

BN After Action Report
OP GERONIMO I
11/6 - 12/4/66

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND873541

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 2D BATTALION (AIRBORNE) 502D INFANTRY
APO SF 96347

AVBD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

TO: Commanding General
1st Bde, 101st Abn Div
ATTN: AVBD-C
APO SF, 96347

1. GENERAL:

- a. Name of Operation: GERONIMO I
- b. Dates of Operation: 6 November 1966 to 4 December 1966.
- c. Location: Phu Yen Province.
- d. Control Headquarters: Hqs, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf.
- e. Reporting Officer: FRANK L. DIETRICH, LTC, Infantry.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION: The task organization is listed in 2/502d Infantry OPORE 68-66, and FRAGORDS 69-66 through 74-66.

3. SUPPORTING FORCES:

a. Army aviation support was used daily except when 2/502d Inf was conducting clandestine operations to locate the VC and NVA units. The support was always immediate and effective. The unit conducted a daylight airmobile assault to begin the operation. In addition to the initial assault, five company moves, 3 platoon moves and one squad move were made during the operation. Resupply, medical evacuation, and command and control missions were performed by US Army aircraft. Gunships were effectively employed against an entrenched NVA Battalion on 9 Nov 66. One helicopter with winch was employed to extract a paratrooper with a broken leg on 9 Nov 66 from a dense jungle. Continual heavy rain and fog caused considerable problems in the effective employment of aircraft.

b. The companies were provided continuous engineer support by keeping LZ demolition teams with them. These teams assisted in clearing LZ's and PZ's and in destroying mines and booby traps. Maximum advantage is gained if the engineer teams are attached directly to the companies with which they work to preclude difficulty attaching them at a later date.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNDS73541

AVBD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

c. Tac Air was used on 9 Nov 66 against an NVA Battalion in fortified positions. Due to the close proximity of friendly troops and the possible loss of contact if the friendly troops withdrew, the air strike was aborted after one bomb had been dropped. Red haze was used once to attempt to locate the enemy force. Visual reconnaissance was employed, but bad weather prevented it from being conducted at first light. Flareships were used on two nights with considerable success in exposing the enemy and limiting his movements.

d. Artillery support was outstanding during the operation. On 9 Nov 66 it was employed very effectively against an entrenched NVA force. The fire support greatly assisted the Infantry in defeating the NVA force during the assault. Artillery was used as a blocking force to complete the encirclement of an enemy force on 2 Dec 66 when bad weather prevented an airborne rifle company from making an airmobile assault. For 3 hours Btry A, 2d Bn 320th Arty effectively sealed a gap in the encirclement by firing interdiction fires on nine planned concentrations. Artillery was also fired on enemy base camps, trail junctions and stream crossings after the Infantry had departed the area.

e. Attachment of CIDG companies from USSF Detachment 122 (Cung Son District) increased the combat strength of the 2/502 and greatly improved the relationship between the STRIKE FORCE and Vietnamese irregular forces. The platoons from the CIDG company that were attached from 5 to 13 Nov 66 were attached to airborne rifle companies in 2/502d Inf. The company attached from 13 to 20 Nov 66 was given the mission of conducting Reconco Checkerboard operations and operated under the control of CPT Walters, the USSF Detachment Commander. The platoons from the company that were attached from 20 Nov to 23 Nov 66 were again attached to the three airborne rifle companies.

f. The Psy Ops Company provided loudspeakers to induce the members of the surrounded 5th Battalion, 95th NVA Regt to surrender on 11 Nov 66. This effort, in conjunction with the STRIKE FORCE encirclement, proved to be very effective. The same team was used on 2 and 3 Dec 66 to appeal to the enemy to surrender. A total of 59 loudspeaker hours and 1,025,000 leaflets were used.

4. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY:

On 6 Nov, the 2/502 Inf and the 2/327 Inf were deployed by heliborne assault into an area South of Dong Tre and West of the "HUB", to exploit intelligence of a suspected NVA Division Hqs and the 95th NVA Regiment operating in the area. Throughout the operation, clandestine movements, maximum deception, and thorough searching of the assigned area were the tactics utilized to feel, find, fix and finish the enemy. On 6-8 Nov, several small contacts were made resulting in two VC KIA, and one NVA KIA. Several company size base camps were discovered in the AO and two flare pistols, one U.S. shotgun, one junction box, one amplifier, and assorted SA ammo were captured. On the evening of 8 Nov, a small section of the RECONDO platoon discovered an occupied company size base camp vic BQ934584. The RECONDO element withdrew in a clandestine manner, and reported the discovery to Bn Hqs. To exploit this information, F 2/502 was instructed to orient in that direction along with the remainder of the RECONDO

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND873541

AVBD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

platoon. C 2/502 and A 2/502 were alerted for deployment to that area if needed.

At 0950 hrs, 9 Nov, one RECONDO section made contact with an unknown size NVA force vic BQ927584 resulting in one SKS captured. Twenty minutes later, the same element made contact with an estimated reinforced enemy platoon vic BQ927578. At this time the RECONDO section was reinforced by a platoon from B 2/502. As the fighting grew heavier, the remainder of the 2/502 was committed. On the night of 9 Nov, the 2/502 was in positions around the enemy force located vic BQ930575. The totals for the days action were: One SKS, two RPD, 1 MG captured, and 7 NVA KIA. On 10 Nov at approx 0910 hrs vic BQ933577, C 2/502 captured one NVA. From interrogation of this NVA, it was learned that the force with which the 2/502 was engaged was the 5th Bn of the 95th NVA Regt. Throughout the remainder of the day, all elements had several contacts with the NVA force and at 1935 hrs, P 2/502 was probed by NVA elements attempting to escape the encirclement. The NVA probed in an effort to find a weak spot in the encirclement two more times prior to midnight with negative results. At 0030 hrs, 11 Nov, A 2/502 was probed by an unknown size NVA force and at 0340 hrs an estimated NVA platoon size element attempted and failed to break through the encirclement vic BQ930580. The result of this attempt was six NVA KIA, and 3 RPD, 1 SKS, 4 AK-47, and 1 M16 rifle captured. Throughout the day, as the trap was closed and the sweep through the area was made, the NVA, with the exception of a few die-hard squads, seemed to be in a state of confusion and were wandering around in groups of 2-3 men each. As a result of the action 9-11 Nov, the 2/502 killed 37 NVA by body count, 2 VC by body count, captured 32 NVA, 4 VC, 26 individual weapons, and 14 crew-served weapons as well as assorted field equipment, foodstuffs, and ammunition. 11/10
9-11 NOV

On 12 Nov the RECONDO platoon made contact with two NVA vic BQ933582, resulting in two NVA KIA, one SKS, one 15 watt transmitter/receiver, and one firing quadrant captured. The radio was a Chinese Communist 102E Model radio and the firing quadrant was also a Chicom instrument. At 1525 hrs that afternoon, A 2/502 discovered a small medical cache vic BQ932565. Later, at 1630 hrs, C 2/502 discovered and destroyed a possible hospital complex of approximately 40 beds vic BQ935546. This was possibly the VC District Hospital that was suspected to be in the area.

A great deal of information was obtained from the interrogation of prisoners and the translation of documents captured in the period 9-12 November. It was learned that the 5th Bn 95th Regt, due to a shortage of personnel, on 6 Nov, dissolved one rifle company and integrated its troops into the remaining two rifle companies and the heavy weapons company of the battalion. At the time of the battle, the 5th Bn had 214 men present for duty strength. All company commanders had gone to the Regimental CP for a meeting. Evidence indicated that the area generally North of Cung Son was the training area for the new personnel of the 95th NVA Regiment. The regiment was understrength and was short ammunition. There were indications that some local VC had been drafted into the NVA ranks as filler personnel. Replacements were expected from North Vietnam sometime in late November or December. One prisoner stated that a weapons cache consisting of approximately 200 assorted weapons was located

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND873541

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

within a two kilometer radius of BQ885525, and were cached in three different locations. On 16 Nov, a search of the area failed to locate the large cache, however, several small caches were discovered vic BQ902542 consisting of three individual weapons, two breach blocks for 75mm RT, two 82mm mortar base plates, and assorted ammunition.

On 15 Nov, A 2/502 discovered another medical cache consisting of approximately \$2000 of medical and surgical supplies vic BQ936553. Also, in the same general area, A company captured an NVA who stated that he was a cook in the 5th Bn 95th Regt. He had been wandering around since the battle.

On 18 Nov, C 2/502 discovered a small cache of demolitions equipment and assorted clothing vic BQ892524. Among the demolitions equipment was a Chicom detonating device. One of the articles of clothing captured was a blue sweat-shirt with the letters "CCCP" in white over the left breast. This entire area appeared to be an area where salvage parts and training equipment was stored.

On 19 Nov, only one contact was made. At 1145 hrs, A 2/502 killed one VC and captured one SKS vic BQ936584. The NVA in the area appeared to have broken into small groups and moved either to the North-east or to the East.

On the 20th of Nov, only one contact was made. At 1550 hrs, C 2/502 had contact with an unknown number of VC vic BQ873537 resulting in one SKS and two Mausers captured. This general area had been booby trapped thoroughly with punji stakes and other booby traps such as; CBU bomblets, US AP mines, and numerous hand grenade trip devices. Nothing was found in the area to justify why the enemy would utilize so many booby traps. The majority of the booby traps were located along the trails. All booby traps were destroyed in place.

On 21 Nov, A 2/502 discovered several squad size camps vic BQ863566. Indications were that they were utilized by a small element moving to the East from the area of the battle of 9-11 Nov. At 1412 hrs that afternoon, B 2/502 captured a wounded NVA from the 5th Bn 95th Regt vic BQ937586. He stated that he had been with a group of approximately 12-14 NVA who were members of the 5th Bn 95th Regt. They had deserted him when he became ill and slowed them down. He stated that they had moved to the East. Later that afternoon, B Company discovered a medical cache vic BQ9458. This cache was similar to that discovered by A 2/502 on 15 Nov. In both caches, the supplies were stored in metal containers with packing lists on the lids. This cache was approximately 1/2 the size of the one found earlier by A Company in the same area.

On 22 Nov, the RECONDO platoon discovered several khaki uniforms stored in a cave vic BQ841552. Several well-used trails were found in the area, all running West to East. At 1125 hrs, A 2/502 made contact with three VC vic BQ973547 resulting in two VC KIA and one US carbine captured.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND873541

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

At 1236 hrs on 23 Nov, the RECONDO element picked up one Montagnard male wandering in their area of operation. Interrogation of this man brought out the fact that approximately 40 NVA had been in the area vic BQ8455 but all had left when the Americans entered the area. He also stated that the NVA had hidden a machine gun near the hut in which he lived. A small raiding party dropped in by helicopter at a later date proved that he was telling the truth when he led them to the cache. They discovered a US Model A-6 IIG hidden among the rocks.

On the afternoon of the 23rd, A 2/502 captured one VC with a block of TNT who stated that he was member of the 2nd Company of the 85th VCMF Battalion. He also stated that he had been wounded in a battle several months ago and had been located in a hospital to the West of where he was captured. He stated that all the patients had been removed from the hospital approximately 15 days prior to his capture and that when they had returned to the hospital, they found it destroyed. This was probably the hospital that C company had destroyed earlier.

On Nov 26, C 2/502 encountered two NVA vic BQ882541 resulting in one NVAC, one NVA KIA, and two AK-47 captured. The POW stated that he was a member of the 4th Bn 95th Regt which was located vic BQ8364. As a result of this information, the 2/502 was oriented in the direction of the suspected area.

On 29 Nov, several small contacts were made resulting in one NVA KIA, one SKS and assorted items of field equipment captured. Several company size base camps were found in the area with well traveled trails leading both to the East and to the North.

On the mornin of the 30th, C company contacted a carrying party of NVA vic BQ8346C7 resulting in one NVA KIA and two AK-47, one 82mm mortar captured. Indications were that the NVA forces in the area were trying to escape to the East. Documents captured indicated the Regimental Hvy Mortar Company. In the same general area, C Co. later found a base camp and several 82mm mortar sights and assorted equipment. Again, trails indicated movement to the East.

On the afternoon of the 1st of December, B 2/502 captured one NVA who stated that he was a member of the 18th (Signal) Co of the 95th Regt. Since several documents and POW had indicated the presence of two of the Regimental Spt companies, it was safe to assume that the Regimental CP was somewhere nearby. Throughout the remainder of the day, several sightings and small contacts were made with negative results.

On 2 December, A 2/502 ambushed an unknown number of NVA trying to cross the stream from West to East vic BQ864625 resulting in 15 NVA KIA, one NVAC, three AK-47, one RPG-2, two SKS, two RPD, one receiver for SG-43 HMG. The NVAC stated that he was a member of the 6th Bn 95th Regiment. His party was made up of sick lame and lazy who were left behind when the Bn had moved four days prior. Three men from the Bn recon section had returned and were

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

ND873541

AVBD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

taking them to the remainder of the Battalion. He did not know where it was. Several more small contacts were made in the same area throughout the day resulting in four NVA KIA, one mortar sight, one light MG, and assorted equipment captured.

On 3 Dec, 2/502 contacted 5 NVA vic BQ865625 resulting in one NVAC, four NVA KIA, one US carbine, one SKS and five packs captured. POW stated that his element was moving from East to West and had not made any contact with American forces prior to his capture. He also stated that a party of approx 30 NVA were following the lead element of 5 men. Those 30 NVA had moved back up the high ground to the East. Later that day, A Company killed one more NVA in the same vicinity. At 1710 hrs, RECONDO platoon made contact with an estimated NVA platoon resulting in four NVA KIA and one AK-47, and three SKS captured.

The 2/502 was extracted from the AO on 4 Dec, and no further contacts were made.

5. MISSION: The following missions were assigned 2/502 Inf during Operation GERONIMO I.

a. 6 through 8 Nov 66, 2/502 Inf conducts airmobile assault and commences RECONDO CHECKERBOARD initially to the west from the LZ's to deceive the enemy and then to the east. The initial phase is clandestine to deceive the enemy. All units are issued five days rations. Plan to converge all forces.

b. 9 through 11 Nov 2/502 Inf converges on BQ9357 to exploit enemy contact and to kill or capture the VC/NVA forces, use Tac Air, artillery and Psy Ops Team and one company conducts airmobile assault.

c. 12 through 27 Nov STRIKE FORCE employs a stay behind force vic BQ931576. Conducts RECONDO CHECKERBOARD and a company airmobile assault to southwest to exploit a suspected arms cache. Units return to Tac CP for Thanksgiving and then RECONDO CHECKERBOARD to south and to southwest.

d. 28 Nov 2/502 prepares for extraction from AO and moves to PZ's.

e. 29 Nov through 3 Dec RECONDO CHECKERBOARD initially to south and to southwest. RECONDO CHECKERBOARD two companies and airlifts 2/502 (-) to west as part of 1st Bde encircling force. Use artillery and Co C, 2/327 Inf to encircle NVA force.

f. 4 Dec extracted from AO by helicopters.

6. CONCEPT OF OPERATION: (See Inclosure of Sketch Maps).

a. 6 Nov, ^{2/502} conducts airmobile assault and begins RECONDO CHECKERBOARD initially to west to deceive enemy and then to east. Co B given AO to west to deceive enemy and to check possible enemy position where smoke was seen on 4

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND873541

AVBD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

Nov by Gunslinger. Initial operation to be clandestine with strict control of aircraft over AO.

b. 7 Nov: Section, Recondo Platoon blocks to assist 2/327, which is fighting an enemy company that has heavy weapons. All other units continue clandestine RECONDO CHECKERBOARD to the east.

c. 8 Nov: Section Recondo Platoon released from blocking mission. Recondo Platoon (-) locates a base camp vic BQ936582. Plan for 9 Nov is as follows: Recondo Plat (-) moves to blocking position northeast of objective area vic BQ938582 to prevent movement to northeast. Section, Recondo Platoon moves from Tac CP to blocking position northwest of objective area vic BQ931581. Co A conducts airmobile assault, on order, to LZ northeast of objective area and attacks from northeast to southwest. Co B establishes platoon blocking positions south and southeast of objective area and one platoon attacks from northwest. 1st Plat, Co B had to plan to evacuate a man with a broken leg, so 1st Plat was approximately 3000 meters west of the remainder of the company. Co C was told to be prepared to move two platoons to blocking positions on the east of the objective area, and Co C (-) would move to blocking positions on order.

d. 9 Nov: 2/502 begins encirclement of the 5th Bn, 95th NVA Regt. Section, Recondo Platoon is joined by 2nd Plat, Co B during move to blocking position. Section Recondo Plat, and 2nd and 3rd Plats, Co B develop the situation. Artillery, gunships and one air strike are used on the entrenched enemy force. Co C moves to blocking positions. Co A conducts airmobile assault and occupies blocking positions. Encirclement is complete. Illumination from flareship during the night.

e. 10 Nov: Continued to contract the circle and destroy the NVA battalion. Psy War Team employed from the air. Illumination from Hvy Mort Plat using 81mm mortars during the night.

f. 11 Nov: STRIKE FORCE continues to close on the encircled force. Requests 2/327 occupy two blocking positions to the north. Uses Psy War Team on the ground and IPW Teams to assist the Infantry. Attacks from south to north with one force while other units hold. Attacks from east to west with one company (-) while other units hold. Thorough search of trees, bushes, ravines, and ditches for NVA soldiers and equipment.

g. 12 Nov: 2/502 commences to RECONDO CHECKERBOARD in its AO; Co A to east from BQ955576, Co B to west from BQ928577, Co C to south and Recondo Platoon to northwest.

h. 14 Nov: 2/502 continues to conduct RECONDO CHECKERBOARD in its AO. Co C conducts airmobile assault to BQ889525 to block and RECONDO CHECKERBOARD northwest on order.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNDS73541

AVBD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

i. 15 Nov: 2/502 continues its mission. Co A conducts stay behind operation vic BQ931574. 2/502 (-) begins movement to seize arms caches. RECONDO CHECKERBOARD to northwest on order.

j. 20 to 23 Nov: 2/502 continues to RECONDO CHECKERBOARD in its AO, and prepares to conduct airmobile assault to encircle an estimated NVA Battalion.

k. 24 Nov: 2/502 continues to RECONDO CHECKERBOARD in AO. Sends Co A (-) to exploit reported group of estimated 15 NVA suspected to be in area with heliborne assault to east on designated LZ then to return to AO and continue mission.

l. 25 to 27 Nov: 2/502 continues to RECONDO CHECKERBOARD to the west in its AO. A Co conducts heliborne assault to designated LZ's to northwest to encircle an estimated NVA Battalion.

m. 27 Nov to 3 Dec: 2/502 conducts RECONDO CHECKERBOARD generally west and north to exploit contacts and encircle and destroy a reported regimental headquarters.

n. 4 Dec: Extracts from AO by helicopters and returns to Tuy Hoa.

7. EXECUTION: Operation GERONIMO I was conducted from 6 Nov to 4 Dec 66 in Phu Yen Province.

Operation GERONIMO I began with Co B conducting an airmobile assault at BQ854625 followed by Co C at BQ893533 and Co A at BQ885516. Recondo Platoon, Mortar Platoon and Tac CP were airlifted to BQ903591. All elements landed with negative contact and initially searched to the west to deceive the enemy. Then all units RECONDO CHECKERBOARD to the east.

7 Nov 2/327 encountered an enemy company with some heavy weapons to include a heavy machinegun and a mortar. 2/327 began overt actions using artillery, helicopters and air strikes after the enemy force was located. 2/502 continued clandestine operations except for artillery in the AO of Co C. Section, Recondo Platoon assisted 2/327 by blocking south of enemy positions.

8 Nov 2/502 RECONDO CHECKERBOARD from east to west along a 11,000 meter front. Co C had sporadic contact with 5-6 man groups vic BQ947548. These groups had automatic weapons and initiated the action. Section, Recondo Platoon completed the blocking mission for 2/327 Inf and returned to the Tac CP. Recondo Platoon (-) was not detected and moved to northeast to vicinity of BQ942587. Orders were issued by Gunslinger for an attack of this base camp complex on 9 Nov 66.

Sequence of events for 9 to 12 Nov were as follows:

9 Nov 2nd Plat B Co moving to attack positions linked up with Section Recondo Plat vic BQ925584; followed Section, Recondo Platoon as it moved to establish block position vic BQ930584.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ND873541

AVRD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

1005: Section, Recondo Platoon engaged NVA at BQ929575; 1 SKS captured. Continued to push enemy force south along finger. Forces estimated as an enemy platoon.

1010: 2d Plat Co B and Section, Recondo Platoon attacked hill vic BQ928574 together from west to east.

1025: 2d Plat Co B and Section, Recondo Platoon engaged estimated NVA Co; 3 US KIA, 7 US WI from 2d Plat Co B; 1 US KIA, 3 US WIA from Recondo Platoon.

1030: Two platoons of Co C directed to move into blocking psns vic BQ934575.

1050: Co C (-) directed to move north into blocking positions vic BQ934573.

1115: Helicopters requested on standby to lift Co A.

1130: "Dust Off", C&C and gunships requested.

1150: Co A alerted for move from PZ BQ938518 to LZ BQ950584 to block at BQ93858e.

1200: 4th Plat Co B arrived at BQ928568 in blocking position.

1205: Recondo (-) at a blocking position at BQ938581.

1210: 3d Plat Co B in position BQ927571; observed Hvy MG firing on Recondo's; while moving to attack Hvy M3, encountered large enemy force; 1 US WIA, enemy casualties unknown.

1215: Helicopter requested for ammo resupply.

1225: C&C arrived at Tac CP.

1255: Helicopters were supposed to take off to pick up Co A. Difficulty with ammo to Bde Tac CP at Dong Tre.

1345: Helicopters arrived at PZ at BQ938518 to move Co A.

1425: Co B engaged 3 VC at BQ928568 resulting in 1 RPD captured.

1430: 1st Plat Co C engaged 1 NVA at BQ947570 with AK-47; neg results.

1435: Ammo resupply arrived at Tac CP.

1440: Airstrike commenced at BQ930571.

1448: One bomb load dropped. Airstrike aborted due to close proximity of friendly elements.

1500: 2d and 3d plat Co B and Section, Recondo Plat broke contact and began movement of friendly WIA and KIA to PZ vic BQ928575.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND873541

AVBD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

- 1509: Gunships were used on enemy location vic BQ930572.
- 1510: Recondo Platoon (-) moving to establish block vic BQ930583.
- 1515: to 1635: Artillery firing. Expended 166 HE rds, 8 WP, and 3 HQ.
- 1600: Co A movement completed; blocking N and NW of hill (BQ933578).
- 1615: Recondo Plat (-) now in blocking position at BQ931583.
- 1645: Co B completed redistribution of ammo and began 2d assault with 2d and 3d plats vic BQ928573 from west to east.
- 1705: Co C (-) arrived in blocking positions E of hill (BQ933571).
- 1735: "Dust Off" complete from P7 vic BQ928575.
- 1825: Resupply of ammo to 2d and 3d plats Co B complete. Results of assault from 1025H to 1800H: 7 NVA KIA, 1 SKS, 2 RPD.
- 1830: Co A in final disposition on NE of hill (BQ933571).
- 1845: Mort Plat began firing illumination in area of the battle.
- 1915: Flaeship requested.
- 2010: Flaeship arrived.
- 10 Nov:
- 0350: Flaeship departed.
- 0715: 2/327 deployed units at BQ916595 and BQ919584 which 2/502 had requested.
- 0840: Co C 1 VC KIA at BQ933576.
- 0905: Co C engaged 2 NVA at BQ933576; 1 NVA KIA, 1 NVA captured.
- 1023: Psy War Team requested.
- 1250: Co A engaged unknown size force at BQ932577; 8 NVA KIA, 1 RPD, 2 SKS, 1 AK-47.
- 1340: Co F engaged unknown size force at BQ930576; 2 NVA KIA, 1 60mm mortar bipod, chicom grenades; 1 US KIA, 2 US WIA. ✓
- 1345: Recondo Plat engaged unknown size force at BQ930581; 1 RPD captured.
- 1230: Psy War team arrived.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND873541

AVBD-CC

10 December 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

1300: Psy War team commenced action from helicopter (2 hours broadcast).1540: Resupply completed to Co C CP and 2d plat.1745: Co A engaged 3 NVA at BQ932580; 3 NVA KIA, captured 1 7.62 Hvy MG on wheels, 1 82mm tube.2100: to 2150: Co F probed twice by enemy using hand grenades.2315: Hvy Mort Plat began firing illumination rounds every 15 minutes with 81mm mortars.

11 Nov:

0030: to 0130: Co A probed twice. Requested illumination rounds every 30 seconds. 2 US WIA from probes.0150: Probe and illumination ended.0340: Recon Plat engaged at BQ930580 by possible platoon going to east. Ambushed the force. 6 NVAKIA, 4 AK-47, 2 SKS, 3 RPD, 1 M-16. ✓0644: Co A engaged 1 NVA vic BQ932578; 1 NVA KIA, 1 .45 cal pistol.0715: 2/327 moved into blocking positions at BQ916595 and BQ919584.0730: Gunslinger joined ground forces to direct movement and placed Psy War team with ground.0908: Co A captured 1 NVA and 1 AK-47 at BQ935579.0912: Co B captured 1 NVA at BQ930570; Psy Ops team used POW's to appeal to other NVAs to surrender.1000: Co B and 1 plat of Co C began sweep from south to north; all other units holding.1045: Co C captured 7 NVA at BQ934577 with 1 US carbine, 1 RPD, 1 AK-47.1110: Co C captured 1 NVAC at BQ934577 and 1 VC.1220: S-3 Air and Artillery LNO captured 2 VC at BQ935580.1230: Co D captured 2 NVA and 1 VC at BQ934577.1235: Requested IPW team, from 1st LNO to assist in interrogation of the large number of POW's1300: Co A engaged 3 NVA at BQ934579; 2 NVA KIA, 1 NVA captured.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ND873541

10 December 1966

DD-CC

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GEROMINO I

1320: Co A (-) alerted to attack east to west. All other units to hold.

1330: Co F captured 1 VC, 1 82mm mortar (- bipod), 1 60mm mortar tube and base plate, 3 AK-47, 1 SKS at BQ932577.

1347: IPM team arrived.

1350: 2 plats Co C directed to occupy blocking positions held by 2 plats Co A via BQ934579 to enable Co (-) to conduct attack from E to W.

1410: Co A (-) conducted attack from east to west. All other units holding.

1425: Co A captured 3 NVA; 1 RP-46 IMG at BQ933579.

1540: Co A completed sweep; linked with Reconcos and western elements of Co B at vic BQ931579. Co B and 1st plat Co C commenced sweep from south to north.

1555: Co C captured 1 rocket launcher RPG-40 during sweep.

1615: Requested two CH-47's to extract POW's and captured equipment.

1720: Co B and 1st Plat Co C linked with 2d Plat Co A on northern block after sweep.

1725: CH-47's arrived.

1835: CH-47's departed with captured equipment.

Due to the intensity of the battle and the many events happening at one time, reports were not submitted for all of the action on 11 Nov. The total was as follows:

13 NVA KIA	4 RPD	1 RP-46	11 RPD canister.
31 NVA Captured	3 US Carbines	1 60mm mortar w/base plate	2 mortar sights
4 VC Captured	1 M-16	1 telephone	2 boxes MG ammo
12 AK-47	1 .45 Cal pistol	8 rocket launcher rds	
5 SKS	1 RPG-40	3 medical kits	

12 Nov:

0950: Section, Reconco Platoon engaged 2 NVA at BQ927577; 2 NVA KIA, 1 SKS, indirect fire instrument, and 1 radio transmitter/receiver.

1520: 2/327 released from blocking force north of STRIKE FORCE AO.

1650: Co C engaged 4 VC at BQ939547; 1 VC KIA.

13 Nov conducted RECONDO CHECKERBOARD in AO. CIPCO company replaced. Reconco Platoon conducted airmobile assault to secure new area for Tac CP at BQ884562. The CP displaced to vic BQ884562.

From 13 to 15 Nov continued RECONDO CHECKERBOARD.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND873541

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

10 December 1966

On 15 Nov Co A remained as a stay behind force vic BQ31576. Co B found weapons cache vic BQ904547. Co C conducted airmobile assault; contact vic BQ855526.

On 16 Nov Co A continued on stay behind operation. Co's B and C continued to Recondo Checkerboard. BHC destroyed downed helicopter near Tac CP.

On 17 Nov Co A had light contact vic BQ938581. Co C found a cache vic BQ892524. Recondo Platoon had light contact vic BQ870525.

From 18 to 20 Nov continued Recondo Checkerboard in AO; Co's B and C had light contact on 20 Nov; the Tac CP displaced to BQ945591 on 20 Nov.

On 21 Nov Co A had light contact vic BQ973547 and Co B had light contact vic BQ934578.

From 22 to 24 Nov companies closed into Tac CP to observe Thanksgiving Day. Co A (-) exploited an area vic BQ975561 with negative contact on the morning of 24 Nov.

On 25 Nov Co C had light contact vic BQ953553. Other units continued to Recondo Checkerboard in AO's.

On 26 Nov Co C had light contact vic BQ877543. Co A and Co B continued to Recondo Checkerboard. Recondo Platoon took a 18 man raiding party and made a helicopter assault to exploit information from a Montagnard, which resulted in an A-6 .30 Cal MG, vic BQ839549.

On 27 Nov and 28 Nov companies made preparation for extracting from AO by moving to PZ's. Extraction postponed.

On 27 Nov Tac CP Recondo Platoon and Mortar Platoon moved to BQ872624. Co's B and C had light contact while Recondo Checkerboarding under execution of new FRAGORD 75-66 (GERONIMO I).

On 30 Nov and 1 Dec companies continued to Recondo Checkerboard in AO's with light contact resulting in several NVC/VC KIA and assorted weapons and equipment.

On 2 Dec Co A had contact with an NVA Recon Platoon vic BQ864625. Co B had light contact vic BQ850622. While Co C and Recondo's continued to Recondo Checkerboard in AO. At this time 2/502 Inf had the enemy encircled when received order to move in next 24 hours. 2/502 Inf decided to attack with Co B and Co C. This action disclosed enemy force and drove the enemy into Co A.

On 3 Dec Co A had contact with enemy forces at BQ865625 and BQ866627. Co's B and C continued to Recondo Checkerboard in AO. Co C 2/327 was placed under the OPCON 2/502 and located at PZ vic BQ855644. Flare ship was requested and used night of 3 Dec to aid Airborne Infantry in destroying the enemy.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ND873541

10 December 1966

Action Report, Operation GERONIMO I

Recondo Platoon had contact at BQ870625 with estimated platoon ~~of~~ 3 Dec resulting in 4 NVA KIA and assorted weapons and equipment captured. Recondo Platoon then moved to Tac Cp to commence extraction. All units moved to PZ's.

On 4 Dec 2/502 & Co C 2/327 were extracted from the AO by helicopters.

8. RESULTS:

a. Friendly Losses:

US KIA 6
 US WIA 28
 US MIA 0
 US CIA 0
 DOW 1

b. Enemy Losses:

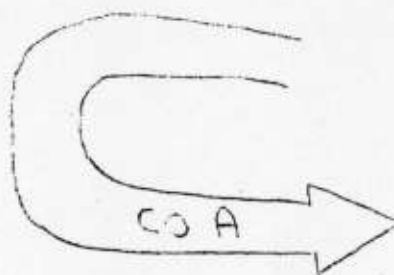
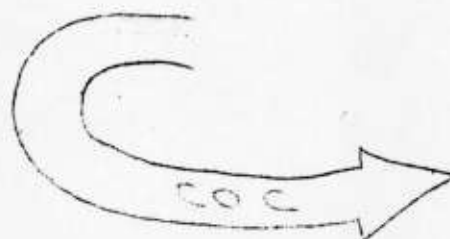
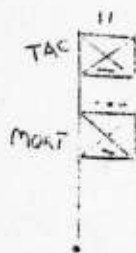
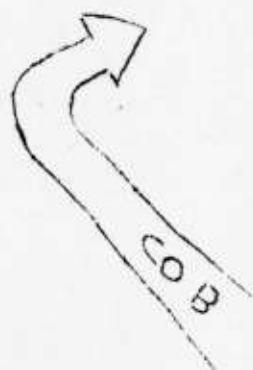
VC/NVA KIA (EC) 83
 VC/NVA KIA (Est) 0
 VCC/NVAC 46
 VCS (Detainees) 1
 Ralliers 0

Weapons & Equip Captured: 1 shotgun, 8 US carbines, 1 45 cal pistol, 3 flare guns, 21 SKS, 24 AK-47, 1 M-16, 3 Mausers, 3 RPG-2 rocket launcher, 9 RPD LMG, 2 RPG-26 LMG, 2 SG-43 HMG, (less barrel and carriage), 1 30 cal MG M-6, 1 60mm mortar, 2 82mm mortars (less bipod), 1 82mm mortar with bipod, 3 82mm mortar baseplates, 2 75mm RR breach block, 1 102E (15W radio), 6 82mm sights, 1 60mm mortar sight, 1 gunners quadrant, 1 junction box, 1 loud speaker, 4 75mm RR cleaning rods, 5 75mm RR ammo carriers, telephone, 5 leather ammo carrying cases, 1 civilian radio, 1 box TNT chicom type, 1 pack TNT, 2 AP US mines, 1 trip flare US, 1 demt tester, 1 claymore mine, 3 claymore mine triggers, 5 wire cutters, 2 screw drivers, 1 measuring tape Ener, 60 blasting caps, 1 detonating device chicom, approx 106 AK-47 magazines, 4 magazines M-16 ammo, 2 crescent wrenches, 3 miles commo wire, 1 hair clippers, 2 hand drills, 17 mosquito nets chicom, 4 medical kits, 25 RPD ammo drums, 38 grenades, 8 82mm mortar rds, 2 60mm mortar rds, approx 5000 rds assorted small arms ammo, 54 packs, approx 500 lbs corn, approx 6 tons rice, approx 6 ft documents, numerous assorted medical supplies, numerous assorted clothing and cooking equipment, 9 RPG-2 rds, 1 flashlight, 1 ammo pouch, 3 canteens, 3 CBU bomblets, (destroyed) 1 AP mine USM-49 destroyed, cleaning equipment for 82mm mortar, 2 telephones, 1 megaphone, 7 shovels, 2 aiming stakes, 1 82mm mortar cleaning rod, 1 aid kit, 160 rds AK-47 ammo, 14 ammo carrying cases for 75mm RR, 2 bundles documents.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

a. Medical: In analyzing foot problems in the last two months, there

Scheme of MANEUVER 6 Nov



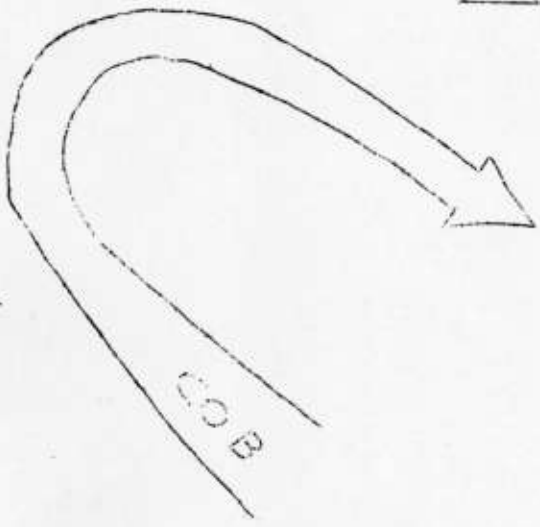
NOT TO SCALE

SKETCH MAP NO 1

SCHEME OF MANOEUVRE

8 Nov

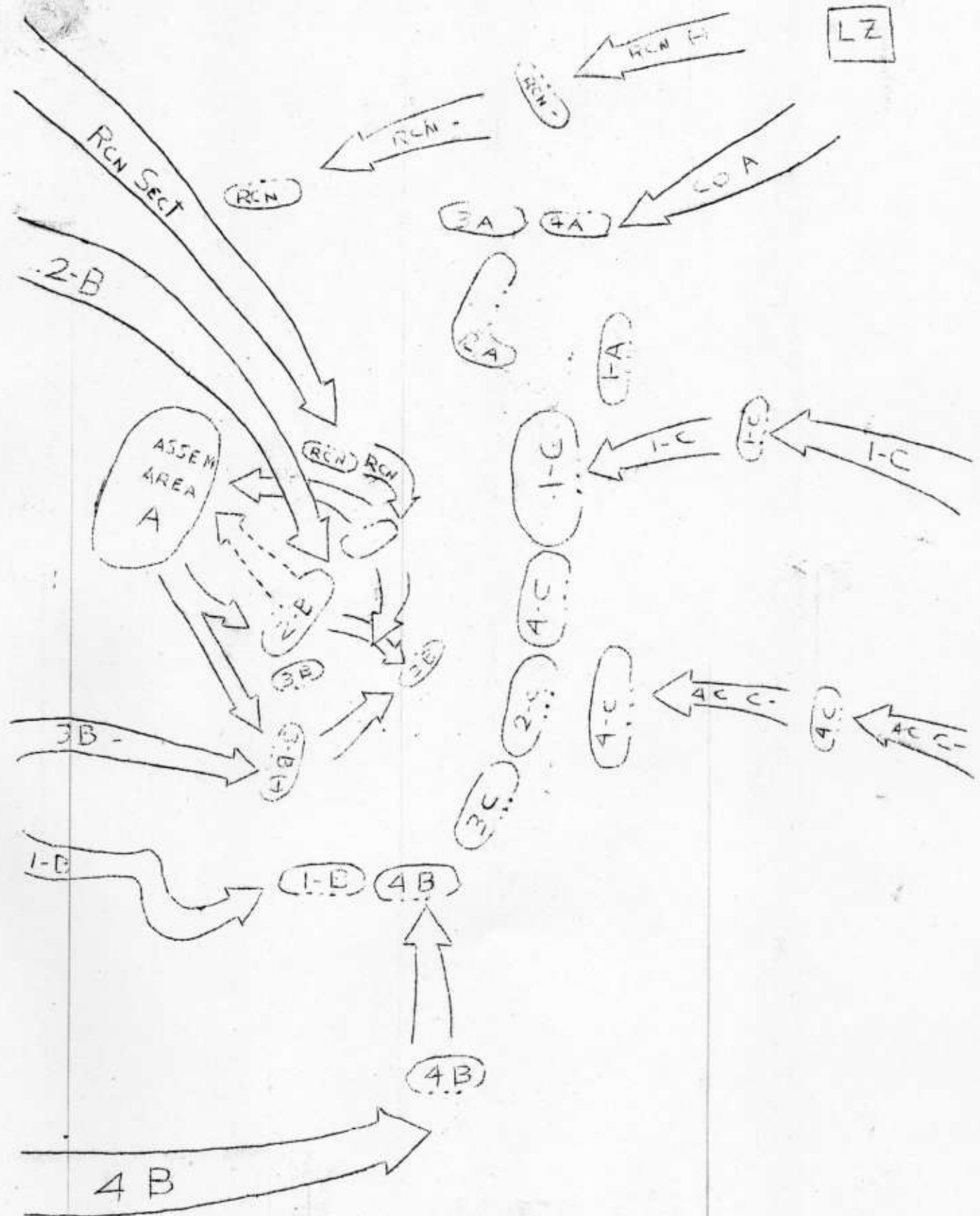
TAC  2-502



NOT TO SCALE

DRAWN BY NO. 2

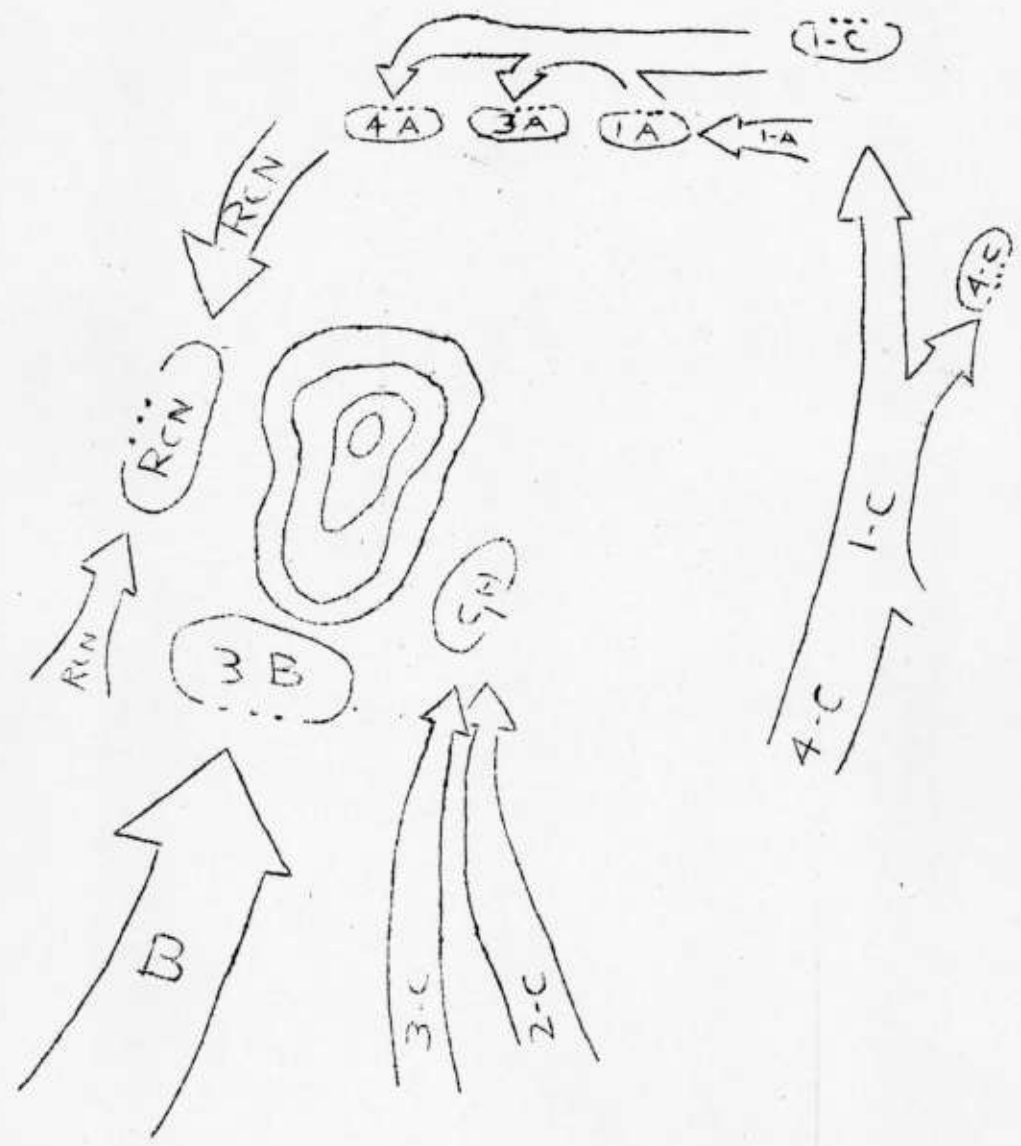
SCHEME OF MANEUVER 7 Nov



NOT TO SCALE SKETCH MAP NO 3

SCHEME OF MANEUVER

10 Nov

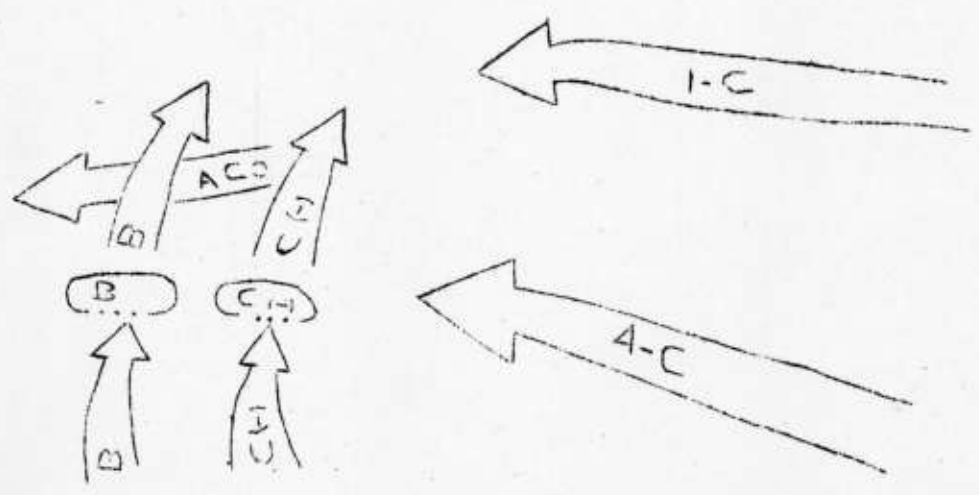


NOT TO SCALE

SKETCH map NO 4

SCHEME OF MANEUVER

11 Nov



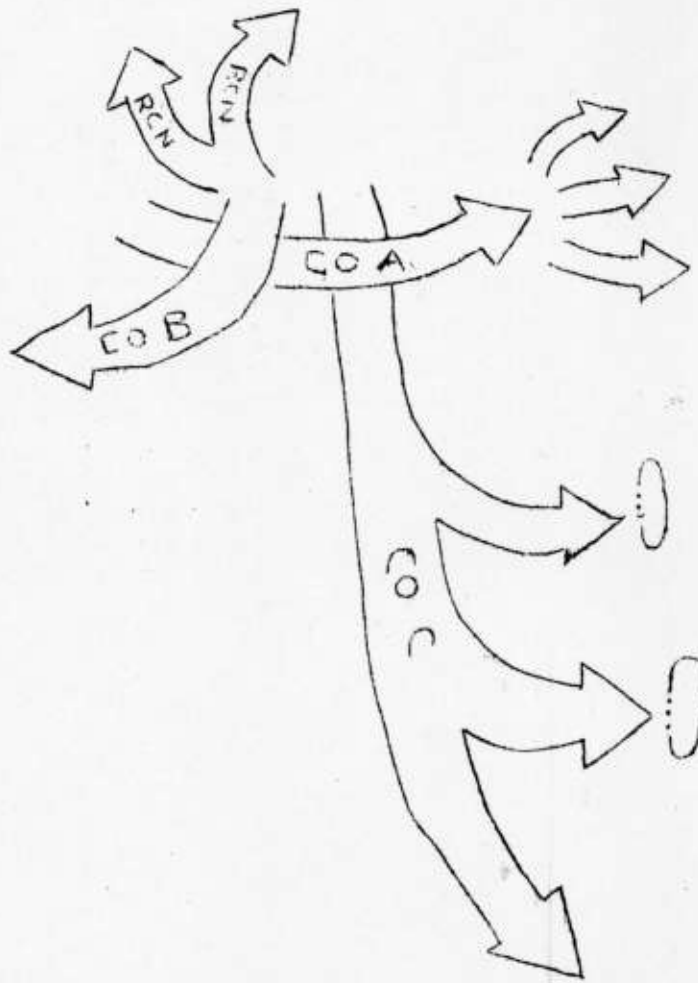
NOT TO SCALE

SKETCH MAP NO 5

SCHEME OF MANEUVER

12 NOV

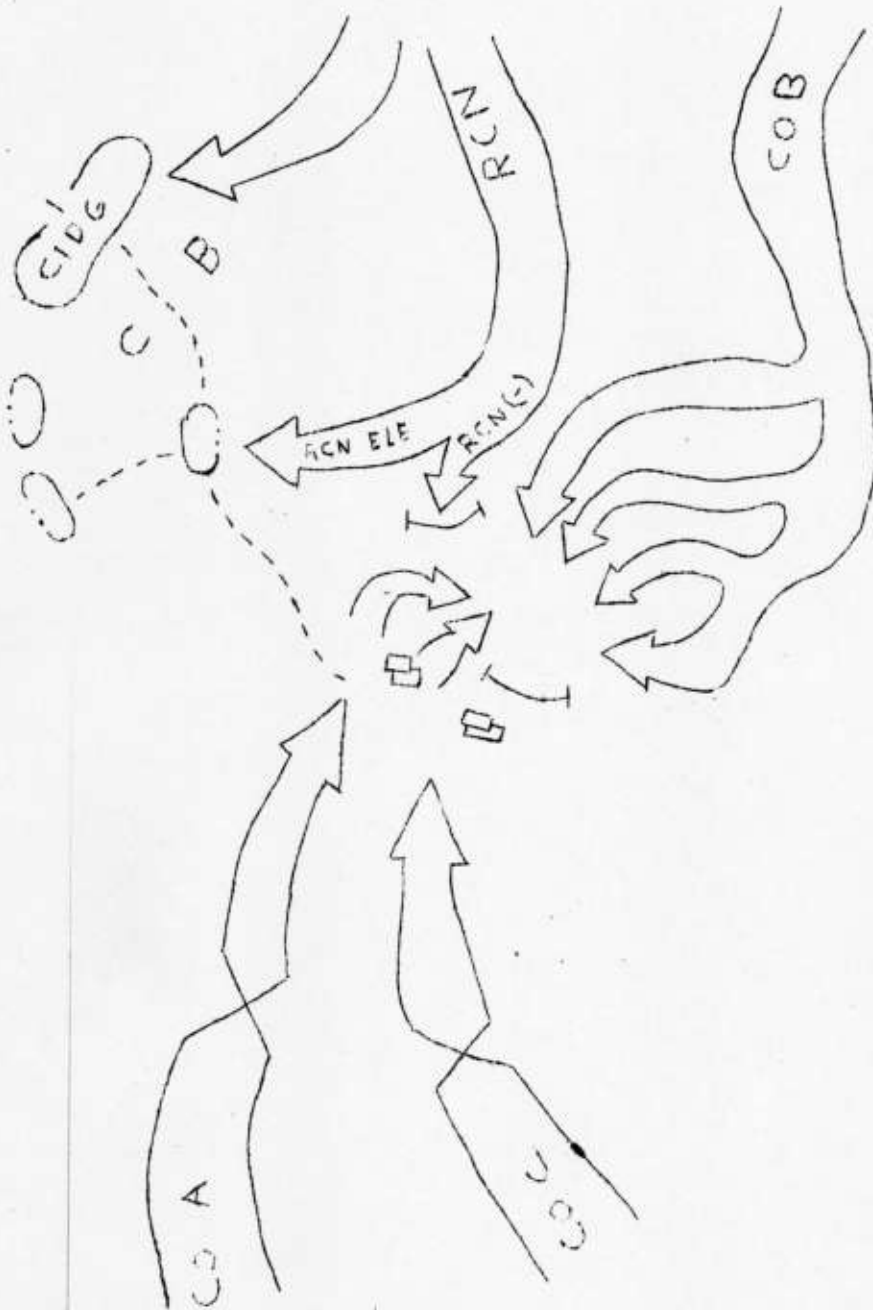
☒ 2/327



NOT TO SCALE

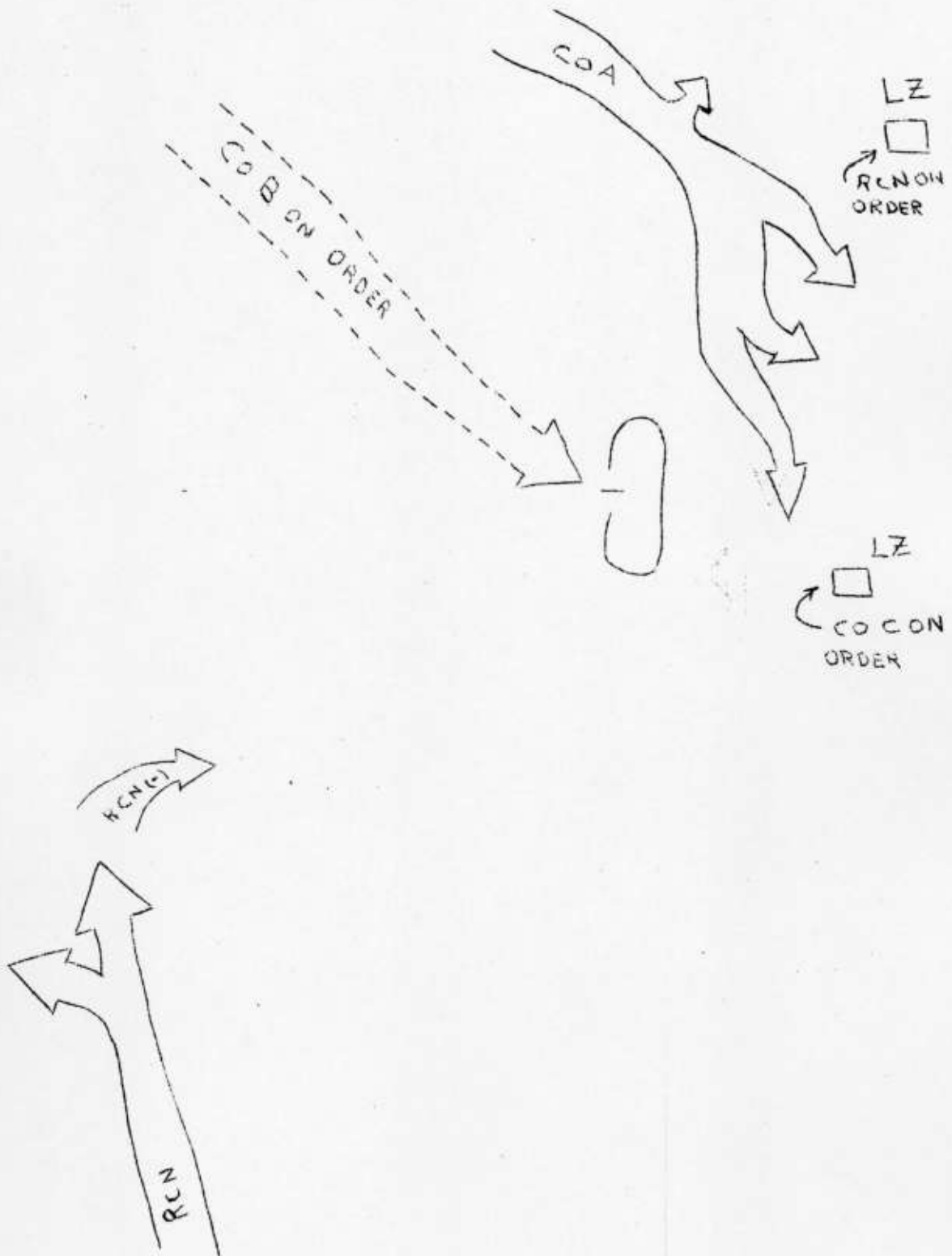
SKETCH MAP NO 6

Scheme of Maneuver 15 NOV



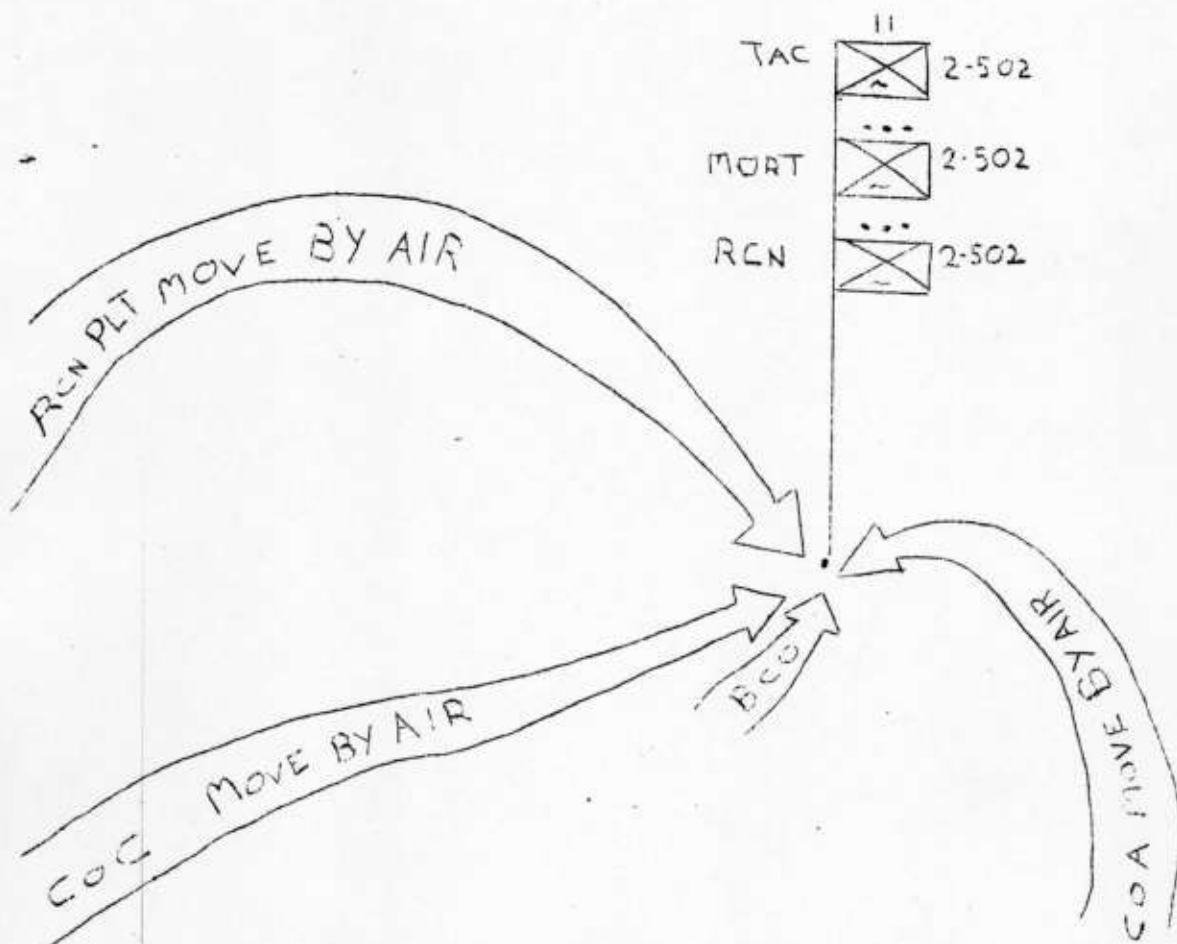
NOT TO SCALE SKETCH MAP NO 7

Scheme of MANEUVER 20 To 22 NOV



Sketch MAP NO 8

23 Nov



NOT TO SCALE

SKETCH MAP NO 9

Scheme of MANEUVER

29 NOV

