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G.D.S.

HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 5TH CAVALRY
9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 96370

AVDE-CT

22 March 1968

FROM: Commanding Officer, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry
THRU: Commanding Officer, 7th Marine Regiment
TO: Commanding General
1st Marine Division
ATTN: G-3
FPO 96620

SUBJECT: Combat Operations Action Report

REFERENCE: FRAGO 03-68

1. Operation Worth
2. Initiated 130700H Mar 68 to 211200H Mar 68.
3. Quang Nam Province, Hieu Duc Sector, operated within area bounded on the east by NS grid AT95, on the west by NS grid AT87, on the north by EW grid AT71, and on the south by EV grid AT64.
4. Command Headquarters: HQ, 3/5 Cav.
5. Sqn CO: LTC Hugh J. Bartley
Sqn XO: Maj Michael D. Mahler
A Trp CO: CPT Ralph E. Garretson
C Trp CO: CPT Peter F. Scott
6. Task Organization: See ANNEX A
7. Supporting Forces: G Bat, 3/11 Mar acted in direct support of both A and C Trps throughout the operation with on call fire support.
8. Intelligence: Enemy forces expected to be encountered were the 368 Artillery Regt, the 406 Sapper Bn, and elements of the 31st NVA Inf Regt. Numerous bunkers and tunnel complexes were found by this unit during recon missions, however, no contact was made. Terrain was rice paddies and rolling hills. Trafficability was good to fair, while wet paddies restricted use of vehicles. Cover was provided by rice paddy dykes and hedge rows. Concealment was only fair due to open terrain. Weather during the operation was fair and warm. Late night and early morning haze limited use of air observation and reduced ground visibility.
9. Mission: Two troops Armd Cav conduct operations at entrance to Mortar Valley to deny escape routes to enemy and to find, fix, and destroy enemy forces encountered during reconnaissance.
10. Concept of Operation: Initial concept stated Trp A and C would establish blocking positions Green, White, Yellow, Blue, and Red (See ANNEX B) between grids AT8965 and AT8670 and conduct reconnaissance in force in surrounding area as directed. Subsequent concept led to reconnaissance in force by individual trps in AO Spur and Saddle (See ANNEX C).
11. Execution: On 9 Mar 68 this HQ was given a verbal warning order of operational requirements of operation Worth. After subsequent written notification and formulation of Sqn OP order, C Trp and A Trp moved to staging areas Violet and Brown (See ANNEX B) late on the afternoon of 12 Mar 68.

At approximately 0700H on the 13th, A and C Trps departed their staging areas and moved to, and established blocking positions (See ANNEX B) as required by OP order. These positions were secured by midday at

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which point elements of each trp were sent out to recon surrounding area for avenues of approach, fortifications, trails, or evidence of any recent enemy activity.

During the next two days A and C trps continued reconnaissance in force in area surrounding their blocking positions.

On the 15th, A Trp moved CP to Hill 10 and started conducting recon operations in AO Spur (See ANNEX C). C Trp continued blocking mission and recon operations.

On the 17th, C Trp moved CP to vic AT938642 and started operating in AO Saddle (See ANNEX C). Also A Trp was released from operation Worth and returned to vic Sodn CP.

C Trp continued to operate in AO Saddle until the 19th when they moved elements into AO Spur where they operated until the 21st. At 1200H on the 21st, they were released from OPCON 7th Mar Regt and moved back to vic Sodn CP. Completing 3/5 Cav participation in operation Worth.

During the operation no contact was made, however C Trp, 3d plt had a mine incident which caused moderate damage to the vehicle. Incident caused no casualties.

12. Results:

a. Friendly Losses: None

b. Enemy Losses:

- (1) KHA, WHA: None
- (2) Bunkers: 25 destroyed
- (3) Tunnels: 6 destroyed
- (4) Spider Holes: 35 destroyed
- (5) Equipment:
 - (a) 1 knapsack
 - (b) 2 canteens
 - (c) 1 pair of trousers
 - (d) 1 billfold
 - (e) \$30 in piasters
 - (f) 1/2 lb of documents (all evacuated to Sodn CP)
 - (g) 1 map

13. Administrative Matters: None

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: None

15. Commander's Analysis: The blocking force mission assigned the Sodn does not take full advantage of the mobility capability of the Sodn. Consideration should be given to using the Sodn in a mobile reconnaissance role in future operations.

16. Recommendations: After experiencing some problems with the differences in arty procedures, we feel that an effort should be put forth to develop identical techniques to aid coordination between Marine and Army elements. We are sure that with parallel procedures artillery support could be much easier and more effective.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

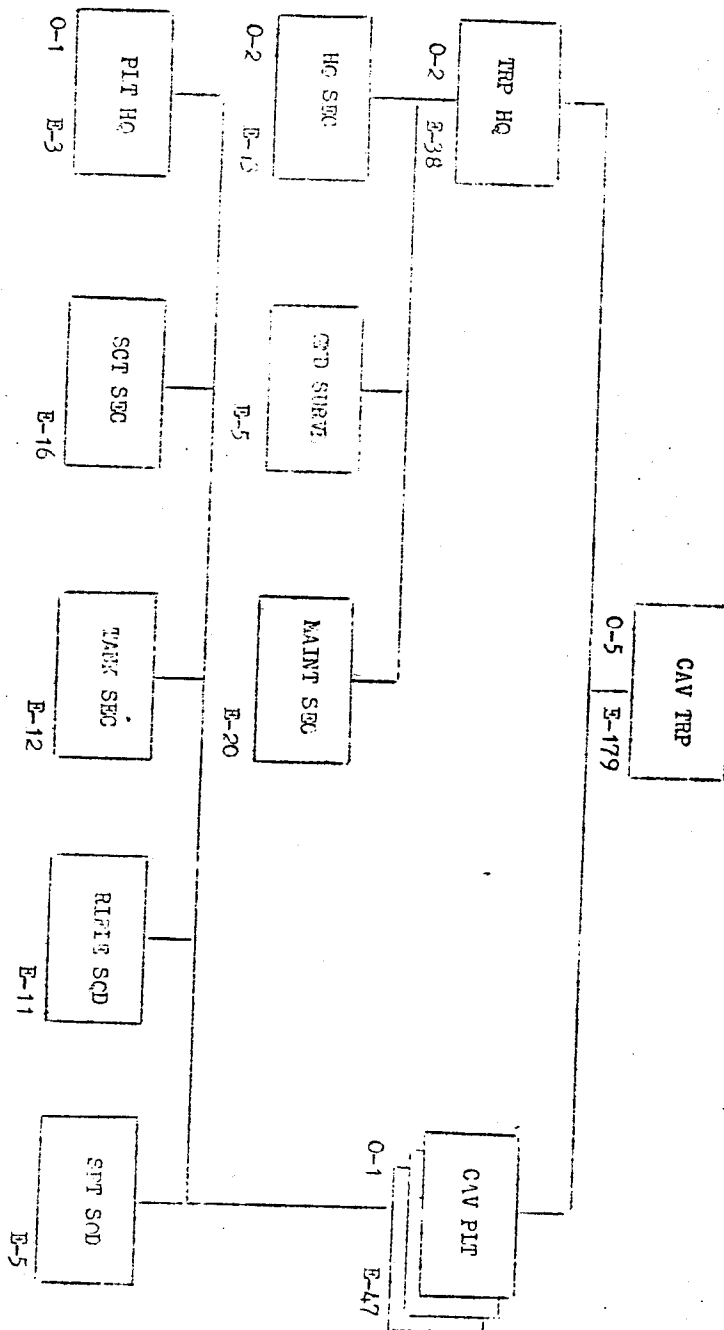
David L. Webb
 DAVID L WEBB
 1LT Armor
 S-3 Air

Annexes:

- A Organizational Structure Chart
- B Operation Overlay
- C Operation Overlay

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ANNEX A (Organizational Structure Chart)
Subject: After Action Report for period
(Opn Worth) (U) 130700H to 211200H Mar 68

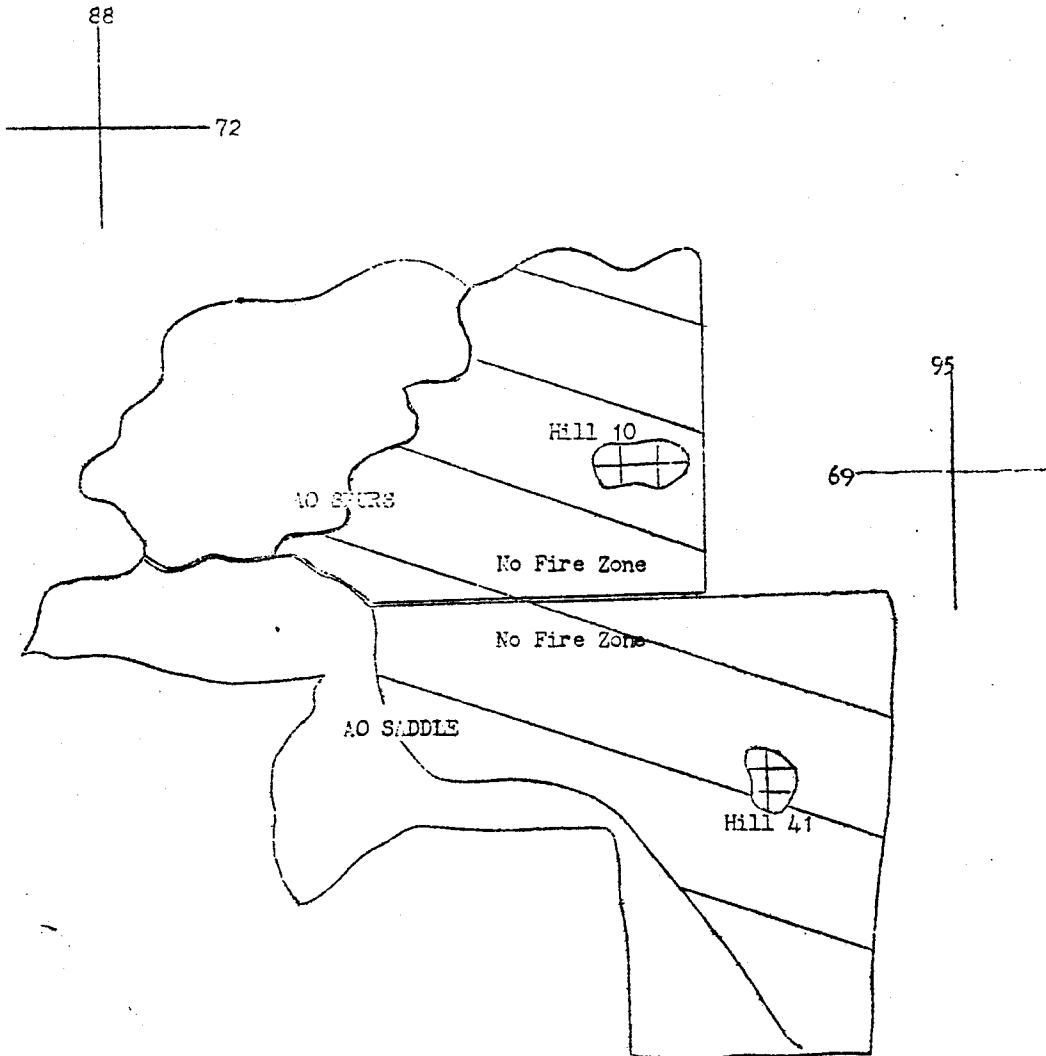


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ANNEX C (Opn Overlay) Subject: After Action Report for period
(Opn Worth) 130700H to 211200H Mar 68 (U)

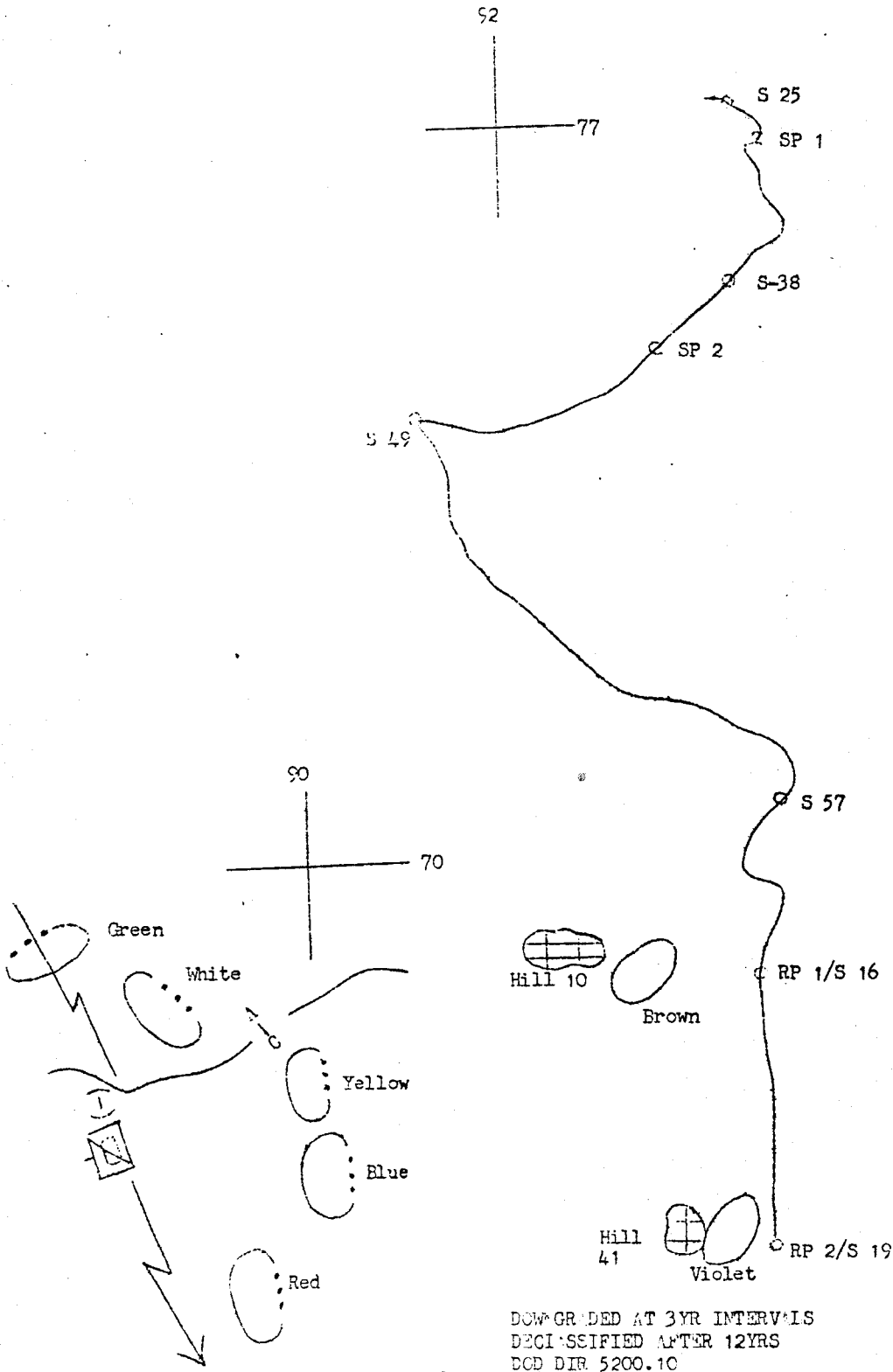


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ANNEX B (Opn Overlay) Subject: After Action Report for period
(Opn Worth) (U) 1307COH to 2112COH Mar 68



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