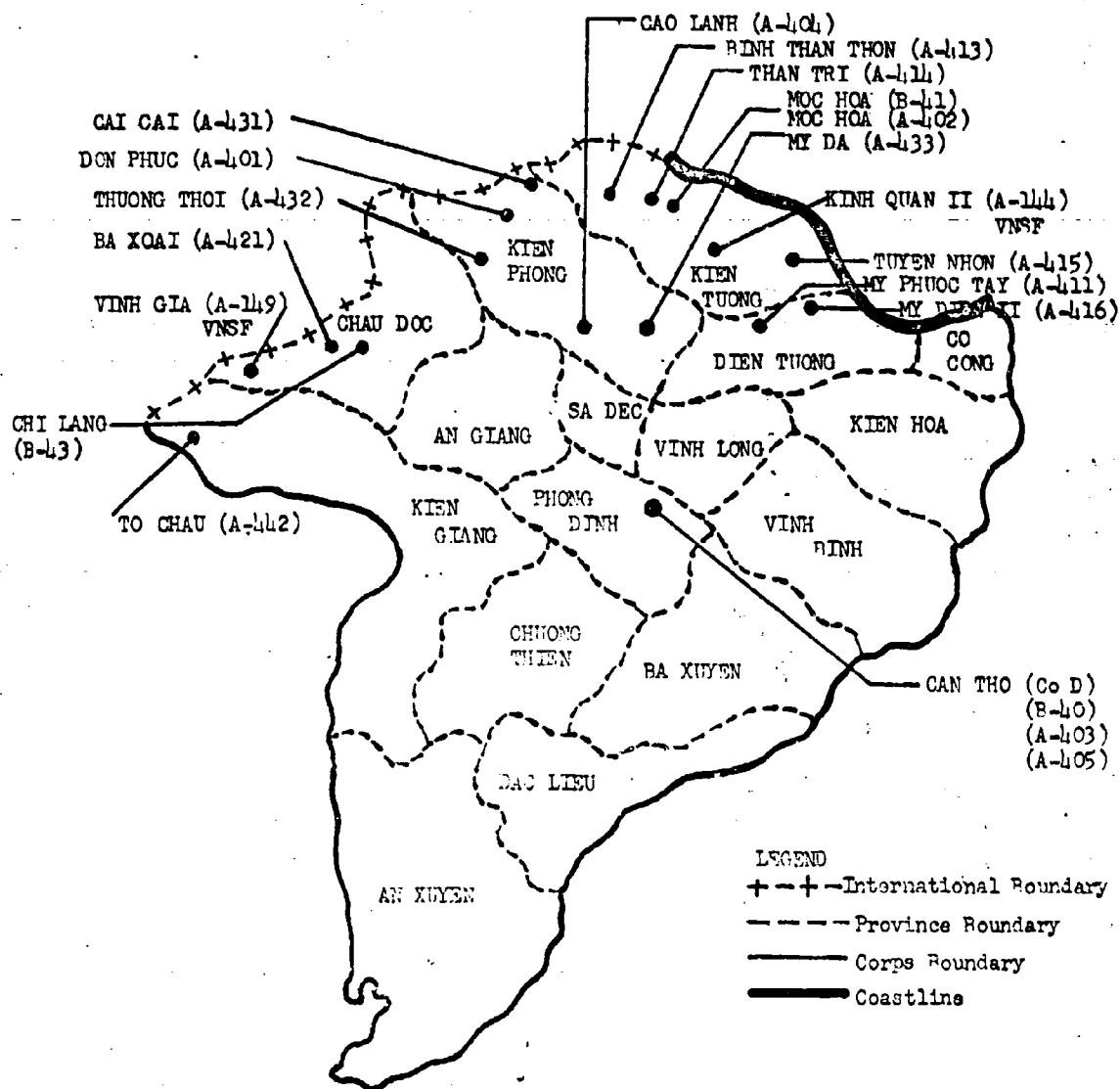
LEGEND

- + - + - International Boundary
- - - Province Boundary
- Corps Boundary
- Coastline

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IV Corps Tactical Zone



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STATISTICAL DATA

1. (C) Missions:	I CTZ	II CTZ	III CTZ	IV CTZ	SD	PF/PF	TOTAL
a. Squad	1653	4734	507	4335	36	409	11,674
b. Platoon	1086	1709	1500	5141	4	109	9,549
c. Company or Larger	236	265	507	1312	6	46	2,372
2. (C) Contacts:							
a. Fr initiated	114	122	150	135	54	34	609
b. VC initiated	26	60	129	77	42	5	339
c. Incidents	83	29	108	11	4	2	236
3. (C) Confirmed enemy losses:							
a. KIA	307	194	334	267	31	20	923
b. Cptr	20	33	14	61	0	0	128
c. Quarterly Comparison of Confirmed Enemy Losses Country-Wide:							
	<u>KIA</u>	<u>CPTR</u>					
Aug - Oct 68	2472	233					
Nov - Jan 69	1442	302					
Feb - Apr 69	2095	147					
May - Jul 69	1466	85					
Aug - Oct 69	1133	128					
4. (C) USASF Losses:							
a. KIA	0	1	5	1	0		7
b. WIA	9	1	40	7	1		58
c. MIA	0	0	1	0	0		1

Incl 5 to 5th SFGA ORLL for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1969.

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STATISTICAL DATA (CONT)

(d) Quarterly comparison of USASF casualties country-wide:

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Nov - Jan 69	10	67	0	77
Feb - Apr 69	19	141	3	163
May - Jul 69	18	86	2	106
Aug - Oct 69	7	58	1	66

5. (C) VNSF Losses:

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>CTZ</u>	<u>CTZ</u>	<u>CTZ</u>	<u>CTZ</u>		
a. KIA	0	0	1	1	0	2
b. WIA	4	0	6	6	10	26
c. MIA	0	0	0	0	0	0

d. Quarterly comparison of VNSF casualties country-wide:

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Nov - Jan 69	10	22	0	32
Feb - Apr 69	23	99	3	125
May - Jul 69	5	31	1	37
Oct 69	2	26	0	28

6. (C) CIDG Losses:

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>CTZ</u>	<u>CTZ</u>	<u>CTZ</u>	<u>CTZ</u>		
a. KIA	22	17	89	85	0	213
b. WIA	120	61	553	239	11	984
c. MIA	0	0	52	0	0	53

d. Quarterly comparison of CIDG casualties country-wide:

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Nov - Jan 69	273	894	28	1195
Feb - Apr 69	283	1618	50	2051
May - Jul 69	292	1370	27	1689
Aug - Oct 69	215	984	53	1250

7. (C) RF/PF Losses: I CTZ Only

a. KIA	4
b. WIA	5
c. MIA	0

d. Quarterly comparison of RF/PF casualties country-wide.

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Nov - Jan 69	6	23	0	29
Feb - Apr 69	6	4	1	11
May - Jul 69	3	3	2	8
Aug - Oct 69	4	5	0	9

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STATISTICAL DATA (CONT)

8. (C) Weapons:	<u>I</u> <u>CTZ</u>	<u>II</u> <u>CTZ</u>	<u>III</u> <u>CTZ</u>	<u>IV</u> <u>CTZ</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>RF/PF</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
a. Frndly Wpns lost	1	15	103	49	0	0	138
b. Wpns Capt	130	78	216	154	69	0	597

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE), 1ST SPECIAL FORCES
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96240

AVGB-CP

27 August 1969

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned - Camp Conversions (U)

See Distribution

1. (U) GENERAL: The purpose of this letter is to provide information and guidance to subordinate detachments in the conversion of CIDG to Regional Forces Status.

2. (U) BACKGROUND: Since May 1963 several attempts have been made to convert CIDG troops to RF. These attempts have experienced varying degrees of success. In late 1965 a joint planning conference established general procedures governing subsequent and future conversions. As a result of this conference, MACV/JCS Combined Directive 001/67 was written which was to be the guide for all elements to follow in CIDG camp conversions. Since the first CIDG camp converted in Aug 66 utilizing these procedures, conversions have been successful without a single failure. The ideal cycle for pacification of a sector (province) includes several phases. During Phase One of the CIDG effort, USASF A-Detachments organize CIDG camps to establish security, utilizing the role of advisors to the VNSF and in some cases, advisors to the subsector commanders (district chief) in geographically remote areas of Vietnam. A USASF B-Detachment controls the A-Detachments and serves as the focal point for coordination of the overall effort to establish security. When security has been established, the government apparatus energized, and the RF effectively trained and supported, then CIDG are gradually converted to Regional Forces with minimal loss of effectiveness. During this phase, the USASF and the VNSF are progressively withdrawn from the camp. When conversion has been successfully accomplished, the USASF team can be redeployed to another area to begin a similar cycle of pacification. The conversion from CIDG to RF is only one step in the total pacification process and due to the criticality of this step, 5th SFGA endeavors to constantly seek methods of internal improvements in the camp conversion cycle.

3. (C) SIGNIFICANT LESSONS LEARNED:

a. Utilization of Conversion Checklist/Guide.

(1) OBSERVATION: During the period 1 Jan - 30 June 69, six CIDG camps

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were in the 90 day conversion cycle. Although all six camps were successful, several problems were encountered that had been experienced in past conversions and were documented in Corrected Copy of the CIDG Conversion Procedure Checklist/Guide, dated 3 March 1969.

(2) EVALUATION: The CIDG Conversion Procedures Checklist/Guide was developed from MACV/JGS Directive 004/67 to provide information and guidance to personnel involved in the conversion process. This document provides detailed guidelines encompassing the entire scope of the conversion process and assists in the orderly transition from CIDG to RF status. Utilization of the Checklist/Guide will eliminate the majority of problems associated with conversion.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Each individual concerned with the conversion process become intimately familiar with the CIDG Conversion Checklist/Guide. Conversion project officers designated by the C and B-Detachment commander involved, should be appointed upon receipt of the conversion order to monitor the conversion effort. These officers should not be changed until C-Day is completed and should be of sufficient rank to successfully establish an effective rapport with other agencies.

b. Attitude of USASF Toward Conversion.

(1) OBSERVATION: Some USASF personnel have acquired a negative attitude towards conversion, thus hampering the conversion effort and causing undue hardships in accomplishing the mission.

(2) EVALUATION: A positive, enthusiastic and a professional "Special Forces" attitude tends to motivate all personnel involved in the conversion process. A professional approach by professional soldiers will always accomplish the mission with outstanding results. In reality, conversion from CIDG to RF is a clear indication that Special Forces has accomplished its mission in a given sector by establishing an acceptable degree of security and pacification and by assisting the Government of Vietnam in expanding its influence to previously denied areas.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Command emphasis should be placed on the importance of camp conversion efforts. The Company Commanders deliver the conversion Letter of Instruction to each affected B and A-Detachment to insure that each individual concerned is properly briefed on Special Forces past accomplishments and the task that is presently at hand.

c. Attitude of VNSF Toward Conversion.

(1) OBSERVATION: It has been evident that some VNSF personnel have had less than a desirable attitude toward converting from CIDG to RF and as a result have added additional burdens to the conversion effort.

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(2) EVALUATION: The VNSF must be completely informed in regards to the conversion cycle. When the VNSF are unaware of their future assignment and do not know the mechanics of conversion, they tend to possess a negative attitude toward the conversion program.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Each USASF individual concerned with conversion must do his share to properly insure that his counterpart is thoroughly familiar with the mechanics of conversion and that he is cognizant of the overall mission in pacification.

d. Property Inventory.

(1) OBSERVATION: Delayed property inventories have held up requisitions of TOE shortages from the appropriate ALC and submission of proposed camp TA's.

(2) EVALUATION: Timely camp property inventories will ensure that this portion of the conversion process is completed. This inventory must be accomplished during the C-120 to C-110 time frame, prior to requisitions being submitted for TOE shortages and the submission of proposed TA's.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: The conversion procedures as established in Section I of the Conversion Checklist/Guide be followed to accomplish required logistical actions.

e. Civilian Personnel.

(1) OBSERVATION: Civilian personnel, unsure of their employment after conversion, have tried to spoil the conversion effort.

(2) EVALUATION: Civilian employees; interpreters, translators, medics, mechanics, etc., are extremely important in the conversion effort. They can greatly assist the USASF in motivating the VNSF/CMDG and displaying the "sense of urgency and purpose" attitude.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: The USASF should go all out to motivate the civilian employees and assist them in securing employment after the conversion cycle.

f. Administrative Documentation.

(1) OBSERVATION: Documentation for CMDG personnel converting to RF status has, in some cases, not been completed prior to C-Day. The ID cards for the troops have posed no problems, but ID cards, birth certificates and marriage certificates for dependents have been difficult to complete on time. Documentation is particularly difficult when the majority of CMDG are Montagnards, since more Montagnards do not possess personal or family documentation.

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(2) EVALUATION: Proper documentation for CIDG troops and dependents is probably the single most important motivation factor to the individual soldier in the conversion cycle. This is the first indication of ARVN's capability to take care of the convertes. The concepts of citizenship and responsibility to a local government may be alien to these soldiers.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That a briefing be given immediately after the Conversion Order is received informing the CIDG what documentation will be required of the individual and dependents, that the sector commander is responsible for documentation, and what will occur during the conversion cycle. The VNSF and USASF should make every attempt to coordinate a continuous effort on documentation at district and province levels. Documentation should be completed NLT C-20.

g. Rank Assimilation.

(1) OBSERVATION: Rank assimilation, in some camps, has been a VNSF unilateral effort.

(2) EVALUATION: Rank assimilation, if developed by a joint VNSF/USASF/CIDG commanders conference, tends to improve the CIDG morale and indicate that each man is receiving fair consideration.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: A conference be called at the VNSF A-Detachment for the purpose of developing the rank assimilation roster for submission. The assimilation should be agreed upon by the VNSF, the USASF and each CIDG unit commander. Past experience has proven that the rank assimilations are returned as submitted. Rank assimilations should be submitted as soon as possible after the conversion order is received to allow sufficient time for processing. Regardless of the situation, rank assimilation lists must be submitted prior to C-75.

h. Camp Conversion Classes.

(1) OBSERVATION: Occasionally, CIDG are arbitrarily selected by VNSF to give classes on Camp Conversion. Classes include the reasons for conversion to RF, the advantages of RF, RF pay scales, benefits, etc.

(2) EVALUATION: Selection of unmotivated and unknowledgeable CIDG to give classes on Camp Conversion, just to fill a requirement, results in a loss of interest and enthusiasm for the program.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That CIDG not give classes on Camp Conversion unless they are properly motivated. Good men should be selected to give these classes.

1. Deception Involving Enlistment Statements.

(1) OBSERVATION: In one camp, CIDG personnel were deceived into signing

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an enlistment statement by being led to believe that the statement was a "laundry statement".

(2) EVALUATION: Deception of this nature causes contempt and works counter to the overall objectives of the conversion program. The CIDG soldier will accept RF status if he receives the proper motivation preparation and psychological indoctrination.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: CIDG personnel should be given a complete orientation on the RF, the benefits derived from being an RF soldier, and the importance of RF to GVN. A major effort should be directed towards winning the support of the leaders in the existing CIDG structure.

j. Conversion Status Reporting.

(1) OBSERVATION: Conflicting conversion status reports have been received by COMUSMACV from the various elements involved in the conversion process. Information concerning the percentage of personnel recruited, ID Cards, Dependent ID Cards, Birth Certificates, Marriage Certificates and Medical Examinations completed, have often varied according to the element submitting the report.

(2) EVALUATION: Correct status reports, forwarded through channels to reflect the actual status, is one of the keys to conversion success and will serve to keep all elements involved in the conversion procedures informed. Correct information enables higher headquarters to properly evaluate their support efforts and points out weaknesses in the system and where further support is required.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Prior to submitting a report, coordinate with respective counterparts to insure no discrepancies exist and all reports reflect the accurate status of conversion. Each USARF A-Detachment will submit a weekly conversion status report through channels to CO, 5th SFGA, ATTN: AVGB-C VLT Thursday of each week using the following format:

- (a) Training - What training other than PSYOPS and MAI is being conducted to prepare the CIDG for RF status?
- (b) Recruiting - How many CIDG soldiers have enlisted from the total assigned? Recruiting goal is _____.
- (c) Personnel: Nr of CIDG ID Cards processed.
Nr of CIDG Dependents ID Cards processed.
Nr of CIDG Birth Certificates processed.
Nr of CIDG Dependent Birth Certificates processed.
Nr of CIDG Marriage Licenses processed.
Nr of CIDG Medical Examination processed.

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(d) Property and Equipment Inventory and Turnover:

Status of initial inventory.

Status of equipment turnover to ARVN.

Status of equipment turnover to MACV.

(e) Backloading of Equipment: Current status and planned backloading.

(f) Intelligence Data and Net Transfer: Current status.

(g) Psychological Preparation, Motivation and Indoctrination: PSYOPS and M&I training conducted during week.

(h) Rank Assimilation: Wt. submitted and current status.

(i) MACV & ARVN Team: Nr of MACV Advisory team officers authorized and PDY.

Nr of MACV advisory team EM authorized and PDY.

Nr of ARVN officers authorized and PDY.

Nr of ARVN EM authorized and PDY.

(j) Problem areas within capabilities of camp personnel: Self explanatory.

(k) Problem area requiring assistance from higher headquarters: Self explanatory.

k. Leadership and Technical Skill Training.

(1) OBSERVATION: Obvious areas of training are not being given sufficient consideration and tend to leave a leadership and technical skill vacuum after conversion.

(2) EVALUATION: Before conversion can take place, certain leadership and technical skill training must be accomplished. The function under RT differs from that of CUDG units. These differences must be determined and provisions made for the training required. This is a MACV team responsibility but the US SF A-Detachment commander may find it necessary to remind the MACV team chief of his responsibility and assist him as necessary.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Technical training for radio operators, clerks, armorers, and administrative and maintenance personnel should be integrated with the conversion process to the maximum extent possible. Training should be planned to extend into the period immediately following the conversion.

1. MACV Advisory Team Transition.

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(1) OBSERVATION: The MACV advisory team is not being properly transitioned into the conversion effort and generally assumes no responsibility until C-Day.

(2) EVALUATION: The MACV advisory team is programmed to be on site C-60 so that a unified, determined and knowledgeable effort can be made to effect a successful conversion. It is imperative that the new advisors be permitted and encouraged to participate in all phases of camp functions prior to C-Day.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: USASF A-Detachment personnel must provide the MACV advisory team with a complete working orientation and assist at every opportunity in allowing the MACV team to assume the advisory effort as rapidly as possible. Particular emphasis should be placed on MACV personnel accompanying USASF personnel on combat operations to become familiar with the camp TAOR and the soldiers with whom they will be working after C-Day.

m. Backloading of Equipment.

(1) OBSERVATION: Backloading of Special Forces equipment has been a recurring problem due to numerous difficulties with MACV and ARVN getting the TA's approval, obtaining TOE shortages and the arrival of the MACV subsector kit.

(2) EVALUATION: Backloading of Special Forces equipment must be accomplished prior to C-Day or a temporary loan arrangement made of equipment that is to be left behind. Experience has shown that the USASF backloading must be flexible. Coordination at all levels must be effected to attempt to eliminate excessive turbulence.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Once backloading is begun, C and B-Detachment CO's must provide close supervision and monitoring of the backloading. Reports through parallel channels, to higher headquarters, expeditiously submitted are required and will serve as the key to success in backloading.

n. Conversion Ceremonies.

(1) OBSERVATION: USASF have become involved in arranging portions of past camp ceremonies.

(2) EVALUATION: The ceremonies are not a USASF function and USASF personnel should not become involved in any way unless requested to assist in some particular aspect of the ceremony. The conversion ceremony is primarily an ARVN/MACV affair.

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(3) RECOMMENDATION: USASF should not become involved in coordinating or arranging for the camp conversion ceremonies unless requested to do so by ARVN/ACV.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

/s/Clifford R. Kuhl
/o/CLIFFORD R. KUHL
CPT, Infantry
Asst Adj

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