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INFO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV
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SAR SUPPORT FOR OPLAN 34A AND LAOS CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS (4)
A. COMUSMACV 3827 DTG 130123Z

- B. CINCPAC 060117Z
- 1. REF A REQUESTED AUTHORITY BE GRANTED TO NECESSARY AGENCIES TO INCLUDE OPLAN 34A OPERATIONS IN EXISTING SAR PLANS FOR LAOS AND THE GULF OF TONKIN AND PROVIDED A CONCEPT FOR SAR SUPPORT IN EACH AREA.
- 2. A REQUIREMENT ALSO EXISTS TO PROVIDE SAR SUPPORT FOR RVN CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS INTO LAOS. CINCPAC CONCURS WITH THE COMUSMACV REQUIREMENT AND WITH THE PROPOSED CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR SAR SUPPORT IN LAOS. IN THIS RESPECT DEFINITION OF NON-U.S. MILITARY AIRCREWS CONTAINED IN REF B WOULD INCLUDE RVN AND (b) AIRCREWS.
- 3. THE COMUSMACV CONCEPT FOR SAR OPERATIONS IN THE GULF OF TONKIN REQUIRES EXPANSION TO INSURE PROTECTION OF US SAR FORCES COMMITTED TO OPERATIONS IN OR OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE GULF OF TONKIN AND TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ACCIDENTAL US INVOLVEMENT IN DRV-RVN ENGAGEMENTS WHICH MAY RESULT FROM 34A MARITIME OPERATIONS. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED CONCEPT FOR

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ACT.....SACSA-5(1-5)
CJCS-1(6) DJS-1(7) SJCS-1(8) NMCC/DDO-1(9) CSA-3(10-12)
CSAF-3(13-15) CNO-3(16-18) CMC-3(19-21) FILE-1(22) S8

ADV TO NMCC/DDO
CS/25/147 PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES 242356Z SEP 1964

- EX COPY: CJCS-2 (23-24) AGENDA 27 SEP 64 507032
- DJS-4 (25-28) AGENDA 27 SEP 64
- SJCS-2 (29-30) AGENDA 27 SEP 64
- Added Dist: J3-1(31-32) 29 Sep 64 (Capt Bowell)
- Ex Cy: SACSA-1 (33) 29 Sep 64
- ADDED DIST: Sec Def 3(34-35) 30 Sep 64 (Col VanDuyn)
- Ex Cy: SACSA-1 (37) 30 Sep 64
- ADDED DIST: STATE (1) (38) 10 OCT 64 CAPT BOWELL
- EXTRA CY SACSA-1 (39) 2 OCT 64

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JJ-577 (J3-72)

GULF OF TONKIN SAR SUBJECT:

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A. U.S. SAR OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF PLAN 34A WILL BE CONDUCTED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE GULF OF TONKIN A MINIMUM OF 12NM FROM THE DRV COAST OR OFFSHORE ISLANDS.

B. U.S. SAR OPERATIONS WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN IN SUPPORT OF 34A MARITIME OPERATIONS IN CASES INVOLVING HOT PURSUIT OF PTFS OR SWIFTS BY DRV FORCES.

C. U.S. SAR RESOURCES COMMITTED IN OR OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE GULF OF TONKIN WILL BE PROVIDED AIR AND NAVAL SURFACE COVER SUFFICIENT TO INSURE PROTECTION OF THE U.S. SAR FORCE FROM HOSTILE INTERFERENCE. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THE PROTECTIVE FORCE WILL BE THE SAME AS THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR OTHER U.S. FORCES OPERATING IN OR OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE GULF OF TONKIN.

D. RESCUE ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE ONLY WHEN INFORMATION EXISTS THAT AN AIRCRAFT OR SURFACE CRAFT IS IN DISTRESS IN OR OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE GULF OF TONKIN.

E. SAR AIR OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF 34A OPERATIONS WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED AT NIGHT. SAR OPERATIONS BY NAVAL SURFACE OR SUBSURFACE CRAFT MAY BE CONDUCTED AT NIGHT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE NAVY COMMANDER CONCERNED. AIR COVER WILL BE PROVIDED NAVAL SURFACE CRAFT AS REQUIRED.

4. REF PARA 2 REF A CINCPAC DOES NOT CONCUR IN BRIEFING 34A PERSONNEL ON LOCATION OF SAFE AREAS IN LAOS. ADVANTAGES OF BRIEFING ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT RISK OF COMPROMISE OF ASSETS IN LAOS IN EVENT CREWS ARE CAPTURED IN THE DRV.

5. REQUEST APPROVAL TO PROVIDE U.S. SAR SUPPORT FOR PLAN 34A AND LAOS CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS UNDER THE CONCEPT PROVIDED IN PARA 1.A. OF REF A AND PARA 3 ABOVE. GP-1.

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SAR FOR OPLAN 34A

A. ADMINO CINCPAC DTG 300210Z AUG

B. CINCPAC DTG 060117Z

1. REQUEST AUTHORITY BE GRANTED TO NECESSARY AGENCIES TO INCLUDE OPLAN 34A OPERATIONS IN EXISTING SAR PLANS FOR LAOS AND GULF OF TONKIN AS BELOW:

A. LAOS. REF A AND B DESCRIBES AND AUTHORIZES SAR OPERATIONS IN LAOS IN SUPPORT OF NON-US MILITARY AIRCREWS UPON REQUEST OF LEMB VIENTIANE. IN VIEW OF ABOVEJQ REQUEST SAR COVERAGE BE AFFORDED UNDER FOLLOWING CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:

(1) RESCUE ATTEMPT BE MADE WHEN AIRCRAFT IS DOWN AND IT IS EVIDENT REASONABLE CHANCE EXISTS TO RESCUE PERSONNEL.

(2) NO RESCUE ATTEMPT BE MADE IF UNDU RISK TO SAR AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL IS APPARENT.

(3) SIZE OF USESCORT FOR EACH RESCUE AIRCRAFT *will* NOT TO EXCEED FOUR AIRCRAFT.

(4) NO OVERT RESCUE ATTEMPT TO BE MADE IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO BE DOWN IN NVN. *prev*

(5) NIGHT SAR OPERATIONS NOT BE CONDUCTED.

B. GULF OF TONKIN. OCCASION MAY ARISE WHERE SAR WILL BE REQUIRED FOR AIRBORNE OR MARITIME OPERATIONS. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) SAR OPERATIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED ONLY IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN GULF OF TONKIN OUTSIDE 12 MILE LIMIT. NO RESCUE ATTEMPT TO BE MADE IF THERE IS PROBABILITY OF ENCOUNTERING A SIGNIFICANT HOSTILE FORCE

INFO.....CJCS-1 (1) DJS-1 (2) SJCS-1 (3) SACSA-5 (4-8)

FILE-1 (9) KH (1-9) *AV*

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- (2) SAME AS 1A(1) ABOVE.
- (3) SAME AS 1A(2) ABOVE.
- (4) SAME AS 1A(3) ABOVE.
- (5) SAME AS 1-(5) ABOVE.

2. CREW SOP AND DETAILED BRIEFINGS WILL INCLUDE
ESCAPE AND EVASION PROCEDURES, DESIGNATED SAFE AREAS IN
LAOS AND CURRENT SAR TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES. GP-3
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