

~~TOP SECRET~~

Wednesday, August 30, 1967
9:50 a.m.

Mr. President:

You asked, the other day, for an account of where precisely the barrier program now stands. Attached is Bus Wheeler's response.

W. W. Rostow

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Memo for Mr. Rostow from Gen E. G. Wheeler,
29 August 1967 -- CM-2615-67, Top Secret

WWRostow:rlh

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By kg, NARA, Date 9-4-91

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

322

29 AUG 1967

CM-2615-67

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Anti-infiltration System

Attached for your information is a brief paper on the anti-
infiltration system being readied for Southeast Asia. Included are
statements on the background, concept and progress to date. Also
attached is a map showing the general location of the various
subsystems under consideration.

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4
DATE 94-301
By CB NARA, Date 1-16-96

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ANTI-INFILTRATION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

1. Project DYE MARKER is an anti-infiltration system currently being readied for employment to Southeast Asia as an additional means of impeding overland infiltration from North Vietnam into South Vietnam. This system is divided into two subsystems:

a. A linear strong point/obstacle system to be installed just south of the DMZ, extending from the coast inland for 35 km.

b. An air-supported anti-personnel and anti-vehicular system consisting of air-delivered sensors and specialized munitions which will be employed in the panhandle of Laos in the vicinity of the DMZ extended.

CONCEPT

2. Strong point/obstacle system.

a. Current plans for the strong point/obstacle system include 23 km from the South China Sea to a point Southwest of Con Thien. The obstacles trace will be supported by six strong points. Backing up the strong points will be three battalion base areas. The obstacle system will be a combination of physical barriers, mine fields, and a passive sensor/detector system. Also associated with the obstacle trace, will be a series of observation posts and towers. Actual installation and manning of the system is to be accomplished by the tactical forces currently operating in the area. These troop units will man positions and conduct operations both forward and rearward of the obstacle trace, without being tied to fixed positions in a static defense. The manning force which is currently proposed is an ARVN Regiment in the east sector of the trace manning two of the strong points and one of the base areas, with a reinforced battalion at each. A USMC Regiment will man the remaining company strong points and battalion base areas.

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b. Western Quang Tri Province will ultimately be developed according to the DYE MARKER plan. In this area a series of defile obstacles will be placed in likely infiltration corridors, supported by mobile forces in a series of strong points from Dong Ha Mountain to the border. The locations of the strong points are being determined by an analysis of the terrain.

3. Air-Supported Anti-Infiltration Subsystems.

a. The anti-personnel portion is planned for installation initially in eastern Laos. Components consist of mines, warning bomblets, sensor devices, delivery, surveillance and strike aircraft. Sensors will be delivered in this area by fixed wing and helicopter aircraft and by PRAIRIE FIRE teams.

b. The anti-vehicle portion is planned for use in Central Laos. Similar components will be employed and emplaced by fixed wing aircraft and possibly Laos CAS teams.

c. Aircraft will monitor the sensor and mine fields emplaced in these areas for signals indicating infiltration and will relay these signals to the Infiltration Surveillance Center (ISC) at Nakhon Phanom, which is the heart of the Command and Control System. The ISC will assimilate and evaluate all of the information provided by the sensors and other sources and will recommend air strikes against those targets which have been validated.

d. The DYE MARKER capability will be integrated into the existing command structure. The Commanding General, III MAF, will have operational control of the strong point/obstacle subsystem in I Corps. The Commander, 7th Air Force, using a special task group, will have operational control of the air-supported anti-infiltration subsystem as an extension of the existing STEEL TIGER task force. Close coordination between III MAF and 7th Air Force

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in areas of mutual interest will be accomplished through direct communications channels and exchange of liaison officers. SOG will provide direct support to 7th Air Force and will coordinate the use of PRAIRIE FIRE teams with the 7th Air Force Task Group through liaison officers.

e. All programs are designed to protect the option of executing the DYE MARKER plan with the following initial operational capabilities:

- (1) Strong points/obstacle system -- 1 November 1967.
- (2) Air-supported anti-vehicle system -- 1 November 1967.
- (3) Air-supported anti-personnel system -- 1 December 1967.

PROGRESS TO DATE

4. a. Vietnamese civilians in the vicinity of the strong point/obstacle trace have been relocated. A continuous strip of obstacle trace 600 meters wide between Con Thien and Gio Linh and east of Gio Linh to the flood plain, has been cleared of vegetation. Additionally, an area out to a radius of 500 meters has been cleared at the base camp positions at Con Thien and Gio Linh. Clearing of one other strong point area and two base areas is 20% complete. By 1 November 1967, it is planned to clear, construct and man four strong points and three base areas, and to complete a 13 kilometer obstacle system between Con Thien and the flood plain. With the end of the Northeast Monsoon season (Spring 1968), work is planned to construct two additional strong points west of Con Thien and to add 10 kilometers to the obstacle trace.

b. Materials for the system are being procured and are already available in Vietnam in quantity.

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c. A wing (21 aircraft) of EC-121 aircraft is being converted for use in the surveillance role. A squadron (8 aircraft) of OP-2E aircraft is being converted for initial sensor delivery. In view of the vulnerability of OP-2E, plans are underway to develop a high-speed sensor delivery capability by F-4 aircraft. A-1 aircraft will be made available from theater resources and a squadron (18 aircraft) of F-4D aircraft will be made available at a later date primarily for use in delivery of sensors and munitions. 12 CH-3C will be used for sensor emplacement, supported by 12 UH-1B gunships.

d. First generation acoustic and seismic sensors are in production and are under test at Eglin AFB. There are some problems in sensitivity and vulnerability to enemy countermeasures in the early equipment. Substantial improvement is expected in the second generation equipment.

e. Varying types of bomblets are being developed for warning and area anti-personnel mining. Early versions should be available in adequate quantities by 1 November 1967.

f. 7,578 personnel have been approved for deployment to South Vietnam in support of DYE MARKER strong point/obstacle system. Deployments will be completed by 1 November 1967. An additional 4,080 personnel have been approved in support of the air-supported anti-infiltration system.

CONVENTIONAL

UN SUPPORTED ANTI-PERSONNEL

UN SUPPORTED ANTI-VEHICULAR

NORTH VIETNAM

TRUNG HUAN PROVINCE

NAUTICAL MILES

0 5 10 15 20

- ACOUSTIC, GRAVEL, BUTTON BOMBLET
- SEISMIC SENSORS
- HAND EMPLACED SENSORS
- LINEAR TRACE
- ORIGINAL LINEAR TRACE
- 100Y ANTI-PERSONNEL SECTOR
- PROPOSED ANTI-PERSONNEL SECTOR
- ANTI-VEHICULAR SECTOR

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