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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Headquarters
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

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3/JSF/epf
5750
19 May 1975

From: Commanding General
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: (1) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

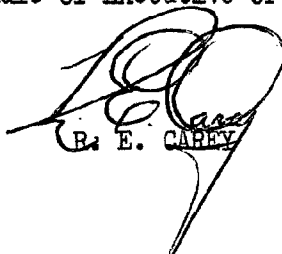
Subj: Command Chronology for Period 26 March to 30 April 1975

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1D
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8_

Encl: (1) 9th MAB Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

2. Enclosure (1) is classified SECRET/NOFORN. Enclosure (1) is classified by the Commanding General, 9th MAB and is subject to general declassification schedule of Executive Order 11652. Declassify on 31 May 1983.


B. E. CAREY

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9th Marine Amphibious Brigade

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
26 March to 30 April 1975

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Classified by CG, 9th MAB
Subject to General Declassification
Schedule of Executive Order 11652
Declassified on 31 May 1983

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

9th Marine Amphibious Brigade

CommanderBGen R. E. CAREY
26 Mar - 30 Apr 75SUBORDINATE UNITS

Regimental Landing Team 4

Col A. M. GRAY
18 Apr - 30 Apr 75

Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39

Col F. G. MCLENON
18 Apr - 30 Apr 75

Brigade Logistics Support Group

Col H. G. EDEBOHLS
18 Apr - 30 Apr 75

Amphibious Evacuation Security Force

Maj D. A. QUINLAN
20 Apr - 30 Apr 752. Location

26 March 1975

MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan

27 - 30 March 1975

MCAS, Futema, Okinawa, Japan

30 March - 3 April 1975

MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan

4 April 1975

Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan

5 - 8 April 1975

Subic Bay, R. P.

9 - 11 April 1975

USS Hancock (CVA-19) Underway

12 - 17 April 1975

USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) Underway

17 April 1975

Subic Bay, R. P. Aboard USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19)

18 - 30 April 1975

USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) enroute and in South China Sea vicinity of Vung Tau, South Vietnam

3. Staff Officers

Deputy Commander

Col W. W. TAYLOR

18 Apr - 30 Apr 75

Chief of Staff

Col D. C. ALEXANDER

26 Mar - 30 Apr 75

G-1

1stLt R. B. BLOSE

26 Mar - 11 Apr 75

E

LtCol E. A. HOUSE

12 Apr - 30 Apr 75

G-2

Maj C. H. BLANKS

26 Mar - 30 Apr 75

G-3

Maj R. K. YOUNG

26 Mar - 11 Apr 75

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G-4

Air Officer

Fire Support Coordinator

CEO

Liaison Officer to USSAG/7AF

LtCol R. D. WHITE
 12 Apr - 30 Apr 1975
 Maj J. F. SHEA
 26 Mar - 30 Apr 1975
 LtCol A. F. RIBBECK
 18 Apr - 30 Apr 1975
 Maj D. F. MILLER
 11 Apr - 17 Apr 1975
 LtCol J. F. SPANGLER
 18 Apr - 30 Apr 1975
 Maj W. G. KEMPLE
 26 Mar - 30 Apr 1975
 Maj R. K. YOUNG
 18 Apr - 30 Apr 1975

AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>NAVY</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. (S) The following Narrative Summary is presented in a format designed to clearly depict the actions of respective elements of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade during the period of 29-30 April 1975 during Operation "Frequent Wind".

a. Command Summary. On 26 March 1975, the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, commanded by BGen R. E. CAREY, was activated for planning contingency operations, as directed. Initially, the 9th MAB consisted of the 33rd and 35th Marine Amphibious Units. On 11 April 1975, the MAB reported to CTF 76 for planning Operation "Talon Vise" (Subsequently renamed Operation "Frequent Wind"). On 13 April 1975, the 31st MAU was chopped for planning to the Brigade. On 18 April 1975, the 9th MAB, now consisting of three MAU's, the 31st, 33rd, and 35th, was re-organized into a doctrinally structured Marine Amphibious Brigade consisting of a Headquarters, RLT-4, PROVMAG-39, a BLSG and additionally a security detachment force subsequently called the Amphibious Evacuation Security Force (AESF). This was the organizational structure which reported to CTF 76 for operations on 21 April 1975. Commencing with the activation and continuing through execution, concurrent and detailed planning was conducted with CTF 76.

(1) Ground Security Force (GSF) Advance Party

On 20 April 1975, based on authority received from the JCS, a five man GSF Advance Command Element arrived in Saigon to assist in the planning and conduct of Operation "Frequent Wind". The group was composed of the Deputy Brigade Commander, a Field Grade Communications Electronics Officer, Field Grade Naval Aviator, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialists.

(A) Early employment included briefings by the Commander and his staff at COMUSSAG/7AF, NKP, Thailand, and the Embassy and DAO Officials at Saigon. Augmentation was provided from 9th MAB assets to form and train three HLZ Control Teams and provide sufficient communicators to support the GSF Commander prior to arrival.

(B) Continuous liaison was maintained with the Embassy, DAO Emergency Control Center; OIC, Evacuation Control Team; OIC, Marshalling Team; CEO; and Air America in furtherance of instructions provided by the CG, 9th MAB.

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b. Ground Security Force Operations Summary

(1) At 291215H April 1975, the GSF received the order to execute Operation "Frequent Wind". An advanced Party on the scene at the DAO Compound prior to L-Hour proved to be advantageous since the plan, as envisioned by the GSF, was fully coordinated and, in fact, integrated with the DAO plans for the processing and marshalling of U. S. citizens, third country nationals and designated Vietnamese refugees. Because of the prepositioning of radio operators within the DAO Compound, all communication links were established immediately upon the order to execute, thus eliminating any initial confusion upon arrival of the main elements of the ground security forces.

(2) CG, 9th MAB departed USS Blue Ridge for the DAO Compound arriving at 291350H. GSF commenced loading aboard CH-53 helicopters from HMH-462 and HMH-463 and initial elements touched down in the DAO Compound at 291506H to the cheers of awaiting evacuees, almost all of whom were overcome by emotion at the sight of the organized and well disciplined Marines. The sight of these Marines signified to the evacuees that there would be a tomorrow. The extraction of evacuees commenced immediately in a smooth and orderly fashion.

(3) The forces of BLT 2/4 under the command of LtCol G. P. SLADE deployed to their assigned security areas. The planning for this operation proved to be completely coordinated and understood down to the fire team level. This execution can be attributed to the excellent small unit leadership and numerous briefings that had been conducted under the continuing direction of the Commanding Officer, RLT-4, Colonel A. M. GRAY. The BLT 2/4 forces were augmented by 3rd platoon, Company C, BLT 1/9 under the able leadership of First Lieutenant THOMPSON-BOWERS. This platoon, operating under the most trying of circumstances from 261100H as additional security force at the DAO Compound, had been subjected to incoming artillery and rocket fire until relieved about 291900H.

(4) Coincident with the insertion of 865 Marines from BLT 2/4, a reaction Sparrow Hawk platoon from Company A, BLT 1/9 was launched aboard 2 CH-46 aircraft. The high state of readiness of both BLT 1/9 and BLT 3/9 was apparent as each was poised with Sparrow Hawk teams and a command group with two companies waiting for the call to launch if required.

(5) As the evacuation process at the DAO Compound continued, the situation at the American Embassy began to unfold. The number of evacuees present far exceeded any planned anticipations by the GSF.

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The security provided by the small Marine security detachment at the Embassy proved to be insufficient to control the large crowds. Three platoons (130) Marines from BLT 2/4 were heli-lifted from the DAO Compound to the American Embassy between 291900 and 292100H. The total force of 171 Marines proved to be a saving factor for the continued orderly evacuation at the Embassy. A total not to exceed 100 evacuees had been anticipated from the Embassy; however, when the evacuation terminated, a total of 978 U. S. citizens and 1,120 third country nationals and Vietnamese refugees had been evacuated from that location.

(6) At the DAO Compound, a total of 395 U. S. citizens and 4,475 refugees were evacuated in an orderly manner. The GSF began to withdraw at 292250H from the DAO annex without any significant problems. The first elements of BLT 2/4 were evacuated from the DAO Compound at 292250 to return to amphibious shipping. At about 292250H BGen CAREY, the Ground Security Force Commander, returned to the USS Blue Ridge passing control ashore to Colonel A. M. GRAY, Commanding Officer, RLT-4. This transaction was smooth since the austere staff which had functioned during this initial phase of the operation under the direction of BGen CAREY continued under Colonel GRAY. At 300012H, the last ground security force elements from the DAO Compound conducted a successful extraction as the noise of tank firing began to draw ever closer to the DAO Compound. As the last two CH-53 helicopters lifted off, smoke and flames spread in the compound as a result of the activation of previously positioned thermite grenades.

(7) The evacuation at the Embassy continued throughout the early morning hours. The evacuation of GSF from this location began at about 300400H and continued until the last CH-46 lifted off the Embassy rooftop at 300753 with 11 Marines aboard. The performance of the Marines at the Embassy was excellent. They maintained a cool and truly professional attitude throughout despite receiving small arms fire from nearby buildings. No combat casualties occurred within the ground security force. Only three non-serious, noncombat casualties occurred among ground security forces throughout the operation. The execution of Operation "Frequent Wind" was an imminently successful undertaking in the most circumspect sense. Paradoxically though, it was also a sad experience since many of those who participated were also veterans of previous years where they had labored and fought in support of the Republic of Vietnam.

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c. Aviation Operations Summary

(1) PROVMAg-39 was ordered to execute option four of Operation "Frequent Wind" at 1215H 29 April 1975 with an established L-Hour of 1400H 29 April 1975. However, to properly position GSF, get the required numbers of helos airborne, and assemble these airborne aircraft into their proper waves required a two hour lead time, as previously specified in air operations planning. CTF 76 re-established L-Hour to 1500H 29 April 1975. Cross decking operations began immediately. The GSF and helicopters assigned to the initial wave were positioned on various CTF 76 ships to achieve the newly established L-Hour. The first flight of helicopters was dispatched for the DAO Compound, Saigon, at 1430H with GSF personnel embarked. AH-1J helo escort aircraft were launched and escorted the flight into the Saigon area. Two CH-46 SAR and two medevac helos were pre-launched and on station at pre-designated positions in support of GSF insertion and evacuee extractions. A quick reaction force of Marines (Sparrow Hawk) was airborne also in two CH-46 aircraft to support any emergency reinforcement requirement or to assist in recovering downed aircraft and personnel. The first flight of six aircraft touched down in the DAO Compound at 1506H, unloaded their GSF, and departed with evacuees loaded at 1512H. The subsequent flights of the first wave arrived and a smooth orderly flow of GSF insertions and evacuee extraction was established. The helicopters worked in a continuous environment of small arms fire, AAA, SA-7 missiles and incoming rounds of artillery during the entire operation. Close cover was provided along the helo routes and in the landing zones by AH-1J Cobras. The SAR, Medevac, quick reaction force (Sparrow Hawk) and a special flight of aircraft to extract the Ambassador were on station. As the operations continued, with darkness approaching and weather beginning to deteriorate, the difficulty of the already enormously arduous task for the aircrews was increasing. Upon the completion of the evacuation operation from the DAO Compound at 2250H, the extraction of the GSF from that location commenced and was completed at 0012H 30 April 1975. Evacuations from the U. S. Embassy commenced at 1740H utilizing CH-53's from the parking lot at the base of the Embassy and CH-46's from a pad on the roof. The aircrews were tasked to limits which could have never been anticipated. They flew from 12 to 17 hours in bad weather conditions, performing superbly in a most hostile environment. Aircrew discipline in conforming to established rules of engagement was outstanding and not a round was fired by the Marine helos during the operation. The mission of PROVMAg-39 was completed at 0825 30 April 1975 when the last GSF personnel landed aboard CTF 76 ships. Aircrew losses sustained during this trying mission were two CH-46 pilots who were lost at sea after contacting the water during a carrier approach.

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One additional aircraft, an AH-1J was lost when it ditched at sea due to fuel exhaustion. Both AH-1J pilots were recovered with no injuries.

(2) Significant Events

- (A) 291215H Apr Execute "Frequent Wind" received. L-Hour 1400H. Cross decking commenced immediately.
- (B) 291340H Apr L-Hour changed to 1500H by CTF 76.
- (C) 291350H Apr General CAREY, Commander GSF, in USDAO Compound.
- (D) 291430H Apr First flight of a/c departed for DAO.
- (E) 291506H Apr First flight of a/c on deck at DAO.
- (F) 291512H Apr First flight of a/c out of zone with evacuees.
- (G) 291700H Apr Embassy notifies that approximately 2000 evacuees are located there.
- (H) 291900H Apr Elements of GSF helolifted from DAO to Embassy to increase support.
- (I) 292107H Apr CH-46 crashes at sea. Two pilots lost, two crewmembers recovered.
- (J) 300010H Apr AH-1J ditched at sea due to fuel exhaustion. Both crewmembers recovered.
- (K) 300012H Apr Last of GSF extracted from DAO Compound.
- (L) 300458H Apr Ambassador lifted off Embassy roof.
- (M) 300746H Apr Last GSF lifted off Embassy roof.
- (N) 300825H Apr Last GSF elements on deck CTF 76 ships. "Frequent Wind" air operations completed.

(3) Command and Control. The helicopter assets were controlled by the PROVMAG-39 Commanding Officer from the Command ship USS Blue Ridge, utilizing TACC afloat capabilities. HDC gave radar coverage to each flight to their "Feet Dry" entry points and turned over control to the Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center (ABCCC) in an EC-130. A Marine C-130 airborne DASC was on station standing by in case the ABCCC had to abort. Flights and waves of aircraft were programmed in an orderly flow which was planned by PROVMAG-39 and based on desired GSF insertion buildup requirements of the GSF Commander. This helo flow plan, drafted by PROVMAG, was incorporated into CTF 76 and CTG 79.1 OPLANS to cover the helicopter evacuation of designated personnel as well as insertion and extraction of GSF elements. No requirements for extraction of evacuees from the Embassy other than the Ambassador and the Embassy Marines, plus a small number of American Citizens, was addressed in planning information from higher headquarters. When the mission required the additional task of lifting out such a large number of evacuees, the integrity of flights was broken down due to one plane

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landing zones. This caused a change in helo flow which PROVMAJG adjusted to and continued to provide extraction for the large number of evacuees at the embassy through the night and following morning.

(4) Statistics

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CH-53</u>	<u>CH-46</u>	<u>AH-1J</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>
Total flight hours	559.7	313.4	206.1	34.1	6.1
Total day sorties Evac/GSF	322	172/25	90/12	20	3
Total night sorties Evac/GSF	360	140/22	128/32	27	11
Total sorties 29-30 Apr 75	682	312/47	218/44	47	14
Ammo expended	0	0	0	0	0
ALE 29 flares expended		50	4	0	0
Total GSF inserted		865	0	0	0
Total GSF extracted by PROVMAJG		618	171	0	0
Total GSF extracted by USAF		76	0	0	0
Total AMCITS/TCN/VN evacuated		4788	2180	0	0
<u>Sorties by type mission</u>					
GSF insert/extract		47	0	0	0
Evacuation		312	218	0	0
Med-evac		0	18	0	0
SAR		0	18	0	0
Helo escort		0	0	47	0
C&C		0	0	0	14
Sparrow Hawk		0	8	0	0

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Significant flying hour statistics for Operation "Frequent Wind"

Total Helo Crew Hours	1054.0
Maximum Crew Flight Hours (CH-46)	22.5
Average Crew Flight Hours	13.0

d. Logistics Summary

(1) The Brigade Logistics Support Group provided support to the Ground Security Force, the aviation element, the amphibious evacuation security force, and to the MSC ships for aiding the evacuees.

(2) Prior to execution, the BLSG provided gloves and hammers to the advance party for improving perimeter defense at the DAO Compound. Electric blasting caps, electric squibs, galvanometers, thermite grenades and C-4 charges were furnished the BLSG EOD team who were preparing the DAO Compound and General WEST-MORELAND's house for destruction.

(3) During the operation, riot control agents were provided for use during the extraction of evacuees if necessary. Illuminating flares were provided to PROVMAAG-39 to ensure adequate lighting in the landing zones at the DAO Compound and the American Embassy as night operations became imminent.

(4) The BLSG provided the MSC ships amphibious evacuation security detachments (AESF) with C-rations, heat tablets and medical items to sustain the detachment and refugees during extended period from refugee reception until arrival at safe havens.

(5) After the operation, military clothing was furnished to Marines who were forced to leave their uniforms in Saigon.

(6) In the event that the operation was extended beyond the planned time frame, safety stocks of water, food, ammunition, batteries, and concertina were formed and staged in company and battalion size blocks by the BLSG.

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e. Amphibious Evacuation Security Force Operations Summary

(1) On 17 April 1975, III MAF activated a Special Marine Ship's Guard for MSC shipping. This force, subsequently renamed the Amphibious Evacuation Security Force (AESF), was formed from 3rd Marine Division units and originally organized into ten 72 man security detachments, plus a control group. Major D. A. QUINLAN was assigned as OIC. Based upon the previous experience of 1st Bn, 4th Marines which had provided security detachments to MSC shipping during MR1 and MR2 evacuation operations, the AESF was reorganized into fourteen 54 man security detachments. Elements of the AESF deployed to Subic Bay, R. P. during the period 17-19 April 1975 for further transfer to MSC shipping. Two detachments were deployed from Subic Bay on 18 April 1975 via COD aircraft to USS CORAL SEA for further transfer by USS GRIDLEY to the USNS SGT KIMBRO and USNS GREENVILLE VICTORY. The control group and the remaining detachments sailed in USS DUBUQUE from Subic Bay to the contiguous waters of South Vietnam. The AESF reported to CTG 79.1 for operations on 20 April 1975 and was assigned Task Designator 79.1.7. During the period 20 to 25 April 1975, six more detachments were deployed to the following MSC ships tasked with evacuation missions:

USNS SGT MILLER	SS GREEN PORT
SS PIONEER CONTENDER	SS GREEN FOREST
SS PIONEER COMMANDER	SS AMERICAN CHALLENGER

(2) The primary mission of the AESF detachments was to assist MSC ship masters in matters of ship security and other refugees related matters, e.g., search and screening. Marines aboard the MSC ships eventually performed myriad tasks including food distribution, census information collection, child care, and medical assistance.

(3) Evacuation operations commenced on 26 April when AMERICAN CHALLENGER (Det November) commenced loading refugees from Long Hai. By 27 April, CHALLENGER had loaded 8600 refugees and got underway for Phu Quoc Island where the refugees were off-loaded 28 April. During the period 28-30 April, the evacuation operation reached its apex with the deployed detachments processing approximately 30,000 refugees aboard the eight MSC ships as follows:

<u>SHIP</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>REFUGEES</u>
AMERICAN CHALLENGER (Det November)	Phu Quoc	2,500
PIONEER CONTENDER (Det Victor)	Bassac River	4,669
SGT KIMBRO (Det Echo)	Vung Tau	2,500
GREENVILLE VICTORY (Det Foxtrot)	Vung Tau	6,500
SGT MILLER (Det Sierra)	Vung Tau	4,146
PIONEER COMMANDER (Det India)	Vung Tau	4,020
GREEN PORT (Det Papa)	Vung Tau	4,186

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 GREEN FOREST (Det Tango)

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 26 March 9th MAB Staff activated.
- 05 April Staff departed Okinawa for Subic Bay, R. P.
- 09 April Staff departed Subic Bay on the USS Hancock to join TF 76.
- 11 April Transferred from USS Hancock to the USS Blue Ridge. 9th MAB reported to TF 76 for planning.
- 12 April Published initial planning guidance for Operation Talon Vise (Frequent Wind).
- 13 April Colonel GRAY, Deputy Commander, 9th MAB, and selected staff visited Saigon.
- 14 April CG visited Saigon-asked Ambassador to request advance GSF group.
- 17 April Returned to Subic Bay. Cancelled OPLAN 1-75 (Frequent Wind).
- 18 April Reorganized into RLT/PROVMAG/BLSG configuration. CG 9th MAB conferred with CG, III MAF and CG, 3rdMARDIV. Re-issued OPLAN 1-75 (Frequent Wind).
- 19 April Received CTF 79 LOI for Operation Frequent Wind. Published OPLAN 2-75 (Frequent Wind).
- 20 April Annexes/appendices/tabs for OPLAN 2-75 released. Reported to TF 76 for operations. CG visited Saigon.
- 21 April COMSEVENTHFLT briefed aboard USS Blue Ridge by CTF 76 and CTG 79.1.
- 22 April CG visited Saigon.

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- 24 April COs of the RLT, PROV MAG, and BLSG and all BLT, Squadron, and LSU COs, Brigade Headquarters personnel and other designated personnel attended CG's conference at 2000 on the Blue Ridge.
- 25 April A 40 man platoon from BLT 1/9 was sent to DAO Saigon to assist with preparation and security.
- 27 April 9th MAB directed to assume one hour alert status by first light 28 April 1975. One hour alert established by 9th MAB units at 0430 28 April 1975.
- 28 April At 1300 9th MAB units reverted to a six hour alert status. At 1950 9th MAB assumed a three hour alert status. At 2400 CG directed 9th MAB to come to a one hour alert status no later than 0230 29 April. L-Hour assumed to be 0630 on the 29th.
- 290030 CG released Frequent Wind warning order.
- 290130 One hour alert posture achieved by 9th MAB units.
- 291051 COMUSSAG/7AF released Operation Frequent Wind Execute message (Option IV) 290251Z.
- 291215 Received COMUSSAG/7AF message 290251Z (Execute Frequent Wind).
- 291246 CG released execute message for OPLAN 2-75 (Frequent Wind) L-Hour 1400, 29 April (L-Hour later delayed to 1500).
- 291312 Air Vice Marshall KY arrived on USS Midway by VNAF helo. Mrs. MARTIN landed on USS Denver in Air America helo.
- 291350 General CAREY, Commander GSF, in USDAO Compound.
- 291425 Commander GSF reported ground fire in DAO Compound. Estimated 2300 evacuees, including 300 Americans in DAO Compound.
- 291430 Six USMC CH-53 helicopters departed USS Okinawa with 210 GSF enroute DAO Compound. ETA 1500.
- 291442 Two CH-53 helicopters departed USS Okinawa with 70 GSF.

- 291453 Commander GSF reported small arms and AAA fire throughout Saigon.
- 291457 First wave of 34 CH/HH-53's departed launch areas (USS Okinawa, Hancock, Midway). Helos reported AAA over Saigon, Newport, and departing the zones.
- 291506 First 105 of the GSF on deck at the DAO Compound.
- 291512 First flight departed DAO Compound with 149 evacuees.
- 291529 Second flight of helos out of DAO Compound with 45 evacuees. 210 GSF now in the DAO Compound.
- 291530 Third flight out of compound with 148 evacuees. Random fire reported from LZs. LZ's 36, 37, 38, and 40 in use.
- 291545 First helo with 50 evacuees landed on the USS Denver.
- 291600 Eighteen helos have landed on 7 ships with approximately 956 evacuees thus far.
- 291630 USAF F-4 reported AAA fire, engaged site, and reported secondary explosion. Buses transporting evacuees to DAO reportedly were being stopped in Saigon by possible VC and other small arms activity.
- 291650 Commander GSF reported total evacuees at DAO Compound and Embassy as 6000 plus.
- 291700 Elements of GSF helo lifted from DAO to Embassy to increase security there.
- 291720 Commander GSF reported light ground fire at DAO. Second wave helo launches continued.
- 291735 Four CH-46s departed to commence extraction from Embassy rooftop LZ. New report of 2000 evacuees at the Embassy. Entire second wave launched. First wave helos returned to USN shipping with 1889 evacuees; no losses.
- 291815 Helo commander debrief indicated AAA at Nha Be and Newport, mostly 23mm; little or no ground fire; no air activity at Tan Son Nhut; USDAO Compound

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orderly; 500+ small boats between the coast and ships; Vung Tau under attack from incoming artillery; and two working LZs at the Embassy.

- 291830 Estimated 4580 evacuees aboard ships and aircraft.
- 291848 COMSEVENTHFLT recommended that the operation continue into the night until completion.
- 291850 Reported 100 U. S. and designated VN to be removed from Embassy. Ambassador MARTIN to remain until all out. No crowd control problem reported at Embassy. Embassy representatives believe that anyone left in Saigon after tonight will not get out. All U. S. personnel are accounted for.
- 291900 Estimated 5161 evacuees on shipping or enroute from Saigon.
- 291955 Flow of helos continues but deteriorating weather conditions have slowed down operations somewhat.
- 292030 Helo reported three missiles fired three miles south of Saigon.
- 292040 COMSEVENTHFLT informed Ambassador that operations should terminate no later than 2300. Commander GSF reported GSF pulling out of DAO slowly. Evacuation of Embassy was emphasized.
- 292100 Twenty-seven CH-53s required to extract the GSF from DAO Compound, six spots are usable. Fourth wave loaded and enroute to the ships.
- 292107 CH-46 crashes at sea. Two pilots lost at sea; two crew members recovered.
- 292115 Non-critical medevac inbound from DAO. Evacuation of Embassy moving smoothly. A CH-53 reported hit from AAA, Tan Son Nhut under ABF.
- 292125 Heavy AAA reported NE of Saigon (50 cal/23mm). AAA reported in vicinity of Embassy; buildings burning throughout the city; light AAA enroute Saigon.

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292155 MajGen SMITH, DAO Saigon aboard the USS Midway. Two crewmen from the CH-46 crash have been rescued. Light AAA and small arms fire reported on approach to Embassy; AH-1J on station over the Embassy.

292200 860 remaining at the DAO Compound (GSF plus a few civilians).

292230 Estimated 5784 persons evacuated; 164 GSF inbound for the ships. 900 more evacuees reported at Embassy (the Ambassador, the GSF and VN nationals). Only CH-53 going to the DAO Compound; CH-46s continuing to evacuate from the Embassy.

292250 202 GSF inbound to the ships; 350 remain at the DAO Compound and 150 (GSF) remain at the Embassy. Commander, GSF is inbound to the USS Blue Ridge.

292300 Estimated 6393 evacuated from Saigon.

292400 GSF has set the DAO Compound on fire, final lift in progress.

300002 AH-1J ditched at sea due to fuel exhaustion. Both crew members recovered.

300012 GSF out of USDAO Compound.

300035 MajGen SMITH and BGen CAREY on board the USS Blue Ridge. Last GSF from DAO Compound on board the USS Okinawa.

300210 Ten flights of one CH-46 and one CH-53 at 10 minute intervals scheduled for the Embassy until evacuation is completed.

300255 First helos in new flow to Embassy inbound the ships with 75 passengers.

300310 Embassy reported mobs and crowds gathering; request last lift to come from Embassy rooftop LZ.

300327 Following Presidential message relayed from ABCCC:

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"President has authorized 19 more helo lifts, no more, no later than 0345H, you (Ambassador) will depart on the last lift".

- 300335 Heavy ground fire reported near refinery 10 miles south of Saigon. CH-46 dispersed flares to decoy suspected missiles. 17 helos enroute to or returning from the Embassy. As of 0330 365 evacuees have departed the Embassy.
- 300345 Evacuees departed Embassy with no bags. First helos of new flow enroute to the Embassy on their second trip.
- 300350 Helos reported taking fire from Embassy LZ. CH-53 has reported being fired at by SA-7, flares fired, no hits reported.
- 300400 597 evacuees out of the Embassy (15 loads).
- 300410 3 SA-7s fired at inbound helo south of Nha Be. No report of damage.
- 300420 737 evacuees out of Embassy (18 loads). All GSF and Ambassador remain. 500 more VN reportedly have arrived at Embassy.
- 300430 BGen CAREY was informed that that the 19 helo lift limit set by the President had been exceeded. The CG ordered, through ABCCC, to the aircraft commander's that only Americans to be evacuated from the Embassy, and for the GSF to take up positions on the rooftop for evacuation.
- 300458 U. S. Ambassador airborne in Lady Ace 0-9 (HMM-165) enroute to the USS Blue Ridge.
- 300510 200 Americans, including the GSF, remained at the Embassy for evacuation.
- 300536 Fire reported from the NE end of the Embassy.
- 300547 Ambassador onboard the USS Blue Ridge with a party of 23.

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- 300548 Approximately 129 GSF remained at Embassy; 21 evacuated on last lift.
- 300551 Small arms fire reported NNW of Embassy coming from the trees. Mobs are in the parking lot and small arms fire is coming from roofs of neighboring buildings. AAA reported 6 blocks from the Embassy (southwest).
- 300605 First light in Saigon.
- 300625 80 to 90 GSF remained at Embassy. 7 CH-46s are running the shuttle; Navy TACAIR is on station.
- 300645 Ground fire coming from all around the Embassy, GSF is on the roof and Vietnamese are on the lower levels. Approximately 38 GSF remain. 782 evacuated from the Embassy since DAO operation secured.
- 300725 35 GSF remained at Embassy; 2 CH-46s enroute for final lift.
- 300753 Last GSF evacuated from Embassy in Swift 2-2 (HMM-164). Last Americans out of Saigon. All GSF accounted for; no casualties reported.
- 300835 Last GSF on TF shipping.
- 300854 JCS ordered termination of all Frequent Wind Operations.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

INDEX OF ANNEXES

- A 9TH MAB OPLAN 2-75 (Frequent Wind)
- B G-3 Journal
- C Command Chronology, RLT-4
- ↳D Command Chronology, PROVMAG-39
- ↳E Command Chronology, BLSG
- ↳F Command Chronology, Amphibious Evacuation Security Force

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