

1 NOVEMBER

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY:

The morning of 1 November began normally enough, but at 0720 1/9 Cav Sqdn B Troop scouts spotted about a dozen N-V-A soldiers at ZAO36021. They were taken under fire and B Troop rifles were dispatched to the area. Meanwhile C troop scouts had spotted another 30 enemy soldiers a little further to the northeast. At 0808 hours B troop rifles were on the ground and moving to contact, with the scout ships acting as a screen and guides. Closing into a stream bed at ZAO42028 the rifle platoon engaged a N-V-A element, killing 5 and capturing 4 more. Moving on, the 30 man rifle platoon then captured an aid station, believed to be at least regimental in size, with all supplies and equipment. The fight around the hospital site continued and at 0955 another 15 enemy soldiers were killed and an additional 15 captured. This occurred at approximately ZAO45032 (See Inclosure 5 for detailed positions from 0800-1400).

Scout ships were sent aloft to drop surrender leaflets in the area to further demoralize the enemy. As the fight went on, all captured equipment was evacuated by helicopter, thus denying the enemy any chance of recovering vital medical supplies. Due to the size and importance of the target, it required the commitment of the two remaining rifle platoons of the squadron.

At about 1410, scouts, who had continued their screen of the battle area, reported a battalion-size enemy force moving from the northeast toward the squadron's positions. (Inclosure 6)

The enemy was taken under rocket and machine gun fire from the scout and weapons ships but continued to close to the squadron's defensive positions. From 1420 hours until 1800 hours the three platoons of the 1/9 Cav Sqdn were heavily engaged by the N-V-A element. Time and again assaults were repulsed with just the organic weapons of the three platoons, since the enemy had pressed so close so as to preclude the use of tactical air or aerial rocket artillery support. The position was, of course, well out range of tube artillery.

Re-supply and evacuation took place simultaneously in a small and exposed landing zone. During the operation a total of seven aircraft were hit by hostile fire.

Reinforcement in the form of a platoon each from the 1/12, 2/12 and 2/8 Cav were airlifted into the battle area late in the afternoon, to be followed by two more platoons from A 2/12 Cav. (Inclosure 7)

At 1700 hours B 1/8 Cav was relieved of its brigade security mission at STADIUM and committed to the battle. By 1830 the commanding officer of 2/12 Cav had control of the battle area and by 1937 hours the Cavalry Squadron elements, which had found and fixed the enemy for the infantry, were extracted and returned to the squadron base.

By evening the N-V-A element had broken contact and withdrawn.

In other areas, the remaining companies of 2/12 Cav continued search and destroy operations in their respective zones.

2/8 Cav CP Group and A 2/19 Arty airlifted into Position CAVALAIR (ZA975035). A company was lifted from DOT to CAVALAIR to help secure the artillery base. B company was lifted to YA948125 except for the one platoon sent to the hospital fight. C company moved to YA900172 and established ambush sites in that area.

The 1/12 Cav, meantime, developed an interesting action in its zone of operations. It moved two companies by foot during darkness to a ready position around the village of PLEI XOUN (YA895305) while a C-I-D-G Strike Force from DUC CO began moving northeast. At daylight the companies moved to blocking positions and the C-I-D-G companies entered the town and searched it. Leaflets provided by a Psy War team were dropped in the village emphasizing US and Vietnamese aims and appealing to the enemy to surrender. The village was well protected with man traps and punji stakes. The battalion's recon platoon was committed to the fight with the 1/9 Cav at the hospital.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION:

1ST BRIGADE

No change except:

attach 1/8 Cav (-)

2 companies C-I-D-G Strike Force

DIVISION

No change

3. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY:

The 33d Regiment sustained a major blow with the loss of its regimental aid station. Many of the patients were captured, along with many of the defenders and, more importantly, medical supplies already in critical short supply

By now the regimental headquarters had reached the base at ANTA village, but the bulk of the regiment was still strung out between PLEI ME and CHU PONG. And these elements continued to draw aerial rocket and machine gun fire throughout the withdrawal. Also the heavy bombing and strafing attacks by U-S-A-F aircraft were directed against regimental positions with increasing accuracy as the secondary target detection systems of the 1st Air Cavalry Division began to click.

The precision of the strikes was so upsetting that regimental cadre held a conference in an attempt to discover what was allowing the US forces to make such repeated, accurate air strikes. It was concluded that only spies within the ranks could be furnishing the location and movement of of the regiment's elements.

The capture of the aid station was a major find for the division and besides the opportunity it provided for destruction of N-V-A forces, it also yielded documents, including one particularly valuable map, that revealed enemy supply and march routes. These, in turn, were converted into intelligence that led to further interdictory bombings by the Air Force.

4. ACTIVITIES STATISTICS:

FRIENDLY LOSSES

KIA 11

WIA 47

MIA 0

ENEMY LOSSES

KIA - 99(BC) 183 (Est)

WIA -208 (Est)

VCC 44

EQUIP - Regimental aid station with all supplies

300 pounds of rice

WPNS- 3x75mm RR rifle

1x82mm mortar w/sight

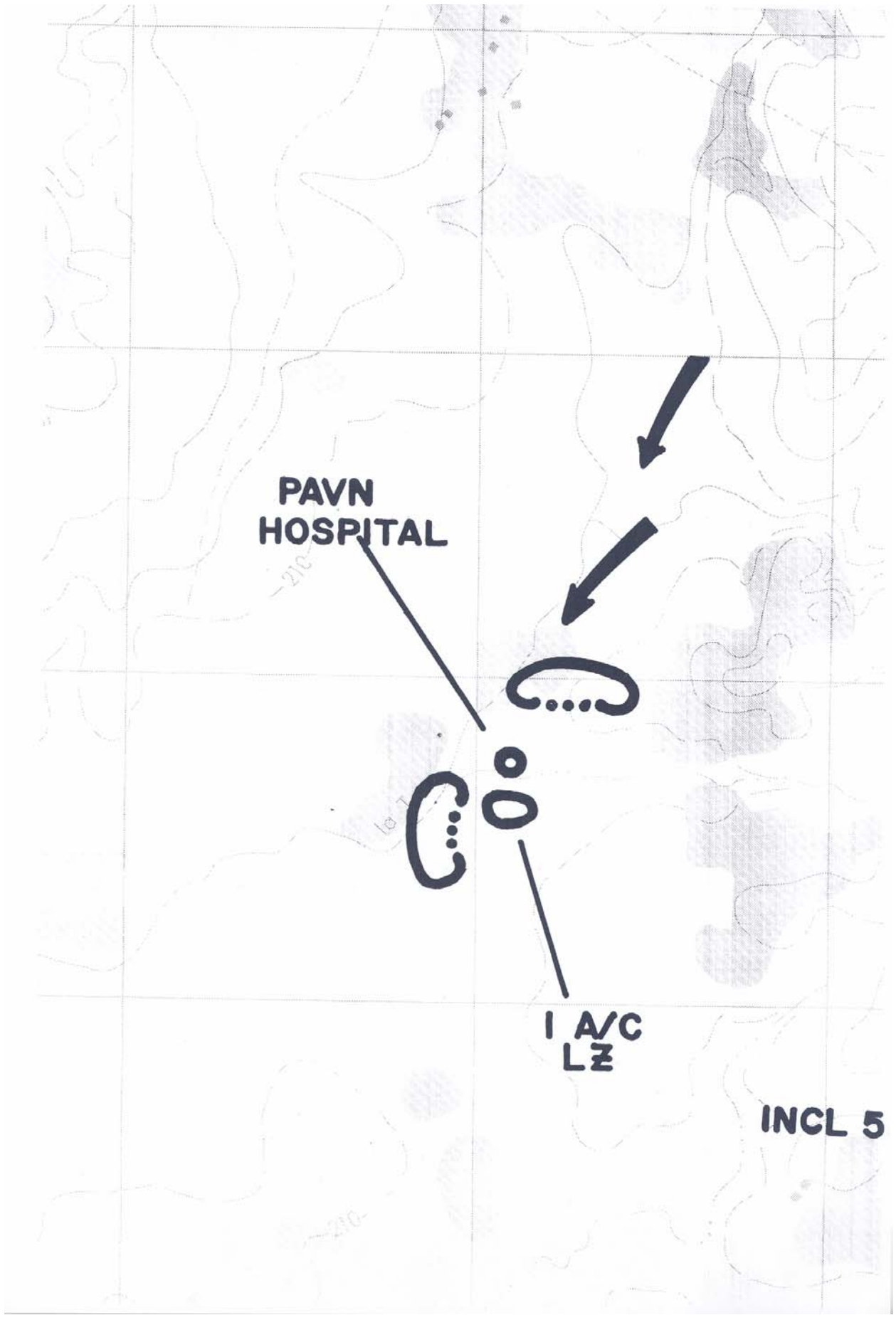
37 Indiv weapons

20 hand grenades

10 bangalore torpedoes

35x75mm rounds

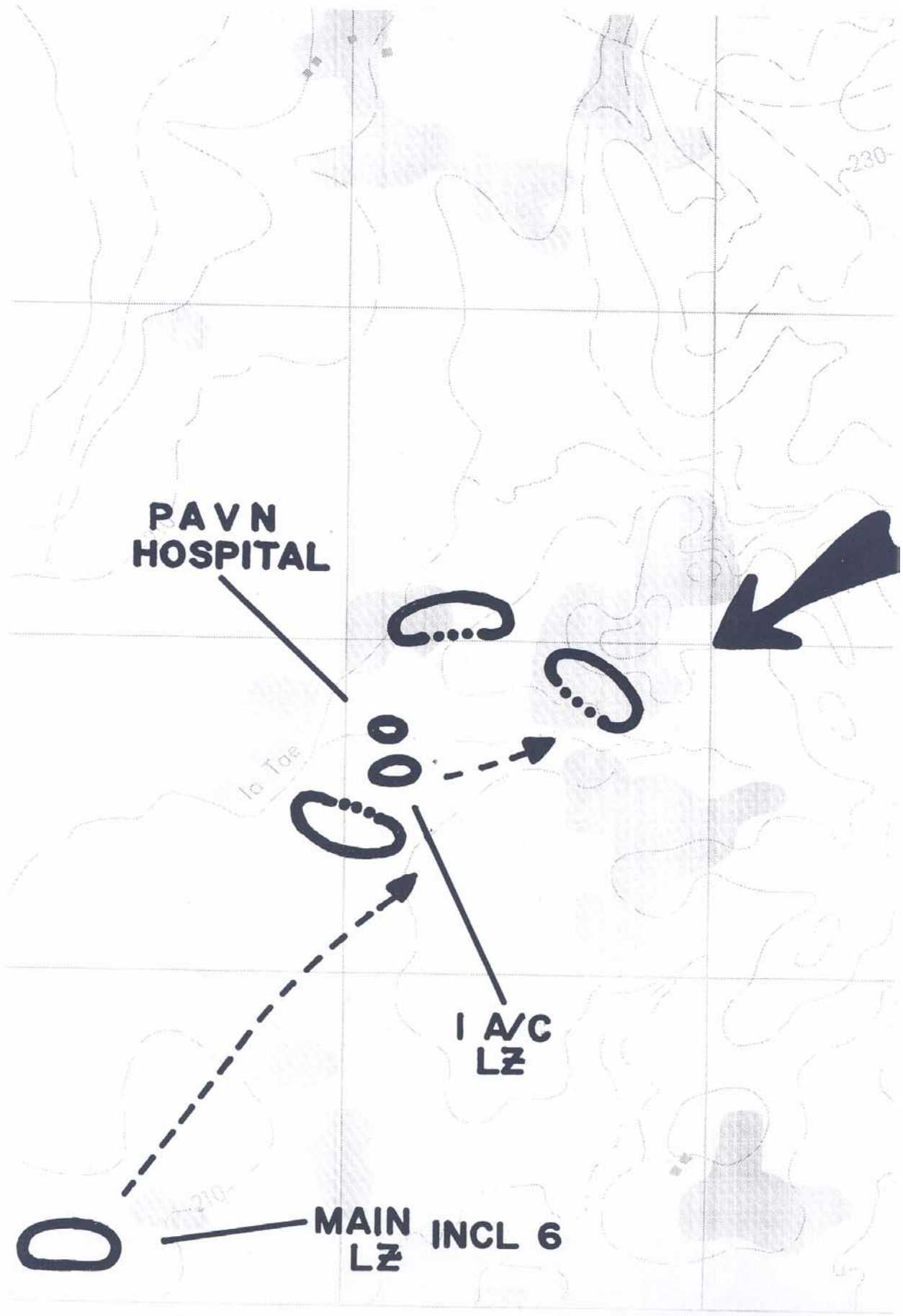
30x82mm rounds

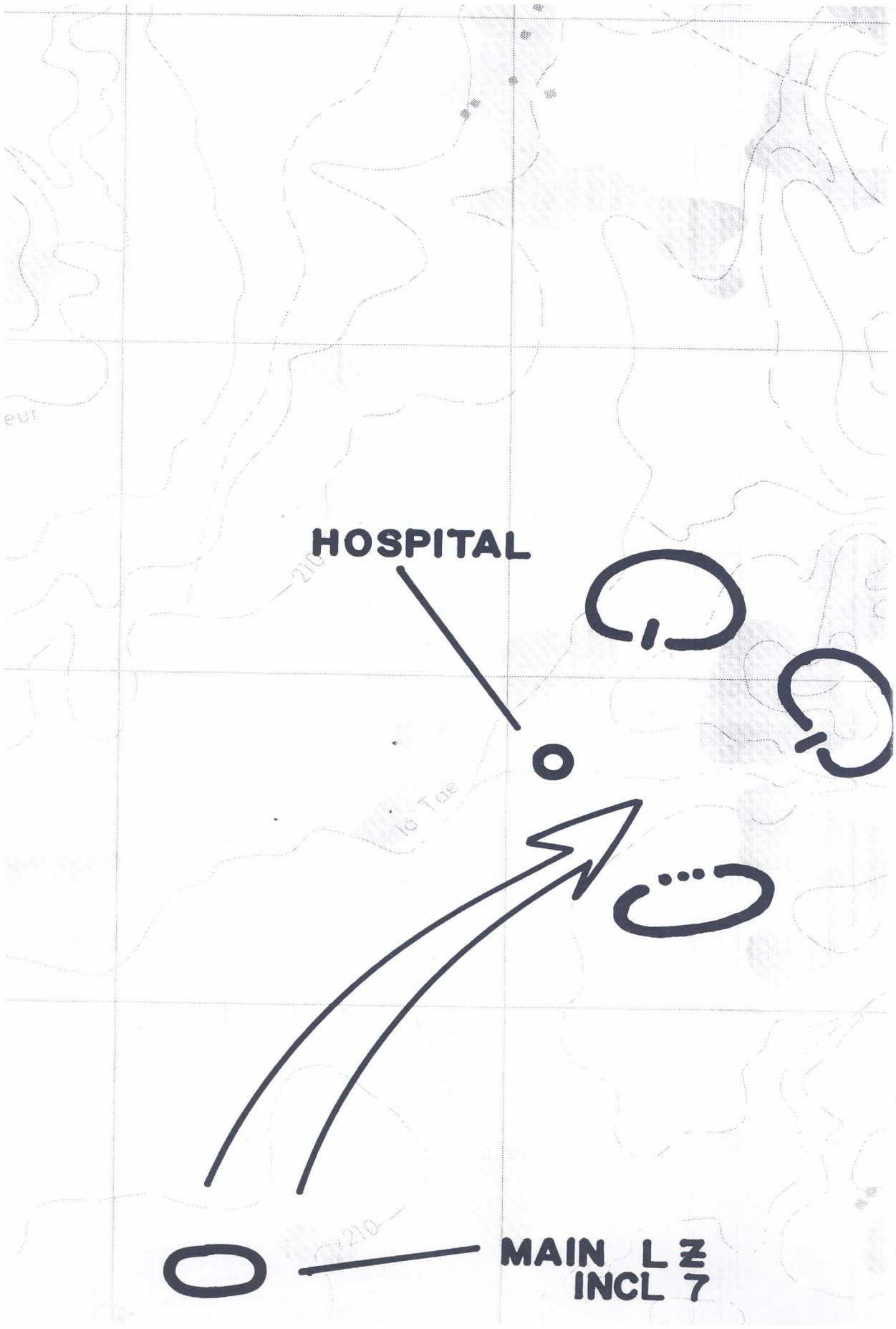


**PAVN  
HOSPITAL**

**I A/C  
LZ**

**INCL 5**





**HOSPITAL**

**O**

**MAIN LZ  
INCL 7**