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CITY OF

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SECTION I Geography & Climate

1. Geography

a. Location- Can Gio District is located approximately 35 kilometers southeast of Saigon and is one of the two districts comprising the Rung Sat Special Zone.

b. Boundaries-

(1) Whon Thach and Long Thanh Districts of Bien Hoa on the North.

(2) Thanh Duc and Can Gioc Districts of Long An and Dinh Tuong District of Go Cong in the West.

(3) South China Sea on the South.

(4) Vung Tau and Phuoc Tuy Province on the East.

c. Organization- Can Gio covers a land area of 35190 hectares with the population distributed among 5 villages (only 4 of which are presently occupied). The villages are further divided into 10 hamlets. Population distribution is portrayed in the following chart:

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>HAMLET</u>	<u>COORDINATES</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>
Can Thanh	Phong Thanh	160510	32	1,375
	Hung Thanh	163515	32	1,765
	Mieu Ba	150505	40	577
	£Refugees from Long Thanh			684
£Long Thanh	Long Hoa	092480	26	---
	Long Phu	098487	26	---
Dong Hoa	Dong Tranh	070488	28	663
	Dong Tien	078475	26	782
	£Refugees from Long Thanh			500
Thanh An	Thanh Binh	170580	14	628
	Thanh My	175600	15	860
Tan Thanh	Tan Thuan	116582	22	616
				<u>8,450</u>

£Note: Long Thanh Village is presently uninhabited

d. Nature of Terrain- Can Gio is primarily a swamp and marsh area interlaced with rivers, canals, and small intermittent streams. Most of the land area is covered with dense vegetation--mangrove, nipa, palm, and date trees. The exception to this occurs along the southern coastline which is sandy and in places covered with grass.

e. Water- There is no available source for potable water in Can Gio. Potable water is transported in from Saigon or Vung Tau by ferry. There is one well in Mieu Ba Hamlet of Can Thanh Village which furnishes water for washing etc. but the salt content is too high for human consumption. Water collection reservoirs are utilized in the rainy season to accumulate stores of drinking water.

f. Terrain Features-

(1) Roads- There was only one major road in Can Gio, from Can Thanh Village (YS 164518) to Dong Hoa Village (YS 064477). The VC have interdicted and virtually destroyed this road and travel along it is non-existent.

(2) Bridges- There are no bridges over any of the major waterways, only a few minor footbridges spanning small streams that intersect intervillage and interhamlet foot paths.

(3) Waterways- As mentioned before, the entire area is interlaced with a multitude of rivers, canals, and streams all of which are tidal. Major navigable waterways are listed in the chart below:

<u>RIVER OR CANAL</u>	<u>COORDINATES</u>	<u>MAX DEPTH</u>	<u>MIN DEPTH</u>	<u>TYPE VESSELS</u>
Nga Bay Riv	YS 104645 to:130570	16 mtrs	14 trs	All types
Dong Tranh	YS 120720 to:050470	8 mtrs	6 mtrs	LCU, FOM LCM, LCUP Monitor
Cai My Moi & Thi Vai Canal	YS 190590 to:200735	8 mtrs	6 mtrs	Monitor
Go Gia	YS 206638 to:177717	3 mtrs	6 mtrs	Monitor
Dong Dinh	YS 130545 to:105540	6 mtrs	5 mtrs	Monitor

g. Military Aspects-

(1) Observation & Fields of Fire- Due to the density of the vegetation, observation and fields of fire are severely restricted. For troops on the ground this usually does not exceed 10-20 meters. Aerial observation is also very limited but is the best method for this area.

(2) Cover & Concealment- The dense vegetation offers excellent cover and concealment especially from aerial observation.

(3) Obstacles- Natural obstacles include the dense forrests, rivers, canals, and thick mud.

(4) Landing Sites-

(a) Fixed Wing- There are no fixed wing landing sites in the district.

(b) Rotary Wing- The following chart lists the helipads located in Can Gio:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COORDINATES</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>COMPOSITION</u>
Can Thanh	165517	50mx50m	Cement
Long Thanh	098485	60mx60m	Earthen
Tan Thanh	119584	40mx30m	Earthen
Dong Hoa	061475	30mx30m	Earthen
Thanh An	170580	30mx30m	

(5) Weather, Terrain, and Tides-

(a) The weather does not present an obstacle to either friendly or enemy troop movements.

(b) The omnipresent water and mud makes movement by foot very slow, however it is possible in most areas. Both friendly and enemy troops make maximum use of sampans while friendly troops use LCUP's when available.

(c) Tides must always be considered in any operation utilizing LCUP's or similar type craft. Many areas along the waterways are inaccessible at low tide.

SECTION II History

1. Can Gio is one of the two districts that comprise the Rung Sat area, the other district being Quang Xuyen to the west. Long ago bandits used this area as a base to hijack commercial boats moving along the rivers to and from the port of Saigon. Usually, if the intended victims offered any resistance, they were killed; thus the area was named Rung Sat meaning "Killer Forrest."

2. Under the Nguyen dynasty the two districts made up Phuoc Loc Canton which belonged to the Phien An region (now Gia Dinh). Over the years names changed many times. In 1957 Phuoc Loc Canton was divided into two parts, one half being annexed to Long An Province to the west and the other half to Phuoc Tuy Province to the east. In 1959, Quang Xuyen District was established and became part of Phuoc Tuy Province. In 1960 Quang Xuyen and Can Gio Districts were separated from Phuoc Tuy Province and annexed to Bien Hoa Province. In December 1965 Can Gio and Quang Xuyen Districts were transferred to Gia Dinh Province for administrative control.

3. For military control, the Rung Sat Special Zone was established in June 1962 and was subordinate to the 32nd Tactical Zone with its headquarters in An Thoi Dong. In February 1963 Rung Sat became part of III Corp Area with its headquarters in Nha Be. Rung Sat became a navy special zone in April of 1964 and remains so today.

SECTION III The People

1. Census- Total population (taken in 1965) - 8,450.

2. Occupations-

a. Agriculture 15%

b. Woodcutters 20%

c. Fishing 55%

d. Commerce 10%

3. Religious Groups-

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>BUDDHIST</u>	<u>CATHOLIC</u>	<u>CAO DAI</u>	<u>HOA HAO</u>	<u>CONFUS</u>	<u>NON AFFIL</u>
Can Thanh	54%	4%	26%	3%	2%	11%
Long Thanh	58%	3%	24%	-----	-----	10%
Dong Hoa	60%	3%	27%	-----	-----	5%
Thanh An	60%	2.5%	25.5%	-----	-----	7%
Tan Thanh	58%	2.5%	25.5%	-----	-----	12%



... for the ... in ...
... school ...

4. Elementary Schools-

Dong Hoa	1
Can Thanh	1
Thanh An	1

5. Primary Schools-

Dong Hoa	1
Can Thanh	1
Thanh An	1
Tan Thanh	1
Xuong Thanh	1

4. Total number classrooms

Note: 3 classrooms in Long Thanh ...
now under construction in Dong Hoa, Thanh An, ...

5. Total number students

1. [Illegible]
2. [Illegible]
3. [Illegible]
4. [Illegible]
5. [Illegible]
6. [Illegible]
7. [Illegible]
8. [Illegible]
9. [Illegible]
10. [Illegible]

11. [Illegible]

12. [Illegible]

13. [Illegible]

14. [Illegible]

15. [Illegible]

16. [Illegible]

SECTION VI Communications

1. Transportation- There is only one form of transportation other than by foot and that is by boat. Travel between villages is usually by motorized sampan. Large ferrys serve all the villages and provide transportation to Saigon and Vung Tau.

2. Electronic Facilities-

a. Radios

- miles. (1) TR-20-AM radio transmitter and receiver. Range 20
- miles. (2) TR-5-AM radio transmitter and receiver. Range 8
- (3) HT-1-AM radio transmitter and receiver. Range 5 miles.
- (4) Radio location-

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
Can Thanh	1	TR-5
Can Thanh	4	TR-20
Can Thanh	4	HT-1
Thanh An	1	TR-5
Tan Thanh	1	TR-5
Dong Hoa	1	HT-1

(5) Military radios AN/GRC-9 and AN/PRC-10 are found at sub-sectors and Regional and Popular Forces.

b. Television- There is one television set in the district and is primarily used in Can Thanh Village at the VIS office. Periodically it is taken to other villages.

c. Telephones- There is no long line telephone service in the district. TA 312's and ET-3's are used for intra village communications and within military units.

d. District Newspaper- The District Information Office prints and distributes a bi-weekly newspaper and other pamphlets, leaflets etc.

SECTION I District Organization

1. The organization of the district government is typical of most districts in Vietnam. The district chief is the head of all district functions and receives his orders as district chief from the Province Chief. He supervises but does not have absolute control over the following chiefs of sections:

- a. VIS
- b. Youth
- c. Chieu Hoi
- d. National Police
- e. Health

2. The Deputy for Administration is second in command in the district organization and directly supervises all administrative matters within the district including finance, rural construction, etc. He also exercises supervisory control over the village organizations.

3. The village organization consists of a village Chief, deputy village chief, and village council all elected by the people. The village chief exercises a certain amount of control over the police, information, youth, health, and Cheu Hoi representatives in his village. Their direct control comes from the chiefs of section at district level.

4. Hamlet Organization- The hamlet organization includes a hamlet chief, deputy hamlet chief who is also chief of information service, and a youth chief who heads up the civil defense.

SECTION II Political Affiliations

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>COMMUNIST</u>	<u>INDEF</u>
Can Thanh	3712	60%	10%	30%
Long Thanh	1184	50%	30%	20%
Dong Hoa	1445	75%	15%	15%
Thanh An	1448	75%	15%	15%
Tan Thanh	616	80%	10%	10%

SECTION I Natural Resources-

1. Fishing- Fish are abundant and the majority of the population is active in this occupation. Each year many tons of fresh fish, dried fish, lobsters, and crab are exported.

2. Woodcutting- The dense vegetation provides excellent fire wood and 20% of the population is involved in this trade. Enough is gathered each year for local use and is a major export.

SECTION II Agriculture-

1. Rice- Very little rice is grown in this district except along the southern coast. The district imports about 10 tons of rice yearly to sustain local needs. Conversely the district exports approximately 25 tons of watermelon and 200,000 grenadine fruits each year.

2. Animal Husbandry- On a small scale water buffalo, pigs, chickens, and ducks are raised. This is usually by individual families and for their own use.

SECTION III Industry and Business

1. **Industry-** There are no industries in Can Gio. There is an existing nuoc mon factory in Can Thanh but it is not currently in operation.

2. **Business-** There are many fairly prosperous businesses in Can Gio principally in Can Thanh. These stores include general merchandise, restaurants, tailor shops, barber shops, and central markets in each of the five villages.

SECTION I Military Organization- The military equivalent of the district civilian organization is the sub-sector and the district chief serves as the sub-sector commander. Normally he would report directly to the Province Chief Sector Commander but Can Gio is under the military operational control of Rung Sat Special Zone and he reports to its commander for military matters. The sub-sector commander has the normal staff section plus a deputy for security who serves as a Chief of Staff.

SECTION II Mission

1. The mission of the Regional Forces in this district is to provide village security, conduct company, platoon & squad size operations, provide security of waterways, and to all as reaction forces.

2. The mission of the Popular Forces in this district is to provide security for the village or hamlet to which they are assigned. They also conduct small unit operations such as patrols and ambushes.

SECTION III Force Disposition

1. District Regional Forces-

- a. 361 RF Co- Can Thanh Village (YS 165518)
- b. 647 RF Co- Dong Hoa Village (YS 067476)
- c. 875 RF Co- Tan Thanh Village (YS 113586)

2. District Popular Forces-

a. Platoons-

- (1) GDH 123 Tan Thanh
- (2) GDH 122 Thanh An
- (3) GDH 121 Can Thanh

b. Squads

- (1) GDH 86 Can Thanh
- (2) GDH 85 Can Thanh
- (3) GDH 87 Dong Hoa

SECTION I Geography & Climate

1. Geography

a. Location- Can Gio District is located approximately 35 kilometers southeast of Saigon and is one of the two districts comprising the Rung Sat Special Zone.

b. Boundaries-

(1) Nhon Thach and Long Thanh Districts of Bien Hoa on the North.

(2) Thanh Duc and Can Gioc Districts of Long An and Dinh Trung District of Go Cong in the West.

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£Note: Long Thanh Village is presently uninhabited

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(3) Obstacles- Natural obstacles include the dense forests, rivers, canals, and thick mud.

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(b) The omnipresent water and mud makes movement by foot very slow, however it is possible in most areas. Both friendly and enemy troops make maximum use of sampans while friendly troops use LCUP's when available.

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3. For military control, the Rung Sat Special Zone was established in June 1962 and was subordinate to the 32nd Tactical Zone with its headquarters in An Thoi Dong. In February 1963 Rung Sat became part of III Corp Area with its headquarters in Nha Be. Rung Sat became a navy special zone in April of 1964 and remains so today.

SECTION III The People

1. Census- Total population (taken in 1965) - 8,450. -

2. Occupations-

a. Agriculture 15%

b. Woodcutters 20%

c. Fishing 55%

d. Commerce 10%

3. Religious Groups-

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>BUDDHIST</u>	<u>CATHOLIC</u>	<u>CAO DAI</u>	<u>HOA HAO</u>	<u>CONFUS</u>	<u>NON AFFIL</u>
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Long Thanh	58%	3%	24%	-----	-----	10%
Dong Hoa	60%	3%	27%	-----	-----	5%
Thanh An	60%	2.5%	25.5%	-----	-----	7%
Tan Thanh	58%	2.5%	25.5%	-----	-----	12%



SECTION IV Education

1. High Schools- There are no high schools in the district. Children from this district whose families are financially able attend private high schools in Vung Tau or Saigon.

2. Elementary Schools-

Dong Hoa	<u>1</u>
Can Thanh	<u>1</u>
Thanh An	<u>1</u>

3. Primary Schools-

Dong Hoa	<u>1</u>
Can Thanh	<u>1</u>
Thanh An	<u>1</u>
Tan Thanh	<u>1</u>
Long Thanh	<u>1</u>

4. Total number classrooms 23

Note: 3 classrooms in Long Thanh not in use. Additional 3 classrooms now under construction in Dong Hoa, Thanh An, and Tan Thanh.

5. Total number students 1,290.

SECTION V Health

1. The following medical facilities are available in the district.

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>HAMLET</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>OPERATIONAL</u>
Can Thanh		Dist Dispensary	Yes
Can Thanh		Dist Maternity	Yes
Can Thanh	Hung Thanh	Aid Station	Yes
Can Thanh	Phong Thanh	Aid Station	Yes
Thanh An	Thanh My	Maternity	Yes
Thanh An	Thanh Binh	Aid Station	Yes
Thanh An	Thanh My	Aid Station	Yes
Dong Hoa	Dong Tieu	Aid Station	Yes
Tan Thanh	Tan Thuan	Aid Station	Yes

2. Health Status-

a. Generally the health of the populace is satisfactory. Sanitation is the major problem.

b. Most common diseases are:

- (1) Skin disorders
- (2) Tuberculosis
- (3) Vitamin deficiency

SECTION VI Communications

1. Transportation- There is only one form of transportation other than by foot and that is by boat. Travel between villages is usually by motorized sampan. Large ferrys serve all the villages and provide transportation to Saigon and Vung Tau.

2. Electronic Facilities-

a. Radio

- (1) TR-20-AM radio transmitter and receiver. Range 20 miles.
- (2) TR-5-AM radio transmitter and receiver. Range 8 miles.
- (3) HT-1-AM radio transmitter and receiver. Range 5 miles.
- (4) Radio location-

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
Can Thanh	1	TR-5
Can Thanh	4	TR-20
Can Thanh	4	HT-1
Thanh An	1	TR-5
Tan Thanh	1	TR-5
Dong Hoa	1	HT-1

(5) Military radios AN/GRC-9 and AN/PRC-10 are found at sub-sectors and Regional and Popular Forces.

b. Television- There is one television set in the district and is primarily used in Can Thanh Village at the VIS office. Periodically it is taken to other villages.

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1. The organization of the district government is typical of most districts in Vietnam. The district chief is the head of all district functions and receives his orders as district chief from the Province Chief. He supervises but does not have absolute control over the following chiefs of sections:

- a. VIS
- b. Youth
- c. Chieu Hoi
- d. National Police
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4. Hamlet Organization- The hamlet organization includes a hamlet chief, deputy hamlet chief who is also chief of information service, and a youth chief who heads up the civil defense.

SECTION II Political Affiliations

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>COMMUNIST</u>	<u>INDEF</u>
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SECTION I Natural Resources-

1. Fishing- Fish are abundant and the majority of the population is active in this occupation. Each year many tons of fresh fish, dried fish, lobsters, and crab are exported.

2. Woodcutting- The dense vegetation provides excellent fire wood and 20% of the population is involved in this trade. Enough is gathered each year for local use and is a major export.

SECTION II Agriculture-

1. Rice- Very little rice is grown in this district except along the southern coast. The district imports about 10 tons of rice yearly to sustain local needs. Conversely the district exports approximately 25 tons of watermelon and 200,000 grenadine fruits each year.

2. Animal Husbandry- On a small scale water buffalo, pigs, chickens, and ducks are raised. This is usually by individual families and for their own use.

SECTION III Industry and Business

1. Industry-- There are no industries in Can Gio. There is an existing nuoc mon factory in Can Thanh but it is not currently in operation.

2. Business-- There are many fairly prosperous businesses in Can Gio principally in Can Thanh. These stores include general merchandise, restaurants, tailor sheps, barber shops, and central markets in each of the five villages.

SECTION I Military Organization- The military equivalent of the district civilian organization is the sub-sector and the district chief serves as the sub-sector commander. Normally he would report directly to the Province Chief Sector Commander but Can Gio is under the military operational control of Rung Sat Special Zone and he reports to its commander for military matters. The sub-sector commander has the normal staff section plus a deputy for security who serves as a Chief of Staff.

SECTION II Mission

1. The mission of the Regional Forces in this district is to provide village security, conduct company, platoon & squad size operations, provide security of waterways, and to all as reaction forces.

2. The mission of the Popular Forces in this district is to provide security for the village or hamlet to which they are assigned. They also conduct small unit operations such as patrols and ambushes.

SECTION III Force Disposition

1. District Regional Forces-

- a. 361 RF Co- Can Thanh Village (YS 165518)
- b. 647 RF Co- Dong Hoa Village (YS 067476)
- c. 875 RF Co- Tan Thanh Village (YS 113586)

2. District Popular Forces-

a. Platoons-

- (1) GDH 123 Tan Thanh
- (2) GDH 122 Thanh An
- (3) GDH 121 Can Thanh

b. Squads

- (1) GDH 86 Can Thanh
- (2) GDH 85 Can Thanh
- (3) GDH 87 Dong Hoa

SECTION IV National Police

<u>Strength</u>	<u>Dong Hoa Village</u>	<u>Thanh An Village</u>
Authorized <u>60</u>	Population Control <u>4</u>	Population Con <u>4</u>
Assigned <u>58</u>	Resources Control <u>4</u>	Resource Control <u>4</u>
Pres for dy <u>52</u>	Total <u>8</u>	Total <u>8</u>

Headquarters

Administrative	<u>5</u>
Intelligence	<u>4</u>
Operations	<u>4</u>
Signal	<u>2</u>
Resources Control	<u>14</u>
Traffic Control	<u>1</u>
Marine Chk Pts	<u>4</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>34</u>

Note: Personnel of headquarters section provide police support for Can Thanh.