

3 NOVEMBER

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY:

The biggest action of the day came late in the evening. The 1/9 Cav Sqn, which had once again picked up attachment of the Special Forces C-I-D-G "Eagle Flight" along with A Co 1/8 Cav, moved its operations to the DUC CO C-I-D-G camp and began a reconnaissance in-force south along the Cambodian border to the CHU PONG-IA DRANG complex. B troop, reinforced by the rifle platoons of A and C troops, and the Eagle Flight, established a patrol/ambush base at YA 834061, where a five-ship landing zone was available. There, ambushes were staked out at YA823071, 835071 and 834054. It was at the latter location that blood was drawn. At 1930 hours this southernmost ambush position sighted a large, heavily-laden N-V-A unit of estimated company strength moving along an east-west trail. The column elected to take a break just 100 meters short of the ambush site and loitered just outside the killing zone for a full hour-and-a-half. At 2100 hours the N-V-A unit formed up and moved confidently and noisily along the trail to the west. The platoon leader allowed the first element to pass through and sprung the trap on the weapons platoon, whose men were carrying machine guns, mortars and recoilless rifles. At 2105 hours eight Claymore mines set along a 100-meter kill zone belched fire and steel and troops blazed away with M-16's for two minutes. Simultaneously, Claymore's sited both up and down the trail pumped death into the enemy column. There was no return fire. (Positions at the time of the ambush depicted in Inclosure 8).

The ambush patrol returned quickly to the patrol base and helped establish a perimeter defense. The perimeter was assaulted at 2230 hours by an estimated two to three companies of enemy troops. The patrol base leader had called in his other outposts, but elected to leave the "Eagle Flight" personnel outside the perimeter for the night rather than risk trying to get them in during a firefight at night when recognition might be difficult. (The Eagle Flight wore different uniforms and, of course, spoke Vietnamese and Montegnard). At midnight the perimeter was under heavy seige and in grave danger of being overrun, but reinforcements were on the way. (Inclosure 9)

In other actions in the battle area, the 1/8 Cav (-) continued to secure the division logistic base at CAMP HOLLOWAY and was alerted to prepare to reinforce the 1/9 Cav battle area at first light on 4 Nov.

The rifle companies of 2/12 Cav continued search and destroy operations in the vicinity of OBJECTIVE-H (ZAO61056) and discovered a large quantity of medical supplies which were evacuated to PLEIKU. A company made contact with a N-V-A platoon at 1450 hours and killed one. The battalion CP and D company remained at ZAO73222.

2/8 Cav was at CAVALAIR with C company closing by air at 1652 hours. B company moved by foot to ZAO32037 and A 2/8 moved to Position PARIS (YAO25057), closing at 1405 hours.

The 1/12 Cav continued to operate in the vicinity of CHARGER CITY and evacuated another 250 refugees from PLEI XOUN. C company moved to an intermediate L-Z then moved northeast to MISSISSIPPI (ZAO60155). B company was lifted to a L-Z at ZAO76190 and then moved to TEXAS (ZAO82167). A company made a similar air and ground move to OKLAHOMA (ZAO102169).

2. TASK ORGANIZATION:

1ST BRIGADE

No change except:

229 AHB elements
replaced 227 AHB elements.

DIVISION

No change

3. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY:

The confidence of the newly-infiltrated 66th Regiment was badly shaken by the audacious ambush sprung by the Cavalry Squadron in the very heart of the CHU PONG-IA DRANG complex. The 8th battalion had gotten itself bloodied before it had been in country for two days and, by losing a prisoner, tipped off its presence in South Vietnam.

The 33d Regiment, meantime, was still trying to pull its bruised and battered tail into the the CHU PONG sanctuary. But it became just another day of constant harrassment from the air and ground marked by the loss of still more medical supplies and ammunition.

4. ACTIVITIES STATISTICS:

FRIENDLY LOSSES

KIA 4

WIA 30

MIA 0

ENEMY LOSSES

KIA 73(BC) 37(Est)

WIA 65 (Est)

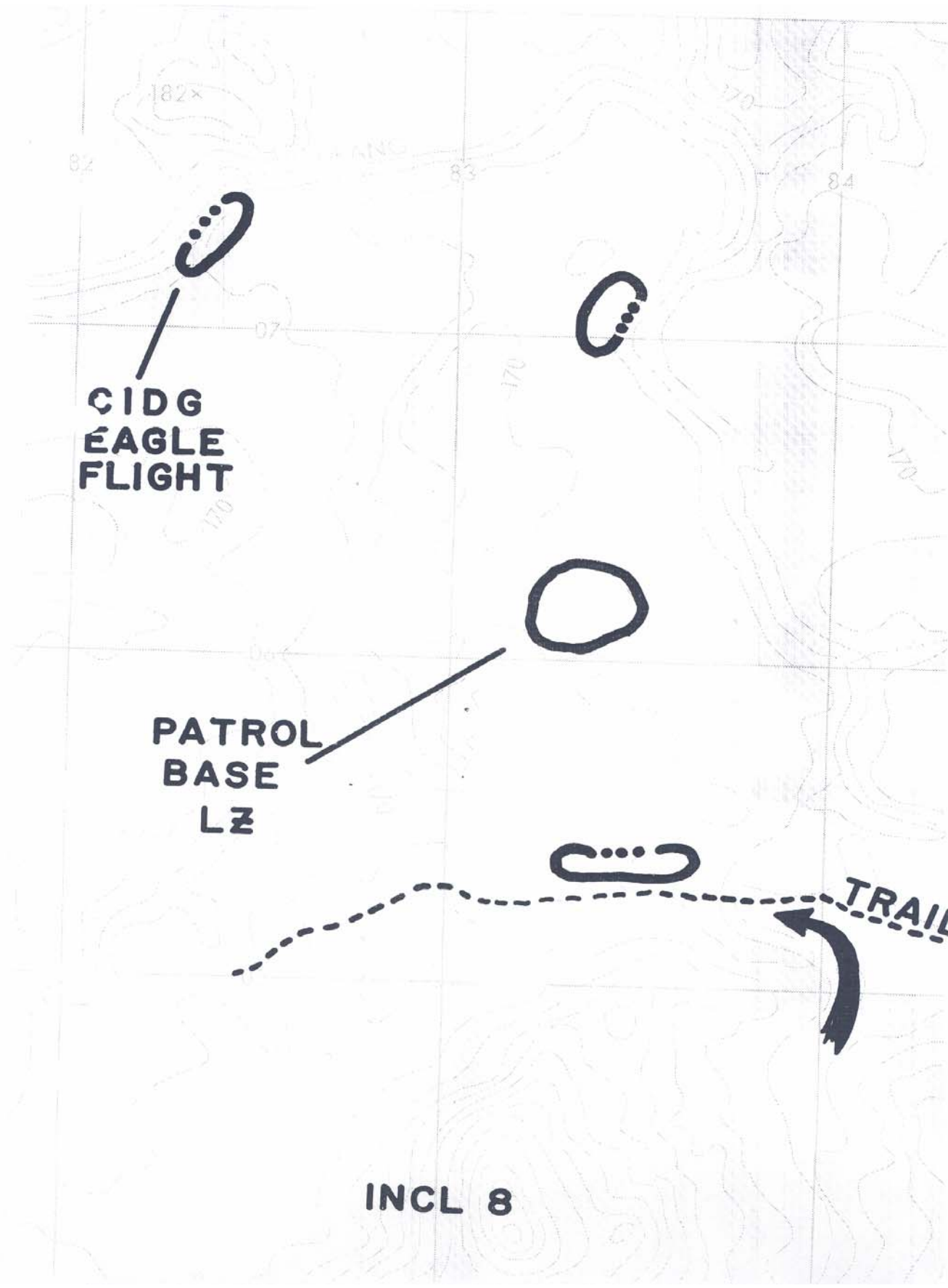
VCC 1

EQUIP-Several boxes of
medical supplies

WPNS-1x75mm RR rifle
1x82mm mortar
1 barrel for 12.5mm
MG

AMMO-2,240 rds 7.62mm
ammo

34 grenades
3x82mm mortar rounds

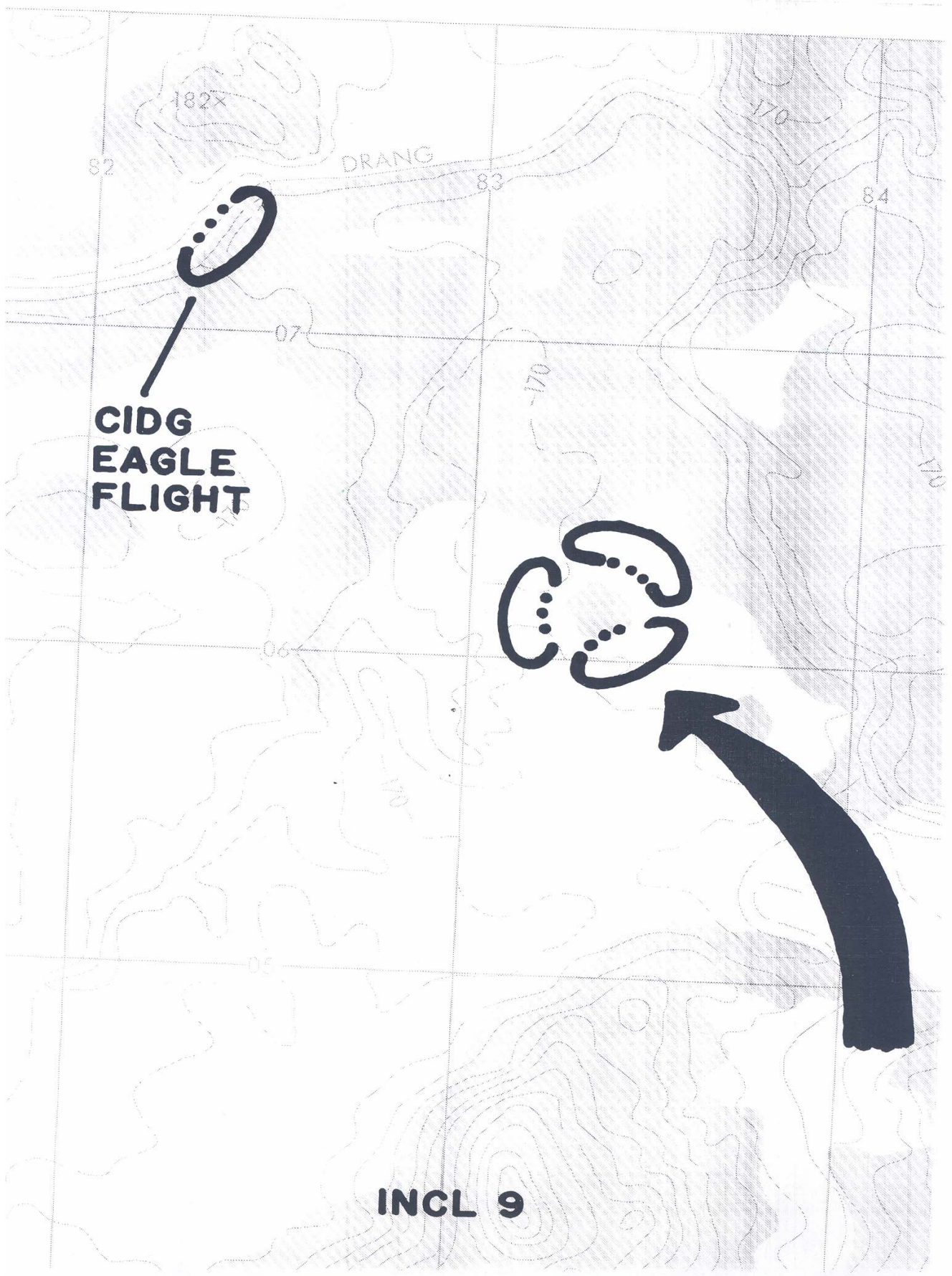


**CIDG
EAGLE
FLIGHT**

**PATROL
BASE
LZ**

TRAIL

INCL 8



**CIDG
EAGLE
FLIGHT**

INCL 9