

The proceeding pages were re-created from a photocopy of the original report. Hand written editorial marks were made on the photocopy and are annotated by [*italics within brackets*]. Comments or corrections to the text made by the re-creating typist are in [brackets].

Many of the editorial remarks are confirmed by the typist as being legitimate corrections to the text of the report (i.e. the typist contacted Sgt Berglund, now retired MGySgt, via email and confirmed that, while he was recommended for the Navy Commendation Medal, he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal after the report was written). Also, the fact that GySgt Kendall was killed in action was confirmed through other sources.

11TH INTERROGATION TRANSLATION TEAM  
III Marine Amphibious Force  
FPO San Francisco 96602

02/CKA/tws  
3461  
13 April 1971

From: Team Commander  
To: Distribution List

Subj: Unofficial Unit History of the 11th Interrogation  
Translation Team from 17 July to 28 March 1971

Encl: (1) Unofficial Unit History of the 11th ITT  
(2) List of Team Commanders during the period covered  
(3) List of Team Chiefs during the period covered  
(4) Roster of Personnel who have served with the 11th  
ITT during the period covered and the decorations  
they received

1. Purpose. To publish an unofficial account of the 11th ITT's activities during its combat tour of in the Republic of Vietnam. It is intended solely for the edification of team members, pas, present, and future and other persons interested in the 11th ITT.

2. Scope. This unofficial unit history covers the missions, general activities, combat operations, and overall highlights of the period covered. It represents only the information immediately available through research. As a result, errors of omission undoubtedly are to be found and the team regrets this unavoidable occurrence [sic].

*[C. K. Ables Signature]*  
C. K. ABLES

UNIT HISTORY OF THE 11TH INTERROGATION TRANSLATION TEAM

(17 JULY TO 28 MARCH 1971)

*[Activated 15 Jun 67 at Camp Pendleton]*

The 11th Interrogation Translation Team arrived in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam, on 17 July 1967. The team embarked by plane from El Torro [sic], California [on 14 Jul 67] with the 5th Interpreter Team and worked in conjunction with the 5th IT during much of its combat tour. The deployment of the 11th ITT was but a small part of the overall buildup of U.S. Marine Forces in the war against Communist aggression in Southeast Asia. Though small in size, in the ensuing four years the 11th ITT was to play a disproportionately significant role in the gathering of intelligence information from both captured enemy Prisoners of War and Chu Hoi Ralliers. The Team greatly contributed to the intelligence picture in I Corps and Military Region I and repeatedly supplied G-2, III Marine Amphibious Force, MACV Advisory Teams, and other Free World Military Assistance Forces (FWMAF) with valuable information resulting from the Team's interrogation activities. The 11th ITT contributed significant data on the Viet Cong (VC) and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Order of Battle; tactics; locations of enemy units and supply caches; past, present and future enemy unit missions; propaganda and terrorist activities; the enemies [sic] political infrastructure or "shadow government"; and vital information concerning enemy logistics and battle preparedness. On numerous occasions and often as a direct result of the 11th ITT's skill in the interrogation field, combat operations were

ENCLOSURE (1)

initiated against forces in I Corps with frequently very favorable results. In addition, information provided by the Team's interrogation efforts materially enhanced the operation of the Psychological Operations program, and the Phuong Hoang Committee's campaign to counter the Viet Cong political infrastructure, as well as the counterintelligence activities of the various Free World Military Assistance Forces.

During the initial months of the operation in the Republic of Vietnam, the 11<sup>th</sup> ITT worked closely with the 3<sup>rd</sup> ITT in support of several company size and smaller search and destroy, and cordon and search operations with the U.S. Marine and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) personnel. At that time, the Commanding General of III MAF, as the senior FWMAF officer of I Corps, was responsible for providing interrogation support to MACV Advisory Teams at Hue, ARVN I Corps Headquarters, Hoi An, Tam Ky, and Quang Ngai. In addition, this arrangement facilitated Prisoner of War evacuation and enhanced the timeliness of interrogation report dissemination. Almost immediately, the sub-teams at Hue, ARVN I Corps Headquarters and Quang Ngai began working with their ARVN intelligence and interrogator counterparts to plan, organize and construct Combine Interrogation Centers in these three locations. These CIC facilities rapidly became the focal points of strategic interrogation in I Corps for not only the U.S. Marine and ARVN interrogators, but U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy interrogators as well.

Throughout the first year in-country, elements of the

ITT worked with Alpha and Charlie Companies, 5th Special Forces in approximately twelve operations. ~~In September 1967 a [handwritten line-out and comments made][7 Aug & Sep 67 Beacon detachment from the 11th ITT worked with U.S. Marine units in Gate and Cochise w/ BLT 1/3.] Operation Junction City.~~ During October 1967 a sub-team was established at the Naval Support Activity Hospital, Da Nang, on a permanent basis in order to exploit sources evacuated through medical channels. In addition to the already diverse list of military commands that the Team supported in combat operations, the various sub-teams were operationally assigned to MACV Advisory Teams ranging from the Demilitarized Zone in the north to Quang Ngai in southern I Corps to provide interrogation advice and assistance. Furthermore, the 11th ITT Team Commander served as the Senior Interrogation Advisor under the G-2 Advisor for I Corps. This "two hats" role of the sub-teams not only served as a first level source of PW interrogation that was convenient to the capturing units in the field, it also aided the MACV advisory effort in training the ARVN to become a viable, potent deterrent [sic] capable of countering Communist aggression on their own.

Because only portion of the battle for freedom in South Vietnam is conducted with combat type operations, members of the 11th ITT undertook numerous civic action activities to contribute to the overall U.S. Marine pacification program. These activities included conducting English language classes for Vietnamese school children and several construction projects for a Da Nang orphanage. Throughout I Corps, Team personnel

worked as an integral part of the MACV Teams in their corollary efforts in behalf of the Vietnamese people. Though the results were painstaking and not nearly as dramatic as enemy body counts and captured equipment and material, the rewards were all the more satisfying for their intrinsic human value as well as winning crucial Vietnamese civilian support away from the Viet Cong.

Throughout its tour, the 11th ITT served as a home away from home for U.S. Marine personnel on Temporary Additional Duty in Vietnam for language training. The Team also intensified Vietnamese language training for its own Team members and continually worked to increase their knowledge in Vietnamese history, culture, and traditions. This continuing effort worked very effectively in conjunction with daily association with the ARVN to produce close rapport between the two elements, while also improving the interrogation skills of the individual team members.

The coming of 1968 brought the fierce "TET OFFENSIVE" that triggered desperate VC and NVA attacks on civilian population centers and military installations throughout the Republic of Vietnam. I Corps was hit particularly hard and the battle for the ancient city of Hue was the highwater [sic] mark in the intensity of combat up to that period of time. The 11th ITT distinguished itself in not only fighting for the defense of its own perimeters, but also organizing and leading intelligence patrols into the contested areas to ascertain dispositions and strengths of enemy [*Kendall- KIA, Billups- WIA*]

held positions. This invaluable information was immediately utilized by reaction forces from any and all Free World Military Assistance Forces available. Once the main fighting was over, the Team and its detachments screened hundreds of Detainees and PWs in a short period of time, thus gaining valuable intelligence information on retreating enemy forces and their avenues of egress.

Later on, 1968 saw the 11th ITT participating in several large operations. From 18-21 April 1968, a sub-team supported the [handwritten entry] [Apr-Jun 68 - Swift Boat Patrols] ARVN in Operation Hung Quang 1-20. During the period of 19-24 November 1968, a detachment from the Team supported U.S. Marines in Operation Meade River. Immediately following this, the same detachment worked with U.S. Marines in Operation Valient Hunt [sic] during December 1968. In the area of training support during the year, the Team trained ARVN interrogators in interrogation approach techniques, enemy Order of Battle and tactics, and report writing and dissemination. Working with the Chu Hoi Program, the 11th ITT trained Vietnamese nationals in interrogation and worked closely with the Da Nang Chu Hoi Center in exploiting these intelligence sources.

In January 1969, a sub-team from the 11th ITT was established at the Chu Hoi Center in Da Nang. During the same month, elements of the Team worked with the 1st MP Bn in several cordon and search operations in Da Nang City. Also in January 1969, two sub-teams participated with the U.S. Marine elements in Operation Bold Mariner. In conjunction with the increasing

U.S. Army presence in I Corps, members of the 11th ITT aided in training personnel from the 204th MI Detachment in interrogation techniques, intelligence gathering, and message dissemination in the Da Nang area. Due to the fact that U.S. Marines from the 11th ITT served as Senior Advisors to the ARVN commands at the Combined Interrogation Centers in Hue, Da Nang, and Quang Ngai, these advisory elements assisted in preparing for and conducting periodic inspections by the International Committee of the Red Cross of the PW compounds at those three locations. In keeping with this advisory role, members of the Team instructed their ARVN counterparts in the Geneva Conventions pertaining to the treatment of PWs and were instrumental in insuring [sic] that these conventions were adhered to.

The summer of 1969 was a busy one for the members of the Team in that they participated in numerous U.S. Marine combat operations. [In] May 1969 a sub-team was established with MACV Advisory Team 4 at what was then referred to as Quang Da Special Zone and is now called First Task Force. From 25 May to 4 June 1969 that sub-team supported U.S. Marine elements in Operation Pipestone Canyon. Later that month, Team elements took part with BLT 1/26 in Operation Daring Rebel. During the period of 19-22 July 1969 additional elements supported BLT 2/26 in operation Brave Armada in what was to prove a very successful endeavor from the Team's intelligence contribution standpoint. Even though widely dispursed [sic]

throughout I Corps, and participating in many combat operations, both large and small, the 11th ITT and detached sub-teams continued to support MACV Advisory Teams and worked closely with District and Sector S-2s and U.S. Marine Counterintelligence Teams. In addition, the Team was in continual liaison with the Chu Hoi Program, the Phuong Hoang Committee, and Pacification Security Coordination Division (PSCD) personnel in the Team's overall intelligence gathering effort. Furthermore, from 1 December 1969 to Mid-March 1970 the 11th ITT supported XXIV Corps in Quang Tri on an "as needed" basis.

With the coming of 1970, overall U.S. Marine responsibility in I Corps and Military Region I began to diminish as the U.S. Army assumed more and more tactical responsibility throughout northern Republic of Vietnam. However, rather than diminish in size and effort, the 11th ITT continued its efforts to facilitate the transition in commands between U.S. elements and provide for continuity in the intelligence activities in I Corps and MR I. The sub-teams located with the MCV Advisory Teams took on a greater portion of the Team's effort and activities and began supporting U.S. Army Mobile Assistance Teams in their mission of advising and training outlying Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces. Once the U.S. Army was firmly established and their intelligence activities were running smoothly, the Team began to redeploy its sub-teams in the Da Nang area in accordance with CG, III MEF's policy of deploying Marines to the Quang Nam Province. In March 1970

the sub-team support of MACV Advisory Team 3 was withdrawn [illegible text of three or four words] ...April and May [11 May 70] the sub-team withdrawal from Hue, Tam Ky, and Quang Ngai when II MAF Headquarters moved from Camp Horne to Camp Haskins in conjunction with XXIV Corps assuming command of Military Region I during March 1970, the 11th ITT Headquarters element moved permanently to the I Corps Combined Interrogation Center in Danang [sic] and coordinated the Team's activities from there.

During the summer of 1970, detachments from the 11th ITT supported several small operations with Marine elements in the Quang Nam Province. In September 1970, a sub-team supported the 1st MP Bn and Vietnamese National Police in Da Nang City on a cordon and search operation. From 15-19 September 1970 the Team worked with [K Co] 3rd Bn, 1st Marines [(REINF)] with interrogation support in Operation Dubois Square. From 18-20 November 1970 a sub-team supported 2nd Bn, 1st Marines on yet another cordon and search operation. From 7-10 December 1970 personnel from the Team worked with the 2nd Bn, 5th Marines in the Que Son Mountain area in Southern Quang Nam Province. On 14 January 1971 a sub-team participated in a cordon and search operation in Da Nang Special Sector with the Vietnamese National Police and the Phuong Hoang Committee. As a result of the success of this operation, a sub-team was permanently attached to the Da Nang Special Sector Headquarters to further contribute to the counterintelligence efforts of the Phuong Hoang Committee. While working at the Danang [sic] Special Sector Headquarters, members of the sub-team compiled an extensively researched

study of the organization, proselytizing activities, terrorist tactics, and personalities of the Viet Cong political infrastructure operating in Danang. This comprehensive document proved to be a great aid to the Phuong Hoang Committee, PSCD, the Vietnamese National Police, and the U.S. Marine Counterintelligence Teams working in the city and led to the capture of several high ranking Viet Cong political cadre operating clandestinely in the area.

From 30 January to 22 February 1971, a sub-team supported the ARVN in Operation Dewey Canyon II (Lam Son 719). This detachment aided the ARVN in establishing a Field Interrogation Center to process PWs resulting from the Laos incursion.

With the further reduction of U.S. Marine presence in the Republic of Vietnam, the 11th ITT began to prepare U.S. Army personnel from MACV Advisory Team I and the 204th MI Detachment, XXIV Corps to assume the 11th ITT's combat mission. On 22 March 1971, the Hoi An sub-team was withdrawn to III MAF Headquarters. On 28 March 1971, the Danang Special Sector sub-team and the First Task Force sub-team also stood down and moved to III MAF Headquarters. On 28 March 1971, the Headquarters element of the 11th ITT ceased their functions as a combat unit and stood down to III MAF Headquarters to prepare to redeployment to Okinawa.  
*[Redeployed to Okinawa aboard LPD Juneau on]*

Thus, the four years of intensive involvement in the Vietnam War came to an end. During those four years, many highly trained and qualified Marines served proudly and with distinction on

the 11th ITT. Not a few of them carried the scars from the wounds [*received in that service and one did not return alive.*] Regardless of the wounds received and the operations participated in, the real distinction came from the day to day grind of the very undramatic, unexciting screenings and interrogations of literally thousands of Detainees, Prisoners of War and Chu Hoi Ralliers. This exhaustive and methodical digging out of bits and pieces of information was the 11th ITT's real contribution to the overall intelligence effort. The 11th ITT's achieving its combat mission enabled the U.S. Marine Air/Ground Team as well as U.S. Army, ARVN and other Free World Military Assistance Forces to better do their job of countering Communist aggression in Southeast Asia.

TEAM COMMANDERS - 11TH INTERROGATION TRANSLATION TEAM

CAPTAIN E. BAILEY	JULY 1967 - JULY 1968
CAPTAIN W. MILES	JULY 1968 - JANUARY 1969
CAPTAIN K. R. UPDEGROVE	JANUARY 1969 - APRIL 1969
CAPTAIN J. W. MCCARTHY	APRIL 1969 - APRIL 1970
CAPTAIN M. W. LUCAS	APRIL 1970 - MAY 1970
CAPTAIN C. K. ABLES	MAY 1970 - MARCH 1971
<i>[1STLT M. MONOHAN]</i>	
<i>[CAPT G. JOHNSON]</i>	

ENCLOSURE (2)

TEAM CHIEFS - 11TH INTERROGATION TRANSLATION TEAM

GYSGT C. E. CABELL	JULY 1967 - MAY 1968
GYSGT W. P. JONES, JR. [SSGT TOMLINSON]	MAY 1968 - AUGUST 1968
SSGT R.L. KELLEY	AUGUST 1968 - MARCH 1969
SSGT H. B. SOLANO	MARCH 1969 - MAY 1969
GYSGT J. N. WILSON	MAY 1969 - JUNE 1969
MGYSGT F. W. CLAYTON	JUNE 1969 - JUNE 1970
GYSGT R. D. GROVERS	JUNE 1970 - SEPTEMBER 1970
GYSGT N. MAHON	SEPTEMBER 1970 - DECEMBER 1970
MSGT R. L. WILLIAMS	DECEMBER 1970 - JANUARY 1971
MSGT E. C. MANUEL	JANUARY 1971 - MARCH 1971
[GYSGT BROWN, J.]	
[MSGT BEVIER]	

PERSONNEL THAT SERVED WITH THE 11TH INTERROGATION

TRANSLATION TEAM

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER.NO.</u>	<u>AWARDS*</u>
ABLES, C.K.	CAPT	091521	
ADAMS, J.P.	SSGT	2102775	
BAILEY, K.E.	CAPT	086594	Bronze Star w/V
BELLIVEAU, A.J.	SSGT	1989577	Purple Heart, Navy Commendation w/V
BERGLUND, E.P.	SGT	1895393	<del>Navy Commendation Medal w/V</del> Navy Achievement Medal w/V
BOWEN, K.W.	1STLT	0106616	
[BOUFFARD], R.L.	SSGT	1927522	
CAMPBELL, C.E.	GYSGT	652546	[NAVCOM w/V]
CLAYTON, E.H.	MGYSGT	805617	Navy Commendation Medal w/V
CLITES, C.S.	GYSGT	1579498	Bronze Star w/V [CAR]
CONN, A.H.	SGT	2239063	
DISBROW, V.I., JR.	SSGT	1890118	
DONOHUE, E.T.	CAPT	090846	
DOWNS, S.H.	SSGT	2060433	Navy Commendation Medal w/V
ECKHARDT, J.C.	SGT	2155769	
FASNACHT, J.H.	1STLT	096646	
FITZGERALD, J.E.	LCPL	2252432	
GALANG, R.S.	CAPT	096724	
GRABNER, G.T.	CAPT	093927	
GRIECO, W.E.	1STLT	0106275	
GROVERS, R.D.	GYSGT	1470378	
HONTS, L.W.	SSGT	2115194	[CAR]
JAQUES, T.A.	1STLT	0110032	
JONES, W.P., JR.	GYSGT	668046	[ARCOM, CAR]
KAPTUR, E.A.	SSGT	1835630	Army Commendation Medal [CAR]
KASPARIAN, J.P.	1STLT	099658	Army Commendation Medal
[*]KENDALL, G.F.	GYSGT	UNKNOWN	Silver Star, Purple Heart [CAR, ARCOM]
KELLEY, R.L.	SSGT	1964532	Bronze Star w/V
LEWIS, R.D.	SSGT	1537836	
LINDNER, D.F.	1STLT	0109441	
LUCAS, M.W.	CAPT	088629	
MAHON, N.	GYSGT	1280506	
MANUEL, E.C.	MSGT	1103019	
MAZZONI, P.J.	SGT	2326320	Army Commendation Medal
MEZZER, E.W.	CAPT	093990	Bronze Star w/V
MCCARTHY, J.W.	CAPT	082251	Navy Commendation Medal
MCCLOY, H.M.	CAPT	087426	
MCCULLOUGH, S.J.	SGT	2266881	Bronze Star w/V
MORRISON, C.H.	1STLT	0100523	Bronze Star w/V
MURPHY, K.E.	1STLT	0106334	
OBRIEN, P.E.	SSGT	2224041	
[5TH ITT] OCONNOR, J.M.	SGT	2320625	[CAR]
[MARTINEZ	GYSGT		BRONZE STAR W/V, CAR]

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER.NO.</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>
[WROCZEK	SGT		CAR]
OSENKOSI, S.M.	1STLT	097547	[CAR]
PHILLIPS, G.M.	SGT	UNKNOWN	Bronze Star w/V Purple Heart
PIERPAN, T.E.	CAPT	094334	Army Commendation Medal
POLLOCK, W.W.	CAPT	091460	Navy Commendation Medal
RICH, D.A.	SSGT	1965117	
ROGERS, R.	SGT	2114715	
SARTIN, P.A.	1STLT	0108777	
SCHAFFER, T.W.	SSGT	1668304	
SELLERS, J.G.	1STLT	0104770	
SMITH, W.L.	SSGT	1547314	
SOLANO, H.B.	SSGT	1546444	
ST. DENNIS, H.	1STLT	099880	Bronze Star w/V
STEINKA, R.E.	SSGT	2015114	
THOMLINSON, W.E.	SSGT	1566942	[CAR]
TITEL, S.P.	GYSGT	1476660	
TOPAZ, T.A.	SGT	2286378	
UPDEGROVE, K.R.	CAPT	084249	
WALLER, P.G.	CAPT	0105693	
WATKINS, J.W.	SGT	2250231	Navy Commendation Medal
WILKINS, W.E.	SSGT	1966497	[CAR]
WILLIAMS, R.H.	CAPT	091593	Bronze Star w/V [Silver Star, ARCOM,
PH,			CAR]
WILLIAMS, R.L.	SSGT	1322637	
[BILLUPS	SSGT		Bronze Star w/ V, PH, CAR]

INTERPRETERS THAT WORKED WITH 11TH ITT 20OCT67 - 29APR71

TRAN HUAN	MSGT	36/16.064	
TRAN VAN DINH	SSGT	153.194	
KHONG A-SY	SSGT	58/108.880	
TRAN QUANG HO	SSGT	57/204.715	
CHUNG TO HA	SSGT	65/132.920	
PHAN VAN SON	SSGT	66/117.080	
HUYNH TONG HUY	SSGT	65/129431	
VO VAN DICH	SSGT	68/202359	
LAM BAO NGUYEN	SSGT	65/130.193	[NAV COM W/V]
TRAN VAN BA	SSGT	63/108.959	
DAM TE HA	SSGT	64/106143	
LE DINH HOANG	SSGT	65/209.074	
NGUYEN TRAHN HUONG	SSGT	64/206.396	
NGUYEN THANH THIET	SSGT	66/205049	
LU KHA QUYEN	SSGT	64/197026	
TRAN DUY TRONG	SSGT	66/117.162	
HO VAN HIEP	SSGT	70/115.255	
NGUYEN VAN HIEU	SGT	68/203844	
TRAN VAN THANH	1stCPL	59/800611	
DANG THIEN AN	1stCPL	67/822225	
BUI VAN NGOC	1stCPL	69/142756	
DUONG TAN LOC	1stCPL	68/147546	
NGO DANG CHUONG	1stCPL	67/822281	
NGUYEN QUY	1stCPL	68/407242	

\*INFORMATION ON AWARDS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH JULY 1970.

[\* KIA 2FEB68 HUE CITY VIC STADIUM]