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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/3
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
PO, San Francisco 96602

3/PED/gsl
5750
SerNo: 0014-67
14 November 1967

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[REDACTED] (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Task Force Group 79.4
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 October 1967 through 31 October 1967
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) BrigO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) Battalion Landing Team 1/3 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

A.I. Thomas
A.I. THOMAS

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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/3
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO, San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 October 1967 through 31 October 1967

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

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1. Designation

Battalion Landing Team 1/3

LtCol A. T. THOMAS

Subordinate Units

Landing Company

Capt J. H. MACK

Company A

Capt G. C. LARSON

Company B

Capt E. H. LAIDERS

Company C

Capt E. B. BURBENON
(1-10 October 1967)
Capt W. H. OSGOOD
(11-31 October 1967)

Company D

Capt F. V. RICHARDSON

Attached Units

Det 9th MAB (Radio Relay)

Lt ANICK

Det Disbursing Section HqBn 3rd MarDiv

Capt YELLIG

Det Postal Section HqBn 3rd MarDiv

Sgt LEDFORD

Det HqCo 26th Mar (Radio Relay)

Cpl MAGGI

Det Btry A, 1stBn 12th Mar (LmTm)

Lt JOHNSON

Det HqBtry, 1stBn 12th Mar (NGF LmTm)

Lt COLE (USN)

1st Clearing Plt (Rein) Co B 3rd MedBn

Lt KAMEN (USN)

Det 1st Dental Co.

Lt OLIVER (USN)

1st Plt (-) Co E 3rd Recon Bn

Lt FRANCIS

(1-10 October 1967)

SSgt BEHN

(11-31 October 1967)

Btry A (-) (Rein) 1stBn 12th Mar

Capt KENTON

4.2" Mortar Btry 2ndBn 12th Mar

Capt PATTERSON

2nd Plt (-) (Rein) Co A 3rd EngrBn

Lt GARDNER

1st Plt (Rein) Co B 3rd MTEBn

Lt BYSTEDT

4th Plt (Rein) Co A 5th AmTracBn

Lt KAUFMAN

2nd Plt (Rein) Co E 3rd ATBn

Lt BERNEHOLF

3rd Plt (Rein) Co C 3rd Tank Bn

Lt BUCKLEY

2nd Plt (-) (Rein) Co B 3rd SF Bn

Lt WYMER

Det 1st 3rd ServCo

Lt KENNEDY

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2. Locations

- a. 1-10 October 1967 Afloat with TG 79.4
- b. 10-19 October 1967 Operation MEDINA RVN
- c. 19-23 October 1967 Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT RVN
- d. 23-25 October 1967 Camp Evans RVN
- e. 26-31 October 1967 Operation GRANITE RVN

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	LtCol R. W. GOODALE
S-1	Lt E. W. STERLING
S-2	Capt C. G. JORDAN (1-4 October 1967) Lt MATSUMOTO (4-7 October 1967) Capt SCHEIB (7-31 October 1967)
S-3	Major P. D. FORD
S-4	Capt P.N. HENDRIX

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>Others</u>
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	None
60	1505	8	87	

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the first nine days of October 1967, BLT 1/3 was embarked aboard the ships of TG 79.4 undergoing rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

On 10 October 1967 BLT 1/3 conducted a helicopterborne assault in the vicinity of YD 387445, and moved immediately to blocking positions north and south of the Song Nhung River. Company D established a blocking position at YD 387452. Companies A, B, C and H&S established a blocking position at

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YD 376430. Both blocking positions were in support of a two Battalion sweep from west to east through enemy base area 101.

On the first night of the operation, code named MEDINA, a concentrated attack was conducted by an estimated company size NVA unit on the left flank of Company C. Enemy contact for the remainder of the operation consisted of night time probes and numerous daytime sightings.

On 19 October 1967 operation MEDINA was terminated and BLT 1/3 moved by truck and foot to blocking/screening positions west of Highway #1 and the railroad between Hai Lang and Phong Dien. Code named Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT, the purpose of the operation was to prevent disruption of national elections by VC/NVA elements. Enemy contact consisted primarily of fire team and squad encounters.

Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT terminated on 23 October 1967, and all elements of BLT 1/3 were moved by truck to Camp Evans to prepare for Operation GRANITE.

On 26 October 1967, Operation GRANITE commenced with a helicopterborne assault into the Hai Lang Forest area in the vicinity of YD 471236. The purpose of GRANITE was to conduct a thorough search and destroy operation in Enemy Base Camp Area 114. Contact was made with the enemy in all directions during the operation. The most significant contact was made by Company B in the vicinity of 483217 on 29 October 1967 where heavy automatic weapons fire was received.

At the end of the reporting period, BLT 1/3 was still on Operation GRANITE.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Sequence of Events

- 1-9 October BLT 1/3 conducted extensive rehabilitation of both personnel and equipment. All personnel attended a beach party at China Beach during the period. Weapons received technical inspection and were then fired for both zero and familiarization. As required, heavy equipment and crew served weapons were moved ashore for maintenance and repair.
- 10 October Operation Medina commenced with a helicopterborne assault by BLT 1/3 at coordinates 388445. Units then moved to assigned blocking positions. Co A 375430, Co B 381421, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, H&S Co 376430. During the day one USMC KIA and one USMC WIA (NE) were sustained. One sighting of two camouflaged NVA was reported and an artillery mission called with negative results.
- 11 October Company C sustained seven USMC KIA, 14 USMC WIA and 4 USMC WIA (NE), when a 40 to 50 man NVA force assaulted the left flank platoon at coordinates 374416. Enemy losses in the action were six NVA KIA confirmed, three NVA captured along with assorted weapons, gear and ammunition. In other actions during the day seven USMC WIA's were sustained in small unit actions.

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- 12 October Company D sustained 1 USMC KIA and 2 USMC WIA when a patrol received automatic weapons fire at coordinates 340442. The remainder of the day's activities were characterized by mortar and sniper fire from the enemy. Two more USMC WIA's were sustained by Company D as a result of these tactics.
- 13 October A battalion size sweep was conducted to find a suitable blocking position to the southwest of coordinates 376430. Due to the thick vegetation a suitable piece of terrain could not be found and the BLT returned to the original positions. Company D observed approximately 25 personnel, some of which were armed, at coord 329452, and called an artillery mission on them. They claimed 10 KIA probables. In other small unit actions during the day, BLT 1/3 sustained 1 USMC WIA and the enemy was inflicted with 2 KIA confirmed and 5 KIA probable. Assorted items of enemy equipment were also captured.
- 14 October Contact with the enemy remained light throughout the day. Company C observed approximately 7 VC dressed in helmets and flak jackets coming toward their position. They fired an 81mm mortar mission and observed a green star cluster after the rounds impacted. No friendlies were in the area. Company C also found assorted equipment and documents. Company A found a 9mm chicom pistol.
- 15 October Company D at coordinates 362443 took 3 NVA under fire and claimed 1 KIA probable. They searched the area and found 2 weapons, 2 transistor radios, and assorted gear. Company D at coordinates 361442 observed 2 sampans with 5 VC each. One was destroyed in the water and 3 KIA probables were claimed. In other actions, 5 USMC personnel were wounded and the enemy suffered 1 KIA probable. Two detainees were picked up by Company D.
- 16 October In a joint effort by Company D and a detachment of ARVN'S, approximately 3 tons of rice were evacuated from coordinates 384455. Contact with the enemy was sporadic and included one surprise firing device which was tripped. The BLT sustained 7 USMC WIA during the day.
- 17 October Company A observed 30 to 40 personnel believed to be VC at coordinates 385446. Before an artillery mission could be fired, a check fire was called because of the presence of helicopters. The area was covered by artillery after the helicopters left. A Vietnamese PRU member working with Company D was killed at coordinates 363443 by a surprise firing device. In other actions, a Company D patrol fired upon 5 Vietnamese who tried to run away. One girl was wounded. Company D destroyed approximately 5 tons of rice and assorted canned foods found at coordinates 363467.
- 18 October Company B observed approximately 18 VC moving northwest at coordinates 353428. A fire mission was called and 5 KIA probables were claimed. Company D sustained 1 USMC WIA when a Surprise Firing Device was detonated. In other actions during the day, Company A sustained 2 USMC WIA's.

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- 19 October Operation Medina was concluded with a withdrawal to an assembly area at coordinates 415477. Operation Liberty II/Fremont commenced for BLT 1/3 (-) with a tactical foot march to the above mentioned assembly area. From there, Companies C and D moved by trucks south along National Route One to their respective dismount points. Company B moved by foot from Route one to their screening positions at coordinates 423413 and 462393 respectively. Company A, the Alpha command group and Alpha Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Marines, established positions at coordinates 415477.
- 20 October Company B had two separate engagements with the VC. In the first, an ambush made contact with an unknown number of VC at coordinates 412426. One KIA probable was claimed because of moaning and evidence of drag marks. One USMC WIA (NE) was sustained. In the second, a patrol spotted approximately 14 VC on a ridgeline at coordinates 412419. The patrol took them under fire and killed one female VC and wounded another VC who could not be found. One rifle and ammunition were captured. In other actions during the day, Company C sustained 1 USMC WIA due to a Booby Trap.
- 21 October Company C detained two male suspects at coordinates 448393. The patrol found drawings of an AK-47 rifle and a UH-1E Helicopter on one of the detainees. Enemy contact was negligible for the day.
- 22 October No significant contact was made with the enemy.
- 23 October Company D observed 6 VC moving southwest away from the river at coordinates 425372. They were taken under fire with small arms and 60 mortars. Company D searched the area and captured 4 VC, 5 weapons, 3 grenades, and assorted gear. Company C apprehended 1 VCS at coordinates 452394. Company D sustained 1 USMC WIA from a Surprise Firing Device. At 1200H elements of BLT 1/3 (-) moved by trucks to Camp Evans to end operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT.
- 24-25 October BLT 1/3 used this period to rehabilitate personnel and equipment at Camp Evans. Emphasis was placed on checking all weapons for proper functioning and zeroing. New Buffers were installed in all M-16's. Cold weather gear consisting of an extra poncho and a poncho liner was given to all personnel. In addition, briefings and plans for Operation GRANITE were conducted.
- 26 October Operation GRANITE commenced for BLT 1/3 when Company B was helilifted into LZ MALLARD. After the LZ was secure the other units of BLT 1/3 landed and established defensive positions for the night around LZ Mallard.
- 27 October Companies A and D secured objective 1 at coordinates 469223. A patrol from Recon received small arms fire at coordinates 478243 and they sustained 1 USMC WIA.

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- 28 October A platoon from Company D received automatic weapons fire from coordinates 463222. The platoon fired a 60mm Mortar Mission with negative results. The platoon suffered 1 USMC KIA and 6 USMC WIA. Companies A and B secured objective B.
- 29 October Company B spotted 4 NVA with weapons at coordinates 481218. They opened fire and killed 1 NVA confirmed. They also captured 1 AK-47 and 2 chicom grenades. Company D called a 60mm Mortar Mission on 4 VC at coordinates 465221 and claimed 1 VC KIA probable. Company B sustained 2 USMC WIA when they received automatic weapons fire from coordinates 482217. Company D sustained 2 USMC WIA when they exchanged fire with 10 VC at coordinates 476229.
- 30 October A patrol from Company A exchanged small arms fire with 4 VC at coordinates 487227. The results of this encounter were 1 USMC KIA, 1 VC KIA confirmed, and 1 VC KIA probable. Company B called an Artillery Mission at coordinates 483218 where they were receiving automatic fire. Two KIA probable were credited. In other actions, the BLT sustained 3 USMC WIA.
- 31 October Company B made contact with an NVA patrol at coordinates 482215. The exchange of small arms resulted in 4 NVA KIA (Confirmed) and 3 AK-47's captured. Four USMC WIA were sustained. Company D observed 3 VC through a starlight scope at coordinates 475229. They fired with a Machine gun and claimed 3 KIA probables. Company D called an 81 mortar Mission on an automatic weapons position at coordinates 474237. Five KIA probables were claimed. Operation GRANITE was still in progress at the end of the reporting period.

2. Personnel

- a. Replacements: 5 USMC Officers, 6 USMC Enlisted
- b. Casualties: 14 KIA, 70 WIA
- c. Awards: 1 Silver Star, 1 Bronze Star, and 1 Navy Commendation Medal
- d. Postal: Mail Service was satisfactory

3. Administration. Due to the long separation of the administration rear from the Battalion, administration became difficult; however, all difficulties were overcome and administration continued to function well.

4. Command Relationships. Battalion Landing Team 1/3 was OPCON to the 1st Marine Regiment and the 4th Marine Regiment as shown below, but remained ADCON to RLT 26 throughout the reporting period.

1-10 October	OPCON	CTG 79.4
10-19 October	OPCON	1st Marine Regiment
19-31 October	OPCON	4th Marine Regiment

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5. Intelligence. Operation MEDINA. Throughout the operation, enemy activity consisted of sniping, harrasing and probing tactics. Heavy contact was made on one occasion, when 40 to 50 NVA assaulted the left flank of Company C in a night attack during the early morning hours of 11 October 67. As part of their harrasing tactics, the NVA employed small blocks of TNT as satchel charges offensive type grenades for shock effect against listening posts and defensive positions at night. These charges appeared to have been projected over a relatively long distance by some type of expedient propelling device.

Operation LIBERTY II. Enemy contact was limited to scattered sniper activity and small, fire team sized encounters. One noteworthy capture of five weapons and four POW's was made by Company D in a coordinated sweep of the Song Thac Ma River with Company C.

Operation GRANITE. The enemy continuously harrassed BLT 1/3 by operating within a few hundred meters of the front lines whenever possible. The contact made by Company B on 29 October, and exploited on 30 and 31 October, is believed to be the outer perimeter defenses of a larger force operating in the area. The enemy was well dug in, occupying fighting holes and bunkers. The enemy also fought from the tree tops. All the weapons used in the perimeter defense were automatic weapons.

6. Air Summary. During the month of October, eighty seven sorties of tactical air were flown in support of BLT 1/3. The following is a breakdown of sorties flown by type:

<u>Type</u>	<u># of Sorties</u>
Fixed wing	48
UH-1E	8
Flare ship	7
TAC(A)/AO	24

The TAC(A)/AO mission's provided up to date information about the enemy, and served as the most effective means of controlling fixed wing.

There were thirty Medavac missions flown during the month of October; fifteen priority, and ten emergency. The total of personnel medevaced by category were 25 routine, 32 priority and 21 emergency.

7. Artillery Summary. Direct Artillery support on operation MEDINA was provided by Btry A, 1stBn, 12th Marines; while general support, reinforcing fires were available from 1stBn, 11th Marines with both 105's and 155's.

On Operation LIBERTY II, direct support artillery fires were provided by Btry A, 1stBn, 12th Marines, with general support, reinforcing fires available from both 3rdBn, 12th Marines and 1stBn, 11th Marines.

Btry A, 1stBn, 12th Marines again provided direct support artillery for the BLT on Operation GRANITE with 3rdBn, 12th Marines in a general support, reinforcing role.

During the period covered by this report, 847 missions were fired in support of the BLT, resulting in an expenditure of 9,893 rounds of ammo.

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8. Logistics.

a. Supply. During this period 336 requisitions were placed through FSR with 41% being completed. Operation MEDINA and LIBERTY II/FREMONT were supported from an LSA established by 1st Marine Regiment. Class II supplies were furnished from operating stocks aboard ARG shipping during Operation MEDINA, and from the LSA 1st Marine Regiment, in limited quantities of consumables during Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT. Logistical support for all classes of supply was provided from the LSA, 4th Marine Regiment during Operation GRANITE.

b. Maintenance. Limited 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance was accomplished by those elements of the BLT remaining aboard ship during the period 10 through 31 October 67. Small arms and crew served weapons maintenance was effected in the field during a two day period, by the contact team provided by FLC, DaNang, RVN.

c. Embarkation. On 10 October 67 selected personnel and equipment debarked in country to participate in Operation MEDINA, and subsequently in Operations LIBERTY II and GRANITE. On 23 October 67 the USS Belle Grove LSD-2 was relieved by the USS Fort Marion LSD-22. On 26 October 67 the USS Washtenaw County LST 1169 relieved the USS Winston AKA-10.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Operation MEDINA After Action Report. *not added, see 300 000*
2. Operations LIBERTY II/FREMONT After Action Report. *not added, see 300 000*

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Battalion Landing Team 1/3
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO, San Francisco 96602

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25 October 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation MEDINA)

Ref: (a) 1st Marines OPORD 128-67 (Operation MEDINA)
(b) Map: 1:50,000, L7014, VIETNAM: Sheets 6442I, II, III, and IV.
(c) BLT 1/3 Frag Order #1 for Operation MEDINA

Encl: (1) Overlay to OPORD 128-67

- Code Name. MEDINA, Search and Destroy Operation
- Dates and Location of Operation. 100830H October 1967 through 191000H October 1967, Tinh Quang Tri Province, Quan Hai Lang Sector, RVN.
- Command Headquarters. Headquarters, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	Captain MACK
Company A	Captain LARIMORE
Company B	Captain LANDES
Company C	Captain BURLISON (10-11 October 1967) Captain OSGOOD (11 October 1967)
Company D	Captain RICHARDSON

1stBn, 3dMar S & C No. <u>00471-67</u>
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4. Unit Organization

BLT 1/3 (-)

H&S Co (-) (Rein)

H&S Co (-)
81mm Mortar Platoon
Det Btry A, 1stBn 12th Mar (InTm)
1st Clearing Plat (Rein) Co B 3d Med Bn
Det 15th Dental Co
1st Plat (-) Co B, 3d Recon Bn

LtCol THOMAS

Capt MACK

Lt PARKER
Lt JOHNSON
Lt KANTER (USN)
Lt OLIVER (USN)
Lt FRANCIS
(10 October 1967)
SSgt BELL
(11 October 1967)

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Co A (Rein)

Co A

FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SF Bn (HST)
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det Med Plat
 1st Sect 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det Comm Plat

Capt LARIMORE

Co B (Rein)

Co B

FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SF Bn (HST)
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det Med Plat
 2d Sect 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det Comm Plat

Capt LANDES

Co C (Rein)

Co C

FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SF Bn (HST)
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det Med Plat
 3d Sect 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det Comm Plat

Capt BURLESON

Capt OSGOOD

Co D (Rein)

Co D

FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SF Bn (HST)
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det Med Plat
 4th Sect 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det Comm Plat

Capt RICHARDSON

2d Plat (-) (Rein) Co A 3d Engr Bn

2d Plat Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det H&S Co, 3d Engr Bn
 Det Engr Supt Co, 3d Engr Bn

Lt GARDNER

2d Plat (-) (Rein) Co B 3d SF Bn

2d Plat Co B, 3d SF Bn
 Det H&S Co, 3d SF Bn

Lt WYMER

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Btry A (-) (Rein) 1stBn 12th Marines

Capt KENYON

1st Plat (-) (Rein) Co B, 3d MT Bn

Lt BYSTEDT

Attachments and Detachments

- a. Attachments. See Task Organization
- b. Detachments. None

5. Supporting Forces

a. Artillery. Both direct and general support artillery fires were available to the BLT during Operation MEDINA. Btry A, 1stBn, 12th Marines, located at coordinates 334467, provided direct support fires. General support was provided by the 1stBn 11th Marines with 105mm and 155mm Howitzers.

Ammunition Expenditure

2036 rds HE
89 rds WP
283 rds Illum
6 rds Smoke

Missions Fired

Observed 42
Unobserved 48
H & I 208

(1) The 81mm Mortar Platoon provided additional direct support fires for the BLT and accomplished the following:

Ammunition Expenditure

1147 rds HE
177 rds Illum
258 rds WP

Missions Fired

Observed 102
Unobserved 27
H & I 56

b. Air Support. Due to the mission assigned to the BLT and the limiting effect of the weather, tactical air support was used on a limited basis. During Operation MEDINA, one fixed-wing strike was conducted with an unknown EPM. UH-1E's were used primarily for observation missions. The BLT Commander and the Helicopter Squadron Commander used UH-1E's for marking the landing zone for the initial wave of troop helicopters. Aerial Observers were used on an average of 1.5 hours per day. Flare ships were placed on call nightly and were used on two nights. C & C helicopters were used by the BLT Commander to enhance his evaluation of the tactical situation. Medevac helicopters evacuated 36 casualties, some of which were during the hours of darkness.

6. Intelligence. Generally, throughout the operation enemy action was limited to sniper and harassing and probing activity. The exception being the night attack against the left flank of Company C during the early morning hours of 11 October 1967, in which an estimated 25 to 50 NVA participated.

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The VC/NVA employed blocks of TNT as satchel charges and offensive-type grenades for shock effect on listening posts and other positions at night. These charges appeared to have been projected over a relatively long distance by a type of expedient propelling device.

7. Mission. BLT 1/3 (-)(Fein) land by helicopter vicinity YD 395450 on D-1 and move to assigned assembly area. During hours of darkness on D-1 move to blocking/screening positions (see operation overlay) and conduct blocking/screening operations. Be prepared to attack to the SW. Be prepared to provide one rifle company as regimental reserve for movement by helicopter or truck.
8. Execution. At about 100830H October 1967, Company C was landed in the landing zone at coordinates 388445 and secured the landing zone. Companies D and A followed respectively, with Company D immediately moving-out to establish a blocking position north of the Song Nhung River at coordinates 353452. Alpha Command Group lifted into the landing zone, followed by Company B. Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines was lifted by Ch-53 helicopters to the vicinity of Quang Tri Airfield. Companies A, B and C with the Alpha Command Group, established blocking positions south of the Song Nhung River at coordinates 373429 from which extensive patrolling and ambushing was conducted. The operation terminated with a foot movement to an assembly area at Hai Lang.

a. Chronological Sequence of Events

- 100830H Operation MADINA commenced for BLT 1/3 with the first helicopter wave of Company C troops landing in the LZ at coordinates 388445.
- 101415H All BLT 1/3 units landed except Company B.
- 101415H Company D sustained one USMC WIA (NE) from booby trap at coordinates 386461.
- 101500H First elements of Company B landed in the LZ.
- 101840H Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines sustained one USMC WIA from a mine at coordinates 333469.
- 101845H Company C observed two camouflaged VC at coordinates 373434, fired 60mm mortars and called for an artillery mission. Searched the area with negative results.
- 101900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 381421, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, and H&S (-) 376430.
- 110245H Company C sustained two USMC WIA's as a result of incoming artillery, believed friendly, at coordinates 372427.
- 110345H Company C sustained seven USMC KIA's, 14 USMC WIA's and 4 USMC WIA (NE) when their left flank platoon was attacked by an estimated 25 to 50 man enemy force at coordinates 374416. Company C reconsolidated their position and found six NVA bodies, one AK-47 rifle, one light machinegun and one RPG rocket launcher.
- 110715H Company A sustained two USMC WIA's from small arms fire and grenades while searching the area at coordinates 377424. The patrol moved into the area and captured one wounded NVA.
- 110825H Company B captured two NVA and one AK-47 rifle at coordinates 378424. One of the prisoners captured was wounded.
- 110915H Company D sustained one USMC WIA when a patrol received sniper fire at coordinates 358440.
- 111400H Patrol from Company D detained two suspects at coordinates 379452.
- 111900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 372432, Co C 372428, Co D 353442, and H&S (-) 376430.

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- 112226H Listening post from Company C at coordinates 372427 received incoming grenades. No casualties sustained.
- 112300H Company D sustained one USMC WIA as a result of grenade fragments at coordinates 356435.
- 112330H Company C listening Post at coordinates 374424 sustained three USMC WIA's from incoming grenade or small satchel charge. One AN/PRC radio was also damaged.
- 120350H Company C received approximately 25 incoming mortar rounds believed to be fired from coordinates 364418. Fired counter-mortar fire into the suspected area. No casualties were sustained.
- 121040H Company D sustained one USMC KIA and two USMC WIA when their patrol received automatic weapons fire at coordinates 340444.
- 121600H Company D sustained one USMC WIA from a booby trap at coordinates 361443.
- 121900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 372432, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, and H&S(-) 376430.
- 121930H Company C received approximately five incoming mortar rounds believed to be fired from coordinates 364420. Fired counter-mortar fire with mortars and artillery. No casualties sustained.
- 122359H Company D sustained one USMC WIA when an ambush received automatic weapons fire at coordinates 360442.
- 130730H Companies A, B, C and Alpha Command Group commenced attack, with an ARVN AFC Company, to the southwest to coordinates 359419. A suitable blocking position could not be found at that vicinity so all units returned to original blocking positions.
- 131500H Company C found one enemy body recently killed by a WP round at coordinates 367423, also found one full drum magazine for a light machinegun and two full AK-47 magazines.
- 131620H Company D sustained one USMC WIA from a booby-trapped grenade at coordinates 362444.
- 131845H Company D killed one VC by rifle fire as he was trying to observe positions at coordinates 365442.
- 131900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 372432, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, and H&S(-) 376430.
- 132045H A Company C listening post received an incoming satchel charge, fired an 61 mortar mission in return and fired small arms at movement. One VC KIA probable claimed as VC was observed to fall from small arms fire. Coordinates 373427.
- 132230H Company D claimed four VC KIA probable when their patrol received small arms fire and assaulted through the enemy position at coordinates 361443. No casualties sustained.
- 141500H Company C patrol found two M-26 grenades, one USMC flak jacket and homemade small arms targets at 373420. Area also appeared to have been used as an assembly area.
- 141545H Company A patrol found one 9mm Chicom pistol at coordinates 378423.
- 141600H Company C patrol found two documents at coordinates 374424.
- 141830H Company C observed approximately seven personnel dressed in helmets and flak jackets moving northeast toward their position. An 81mm mortar mission was fired at the target and as the rounds impacted, a green star cluster was fired by one of the personnel in the target area. No friendlies were in that area.
- 141900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 372432, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, and H&S(-) 376430.

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- 142000H Company B observed two flashlights that appeared to be signaling each other at coordinates 376441 and fired into the area.
- 150515H Company C sustained two USMC WIA's and one USMC WIA (NE) when a listening post heard movement and they and an outpost from Company A threw grenades and fired M-79 rounds at 373423.
- 150730H A patrol from Company D at coordinates 377452 received long range small arms fire. No casualties were sustained.
- 150750H Company D sustained one USMC WIA from a booby trapped grenade at coordinates 362448.
- 151400H Company D detained two suspects at coordinates 375444.
- 151500H A patrol from Company D at coordinates 362443 observed three NVA and took them under fire, claiming one KIA probable. The patrol moved into the area and found a large cave containing two weapons, two transistor radios, hand grenades and small arms ammunition. They also destroyed three boats found near the cave.
- 151530H Company C found what appeared to have been weapons caches in holes freshly dug-up at coordinates 371415.
- 151820H Company A observed one armed VC at coordinates 375438 and fired M-79 rounds at him, knocking him down. One KIA probable claimed.
- 151845H Company C sustained two USMC WIA's when a listening post received an incoming grenade at coordinates 372423.
- 151900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 372432, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, and H&S Co (-) 376430.
- 152045H A Company D patrol at coordinates 361442 ambushed two sampans carrying five VC each on the river. One sampan was sunk and three KIA probable were claimed. The patrol received incoming mortars when they initiated the ambush. Both Company D and Company B fired counter-mortar fire.
- 152145H Company C observed one green star cluster in front of their position at coordinates 363415 and fired an artillery mission into the area.
- 160530H Company A fired at two VC running south from their position with negative results at coordinates 378424.
- 161630H A patrol from Company D and a detachment of ARVN evacuated approximately three tons of rice at coordinates 374455.
- 161845H A patrol from Company A destroyed four spider holes found at coordinates 373438.
- 161900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 372432, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, and H&S Co (-) 376430.
- 162115H Company B sustained one USMC WIA and four USMC WIA (NE) at coordinates 374434 from a friendly 81mm mortar round.
- 170730H Company C found one Chicom grenade and approximately 30 rounds of AK-47 ammunition at coordinates 370423.
- 171115H A Company D patrol tried to apprehend five Vietnamese at coordinates 365453. When they ran, the patrol fired and wounded a Vietnamese girl about 13 years old. The girl was medevaced.
- 171315H Company A observed approximately 30 to 40 personnel believed to be VC at coordinates 385446. A marking artillery mission was fired but had to be checked due to helicopters in the area. A patrol was dispatched but couldn't locate the group. An artillery zone fire mission was then fired into the suspected area to cover the target.

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- 171330H A patrol from Company D destroyed approximately five tons of rice and assorted canned foods found in caves at coordinates 363467.
- 171900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 372432, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, and H&S Co (-) 376430.
- 172210H Company A fired 81mm mortars at flashing lights at coordinates 376424.
- 172315H Company C observed approximately 12 to 15 personnel in front of their position through their starlight scope at coordinates 372426. Fired a 60mm mortar mission on target. No movement was observed when the smoke cleared.
- 180545H Company D sustained one USMC WIA when a patrol detonated a booby-trapped grenade at coordinates 356457.
- 180700H Company B found and disarmed a booby-trapped mine made of cans, TNT and nuts and bolts at coordinates 374437.
- 181215H Company B destroyed a 76mm round set as a booby-trap at coordinates 354426.
- 181300H Company B found a blood-stained and badly torn green shirt at coordinates 356428.
- 181610H A Company B patrol observed approximately 18 VC moving north-east at coordinates 353428. A zone fire artillery mission was fired on target. Five KIA probables were claimed.
- 181815H Company A sustained one USMC WIA (NE) at coordinates 377429 when the safety pin slipped from a grenade being set as a booby trap.
- 181900H Company Positions: Co A 375430, Co B 372432, Co C 372428, Co D 353452, and H&S Co (-) 376430.
- 191025H BLT 1/3 (-) started withdrawing to an assembly area at coordinates 415478.
- 191400H All BLT 1/3 (-) units at assembly area and Operation MEDINA secured.

9. Results

a. Enemy Losses

8 KIA confirmed
 25 KIA probable
 3 POW's
 5 Detainees

b. Weapons Captured

1 RPG-2 (40mm) rocket launcher)
 2 AK-47 assault rifles
 1 RPD 7.62 light machine gun
 1 Chicom 9mm bolt action rifle
 1 9mm pistol
 1 12 gauge Stevens pump action shotgun

c. Equipment Captured

11 AK-47 magazines w/ammo
 5 RPD-IMG drum magazines w/ammo

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4 clips 9mm w/ammo
 300 rounds 5.56 ammo
 200 rounds 7.62 ammo
 15 pounds chinese TNT (destroyed)
 19 Chicom grenades (destroyed)
 3 M-26 grenades (destroyed)
 1 40mm rocket round
 3 cans w/mortar fuze plugs
 2 transistor radios
 1 USMC flak jacket
 16,000 pounds of rice
 assorted documents
 assorted items of individual equipment and clothing.

d. Friendly Losses

10 KIA
 37 WIA
 11 WIA(NE)

e. Friendly Equipment Lost or Destroyed

1 AN/PRC-25 radio (damaged)

10. Administrative Matters

a. Postal. Mail was delivered to the BLT rear aboard ship, sorted and delivered to the field. No difficulties were encountered.

b. Logistics. Units were resupplied by helicopter every other day from the 1st Marines LSA at Quang Tri Airfield. No difficulties were encountered.

c. Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation. Casualties were evacuated by helicopter to the primary evacuation station, the USS OKINAWA. Some serious battle casualties were evacuated to in-country hospitals. No difficulties were encountered.

d. Communications. Communications were good with no difficulties encountered.

11. Commanders Analysis. BLT 1/3 was to have been helilifted to an assembly area in the vicinity of Quang Tri Airfield on D-1 and conduct a truck movement south to debarking point on National Route #1, and during the hours of darkness, conduct a foot movement to designated blocking positions. Instead, a landing zone was selected in the objective area west of Route #1, and the BLT (-) was helilifted into the zone on D-1 and executed the foot movement to the designated blocking positions from there.

The change in plans was necessary because of the adverse weather. Adverse weather during the monsoon season must be considered in planning for the employment of the SLP.

The starlight scope proved effective, particularly in the rather open terrain covered from the blocking position, by detecting an enemy force of approximately 12 to 15 men moving toward our position.

The policy of BLT 1/3 to have the BLT Commander and the Helicopter Squadron Commander utilize a UH-1E for selecting and marking the landing zone for the initial wave of troop helicopters proved once again to be invaluable.

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No significant problems were encountered during the operation.

A. I. Thomas
A. I. THOMAS

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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/3
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
APO, San Francisco 96602

3/GPR/des
5050
26 October 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subject: Combat After Action Report (Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT)

Ref: (a) 4th Marines Frag Order 49-67 (Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT)
(b) Maps: 1:50,000 VIETNAM, Series L7014, Sheets 6442II and III
(c) BLT 1/3 Oral Frag Order (See Operation Overlay)

Encl: (1) Overlay to Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT

- Code Name. LIBERTY II/FREMONT; Security and Screening Operation.
- Dates and Location of Operation. 191000H October 1967 through 232359H October 1967, Tinh Quang Tri Province, Quan Hai Lang Sector, RVN.
- Command Headquarters. Headquarters, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Head Company		Captain MACK
Company A	1st Bn, 3d Marine S & C No. <u>00467-67</u> Copy No. <u>5</u> of <u>55</u> Copies	Captain LARIMORE
Company B		Captain LANDES
Company C		Captain OSGOOD
Company D		Captain RICHARDSON

Task Organization

<u>BLT 1/3 (-)</u>	LtCol THOMAS
<u>H&S Co (-) (Rein)</u>	Capt MACK
<u>H&S Co (-)</u>	
81mm Mortar Plat	Lt PARKER
Det Btry A, 1st Bn 12th Marines (LnTm)	Lt JOHNSON
1st Clearing Plat (Rein) Co B 3d Med Bn	Lt KANTER
Det 15th Dental Co	Lt OLIVER
1st Plat (-) Co B, 3d Recon Bn	SSgt BELL

Co A (Rein)
Co A

LnTm Btry A, 1st Bn 12th Marines
Det 20 Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

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Capt LARIMORE

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Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SF Bn (HST)
 Det H&S Co
 Det Med Plat
 1st Sect 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det Comm Plat
 Det Intel Sect

Co B (Rein)

Capt LANDES

Co B
 FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SF Bn (HST)
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det Med Plat
 2d Sect 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det Comm Plat

Co C (Rein)

Capt OSGOOD

Co C
 FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SF Bn (HST)
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det Med Plat
 3d Sect 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det Comm Plat

Co D (Rein)

Capt RICHARDSON

Co D
 FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SF Bn (HST)
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det Med Plat
 4th Sect 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det Comm Plat

2d Plat (-) (Rein) Co A 3d Engr Bn

Lt GARDNER

2d Plat Co A, 3d Engr Bn
 Det H&S Co 3d Engr Bn
 Det Engr Supt Co, 3d Engr Bn

2d Plat (-) (Rein) Co B 3d SF Bn

Lt WYMER

2d Plat Co B, 3d SF Bn
 Det H&S Co, 3d SF Bn

Btry A (-) (Rein) 1stBn 12th Marines

Capt KENYON

1st Plat (-) (Rein) Co B, 3d MT BnLt BYSTED^T

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Attachments and Detachments

- a. Attachments. See Task Organization
 b. Detachments. None

5. Supporting Forces

a. Artillery. Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines, located at coordinates 417476, provided direct support for the BLT. The 1stBn, 11th Marines and 3dBn 12th Marines provided reinforcing fires for the BLT.

Ammunition Expended

714 rds HE
 5 rds WP
 76 rds Illum

Missions Fired

Observed 15
 Unobserved 4
 Registration 1
 H & I 141

b. Air Support. Air Support consisted of helicopter medevac and C&C missions. No fixed-wing aircraft were utilized.

6. Intelligence. Enemy action was limited to scattered sniper activity and small, team sized encounters. One noteworthy capture of five weapons and four POW's was made by Company D in a coordinated sweep of the Song Thac Ma River with Company C.
7. Mission. BLT 1/3 upon becoming OPCON to the 4th Marines, conduct aggressive small unit activities (combat patrols and ambushes) to southwest of and along National Route #1 in assigned portion of the 4th Marines OA to detect and deny enemy access to populated areas. Direct liaison authorized with Hai Lang and Phong Dien District Headquarters.
8. Execution. At about 191025H October 1967, BLT 1/3 (-) withdrew by footmarch from the Operation MEDINA OA to an assembly area at coordinates 415477 where Companies C and D moved by truck south along National Route #1 to their respective dismount points. Company B moved by footmarch directly to its screening position. Companies C and D moved by foot from Route #1 to their screening positions. Company A, the Alpha Command Group and Btry A, 1stBn 12th Marines, established positions at coordinates 415477. Companies A, B, C and D conducted combat patrols and ambushes in the OA until 231200H October 1967, when the BLT (-) was trucked to Camp Evans.

a. Chronological Sequence of Events

- 191000H Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONT commenced for BLT 1/3 (-).
 191400H Companies C and D departed by truck to dismount points along Route #1
 191900H Company Positions: Co A 415477, Co B 415420, Co C 423413, Co D 462393, and H&S (-) 415477.
 191930H Company B patrol received approximately six to ten rounds of automatic weapons fire at coordinates 413426 while moving to their ambush site. Company B fired two rounds of 81mm mortar under illumination at the fleeing VC. The patrol continued to its ambush site.

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- 200530H Company B ambush at coordinates 412426 made contact with an undetermined number of VC believed to be armed with a light machinegun or BAR. One VC was hit as evidenced by moaning and drag marks. One USMC WIA (NE) was sustained and one VC KIA probable was claimed. The patrol continued to search the area with negative results.
- 200800H Company B patrol observed approximately 14 VC on a ridgeline at coordinates 412419. The patrol pursued and engaged them with small arms, killing one female VC and wounding another male VC. The patrol recovered one rifle, one grenade and ammunition from the female. The wounded VC could not be found.
- 201215H Company C patrol received approximately 10 rounds of small arms fire from coordinates 426382. Four rounds of 81mm mortars were fired for the patrol's support as they maneuvered elements towards the snipers. The area was searched with negative results.
- 201315H Company C sustained one USMC WIA from a booby-trapped firing device at coordinates 429389.
- 201430H Company C patrol received approximately 10 rounds of small arms fire from coordinates 443383. The patrol requested that 81mm mortars stand-by, but did not fire them since the fire ceased as the patrol continued along its patrol route.
- 201645H Company C patrol found a booby-trapped M-26 grenade at coordinates 443393 and blew it in place.
- 201900H Company Positions: Co A 415477, Co B 415420, Co C 435404, Co D 462393, and H&S (-) 415477.
- 202215H Company A observed approximately 5 VC moving northwest away from their position at coordinates 401480 and fired an 81mm mortar mission with negative results.
- 211115H Company B patrol found a homemade booby-trap made of bamboo with a 7.62mm round inserted in one end of the bamboo at coordinates 421435. Destroyed same.
- 211115H Company C patrol detained two male suspects at coordinates 448393. The patrol found drawings of AK-47 and UH-1H helicopters on the person of one detainee.
- 211215H Company B patrol found approximately 150 to 200 punji stakes wrapped in two bundles at coordinates 421435. Destroyed same.
- 211245H Company B patrol found a small amount of medicine and some documents in a village at coordinates 421453. Items returned to the company position for further examination.
- 211400H Company C patrol received small arms fire from coordinates 433383 and 437386 and returned fire with small arms, rockets, M-79 rounds and 81mm mortar fire. Negative results.
- 211900H Company Positions: Co A 415477, Co B 415420, Co C 435404, Co D 462393, and H&S (-) 415477.
- 212115H A trip flare in front of Company B's position at coordinates 415420 was tripped. Fired small arms into the area, searched and found foot prints coming from the south and returning to the south.
- 220230H Company A threw a grenade at a VC moving west in front of their listening post at coordinates 417474. Searched area negative results.
- 220900H Company A found one Chicom 82mm mortar round half buried in front of their position at coordinates 412478. The round was evacuated.

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- 221300H Company C patrol found one US Government test set Cam-Dwell and engine R-M in a field at coordinates 434399. The set was evacuated to Regiment.
- 221600H Company A found one green cylindrical object 1 1/4" by 7" with Russian lettering on it. What appeared to be a fuze-well was located on one end. Found at coordinates 413477 and evacuated to Regiment. The object believed to be a flare.
- 221900H Company Positions: Co A 415477, Co B 415420, Co C 435404, Co D 462393, and H&S (-) 415477.
- 230730H Company C detained three male and one female found in village at coordinates 452394.
- 230830H Company D observed 6 VC moving southwest away from the river at coordinates 435372 and engaged them with small arms and 60mm mortars. They searched the area and captured four VC, one of which was wounded, and five weapons, three grenades and assorted individual gear.
- 231140H Company D sustained one USMC WIA from a booby-trapped Chicom grenade at coordinates 461374.
- 231200H Elements of BLT 1/3 (-) moved by truck to Camp Evans to end Operation LIBERTY II/FREMONTE.

9. Resultsa. Enemy Losses

- 1 KIA confirmed
- 1 KIA probable
- 4 POW's
- 6 Detainees

b. Weapons Captured

- 1 Russian bolt action 7.62 carbine
- 1 k-44 rifle
- 1 M-1 rifle
- 1 M-1 carbine
- 2 Chicom submachine guns

c. Equipment Captured

- 4 Chicom grenades
- 1 Chicom 82mm mortar round
- 1 NVA belt
- 1 bayonet
- 1 US Government test set
- 1 Russian flare
- Assorted 9mm, 7.62 and carbine ammo
- Assorted documents and individual gear

d. Friendly Losses

- 2 WIA
- 1 WIA(NE)

f. Friendly Equipment Lost or Destroyed

None

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10. Administrative Matters

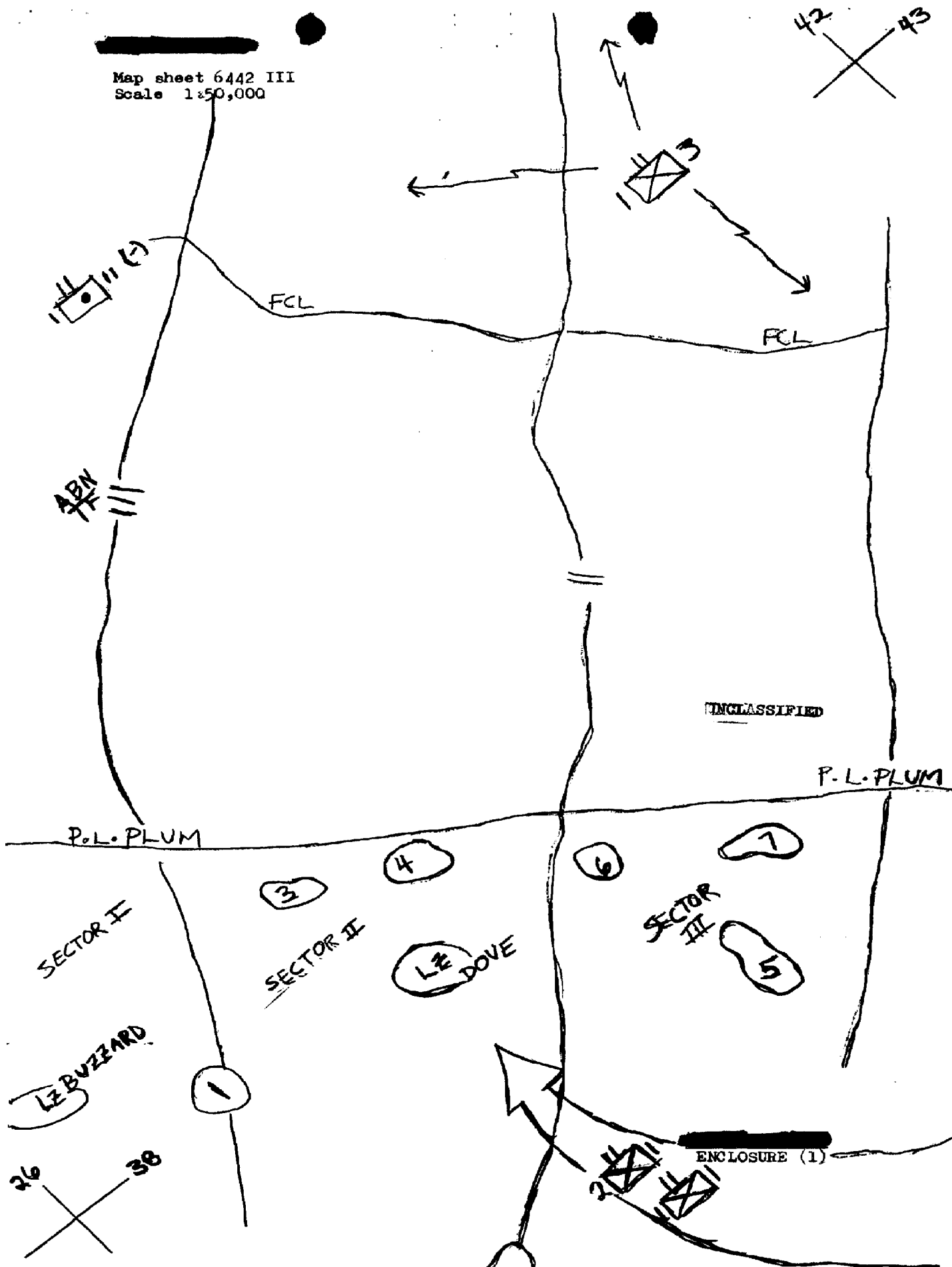
- a. Postal. Mail was delivered to the BLT rear aboard ship, sorted and delivered to the field. No difficulties were encountered.
- b. Logistics. Unit resupply was effected daily by truck and helicopter from the 4th Marines LSA at Camp Evans. A hot meal was delivered to all units on one occasion. No difficulties were encountered.
- c. Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation. Casualties were evacuated by helicopter to the USS OKINAWA. No difficulties were encountered.
- d. Communications. Communications were good with no difficulties encountered.

11. Commanders Analysis. The BLT's mission of providing security for a specified area to deny the enemy access to populated areas, bridges and culverts was somewhat of a different assignment for this unit. It is felt that the subordinate units of the BLT successfully accomplished the assigned mission as evidenced by the lack of any known or reported insurgent attacks or enemy initiated incidents in the BLT security zone. I consider that the number of weapons captured, particularly while executing a security-type mission, was noteworthy.

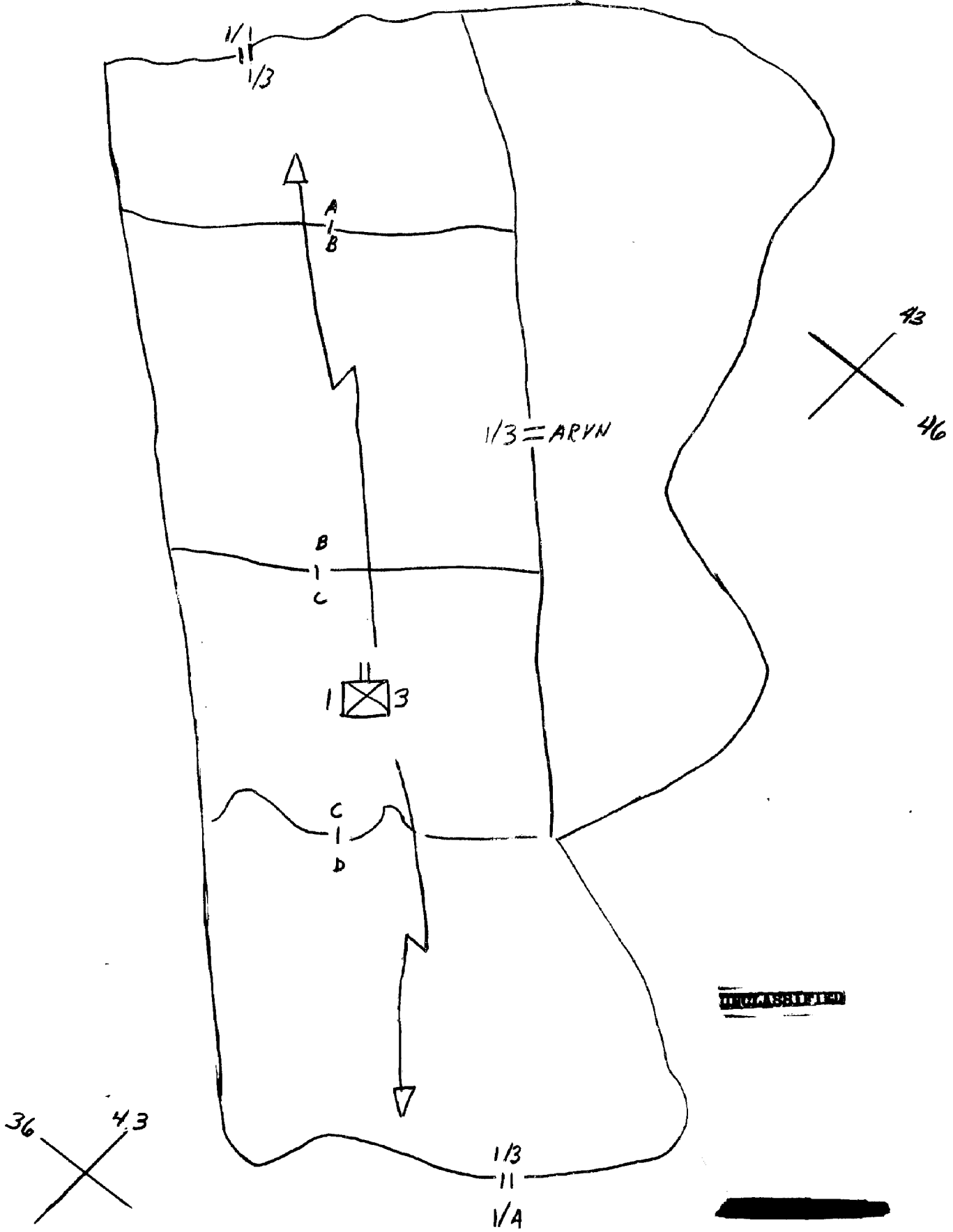
A. I. Thomas
A. I. THOMAS

Map sheet 6442 III
Scale 1:50,000

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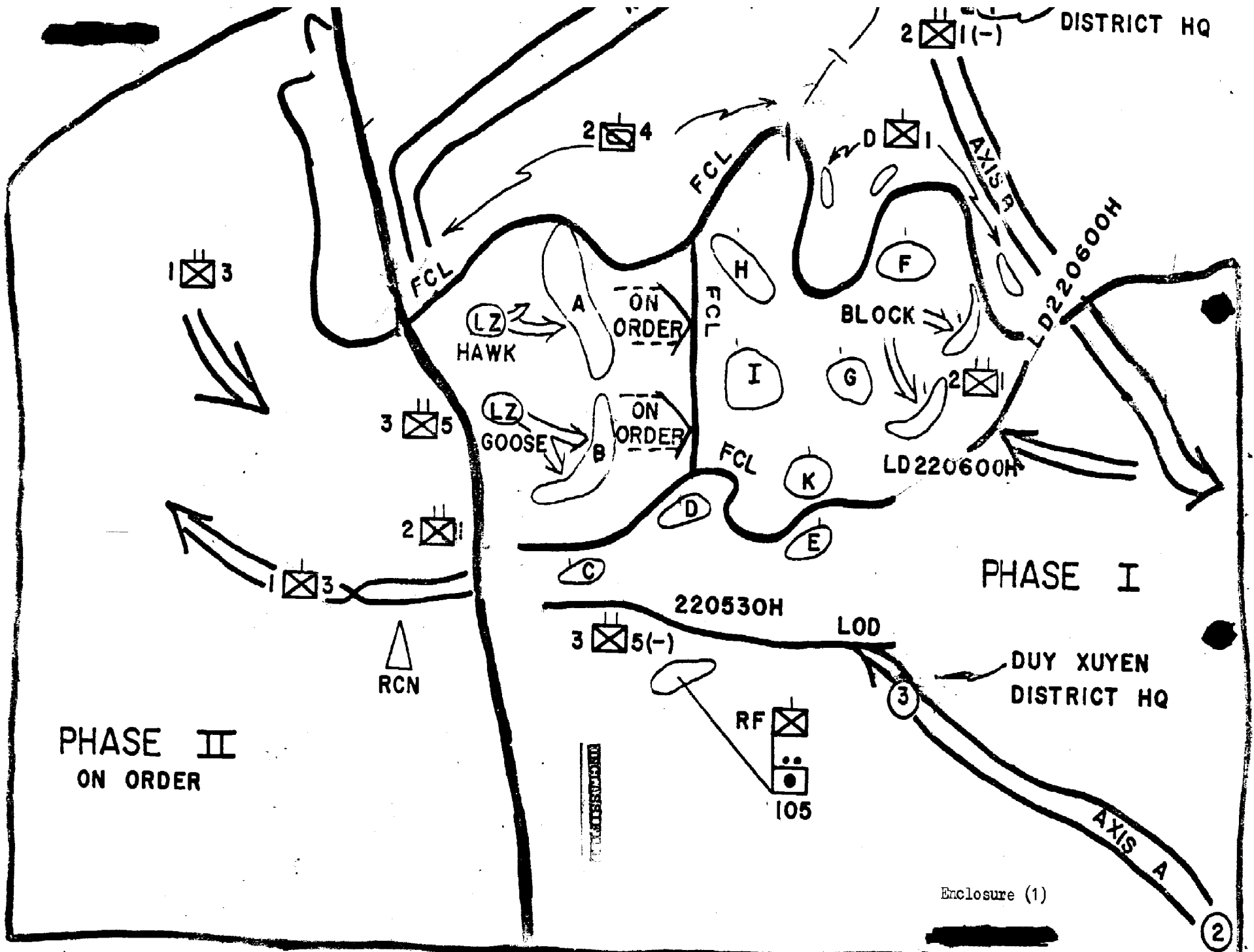


Map sheet 6442 II
Scale 1:50,000



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Enclosure (1)