

Recovered Memories: Project
CHECO and the Air Force
Experience in Vietnam

Dashboard Directions



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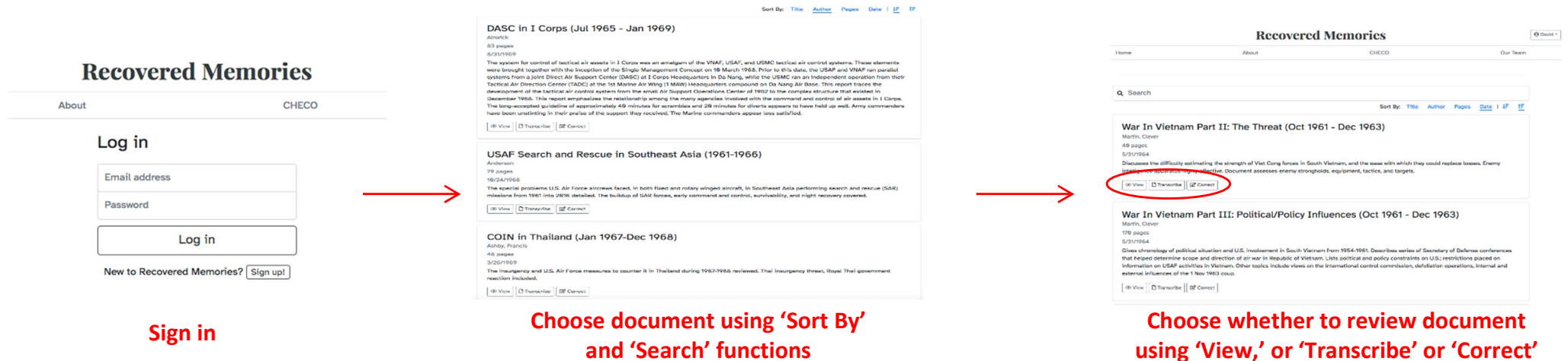
Using the “Recovered Memories” Application Transcribing/Correcting Project CHECO Reports

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- The purpose of this application is two-fold:
 - determine if there is a correlation among different factors associated with transcription or correction accuracy
 - build a database of textually digitized Project CHECO reports for creation of a website and other uses
- All documents used in this application have been approved for public release by the U.S. government
- Personally identifiable information will be anonymized, not be available to the researcher, and not be associated with individual performance

Quick Start

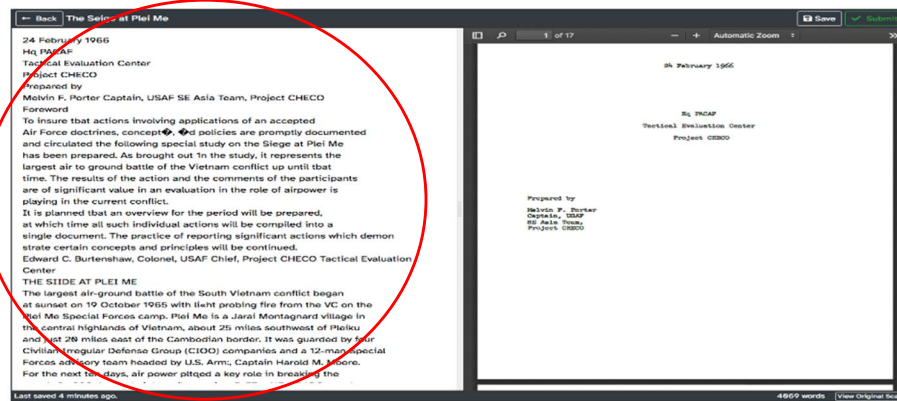
This is a quick-start guide to navigating and using the Recovered Memories application. For more detailed instructions, see the rest of this guide. **IMPORTANT NOTE: BECAUSE THIS APPLICATION REQUIRES MANIPULATION OF DOCUMENTS, IT WORKS BEST ON A LAPTOP OR DESKTOP COMPUTER.**



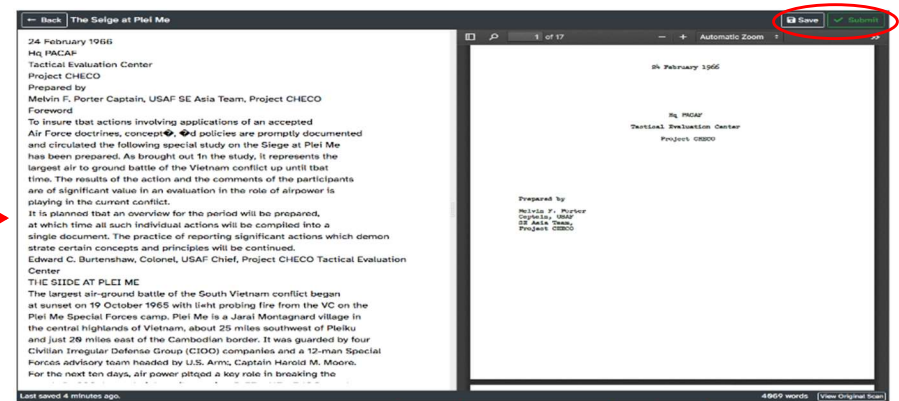
NOTE: Due to unresolvable compatibility issues, we strongly suggest NOT USING Microsoft Edge or Internet Explorer.

Quick Start (cont'd)

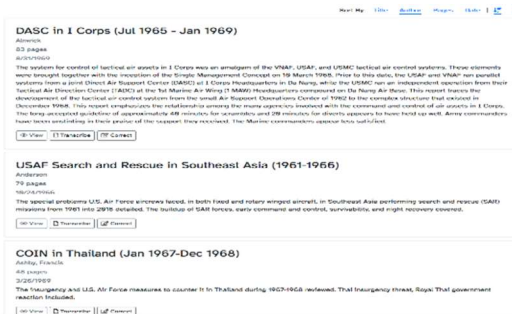
This is a quick-start guide to navigating and using the Recovered Memories application. For more detailed instructions, see the rest of this guide. **IMPORTANT NOTE: BECAUSE THIS APPLICATION REQUIRES MANIPULATION OF DOCUMENTS, IT WORKS BEST ON A LAPTOP OR DESKTOP COMPUTER.**



Transcribe or correct using guidelines found later in this document



Save to work on later; or Submit when complete



Repeat if you would like to process another document

Dashboard Instructions

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Familiarization

- The dashboard serves two functions:
 - to see and arrange all 112 Project CHECO reports in the app
 - to transcribe/correct and then submit completed documents
- Sort documents by title, author, page length, or date (default)
- Limit titles by key word search
- Topics range from battles lasting a day or two; lengthy, full-scale operations; command and control; foreign air forces; and many more.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** all documents used in this application have been approved for public release by the U.S. government

The screenshot displays the 'Recovered Memories' dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'About', 'CHECO', and 'Our Team'. A user profile 'David' is visible in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search'. To the right of the search bar, there is a 'Sort By' dropdown menu with options: 'Title', 'Author', 'Pages', 'Date', and 'Filter'. The main content area shows two document entries. The first entry is 'War In Vietnam Part II: The Threat (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)' by 'Martin, Clever', with '40 pages' and a date of '5/31/1964'. The description states: 'Discusses the difficulty estimating the strength of Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam, and the ease with which they could replace losses. Enemy intelligence apparatus highly effective. Document assesses enemy strongholds, equipment, tactics, and targets.' Below the description are three buttons: 'View', 'Transcribe', and 'Correct'. The second entry is 'War In Vietnam Part III: Political/Policy Influences (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)' by 'Martin, Clever', with '170 pages' and a date of '5/31/1964'. The description states: 'Gives chronology of political situation and U.S. involvement in South Vietnam from 1954-1961. Describes series of Secretary of Defense conferences that helped determine scope and direction of air war in Republic of Vietnam. Lists political and policy constraints on U.S.; restrictions placed on information on USAF activities in Vietnam. Other topics include views on the international control commission, defoliation operations, internal and external influences of the 1 Nov 1963 coup.' Below the description are three buttons: 'View', 'Transcribe', and 'Correct'.

Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Documents

- Each document box includes title, author, page length, date written, and a synopsis of the work
 - default organization of documents is by date written, earliest to most recent
- Sort options to rearrange or limit documents
 - option for top-bottom, bottom-top view

Document box

The screenshot shows the 'Recovered Memories' dashboard. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'About', 'CHECO', and 'Our Team'. A user profile 'David' is in the top right. Below the navigation bar is a search bar and a 'Sort By' dropdown menu. The 'Sort By' menu is open, showing options: 'Title', 'Author', 'Pages', 'Date', and a toggle for 'Ascending' (currently set to 'Descending'). Red arrows point from the text 'Sort options' to the 'Sort By' menu and from 'Option to reverse list' to the toggle. Below the menu, two document boxes are listed. Each box contains the title, author, page length, date, and a synopsis. At the bottom of each box are buttons for 'View', 'Transcribe', and 'Correct'. A red arrow points from the text 'Document box' to the first document box.

Recovered Memories David

Home About CHECO Our Team

Search

Sort By: Title Author Pages Date | ☒ Ascending ☐ Descending

War In Vietnam Part II: The Threat (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)
Martin, Clever
40 pages
5/31/1964
Discusses the difficulty estimating the strength of Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam, and the ease with which they could replace losses. Enemy intelligence apparatus highly effective. Document assesses enemy strongholds, equipment, tactics, and targets.
[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

War In Vietnam Part III: Political/Policy Influences (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)
Martin, Clever
170 pages
5/31/1964
Gives chronology of political situation and U.S. involvement in South Vietnam from 1954-1961. Describes series of Secretary of Defense conferences that helped determine scope and direction of air war in Republic of Vietnam. Lists political and policy constraints on U.S.; restrictions placed on information on USAF activities in Vietnam. Other topics include views on the international control commission, defoliation operations, internal and external influences of the 1 Nov 1963 coup.
[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Documents Arranged by Title

- If you would like to alphabetize studies by title, use 'Sort By' 'Title' to arrange

Alphabetize by title

**Reverse
alphabetize**

Q Search

Sort By: Title Author Pages Date | 1F 1F

7 AF Local Base Defense (Jul 1965 - Dec 1968)
Lee
66 pages
7/1/1969
USAF air bases made a lucrative target for both penetrative and standoff attacks by the enemy. Evolving tactics by Viet Cong, limited funding, manpower limitations, and political and environmental constraints emphasized in this document.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

7 AF TACC Operations (Nov 1967 - May 1968)
Wade
67 pages
18/15/1968
Airstrike coordination, the organization of the 7 AF TACC, and general operations in Southeast Asia during 1967 and the first months of 1968, detailed.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

A Shau Valley Campaign, Dec 68-May 69
Aton, Thorndale
58 pages
18/15/1969
Road interdiction, support to troops in contact, and bunker assaults the focus of this report during operations near the Laotian border in the first months of 1969.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

ARC LIGHT (Jun 1967 - Dec 1968)

Q Search

Sort By: Title Author Pages Date | 1F 1F

Yankee Team
MacNaughton
72 pages
3/8/1966
Discusses USAF and U.S. Navy ?YANKEE TEAM? reconnaissance efforts in Laos from mid-1964 to mid-1965. The loosening of restrictions on U.S. forces is a central theme. YANKEE TEAM contributed to the prevention of enemy takeover within Laos.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

War In Vietnam Part III: Political/Policy Influences (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)
Martin, Clever
178 pages
5/31/1964
Gives chronology of political situation and U.S. involvement in South Vietnam from 1954-1961. Describes series of Secretary of Defense conferences that helped determine scope and direction of air war in Republic of Vietnam. Lists political and policy constraints on U.S.; restrictions placed on information on USAF activities in Vietnam. Other topics include views on the international control commission, defoliation operations, internal and external influences of the 1 Nov 1963 coup.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

War In Vietnam Part II: The Threat (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)
Martin, Clever
49 pages
5/31/1964
Discusses the difficulty estimating the strength of Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam, and the ease with which they could replace losses. Enemy intelligence apparatus highly effective. Document assesses enemy strongholds, equipment, tactics, and targets.

Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Documents Arranged by Author

- If you would like to group studies by author
 - use 'Sort By' link to arrange

Alphabetize by author

Reverse alphabetize

Sort By: [Title](#) [Author](#) [Pages](#) [Date](#) | [LF](#) [TF](#)

DASC in I Corps (Jul 1965 - Jan 1969)
Airwick
83 pages
8/31/1969
The system for control of tactical air assets in I Corps was an amalgam of the VNAF, USAF, and USMC tactical air control systems. These elements were brought together with the inception of the Single Management Concept on 19 March 1968. Prior to this date, the USAF and VNAF ran parallel systems from a Joint Direct Air Support Center (DASC) at I Corps Headquarters in Da Nang, while the USMC ran an independent operation from their Tactical Air Direction Center (TADC) at the 1st Marine Air Wing (1 MAW) Headquarters compound on Da Nang Air Base. This report traces the development of the tactical air control system from the small Air Support Operations Center of 1962 to the complex structure that existed in December 1968. This report emphasizes the relationship among the many agencies involved with the command and control of air assets in I Corps. The long-accepted guideline of approximately 40 minutes for scrambles and 20 minutes for divers appears to have held up well. Army commanders have been unstinting in their praise of the support they received. The Marine commanders appear less satisfied.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

USAF Search and Rescue in Southeast Asia (1961-1966)
Anderson
79 pages
16/24/1966
The special problems U.S. Air Force aircrews faced, in both fixed and rotary winged aircraft, in Southeast Asia performing search and rescue (SAR) missions from 1961 into 1966 detailed. The buildup of SAR forces, early command and control, survivability, and night recovery covered.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

COIN in Thailand (Jan 1967-Dec 1968)
Ashby, Francis
48 pages
3/26/1969
The insurgency and U.S. Air Force measures to counter it in Thailand during 1967-1968 reviewed. Thai insurgency threat, Royal Thai government reaction included.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Sort By: [Title](#) [Author](#) [Pages](#) [Date](#) | [LF](#) [TF](#)

Project Red Horse
Willard
35 pages
9/1/1969
Planning, organizing, and executing a mobile Civil Engineering unit capable of fast construction and repair of airfields and other facilities detailed. Report covers time period from 1965, when the Secretary of Defense requested study of concept, through RED HORSE employment in South Vietnam in 1969.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Assault Airlift Operations
Whitaker, Paterson
16 pages
2/23/1967
The problems associated with the growth of the assault airlift mission through mid-1966 discussed. Geographic consideration and the general military situation combined to place transportation responsibility largely on assault airlift, creating logistical handicaps, and strains on equipment, personnel, facilities, and support.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Air to Air Encounters Over NVN (Jul 1967 - Dec 1968)
Weaver
48 pages
8/36/1969
Tactics, equipment, and proficiency in air-to-air encounters discussed. Four distinct periods of operations before bombing halt of 1 Nov 1968 summarized.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

7 AF TACC Operations (Nov 1967 - May 1968)
Wade

8

Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Documents Arranged by Page Length

- If you would like to transcribe/correct a shorter (or longer) document, group studies by 'Pages'

Sort by 'Page Length'

Longest to shortest 'Page Length'

Sort By: [Title](#) [Author](#) [Pages](#) [Date](#) | [1f](#) [1f](#)

The Fall of A Shau

Smith
11 pages
4/10/1966

This study details air support to A Shau, a U.S. Special Forces and Vietnamese irregular defense group camp near the Laotian border, twenty miles southwest of Hue. A-1 pilot Maj Bernard Fisher earned the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

The Defense of Lima Site 36

Porter
11 pages
5/25/1966

The February 1966 defense of Lima Site 36 in Laos against Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops discussed. The battle featured the first use of napalm by U.S. aircraft in the war.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Operation SILVER BAYONET

Porter
11 pages
2/28/1966

SILVER BAYONET was a November 1965 follow-up to the battle of Plei Me. SILVER BAYONET is associated with the battle of Ia Drang. American air support inflicted heavy enemy casualties and helped keep U.S. losses to a minimum.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

The Defense of Attopeu

Porter
14 pages
5/10/1966

Sort By: [Title](#) [Author](#) [Pages](#) [Date](#) | [1f](#) [1f](#)

War In Vietnam Part III: Political/Policy Influences (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)

Martin, Clever
179 pages
5/30/1964

Gives chronology of political situation and U.S. involvement in South Vietnam from 1954-1961. Describes series of Secretary of Defense conferences that helped determine scope and direction of air war in Republic of Vietnam. Lists political and policy constraints on U.S.; restrictions placed on information on USAF activities in Vietnam. Other topics include views on the international control commission, defoliation operations, internal and external influences of the 1 Nov 1963 coup.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

ROLLING THUNDER (Jul 1965 - Dec 1966)

Melgren, Bonetti
141 pages
7/15/1967

The policies and plans involved with air operations against North Vietnam (ROLLING THUNDER), from mid-1965 through 1966 examined.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Impact of Darkness and Weather on Air Ops in SEA (1965-1968)

Harrison
127 pages
3/10/1969

Tactics, techniques, and innovations used to counter problems inherent with night and bad weather operations discussed.

[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

The War in Vietnam, Jan-Jun 1967

Barnett
126 pages
4/27/1968

Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Documents Arranged by Date

- If you would like to arrange by publish date
- Documents default to 'Date' sort

Sort by 'Date'

Sort by most recent to oldest

Sort By: [Title](#) [Author](#) [Pages](#) [Date](#) [1F](#) [1F](#)

War In Vietnam Part II: The Threat (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)
Martin, Clever
46 pages
5/31/1964
Discusses the difficulty estimating the strength of Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam, and the ease with which they could replace losses. Enemy intelligence apparatus highly effective. Document assesses enemy strongholds, equipment, tactics, and targets.
[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

War In Vietnam Part III: Political/Policy Influences (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)
Martin, Clever
170 pages
5/31/1964
Gives chronology of political situation and U.S. involvement in South Vietnam from 1954-1961. Describes series of Secretary of Defense conferences that helped determine scope and direction of air war in Republic of Vietnam. Lists political and policy constraints on U.S.; restrictions placed on information on USAF activities in Vietnam. Other topics include views on the international control commission, defoliation operations, internal and external influences of the 1 Nov 1963 coup.
[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Nguyen Cao Ky
Sams
10 pages
7/14/1965
An optimistic examination of South Vietnamese Air Force leader Nguyen Cao Ky. Details the promotion of Ky from a Lieutenant Colonel in the VNAF to its commander in less than two years. On 18 Jun 1965, Ky named Chief Executive of the National Leadership Committee after two years of political turmoil that followed coup against President Diem. Ky retained position as commander of the VNAF.
[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Sort By: [Title](#) [Author](#) [Pages](#) [Date](#) [1F](#) [1F](#)

USAF SAC Operations in SEA
Trest
53 pages
12/17/1969
This report addresses two mission elements of the Strategic Air Command's 3d Air Division: B-52 operations in Southeast Asia (SEA) and KC-135 air refueling support of the Seventh Air Force's tactical strike operations. Other mission elements discussed, to include radio relay and ELINT operations. SAC OPLAN 52-65, issued in mid-1964, comprised the framework for ARC LIGHT bombing operations against selected targets in SEA with conventional bombs; OPLAN 18-65 provided the outline for KC-135 refueling operations in the Western Pacific and SEA. Implementation of these plans in 1965 provides the historical point of departure for this report that treats the evolution of these operations through December 1968. Organization, forces, mission, and command, control, and coordination arrangements for B-52 ARC LIGHT and KC-135 YOUNG TIGER operations detailed
[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Air munitions in SEA (1965-1969)
Montagliani
30 pages
11/15/1969
Air munitions in SEA' discusses the supply of air-delivered munitions to USAF units in Southeast Asia (SEA). Tracing the development of the supply system from 1965 to late 1969, it includes the problems that arose and actions taken to alleviate them. It addresses the storage, handling, and loading of air munitions in RVN. Also included are selected problem areas confronting air- munitions personnel--quality control, manning, handling equipment, explosive safety--and the continuing effort to correct deficiencies.
[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

A Shau Valley Campaign, Dec 68-May 69
Aton, Thorndale
58 pages
10/15/1969
Road interdiction, support to troops in contact, and bunker assaults the focus of this report during operations near the Laotian border in the first months of 1969.
[View](#) [Transcribe](#) [Correct](#)

Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Limit, Sort Documents Using Search Function

- Type key words into search bar; document list automatically reflects search

Search term

The screenshot displays two side-by-side views of the Project CHECO dashboard. The left view shows search results for the term 'Sams', and the right view shows results for 'special forces'. Red circles highlight the search bars at the top of each panel. A red arrow points from the text 'Search term' to the search bar on the right. In the left panel, the first document 'Nguyen Cao Ky' has 'Sams' circled in red. The second document 'First Test and Combat Use of the AC-47' has 'Sams, Burnshaw' circled. The third document 'Operation HARVEST MOON' has 'Sams' circled. In the right panel, the first document 'The Seige at Plei Me' has 'special forces' circled in its description. The second document 'The Fall of A Shau' has 'Special Forces' circled in its description. The third document 'The Fall of Site 85' has 'special forces' circled in its description. The fourth document 'USAF Support of Special Forces in SEA (Nov 1961 - Feb 1969)' has 'Special Forces' circled in its title. Each document card includes a title, author, page count, date, a brief description, and buttons for 'View', 'Transcribe', and 'Correct'. The 'Sort By' dropdown is set to 'Date' in both panels.

Document Title	Author	Pages	Date	Description
Nguyen Cao Ky	Sams	19 pages	7/14/1965	An optimistic examination of South Vietnamese Air Force leader Nguyen Cao Ky. Details the promotion of Ky from a Lieutenant Colonel in the VNAF to its commander in less than two years. On 18 Jun 1965, Ky named Chief Executive of the National Leadership Committee after two years of political turmoil that followed coup against President Diem. Ky retained position as commander of the VNAF.
The Seige at Plei Me	Porter	17 pages	2/24/1966	Air support to the besieged special forces camp at Plei Me discussed. The week-long battle in October 1965 was the largest close air support operation to date.
First Test and Combat Use of the AC-47	Sams, Burnshaw	44 pages	12/8/1965	Based on tests in Vietnam during late 1964 and early 1965, the strengths and shortcomings of the AC-47 aircraft discussed. Several accounts of night airborne alert missions and flare/strike operations included. Although not without opposition, the Air Force was enthused about the platform's potential, particularly in night operations.
The Fall of A Shau	Sams	11 pages	4/18/1966	This study details air support to A Shau, a U.S. Special Forces and Vietnamese irregular defense group camp near the Laotian border, twenty miles southwest of Hue. A-1 pilot Maj Bernard Fisher earned the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle.
The Fall of Site 85	Vallentyne	52 pages	8/9/1968	Lima Site 85 in Laos, a remote TACAN, radar bombing, and special forces site, lost in March 1968 to North Vietnamese forces. More than 42 years later, Chief Master Sergeant Richard Etchberger would receive the Medal of Honor for his actions that day.
Operation HARVEST MOON	Sams	19 pages	3/3/1966	December 1965 joint-combined operation in Song Ly Ly Valley between a U.S. Marine Corps/South Vietnamese force and a Viet Cong force. U.S. Air Force input was initially ignored, but air operations proved critical as the ground situation deteriorated. Inter-service and inter-nation rivalry adversely affected the conduct of the battle.
USAF Support of Special Forces in SEA (Nov 1961 - Feb 1969)	Sams, Aton			

Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Working with the Documents

- Once you've become familiar with the collection and found something you would be interested in working with, decide whether you would like to simply transcribe your document from scratch, or correct an existing text file that has been generated through optical character recognition (OCR) software.
 - 'View' allows you to take a look at a cleaned up version of the original document just to get an idea of its content
 - 'Transcribe' opens up two windows on your screen, one blank (for inputting your transcription), and one showing the document
 - 'Correct' opens up two windows on your screen, one a 'text file' in need of correction, and one showing the original document

The screenshot shows the 'Recovered Memories' dashboard. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, About, CHECO, and Our Team. A user profile 'David' is in the top right. Below the navigation bar is a search bar and a 'Sort By' dropdown menu with options: Title, Author, Pages, Date, and a list icon. The main content area displays two document entries. The first entry is 'War In Vietnam Part II: The Threat (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)' by Martin, Clever, with 49 pages and a date of 5/31/1964. It includes a brief description and three buttons: View, Transcribe, and Correct. The second entry is 'War In Vietnam Part III: Political/Policy Influences (Oct 1961 - Dec 1963)' by Martin, Clever, with 179 pages and a date of 5/31/1964. It also includes a brief description and the same three buttons. Red arrows point from the word 'Options' below to the 'View', 'Transcribe', and 'Correct' buttons of the second document entry.

Options

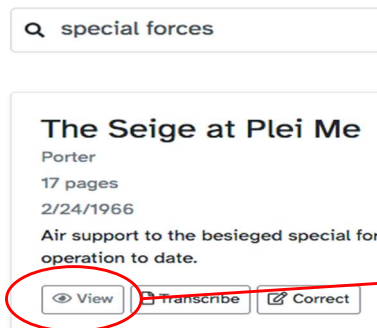
Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

13

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Working with the Documents

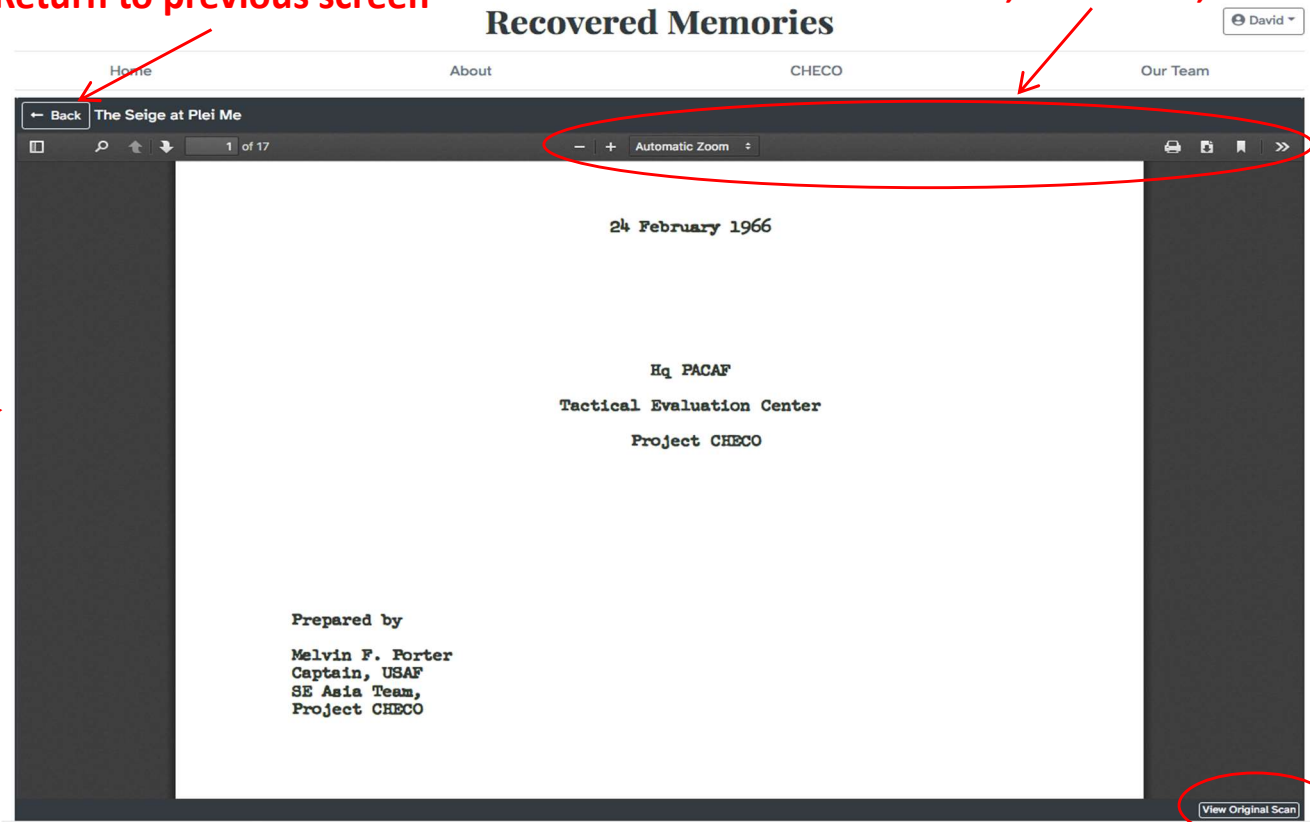
- 'View:'



- Purpose of 'View:' to see if you would be interested transcribing or correcting the document
- Controls within frame allow standard document manipulation, to include download save, etc.; as well as viewing the original scan

Return to previous screen

Print, download, etc



View the original, "dirty" PDF scan

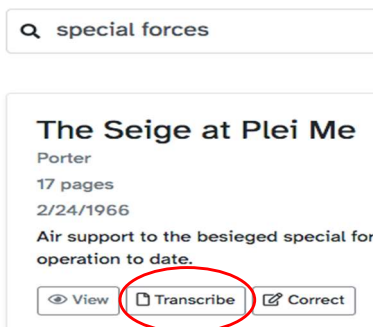
Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

14

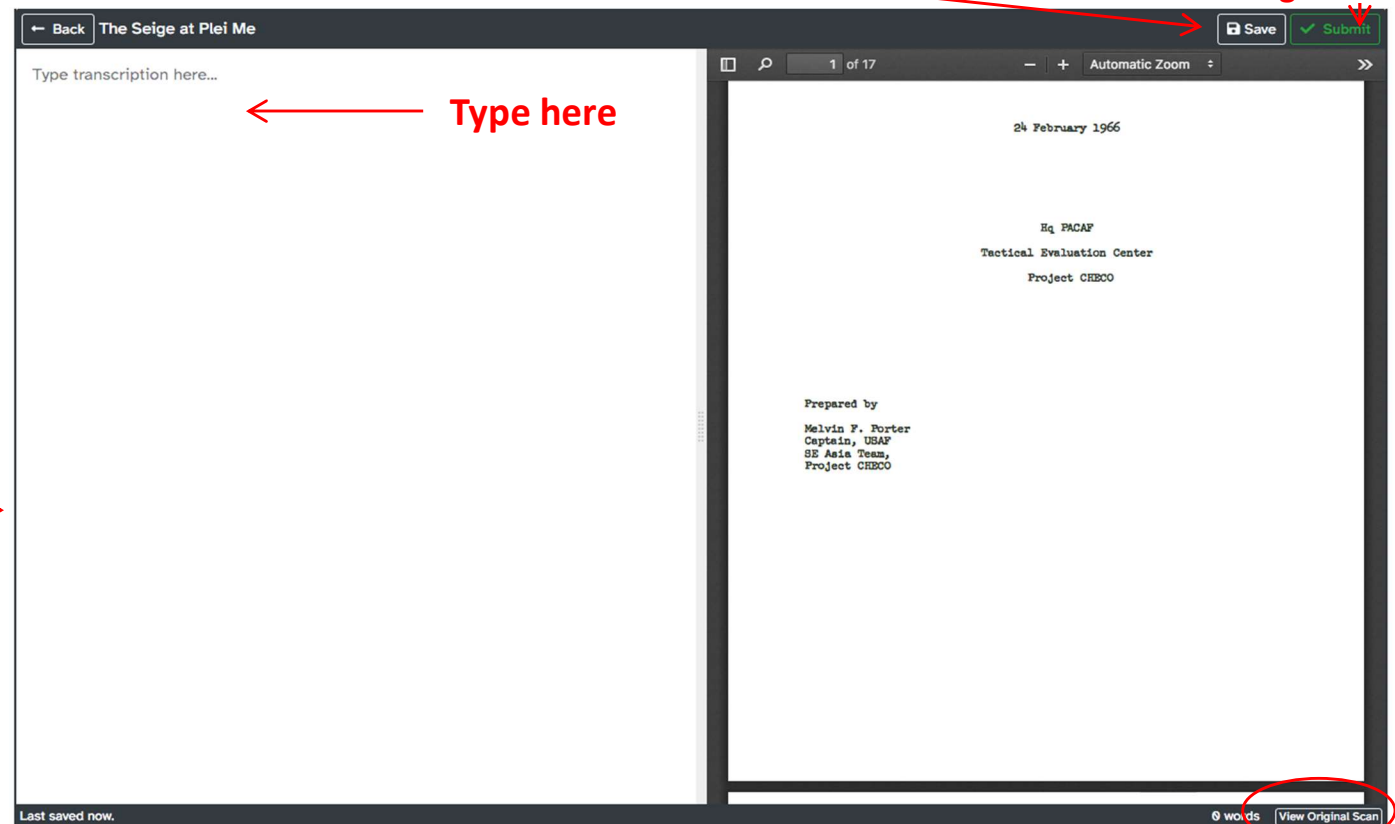
This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Working with the Documents

- 'Transcribe:'



- To transcribe the document on right, simply retype it into the blank frame on left



IMPORTANT NOTE: When transcribing a document, it is best to use a laptop or desktop computer.

View the original, "dirty" PDF scan

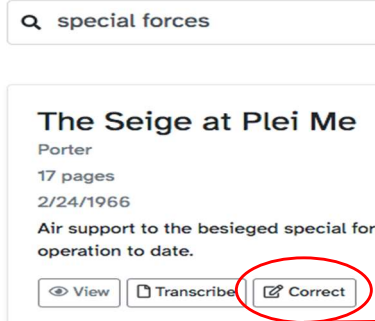
Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

15

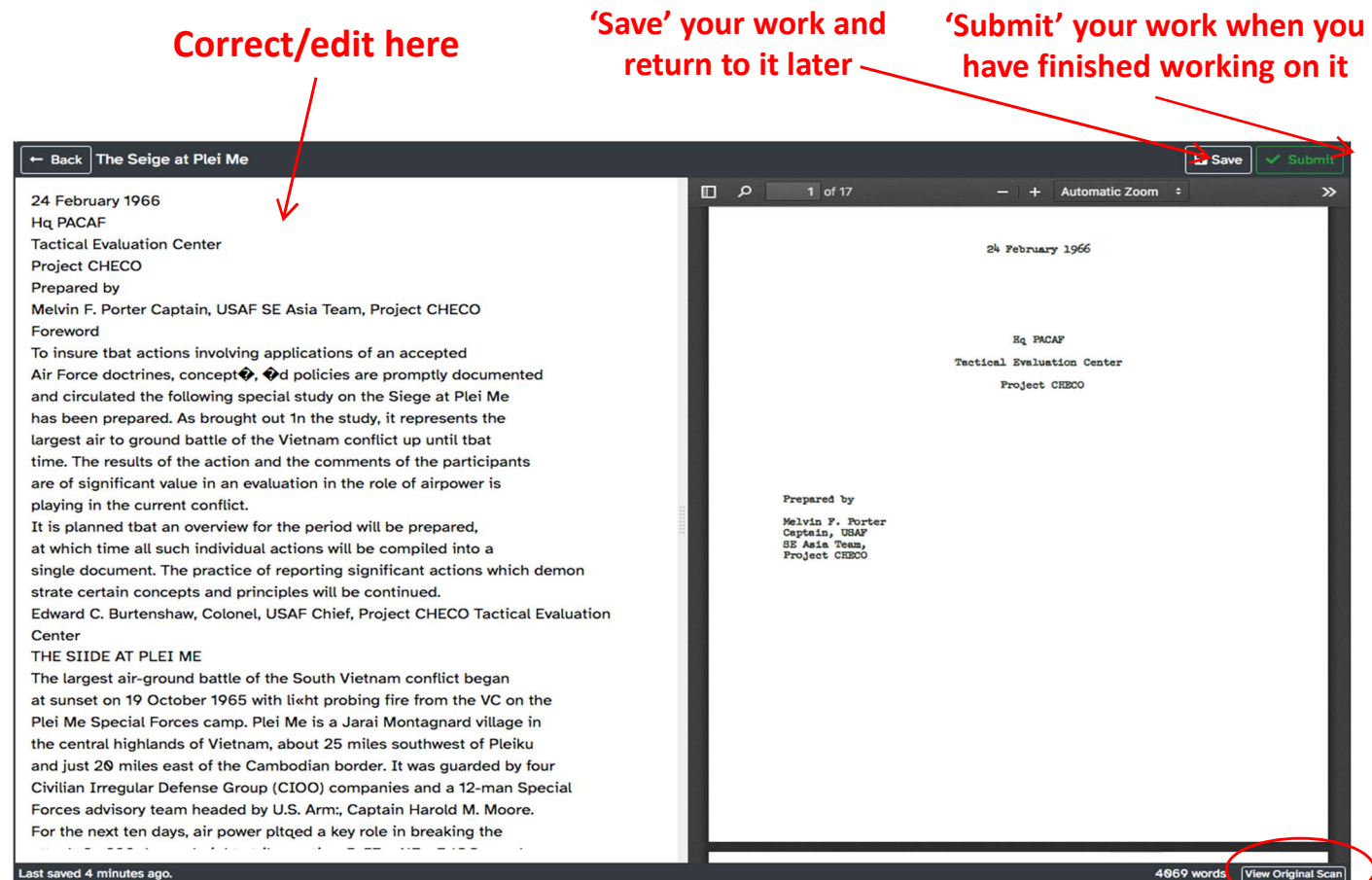
This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

Working with the Documents

- 'Correct:'



- To correct the document, simply review existing text (frame on left), compare it to original (frame on right), and edit as necessary



IMPORTANT: When correcting a document, it is best to use a laptop or desktop computer.

View the original, "dirty" PDF scan

Dashboard Instructions (cont'd)

This section will guide and assist you in navigating the dashboard, and how to use it to accurately textually digitize Project CHECO documents.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are unsure about words/characters/blanks spaces, etc. in the “preprocessed” document you are working from, open the “original” scan (located in bottom right of dashboard – see previous two slides) and use it for clarification.

General Guidelines for Transcribing or Correcting a Document

These guidelines address the format to be used for textually digitizing a Project CHECO report.

Getting Started

After you have decided upon a document, you will be prompted to select a method for textually digitizing it, either to transcribe, or correct an existing text file with a varying amount of errors. There is a blank frame provided for the work. In either case, the following guidelines apply.

Housekeeping

- If you desire, save your work as a .txt file to your computer. Although this application is designed to automatically save your work to a server, in the unlikely event of a malfunction a backup of your work will ensure it is not lost.
- Using a program such as NotePad to create the .txt file is a best practice. Word processing programs such as Microsoft Word often automatically inserts unnecessary programming.

Format Requirements

- **Do not include footnote numbers in your work.** Authors generally footnoted their work as shown in the “original” scanned document. The footnotes have generally been removed in the “preprocessed” version (what you will work from), but in those cases where a number escaped removal, do not include it.

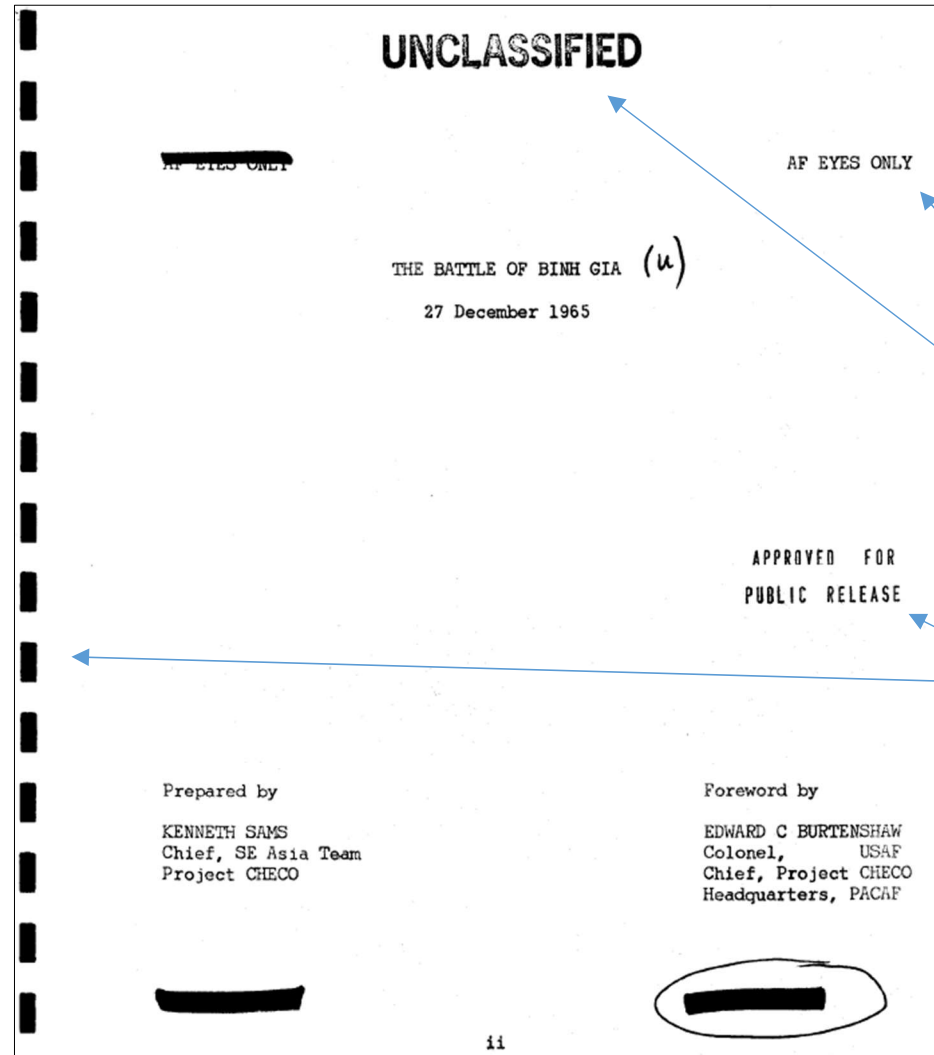
General Guidelines for Transcribing or Correcting a Document (cont'd)

Format Requirements (cont'd)

- **Do not include page numbers.** Similarly, written Project CHECO reports featured page numbers. These should not be included in the final transcript/corrected file.
- **Do not include hyphens that break up a single word.** In the days of typewriters, these were most often used at the end of a line when a word was too long to fit.
- **Include hyphens deliberately inserted between words by the author.** Most often used to indicate a compound adjective, these hyphens should REMAIN in your transcript.
- Do **NOT** correct misspellings that occurred in original document.
- **DO** correct misspellings that resulted from the OCR.
- **Use single-spacing between lines.**
- **Use a single space between sentences.** Another remnant of the typewriter era is the use of two spaces after sentences. Modern technique – generally, but not universally – calls for a single space.
- **Use two hard returns to indicate a new paragraph; do not use a tab.** See example.
- Inconsistent translation of non-standard punctuation within text will not be considered an error.

This is an unedited reproduction of a page from an early CHECO report, a “dirty” PDF.

To clean up document, it was “preprocessed” to remove as many stray marks, photographs, charts, unnecessary text, footnotes, page numbers, and old classification markings as possible.



EXAMPLES OF ITEMS
REMOVED DURING
PREPROCESSING

Previous page appearance after preprocessing

THE BATTLE OF BINH GIA

27 December 1965

Prepared by

KENNETH SAMS
Chief, SE Asia Team
Project CHECO

Foreword by

EDWARD C BURTENSHAW
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Project CHECO
Headquarters, PACAF

Binding marks, random speckling removed

ORIGINAL SCANNED PAGE

Footnotes removed

Page numbers, strike-out marks removed

[REDACTED]

was committed, and supported by tactical fighters and helicopters, established itself in the center of town. The 30th took the western third of the hamlet by nightfall and all units were ordered to hold. Three Army helicopters were shot down; two of them recovered in the day's action. USAF/VNAF aircraft were called upon for only sixteen sorties, the armed helicopters doing much of the close support. ^{2/}

The 4th Marine Battalion, consisting of 428 marines, left Bien Hoa at 0835, 30 December 1964, by Army helicopter, for the Binh Gia area. After linking up with the two Ranger battalions, they cleared the hamlet, encountering no VC resistance. The enemy had withdrawn but he was still in the area waiting for the right time to attack.

The right time came the following morning when the 2nd Company of the 4th Marine Battalion, accompanied by U.S. Marine Advisor, Captain E.P. Eller, moved out at 0700 to the area about one kilometer southeast of Binh Gia, where the Army helicopter had been shot down on 29 December. The company was supported by only armed Huey's and two A-1H's. Around noon the battalion lost radio contact with the enemy. At 1140 one of the Huey's, which was in contact with the Company, relayed the message that Captain Eller was in deep trouble and was requesting all available fire support. A few minutes later, the Huey lost radio contact. ^{3/}

By noon the entire Marine battalion was committed. They made their way to the crash site and established a perimeter defense. When they reached Captain Eller, who had been shot in the nose, the full extent of the Viet Cong commitment was learned. Capt Eller, before being evacuated, reported to Major

Cap 2 [REDACTED]

PREVIOUS PAGE AFTER PREPROCESSING

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Optical character recognition software was then applied to the preprocessed document, resulting in an imperfect .TXT file. The page to the right is an example.

Errors in an OCRd document are generally of three types: 1) misspelled characters (substitutions), 2) inclusion of incorrect symbols or spaces (insertions), and removal of a character or space (deletions). This page has all three.

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27 December 1965
Prepared by
KENNETH SAMS Chief, SE Asia Team Project CHECO
Foreword by
EDWARD C BURTENSHAW Colonel,
USAF Chief, Project CHECO Headquarters, PACAF
FOREWORD
The doctrine of close air support requires that its documented application constantly be evaluated for validity and currency. The Battle of Binh Gia affords a classic case wherein close air support, or in this case, the lack of it, contributed significantly to the outcome of the battle. The failure to employ available air power, and the use of armed helicopters as a substitute, with marginal results, brought about a major change in the employment of U.S. air power within South Vietnam. Binh Gia was the first of the large engagements within the past year in which tactical air power has proved to be the deciding factor, The initial press reports in this action generated considerable concern at Headquarters USAF and resulted in improved theatre tactical air procedures and capabilities, a study of the Battle of Plei Mai, currently in production, illustrates the favorable results that can be achieved when tactical air support is properly employed in sufficient quantity.

THE BATTLE OF BINH GIA
Perhaps no single action of the Vietnam war in 1964 did so much to open the eyes of ground commanders to tactical air power as the Battle of Binh Gia, which was fought in the last days of the year and turned out to be the greatest single engagement of the war to date. Binh Gia, from all available evidence, was a victory for the Viet Cong. At a critical stage of this battle, failure to use air power which was available over the battle area cost the lives of many Americans and changed the course of the battle for the worse. The battle started on 27 December 1964, when the Viet Cong attacked and over-ran the New Life Hamlet of Binh Gia, in Phuoc Tuy Province, about forty miles southeast of Saigon. The following day, two Ranger companies tried to relieve the hamlet, but after penetrating 300 meters were forced to withdraw in the face of stiff resistance from what was estimated to be a reinforced VC battalion. The Rangers, in this day's action, were supported by three armed helicopters and no USAF/VNAF air support was requested. The next day, elements of two Ranger battalions were air-lifted by armed Hueys into the landing zones near the hamlet. The 30th Ranger Battalion tried to penetrate the hamlet from the west, but could not get past its perimeter. To assist the 30th, two companies of the 33rd were air-lifted in two LZ's and came under immediate fire from the enemy. One company fought its way to safety, but the other was over-run. By mid-afternoon, the rest of the Thirty-third

Errors: misinterpreted characters (substitution).

Errors: misinterpreted case (substitution).

Error: added character (insertion).

Error: missed spacing (deletion).

Corrected OCR page
.txt file.

Whether you choose to
transcribe or correct,
this is an example of
the end product you
will produce in the left
frame of the
application's
dashboard.

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Definitions

- **Original document:** The original Project CHECO documents were scanned from microfilm or paper. The result is an image-based, “dirty” .pdf file.
- **Pre-processed document.** Before an original document can be processed through optical character recognition software, it must be pre-processed either manually or automatically to remove unnecessary or unreadable data. For Project CHECO reports, pre-processed documents had the following removed (insofar as possible):
 - Artifacts from the scanning, copying, or microfilming process
 - Photographs
 - Charts
 - Page numbers
 - Footnotes
 - Classification markings
 - Distribution List
 - Bibliography
 - Miscellaneous text

Definitions (cont'd)

- **OCR:** Optical character recognition is a process used to convert images of text into digital text. For archival documents, OCR is generally used to aid in search functions, but not to create 100 percent accurate textual digitization of a document. For this project, all CHECO reports have been run through OCR software in order to give participants the option of correcting the OCR product rather than transcribing the document in its entirety. Errors resulting from the OCR process generally include:
 - Substitutions, i.e. mistaking one character for another
 - Deletions, i.e. not reading a character and thus omitting it
 - Additions, i.e. adding an extra character where one does not exist in the original file

Summary

- In short:
 - The purpose of this application is two-fold:
 - determine if there is a correlation among different factors associated with transcription or correction accuracy
 - build a database of textually digitized Project CHECO reports for creation of a website and other uses
 - Personally identifiable information will be anonymized, not be available to the researcher, and not be associated with individual performance
 - All Project CHECO reports have been approved for public release by the USAF
- Steps:
 - To sign up, fill out demographic questionnaire and consent form
 - Log in to review the Project CHECO documents available for textual digitization
 - Select a document
 - Decide whether you want to TRANSCRIBE or CORRECT an OCR'd document
 - Perform the work
 - 'Submit' when complete
 - Complete short survey
 - Repeat