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OPERATION ORDER # 376-68

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 1ST FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY (REIN)  
 PHU BAI, R PUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 151500H Aug 1968

Ref: (a) Map(s), VIETNAM, Sheet(s) 6641 III  
 (b) 1stReconBn0 P 03000.4  
 (c) 1stMarDiv0 P3800.1F (Intelligence SOP)  
 (d) 1stMarDiv0 P003330.2 (Rules of Engagement)  
 (e) CoFragOrder msg #376-68

149968

Unit/Call Sign: F-5 (STONE PIT) Patrol Leader: SGT THOMPSON

1. Situation. (a) See current INTSUM'S  
 (b) See current OPSUM'S and PIR'S (S-2/S-3)  
 (c) Attachments: NONE

2. Mission. Conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations within your assigned HAVEN to detect possible VC/NVA troop movement or arms infiltration in the vicinity of the Dong Top. Particular emphasis is to be placed on fixing and locating enemy storage areas, fortifications (trench lines, bunkers), harbor sites and the direction and traffic-ability of trails in the area. Emphasis is also to be placed on setting up an ambush and capture a prisoner if possible. Be prepared to call and adjust arty/air in support of Operation Houston.

3. Execution. Depart LZ 405 at 180730H; insert via <sup>ZC</sup> 162988.  
 Extract at 221300H via <sup>ZC</sup> 193988.

a. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Coordinate with S-3, 1st FAG to ensure maximum effectiveness of supporting arms, including use of night defensive, "on call", and counter battery fires.

(2) Ensure thorough coordination with the 26thMarRegt who have been assigned the mission of providing the Bald Eagle capability.

(3) Ensure thorough coordination with the 26th Marine COC to gain any knowledge that they have of this area and any units that they may have operating in this area.

(4) Coordinate with S-3 for an alternate zone and the fixed wing prep and false prep in your HAVEN.

4. Admin/Logistics. Reference (b), and verbal.

5. Comm/Electronics. Primary Freq: 44.7; Alternate: 31.2  
 Artillery: JACKSONVILLE "C" 36.95 (105 & 155H)  
 JACKSONVILLE "X" 44.45 (155H)

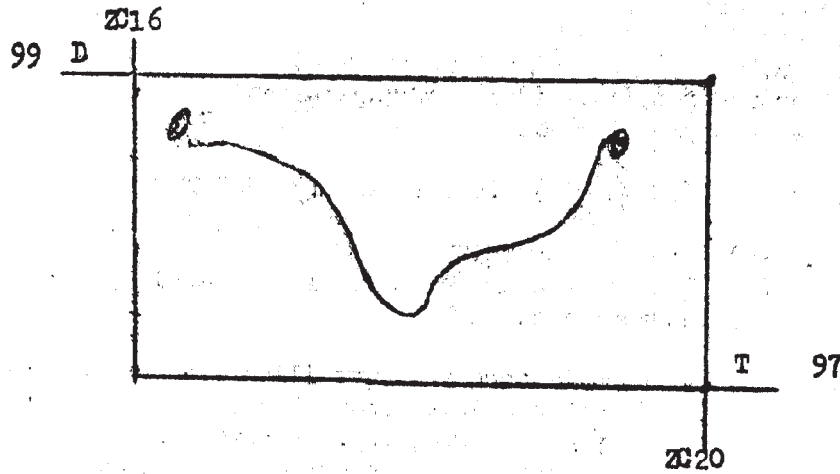
1ST FORCE RECON CO  
 S & C NO. 714-68  
 Radio Relay: IMPRESSIVE ALPHA  
 Air Observer: COMPOKE 34.5  
 3/26 Tac Net 30.9 (DUNBAR COUNTY)

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COPY 17 OF 19

DESTROY BY BURNING ON 25 AUG 1968

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Distributions:	G-2	(1)
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	CO, 155MM Gun Btry (SP)	(1)
	CO, 1st FAG	(1)
	Recon FSCC	(1)
	TF X-Ray FSCC	(1)
	S-3, 1stReconBn	(1)
	S-3, 1stForReconCo	(1)

*E. G. Meiners*  
 E. G. MEINERS  
 By direction

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATION ORDER: 376-68

OPERATION: HOUSTON

PATROL: STONE PIT (F-5)

DEBRIEFER: GYSGT G. A. KOCH

MAPS: VIETNAM 1:50,000; AMS

L7014; SENSE 6641 IV

1 FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY (REIN)

PHU BAI, RVN

DTG: 240900H AUG 68

PATROL REPORT

## 1. SIZE, COMPOSITION AND EQUIPMENT:

A. COMPOSITION: 1 OFF, 1 SEAL, 1 USN

B. SPECIAL ATTACHMENTS: NONE

C. COMM. AND OBSERVATION EQUIPMENT: 2 PRC-25, 1 750, 1 PRC-93

D. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: 1 M-14, 1 M-79

2. MISSION: CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS IN YOUR ASSIGNED AREA TO DETECT POSSIBLE VC/NVA TROOP MOVEMENT OR ARMS INFILTRATION IN THE VICINITY OF THE DONG TOP. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IS TO BE PLACED ON FINDING AND LOCATING ENEMY STORAGE AREAS, FORTIFICATIONS (TRENCH LINES, BUNKERS), HARBOR SITES AND THE DIRECTION OF TRAFFICABILITY OF TRAILS IN THE AREA. EMPHASIS IS ALSO TO BE PLACED ON SETTING UP AN AMBUSH AND CAPTURE A PRISONER IF POSSIBLE. BE PREPARED TO CALL AND ADJUST ARTY/AIR ON TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY IN THE SCOPE OF OPERATION HOUSTON.

3. TIME AND DEPARTURE OF PATROL: 181201H/240840H

4. ROUTE: (SEE PATROL ROUTE OVERLAY)

5. SYNOPSIS: 141 HOURS OF PATROLLING RESULTED IN ONE CONTACT AND ONE SHOOTING. NO FM CALLED IN SUPPORT OF THIS MISSION. RESULT OF CONTACT WAS ONE VC/NVA KIA (PROB) BY S/A

## 6. OBSERVATION OF ENEMY AND TERRAIN:

A. ENEMY: 181300H (ZC169984) DURING INITIAL INSERTION TEAM WAS OBSERVED BY A FARMER IN THE INSERT LZ. TEAM MOVED S WHEN THEY SPOTTED 2 VC/NVA DRESSED IN A GRAY SHIRT CARBINES (US TYPE), POINT OPENED WITH PROBABLY KILLING ONE VC/NVA. THIS SAME INSTANCE TEAM RECEIVED A N BOMBING GRENADE. THE SAME TIME TEAM HAD MOVEMENT TO THE N 15 TO 20 METERS. TEAM THREW 2 M-26 GRENADES AND SPOTTED 2 VC/NVA 10 METERS AWAY ALL DRESSED IN GRAY. PATROL OPENED FIRE AND THREW M-26 GRENADES WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. VC/NVA OPENED FIRE AT PATROL WITH S/A. TEAM MOVED TOWARDS HLZ. WHILE IN LZ THE TEAM HEARD MOVEMENTS FROM THE S SW. GUNSHIPS WERE ON STATION AND UTILIZED EXCELLENT COVERAGE ON TARGET BY UH-1E'S. TEAM DEPARTED WITHOUT ANY OTHER FURTHER DIFFICULTY. 211115H (ZC165987) TEAM OBSERVED 1 VC/NVA MOVING EAST WITH GREEN JUNGLE SHIRT AND U.S. TYPE CARBINE. TEAM SET UP IN AMBUSH BUT VC/NVA DID NEVER APPEAR AT THE AMBUSH SITE.

B. TERRAIN: GENERALLY MOUNTAINOUS WITH STEEP EDGES. CANOPY RANGED FROM 20 TO 50FT. GENERALLY THIS AREA WAS OPEN. SECONDARY GROWTH WAS SPARSE IN THE HIGH GROUND AND VERY THICK AT THE LOW GROUND.

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7. OTHER INFORMATION: (20162988) WHILE MARINE FIXED WING PREPED THE ZONE, THEY HAD 2 250 LBS BOMB DUDS. THEY WERE LEFT IN PLACE.

EXTRACT 13: 20185989 EXCELLANT CH-46 ZONE, IN A LITTLE RICE FIELD.

OTHER LZ'S: 20192985 DRY OPEN FIELD, GOOD MULTI CH-46 ZONE

TRAILS: TWO VERY SMALL TRAILS WERE FOUND, BUT NONE SHOWED SIGNS OF RECENT USAGE. THE TRAILS WERE APPROXIMATELY 2-3FT WIDE AND COULD NOT BE OBSERVED FROM THE AIR.

200910H (20152010) TEAM WAS INSERTED WITH A MARINE INFANTRY PLATOON THE SECOND TIME FOR A STAY BEHIND MISSION. STAY BEHIND WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT INCIDENT. 201400H TEAM HAD ONE HEAT CASUALTY. THIS MAN WAS MED-EVACED AT 1445H WITHOUT INCIDENT.

8. RESULTS OF ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ENEMY: 1 VC/NVA KIA (PROB) BY S/A

9. CONDITION OF PATROL: GOOD

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: RECOMMEND IF RECON IS BEING INSERTED WITH INFANTRY UNIT TO TAKE ALONG THROW AWAY WATER CANTEENS SO THAT TEAMS WATER IS NOT USED UP BY THE TIME THE TEAM REACHES THEIR DEPARTURE POINT FROM THE INFANTRY.

11. EFFECTIVENESS OF SUPPORTING ARMS: GUNSHIPS HAD OUTSTANDING COVERAGE ON TARGET BUT WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS.

12. COMMENTS OF DEBRIEFER: NONE

13. SELECT MUNITIONS: YES

14. PATROL MEMBERS: SGT THOMPSON  
CPL ZUBKOW  
LCPL TREURINNET  
PFC COOPER  
CPL PELUG  
HM ZWECK  
LT DECK

PATROL LEADER:  
SGT THOMPSON  
5TH PLT, 1ST FORCE RECON CO. (REIN)

STONE PIT PATROL ROUTE

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

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TFXRAY AO  
CO, I CORPS ADV GROUP (ATTN: G-2)  
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G-2 1ST RECON BN  
G-3 1ST RECON BN  
CO, 1ST FAG  
CO, 11TH MAR  
CO, 5TH MAR  
CO, 1ST MAR

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