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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301



JCSM-104-68

20 FEB 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: FOOTBOY (S) - Operational Concept JULIET (C)

1. (TS) Currently approved concepts for FOOTBOY (C) include the employment of VNAF A-1G aircraft on reconnaissance missions over Laos or North Vietnam in support of FOOTBOY (S) missions.

2. (S) Of the two Short Time Roadwatch and Target Acquisition (STRATA) Teams infiltrated into North Vietnam to date, only one has been successfully exfiltrated. No long-term agent team infiltrated into North Vietnam or Laos under the FOOTBOY (S) program has ever been exfiltrated successfully. The use of USAF CH-3 helicopters for the exfiltration of STRATA teams and long-term agent teams from North Vietnam is authorized. Experience gained during several attempted helicopter exfiltrations indicates that the accurate location and authentication of the team to be exfiltrated is a serious problem which exposes both the exfiltration force and the agent team for excessive periods while search and communication procedures are conducted.

3. (S) COMUSMACV has proposed and CINCPAC has recommended that the concept which authorizes the use of VNAF A-1G aircraft on FOOTBOY (S) reconnaissance missions be modified to include USAF aircraft. These aircraft, with Vietnamese case officers aboard as passengers, would precede the helicopters to the reported team location, locate the team, and authenticate its identity. The reconnaissance aircraft would then call in the Helicopter exfiltration force and mark the team location and/or landing zone, as necessary. The details of the proposed concept are contained in Appendix A hereto.

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4. (TS) It is expected that the employment of the proposed procedures will reduce the vulnerability of exfiltration helicopters and agent teams by reducing the period of time during which both are exposed to enemy detection and action during exfiltration operations. The reduction of this exposure time will increase the chances of successfully exfiltrating agent teams.

5. (TS) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that you approve the employment of USAF and VNAF aircraft, with Vietnamese case officers as passengers, in reconnaissance missions in support of FOOTBOY (S) exfiltration operations in Laos and North Vietnam, as outlined in the detailed concept contained in Appendix A. Upon receipt of your approval, the proposed message contained in Appendix B hereto will be dispatched to CINCPAC.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

Signed

J. O. COBB
Rear Admiral, USN
Deputy Director, JCS Staff

Attachments

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APPENDIX A

FOOTBOY (C) - Detailed Concept for Air Reconnaissance in Support of FOOTBOY (C) Exfiltration Missions

1. MACV Studies and Observations Group (MACSOG) has developed procedures which will decrease the exposure time for both the exfiltration force and the agent team in FOOTBOY (C) exfiltration operations from North Vietnam and Laos. These procedures will be accomplished by utilizing USAF aircraft with UHF/DF capability or VNAF aircraft with UHF/DF and limited FM/DF capability. These aircraft possess the capability for position marking (smoke or flares) and authentication of the agent team prior to arrival or exposure of the slower, less maneuverable helicopter exfiltration force.

a. Mission: Visual and electronic reconnaissance to locate and mark the agent team's position and establish required agent team authentication.

b. Forces:

(1) USAF A-1, O-2, A-26, A-37, F-4, T-28, or OV-10 aircraft, as agreed with 7th Air Force, utilizing US pilots and a Vietnamese case officer as passenger.

(2) VNAF A-1G aircraft utilizing VNAF pilots with a Vietnamese case officer as passenger or mixed VNAF and USAF advisory team pilots with a Vietnamese case officer as passenger.

c. Equipment:

(1) The USAF aircraft will utilize the UHF/DF or the FM/DF capability and smoke or flare marking. The agent team on the ground will be equipped with PRC-25 FM and RT-1 UHF radios and assorted visual signalling devices.

(2) The VNAF A-1G aircraft will utilize their less sophisticated UHF/DF or FM/DF capabilities. VNAF A-1G aircraft will normally work in pairs. The agent team equipment will be the same as in subparagraph 1c (1), above.

d. Operating Bases:

(1) USAF Aircraft - Any suitable base in RVN or Nakhon Phanom, Thailand.

(2) VNAF A-1G Aircraft - Any suitable base in RVN or Nakhon Phanom, Thailand.

e. Concept of Operation: Two USAF aircraft or two VNAF A-1G aircraft, or any combination of these, properly configured and with a Vietnamese case officer as passenger will depart the operating base ahead of the exfiltration helicopters and proceed to the agent team's reported location. FM or UHF radio contact will be made with the agent team, and the Vietnamese case officer will establish proper team authentication and pass information as to the radio procedures to be used and as to the status of exfiltration aircraft. The aircraft will pinpoint the team position using FM/DF or UHF/DF procedures. On receipt of team authentication, the search aircraft pilot will notify the helicopter exfiltration force of clearance to proceed with the operation. The aircraft will mark the landing zone or, in the case of hoist pickup, the team location with smoke or flares. The CH-3 helicopters will cross-check the position by use of their ARA-25 UHF/DF capability and the agent team RT-10 UHF radio and proceed with the exfiltration.

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f. Advantages: These procedures will eliminate the need for extended periods during which the helicopters are now exposed when attempting to locate the agent team in a heavy jungle environment. The conduct of location and authentication procedures by the reconnaissance aircraft will minimize the period during which the agent team is required to expose itself and to compromise its presence by extended broadcasting.

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APPENDIX B

DRAFT

FROM: JCS 050415Z 200003Z
 TO: CINCPAC 1s 1s IN 18672 IN 47035
 INFO: COMUSMACV 120527Z
 CINCPACAF 1s
 CDR 7th AF IN 46972

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Subj: FOOTBOY (C) Operational Concept JULIET (C)

Refs: a. COMUSMACV MACSOG 050415Z January 1968;
 b. CINCPAC 200003 January 1968; and
 c. Am Embassy Bangkok 417/120527Z July 1967

1. (TS) Ref a outlines a concept to employ USAF and VNAF aircraft with Vietnamese case officers embarked in reconnaissance operations in support of FOOTBOY (C) exfiltration missions. Ref b recommends approval of the concept proposed by COMUSMACV subject to one modification. 1-6
2. (TS) The concept outlined in ref a, as modified by para 4 of ref b, to employ USAF and VNAF aircraft with Vietnamese case officers embarked in support of agent team exfiltrations from Laos or North Vietnam is approved for execution at CINCPAC discretion. 7-10
3. (TS) Aircraft will operate only from approved bases in RVN or Thailand. Operations from bases in Thailand are subject to the restrictions imposed by ref c. 11-15
4. (TS) All operations involving overflight or use of Lao or Thai territory are subject to prior coordination with American Embassies, Vientiane and Bangkok, in accordance with existing FOOTBOY (C) coordination procedures. Gp 1 16-20

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