

OP INSTR 1/67 - OP TRISIDER - PHASE 5

ANNEX K — Op Instr 1/67 — Operation Trisider, Phase 5

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

© Christopher M.R. Skitch · Licensed CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

RESTRICTED

Det 1 Topo Svy Tp
1ATF
NUI DAT

Apr 67

See Distribution List

OP INSTR 1/67 - OP TRISIDER - PHASE 5

(Scanned and transcribed from original)

1. SIT

a. En: Contact is unlikely in the area of operation. En presence may be felt in the form of:

- (1) Sniper fire.
- (2) Booby traps or land mines.

b. Own Forces: Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Survey Party will comprise of the following personnel:

210821	W02 D.	Christie
37696	Cpl D.C.	Duquemin
18457	Spr D.E.J.	Chambers
37657	Spr J.W.	Campbell

The party will be augmented by elm of Det 131 Div Loc Bty on day 2.

2. MSN

a. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Survey Party will establish a 3rd order survey station on the highest point of the feature NUI DAT(3) GR YS646701 and connect to the ARVN Battery GR YS655685.

3. EXEC

a. General Outline: NUI DAT(3) here after called MOC will be connected by tellurometer distance and horizontal angle observation to:

- (1) HORSESHOE HILL - AAS 013 GR YS 491621.
- (2) XUYEN MOC (USAMSFE 59) GR YS 667677.

b. Tasks:

- (1) At NUI DAT AAS 001:
 - (a) Erect temporary beacon as RO.

- (b) Maintain helio aligned on HORSESHOE HILL if nec as required.
- (2) At HORSESHOE HILL (AAS 013).
 - (a) Observe included angle at AAS 013 between AAS 001 and MOC.
 - (b) Measure 3rd order tellurometer distance AAS 013 - MOC.
 - (c) Observe vertical angles to MOC.
- (3) At MOC (AAS 014)
 - (a) Observe the following horizontal directions:
 - i. HORSESHOE HILL AAS 013.
 - ii. XUYEN MOC (USAMSFE 59).
 - iii. Arbitrary Azimuth Mark in XUYEN MOC Village area.
 - iv. ARVN Bty Pos.
 - (b) Measure 4th order tellurometer distance to the following sta:
 - i. HORSESHOE HILL AAS 013.
 - ii. XUYEN MOC (USAMSFE 59).
 - (c) Measure 4th order tellurometer distance to fol sta:
 - i. ARVN Bty Pos.
 - (d) Measure vertical angles to:
 - i. HORSESHOE HILL.
 - ii. XUYEN MOC (USAMSFE 59).
 - iii. ARVN Bty Pos.
 - (e) Observe AM & PM sun observation on either of the following lines:
 - AAS 014 MOC - ARBITRARY AZ MK
 - AAS 014 MOC - XUYEN MOC (USAMSFE 59)
 - (f) Establish surface mark, subsurface mark and three recovery marks.

- (4) At XUYEN MOC (USAMSFE 59):
- (a) Measure tellurometer distance to MOC AAS 014.
 - (b) Measure vertical angle to MOC AAS 014.
 - (c) Observe AM & PM sun observations as alternative to (3) (e) above.

- (5) At ARVN Bty Pos:
- (a) Measure 4th order tellurometer to MOC AAS 014.
 - (b) Measure vertical angle to MOC AAS 014.
 - (c) Establish ground marks and 3 recovery marks.

c. Technical Specifications: All observations and measurements carried out will be in accordance with RA SVY practice as specified in Corps Manuals. Annex 1 outlines specifications applicable to TRISIDER PHASE 5.

d. Recording will be carried out on RA SVY recording forms. Care must be taken to ensure that all detail, eg instr height is properly recorded.

e. Protection: Will be provided by 6 RAR.

f. Station Clearing: Assistance is to be provided for the clearing of MOC AAS 014 by 1 Fd Sqn RAE in the form of a bulldozer. Clearing priorities will be:

- (1) Cleared lane to HORSESHOE HILL AAS 013 (MAG BRG 245 degrees).
- (2) Cleared lane to XUYEN MOC - ARVN BTY (MAG BRG 135 - 155 degrees).
- (3) Remaining clearing to North, West and South.
- (4) Clearing to East.

g. Timings: Svy Party will depart KANGAROO PAD at 081100 by UH1B or UH1D for 6 RAR area GR YS 655671. Two lifts will be provided if necessary. The following schedule of timings will apply:

DAY 1 - 8 Apr 67

1100 Dep KANGAROO

1120 Arr 6 RAR

1300-1700 estb accommodation and recce XUYEN MOC
USAMSFE 59 and ARVN Bty Pos.

DAY 2 - 9 Apr 67

Clearing of MOC AAS 014 and ground marking.

DAY 3 - 10 Apr 67

Carry out connexion to HORSESHOE HILL AAS 013 and commence connexion to XUYEN MOC USAMSFE ARVN Bty Pos.

DAY 4 - 11 Apr 67

Complete all tasks, and RTU 1 ATF Base Area.

4. ADMIN AND LOG

- a. Rations: Survey party will take 2 days hard rations. Further rations can be taken fwd on DAY 3 if required.
- b. Transport: Mov between 1ATF Base Area and XUYEN MOC to be by helicopter. Ground movement at XUYEN MOC to be by vehicle GS or track as provided by 6 RAR.
- c. Accommodation: Members to carry Lt wt camping equipment; stretchers can be taken.
- d. Wpns and Ammo:
 - (1) In the XUYEN MOC AREA the fol state of readiness will apply: Mag on - working parts forward.
 - (2) First line ammo will be carried.
- e. Stores and Eqpt: All stores and eqpt other than compasses and binoculars will be issued on AAF 1A. Compasses and binoculars will be a personal issue to members nominated by WO I/C.

5. COMD & SIG

- a. 210821 W02 D. Christie is in charge of Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Survey Party. 37696 Cpl D.C. Duquemin is second in charge.
- b. Communications: Survey party to XUYEN MOC will carry two ANPRC 25 sets.

(1) Callsigns.

XUYEN MOC	81
XUYEN MOC SUBSTATION	81 ALPHA
HORSESHOE	81 BRAVO
NUI DAT (1)	81 CHARLIE
ARTY	81 DELTA

- (2) Frequency 59.25
- (3) Callword: GOLF ROMEO
- (4) Q Hour 0800 daily
- (5) POINT OF ORIGIN - 6366 CAR 6568 ANIMAL
- (6) NICKNAMES
 - MOC AAS 014 PENGRIIP
 - HORSESHOE CIDER WINE
 - 1 ATF BASE AREA BRIGHT DAY
 - 6 RAR LOC HAPPY SITE
 - NUI DAT AAS OO1 WELCOME CITY
 - XUYEN MOC (USAMSFE) DOGS TAIL
- (7) Appointment titles
 - OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp TOPO SUNRAY
 - WO I/C TOPO SUNRAY MINOR
- (8) Schedules:
 - (a) WO I/C is responsible for maintaining internal schedules within survey party.
 - (b) Tellurometer call up time 0900 - cav 7 master at MOC AAS 014.
 - (c) SITREP - daily at 1850H on COMD NET.

R.F. Skitch (signed) Capt

OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp

Annexes: 1. Technical Specifications.

Distribution

HQ 1 ATF
 Det 131 Div Loc Bty
 6 RAR
 1 Fd Sqn
 File

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

(Scanned and transcribed from original)

1. TELUROMETER MEASUREMENT

- a. The following procedure will constitute a 3rd order tellurometer determination between station A & station B.

Mets - both terminals
Course figure - A to B
10 fine readings A to B
Course figure A to B
Mets - both terminals
10 fine readings B to A
Course figure B to A
Mets - both terminals

Fine readings to be spread over entire readable cavity range.

2. THEODOLITE OBSERVATIONS

- a. Horizontal observations -

(1) Major traverse stations of unclosed figure - 8 Arcs. Half the number of arcs will be observed with the backsight as RO and the remaining half with the foresight as RO. The summation of the two angles observed must fall on either side of 360° within 8".0 of arc.

- b. Minor stations.

(1) Major lines - 4 face left and 4 face right pointings.
(2) Minor lines - 2 face left and 2 face right pointings.