

**PROVISION OF AIR PHOTOS, MOSAICS, MAPS,
ENLARGEMENTS AND USE OF CONTACT IN 1 ATF**

ANNEX H — Provision of Air Photos, Mosaics, Maps, Enlargements and Use of Contact in 1 ATF

One of thirteen annexes (A–M) to “War in Vietnam: A Surveyor’s Story”, by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Francis Skitch (Retd), 1934–2026 — Officer Commanding, Detachment 1st Topographical Survey Troop, Nui Dat, 1966–67.

Scanned and transcribed from the original documents. The complete four-part memoir, and the wider Skitch family archive:

history.skitch.me

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RESTRICTED
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

VIETNAM

HQ 1 ATF
NUI DAT

10 Aug 66

R-1-1
See Distribution List

PROVISION OF AIR PHOTOS, MOSAICS, MAPS,
ENLARGEMENTS AND USE OF CONTACT IN 1 ATF
(Scanned and transcribed from the original)

1. The aim of this instruction is to clarify Task Force policy on the provision of:
 - a. Air photographs
 - b. Photo mosaics
 - c. Maps
 - d. Enlargements and photo plots
 - e. Contact/Mipofolie plastic protecting film.
2. Air photographs are obtained primarily for photo intelligence. However, a limited distribution is proposed for operational planning purposes and unit intelligence uses to supplement the existing mapping. The intended distribution for air photographs is shown in Annex A.
3. Air photographs will normally be at scale of 1:25,000. This may be varied to suit the photo-intelligence requirement, or the requirement of a particular unit. The number of prints obtained may also have to be varied to allow printing priorities to be maintained.
4. A request for air photographs should be submitted 10 days before the date on which delivery is required. The actual date of delivery is dependent upon the priority allocated to the task and cloud conditions prevailing during the flying period.

5. Priorities are subject to review by higher HQ. Those in use are:

- a. 1-X (Immediate) Restricted to major Field Commanders only.
- b. Priority 1 - To exploit major targets of opportunity.
- c. Priority 2 - In support of operations beginning within 48 hours of the requested time over target.
- d. Priority 3 - In support of operational planning and surveillance of activities capable of posing a future threat.
- e. Priority 4 - In support of routine planning, terrain studies, map supplements, surveillance of units or activities capable of limited interference with missions, basic cover.

6. The Photo Intelligence Section of Det 1 Div Int Unit is responsible for collating photo requests and placing orders on the US supply source. Normally 6 complete sets of prints will be obtained in order to effect the required scale of issue. For SAS operations 3 sets will be ordered, usually at a scale larger than 1:5,000.

Photo Mosaics

7. A large distribution of photo mosaics cannot be effected in 1 ATF for any operation. The 1:25,000 pictomap is basically a photomap with an intensified image and marked up cultural detail. As a supplement to the standard 1:50,000 map series the pictomap is intended to satisfy all normal photomap requirements.

8. A limited distribution of photo mosaics prepared from intelligence photography is intended (Annex A). The scale of these photo mosaics will normally be 1:5,000 but may be varied to suit photo intelligence requirements or the needs of a particular operation.

Maps

9. The scaling of 1:25,000 pictomaps and standard 1:50,000 maps for all 1ATF units is shown on Annex A. Every effort will be made to meet the stated scaling, however, 'in country' bulk stocks of pictomaps are limited and the distribution rate for these may have to be scaled down. It is therefore essential that pictomaps are used judiciously and wastage kept to a minimum. Cutting of pictomaps should be done carefully and the offcuts retained. Units are urged to cover, whenever possible pictomaps back and front with 'Contact' or other similar plastic films.

Map Enlargements - Photoplots

10. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp has the capability to produce map enlargements and photoplots. A photoplot is a map plotted directly from air photographs, using scaled map points for position and scale. The scale at which photoplots will normally be produced is as follows:

- a. Areas including a village or hamlet - 1:5,000.
- b. Areas not including a village or hamlet - 1:10,000.

11. The distribution of map enlargements and photoplots will normally be the same as that for maps. This may be limited by the amount of dyeline paper available for reproduction.

Use of Contact/Mipofolie Plastic Films

12. Contact/Mipofolie should be used in the following instances:

- a. To cover both sides of all pictomaps issued.
- b. To cover the detail side of 1:50,000 maps subject to arduous use.
- c. To cover both sides of dyeline copied map enlargements and photoplots.

13. Pictomaps are in short supply, and must therefore be made to last as long as possible. Covered on both sides it should be possible to get 6 months life out of each map sheet.

14. Conversely the supply of standard 1:50,000 maps is plentiful. Contact should therefore only be used on 1:50,000 maps when these are going to be subject to arduous use over a protracted period without the opportunity for resupply.

15. Dyeline paper is soft and absorbent. It is therefore very vulnerable to the ravages of normal useage. Whenever possible, dyeline copies should be covered with Contact/Mipofolie on both sides.

16. Distribution of Contact/Mipofolie to all 1 ATF units will be controlled and effected by Det 1 Topo Svy Tp. It is intended that when an adequate supply of material becomes available, sufficient quantities in roll form will be issued to units to cover their scaled holdings of pictomaps, in accordance with Annex A, to give complete coverage of the TAOR. Dyeline copies for a particular operation will be supplied with adequate Contact to cover both sides of each sheet.

(signed) J S Rowe Maj for
(O.D. Jackson)
Brig
Commander 1 ATF

Annexes: A. Air photos, Mosaics, Maps and Enlargements
Distribution Table.

Distribution:

List B
List C
List D

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DISTRIBUTION TABLE

ANNEX H-1

DISTRIBUTION TABLE

Annex A to HQ 1ATF R-1-1

UNIT	PHOTO PLOTS & MAP ENLARGEMENTS		STANDARD MAPS		AIR PHOTOGRAPHS	
	1:5,000	1:10,000	1:25,000 PICTO	1:50,000	MOSAICS	STEREO PAIRS
	TIME		FRAME			
	14 DAYS	14 DAYS	2 HRS	2 HRS	7 – 10 DAYS	7 – 10 DAYS
HQ 1ATF	10	10	20	20	1	1
1 APC SQN	50	50	50	50		
1 FD REGT	90	90	90	90		
1 FD SQN RAE	15	15	15	15		
DET 1 TOPO SVY TP						1
103 SIG SQN	25	25		25		
5 RAR	160	160	160	160	1	3
6 RAR	160	160	160	160	1	3
3 SQN SAS	90	90	90	90		1
DET 1 DIV INT UNIT	15	15	5	15		
1 TPT PL RAASC	2	2		30		
131 RECCE FLT				15		
1ATF PRO SEC	5	5	5	10		