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PL32-REH-kjk

Apr 1975

POINT PAPER

Subj: RVN Situation Update

REF: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE, Tuesday, 1: Apr 1975

1. The JCS are on call to meet and review the RVN situation. Status of forces will be reviewed by the J-3 as well as contingency planning for RVN evacuation (FREQUENT WIND).

2. The status of forces to support RVN evacuation operations is at TAB A.

3. The status of evacuation planning is as follows:

- USSAG/7AF identifies evacuation as controlled by American Embassy, Saigon as evacuation Option I. This option is currently ongoing.

- USSAG/7AF OPLANS have been submitted to CINCPAC and forwarded to the JCS for Option II (military airlift evacuation-TAB C). Option III (sealift evacuation-TAB D), and Option IV (helicopter evacuation-TAB E).

- CINCPAC CONPLAN 5060V - FREQUENT WIND was received on 19 April and provides CINCPAC's concept of operation for evacuation operations-TAB F.

4. Close hold information from J-3 AO indicates that offensive to seize Saigon is imminent and intelligence indicates attacks will commence 241800 April Washington time.

5. On 23 April, USDAO Saigon, requested that one rifle platoon be moved to DAO compound to provide internal security augmentation. JCS denied the request on 23 April, however, on 24 April the JCS approved moving a 40 Marine security augmentation force to the DAO compound by CINCPACAF assets.

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Subj: USSAG/7AF OPLAN 5060V-3-75 (FREQUENT WIND-OPTION III-
Sealift Evacuation)

1. PURPOSE. To summarize subject OPLAN.
2. KEY POINTS
 - Provides sealift evacuation plan from RVN for up to 6,000 evacuees.
 - Points out this option is considered undesirable because:
 - Concentration of evacuees on MSC shipping moving through inland waterways does not appear prudent.
 - Moving of evacuees across Saigon to Newport may be very difficult.
 - If the Plan is executed, one BLT will secure Newport (in Saigon) with remainder of a MAB available to reinforce if required.

SECRET

TAB D

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Subj: USSAG/7AF OPLAN 5060V-2-75 (TALON VISE) (U)

1. Purpose. To summarize USSAG/7AF OPLAN 5060V-2-75 (Option IV, Helicopter Evacuation).

2. Key Points.

- Provides for helicopter evacuation of US noncombatants and designated aliens from Saigon and vicinity. May include fixed wing and sealift to further evacuate from staging area in Vung Tau.

- Assumptions:

-- In-theater forces have been deployed to forward operating locations.

-- EAGLE PULL operations are complete.

-- Tan Son Nhut Airfield is denied to fixed-wing aircraft, and LZ's vicinity Saigon must be used.

-- RVNAF and/or other hostile groups may interfere with evacuation in vicinity Saigon.

-- No mainbody NVA or major VC confrontation is imminent.

-- Operations will be concluded before crowd/small armed group control capability of GSF is exceeded.

-- Friendly governments will provide safe havens for evacuees.

- Force composition:

-- One Marine amphibious brigade (MAB).

-- Two ARG's

-- One CVA configured for helicopter operations.

-- Two Midway class CVA's (one may be configured for emergency operations of USAF helicopters).

-- USAF helicopter and TACAIR assets (from Thailand).

- Time to commence effective operations from condition of normal readiness (L-hour is launch time of first evacuation aircraft):

-- 48 hours (L-24) - task force on station.

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-- 72 hours (L-hour) - SAR on alert, ABCCC on station, TACAIR on station/alert.

-- L+20 min - first helicopter to LZ.

- COMUSSAG/7AF initiates, conducts and controls operations upon request of AMAMB and on direction of CINCPAC.

- Logistic and administrative support provided by tasked organizations; no constraints envisioned.

SECRET

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PL32-REH-ar
18 April 1975

POINT PAPER

Subj: USSAG/7AF OPLAN 5060-V-75 (FREQUENT WIND-OPTION II-
Military Airlift Evacuation)

1. Purpose. To summarize subject OPLAN.

2. Key Points

- Provides plan for military fixed wing evacuation of US noncombatants and designated aliens from Tan Son Nhut airfield.

- Assumptions

-- Either RTG or ROP will be temporary safehavens.

-- Tan Son Nhut airfield will be secure during duration of evacuation effort.

-- Approximately 10,000 persons will be evacuated.

- Employment

-- CINCPACFLT

----Provides afloat MAB with additional USMC forces for reserve/reinforcement as required.

----GSF requirement for Tan Son Nhut is identified as one battalion.

----Two CVAs provide TACAIR support as required.

---- Provides one ARG with LPH, a 1200 Marine GSF, and one CVA to support option.

-- Minimum of 20 130s and 15 141s can evacuate 10,000 persons plus the 440 Marine GSF in 9 hours and 10 minutes after first plane touches down at Tan Son Nhut. Aircraft will be landed primarily from Kadena, Clark, and Utapao; evacuees transported directly to Bangkok and Utapao.

- Deployment

-- Phases

---- Phase I (Chief, Diplomatic Mission, RVN issues strong warning to US residents and may order evacuation.) GSF may be ordered to maintain increased deployability posture.

PL32-REH-ar
18 April 1975

Subj: USSAG/7AF OPLAN 5060-V-75 (FREQUENT WIND-OPTION II-
Military Airlift Evacuation)

---- Phase II (situation requires evacuation.) GSF
may be directed to maintain maximum deployability posture.

--- Phases III and IV (Deteriorating situation re-
sults in embassy closing and evacuation continuing.)

--- Military Control Condition (Non-military fixed
wing evacuation cannot be accomplished; USSAG/7AF assumes
control.)

-- GSF Deployment configuration

--- Deploy foot mobile without vehicles

--- Carry three days combat rations

--- Deploy with normal arms and equipment; no vehicles;
3 days combat rations; basic load of ammo.

- Command Relationships

-- USSAG/7AF exercises OPCON over assigned forces

--- USMC forces come under USSAG/7AF OPCON upon arrival
at assembly/staging points or upon debarkation from ARG shipping.

PL32-REH-ar
18 April 1975

POINT PAPER

Subj: USSAG/7AF OPLAN 5060-V-75 (FREQUENT WIND-OPTION II-
Military Airlift Evacuation)

1. Purpose. To summarize subject OPLAN.

2. Key Points

- Provides plan for military fixed wing evacuation of US noncombatants and designated aliens from Tan Son Nhut airfield.

- Assumptions

-- Either RTG or ROP will be temporary safehavens.

-- Tan Son Nhut airfield will be secure during duration of evacuation effort.

-- Approximately 10,000 persons will be evacuated.

- Employment

-- CINCPACFLT

--- Provides two USMC rifle companies (GSF) as a ground security force for evacuation operations (minimum forces required will be utilized).

---- Two company GSF (not to exceed 440) could be flown directly from Okinawa, deploy from ARG shipping, or stage through Thailand.

--- Provides one ARG with LPH, a 1200 Marine GSF, and one CVA to support option.

-- Minimum of 20 130s and 15 141s can evacuate 10,000 persons plus the 440 Marine GSF in 9 hours and 10 minutes after first plane touches down at Tan Son Nhut. Aircraft will be landed primarily from Kadena, Clark, and Utapao; evacuees transported directly to Bangkok and Utapao.

- Deployment

-- Phases

--- Phase I (Chief, Diplomatic Mission, RVN issues strong warning to US residents and may order evacuation.) GSF may be ordered to maintain increased deployability posture.

AB

PL32-REH-ar
18 April 1975

Subj: USSAG/7AF OPLAN 5060-V-75 (FREQUENT WIND-OPTION II-
Military Airlift Evacuation)

----- Phase II (situation requires evacuation.) GSF
may be directed to maintain maximum deployability posture.

--- Phases III and IV (Deteriorating situation re-
sults in embassy closing and evacuation continuing.)

--- Military Control Condition (Non-military fixed
wing evacuation cannot be accomplished; USSAG/7AF assumes
control.)

-- GSF Deployment configuration

--- Deploy foot mobile without vehicles

--- Carry three days combat rations

--- Deploy with organic weapons; basic load of
ammunition for weapons no larger than 90mmRRs

- Command Relationships

-- USSAG/7AF exercises OPCON over assigned forces

--- USMC forces come under USSAG/7AF OPCON upon arrival
at assembly/staging points or upon debarkation from ARG shipping.

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Subj: CINCPAC CONPLAN 5060V - FREQUENT WIND (C) (CINCPAC
192345ZApr75)

1. PURPOSE. To summarize CINCPAC CONPLAN 5060V.

2. KEY POINTS

- Provides CINCPAC concept of operations for evacuation operations from RVN.
 - Conceptualizes evacuation operations occurring under one of three scenarios:
 - Scenario A: Simultaneous execution of Options II (airlift) and III (sealift). Requires two USMC BLTs to provide security.
 - Scenario B: Simultaneous execution of Options III (sealift) and IV (helicopter). Requires deployment of two USMC BLTs to provide security.
 - Scenario C: Simultaneous execution of Options II (airlift) and IV (helicopter). Requires deployment of three USMC BLTs to provide security.
 - CINCPACFLT is tasked to provide a MAB afloat to support evacuation operations and three additional BLTs as required (with BLT 1/3 on Okinawa, four BLTs are available (three on Okinawa, one on Subic Bay)).

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TAB F

SECRET

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

FMEPAC TASK ORGANIZATION
LANDING FORCE SEVENTH FLEET

21 APRIL 1975

9TH MAB

CTG 79.1

1. Task Organization

| | USMC | | USN | | |
|---------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| | OFF | ENL | OFF | ENL | |
| *HQ, 9TH MAB | 9 | 40 | 0 | 0 | BGEN R.E. CAREY |
| *HQ, RLT-4 | 9 | 40 | 0 | 0 | COL A.M. GRAY |
| BLT 2/4 | 58 | 1186 | 2 | 39 | LTCOL G.P. SLADE |
| BLT 1/9 | 62 | 1277 | 5 | 59 | LTCOL R.L. BOND |
| BLT 3/9 | 53 | 1113 | 3 | 40 | LTCOL R.E. LOEHE |
| HQ, PROV MAG-39 | 5 | 20 | 0 | 0 | COL F.G. MCLENON |
| HMH-462 | 52 | 229 | 1 | 3 | LTCOL S.K. BOLTON |
| HMH-463 | 114 | 423 | 4 | 1 | LTCOL H.M. FIX |
| HMM-165 | 24 | 71 | 0 | 0 | LTCOL J.P. KITZER |
| *HML-367 | 14 | 36 | 0 | 0 | LTCOL J.R. GENTRY |
| BLSG | 14 | 324 | 2 | 16 | COL H.G. EDEBOHLS |
| MSC MARSECDETS (10) | 20 | 680 | 0 | 20 | |
| *TOTAL | 434 | 5439 | 17 | 178 | |

2. Aircraft

| | CH-53 | CH-46 | AH-1J | UH-1E |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HMH-462 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| HMH-463 | 16 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| HMM-165 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 2 |
| HML-367 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 32 | 8 | 6 |

3. Arms and Equipment

| | 81 MORT | 106RR | 4.2 MORT | LVTP-7 | LVTC-7 | M-48 | 105 HOW |
|---------|---------|-------|----------|--------|--------|------|---------|
| BLT 2/4 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| BLT 1/9 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| BLT 3/9 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 24 | 24 | 5 | 35 | 4 | 10 | 18 |

* ESTIMATED STRENGTH

D-1-1

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

FMFPAC TASK ORGANIZATION
LANDING FORCE SEVENTH FLEET

21 APRIL 1975

9TH MAB

4. SHIPPING

| <u>COMMAND</u> | <u>PRINCIPAL UNITS</u> | <u>SHIP</u> | <u>HELOS</u> | | | <u>UH</u> |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | <u>53</u> | <u>46</u> | <u>AH</u> | |
| | CG 9TH MAB, CO RLT-4, A/1/9 | BLUE RIDGE(LCC-19) | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>ARG ALFA</u> 600 | CO, H&S, F, H/2/4 HMH-462 E/2/4 | OKINAWA(LPH-3) | 18 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| | | PEORIA(LST-1183) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | THOMASTON(LSD-28) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | G/2/4, H/3/12 | VANCOUVER(LPD-2) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>ARG BRAVO</u> 800 | CO, H&S, B, C/1/9 HMH-463 HMM-165, MARSECDETS D/2/12 D/1/9 | HANCOCK(CVA-19) | 16 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| | | DUBUQUE(LPD-8) | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| | | DURHAM(LKA-114) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | FREDERICK(EST-1184) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>ARG CHARLIE</u> | CO, H&S, L, I(-)/3/9, HML-367 I(-), K, M/3/9, F/2/12 | DENVER(LPD-9) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | DULUTH(LPD-6) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | | MOBILE(LKA-115) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | ANCHORAGE(LSD-36) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

5. Location *Midway 350*

VICINITY VUNG TAU EXCEPT:

- DENVER/MOBILE ETC 220317Z APR75
- DULUTH- SUBIC BAY, BOILER PROBLEM, ETC UNKNOWN
- ANCHORAGE- NUMAZU LOADING, ETC VUNG TAU 261700Z APR75

6. Remarks

- a. COL W.W. TAYLOR, GSF DEPUTY COMMANDER PLUS FIVE-MARINE COMMAND AND CONTROL GROUP IN SAIGON.
Arrived 140600 Z Apr
- b. ON 6 HOUR RESPONSE TIME.
- c. 2 MARSECDETS ON BOARD SHIPS (USNS SGT KIMBRO - 54 MARINES, USNS GREENVILLE VICTORY - 20 MARINES) OFF VUNG TAU. 8 MARSECDETS ON USS DUBUQUE OFF VUNG TAU, 4 OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO BOARD SHIPS (PIONEER COMMANDER, PIONEER CONTENDER, GREEN WAVE, AND TRANS COLORADO) IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF VUNG TAU AFTER EVACS LOAD SAIGON.

D-1-2

COL JOHNSON (+ 1) at NKP

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PL32-REH-jkb
21 Apr 1975TALKING PAPER

For use by the Commandant of the Marine Corps

Subj: Responsiveness of Marine Corps Forces to meet
Southeast Asia Contingency Requirements

1. Marine forces supporting contingency plans in SEA have demonstrated responsiveness, readiness, flexibility, and versatility in dealing simultaneously with evacuation plans for both Cambodia and Vietnam. In short, Marine Corps forces with appropriate strategic lift support are ready and able to accomplish a broad spectrum of assigned missions.

2. The following points support the above conclusion:

- Marine Corps ability to rapidly embark and deploy

-- From the initially afloat 31st MAU which was supporting EAGLE PULL contingencies, Marine forces afloat were expanded to two MAUs. Subsequently, a MAB was readily activated and positioned to support FREQUENT WIND (RVN evacuation) contingencies.

-- 9th MAB is embarked on 13 amphibious ships and provides a 6,000 Marine force with 80 helicopters to support contingency plan requirements. The helicopters, which will be protected in the landing zones by Marines as required, can evacuate up to 10,000 persons from Saigon in 12 hours depending on the tactical situation. The majority of this force sailed from Subic Bay on 18 April, arrived off Vietnam on 20 April and maintains a six hour response time to begin evacuation operations. Additionally, should surface evacuation plans be implemented, embarked Marines can land by surface at Vung Tau to provide ground security or deploy to Saigon on ships or helicopters. Alert forces on Okinawa can deploy by fixed wing aircraft as well.

- Marine Corps flexibility, versatility, and responsiveness was demonstrated in the following ways:

-- On 22 March JCS directed that a Marine Corps CH-53 squadron at Kaneohe Bay be embarked on the CVA USS HANCOCK and deploy to WESTPAC. The squadron with 16 CH-53 helicopters was embarked on 24-25 March

| |
|---|
| Classified By <u>CME (CODE PL)</u> |
| SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT 2-YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER <u>1983</u> |

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SECRET

PL32-REH-jkb
21 Apr 1975

Subj: Responsiveness of Marine Corps Forces to meet
Southeast Asia Contingency Requirements

and participated in EAGLE PULL operations on 12 April. The use of USS HANCOCK as a helicopter platform resulted from non-availability of an LPH and was a landmark occurrence and further demonstrated the versatility of the Navy-Marine Corps team.

- BLT 1/9 on 5 April moved from Okinawa to Subic Bay by USAF C141s and embarked on amphibious shipping within four days.
- BLT 3/9 was moved from Japan to Okinawa by Marine Corps KC130s at a time (early April) when amphibious ships were fully committed to EAGLE PULL/FREQUENT WIND contingencies.
- BLT 1/3 is presently moving from Hawaii to Okinawa for FREQUENT WIND (RVN evacuation) augmentation by USAF C141s.
- Other Marine battalions on Okinawa have maintained a deployability posture as low as six hours to deploy to Cambodia/Vietnam.

3. Wide range of mission assignments:

- Marine Corps forces executed EAGLE PULL without any significant problems.
- 9th MAB is deployed and ready to execute FREQUENT WIND.
- Marine forces organized under an Amphibious Evacuation RVN Support Group and embarked on MSC ships (50 Marines per ship) rendered humanitarian assistance to Vietnamese refugees evacuated by MSC ships and provided ship security as well. These forces precluded ship hijacking that was experienced by a MSC ship not having Marine detachments embarked. Utilization of Marines in this role is another first in the annals of Marine Corps history.
- Afloat and forward deployed forces provided/provide a capability for expertise for USSAG/7AF and the Chiefs, Diplomatic Missions, involved. III MAF planning groups and ground security force command and control elements have deployed to Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam and

SECRET

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SECRET

PL32-REH-jkb
21 Apr 1975

Subj: Responsiveness of Marine Corps Forces to meet
Southeast Asia Contingency Requirements

conducted planning and coordination necessary to ensure
successful plan execution.

4. Marine Corps command and control and force structure flexibility accommodated the task organizing and expansion of forces afloat and provides an integrated air-ground team ready to accomplish assigned contingency missions.

5. Low key visibility

- The utilization of forward deployed forces and WESTPAC bases has resulted in no political repercussions. Intra-theater moves, i.e., Okinawa, Japan, and the Philippines have received scant attention in the media.

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POC-20
21 APRIL 1975

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

III MAF Locations

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>SHIPPING</u> | <u>ACTIVITY</u> |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 9TH MAB (See Tab D-1 for details) | Vung Tau area | ARG A,B,C, | 6 HOUR RESPONSE |
| ----- | | | |
| <u>BLT 1/4</u> | Subic Bay, R.P. | None | Div Reserve |
| ----- | | | |
| <u>BLT 3/4</u> | Camp Hanson, Oki | None | A/COBn (Saigon) 6 HOUR ALERT. |
| ----- | | | |
| <u>BLT 2/9</u> | Camp Schwab, Oki | None | Div Reserve |
| ----- | | | |

1ST MAR BRIGADE

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------|-------------------------|
| <u>BLT 1/3</u> | Kaneohe Bay, HI | None | A/C Bn 24 HOUR ALERT |
|----------------|-----------------|------|-------------------------|

*Deploy first light 21 April (Hawaii Time) by MAC aircraft.
light; no arty battery or truck pl.*

TAB B

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PL32-REH-jkb
21 Apr 1975TALKING PAPER

For use by the Commandant of the Marine Corps

Subj: Responsiveness of Marine Corps Forces to meet
Southeast Asia Contingency Requirements

1. Marine forces supporting SEA contingency plan requirements have demonstrated responsiveness, readiness, flexibility, and versatility in dealing simultaneously with evacuation plans for Cambodia and Vietnam. In short, Marine Corps forces with appropriate amphibious shipping and strategic mobility support are ready and able to accomplish a broad spectrum of assigned missions.

2. The following points support the above conclusion:

- Marine Corps ability to rapidly embark and deploy

-- From the initially afloat 31st MAU which was supporting EAGLE PULL contingencies, Marine forces afloat were expanded to two MAUs. Subsequently, a MAB was readily activated and positioned to support FREQUENT WIND (RVN evacuation) contingencies.

-- 9th MAB is embarked on 13 amphibious ships and provides a 6,000 Marine force with 80 helicopters to support contingency plan requirements. The helicopters, which will be protected in the landing zones by Marines as required, can evacuate up to 10,000 persons from Saigon in 12 hours depending on the tactical situation. The majority of this force sailed from Subic Bay on 18 April, arrived off Vietnam on 20 April and maintains a six hour response time to begin evacuation operations. Additionally, should surface evacuation plans be implemented, embarked Marines can land by surface at Vung Tau to provide ground security or deploy to Saigon on ships or helicopters. Alert forces on Okinawa can deploy by fixed wing aircraft as well.

- Marine Corps flexibility, versatility, and responsiveness was demonstrated in the following ways:

-- On 22 March JCS directed that a Marine Corps CH-53 squadron at Kaneohe Bay be embarked on the CVA USS HANCOCK and deploy to WESTPAC. Within 48 hours the squadron commenced loading 16 CH-53 helicopters. USS HANCOCK with CH-53s sailed from Hawaii on 26 March and participated in EAGLE PULL operations on 12 April.

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PL32-REH-jkb
21 Apr 1975

Subj: Responsiveness of Marine Corps Forces to meet
Southeast Asia Contingency Requirements

The use of USS HANCOCK as a helicopter platform resulted from non-availability of an LPH and was a landmark occurrence and further demonstrated the versatility of the Navy-Marine Corps team.

- On 31 March an Amphibious Evacuation RVN Support Group was activated to control evacuation operations from Vietnam. Marine security detachments were rapidly formed and placed on MSC ships (50 Marines per ship) to render humanitarian assistance to Vietnamese refugees and to provide ship security. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines was initially tasked to perform this mission and carried out their duties from 4 to 11 April with professionalism. Especially noteworthy was the display of sympathy for the Vietnamese by the Marines assigned this arduous duty. Due to the rapidly changing situation and the strong possibility of the requirement for the battalion to be utilized as part of a ground security force, 1/4 was relieved of evacuation control and assistance duties and immediately reconstituted as a BLT and remains at Subic Bay. On 17 April, III MAF units on Okinawa organized security detachments from combat service and service support elements to replace the 1/4 detachments. Those units were flown from Okinawa to ships off Vietnam on 18-19 April via Subic Bay where they now perform evacuation control and security duties as required.
- On 4 April 1st Battalion, 9th Marines located on Okinawa was given a warning order for movement to Subic Bay. The move was completed within 24 hours. The battalion embarked in amphibious ships at Subic as part of 33rd MAU on 6 April and on 9 April the battalion sailed for Vietnam to support evacuation operations.
- BLT 3/9 was moved from Japan to Okinawa by Marine Corps KCL30s at a time (early April) when amphibious ships were fully committed to EAGLE PULL/FREQUENT WIND contingencies.
- On 20 April, CINCPACFLT, anticipating the requirement for additional Marine forces to support RVN evacuation plans (FREQUENT WIND), ordered a Hawaii based BLT be placed on 24 hour alert. On 21 April JCS ordered the

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PL32-REH-jkb
21 Apr 1975

Subj: Responsiveness of Marine Corps Forces to meet
Southeast Asia Contingency Requirements

BLT to deploy to Okinawa via MAC aircraft. Within
30 hours BLT 1/3 had loaded and departed Hawaii
for Okinawa.

-- Other Marine battalions on Okinawa maintain a
responsive deployability posture as directed.
The current response time is six hours.

3. Wide range of mission assignments:

- Marine Corps forces executed EAGLE PULL without any significant problems.
- 9th MAB is deployed and ready to execute FREQUENT WIND. Marine security detachments protect MSC ships and provide humanitarian assistance to Vietnamese evacuees.

-- Marine forces afloat and forward deployed have provided and continue to provide advice to USSAG/7AF and the Ambassadors of both Cambodia and South Vietnam.

-- Our Marine security guards at the embassys and consulates have continued to provide for the safety and security of the staff at these places.

-- III MAF planning groups and ground security force command and control elements have deployed to Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam and conducted planning and coordination necessary to ensure successful plan execution.

4. Marine Corps command and control and force structure flexibility accommodated the task organizing and expansion of forces afloat and provides an integrated air-ground team ready to accomplish assigned contingency missions.

5. Low key visibility

- The utilization of forward deployed forces and WESTPAC bases has resulted in no political repercussions. Intra-theater moves, i.e., Okinawa, Japan, and the Philippines have received scant attention in the media.

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PL32-REH-kjk

22 Apr 1975

POINT PAPER

Subj: RVN Situation Update

Item # _____, SECDEF/JCS meeting, Tuesday, 22 Apr 1975

1. The JCS will meet with the SECDEF and review the RVN situation. Status of forces will be reviewed by the J-3 as well as contingency planning for RVN evacuation (FREQUENT WIND).
2. The status of forces to support RVN evacuation operations is at TAB A. Status of BLT 1/3 move is at TAB B.
3. The status of evacuation planning is as follows:
 - USSAG/7AF identifies evacuation as controlled by American Embassy, Saigon as evacuation Option I. This option is currently ongoing.
 - USSAG/7AF OPLANs have been submitted to CINCPAC and forwarded to the JCS for Option II (military airlift evacuation-TAB C), Option III (sealift evacuation-TAB D), and Option IV (helicopter evacuation-TAB E).
 - CINCPAC CONPLAN 5060V - FREQUENT WIND was received on 19 April and provides CINCPAC's concept of operation for evacuation operations-TAB F.

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

FMEPAC TASK ORGANIZATION
LANDING FORCE SEVENTH FLEET

22 APRIL 1975

9TH MAB

1. CTG 79.1
Task Organization

| | USMC | | USN | | |
|---------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| | OFF | ENL | OFF | ENL | |
| *HQ, 9TH MAB | 9 | 40 | 0 | 0 | BGEN R.E. CAREY |
| *HQ, RLT-4 | 9 | 40 | 0 | 0 | COL A.M. GRAY |
| BLT 2/4 | 58 | 1186 | 2 | 39 | LTCOL G.P. SLADE |
| BLT 1/9 | 62 | 1277 | 5 | 59 | LTCOL R.L. BOND |
| BLT 3/9 | 53 | 1113 | 3 | 40 | LTCOL R.E. LOEHE |
| HQ, PROV MAG-39 | 5 | 20 | 0 | 0 | COL F.G. MCLENON |
| HMH-462 | 52 | 229 | 1 | 3 | LTCOL S.K. BOLTON |
| HMH-463 | 114 | 423 | 4 | 1 | LTCOL H.M. FIX |
| HMM-165 | 24 | 71 | 0 | 0 | LTCOL J.P. KITZER |
| *HML-367 | 14 | 36 | 0 | 0 | LTCOL J.R. GENTRY |
| BLSG | 14 | 324 | 2 | 16 | COL H.G. EDEBOHLS |
| MSC MARSECDETS (10) | 20 | 680 | 0 | 20 | |
| *TOTAL | 434 | 5439 | 17 | 178 | |

2. Aircraft

| | CH-53 | CH-46 | AH-1J | UH-1E |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HMH-462 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| HMH-463 | 16 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| HMM-165 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 2 |
| HML-367 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 32 | 8 | 6 |

3. Arms and Equipment

| | 81 MORT | 106RR | 4.2 MORT | LVTP-7 | LVTC-7 | M-48 | 105 HC |
|---------|---------|-------|----------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| BLT 2/4 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| BLT 1/9 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| BLT 3/9 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 24 | 24 | 5 | 35 | 4 | 10 | 18 |

* ESTIMATED STRENGTH

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

FMFPAC TASK ORGANIZATION
LANDING FORCE SEVENTH FLEET

22 APRIL 1975

9TH MAB

4. SHIPPING

| <u>COMMAND</u> | <u>PRINCIPAL UNITS</u> | <u>SHIP</u> | <u>HELOS</u> | | | <u>UH</u> |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | <u>53</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>AH</u> | |
| | | | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>COMMAND</u> | CG 9TH MAB, CO RLT-4, A/1/9 | BLUE RIDGE(LCC-19) | | | | |
| <u>ARG ALFA</u> | CO, H&S, F, H/2/4 HHH-462 E/2/4 | OKINAWA(LPH-3) | 18 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| | | PEORIA(LST-1183) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | THOMASTON(LSD-23) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | G/2/4, H/3/12 | VANCOUVER(LPD-2) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>ARG BRAVO</u> | CO, H&S, B, C/1/9 HMH-463 HMM-165, MARSECDETS D/2/12 D/1/9 | HANCOCK(CVA-19) | 16 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| | | DUBUQUE(LPD-8) | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| | | DURHAM(LKA-114) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | FREDERICK(LST-1184) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>ARG CHARLIE</u> | CO, H&S, L, I(-)/3/9, HML-367 I(-), K, M/3/9, F/2/12 | DENVER(LPD-9) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | DULUTH(LPD-6) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | | MOBILE(LKA-115) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | ANCHORAGE(LSD-36) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

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5. III MAF FORCES AVAILABLE

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>SHIPPING</u> | <u>ACTIVITY</u> |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 9TH MAB | Vung Tau area | ARG A,B,C, | 6 HOUR RESPONSE |
| <u>BLT 1/4</u> | Subic Bay, R.P. | None | Div Reserve |
| <u>BLT 3/4</u> | Camp Hanson, Oki | None | A/C Bn (Saigon) 6 HOUR ALERT. |
| <u>BLT 2/9</u> | Camp Schwab, Oki | None | Div Reserve |

1ST MAR BRIGADE

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------|-----------|
| <u>BLT 1/3</u> | Kaneohe Bay, HI | None | See Tab B |
|----------------|-----------------|------|-----------|

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SECRETMOVEMENT OF BLT 1/3

- Following information received via phonecon with FMFPAC Duty Officer, 1015, 22 Apr 1975.

- PERSONNEL Total 1049

| | Marine | Navy |
|----------|------------|-----------|
| Officer | 42 | 5 |
| Enlisted | <u>940</u> | <u>62</u> |
| | 982 | 67 |

- In response to CMCS tasking, CINCPAC directed PACAF and PACFLT to deploy BLT 1/3 to Okinawa at 210256Z April.

-- The first aircraft departed Hickham 21 hours later.

-- At 220900Z (30 hrs from execute order) all personnel aircraft were enroute to Okinawa.

-- As of 221230Z, 6 of 18 C-141s required to lift 1/3's equipment, ammo, etc., had departed Kaneohe.

-- Indications are that the lift will continue to proceed on schedule and should be completed by 230500Z April 1975.

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

FMEPAC TASK ORGANIZATION
LANDING FORCE SEVENTH FLEET

22 APRIL 1975

9TH MAB

CTG 79.1

1. Task Organization

| | USMC | | USN | | |
|---------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| | OFF | ENL | OFF | ENL | |
| *HQ, 9TH MAB | 9 | 40 | 0 | 0 | BGEN R.E. CAREY |
| *HQ, RLT-4 | 9 | 40 | 0 | 0 | COL A.M. GRAY |
| BLT 2/4 | 58 | 1186 | 2 | 39 | LTCOL G.P. SLADE |
| BLT 1/9 | 62 | 1277 | 5 | 59 | LTCOL R.L. BOND |
| BLT 3/9 | 53 | 1113 | 3 | 40 | LTCOL R.E. LOEHE |
| HQ, PROV MAG-39 | 5 | 20 | 0 | 0 | COL F.G. MCLENON |
| HMH-462 | 52 | 229 | 1 | 3 | LTCOL S.K. BOLTON |
| HMH-463 | 114 | 423 | 4 | 1 | LTCOL H.M. FIX |
| HMM-165 | 24 | 71 | 0 | 0 | LTCOL J.P. KITZER |
| *HML-367 | 14 | 36 | 0 | 0 | LTCOL J.R. GENTRY |
| BLSG | 14 | 224 | 2 | 16 | COL H.G. EDEBOHLS |
| MSC MARSECDETS (10) | 20 | 680 | 0 | 20 | |
| *TOTAL | 434 | 5439 | 17 | 178 | |

2. Aircraft

| | <u>CH-53</u> | <u>CH-46</u> | <u>AH-1J</u> | <u>UH-1E</u> |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| HMH-462 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| HMH-463 | 16 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| HMM-165 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 2 |
| HML-367 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 32 | 8 | 6 |

3. Arms and Equipment

| | <u>81 MORT</u> | <u>106RR</u> | <u>4.2 MORT</u> | <u>LVTP-7</u> | <u>LVTC-7</u> | <u>M-48</u> | <u>105 HO</u> |
|---------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| BLT 2/4 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| BLT 1/9 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| BLT 3/9 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 24 | 24 | 5 | 35 | 4 | 10 | 18 |

ESTIMATED STRENGTH

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

FMFPAC TASK ORGANIZATION
LANDING FORCE SEVENTH FLEET

22 APRIL 1975

9TH MAB

4. SHIPPING

| | <u>PRINCIPAL UNITS</u> | <u>SHIP</u> | <u>HELOS</u> | | | <u>UH</u> |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | <u>53</u> | <u>46</u> | <u>AH</u> | |
| <u>COMMAND</u> | CG 9TH MAB, CO RLT-4, A/1/9 | BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| <u>ARG ALFA</u> | CO, H&S, F, H/2/4 HMH-462 E/2/4 | OKINAWA (LPH-3) | 18 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| | | PEORIA (LST-1183) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | THOMASTON (LSD-23) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | G/2/4, H/3/12 | VANCOUVER (LPD-2) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>ARG BRAVO</u> | CO, H&S, B, C/1/9 HMH-463 HMM-165, MARSECDETS D/2/12 D/1/9 | HANCOCK (CVA-19) | 16 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| | | DUBUQUE (LPD-8) | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| | | DURHAM (LKA-114) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | FREDERICK (LST-1184) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>ARG CHARLIE</u> | CO, H&S, L, I(-)/3/9, HML-367 I(-), K, M/3/9, F/2/12 | DENVER (LPD-9) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | DULUTH (LPD-6) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | | MOBILE (LKA-115) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | ANCHORAGE (LSD-36) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

SECRET

5. III MAF FORCES AVAILABLE

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>SHIPPING</u> | <u>ACTIVITY</u> |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 9TH MAB | Vung Tau area | ARG A,B,C, | 6 HOUR RESPONSE |
| <u>BLT 1/4</u> | Subic Bay, R.P. | None | Div Reserve |
| <u>BLT 3/4</u> | Camp Hanson, Oki | None | A/C Bn (Saigon) 6 HOUR ALERT. |
| <u>BLT 2/9</u> | Camp Schwab, Oki | None | Div Reserve |

1ST MAR BRIGADE

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------|-------------|
| <u>BLT 1/3</u> | Camp Schwab, Oki | None | Div Reserve |
|----------------|------------------|------|-------------|

SECRET

SECRETPOC-20
22 APRIL 1975

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. 9TH MAB

- A. AFLOAT IN OPERATING AREA VICINITY VUNG TAU.
- B. ON SIX-HOUR RESPONSE TIME TO INITIATE HELICOPTER OPTION OF OPERATION FREQUENT WIND.
- C. BLT 3/9 (ARG CHARLIE)
 - 1. USS DENVER (LPD-9) AND USS MOBILE (LKA-115) ARRIVED OFF VUNG TAU 220317Z APR75.
 - 2. USS DULUTH (LPD-6) REPAIRED AND UNDER WAY FROM SUBIC 211530Z APR75. ETA OFF VUNG TAU 231523Z APR75.
 - 3. USS ANCHORAGE UNDER WAY FROM NUMAZU 211300Z APR75, VIA BUCKNER BAY, ETA 230730Z APR75. ETD 231500Z APR75. ETA OFF VUNG TAU 270110Z APR75.

2. MARINE SHIPS: SCTY DETS

- A. NO CHANGE.

3. OTHER U. S. MARINE UNITS

- A. BLT 1/4: NO CHANGE.
- B. BLT 3/4: NO CHANGE.
- C. 2D BN 9TH MAR: NO CHANGE.
- D. BLT 1/3: IN THE PROCESS OF BEING AIR LIFTED FROM HAWAII TO OKINAWA. FIRST FLIGHT DEPARTED HAWAII AT 212310Z. 50ms

4. EVACUEES TOTAL 201,804 (2241 U.S., 199,563 ALIEN)

WORKING PAPER
NOT IN SYSTEM

ENCL: (1) MCCC MESSAGE SUMMARY

SECRET

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| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--|
| 200820Z (C) | COMSEVENTHFLT | <u>COMMAND AND CONTROL</u> Request chop CTG 79.1 to CTF 76 for operations. |
| 210723Z (S) | COMSCFE JAPAN | <u>RVN REFUGE EVACUATION SITREP 23</u> List of available shipping for evacuation. |
| 190919Z (C) | BLT 2/4 | <u>SAILING REPORT</u> Listing of units embarked on USS OKINAWA. |
| 201110Z (C) | CTG 79.1 | <u>MOVREP</u> Change chop 79.9 to 79.1. |
| 210100Z (U) | USS TUSCALOOSA | <u>MOVREP</u> Arrived Subic Bay 210100Z. |
| 211256Z (S) | JCS WASH DC | <u>CONCEPT FOR SUPPORT OF THE EVACUATION OF RVN REFUGEES</u> |
| 211225Z (C) | AMEMB SAIGON | <u>EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION: ESTIMATED NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES</u> Total: 202,924 (Amcit: 2,816). |
| 211415Z (C) | USS DULUTH | <u>MOVEMENT REPORT</u> USS DULUTH ETD Subic 211530Z. ETA MOD LOC Vung Tau 231523Z. |
| 212030Z (S) | MAC | <u>MAC MISSION 2077/01</u> Air Movement of BLT 1/3 from MCAS Kanehoe to Kadena, Okinawa. |
| 220020Z (S) | BUMED | <u>MEDICAL SUPPORT TO RVN REFUGEES</u> Personnel support to include two Marine Corps Medical collecting and clearing companies. ? |
| 220236Z (C) | SECSTATE | <u>FREQUENT WIND</u> Tasks DOD under coordination of Ambassador BROWN to prepare for withdrawal as a first contingency up to 50,000 evacuees. |
| 211500Z (S) | USS ANCHORAGE | <u>MOVEMENT</u> Departed Numazu 211300Z en route to MODLOC vicinity Vung Tau, ETA 270110Z. |

SECRET

SECRETDTC ORIGINATORRESUME OF MESSAGE220450Z (S) CLARK OPS
CTR PIAIRCREW DEBRIEFING
Report of C-130E flying out of TSN being ||
fired on by small arms and AAA fire.

200645Z (C) 1/4

MOVREP
Change location of command from USS Dubuque
to MAU Camp.**SECRET**

SECRETPOC-20
23 APRIL 1975

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. 9TH MAB
 - A. AFLOAT IN OPERATING AREA VICINITY OF VUNG TAU.
 - B. ON SIX-HOUR RESPONSE TIME TO INITIATE HELICOPTER OPTION OF OPERATION FREQUENT WIND.
 - C. ALL US NAVY SHIPS/CRAFT AND EMBARKED HELOS ARE TO REMAIN CLEAR OF RVN THREE MILE LIMIT.
 - D. BLT 3/9 (ARG CHARLIE) CLOSING.
 1. USS ANCHORAGE (LSD-36) IS PRESENTLY AT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA. ETA OFF VUNG TAU 270110Z APR75.
 2. USS DULUTH (LPD-6) EN ROUTE TO VICINITY VUNG TAU. ETA 231523Z.
2. MARINE SHIPS SCTY DETS
 - A. NO CHANGE.
3. OTHER U. S. MARINE UNITS
 - A. BLT 1/4: NO CHANGE.
 - B. BLT 3/4: NO CHANGE.
 - C. 2D BN 9TH MAR: NO CHANGE.
 - D. BLT 1/3: EN ROUTE TO OKINAWA BY MAC AIR LIFT. ONE C-141 REMAINS AT MCAS KANEHOE BAY BECAUSE OF MECHANICAL DIFFICULTY.
4. EVACUEES TOTAL 197,492 (1753 U.S.; 195,739 ALIEN).

WORKING PAPER
NOT IN SYSTEM

ENCL: (1) MCCC MESSAGE SUMMARY

SECRET

DTG ORIGINATOR RESUME OF MESSAGE

221000Z (S) COMIPAC DADIPAC THREAT ADVISORY
AA capability around Saigon.

220942Z (C) AMEMB SAIGON E & E EVACUATION STATISTICS
TOTAL 201,804 (Aincit 2,241).

221115Z (C) CLARK OPS CNTR ALLEGED HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST ACFT
CLARK AFB C-141 took 3 rounds auto wpns fire
after take off from Tan Son Nhut.

221025Z (C) 1/3 MOVREP
1/3 ETA Okinawa 221900Z.

222030Z (C) SECURE FONECON BLT 1/3 MOVEMENT
G-3 FMFPAC reported that as of 221830Z
998 troops, all rolling stock, 81mm mortar,
106RR had departed Hawaii. No estimated
time yet as to when remaining 51 troops/
cargo will arrive Okinawa.

222359Z (S) JCS AMPHIBIOUS SHIPPING FOR EVACUATION OF RVN
Directs all Navy ships/aircraft and embarked
helos to remain clear of RVN three mile limit
UFA.
JCS 010216Z which authorized ships and helos
to approach within one mile is rescinded.

230430Z (S) USDAO SGN FREQUENT WIND
Beach surveys will be conducted commencing
240700H APR75.
Three mile restriction is waived for this
operation.

SECRETPOC-20
24 APRIL 1975

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. 9TH MAB

- A. OFF VUNG TAU - 6 HOUR ALERT. DULUTH CLOSED 231600Z APR75.
- B. USS ANCHORAGE (LSD-36) WITH 2 CH-46 ETA OFF VUNG TAU 270710Z APR75.

2. MSC MARSECDETS

- A. MARSECDETS ON 5 MSC SHIPS IN HOLDING AREA OFF VUNG TAU:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| USNS SGT MILLER | - 54 MARINES |
| USNS KIMBRO | - 54 MARINES |
| USNS GREENVILLE VICTORY | - 54 MARINES |
| TC GREEN PORT | - 54 MARINES |
| TC PIONEER CONTENDER | - 53 MARINES |

3. MSC SHIPPING SAIGON

- A. JCS DIRECTS MSC SHIPS IN SAIGON TO SAIL FOR INTERNATIONAL WATERS ASAP AND NLT 250018Z APR75.

4. OTHER U.S. MARINE UNITS

- A. BLT 1/4: NO CHANGE.
- B. BLT 3/4: NO CHANGE.
- C. 2D BN, 9TH MAR: NO CHANGE.
- D. BLT 1/3: ARRIVED OKINAWA AND IS OPCON 9TH MAR AND ASSIGNED TASK DESIGNATOR 79.2.3.4.

5. POTENTIAL EVACUEE TOTAL 200,894 (1887 U.S.; 199,007 ALIEN).

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NOT IN SYSTEM**

ENCL: (1) MCCC MESSAGE SUMMARY

SECRET

| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--|
| 230945Z (C) | AmemEmb SAIGON | <u>E & E EVACUATION STATISTICS</u> Total 200,894 (U.S. 1,1887; Alien 199,007) |
| 211057Z (S) | USDAO SAIGON | <u>REQUEST FOR INTERNAL SECURITY AUGMENTATION</u> Due to unmanageable internal security problems it is requested that one rifle platoon from GSF be moved to DAO compound by Air America-helo for internal security augmentation. |
| 231402Z (U) | CINCPAC | <u>REQUEST FOR INTERNAL SECURITY AUGMENTATION</u> Request approval of 211057Z (S), USDAO SAIGON |
| 230800Z (C) | USS ANCHORAGE | <u>MOVREP</u> Arr Buckner Bay 230700Z APR. |
| 231230Z (C) | CTE 79.3.5.13 | <u>MOVREP</u> Chg chop 79.6. |
| 232128Z (S) | CINCPAC | <u>VIETNAM EVACUATION OPERATIONAL SITREP</u> Overall assesment and location of assets. |
| 232030Z (S) | USS ANCHORAGE | <u>MOVREP</u> DEPARTED BUCKNER BAY 231800Z EN ROUTE VUNG TAU Holding area. ETA 270710Z. |
| 232136Z (S) | CINCPAC | <u>RVN EVAUCATION PLANNING</u> Lists reveal option for sealift of refugees from RVN. |

SECRETDTGORIGINATORRESUME OF MESSAGE

240259Z (S)

COMSC

VIETNAM EVACUATION PLANNING

COMSC comments are various refugee evacuation options utilizing MSC shipping. Option contained in CINCPAC 232136Z.

230634Z (S)

CTG 76.5

USMC SEC DET SITREP

Provides breakdown on current USMC Sec Det embarkation on MSC shipping.

231218Z (S)

JCS

MOVEMENT OF SHIPS FROM SAIGON WATERS

JCS directs that all ships sail from Saigon harbor/waters to international waters ASAP and NLT 36 hours. This computes to 242018 EDT.

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

IN REPLY REFER TO
 POL-12
 24 APR 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: Status of Marine Corps Embassy Personnel in Vietnam

Ref: (a) Fonecon between Col E. E. SHOULTS, DepDir,
 OpnsDiv and Col F. R. KOETHE, CO, MSG Bn of
 24 Apr 75

1. By reference (a), Colonel KOETHE stated that the Chief of Staff's Office had requested that Operations be kept informed of the status of Marine Corps security personnel in South Vietnam. The consulate at Bien Hoa has been closed and Marine personnel had been reassigned to the Embassy in Saigon as of yesterday. The consulate at Can Tho was estimated to be closed within 48 hours and personnel reassigned to Embassy Saigon. Therefore, at present, or in the immediate future there will be 75 Marines assigned to the Embassy in Saigon. Approximately one-half will be used for embassy security and approximately one-half at Tan Son Nhut Airport to assist with evacuation.

2. It is reported that the situation was calm, both at the Embassy and Tan Son Nhut Airport.

3. Detailed planning, including evacuation assignments have been completed by the Embassy Marines and personal effects and nonessential equipment have been crated for shipment to the United States. Only essential equipment such as flak jackets, helmets, blues, and utilities are being maintained.

4. Colonel KOETHE was requested to call the Marine Corps Command Center with any updating information, day or night.

E. E. Shoults
 E. E. SHOULTS
 Colonel, USMC

Distribution:

~~1~~ C/S P&O
 Dir, OpnsDiv
 Dir, MCCC
 20X

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. 9TH MAB

- A. OFF VUNG TAU - 6 HOUR ALERT.
- B. USS ANCHORAGE (LSD-36) ETA OFF VUNG TAU 270710Z APR75.
- C. 40 MAN SECURITY FORCE FROM BLT 1/9 ARRIVED DAO SAIGON COMPOUND VIA AIR AMERICA HELO LIFT ON 25APR75.

2. FREQUENT WIND EVACUATION

JCS AUTHORIZES CINCPAC TO EXECUTE OPTION II, III AND/OR IV UPON REQUEST OF US AMBASSADOR, SAIGON.

3. MSC MARSECDETS

- A. MARSECDETS ON 8 MSC SHIPS IN HOLDING AREA OFF VUNG TAU:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------|
| USNS SGT MILLER | - | 54 MARINES |
| USNS KIMBRO | - | 54 MARINES |
| USNS GREENVILLE VICTORY | - | 54 MARINES |
| TC GREEN PORT | - | 54 MARINES |
| TC GREEN FOREST | - | 54 MARINES |
| TC PIONEER COMMANDER | - | 54 MARINES |
| TC AMERICAN RACER | - | 54 MARINES |
| TC PIONEER CONTENDER | - | 54 MARINES |

4. MSC SHIPPING SAIGON

ALL US-MSC SHIPPING DEPARTED SAIGON FOR INTERNATIONAL WATERS AT 242200Z.

5. OTHER U. S. MARINE UNITS

- A. BLT 1/4: NO CHANGE
 - B. BLT 3/4: NO CHANGE
 - C. BLT 1/3: NO CHANGE
 - D. 2D BN, 9TH MAR: NO CHANGE
6. POTENTIAL EVACUEE TOTAL 200,252 (1681 U.S.: 198,571 ALIEN).

ENCL: (1) MCCC MESSAGE SUMMARY

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FOR THE SYSTEM

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| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|---|
| 241024Z (C) | AMEM SAIGON | <u>ESTIMATED NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES</u> Total 200,252 (U.S. 1,681/ALIEN 198,572) |
| 241626Z (S) | JCS | <u>INTERNAL SECURITY</u> Augment security guard at DAO compound with 40 Marines from CINCPAC resources. |
| 241804Z (S) | JCS | <u>EXECUTION CONPLAN FREQUENT WIND</u> Execute when requested by U.S. Ambassador Saigon |
| 242130Z (U) | USSAG/7AF | <u>REPORTED GROUND FIRE - TON SON NHUT</u> 2 C-130 A/C received ground fire after takeoff. |
| 242204Z (S) | CINCPAC | <u>VIETNAM EVACUATION OPERATIONAL SITREP</u> Overall assesment and location of assets. |
| 250344Z (S) | CINCPACFLT | <u>SITREP AS OF 250400Z.</u> USMC Sec Det now embarked on eight MSC ships. |
| 250704Z (S) | NFP | <u>MSC SHIPPING</u> FONECON WITH NFP INDICATES ALL MSC SHIPPING DEPARTED SAIGON FOR INTERNATIONAL WATERS AT 242200Z. |
| 241645Z (S) | CTG 76.5 | <u>USMC SEC DET</u> AS OF 242045Z EIGHT 54 MAN SEC DET WERE EMBARKED ABOARD MSC SHIPPING. |

SECRET

DTGORIGINATORRESUME OF MESSAGE

250910Z (S)

NMCC

FONECON

NMCC states that CINCPAC reported that the 40 man USMC security augmentation force arrived Saigon via Air America helos on 25APR75.

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POC-20
26 APRIL 1975

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. THERE WAS NO OPERATIONAL SUMMARY PUBLISHED FOR SATURDAY,
26 APRIL 1975.

**WORKING PAPER
NOT IN SYSTEM**

SECRET

SECRETPOC-20
27 APRIL 1975

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

NOON OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. TACTICAL SITUATION

- A. LONG THANH AND PHUOC LE HAVE FALLEN.
- B. VUNG TAU ISOLATED AND UNDER ATTACK.
- C. 304 AND 325 NVA DIVISIONS IDENTIFIED BRINGING NVA DIVISIONS IN MR 3 TO 15.
- D. ATTACKS ON SAIGON IMMINENT.

2. RVN SITUATION

- A. GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH ASSUMES POWER. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THIS COULD INFLUENCE NVA TO HOLD UP ATTACKS.

3. 9TH MAB

- A. OFF VUNG TAU - TO 1 HOUR ALERT AT FIRST LIGHT 28APR75.
- B. USS ANCHORAGE (LSD-36) ETA OFF VUNG TAU SLIPS TO 290500Z.

4. MSC MARSECDETS

- A. MARSECDET TRANSFERRED FROM SS AMERICAN RACER TO SS AMERICAN CHALLENGER 26APR75.
- B. MARSECDETS EMBARKED ON 8 MSC SHIPS.

5. EVACUATION BY MSC SHIP

- A. SS AMERICAN CHALLENGER TOOK ON 4,500 EVACUEES AT LONG HAI. EN ROUTE PHU QUOC.

6. AMCITS SAIGON

- A. AMCITS SAIGON REDUCED TO 1,019.

7. OPERATION NEW LIFE

- A. NAVY/MARINE CORPS TASKED BY JCS TO NOMINATE 2 CONUS REFUGEE CENTERS FOR UP TO 20,000 PERSONNEL EACH (FIRST ARRIVALS 28 OR 29 APRIL) AND 1 WEST COAST ENTRY POINT.

PAGE 1

SECRET

SECRETPOC-20
27 APRIL 1975

- B. SEC ARMY IS DESIGNATED EXECUTIVE AGENT WITHIN DOD FOR EVAC COORDINATION AND WITH OTHER FEDERAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES.
- C. R.P. AND GUAM SATURATED. EVACS NOW DIRECTLY TO WAKE ISLAND. AMEMBASSY R.P. REQUESTS OPENING HAWAII TO EVACS, CITING SUB-HUMAN CONDITIONS IN EXISTANCE.

PAGE 2

SECRET

SECRETPOC-20
28 APRIL 1975

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. 9TH MAB

- A. OFF VUNG TAU - ONE HOUR ALERT AT FIRST LIGHT.
- B. USS ANCHORAGE (LSD-36) ETA SUBIC BAY 280600Z APR75.
WILL CLOSE VUNG TAU AREA 30APR75.

2. AMCITS SAIGON

- A. AMCITS SAIGON REDUCED TO 954 AS OF 271600Z APR75.

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| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|---|
| 250935Z (C) | AE SAIGON | <u>EVACUATION STATISTICS</u> As of 241600Z, 1,357 identified American citizens remained in RVN. |
| 251602Z (C) | SECSTATE | <u>E AND E FROM VIETNAM</u> Stop flights to Guam-Use other locations short of Hawaii. |
| 251612Z (S) | JCS | <u>C-130 AIRLIFT SUPPORT FOR PACOM</u> Execute - - USCINCREC to supply one 16UE C-130 Sqdn TDY to PACAF for 90 days. |
| 260830Z (C) | AE SAIGON | <u>EVACUATION STATISTICS</u> As of 251600Z, 1095 American citizens remained in RVN. |
| 261535Z (C) | COMIPAC | <u>NVA ATTACK</u> DAO Saigon reports the NVA has launched a two-division size attack against Bear Cat in an apparent effort to cut Route 15 between Bien Hoa and Vung Tau. Phouc Le, ten miles north of Vung Tau, was reported under heavy attack by fire. |
| 270535Z (S) | USSAG/7 AF | <u>SPOT REPORT</u> 232 Corps has been ordered to position arty to fire on Tan Son Nhut and to open fire when in position. |

DTG

ORIGINATOR RESUME OF MESSAGE

270838Z APR75 (S) CINCPAC VN EVACUATION OPERATION SITREP
AmCits remaining 1357.

270358Z APR75 (S) CTF 73 SEVENTH FLT LOG NOTE 012/75
CTG 73.5 (MOBILE LOGISTICS SUPPORT GROUP)
shifting from Sasebo to USS KAWISIWI off
coast of SVN.

270900Z APR75 (S) 7AF USSAG SPOT REPORT
Phuoc Lee (Ba Ria) destroyed by NV forces
who are advancing north on Rt # 15. Long
Thanh occupied by NVA forces with AAA.
NVA tanks in Long Thanh. If reports are
accurate Vung Tau is isolated.

270915Z APR75 (C) AMEM E&E STATISTICS
SAIGON AmCits presently in RVN 1019. Impossible
to determine potential non-AmCit evacuees
in RVN.

270930Z APR75 (S) USSAG/7AF SPOT REPORT
Vung Tau and Truong Xau under attack.
Armor and inf attacks planned for today
27Apr. DAO Saigon confirms Phuoc Le
(Ba BIA) has fallen, RVNAF forces with-
drawn from Bien Hoa. RT # 4 SW of Saigon
has been interdicted by arty fire.

271343Z APR75 (S) NFP UPDATE MOVREP
USS Anchorage (LSD-36) ETA to Vung Tau
300040Z. Delay due to weather.

271312Z APR75 (S) COMIPAC IPAC DAILY SUMMARY
Long Thanh has fallen. Bien Hoa city
under 24 hour curfew. Tank led NVA forces
are striking through Phuc Tuy province.
Saigon received 6 122mm rocket attacks
at 0400 26Apr. 6 civilians killed, 242
wounded, 200 houses destroyed. No reliable
political reports since attack.

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| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| 271455Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>FREQUENT WIND (C)</u> Bring all Frequent Wind Forces, (less Okinawa based GSF) to one hour alert as of first light 28Apr75. |
| 271615Z APR75 (U) | AMEM SAIGON | <u>POLITICAL SITUATION</u> National assembly has voted to transfer all powers of the president to General Duong Van Minh. |
| 271645Z APR75 (S) | NFP | <u>USS ANCHORAGE</u> New ETA for USS Anchorage to Vung Tau is 290500Z. |
| 271735Z APR75 (S) | NFP | <u>MSC UPDATE</u> Marine det (54 men) was transferred from the American Racer to the American Challenger 26Apr. American Challenger presently en route Phu Quoc with 4500 refugees aboard who were picked up at Long Hai. |
| 271741Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>MODIFICATION OF AIRLIFT OPERATIONS</u> Request for MAC to terminate TSN operations of C141 A/C effective 28 April. Request C141 operations shift to Clark/Subic to support drawdown/onward movement evacuees from Philippines. Request for CINCPACAF assume total airlift evacuation TSN to Clark/Subic beginning 28 April using C130 A/C. |
| 272115Z APR75 (S) | USS ANCHORAGE | <u>MOVREP</u> USS ANCHORAGE en route Subic with ETA 280600Z. (NOTE: FONCON with FMFPac at 280100Z revealed that ship was going to Subic to pick up some Navy personnel prior to proceeding on to RVN waters. New movrep will be forthcoming). |
| 280745Z APR75 (C) | AMEM SAIGON | <u>EVACUEES</u> Total numbers of American Citizens to be evacuated 954. |

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SECRETPOC-20
29 APRIL 1975MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER
MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. FREQUENT WIND

A. FREQUENT WIND OPTION IV (HELO EVAC) ORDERED EXECUTED AND IS IN PROGRESS

1. L HOUR WAS 290300Z APR75.
2. INITIAL PENETRATION OF RVN AIRSPACE TOOK PLACE AT 290432Z APR75.
3. GSF INSERTED AT DAO COMPOUND AND AMERICAN EMBASSY.
4. ALL AMERICANS ORDERED EVACUATED FROM RVN BY PRESIDENT FORD.
5. OPERATION IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY.

2. MARINE CASUALTIES

A. 2 U.S. MARINES REPORTED KILLED IN A ROCKET ATTACK AT THE DAO COMPOUND, WHICH TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF FREQUENT WIND OPTION IV (HELO EVAC).

3. EVACUEE NUMBERS

A. TOTAL EVACUEES AS OF 280800Z APR75:

| | |
|-------|---------------|
| CLARK | 6,925 |
| GUAM | 23,591 |
| WAKE | 1,887 |
| SUBIC | 4,892 |
| | <u>37,295</u> |

B. EVACUEES PROJECTED FOR 28APR75 WERE 6150 BY 41/C-130's

4. SAIGON

A. BRIDGE ACROSS SAIGON RIVER AT NEWPORT REPORTED IN ENEMY HANDS.

5. PERIODIC UPDATES WILL BE PUBLISHED AS THE OPERATION DEVELOPS.

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NOT IN SYSTEM**

| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| 280930Z APR75 (C) | COMIPAC | <u>THREAT ADVISORY</u> USAF C-130 aircrew reports AAA fire along Route 15, at an altitude of 19,000 to 20,000 feet. Assessment of fire indicates possible 57mm. |
| 281100Z APR75 (S) | 7AF NKP | <u>SPOT REPORT</u> Four A-37s conducted bombing runs on TSN around dusk. Two other A-37s were driven off by AAA. Status of damage to A/F unknown. |
| 281256Z APR75 (C) | COMIPAC | <u>SPOT REPORT # 2</u> DAO Saigon reports 3 A-37s attacked TSN A/P dropping (2) 500 lb. bombs each. No US A/C on ground. A-37s are believed to be from Phan Rang. Damage reported - (destroyed). 1 - C47 3 - AC-47 2 - C119 3 - F5 Runways/taxiways and tower are operational. |
| 281220Z APR75 (C) | 6908 SCTY SQ | <u>ATTACK ON PRESIDENTIAL PALACE</u> Unconfirmed reports of A/C attacking presidential palace, Saigon. Unidentified gunboats attacking on the river. Viet Cong have rejected ceasefire and plan to take the city by force. |
| 281411Z APR75 (C) | CINCPAC | <u>MOVEMENT MSC SHIPS</u> Directs the withdrawal of MSC ships stationed off of coast of SVN to a position out-of-sight land to preclude uncontrolled refugees from boarding. |
| 281433Z APR75 (S) | COMIPAC | <u>SPOT REPORT # 3</u> Sappers which blocked Long Binh/Saigon road at east end of Newport bridge have been neutralized. A-37s which attacked TSN believed to have come from Nha Trang or Danang. |
| 281416Z APR75 (C) | USS BLUE RIDGE | <u>OPREP-3</u> RVN CH-47 landed on board Blue Ridge. A/C was refueling in TSN when it came under air attack. Aircrew then flew A/C to sea to land on US ship. |

| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| 280310Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>FREQUENT WIND</u> Resume 6 hour response posture. |
| 281412Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>RESPONSE TIME CHANGE</u> FREQUENT WIND forces (less Okinawa based GSF) are to assume one-hour alert posture first light 29 April. Plan for maximum practicable C-130 evacuation lift to commence as soon as feasible and when ordered. |
| 281731Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>EA-6A/B SUPPORT</u> Request 7AF plan for EA-6 airborne coverage and monitoring of C-130 operation. A/C will <u>not</u> penetrate VN territorial waters (3NM). |
| 281809Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>EXECUTION MESSAGE</u> Execute C-130 evacuation lift (281412Z above refers). |
| 281100Z APR75 (S) | USS ANCHORAGE | <u>MOVREP</u> ETD Subic 281200Z. ETA Vung Tau 300945Z. |
| 282135Z APR75 (S) | COMIPAC | <u>MARINE CASUALTIES</u> Voice report from USN personnel in Saigon reveals artillery attack hit TSN and DAO compound. One C-130 was hit and is burning on ramp. Two Marines are reported dead near DAO compound. |
| 282148Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>SITREP</u> As of 281600Z, 954 American citizens remained in VN. |

| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 282220Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>FREQUENT WIND</u> CINCPac has directed USSAG and DAO to assess best emergency evacuation means. At moment C-130 lift looks best. Imperative that all Americans be evacuated ASAP. DAO directed to evacuate totally. |
| 282325Z APR75 (S) | USSAF/7AF | <u>FREQUENT WIND</u> Launch all USAF support A/C for L-hour of 290300Z (291100 Saigon, 282300 EDT). |
| 290026Z APR75 (S) | COMIPAC | <u>SPOT REPORT</u> TSN/DAO under rocket/artillery attacks. A C-119 was hit by an SA-7 while taking off from TSN. Two NVA platoons spotted one KM NW of TSN. |
| 290252Z APR75 (S) | CINCPAC | <u>EXECUTION OF FREQUENT WIND</u> This is an execute message. Execute Frequent Wind, Option IV. |
| 290135Z APR75 (S) | USS DULUTH | <u>SVN HELICOPTER LANDING ON USS DULUTH</u> A SVN helicopter with 45 RVN personnel embarked seeking refuge. |
| 290439Z APR75 (C) | COMIPAC | <u>TAN SON NHUT SIT REP OF 290430Z</u> Tan Uyen has fallen. Two enemy Bn at Hoc Mon. We cannot leave area. One returning man had to shoot his way in. |
| 290440Z APR75 (S) | COMIPAC | <u>EVACUATION OF CAM THO</u> 35 US Citizens at Cam Tho now en route by boat from river to sea. |
| 290557Z APR75 (S) (FONECON) | NFP | <u>HELO LIFT</u> First wave of helos lifted off at 290445Z. ETA DAO Compound is 290530Z. |
| 290727Z APR75 (S) (FONECON) | NMCC | <u>GSF TOUCHDOWN</u> The GSF landed at 290708Z near the DAO Compound at TSN. No enemy activity in the LZ. |

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SECRETPOC-20
30 APRIL 1975MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER
MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. FREQUENT WIND

A. FREQUENT WIND OPERATIONS WERE ORDERED TERMINATED AT 300054Z.

1. THE LAST GSF PERSONNEL WERE LIFTED OUT OF USDAO COMPOUND AT 291610Z AND FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT 292346Z.

2. MARINE CASUALTIES

A. TWO MARINE OFFICERS ARE MISSING AS A RESULT OF A CH-46 HELO CRASH INTO THE SEA WHILE MAKING A LANDING APPROACH ON BOARD USS HANCOCK (CVA-19).

3. EVACUEE NUMBERS

A. TOTAL NUMBER BROUGHT OUT BY HELOS IS APPROXIMATELY 7,150.

B. TOTAL EVACUEES ON BOARD USN/MSC SHIPPING IS APPROXIMATELY 22,000-25,000. USMC SECURITY DETACHMENTS WILL DEBARK MSC SHIPPING UPON COMPLETION OF EVACUEE OFFLOAD.

4. 31ST MAU

A. 31ST MAU TO BE RECONSTITUTED AND EMBARK ON PHIBRON FIVE SHIPS AS ARG ALPHA. RETAIN ARG ALPHA ON 96 HOUR POSTURE TO LOAD.

5. REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

A. SUBSEQUENT TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST AMERICAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SURRENDERED, THE NVA ENTERED SAIGON, AND PRESIDENT MINH WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

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| <u>DTG</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>RESUME OF MESSAGE</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--|
| 290937Z (S) | COMIPAC | <u>SITREP</u> As of 290910Z 2023 personnel have been evacuated with approximately 1000 remaining. Evacuation of Embassy has commenced. |
| 291156Z (S) | USS ENTERPRISE | <u>OPREP-3</u> A7E from VA-27 returning from strike mission lost at sea. Pilot uninjured. |
| 291450Z (S) | FONECON | <u>CH-46 CRASH</u> SAR A/C from USS HANCOCK ditched at sea. 4 crew aboard - 2 crew still missing. |
| 291447Z (S) | CTU 77.0.0. | <u>OPREP-3</u> Search continues for two missing USMC from CH-46. Cause of crash unknown. |
| 291710 EDT | FONECONS NMCC | <u>SITREP</u> 170 GSF plus 30 others remaining at Embassy. CS being used. |
| 291922 EDT | | 45 remain. Three helo's inbound. TacAir on station. |
| 291955 EDT | | Last helo lifts off with Marines aboard. Final helo aboard carrier at 292017 EDT. |
| 300054Z (S) | JCS | <u>TERMINATION</u> Terminate all Frequent Wind Operations immediately. Withdraw all U. S. forces from territorial airspace and waters of RVN. |
| 300447Z (S) | CINCPAC | <u>FINAL SITREP</u> Last GSF personnel lifted from AE Compound at 292346Z and were recovered at 300033Z. USMC CH-46 crashed at sea off USS HANCOCK and two crew members are missing. USMC AH-1J ditched (USS OKINAWA) with crew recovered. Total number evacuees by helo is approximately 7,150. Total number on board USN/MSO shipping is approximately 22,000-25,000. |

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300601Z (S) CINCPACFLT

RECONSTITUTE 31ST MAU

31st MAU to be reconstituted and to
embark on PHIBRON Five ships as ARG
ALPHA on 96 hour posture to load.

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