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DIARY

Copy No of 106

HQ 1 ATF (Fwd) 000011  
BEARCAT

10 May 68

OPS35

Frag 0 No 6 to OpO 19/68 (OP TOAN THANG)

References: A. VIETNAM Series L607 Sheet 6331 (1 : 100,000).  
B. VIETNAM Series L7014 Sheets 6331 II, 6331 III (1 : 50,000).

Time zone used throughout this order: HOTEL.

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces. Annex A.

b. Friendly Forces.

- (1) 3 Bde 1 (US) Div is operating to the West of AO SURFERS.
- (2) 2/506 (US) Bn is operating, under opcon 3 Bde 101 Abn Div, to the East of AO SURFERS.
- (3) HQ 48 Regt 5 ARVN Div is located at XT965230 and 1 Bn 48 Regt is located at XT915197.

2. Mission. 1 ATF to occupy blocking positions within AO SURFERS to interdict enemy withdrawal routes from the South and SW.

3. Execution.

a. Gen Outline. The operation will be conducted in three phases.

- (1) Phase 1. The insertion of 1 RAR and 3 RAR by air from AO COLUMBUS III to AO SURFERS on 12 May 68.
- (2) Phase 2. The establishment of FSPB CORAL and the deployment of 1 RAR and 3 RAR into their blocking positions in the period 12 - 13 May.
- (3) Phase 3. The deployment of A Bty, 2/35 (US) Arty, HQ 1 ATF (Fwd) and TFMA into FSPB CORAL on 13 May.

b. 1 RAR.

(1) Grouping. No change.

(2) Tasks.

- (a) Establish 102 Fd Bty, 12 Fd Regt, in FSPB CORAL.
- (b) To clear Route 16 from FSPB CORAL to TAN UYEN, vicinity XT959243 and secure it for the convoy movement on 13 May.
- (c) Establish blocking positions and patrol in AO BONDI to interdict enemy withdrawal routes from the South and SW.

c. 3 RAR.

(1) Grouping. No change.

(2) Tasks.

- (a) Conduct air assault landing into FSPB CORAL and secure LZ for fly in of 3 RAR and 1 RAR.
- (b) Establish 161 Fd Bty, 12 Fd Regt, in FSPB CORAL.
- (c) Provide one coy and one sect mors for the protection of FSPB CORAL.
- (d) Establish blocking positions and patrol AO MANLY to interdict enemy withdrawal routes from the South and SW.

d. A Sqn 3 Cav Regt.

- (1) One tp under opcon 1 RAR.
- (2) One tp under opcon 3 RAR.
- (3) Sqn HQ located at FSPB CORAL.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2.

e. TF Artillery.

- (1) 12 Fd Regt. Remains in direct support with no changes in affiliations. 102 Fd Bty, 161 Fd Bty deploy by air into FSPB CORAL 12 May.
- (2) A Bty 2/35 (US) Arty. Remains in general support reinforcing. Moves from FSPB ANDERSEN to HIEN HOA 12 May and joins rd convoy to FSPB CORAL 13 May 68. Deploys FSPB CORAL 13 May.
- (3) Det 131 Div Loc Bty. Continues present mission. Deploys two listening posts and one radar detachment by air into FSPB CORAL on 12 May.
- (4) AWCC. Air clearance in the AO below 6,900' will be granted by Arty Tac. Warning will be issued on 32.30 mc, "EAGLE HEIGHTS". Above 6,900' "PARIS" clearance will be obtained by Arty Tac, via PHU LOI Arty. All aircraft are to monitor normal AWCC beyond AO boundaries.

f. 1 Fd Sqn.

- (1) Two combat teams under cmd 1 RAR.
- (2) Two combat teams under cmd 3 RAR.
- (3) 1 Fd Sqn less one tp to move by road to BEARGAT 12 May.

g. Air.

- (1) 161 (Indep) Recce Flt.
  - (a) H13s in DS 1 ATF (Main), 1 RAR, 3 RAR continue.
  - (b) OIE continues VR tasks and provides automatic re-transmission as required.
  - (c) Det 161 (Indep) Recce Flt to re-deploy PHU LOI (XT8415) by 13 May.
  - (d) H13 on call NUI DAT for voice broadcasts.
  - (e) Remaining ac sp 1 ATF (Rear) and on call to 1 ATF (Main).
- (2) No 9 Sqn. FATOQ.
  - (a) Tac and log sp as required incl DUSTOFF back up.
  - (b) Loc No 9 Sqn det fwd base to be advised by RAAF.
  - (c) Continue to provide RAAF air cell at 1 ATF (Main).
- (3) US Army Avn.
  - (a) Air Planning Table to be issued separately as Annex D.
  - (b) Provide DUSTOFF with winch daily from 0800H to 1830H at NUI DAT.
  - (c) Provide LFT daily from 13 May at FSPB CORAL. Timings to be advised.
- (4) USAF.
  - (a) Deploy det to PHU LOI (XT8415).
  - (b) Continue to provide USAF ALO or representative at 1 ATF (Main).
  - (c) Maintain VR and air sp as required in AO, 1 ATF (Main) and TAOR, 1 ATF (Rear).

h. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) AOs and Boundaries. Annex P.
- (2) AO for FSPB CORAL. To be issued subsequently.
- (3) Timings.
  - (a) Phase 1 commences 120700H.
  - (b) Phase 2 commences 12 May.
  - (c) Phase 3 commences 13 May.

/ 3.

CONFIDENTIAL

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3.

4. Administration and Logistics.
- a. Gen Outline.
- (1) Fwd TFMA moves to FSPB CORAL on 13 May and will issue unit requirements PM 14 May.
  - (2) Unit ech will be loc with Fwd TFMA and will move to FSPB CORAL with Fwd TFMA.
- b. Material and Svcs.
- (1) Ammo.
    - (a) Gun ammo. Resupply as normal direct to gun lines. Normal MAINTDEM procedure.
    - (b) Other natures. An AF will be estb in Fwd TFMA. Unit echs carry normal holdings.
    - (c) Explosives from Fwd TFMA.
  - (2) POL.
    - (a) AVGAS, MOGAS, DIESEL - PP in Fwd TFMA.
    - (b) JP4 - NIL stocks in Fwd TFMA.
  - (3) Water.
    - (a) Unit responsibility until 15 May then from Fwd TFMA.
    - (b) 1 Fd Sqn to estb WP in FSPB CORAL by 15 May.
  - (4) Rations.
    - (a) Units responsible up to and incl 14 May.
    - (b) Sup Pt to be estb by Fwd TFMA. Units may commence drawing 1500 hrs 14 May.
    - (c) Fresh rations, initially on scale of one meal per day will be aval from 15 May.
  - (5) Def Stores.
    - (a) HQ 1 ATF has programmed def store requirements for FSPB CORAL for del 12 and 13 May.
    - (b) Res held Fwd TFMA.
  - (6) Ord. Det 1 OPF loc with Fwd TFMA.
  - (7) Repair and Rec. A small RAEME det will be located with Fwd TFMA.
  - (8) Expense Sups. From Fwd TFMA.
  - (9) Air Resup.
    - (a) No change to normal procedures.
    - (b) Normal courier ac will continue. Details separately when aval.
  - (10) Postal.
    - (a) As normal through TFMA. A postal NCO provides fwd postal cover.
    - (b) See SOPs for packaging details.
  - (11) Med. A RAP will be estb in FSPB CORAL by 8 Fd Amb. RAP opens at same time as HQ 1 ATF (Fwd).
  - (12) Canteens. Initially nil canteen facilities in op area.
  - (13) Road movement details. Issued separately by OC A Sqn 3 Cav Regt.
5. Command and Signal.
- a. HQ 1 ATF (Fwd) remains BEARCAT until 131400H.

/ 4.

CONFIDENTIAL

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4.

- b. HQ 1 ATF (Fwd) open at FSEB CORAL at 131400H.
- c. Current SOIs apply.
- d. Points of Origin. Issued separately.

*Law. H. Hughes* *Maj*

4 (R.L. HUGHES)  
Brig  
Comd

- Annexures:
- A. Enemy Situation.
  - B. Air Planning Table.
  - P. AOs and Boundaries.
  - Q. Enemy Routes and Base Camps.

Distribution:  
List Z

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ANNEX A TO  
1 ATF FRAG NO. 4 TO  
OPC NO 19/68  
DATED 10 MAY 68

ENEMY SITUATION AO SURFERS

General.

1. Since the start of the third enemy offensive on 4 May 68 it has become apparent that substantial enemy mainforce and local force units have either passed through AO SURFERS, or can be expected to do so in the near future. Enemy units moving South or SW through the area can be expected to be tactically deployed moving as units or sub-units under a coordinated command structure and to possess high morale. Conversely it can also be expected that enemy elements moving North or NW, away from the heavy fighting near SAIGON, will be moving in small groups, may be disorganized or even lost, and their morale will be low. One point worth remembering is that large enemy groups will be moving fast, probably on trails, and may often extend beyond our normal killing zones in ambushes.

2. A trace of main enemy base camps already located by US/ARVN forces, together with the general direction of enemy movement patterns is attached as Annex C.

3. Enemy Identification. It has already been ascertained both from PW and captured documents that elements of the following enemy regiments have already been contacted in or near AO SURFERS:

a. 141 NVA Regt. (Str now 975).

b. 165 NVA Regt. (Str now 694).

c. 274 VC Regt. (Str now 720).

d. 275 VC Regt. (Str ?).

e. DONG NAI Regt. (Str now 8 - 900).

COMBAT Charts of these regts are attached.

4. In addition the following LF or district elements are also operating in or near AO SURFERS:

3 VC LF Bn. (Str 300).

C300 DONG NAI Coy. (Str 60).

C302 TAN UYEN Pl. (Str 35).

C303 Coy. (Str 70).

III AN Pl. (Str 30).

83 Rear Services Group. (Str 900).

Enemy Weapons.

5. Local force enemy units are equipped with the usual types of small arms and automatic weapons, but in addition they do possess and have recently employed, 81/82 mm mortars. Harassing fires can be expected. Enemy 122 mm rocket sites have been sited to the South of AO SURFERS, firing on BINH HOA and LONG BINH.

6. It has been reported by HQ II FFV that the village of BINH MY (XT9036 - XT9132) has become an important VC troop staging area and supply depot. There have been many indications that VC units, moving South staged through BINH MY and that some of them have returned there to regroup after recent heavy fighting in and around SAIGON. This village is a logical choice for a staging area since it is located at the edge of forest and rubber plantations.

/ 2.

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ANNEX B TO  
1 ATF FRAG O NO 6 TO  
CFO 19/68 DATED 10 MAY 68

AIR PLANNING TABLE

Serial	Date	Unit	PZ	PZ Time	LZ	Complete Time	No Pers	Sorties	Ac	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
1	12 May 68	B Coy 3 RAR	YT173148	0700H	K Pad CORAL XT925284	0715H	60	10	AHC	C and C report 0615H at FSPB ANDERSEN YT207128. Altn LZ XT940263.
2	12 May 68	Recce Parties 12 Pd Regt 161 Pd Bty 102 Pd Bty 1 RAR	ROUND TABLE ANDERSEN HARRISON HARRISON	0705H 0705H 0705H 0705H	K Pad CORAL	0720H	5+ 5+ 5+ 5+	1 1 1 1	4 ALB	Pol aslt wave
3	12 May 68	HQ 12 Pd Regt	TEMA Pad BEARCAT	0715H	K Pad CORAL	0730H	-	2	2 CH47	NOT to land till serial 2 completed.
4	12 May 68	B Coy 3 RAR C Coy 3 RAR	YT173148	0730H	K Pad CORAL	0745H	78	13	AHC+3 ALB	4th ALB spare ac
5	12 May 68	161 Pd Bty	ANDERSEN	0745H	Z Pad CORAL	1000H	-	21	6 CH47	Refuel REDCATCHER Pad, LONG BINH or BEARCAT
6	12 May 68	3 RAR (-)	ANDERSEN	0800H	K Pad CORAL	1005H	D Coy 85 HQ 60 WP+stores 4 HQ 60 Mor/ammo 4 A Coy 85	14 10 4 10 4 14	AHC + ALB AHC ALB AHC AHC AHC + ALB	A Coy elements to remain till serial 5 completed. Refuel REDCATCHER Pad, 5 points available, 20 min allowed
7	12 May 68	1 RAR (-)	HARRISON YT173168	0945H	I Pad CORAL	1030H	198	6	3 CH47	
8	12 May 68	102 Pd Bty	HARRISON	1015H	X Pad CORAL	1230H	-	22	6 CH47 as available	

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CONFIDENTIAL

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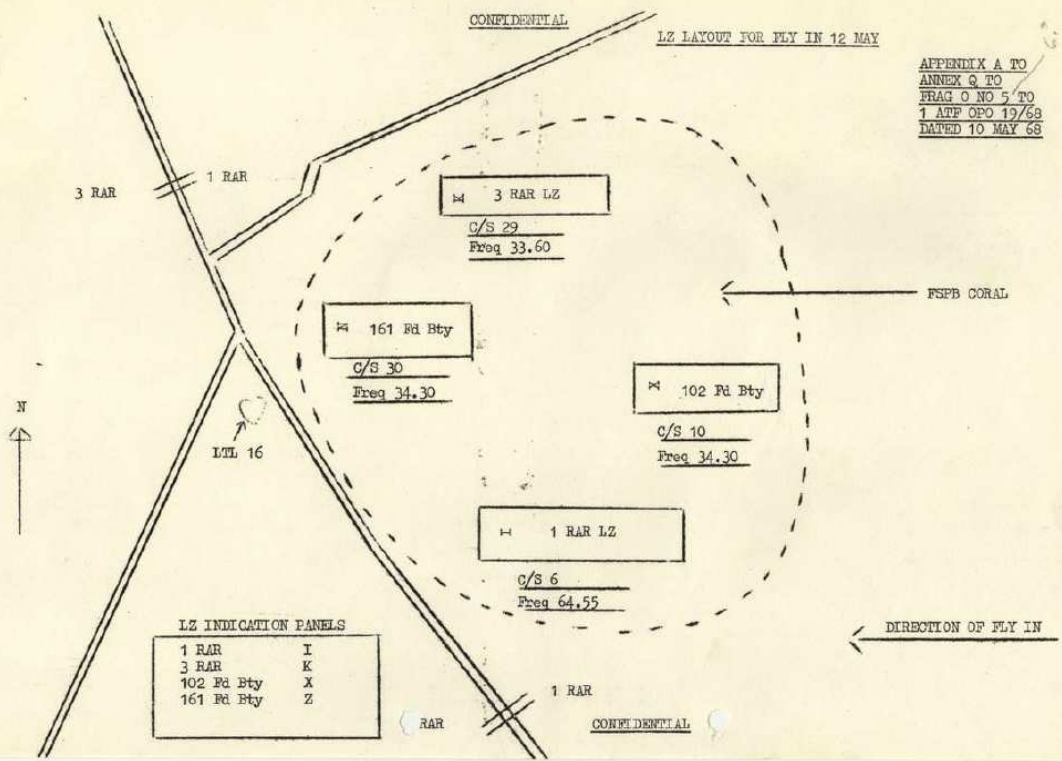
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
9	12 May 68	1 RAR (-)	HARRISON	1020H	I Pad CORAL	1155H	264	42	AHC + ALB	
10	12 May 68	Mor 11 RAR	HARRISON	1245H	I Pad CORAL	1300H	20 and stores	2	2 CH47	
11	12 May 68	Coy 1 RAR	HARRISON	1246H	I Pad CORAL	1301H	68	14	AHC + ALB	Coy elements to remain till serials 9/10 completed
12	12 May 68	TEMA		1315H					CH47	Sorties as required

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LZ LAYOUT FOR FLY IN 12 MAY

APPENDIX A TO  
ANNEX G TO  
FRAG O NO 5 TO  
1 ATP OPO 19/68  
DATED 10 MAY 68



3 RAR

1 RAR

I 3 RAR LZ

C/S 29  
Freq 33.60

FSPB CORAL

K 161 Pd Bty

C/S 30  
Freq 34.30

X 102 Pd Bty

C/S 10  
Freq 34.30



LTL 16

I 1 RAR LZ

C/S 6  
Freq 64.55

DIRECTION OF FLY IN

LZ INDICATION PANELS

1 RAR	I
3 RAR	K
102 Pd Bty	X
161 Pd Bty	Z

1 RAR

RAR

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