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RPL 1600 Z

010 5300
VV STN 264
RR RUMFKR F
DE RUMSBB 429C 2121500
ZNY EEEEE
R 3015 00Z JUL 68
FM CCF ONE ONE SEVEN
TO ZEN/TF ONE ONE SEVEN
INFO ZEN/CO SECOND BDE NINTH INF DIV
RUMFKR/ USS BEXAR
RUMFKR/ USS INDR A

TMCJ-APL
-T-CRR-11
-T-CRF-1 DDT
-T-CO 2ND BDE
AS AT 545300

UNCLASEFTO

NDMQ	19162
NU14	19162
NUZE	19162
NONU	19193

UNCLASEFTO
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DAILY INTERNAL INFO SUMMARY 07-30

MORE THAN 49 VC WERE KILLED AND A HUGE CACHE OF WEAPONS WAS CAPTURED TUESDAY DURING THE MRF'S FIRST DAY OF OPERATIONS IN THE KIEN THIEU DISTRICT OF CHUONG THIEU PROVINCE APPROXIMATELY 60 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF CAN THO. THE OPERATION REPRESENTS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PENETRATION OF THE SOUTHERN DELTA BY A MAJOR U.S. ASSAULT FORCE IN THE WAR.

ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH BATTALION, VIETNAMSE MARINE CORPS, OPERATING WITH THE MRF ACHIEVED CONTACT IN MID-AFTERNOON WHILE SWEEPING EASTWARD BETWEEN THE CAI LON AND NUOCYTRONG RIVERS. WHEN THE MARINES SPOTTED A LARGE NUMBER OF ENEMY TROOPS MOVING IN A NEARBY BUNKER

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COMPLEX, THE BOATS OF RIVER DIVISION 91 MOVED IN AND UNLEASHED A DEVASTATING BARRAGE OF CANNON, MACHINE GUN AND MORTAR FIRE ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS. IN A SUBSEQUENT SWEEP THROUGH THE AREA, THE MARINES DISCOVERED MORE THAN 49 VC KILLED BY THE MARINES, NAVY GUNFIRE AND HELO GUNSHIPS.

INCLUDED IN THE CAPTURED WEAPONS WERE 32 COMMUNIST CHINESE RIFLES, SIX .30 CALIBER U.S. CARBINES, 12 SEMI-AUTOMATIC SKS WEAPONS, THREE M-60 MACHINE GUNS, ONE 120MM MORTAR, ONE 75MM HOWITZER, FOUR MORTAR SIGHTS, 100 81MM MORTAR ROUNDS, 27 75MM MORTAR ROUNDS, 48 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS, 220 GRENADES, 12,500 CMC MACHINE GUN ROUNDS, AND 13 CLAYMORE ROUNDS.

THE FIRST BOATS LEFT THE MRB SHORTLY AFTER MID-NIGHT FOR THE LONG TRANSIT TO THE OPERATING AREA VIA THE RACH CAN THO AND KINH XA NG. BOATS OF RIVER DIVISION 91, WITH THE MARINES EMBARKED FROM CAN THO, WERE THE LEAD CRAFT IN THE CONVOY AND ARRIVED AT THE DESIGNATED LANDING SITES AT 1110.

FOLLOWING ALONG BEHIND RIVDIV 91 WERE THE ASSAULT CRAFT OF RIVDIV 92 CARRYING THE TROOPS OF 3/60 INFANTRY BATTALION AND THE BOATS OF RIVDIV 111 LIFTING 4/47 INFANTRY BATTALION. ALL OF THE ARMY TROOPS WERE REACHED AT A FORWARD BASE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE VI THANH AIRFIELD APPROXIMATELY 43 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF CAN THO. THE RIVDIV 92 BOATS RETURNED TO THE MRB AFTER THE TROOPS

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MENT WASHORE; THE RIVDIV 111 BOATS REMAINED ON CALL WITH 4/47 INFANTRY BATTALION AT THE AIRFIELD TO ACT AS A RIVERINE READY REACTION FORCE WHILE THE 3/60 BN WAS AIRMOBILED INTO THE AO.

DUE TO THE DISTANCE OF THE CURRENT OPERATIONS FROM THE MRB, A FORWARD TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER WAS ESTABLISHED IN CCB S2-1 WHICH OPERATED MOST OF THE DAY NEAR VI THANH AIRFIELD. IN ADDITION VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE BRIGADE AND BATTALION SUPPORT PERSONNEL RELOCATED TO THE FORWARD BASE AT VI THANH. SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION WERE MOVED TO THE AIRFIELD BY BOAT AND AIRCRAFT.

MOBILE RIVERINE GROUP BRAVO, OPERATING IN LONG AN PROVINCE, HAD A COMPARATIVELY QUIET DAY TUESDAY BUT IN A TRAGIC INCIDENT IN THE AFTERNOON, THE CO OF 4/39 INFANTRY BATTALION WAS KILLED BY A COMMAND DETONATED MINE. THE 4/39 HAS BEEN OPERATING WITH CG 117.2 ASSAULT CRAFT FOR THE PAST WEEK IN AN AREA SOUTH OF SAIGON.

ABOUT 2150 MONDAY, THE BOATS OF RIVDIV 131 WERE THE TARGET OF A BRIEF MORTAR ATTACK. THE CLOSEST ROUND HIT 150 YARDS FROM THE BOATS AND THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE.

LIGHT LIFT CRAFT 2 ARRIVED AT THE MRB BRAVO ANCHORAGE TUESDAY AFTERNOON AND RELIEVED LLC-5.

MR. DOUG WARREN OF UPI AND MR. MIKE ROBERTS OF THE CLEVELAND FLAIN DEALER FLEW FROM BENEWAH TO THE OPERATING AREA TODAY. MR. BILL GARRETT OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE WAS ALSO COVERING THE OPERATION, EMBARKED WITH RIVDIV 91.

BT

00 01 0-012___ N1 N2 N3 N4 N5 N6 SDD___ A-CTE 117.1.1.1___

CO XO OPS COM CDO A-PERS___

TOD: 30/1600Z JUL/AE

TOD: 1916Z NDUQ/1918Z NUIY/1916Z NNZE/1919Z NDNV

TOD: 1945Z TMC -T- CRR-11/CRF-1 DET/GO 2ND BDE /APL-26

NNNNV

