

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Detachment, 1 Topographical
Survey Troop

Item number: 5/1/4

Item: Detachment 1 Topographical
Survey Troop

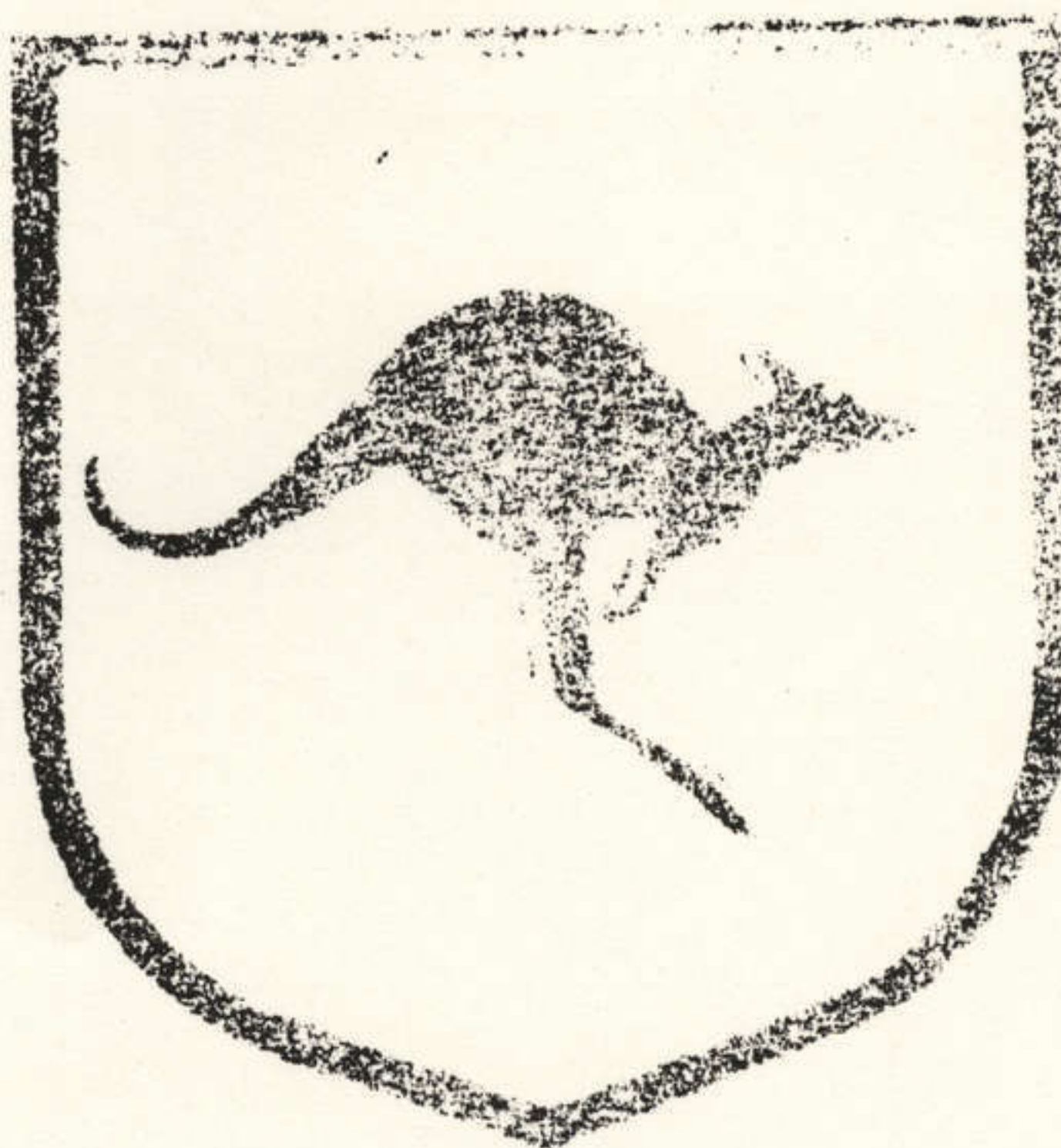
Operational Report no. 3

[photocopy]

[11 Jul - 9 Aug 1966]



1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE
VIETNAM



ANNEX A REMOVED
FOR BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE
11/11
[Signature] 4/10/66

DET 1 TOPO SVY TP
OPERATIONAL REPORT

Nº 3

REPORTING PERIOD 11 Jul - 9 Aug 66

Det 1 Topo Svy Tp
NUI DAT

15 Aug 66

See Distribution List

OPERATIONAL REPORT NO 3

Covering period 11 Jul - 9 Aug 66

PART 1 G MATTERS

Present Location

1. No change of location has occurred during the reporting period. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp is located in the HQ 1 ATF area at GR YS 433666.

Enemy Contacts

2. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp has had no enemy contacts during the reporting period either whilst engaged on survey operations or at its base camp location.

Tasks

3. The following tasks undertaken, were completed during the reporting period.

- a. HOA LONG SPECIAL - 1:5000 (GR YS 420645).
Area covered - 20 x 1000 metre grid squares in original plot.
- 7 x 1000 metre grid squares in offset printed map.

The task was carried out in the manner described in OP Report No 2 Para 4b with the following variations.

(1) Only one connexion could be made to the 3rd order point NUI DAT (AAS 001). The connexion was made to a photo identified point on the northern side of the village (AAS 002). Lack of inter-visibility to any other point in the village prevented a further direct connexion being effected, and the time factor prevented a chain theodolite connexion being carried out from (AAS 002). Consequently the point AAS 002 served to provide position only, the plot being reliant on the 1:4000 French Colonial Cadastral plan for scale and azimuth. Scaled map points provided a further check.

(2) A thorough ground annotation was carried out employing two survey parties each of two surveyors, with protection provided from one of three sources viz, HOA LONG COMMANDO CO (2 days) HOA LONG PROVINCIAL FORCE (2 days) 6 RAR (1 day). The size of the protection party varied with the known friendliness of the locality, from a minimum of 3 per party to an infantry section. The village of HOA LONG conservatively averages 1-2 VC incidents each 24 hours.

(3) Because of the obvious continuing demand for

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the HOA LONG PHOTO PLOT, arrangements were made with Lt Col A.L. Benton M & I Div Engr Sec USARV to have the sheet offset printed in three colours by 569 Engr Co at NHA TRANG. This was accordingly carried out on Thu 28 Jul 66. Colour separation was effected by drafting element of Det 1 Topo Svy Tp. The colours chosen were black, green and blue.

The sheet has been well received by 1 ATF and local provincial civil and military authorities.

- b. Defoliation strip map - 1:5000 HOA LONG to NUI DAT (GR YS 430665)

Area covered - 3 x 1000 metre grid squares. A very detailed map extending 500 metres either side of Provincial Route 2 between the northern limits of HOA LONG Village and the 1 ATF Base Area was prepared. The strip map showed details of all cultivations, in extent and type. Field annotation was carried out after the base plot, with the aid of interpreters and protection from the HOA LONG COMBAT CO. The purpose of the strip map is to provide a basis for possible compensation subsequent to defoliation taking place.

- c. LONG TAN Photo plot - 1:5000 (GR YS 485657)
Area covered - 9 x 1000 metre grid squares. Following OP Report No 2 LONG TAN photoplot was re-compiled with new photography for OP HOBART (6 RAR).

- d. BINH BA South enlargement - 1:5000 (GR YS 445732)
Area covered - 5 x 1000 metre grid squares.

This was a simple enlargement from the BINH BA 1:10000 photoplot, of the Duc Mi hamlet (OP Report No 2 para 3d. The enlargement was prepared for OP SYDNEY 2 (5RAR) which was a cordon and search operation.

- e. Sundry Traces and Plans
These in the main were:

- (1) Edition 2 of Location Plan of NUI DAT 1 ATF Base Area.
- (2) Detailed schematic plan of HQ 1 ATF area for wide distribution.
- (3) Covers for Book 1 and Book 2 of 1 ATF SOPs.
- (4) Diagram of HQ 1 ATF (MAIN) as annex for SOPs Part 2.
- (5) Various alterations to artillery strike zone plan (OP Report No 2 para 3g (2)) with amendments to TAOR boundaries.
- (6) Annexes showing intelligence information to operation orders for the forthcoming operations.
- (7) Hand colouring of 1:25000 enlargement series for briefing information tent.
- (8) Diagrams relating to courts of enquiry.

- f. Improvements to accommodation area (Sprs & Cpls) and work area: Substantial hard standing and 2/15 x 16' tents with covered messing area between was erected in Sprs and Cpls accommodation area. Minor improvements

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were carried out in the work area. Permanent overhead cover was provided on all protection pits.

4. The following tasks are currently in hand:

a. Detailed "cantonment survey" of the 1 ATF base area NUI DAT. This project has been modified during the reporting period to meet an immediate requirement. The following phases have been completed.

(1) 4th order traverse around periphery of grid square 6643 with connexion to NUI DAT (AAS 001).

(2) Stadia traversing for horizontal detail and height in the HQ 1 ATF Area. (height still to be computed).

(3) Internal traverses with offset measurements to permanent structures and tent positions within HQ 1 ATF Area.

The following tasks are in hand, and comparison with OP Report No 2 will indicate the modifications contained there in.

(4) Stadia traverse to extend control over road system in remaining 1 ATF Base Area, picking up drainage, bunkers, defensive wire and all forms of access.

Det 1 Topo Svy Tp will provide by 20 Aug 66 a completed plan of 1 ATF Base Area showing the detail listed in (4) above, together with a detailed plan showing that listed in sub paras 2 and 3. A final phase will provide 2 metre interval ~~and~~ contours over the entire base area.

b. Photoplot of BINH GIA village - 1:5000 (GR YS 495775)
Area to be covered - 12 x 1000 metre grid squares.

It was incorrectly reported in OP Report No 2 that this plot was at a scale of 1:10000. All detail plotting has been completed and master compilation is about to be commenced. This task has not been of a high priority. It is intended that a field check annotation will be carried out, and at a later stage colour separated drawings produced for printing, either 'offset' by the 569 Engr Co at NHA TRANG or by the Silk Screen Printing Press; should this arrive.

c. Photo plot/map enlargement of NUI NUA island
- 1:10000 (GR YS 280560)
with subsidiary enlargement of KA LONG SON village at 1:5000.
Area to be covered - 48 x 1000 metre grid squares.
Commencing with a map enlargement from the std 1:50000 series, additional detail will be added from 9" x 18" photography, about to be flown. This task will meet the requirement for an anticipated 1 ATF operation.

d. Map enlargement/photo plot of NUI DINH HILL system
- 1:25000 (GR YS 340610)
Area to be covered - 210 x 1000 metre grid squares.
This plot is basically a trace from the existing 1:25000 photo enlargement, with additional detail from 1:25000 photography and the pictomap series. The aim is to produce a sheet for dyelining which will be less cluttered by contours than the existing enlargements and including

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more detail in the form of creeks, tracks, clearings and timber densities. The enlargement is required for a forthcoming operation by 6 RAR.

- c. Landing zone plot of area of operations. Original plot at 1:25000. LZs to be shown symbolically on an overprint of the 1:50000 series preferably L7014 if available.

The plotted information is being keyed to a tabulation showing nature of LZ, obstacles, size and capacity in terms of HUI and CHINOOK helicopters. The latter information will be supplied by RAAF after visual reconnaissance of the selected LZs. There are between 900 and 1200 LZs to be tabulated and marked. The initial selection has been done from a study of the pictomaps together with all the available photography.

- f. VUNG TAU overprint (OP Report No 2 para 3 f.). This task has been temporarily shelved, pending a new edition of the VUNG TAU 1:12500 sheet.

- g. Annexes to "Combat Operations After Action Report" Operation ENOGGERA.

This task consisted of preparing dyeline copies of the LONG PHOUC 1:5000 photoplot showing the following information:

- (1) Annex A - Area of operations including sector.
- (2) Annex B - Intelligence (held at time of commencement).
- (3) Annex C - VC installations, caches and equipment found as a result of the operation.

This will be the normal follow up requirement of all operations and the report has a wide distribution to senior HQs both in VIETNAM and AUSTRALIA.

- 5. The following tasks are scheduled to commence during the month of August.

- a. BINH BA photoplot - colour separation and printing (Refer OP Report No 2 para 3 d and para 3 e of this report). It has not been decided whether this should be at a scale of 1:10000 covering the area described in OP Report No 2 or at 1:5000, simply covering the area of the 3 hamlets, BINH BA, DUC MI and DUC TRUNG. This village is to be subjected to an intensive civil aid-pacification programme. A ground check will be carried out prior to colour separation.

- b. PHOUC TUY Province Agricultural Map - Scale 1:50000 - To be produced as:

- (1) An overprint of the L7014 series with monochrome background for tactical purposes.
- (2) A line drawing with schematic detail and Vietnamese nomenclature for school classroom use as a civil affairs programme.

- c. Other civil affairs projects. These are to some extent speculative at this stage and could be modified at will.

- (1) Assistance with training aids of the chart-map variety for the HOA LONG school.
- (2) Provision of framed copies of the HOA LONG SPECIAL and other similar productions for Province Officials - "by courtesy of the Vietnamese Government".

6. Dyelines: During the reporting period 1230 dyelines have been produced.

Det Establishment

7. Silk Screen Printing Press: In reply to an AHQ Sig of 4 Aug 66, OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp suggested the following.

- a. A maximum of three members of 1 ATF Svy Tp be exchanged for 3 Litho technicians.
- b. A further three or four personnel from 1 ATF SVY TP be trained "in theatre" to supplement the technicians during periods when the equipment was operational

Map Supply and Distribution

8. Pictomaps 1:25000: Depot holdings in country have improved and Det 1 Topo Svy Tp has been able to get 500 of each sheet covering the Area of Operations. It is estimated that, until the "in country" bulk holding policy is reviewed, the Det will be able to meet only 25% of the normal demand. The series is very popular at all levels, although in recent weeks some of its limitations are being realised.

L701 Series 1:50000

9. The demand for this series has been offset to some extent by the pictomap 1:25000 series. The series is not popular with infantry mainly due to the limitations of the scale. Distribution of the L7014 series has been effected North of Latitude 12° NORTH. Distribution of that area south of Lat 12° NORTH is expected in late August.

10. Annex B provides a summary of map distribution since the arrival of map stocks into the theatre.

11. Task Force policy on the provision of air photos, mosaics maps and enlargements in 1 ATF is stated in an instruction dated 8 Aug 66. This instruction is included as Annex C.

12. Map Stock Register: Because the maximum holding of any map sheet is limited due to overall bulk of the total holdings in the map store, it is necessary to maintain a fairly rigid system of control. This is effected in the form of a map index register which comprises the following:

- a. Map indexes overprinted on 1:1250000 series prepared by Directorate of Mil Svy (AHQ Det 0612).
- b. 1st overlay of tracing paper on each index sheet showing in pencil the number of copies held of each sheet.
- c. 2nd overlay of tracing paper on each index sheet showing in pencil the bin or box number and envelope

/number

number, applicable to each sheet.

13. The register described above is made current weekly by adjusting for map movements in and out.

PART 2 A MATTERS

Personnel

14. The following sub paras refer to aspects mentioned in OP Report No 2 para 9.

a. 1454-WO1 R.H. Rollston: Promotion to WO1 notified by CARO in signal dated 13 Jul 66, subsequently confirmed in ROs Part 2 Issue No Svy 131.

b. 214295 Cpl D.G.P. Ceruti: No advice has been received either confirming or denying temporary promotion.

c. 61130 Cpl A.R. Carew: Temporary promotion was notified in Routine Orders Part 2 Serial Svy 104 and CARO sig of 6 Jul, received 9 Jul 66.

d. 36639 Spr S.R. Johns: A trade test summary has been received for Tech Storeman ECN T831 from 1 Topo Svy Tp RANDWICK. HQ 1 ATF have been requested to appoint a Trade Testing Officer to trade test Spr S.R. Johns.

e. 2781982 Spr R.B. Smith: This members trade classification as Class 3 Draughtsman Topographical was notified in ROs Part 2 Svy 124.

f. 53723 Cpl J.L. Roberts: Notification regrouping this member as Svyr Topo Class 3 has not yet been received.

Pay

15. All members have received their Group Certificates for the year 1965 - 66 and tax returns have been submitted.

Medical

16. The following personnel have lost time due to sickness during the reporting period.

36616 Sgt S.R. Campbell - Ear infection - 2 days.

18457 Spr D.E.J. Chambers - Tonsillitis - 2 days.

There has been no incidence of malaria in the Det.

R & C - R & R

17. 2782125 Cpl P.C. Clarke had 5 days R & C (in country) at VUNG TAU in the period 18-22 Jul 66. The period of R & C has since been reduced to 48 hours; Det 1 Topo Svy Tp has had no further allocations.

18. Sgt T.D. King is scheduled to commence R & R (out of country) on 11 Sep 66.

Rest Days

19. Sunday is now being taken as a general rest day. Members

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required to work on Sunday are granted a day in lieu in the following week.

Morale

20. Morale amongst all ranks is generally high. The need is being felt for some form of recreational activity and plans are in hand to build a volley ball court and commence inter unit competition. Lighter recreation such as picture shows will be appreciated when the tactical situation permits.

Amenities

21. A "National" transisterised shortwave radio was received by the Det from Army Amenities on 8 Aug 66.

PART 3 Q MATTERS

Stores and Equipment

22. The following items not on the Q series table but on 1 Topo Svy Tp TWET have been either received or No 3 copy 982E has been received with dispatch details:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| a. W6/WFA 0086 Ext 85 Screen Film Contact Printing kodagraph 150 line 22 x 23 Magenta, | Qty 1 |
| b. H6/HFA 0368 Pestle 8' dia iron | Qty 2 |
| c. H6/HFA 0367 Mortar iron | Qty 2 |
| d. W6/JDA 0114 Dryer electric | Qty 1 |
| e. JDA/0155 Containers chemical mixing S/S 8" | Qty 2 |
| | Packed 2Box 7 Ju |
| | Jul 66 |
| f. JDA/0164 Containers chemical mixing S/S 12" | Qty 4 |

The items appear to be related to the Silk Screen Printing Press and will be held "in theatre" by the Det unless directed to do otherwise.

23. The following stores have not been received:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Heliographs 5" MK 5 | Qty 4 |
| Frame sun printing | Qty 1 |
| Lamps fluorescent | Qty 2 |

These items have been brought to the notice of Det Div Ord Depot.

24. Scale A accomodation stores, with minor discrepancies has been received ex SS JEPARIT.

25. RVE Submitted on 14 Jun 66: HQ AFV has been requested to advise progress. If it is at all possible to hasten action on the RVE from Directorate or alternatively with the necessary approval forward the equipments nominated, without finalisation of the RVE, it is requested that this be done. The equipments requested are.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. 6675-65-010-9746 Stereoplotter Direct Viewing Zeiss (Steriotope) | Qty 2 |
|---|-------|

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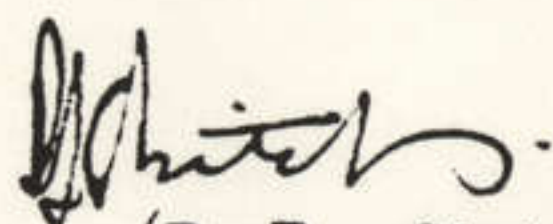
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b. W10/WFA 0212 Sterioscope Scanning Old Delft Qty 1.

Accommodation

26. The arrival of tents 16 x 16 have allowed further improvements to be carried out to the living accommodation of the Cpls and Sprs. Two tents 16' x 16' have been erected for this purpose on raised hard standing. A third 16' x 16' will be erected in due course. A raised area covered by a 16' x 20' paulin between the two 16' x 16' tents forms a messing and recreational area.

27. A further 16' x 16' tent has been erected in the work area for use by OC as office and living accommodation.



(R.F. Skitch)

OC

Capt

Annexes: A. HOA LONG SPECIAL 1:5000.
B. Summary of Maps Distributed in Theatre.
C. Air Photos; Mosaics; Maps and Enlargements
Distribution Table.

Distribution

HQ 1 ATF	(1)
Directorate Military Survey	(4)
1 Topo Svy Tp	(2)
File	(1)
AD Svy E Comd	(1)
HQ 6 TF	(1)
Diary	(1)

MAP DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY 1 ATF & SUPPORTING UNITS
PERIOD 14 JUN - 10 AUG 66

MAP SERIES & SCALE

UNIT	MAP SERIES & SCALE			
	L8020 1:25000	L701 1:50000	JOG G 1:250000	JOG A 1:250000
HQ 1 ATF	121	296	108	
1 APC SQN	85	741	6	
1 FD REGT	416	396		
1 FD SQN RAE	75	157		
103 SIG SQN	21	80		
5 RAR	786	650		
6 RAR	1848	2223	100	
3 SAS	329	280	6	
ALSG	50	210		
C. VI AFFAIRS	12	36		
1 DIV INT	6	8		
RAAF	2	8		6
USAF		47		
67 GROUND LIAISON	4	20		
131 RECCE FLT	MAPS	DRAWN	FROM	VUNG TAU
TOTAL	3685	5152	220	6

MISCELLANEOUS MAPS - 60
 GRAND TOTAL - 9123 MAPS

10 Aug 66

R-1-1

See Distribution List

PROVISION OF AIR PHOTOS, MOSAICS, MAPS

ENLARGEMENTS, AND USE OF CONTACT IN 1 ATF

1. The aim of this instruction is to clarify Task Force policy on the provision of:

- a. Air photographs.
- b. Photo mosaics.
- c. Maps.
- d. Enlargements and photo plots.
- e. Contact/Mipofolie plastic protecting film.

Air Photographs

2. Air photographs are obtained primarily for photo intelligence. However a limited distribution is proposed for operational planning purposes and unit intelligence uses, to supplement the existing mapping. The intended distribution for air photographs is shown in Annex A.

3. Air photographs will normally be at a scale of 1:5000. This may be varied to suit the photo-intelligence requirement, or the requirement of a particular unit. The number of prints obtained may also have to be varied to allow printing priorities to be maintained.

4. A request for air photographs should be submitted 10 days before the date on which delivery is required. The actual date of delivery is dependent upon the priority allocated to the task and cloud conditions prevailing during the flying period.

5. Priorities are subject to review by higher HQ. Those in use are:

- a. 1-X (Immediate) Restricted to Major Field Commanders only.
- b. Priority 1 - To exploit major targets of opportunity.
- c. Priority 2 - In support of operations beginning within 48 hours of the requested time over target.
- d. Priority 3 - In support of operational planning and surveillance of activities capable of posing a future threat.
- e. Priority 4 - In support of routine planning; terrain studies; map supplements; surveillance of units or activities capable of limited interference with the mission; basic cover.

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6. The Photo Intelligence section of Det 1 Div Int Unit is responsible for collating photo requests and placing orders on the US supply source. Normally 6 complete sets of prints will be obtained in order to effect the required scale of issue. For an SAS operation, 3 sets will be ordered, usually at a scale larger than 1:5000.

Photo Mosaics

7. A large distribution of photo mosaics cannot be effected in 1 ATF for any operation. The 1:25000 pictomap is basically a photomap with an intensified image and marked up cultural detail. As a supplement to the standard 1:50000 map series, the pictomap is intended to satisfy all normal photomap requirements.

8. A limited distribution of photo mosaics prepared from intelligence photography is intended (Annex A). The scale of these photo mosaics will normally be 1:5000, but may be varied to suit photo intelligence requirements or the needs of a particular operation.

Maps

9. The scaling of 1:25000 pictomaps and standard 1:50000 maps for all 1 ATF units is shown on Annex A. Every effort will be made to meet the stated scaling, however "in country". Bulk stocks of pictomaps are limited, and the distribution rate for these may have to be scaled down. It is therefore essential that pictomaps are used judiciously, and wastage kept to a minimum. Cutting of pictomaps should be done carefully, and the offcuts retained. Units are urged to cover, whenever possible, pictomaps back and front with "Contact" or other similar plastic films.

Map Enlargements - Photoplots

10. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp has the capability to produce map enlargements and photoplots. A photoplot is a map plotted directly from air photographs, using scaled map points for position and scale. The scale at which photoplots will normally be produced is as follows:

- a. Areas including a village or hamlet - 1:5000 .
- b. Areas not including a village or hamlet - 1:10000.

11. The distribution of map enlargements and photoplots will normally be the same as that for maps. This may be limited by the amount of dycline paper available for reproduction.

Use of Contact/Mipofolie Plastic Films

12. Contact/Mipofolie should be used in the following instances:

- a. To cover both sides of all pictomaps issued.
- b. To cover the detail side of 1:50000 maps subjected to arduous use.

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c. To cover both sides of dyeline copied map enlargements and photoplots.

13. Pictomaps are in short supply, and must therefore be made to last as long as possible. Covered on both sides, it should be possible to get 3 - 6 months life out of each map sheet.

14. Conversely, the supply of standard 1:50000 maps is plentiful. Contact should therefore only be used on 1:50000 maps when these are going to be subjected to arduous use over a protracted period, without the opportunity for re-supply.

15. Dyeline paper is soft and absorbent. It is therefore very vulnerable to the ravages of normal useage. Whenever possible, dyeline copies should be covered with Contact/Mipofolie on both sides.

16. Distribution of Contact/Mipofolie to all 1 ATF units will be controlled and effected by Det 1 Topo Svy Tp. It is intended that, when an adequate supply of material becomes available, sufficient quantities in roll form will be issued to units to cover their scaled holdings of pictomaps, in accordance with Annex A, to give complete coverage of the TAOR. Dyeline copies for a particular operation will be supplied with adequate Contact to cover both sides of each sheet.

J S Rance
(O.D. Jackson)
Brig
Commander 1 ATF

Annexes: A. Air photos; Mosaics; Maps and Enlargements
Distribution Table.

Distribution:

List B
List C
List D

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UNIT	PHOTO PLOTS & MAP ENLARGEMENTS		STANDARD MAPS		AIR PHOTOGRAPHS	
	1:5000	1:10000	1:25000 PICTO	1:50000	MOSAICS	STEREO PAIRS
	T I M E F R A M E					
	14 DAYS	14 DAYS	2 HRS	2 HRS	7 - 10 days	7 - 10 DAYS
HQ 1 ATF	10	10	20	20	1	1
1 APC SQN	50	50	50	50		
1 FD REGT	90	90	90	90		
1 FD SQN RAE	15	15	15	15		
DET 1 TOPO SVY TP						1
103 SIG SQN	25	25		25		
5 RAR	160	160	160	160	1	3
6 RAR	160	160	160	160	1	3
3 SQN SAS	90	90	90	90		1
DET 1 DIV INT UNIT	15	15	5	15		
1 TPT PL RAASC	2	2		30		
131 RECCE FLT				15		
1 ATF PRO SEC	5	5	5	10		