

## Comint Support Instruction

### AHQ (DMI) Instruction No. 1/66

On 17 June 1966<sup>1</sup>, AHQ (DMI) Instruction No. 1/66 *Comint Support For 1 ATF Vietnam*<sup>2</sup> was issued by the then Director of Military Intelligence, Colonel "Sandy" Pearson<sup>3</sup>:



Figure 1: Comint Support Instruction

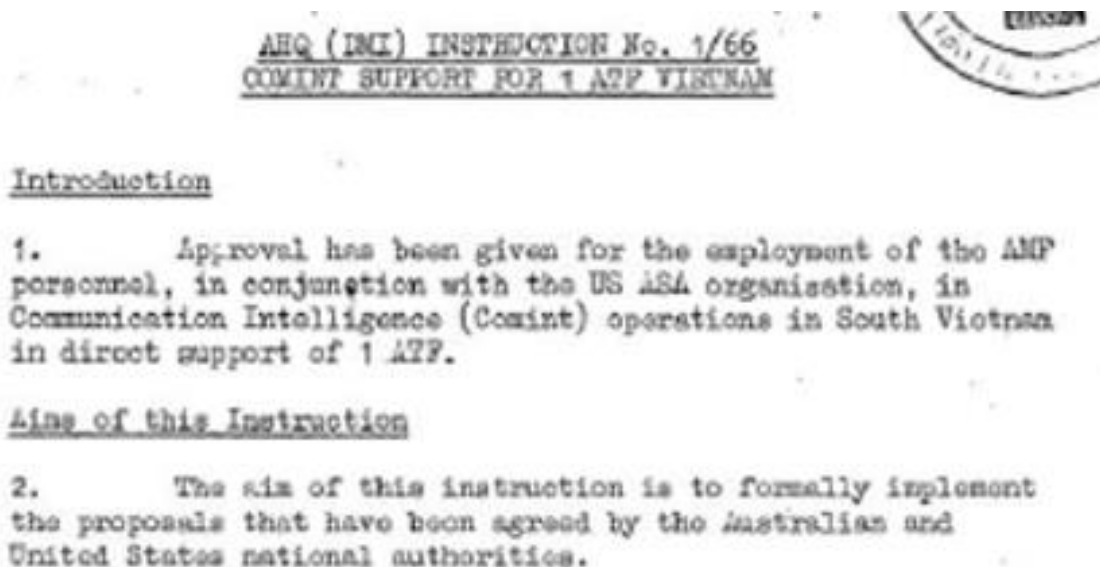


Figure 2: Comint Support Instruction - Page 1 - Enlarged view (1)

<sup>1</sup> Note that the formal instruction was issued four days after the main body of the Troop had arrived.

<sup>2</sup> ASD archives of 547 Sig Tp material.

<sup>3</sup> Later to become Brigadier Pearson Comd 1ATF in October 1968.

### General Outline

3. a. Purpose of Operation is for the ANP to establish a comint cell at 1 ATF to receive and product material from US NSA resources. In addition ANP personnel will conduct communications intercept, processing and reporting activities as agreed by US NSA, to meet the requirements of the Commander 1 Aust Task Force.

b. Provision of Resources The ANP will provide 15 personnel from Australia i.e., Detachment 547 Signal Troop, 7 Signal Regiment. One additional linguist will be made available from the HQ AFV pool of linguists to support this detachment. The detachment will be known as the ANP Direct Support Unit (DSU) of 1 ATF in keeping with US terminology for similar US NSA units.

Figure 3: Comint Support Instruction - Page 1 - Enlarged view (2)

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### Control of ANP DSU

4. Command and Control

The ANP DSU will be under the command and control of the Commander 1 ATF.

5. Operational Control

The ANP DSU will be under the operational control of US NSA organisation for operational tasking instructions and technical support.

Figure 4: Comint Support Instruction - Page 2 - Enlarged view (1)

6. National Control

As all matters effecting Signal intelligence are controlled at the national level in Australia and USA, any changes in role of the AMF DSU must be referred to AHQ (EMI) for discussion between the National Authorities.

7. Operational Deployment

The actual deployment of AMF personnel in theatre will be subject to consultation with the responsible US ASA authority. The agreed deployment must at all times be in such a manner to ensure maximum comint support for 1 ATP.

Communications

8. Exclusive comint communications between the AMF DSU and the appropriate US ASA organisation will be provided by the US ASA unit supporting 2 YFV. These communications channels will be used for the passage of all comint material i.e., policy, steering instructions, raw materials and end product material between the AMF DSU, US Authorities and AHQ (EMI) Canberra.

9. Administrative traffic will be passed on normal AMF channels provided from within 1 ATP resources.

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Provision of Personnel

10. The following AMF personnel will be provided for this operations:

a. From Australia

Officer Commanding Captain	1
Warrant Officer Class 2:	
Operator Signals	1
Processor	1

Figure 5: Comint Support Instruction - Page 2 - Enlarged view (2)

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**Staff Sergeants:**

Processor 1

**Sergeants:**

Operator Cipher 1

Operator Signals 1

Linguists 1

**Corporals:**

Operator Signals 3

**Signalman:**

Operator Signals 5

Total 15

**b. From HQ AFV Language Pool**

**Sergeants:**

Linguists 1

Figure 6: Comint Support Instruction - Page 3 - Enlarged view (1)

Provision of Technical Stores and Equipment

11. The AMF will be responsible for the provision of the technical stores, vehicles and equipment required for the AMF DSU from Australia.

12. Where specialist stores are not available from Australia, arrangements will be made on the National level for the US NSA organisation to provide these stores in theatre.

Timing

13. The AMF DSU will arrive in Vietnam by 14 Jun 66. A period of three weeks training will be required after arrival to ensure the personnel are familiar with US NSA methods of operation. The target date for the AMF DSU operations at 1 ATF is 1 Jul 66.

Terms of Reference

14. The terms of reference for the Officer Commanding the AMF DSU are attached as Annex A to this instruction.

*Figure 7: Comint Support Instruction - Page 3 - Enlarged view (2)*

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### Personal Security

15. Indoctrinated personnel only will be employed in or with the AMF DSU.

16. All AMF DSU personnel will be briefed on a cover story to cover the operations of the DSU. This cover story will be based on Radio Research which is the similar cover story applied to US NSA operations in Vietnam.

17. The AMF DSU will follow security instructions issued for US NSA organisations when using or handling items of equipment of US origin.

### Physical Security

18. The following minimum security precautions will be taken:

a. A wire security fence will be erected around the operational area of the DSU.

b. Only indoctrinated personnel will be allowed within the DSU compound.

c. Security containers will be provided for all sensitive material. Such material when not in use will be stored in these containers.

d. All waste material will be destroyed by fire.

e. An armed guard will be on duty within the DSU compound 24 hours daily.

19. Detailed security instructions are contained in the terms of reference for the OC LMF ISU attached as Annex A.

Hazardous Operations

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20. No person with a detailed comint knowledge will be used on hazardous operations where his capture or interrogation could be a substantial risk to the security of comint.

Administration

21. Responsibility for Administration

a. The LMF DSU is NOT a self contained unit and therefore must be administered by a unit within 1 ATF.

*Figure 9: Comint Support Instruction - Page 4 - Enlarged view (2)*

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b. In the interests of security it is suggested that this responsibility be given to 103 Signal Squadron.

17 Jun 66

*W. Carson*  
Colonel  
Director of Military Intelligence

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Figure 10: Comint Support Instruction - Page 5 - Enlarged view (1)