

**Series: AWM95**  
Australian Army commanders' diaries  
[Vietnam]

Detachment, 1 Topographical  
Survey Troop

**Item number: 5/1/8**

**Item: Detachment 1 Topographical  
Survey Troop**

Operational Report no. 7

[photocopy]

[1-30 Nov 1966]



1<sup>ST</sup> AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE  
VIETNAM



DET 1 TOPO SVY TP  
OPERATIONAL REPORT

Nº 7

REPORTING PERIOD 1 -30 NOVEMBER

6 Dec 66

See distribution list

OPERATIONAL REPORT NO 7

Covering period 1 Nov - 30 Nov 66

PART 1 G MATTERS

Present Location

1. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp remains in location at GR YS 43456671.

Enemy Contacts

2. There were no enemy contacts during the reporting period either in the base camp or whilst engaged on survey operations.

Tasks

3. Full technical production was maintained throughout the month of November. Capacity was reduced to some extent by a fairly heavy R & R committment.
4. The following tasks undertaken were completed during the reporting period. A summary of major tasks is attached as Annex.A.

- a. XA BINH BA SPECIAL 1:10000 GR YS 448740.  
Colour separation for printing in black, green and blue was completed during the reporting period. The map was printed by 66 Engr Co (Topo) (Corps) at LONG BINH on 30 Nov 66. The map is included as an enclosure to this report.

- b. HOA LONG SPECIAL 1:5000 - revision and reprint.  
A revision from recent air photography and a field annotation was carried out. The reprint was effected by 66 Engr Co at LONG BINH.

- c. PHU MY 1:3000 photoplot GR YS 252746.  
A planimetric photoplot at a scale of 1:3000 was plotted from vertical air photography on the Zeiss Steriotope. The initial plot was adjusted to horizontal points scaled from the 1:50000 map L7014 series. Subsequently two horizontal control points were established and the grid adjusted on these points.

- d. 1:25000 Revision - Series (1) - Ref Op Report  
No 6 Para 5e.

Overprints on the following sheets have been prepared:

6430	111	SE
	111	SW
6430	11	SW

The revised detail consists mainly of tracks and buildings, plotted from air photographs, both vertical and oblique flown for specific operations. On sheets 6430 - 111, SW & SE, track information in the NUI DINH and NUI THI VAI Hills was obtained from battalion operations

/ carried

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carried out in these areas. Generally, it has been found that only the larger type of battalion operation yields topographical information capable of being used in an overprint. Only 200 copies of each sheet have been overprinted for trial use. Since the overprint detail was initially plotted on the Picto series and then overprinted onto the 1:25000 enlargement series, some displacement has occurred where tracks were common to both. This will be corrected in any further overprinting.

e. Combat Operations - After Action Reports.  
A one colour overprint of the HOA LONG SPECIAL was prepared for the Combat Operations After Action Report for Operation BUNDEBURG.

f. TAOR overprint.  
Two TAOR overprints were prepared during the reporting period. The first one, in two colours showing TAOR, AO and internal divisions was superceded before issue. The second overprint in one colour was completed on 1 Dec 66 and has been distributed by HQ 1 ATF.

g. VC tracks - Overprint on 1:50000 L7014 series.  
Single colour overprints of track and name information transcribed from captured VC maps has been completed on the following sheets.

6430	11
6429	1

Traces have been prepared of adjoining sheets, and are awaiting further name information from PHUOC TUY SECTOR HQ. The track information appears to be of doubtful value, since the tracks shown on the VC maps appear to have little in common with the track pattern which is known to exist. The names are probably of greater significance than the tracks and an effort is being made to include all possible names, either as shown on the captured maps or as recorded in SECTOR HQ files. The track pattern taken from the VC maps tends to support the names and perhaps therefore has some intelligence value. It is proposed to continue with the project.

h. Sundry Plans and Traces.  
These in the main were:

Operation INGHAM	-	Intelligence Overlay
Operation CAMBODIA	-	Intelligence Overlay
	-	Operation Overlay

5. The following tasks are currently in hand:

a. BINH GIA 1:5000 photo plot - Ref Op Report No 6 Para 5a. No further progress has occurred during the reporting period.

b. Landing Zone Plot of Area of Operation - Ref Op Report No 6 Para 5c. No further progress has been achieved during the reporting period.

c. 1:25000 Revision - L8015 series.  
This is a continuing task as photography becomes available.

d. 1:50000 plot of VC tracks from captured VC maps.

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It is proposed to complete this transcription onto sheets 6430 1, 11, 111, 1V and 6429 1, 11.

e. Recompilation of LONG PHUOC 1:5000 photoplot. Only limited progress has been achieved on this task. Plotting with zeiss stereotape is 90% completed.

f. PHUOC TUY Provincial Agricultural Map. Ref Op Report No 6 Para 5g. No further progress has been achieved during the reporting period.

g. Revision of 1 ATF Cantonment Survey. Field work on the first revision is about 80% completed.

6. Dyelines - During the reporting period 1173 dyelines were produced.

7. Silk Screen Printing - Reasonable success is now being achieved with the Silk Screen Printing equipment. The main problem still seems to lie with the excessive humidity inhibiting the ability of the stencil to stay firmly on the screen. The tendency appears to be for the stencil to start breaking up after from between 50-150 copies. It has proved difficult to get more than 20 copies from a stencil. A summary of tasks carried out on the Silk Screen equipment is included as Annex B to this report.

Maps

8. Adequate stocks of all maps are held and no shortages appear imminent. Map requirements both accumulative and within the reporting period are summarised in Annex C.

Survey Control

9. An operation to bring survey control into all artillery batteries, both Australian and Australian within PHUOC TUY Province has been completed by Det 1 Topo Svy Tp. The operation has been code named OP TRISIDER. Op Order 2/66. OP TRISIDER is attached as Appendix D. During the reporting period, the fix of NUI LONG 262473 and PHU MY ARVN COMPOUND GR YS 239771 and related photo point at PHU MY GR YS 252746 was completed according to plan.

Training

10. The following members attended an Army Class 11 Education course during the period 21 Nov - 3 Dec 66:

61130 Cpl A.R. Carew  
214416 Spr R.S. Slater

Both members received Army Class certificates of Education.

Visits

11. The following visits took place during the reporting period:

a. Commander 1 ATF Brig O.D. Jackson OBE visited Det 1 Topo Svy Tp on 23 Nov 66. The Commander spent approx 1 1/2 hours reviewing various tasks

/undertaken

undertaken by the Det, and the operation of the Silk Screen equipment.

b. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Lt Gen Sir John Wilton KBE, CB, DSO accompanied by the Commander AFV Maj Gen K. Mackay and the Commander 1 ATF, visited Det 1 Topo Svy Tp on 2 Dec 66. Lt Gen Wilton spent approximately 15 minutes in the unit area.

c. OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp visited the Chief of Mapping and Intelligence Division, Engr Sec HQ USARV on 11 Nov 66, and 66 Engr Co (Topo) (Corps) on 4 Dec 66.

PART 11 A MATTERS

Personnel

12. RTA of 61130 Cpl A.R. Carew and 36639 Spr S.R. Johns will take place on 11 Dec 66.

13. RTA of 52878 Sgt T.D. King for discharge will take place on 11 Dec 66.

14. Temporary promotion to Cpl for 54467 Cpl B.W. Firns was promulgated in ROs Part 2 Issue No SVY237/11/66. The condition imposed by the RO, that member will relinquish this rank 30 days after RTA, is the subject of separate correspondence with Directorate of Mil Svy.

Medical

15. Health remains good in the Det. No members were hospitalised during the reporting period.

R & R - R & C

16. The following members were allocated 5 days R & C at the R & C Centre at VUNG TAU:

2781982	Spr	R.B. Smith	13 Nov - 18 Nov 66
37573	Spr	T.L. Wellins	13 Nov - 18 Nov 66

15. The following members have taken R & R at the destinations shown during the reporting period:

210821	WO2	D. Christie	HONGKONG	30 Oct - 7 Nov 66
31459	Spr	J.A. O'Connor	BANGKOK	4 Nov - 11 Nov 66

Morale

16. Morale remains at an acceptably high standard amongst all members.

PART 3 Q MATTERS

Stores and Equipment

17. Tellurometers - Problems have arisen in the deterioration of components in the tellurometer systems held by Det 1 Topo Svy Tp. Fortunately, excellent repair facilities exist at 1 ALSG including a Hewlitt - Packard Electronic Frequency Counter. All unit tellurometer equipments are currently undergoing IF stage alignment and crtstal adjustment.

18. Silk Screen Equipment. To this date no transfer vouchers have been received for the major items of Silk Screen printing

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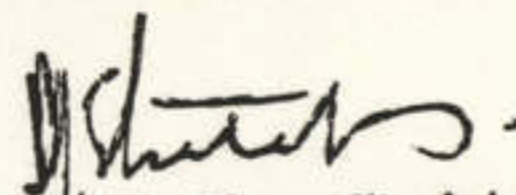
equipment. It is not known on whose account these items were previously held. If this information can be made available, Det 1 Topo Svy Tp will raise the necessary vouchers in order to effect the entry of these items onto the ledger.

Accommodation

19. Area development has remained static during the reporting period. Bids have been requested by HQ 1 ATF for scale C accommodation requirements. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp has requested the following:

50' X 20' hut for Cpls & Sprs  
50' X 20' hut for Offrs and Senior NCOs

It is proposed to commence construction of a further 50' X 20' hut of tropical design for Q Store - Orderly room in late Dec 66, early Jan 67. Consideration is being given to allocating part of this building to Silk Screen printing, to allow the construction of an enclosed area equiped with a de-humidifier unit.

  
(R.F. Skitch)  
OC  
Capt

Annexes: A. Summary of Major Tasks  
B. Summary of Silk Screen Printing  
C. Map Distribution Summary  
D. Operation Order OPERATION TRISIDER

Enclosure: (1) XA BINH BA SPECIAL 1.10000 map

Distribution

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

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR TASKS

TASK a	DATE COMMENCED OR PLANNED DATE OF COMPLETION b	% PROGRESS ACHIEVED								% COMPLETED k	DATE COMPLET- ED OR PLANNED DATE OF COMPLETION l	REMARKS m
		c Field work	d Enlargement	e Photo Inspection	f Photo Plotting	g Compilation work sheet	h Final Drawing	i Colour Separation	j Printing			
NH BA SPECIAL 1:10000	15 Jun	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	30 Nov 66	
ONG SPECIAL - 1st 1:5000 Revision	22 Nov				100		100	100	100	100	30 Nov 66	500 copies to be over- printed with curfew line on silk screen
Y Photoplot 1:3000	23 Nov 66	100		100	80	80	80			70	1 Dec 66	Interim sheet produced by dyelining to satisfy operational requirement
JO Revision Series 1 6430 111, SE, SW 6430 11		100		100	100		100	100	100	100	30 Nov 66	200 sheets of each over- printed
E Operations After Action Report tion BUNDEBURG Overprint	10 Nov 20 Dec							100	100	100	11 Nov 66	
icks and nomenclature	1 Sep						33	33	33	33	1 Dec 66	6429-1 completed 2 sheets completed out of 6
IA SPECIAL 1:5000	20 Jun	100		100	100	100	100			80	30 Dec 66	Awaiting connexion to NUI DAT
st	15 Jul	80		100	100	100						Awaiting completion of al check
TUY Provincial Agricultural Map				10	10	10						No further work during reporting period



a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
DIEN VILLAGE Plan PHUOC 1:5000 SPECIAL nment Survey Revision tion TRISIDER	10 Nov  21 Nov	80  20		100	90	50  80				Nil  60	Jan 67  30 Dec 66  30 Dec 66	To be colour separated and printed on Silk Scree  Extension of survey control to all artillery batteries

SUMMARY OF SILK SCREEN PRINTING NOVEMBER 1966

Annex B to Operational Report No

JOB NO	NAME	NO OF COLOURS	NO OF COPIES	NO OF PULLS
V- 7-17-1064	Register of Trig Stations,	1	100	100
	Description of recovery of Horizontal Control Stations	1	100	100
7-12-1067	Transcription of VC Tracks 6430-11	1	200	200
7-8-1065	Map Revision 1:25000 6430-11 SW	1	200	200
7-12-1068	Map Revision 1:25000 6430-111 SE	1	200	200
1069	Map Revision 1:25000 6430-111 SW	1	200	200
7-12-1070	Transcription of VC Tracks 6429-1	1	100	100
7-12-1071	After Action Report - Bundeburg overprint of HOA LONG SPECIAL	1	40	40
7-12-1063	Commanders Diary Cover	3	30	90
	After Action Report Covers	3	170	510
	TAOR - 1st printing	2	200	400
		Sheet 1		
		Sheet 2	200	400
	TACR - 2nd printing	1	200	200
		Sheet 1	200	200
		Sheet 2		
	Survey Station Mark sign	2	100	200
TOTALS 1-30 Nov 66			2280	3140
ACCUMULATIVE			2280	3140

MAP DISTRIBUTION SUMMARYPERIOD 1 NOV TO 30 NOV 66

UNIT	MAP SERIES AND SCALE							
	L8020 1:25000		L8015 1:25000		L7014-L701 1:50000		JOG G/A 1:250000	
	NOV	ACCUM	NOV	ACCUM	NOV	ACCUM	NOV	ACCUM
HQ 1 ATF	7	266	89	105	245	763	12	167
1 APC SQN	34	220	267	279	90	1657		6
1 FD REGT	79	722	552	560	44	1264		6
1 FD SQN RAE	20	99	105	105	8	245		14
TOPO SVY	1	4	16	56	26	86		5
103 SIG SQN	15	53	115	115	31	250		
5 RAR	50	1656	935	935	130	2493	20	60
6 RAR	50	1936	260	1320	300	3349		100
3 SAS	25	454	425	437	89	1079		6
ALSG	25	140	430	430		1245		65
CIVIL AFFAIRS	5	59	65	65		80	6	6
ARU	5	9	78	78	30	58		2
1 DIV INT	6	25	148	161	6	105		46
RAAF/67GL	108	180	251	253	14	357	4	11
USAF	6	15	159	159	9	93		
161 RECCE FLT	37	147	200	200	3	273		245
SECTOR HQ	9	27	187	187	13	53		
TOTAL	482	6012	4282	5445	1038	13450	42	739
					NOV	ACCUM.		
					MISC MAPS	142	985	
					GRAND TOTAL	5986	26631	

21 Nov 66

See Distribution List

OPERATION ORDER 2/66 - OPERATION TRISIDER

1. SITUATION

a. En: No part of the area of survey operations should be considered as completely secure. En interference with the operation is not likely, however north of northing 1148000 the possibility of sniper fire should be realised.

b. Own Forces: Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Survey Party will comprise of elements of, Det 1 Topo Svy Tp, Det 131 Div Loc Bty and A Bty 2/35 Artillery Bn. Details of personnel are included as Annex A.

2. MISSION

a. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Survey Party is to provide 3rd order position and azimuth at batteries located at the following grid references; YS618382 YS468778 YS255740 YS648692.

3. EXECUTION

a. General: Position will be based on the Indian Datum 1960 as defined by the new listed values of the 3rd order point CAP ST JACQUES GR YS 287419. Thus all points established will be connected to third order station CAP ST JACQUES. An attempt will be made to connect to any existing major or minor order station within the area of Survey Operation as defined below.

b. Area of Operation will be bounded by the following grid lines:

Easting 720000 - 770000  
Northing 1140000 - 1180000

c. Phases: - The operation will be carried out in the following phases:

(1) Phase 1 VUNG TAU Area.

(a) Effect connexion from Point No 16 (3rd Order) YS 299450 to CAP ST JACQUES.

(b) Establish 3rd order position on NUI LON Hill in vicinity of GR YS 262473 from triangle Point No 16 - THANH MINOR - NUI LON.

(c) The following lines will be measured to 3rd order specifications:

CAP ST JACQUES - Point No 16  
AZIMUTH MK - Point No 16  
Pt No 16 - NUI LON  
THANH MINOR - NUI LON

(d) The following directions will be observed to 3rd order specifications

/at

at CAP ST JACQUES

NUI DAT (AAS 001)

Point No 16

At Point No 16

CAP ST JACQUES

NUI LON

At AZIMUTH MARK

CAP ST JACQUES

RADAR LIGHT

Point No 16

At NUI LON

Point No 16

THANH MINOR

BARIA BATTERY

At THANH MINOR

Point No 16

NUI LON

(e) In the vicinity of the ALSG Back Beach area establish 4th order points to provide basic control for an Engineer Cantonement Survey

(2) Phase 2 BARIA Area.

(a) Establish 3rd order control station in vicinity of ARVN Bty at BARIA (AAS 005).

(b) Measure the following lines to 3rd order specifications.

BARIA - NUI LON (AAS 004)

BARIA - NUI DAT (AAS 001)

(c) Observe the following directions

NUI LON

NUI DAT

(3) Phase 3 - BINH GIA Area.

(a) Establishing 3rd order station on knoll to south of BINH GIA (AAS 006).

(b) Measure the following lines :

BINH GIA - NUI LON

BINH GIA - DUC THANH (AAS 007).

(c) Observe the following directions:

BINH GIA - NUI LON

BINH GIA - DUC THANH

(d) Establish 4th order photo point at eastern end of BINH GIA village by chain and theodolite traverse.

(e) Connect line from DUC THANH to Arty Station PENN by chain and theodolite traverse measured along L152

(f) Dependent upon result of connection to PENN, carry out further connection from BINH BA

/ water

. water tower to NUI LON.

(4) Phase 4 - PHUC MY Area.

(a) Establish 3rd order station in vicinity of PHU MY Battery (AAS007).

(b) Measure line PHU MY - NUI LON.

(c) Observe AM - PM sun azimuth on line PHU MY - NUI LON, or an arbitrary azimuth line.

(5) Phase 5 - XUYEN MOC Area.

(a) Carry out map and air reconnaissance to determine best possible means of establishing 3rd order station in vicinity of XUYEN MOC Battery.

d. Vertical observations will be carried out on all lines.

e. Technical Specification. All survey tasks will be carried out in accordance with RA Svy practice as specified in Corps Manuals, unless otherwise directed by OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp. Specifications relevant to Operation TRISIDER are listed in Annex B.

f. Barometer calibrations. Calibration of Aneroid Barometer will be carried out at VUNG TAU Air Base during Phase 1.

g. Recording will be carried out in duplicate. Original copies will be returned to Det HQ at intervals of not greater than 1 week.

h. Station Marking. Stations established by Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Svy Party will be marked with a RA Svy 3 1/2" bronze mark set in concrete. Three recovery marks consisting of cartridge cases set in concrete will be positioned and in addition to these a further reference mark consisting of a permanent existing feature ( eg building) will be connected to wherever possible.

i. Protection will be organised as required by OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp.

j. Timings. Survey Party will depart 1 ATF base area for VUNG TAU on 21 Nov 66. The following schedule of timings will be adhered to as far as possible.

Phase 1	21 Nov 66	-	30 Nov 66
Phase 2	2 Dec 66	-	4 Dec 66
Phase 3	5 Dec 66	-	10 Dec 66
Phase 4	11 Dec 66	-	14 Dec 66
Phase 5	15 Dec 66	-	20 Dec 66

4.

ADM AND LOG

a. Transport: Svy party will take the following vehicles

Truck	3/4 Ton GS	113 130	1	Topo Svy Tp
Trailer	1/2 Ton		1	Topo Svy Tp
Truck	3/4 Ton FFR	111 434		Det 131 Div Loc
Truck	3/4 Ton US -			Trailer A Pty

/b. Accommodated

b. Accommodation.

- (1) Phase 1: - Svy Party will be rationed and quartered at 1 ALSG Transit Depot during phase 1 of Op TRISIDER.
- (2) Phase 2: - BARIA Party will operate from 1 ATF Base Area.
- (3) Phase 3: - BINH GIA party will be accommodated at DUC THANH Compound during phase 3. Rationing will be from 24 hour packs.
- (4) Phase 4: - To be notified.

c. Weapons and Ammunition

(1) Except in the proclaimed "no weapons area" of VUNG TAU, personal weapons will be carried at all times. States of readiness will be as follows:

- (a) In secured areas outside of VUNG TAU city area - NO mag on, full mag in pouch.
- (b) In unsecured areas full mag on, working parts forward.

(2) Ammo as follows will be carried:

SLR      120 rounds per man  
 OMC      180 rounds per man

d. Stores and Equipment

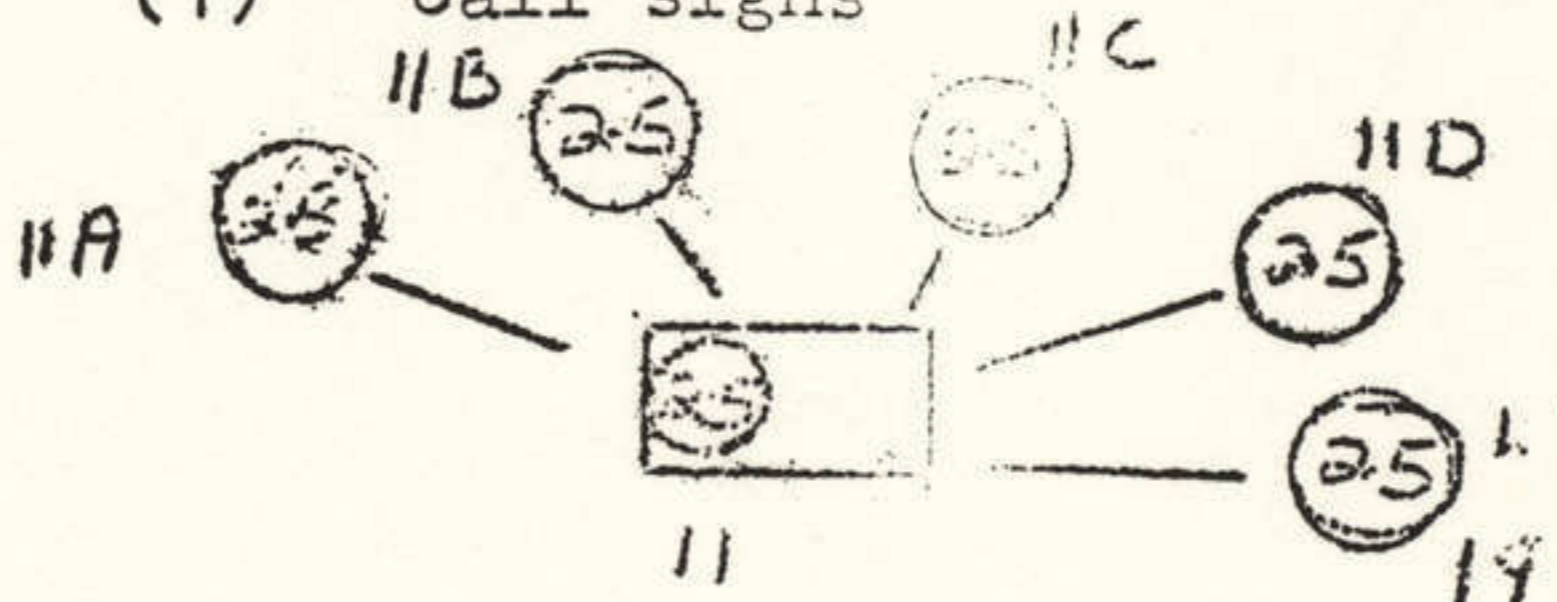
(1) All stores and equipment other than compasses prismatic and binoculars will be issued on AAF 1A. Compasses prismatic and binoculars will be issued on AAF F12 to members nominated by NCO 1/C.

5. COMMAND AND SIGNALS

a. Sgt S.R. Campbell as NCO 1/C of Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Survey Party as listed in Annex A. In the event of Sgt Campbell being withdrawn from the party for any reason, S. Sgt R.E. Glass will assume Comd, and thence in order of rank and seniority.

b. Communications: Survey Party will carry ANPRC 25 sets.

(1) Call signs



(2) Frequency 57.25.

/(2) Call

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(3) Call words.

18 - 24 GOLF FOXTROT

24 - To be notified..

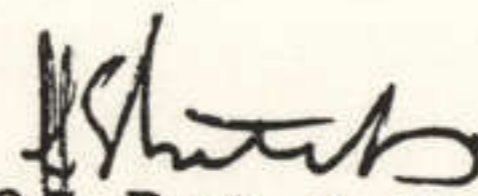
(4) Nick names:

BASE AREA	HAPPY TOWN
CAP ST JACQUES	FOOT REST
LIGHT HOUSE	APPLE SAUCE
NUI LON	LONG ROPE
POINT NO 1	ROSE ROLL
AZIMUTH MK	DEAD DOG
THANH	JOLLY SPRING
BARIA	HOLLOW LOG
NUI DAT	WELCOME CITY
BINH GIA	CRAZY PLACE
PHU MI	NUT CAKE
XUYEN MOC	PEN GRIP

(5) Appointment Titles:

OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp	STADIA MAJOR
NCO/1C Svy Party	STADIA
US Element	MICRO
Det 131 Div Loc Element	ASTRO
Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Element	GEOID

(6) Schedules: NCO/1C is responsible for maintaining interval schedules within the Survey Party. A bar link schedule will be held at 0730 hours daily.

 Capt  
OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp

Annexes: A. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Survey Party Nominal Roll.  
B. Technical Specifications.

Distribution

HQ 1 ATF  
Det 131 Div Loc Bty  
1 Fd Regt  
A Bty 2/35 Artillery Bn  
8th Tact Acq Bn 25th Artillery 2 FFV Artillery  
66 Eng Co (Topo) (Corps) - LONG BIEN  
File  
1st Bn 83rd Artillery.



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Annex A To Operation Order 2/66  
OPERATION TRISIDER

DET 1 TOPO SVY TP SURVEY PARTY

NOMINAL ROLL

36616	Sgt	Campbell	Det 1 Topo Svy Tp
54467	Spr	Firns	Det 1 Topo Svy Tp
1731045	L/Bdr	Sellwood	Det 131 Div Loc Bty
2781996	Gnr	Whittle	"
1200577	Gnr	Moreau	"
2782434	Gnr	Lock	"
3787334	Gnr	Earwicker	"
2782129	Gnr	Killworth	"
RA27094307	SSgt	Glascow	A Bty 2/35
US55834299	PFC	Soch	"
US52622237	PFC	Renzo	"

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Annex B to Operation Order 2/66  
OPERATION TRISIDER

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. TELLUROMETER MEASUREMENT.

a. The following procedure will constitute a 3rd tellurometer determination: between station A and Station B.

Mets - Both terminals

Course figures A to B  
10 fine readings  
A to B  
Course figures A to B  
Mets  
10 fine readings B to A  
Course figures B to A  
Mets

Fine readings to be spread over entire readable cavity range

2. THEODOLITE OBSERVATIONS

Horizontal observation - 4 area on following settings:

00	00	30
270	05	45
180	10	15
90	15	00

Vertical observations - 4 face left and 4 face right pointings.

3. RECOVERY MARKS

a. Distances to be measured to 0.01 feet. Directions one round of angles on face left and face right.