

194.5 FEB 69

CONFIDENTIAL

VV AB21TV ND3581
P1ICZYU RHMCSD0017 0331117-CCCC--RUFUGND.
ZNY CCCCC
P 031117Z JAN 69
FM LTR ONE ONE FIVE
RUMDANKZ/FIRST SEA LORD
INFO RUMUGND/COMNAVFORV
RHMCSDM/CTG ONE ONE FIVE PT THREE
RHMCSEK/CTG ONE ONE FIVE PT FOUR
BT

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NOC

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SEA LORDS AIR SUPPORT (U)
1. (C) DURING THE PAST TWO WEEK PERIOD (19-JAN-1 FEB), ORIG
WAS REQUESTED LHFT SUPPORT FROM FIRST SEA LORD FOR SIXTEEN OF
33 PREPLANNED MARKET TIME RAIDER MISSIONS. LHFT WERE PROVIDED FOR
ONLY FIVE OF THE MISSIONS. IN ADDITION, AN OPEX REQUEST WAS
SUBMITTED FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK FOR LHFT SUPPORT DAILY AT ANYTIME
MOST CONVENIENT TO IV CTZ FOR OPERATIONS IN SONG CUA LON, SONG
BO DE, SONG DAM DOI AREA. THERE WAS NO LHFT SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR
THESE REQUESTS.
2. (C) WHEREAS ONLY FOUR MISSIONS WERE CANCELLED DUE TO NON-
AVAILABILITY OF LHFT, MANY WERE MODIFIED AND DID NOT FULLY
ACHIEVE DESIRED OBJECTIVES. SEVERAL MISSIONS EXPERIENCED
PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL CASUALTIES WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN OTHERWISE

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PAGE TWO RHMCSD0017 C O N F I D E N T I A L
MINIMIZED WITH LHFT SUPPORT.

3. CTF 115 FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE SHORTAGE OF HELICOPTERS IN
IV CTZ AND REASON THEREFORE. HOWEVER, FACT REMAINS THAT FULL
UTILIZATION OF REGIONAL FORCES AND POTENTIAL OF MARKET
TIME SEALORDS OPS NOT BEING REALIZED DUE LACK OF HELO SUPPORT.
ALTHOUGH WE CAN AND DO MOST RAIDS WITH PCF'S ONLY, RF TROOPS
WILL NOT PARTICIPATE OF SUPPORT OUR OPS WITHOUT HELO SUPPORT.
4. WITH ONLY ONE LHFT ASSIGNED DAILY, AND HOPEFULLY A PLATOON OR
TWO OF MSG, CTF 115 CONFIDENT MARKET TIME COULD AGGRESSIVELY
STRIKE LUCRATIVE TARGETS ANY AREA OF CA MAU PENINSULA EXCEPT
U-MINH FOREST WHICH IS INACCESSABLE TO PCFS. WITH LHFT SUPPORT
WE CAN DESTROY MANY MORE BUNKERS AND DEFENSIVE POSITIONS IN THE
NAM CAN AREA DRIVING THE VC FURTHER BACK INTO THE LESS
DESIRABLE AREAS; THEREBY GREATLY REDUCING TO 117.2 FUTURE
COMMITMENTS TO SEA WAVE.
5. WE ARE ALSO STALLED ON OFFENSIVE OPS IN THE LOWER HAM LUONG/CO
CHIEN AREA. THERE ARE SEVERAL VC CONTROLLED CANALS NAVIGIBLE TO
PCF BUT NOT PATROLLED OR RAIDED DUE TO HIGH RISK INVOLVED
WITHOUT GUNSHIP SUPPORT. ONCE CHANNELS WELL KNOWN WE CAN RUSH
NIGHT OPS WITHOUT AIR IN MANY CASES.
6. REQUEST REASSESS CONTRIBUTION OF MARKET TIME SEA LORDS OPS
OVERALL OBJECTIVES IV CTZ IN HOPES THAT HIGHER PRIORITY BE GIVE
TO M/T RAIDERS REQUIREMENTS FOR LHFT SUPPORT.

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