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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY



DECEMBER 1968

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CG, III MAF ltr 3K/jld 5750 Ser: 0010469
dated 20 Jan 1969

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

1. The subject chronology has been reviewed for completeness and
is forwarded herewith.



fr W. E. DEEDS
By direction

Copy to:
CG, III MAF

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COMMANDING GENERAL
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
FPO. SAN FRANCISCO 96602

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3K/jld

5750

Ser:

20 Jan 1969

0010469

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From: Commanding General
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8A

Encl: (1) III MAF Command Chronology, December 1968

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

Marion C. Dalby
MARION C. DALBY
By direction

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HEADQUARTERS
III Marine Amphibious Force
Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December 1968 - 31 December 1968

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

III Marine Amphibious Force

Lieutenant General Robert
E. GUSHMAN Jr.,
U. S. Marine Corps
1Jun67 - 31Dec68

DEPUTY COMMANDER

Major General Rathvon McC.
TOMPKINS, U. S. Marine Corps
26May68 - 20Dec68

Major General Carl A.
YOUNGDALE, U. S. Marine Corps
21Dec68 - 31Dec68

SUBORDINATE UNITS

XXIV Corps

Lieutenant General Richard G.
STILWELL, U. S. Army
1Jul68 - 31Dec68

Third Marine Division

Major General Raymond G. DAVIS,
U. S. Marine Corps
22May68 - 31Dec68

101st Airborne Division
(Airmobile)

Major General Melvin ZAIS,
U. S. Army
19Aug68 - 31Dec68

First Marine Division

Major General Carl A.
YOUNGDALE, U. S. Marine Corps
26Jun68 - 19Dec68

Major General Ormond R.
SIMPSON, U. S. Marine Corps
20Dec68 - 31Dec68

First Marine Aircraft Wing

Major General Charles J.
QUILTER, U. S. Marine Corps
22Jun68 - 31Dec68

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Americal Division

Major General Charles M.
GETTYS, U. S. Army
23May68 - 31Dec68

Force Logistic Command

Brigadier General James A.
FEELEY, U. S. Marine Corps
1Dec68 - 31Dec68Headquarters & Service Company
III Marine Amphibious Force
Headquarters CommandantColonel William K. WHITE,
U. S. Marine Corps
4Oct68 - 31Dec68ATTACHED UNITSSub Unit #1, First Radio
BattalionLieutenant Colonel Patrick J.
FENNELL, U. S. Marine Corps
17Oct68 - 31Dec68

29th Civil Affairs Company

Lieutenant Colonel Robert
R. RAFFERTY, U. S. Army
28Nov68 - 31Dec687th Psychological Operations
BattalionMajor Michael FORTINI,
U. S. Army
25Nov68 - 31Dec682. LOCATION1-31 December 1968, East Danang, Quang Nam Province,
Republic of Vietnam.3. STAFF OFFICERS

Deputy Commanding General, Air

Major General Charles J.
QUILTER, U. S. Marine Corps
22Jun68 - 31Dec68

Chief of Staff

Major General Earl E.
ANDERSON, U. S. Marine Corps
21Dec67 - 31Dec68

Deputy Chief of Staff

Colonel Michael MOSTELLER,
U. S. Marine Corps
5Aug68 - 31Dec68

Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans

Brigadier General Warren K.
BENNETT, U. S. Army
5Sep68 - 31Dec68

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Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1	Colonel Maurice ROSE, U. S. Marine Corps 12Jul68 - 31Dec68
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2	Colonel Ray N. JOENS, U. S. Marine Corps 29Jul68 - 31Dec68
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3	Brigadier General Carl W. HOFFMAN, U. S. Marine Corps 15Aug68 - 31Dec68
Deputy G-3	Colonel Marion G. DALBY, U. S. Marine Corps 10Oct68 - 31Dec68
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4	Colonel Lawrence C. NORTON, U. S. Marine Corps 4Jul68 - 31Dec68
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5	Colonel Howard A. WESTPHALL, U. S. Marine Corps 1Nov68 - 31Dec68
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6	Colonel Bill E. HORNER, U. S. Marine Corps 7Sep68 - 31Dec68
Force Psychological Operations Officer	Colonel Harold CHASE, U. S. Marine Corps 1Aug68 - 31Dec68
Force Supply Officer	Colonel Alfred C. TAVES, U. S. Marine Corps 22Jul68 - 31Dec68
Force Staff Judge Advocate	Colonel Paul W. SEABAUGH, U. S. Marine Corps 5Aug68 - 31Dec68
Force Engineer Officer	Colonel Kenneth R. BLAND, U. S. Marine Corps 22May68 - 31Dec68
Force Adjutant	Major James H. LYLES, U. S. Marine Corps 8Aug68 - 31Dec68

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Assistant Chief of Staff,
Comptroller

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel J.
FORD, U. S. Marine Corps
25Jul68 - 31Dec68

Force Information Services
Officer

Colonel Paul M. MORIARTY,
U. S. Marine Corps
29Jul68 - 31Dec68

Officer in Charge, COC

Lieutenant Colonel James H.
MACLEAN, U. S. Marine Corps
21Jul68 - 31Dec68

Force Food Services Officer

Lieutenant Colonel Leslie P.
DAY, U. S. Marine Corps
28Sep68 - 31Dec68

Force Chaplain

Captain Robert W. RADCLIFFE,
U. S. Navy
5Oct68 - 31Dec68

Force Surgeon

Captain John H. STOVER Jr.,
U. S. Navy
12May68 - 31Dec68

Force Dental Officer

Captain William L. DARNELL Jr.,
U. S. Navy
1Jul68 - 31Dec68

Force Motor Transport Officer

Major Joseph N. EGGLESTON,
U. S. Marine Corps
9Mar68 - 22Dec68

Lieutenant Colonel Ken D.
BARNES, U. S. Marine Corps
23Dec68 - 31Dec68

Force Ordnance Officer

Colonel James LEON,
U. S. Marine Corps
22Sep68 - 31Dec68

Protocol Officer

Major Robert E. GIBSON,
U. S. Marine Corps
19Jul68 - 31Dec68

Force Special Services Officer

Colonel William BIEHL Jr.,
U. S. Marine Corps
30Aug68 - 31Dec68

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Director, Transportation Control
Center

Lieutenant Colonel John F.
GOULD, U. S. Marine Corps
1Feb68 - 31Dec68

Force Inspector

Colonel James W. SHANK,
U. S. Marine Corps
16Sep68 - 31Dec68

USMC Liaison Officer, MACV

Colonel Carl E. SCHMIDT,
U. S. Marine Corps
22Sep68 - 31Dec68

USMC Liaison Officer, 7thAF

Colonel Carl E. SCHMIDT,
U. S. Marine Corps
22Sep68 - 31Dec68

USMC Liaison Officer, ROKMC

Lieutenant Colonel Lewis J.
BACHER, U. S. Marine Corps
24Jun68 - 31Dec68

Staff Secretary

Major Harold E. HAWKINS,
U. S. Marine Corps
2Sep68 - 31Dec68

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHa. III Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters

	<u>Officers</u>				<u>Enlisted</u>			
	USMC	USN	USA	USAF	USMC	USN	USA	USAF
HSS Co, HQ III MAF	13	3	0	0	298	7	0	0
HQ Staff, III MAF	210	12	26	1	493	9	13	2
CU#1, 1ST BADMIN	25	0	0	0	335	5	0	0
CAG's	38	0	0	0	1871	121	0	0
29th CA Co (att)	0	0	11	0	0	0	26	0
7th PsyOps Co (sup)	0	0	15	0	0	0	57	0

b. III Marine Amphibious Force

	<u>Officers</u>				<u>Enlisted</u>			
	USMC	USN	USA	USAF	USMC	USN	USA	USAF
	4958	452	5051	21	71698	2880	54495	26

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY1. INTRODUCTION.

a. GENERAL. During December 1968, III Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters was located in East Danang, Republic of Vietnam. The average personnel strength was 139,581, an increase of 1,859 over the previous month.

b. ACTIVITIES. III MAF continues to be guided by COMUSMACV Letter of Instruction (LOI 3-66) dated 30 March 1966 in pursuit of its objectives for December 1968.

2. OVERALL EVALUATION. Enemy activity remained at an unusually low level throughout the month of December. III MAF units throughout the ICTZ experienced only very light contact in the course of their operations as the enemy's major units continued to avoid contact with allied forces.

Early in the month Marine and ARVN units completed Operation Meade River, a nineteen day operation which had netted over a thousand enemy KIA as well as 172 prisoners.

During the month of December, III MAF units conducted a total of twelve major unit operations in the ICTZ.

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PART III (S)SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, DECEMBER 1968

1. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS. (The following three operations had moderate to significant contact).

a. Operation MEADE RIVER. The 1st Marine Division (1st Marines(-)(Rein)) continued clear and search operations in Quang Nam Province with significant contact for the period 1-9 December 1968. At 010900H L/3/5 while on a sweep received small arms and automatic weapons fire from an unknown number of enemy in prepared positions. L/3/5 returned fire, called artillery and air strikes. Results of contact were 1 USMC KIA, 28 USMC WIA, and 7 NVA KIA. At 021700H F/2/5 while on a sweep received small arms and B-40 rocket fire from an estimated 20 enemy. F/2/5 returned fire and was supported by artillery. Results of contact were 5 USMC WIA and 7 NVA KIA. At 051200H I/3/26 and K/3/26 assaulted fortified positions after two days of intensive air and artillery preparation. Results of contacts were 58 NVA KIA. At 070830H A/1/7 engaged an unknown number of enemy. A/1/7 fired small arms and automatic weapons and were supported by artillery, 81mm mortars, and air strikes. The enemy broke contact and fled. Results of contact were 8 USMC KIA, 17 USMC WIA, and 22 NVA KIA. At 081600H H/2/5 received heavy small arms fire from an enemy bunker complex. H/2/5 returned fire and called air strikes. Results of contact were 5 USMC KIA, 14 USMC WIA, 39 NVA KIA, and 1 PW/NVA. At the same time that H/2/5 was in action, L/3/26 received heavy small arms fire and automatic weapons fire from an estimated 25 NVA. L/3/26 returned fire and was supported by artillery. Friendly casualties were 5 USMC KIA, 11 USMC WIA, and 15 NVA KIA. Operation MEADE RIVER terminated at 091800H December 1968.

b. Operation SCOTLAND II. The 3rd Marine Division (Task Force Hotel) continued clear and search operations in Quang Tri Province with moderate contact for the period 1-31 December 1968. At 111715H F/2/4 engaged an estimated 30 NVA occupying a well fortified position. The enemy was armed with 12.7mm machine guns, automatic weapons, and mortars. F/2/4 returned fire, supported by artillery and air strikes, and maneuvered to attack. Results of contact were 12 USMC KIA, 30 USMC WIA, and 7 NVA KIA. At 291230H C/1/4 found a NVA field hospital containing various medical supplies including ten 5cc bottles of opium.

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c. Operation TAYLOR-COMMON. The 1st Marine Division commenced clear and search operations in Quang Nam Province at 070001H with moderate contact for the period 7-31 December 1968. At 071348H C/1/5 found a cache containing 50-70 tons of rice and 2 million piasters. At 111130H 1st Recon Platoon directed air strikes onto 20 enemy in the open accounting for 15 NVA KIA. At 131831H C/1/5 received small arms fire from an unknown number of enemy. C/1/5 returned fire killing 16 VC. Friendly losses were 7 USMC KIA, and 5 USMC WIA. At 151720H I/3/5 found 25 NVA KIA. Between 191430H and 191645H artillery directed by 1st Recon patrols accounted for 20 VC KIA. There were no friendly casualties.

d. The following nine operations did not have any significant contact during the period indicated:

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
HENDERSON HILL	QUANG NAM	1-6 December 1968
NAPOLEON-SALINE	QUANG TRI	1-9 December 1968
KENTUCKY	QUANG TRI	1-31 December 1968
DAWSON RIVER	QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN	1-31 December 1968
NEVADA EAGLE	THUA THIEN	1-31 December 1968
VERNON LAKE II	QUANG NGAI	1-31 December 1968
HARDIN FALLS	QUANG NAM	2-31 December 1968
MARSHALL MOUNTAIN	QUANG TRI	10-31 December 1968
FAYETTE CANYON	QUANG NAM	15-31 December 1968

2. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY. See page 24.

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3. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

a. III MAF Casualties:

(1) Battle

<u>KIA</u>			<u>WIA</u>			<u>DOW</u>			<u>MIA</u>		
USMC	USN	USA									
165	12	42	1099	48	350	12	1	15	0	0	54

(2) Non-Battle

<u>DEATHS</u>			<u>INJ/ILL</u>		
USMC	USN	USA	USMC	USN	USA
27	0	13	125	0	143

b. Number of Courts-Martial tried:

Summary 114

Special 113

General 13

c. Short tons of Mail sent and received by III MAF:

Sent: 399 Received: 1197

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4. Personnel.

a. Special Services Activities

(1) Freedom Hill Recreation Complex

(a) LIBRARY: On 28 December MGB-1 commenced work on installing central air conditioning. It should be completed by the 5th of January 1969.

(b) THEATER: The theater was operational 25 days in December. Total attendance was 29,733.

(c) GYMNASIUM: The Gymnasium was operational 30 days in December.

(d) OUTDOOR FACILITIES: No change from last report.

(e) BOWLING CENTER: The bowling center was operational 24 days in December. Total attendance was approximately 3,260. The Pan Pacific Company gave the Bowling Center a thorough check and fixed most of the lanes.

(f) CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED: The Amph Theater stage was painted and the stage deck was sanded and refinished.

(g) MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PENDING: Work is due to start soon on the roof over the Beer Garden. Also, the Baseball Batting Cage will be started in January. Sandbagging of erosion area on Freedom Hill has temporarily been halted because there are no vehicles available to haul sandbags.

(h) MAJOR ACTIVITIES: Evangelist Billy Graham spoke at the Amphi theater on the 23rd of December. There were approximately 1,000 present. On the 24th of December Bob Hope presented his annual Christmas Show here. There were approximately 16,000 men present. The following day Archbishop Terence J. Cooke, Military Vicar of the Armed Forces, and Archbishop of New York, said mass with approximately 500 participating.

(2) R&R Activities

(a) Of 6784 seats allocated to III MAF, 5854 were filled for 86.3% utilization. Of 8368 seats allocated to III MAF (Including Naval Forces in I Corps), 7336 were filled for 87.6% utilization. Total allocations for Danang R&R Center consisted of 13,483 seats of which 12,158 were filled for a utilization percentage of 90.2%.

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(b) R&R Program/Out-of-Country. The following are the December statistics for III MAF and I Corps R&R usage for each out-of-country site:

<u>SITE</u>	<u>III MAF</u>	<u>I CORPS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
BANGKOK	1288	891	2179
HONG KONG	1023	680	1703
TAIPEI	693	394	1087
TOKYO	410	175	585
MANILA	208	97	305
SINGAPORE	170	167	337
SYDNEY	1305	994	2299
HAWAII	1587	1160	2747
OKINAWA	221	14	235
KUALA LUMPUR	191	85	276
PENANG	240	165	405
TOTAL:	7336	4822	12158

(c) In-Country R&R (China Beach). Quotas allocated were utilized by 1,119 personnel. This does not include daily users. Daily users for the month of December totaled 6,100.

(3) Entertainment

Gale Yardborough	17-20 Dec	Handshake Tour
Bob Hope	24 Dec	Variety Show
Johnny Grant	24-25 Dec	Handshake Tour

(4) MARS Activities (18 stations in I Corps)

(a) Messages sent	13,146
(b) Messages received	7,801
(c) Phone patches sent	8,173
(d) Phone patches received	270
(e) Hospital calls	676

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(5) Tape Facility

(a) 11,941 prerecorded musical tapes were produced during this period.

(b) 8,509 prerecorded musical tapes were sold during this period.

(6) Film Library

(a) 80 films were put into the circuit in I Corps area.

(b) 180 films were repaired by this facility.

(7) Stars & Stripes Distribution in I Corps

(a) 39,499 Stars & Stripes papers were distributed in the I Corps area on a daily basis.

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b. Force Chaplain.

1 December. Force Chaplain visited Tan An Tin Lanh (Protestant Evangelical Church of Vietnam) in company with Mr. Tom STEBBINS and Rev. Le Cao Quay to survey need for assistance in out-patient clinic building project. Visited China Beach Orphanage.

4 December. I Corps Supervisory Chaplain's Conference was held in Commanding General's briefing room. 22 Supervisory Chaplains were in attendance at the meeting at which religious programming and VIP visitations were discussed and Colonel Harold CHASE, USMC addressed the group on the implications of Psychological Operations. The Navy Chaplain Corps Anniversary was celebrated with a dinner at China Beach "O" Club. Eighty two Army, Air Force and Navy Chaplains attended. The Force Chaplain was the speaker.

5 December. The Force Chaplain visited 1/5, 1st Marine Division to participate in a Memorial Service.

9-11 December. Force Chaplain visited NAVFORV Chaplain and MACV Chaplain in Saigon and attended the MACV Supervisory Chaplains Conference at Bien Hoa.

12 December. As Program Sponsor, Force Chaplain planned III MAF Educational Program scholarship award ceremony with Father Bernard HUONG, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Force Chaplain entertained delegation from the 5th ARVN Regiment to plan children's Christmas program.

14 December. Force Chaplain met with Danang area Supervisory Chaplains to divide responsibilities relating to Christmas visits of the Navy Chief of Chaplains, Dr. Billy Graham and Archbishop Terence Cooke, Catholic Military Vicar for the Armed Forces.

15 December. The Force Chaplain was visited by the Force Chaplain, FMFPac and discussed chaplain distribution and religious coverage problems. Jewish Chanukah Services were held at III MAF Chapel by Chaplain, Captain, Morton SINGER, USA.

16 December. Force Chaplain visited Tin Lanh (Protestant Church) Orphanage and Catholic Orphanage in Hoi An to distribute Christmas gifts to orphans and to discuss a school building plan for the first mentioned orphanage. Force Chaplain visited CDR Chu Ke Myung, the ROK Marine Chaplain to discuss our support requirement of their consumable religious supplies.

17 December. Force Chaplain met with Area Supervisory Chaplains to finalize plans relative to Christmas services scheduled at Freedom Hill Amphitheater incident to the visits of Dr. Billy

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Graham and Archbishop Terence Cooke. Visited Division Chaplain, 1st Marine Division. Chaplain, Captain, Morton SINGER, USA attached to XXIV Corps, but responsible for the entire Jewish program in I Corps, was killed in an Aircraft accident at Chu Lai.

19 December. Force Chaplain attended Memorial Service for Chaplain SINGER at XXIV Corps Headquarters in Phu Bai. Force Chaplain entertained Lt. Pham Hong DOAN of National Police Headquarters and arranged for a supply of 130 gifts for their children's Christmas party.

20 December. Force Chaplain attended Hai Chau Tin Lanh School Christmas party and delivered 350 gifts for same. Force Chaplain visited the Venerable Thick Nhu Buu, the Senior Buddhist Chaplain of I Corps and discussed a school enlargement project at the Tan Lap Buddhist School.

21 December. Force Chaplain delivered eleven boxes of childrens clothing to the Duytan Hospital.

22 December. As escort officer for the visit of the Navy Chief of Chaplains, Force Chaplain met his visitor at Chu Lai. With the Chief of Chaplains, he participated in the dedication of the new chapel at MCB-74 and attended a conference of Chaplains from the Chu Lai area. Force Chaplain held Memorial Service for Chaplain SINGER at III MAF Chapel and then, as Program Sponsor, participated in the III MAF Educational Program Scholarship Award ceremony at the American/Vietnamese Cultural Center.

23 December. As escort officer, Force Chaplain accompanied Chief of Chaplains to NSA Danang where he paid a courtesy call on COMNSA Danang and met with NSA and MCB Chaplains. Force Chaplain picked up responsibility as escort officer for Dr. Billy Graham and company. The Billy Graham service was held at Freedom Hill with a large attendance. The Force Chaplains, other area chaplains and the III MAF Protestant chapel choir participated in the service. In the evening, the Force Chaplain hosted a dinner at the China Beach "O" Club for Dr. Billy Graham and party and the Navy Chief of Chaplains. Sixty nine area chaplains attended. Lieutenant General R. E. CUSHMAN, USMC, Dr. Graham, and the Chief of Chaplains addressed the group.

24 December. The Force Chaplain accompanied the Navy Chief of Chaplains on his visit to meet with Phu Bai area Navy Chaplains and then to the 3rd Marine Division where he participated in a Division Chaplains Conference and the dedication of new chapels at the 3rd Medical Battalion and MCB-11. Christmas Eve (Protestant) Candlelight services and a Midnight Mass were conducted in the III MAF Chapel.

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25 December. Protestant, Episcopal and Catholic Christmas services/masses were conducted in the III MAF Chapel.

26 December. Archbishop Terence Cooke, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar for the Armed Forces was the guest of III MAF and celebrated mass at the Freedom Hill Amphitheater. Force Chaplain attended a luncheon hosted by CG, 1st MAF for the Archbishop.

27 December. Force Chaplain visited Force Logistic Command to discuss chaplain distribution problems and the forthcoming dedication service of the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital.

29 December. Force Chaplain visited 1st Marine Division to discuss introduction of Jewish services there to be conducted by laymen.

31 December. Force Chaplain said "goodbye" to 1968.

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a. General Enemy Situation. Enemy initiated activity was at an unprecedented low level in all five provinces of the I Corps Tactical Zone during the month of December. Enemy local force and guerrilla units continued to maintain a limited degree of pressure on friendly tactical units by resorting to local harassments; however, most major enemy tactical units remained withdrawn and out of contact.

Although the enemy's basic tactical posture remained unchanged during the month, one noteworthy exception was the relocation of the 1st VC Main Force Regiment, 2nd NVA Division, from QUANG TIN to southeastern QUANG NAM Province. This movement represented an increased threat against vital areas and key installations in the eastern part of the latter province.

Throughout the month a broad base of low level intelligence reports were received relating to an enemy "Winter-Spring" offensive. These reports indicated that the enemy intended to commence another major offensive by conducting large-scale ground and sapper attacks in conjunction with wide-spread attacks by fire throughout I Corps Tactical Zone. By end-December however, these attacks had failed to materialize and it appeared that the enemy had postponed his so-called "Winter-Spring" offensive until late January or "TET" in mid-February. This failure may have been possibly ascribed to the enemy's desires exceeding his capabilities. It may also be explained by the continued aggressive nature of the wide-ranging cordon and search, sweep, and reconnaissance-in-force operations conducted by FVMAF'S in all five provinces.

Ground combat dropped to an extremely low level in QUANG TRI Province during the month of December. Most major enemy tactical units refused engagement, concentrating their efforts instead on remaining withdrawn in areas safe from FVMAF maneuver and fire-power. One exception was an 11 December contact by elements of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, with an enemy unit subsequently identified by a PW as the K-3 Battalion, 27th NVA Regiment. This engagement took place northeast of the ROCKPILE near the southern boundary of the DMZ in the normal operating area of this enemy force. Elsewhere within the province however, friendly forces encountered little serious opposition on the ground, as enemy efforts were limited largely to scattered harassing attacks by fire, most of which were of low intensity and minor in nature, and additional attempts to interdict the vital CUA VIET River. The most significant attack by fire was a 15-round barrage of 140mm rocket fire directed against Vandegrift Combat Base on 23 December which resulted in light friendly casualties. No incoming artillery fire was recorded in QUANG TRI Province during the month, and only one minor mortar attack was reported to have emanated from within the DMZ. That attack occurred on 19 December and marked the first such incident since 28 November.

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Despite the 1 November halt of bombing in and north of the DMZ, enemy forces remained active there during December, engaging in a wide variety of activities. Aerial observers, observation posts and surveillance equipment reported an increased number of sightings within the DMZ, particularly in the eastern portion. Photo interpretation indicated roads and trails north of and in the DMZ showed signs of heavy use. Unconfirmed low level agent reports indicated the infiltration of up to division size enemy units into the DMZ as well as the coastal plains area. With respect to infiltration in and through the DMZ, significant intelligence was obtained on 24 December when a PW captured six kilometers north of CAM LO, identified his unit as the 5th Battalion, 31st Group.

While enemy offensive action was at a much reduced level, it appeared that he continued to place major emphasis on infiltration of personnel as well as equipment and supplies into QUANG TRI (P), particularly in the western portion of the province. Numerous SLAR indicators were recorded during the month along the Laotian border and in the southwestern portion of the province. These moving target indicators were complemented by several reports of possible tracked vehicle movement, particularly in the KHE SANH-LANG VII area. Also, low level agent reports mentioned the movement of division size units into the KHE SANH area.

Intelligence information derived from a wide range of sources during the month indicated that the enemy's so-called "Winter-Spring" offensive would be targeted against several units, positions, and locations in QUANG TRI Province. Probably the most significant of this information was in the form of documents taken from the body of an NVA lieutenant believed to have been a member of the K-10 Sapper Battalion, who was killed near QUANG TRI City on 15 December. The documents indicated that he had been conducting a reconnaissance of Camp RED DEVIL (CP of the 1st Brigade, 5th MECH Div) and that attacks against that base, QUANG TRI City and HAI LANG were all being planned. In addition to these documents, several agent reports indicated that elements of the 7th FRONT, to include the K-10 Sapper Battalion and possibly elements of the K-6 and K-8 Battalions, supported by the K-32nd Artillery Battalion, were to conduct attacks on QUANG TRI City and its environs.

Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE terminated in the northeastern portion of QUANG TRI Province on 9 December. Total cumulative enemy losses for this nine and one-half month operation were 3,495 KIA, 106 PW's, two VC NCI CHANHS, 631 individual and 200 crew-served weapons captured.

The anomalous situation which has existed for the past several months in THUA THIEN Province continued throughout the month of December. Major enemy tactical units persisted in the avoidance of large-scale ground confrontations with friendly forces by remaining out of contact, and as a result enemy activity was almost non-existent. What little activity there was again took the form of a few scattered harassing attacks by fire, most of which were in the eastern lowland areas. The heaviest of these attacks

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took place at PHONG DIEN on 4 December when the District Headquarters and an adjacent orphanage were subjected to a well planned and executed mortar and RPG attack. Several small attacks by fire during the month were directed against civilian populated areas.

Despite the drastically reduced level of enemy offensive action within the province, enemy forces were active throughout the month in the A SHAU Valley. In addition to numerous moving target indicators, visual reconnaissance and photo interpretation indicated moderate vehicular traffic on Route 922 and light to moderate vehicular traffic on Route 548. Of particular significance were the extensive road repair efforts on both of the aforementioned routes despite an extensive and continuing interdiction program by friendly aircraft. The destruction of four trucks on Route 548 on 28 December which produced multiple secondary explosions and fires tended to substantiate the enemy's use of this key valley as a major infiltration route for the movement of supplies and equipment into both THUA THIEN and QUANG NAM Provinces.

While the majority of major enemy tactical units subordinate to MRTTH remained withdrawn into the western highlands and/or eastern LAOS, there were tenuous indicators during the month that certain of these units may have redeployed toward the eastern part of the province. Documents captured on 12 December, nine kilometers southwest of PHONG DIEN, referred to the K-32nd Artillery Battalion, a unit normally associated with the 6th NVA Regiment. Complementing these documents were additional documents taken from the bodies of three NVA soldiers killed in a 31 December contact just west of Base Area 114 which revealed that the enemy unit in contact was an element of the 806th Battalion, 6th NVA Regiment. These various documents tended to substantiate several agent reports received during the month indicating that this regiment was operating in the vicinity of Base Area 114. In addition there were several low level agent reports referring to a K-7 Battalion operating east of the A SHAU Valley. There are AKA associations which could relate the K-7 with either the 29th or 90th NVA Regiments.

Statements elicited from several PW's and ralliers during the month spoke of preparations for an attack on HUE. However, the disposition of enemy forces in and around the THUA THIEN provincial capital apparently precluded the conduct of a major attack on the city itself.

For the third straight month QUANG NAM Province dominated the scene in I Corps. Enemy tactical units subordinate to FRONT 4 remained active throughout the eastern portion of the province, particularly the southern BANG THAI, conducting sporadic light attacks by fire as well as several ground attacks, most of which were small-scale. There continued to be extensive reconnaissance sightings of enemy troop movements throughout the AN HOA Basin during December. Many of these sightings were of NVA troops with a full complement of arms and equipment. Tactical air strikes and/or artillery fire missions resulted in a substantial number of these enemy troops killed.

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The preponderance of ground action in QUANG NAM (P) during the first two weeks of the month was concentrated in the MEAN DAN area of the southern DANANG TAOR, and was incident to Operation MEADE RIVER, the highly successful cordon and search operation in support of the Accelerated Pacification Campaign. This 20-day operation involving elements of the 1st Marine Division, ARVN Forces, and elements of the 2nd ROKFC Brigade accounted for more than 1,200 enemy casualties, PW's and VCI and dealt a serious blow to the local VC infrastructure in eastern QUANG NAM (P). The operation also succeeded in inflicting heavy losses on one battalion of the 36th NVA Regiment and one probable battalion of the 38th Regiment.

The latter part of the month saw elements of the 2nd NVA Division suffer substantial personnel losses as a result of aggressive friendly operations FAYETTE CANYON and TAYLOR COMMON/LE LOI. In the former operation the 1st VC Main Force Regiment, having relocated during December from QUANG TIN (P) to southern QUANG NAM (P), was heavily engaged by elements of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade west of QUE SON during the week of 15-21 December and suffered more than 160 KIA's. The following week, 356 KIA's were assessed against the 21st NVA Regiment by elements of the 1st ARVN Ranger Group while participating in the LE LOI portion of the latter operation near AN HOA.

While there were no large-scale enemy attacks in QUANG NAM Province, nevertheless, the month of December produced an impressive array of intelligence information indicating the enemy's intentions to conduct such attacks, particularly against DANANG City. Probably the most significant of the information regarding an attack on DANANG was provided by an NVA Captain who rallied on 26 December and identified himself as the Assistant Region Commander, 1st Region, DANANG City. The rallier detailed the attack plan and indicated that all combat and combat support units in QUANG NAM (P) including the 31st NVA Regiment, 2nd NVA Division in QUANG TIN (P), would be committed, less the 141st Regiment. The fact that the enemy failed to initiate such attacks was attributed, in part, to the heavy losses he suffered in FWMAR/ARVN Operations MEADE RIVER, FAYETTE CANYON and TAYLOR COMMON/LE LOI.

Southern I Corps witnessed little change in the general enemy situation during the month of December. The one noteworthy exception was the movement of the 1st VC Main Force Regiment from QUANG TIN to QUANG NAM (P). Most major enemy tactical units in both QUANG TIN and QUANG NAM Provinces avoided decisive ground engagements by remaining withdrawn and out of contact in the piedmont and highland areas. Intelligence indicated that these units were engaged in preparations for the forthcoming "Winter-Spring" offensive.

On the other hand, local force and guerrilla units were active in the eastern lowland areas of both provinces, conducting several minor ground attacks and scattered attacks by fire as well as engaging in terrorist harassment/intimidation of hamlet/village residents and refugees. Noteworthy with respect to attacks by fire were five separate rocket attacks on CHU LAI Combat Base complex on 15 and 21 December. The only significant ground engagement was a 21 December contact between an AR Company and the 1st local force battalion which resulted in 44 enemy KIA.

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Throughout the month of December a mounting body of intelligence information pointed toward an impending attack upon QUANG NGAI City by elements of the 3rd NVA Division, supported by up to four Main and Local Force Battalions. Agents reporting during the month intimated that these attacks were imminent. However, by the end of December it became apparent that the enemy had failed in his intentions to initiate this offensive. In this respect, Operation VERNON LAKE was credited with keeping the enemy's forces off balance and pre-empting large-scale attacks on QUANG NGAI City.

b. Enemy Action Statistics. Facts pertaining to enemy activities in Allied operating areas, including combat bases, for the month of December are as follows:

Enemy Initiated Activity

	<u>III MAF</u>	<u>CIDG</u>	<u>ARVN</u>	<u>ROKMC</u>
Attack	1	2	27	0
Ambush	1	7	9	0
Assault By Fire	10	1	8	0
Harassing Fire	384	14	166	63
Mine/Booby Traps	192	2	44	18
AA Fire	796	0	18	0

Total Acts of Terrorism for ICTZ - 99

c. Enemy Order of Battle (Confirmed). Enemy forces operating in ICTZ on 31 December 1968.

(1) QUANG TRI: Confirmed units in QUANG TRI include only those considered to be operating south of the DMZ. Major units are: the 7th Front Headquarters; the 812th NVA Regiment and the K8 and K14 Infantry, the 10th Sapper and the K32 Artillery Battalions subordinate to the 7th Front; and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 27th Independent NVA Regiment. Additionally, four independent companies are located within the province. The total confirmed strength in QUANG TRI is 3,400.

(2) THUA THIEN: Regimental Headquarters, K4B and K4C Battalions of the 4th NVA Regiment; the Regimental Headquarters, K4 and K10 Infantry and the Chi Thua 1 and Chi Thua 2 Sapper Battalions of the 5th NVA Regiment; and seven independent companies are located within the province. The total confirmed strength for THUA THIEN is 2,325.

(3) QUANG NAM: Enemy forces in QUANG NAM are comprised of: the Front 4 Headquarters; the 2nd NVA Division Headquarters and support units; the 1st VC and the 21st NVA Regiments of the 2nd NVA Division; the Regimental Headquarters, 102nd and 103rd Battalions of the 31st NVA Regiment; the 30th NVA Regiment; the 141st NVA Regiment; the 308B NVA Artillery Regiment; the R20, V25, D7 Infantry and the T69 and 3rd Sapper Battalions of the 35th NVA Regiment; the 1st Battalion of the 58B NVA Artillery Regiment; and seven independent companies. The total confirmed strength in the province is 9,060.

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(4) QUANG TIN: The 31st NVA Regiment of the 2nd NVA Division; four independent battalions and three independent companies are located in the province. The total confirmed strength in QUANG TIN is 1,820.

(5) QUANG NGAI: The Military Region-5 Headquarters; the 3rd NVA Division Headquarters and support units; the 2nd MF and 22nd NVA Regiments of the 3rd NVA Division; Regimental Headquarters, the 120th VC Infantry, 406th VC Sapper and the 107th NVA Artillery Battalions of the 401st NVA Sapper Regiment; three independent battalions and ten independent companies are located in the province. The total confirmed strength in QUANG NGAI is 7,360.

d. Counterintelligence.

(1) Counterintelligence Monthly Overview. Although the number of reported VC counterintelligence-related incidents decreased slightly during December, the general pattern of activity and high intensity level remained unchanged. Low-level intelligence collection activities using women and children continue to be noted. The Viet Cong expended considerable energy in efforts to extend their political control over the countryside and improve their image both in SVN and on the international political scene. VC propaganda efforts to extend their population control were frequently reinforced by widespread terrorist activity. Several documents and prisoners describe the present period as the second phase of a three phase plan in which the political groundwork is being laid for an all-out offensive to be launched at an unknown future date. The purpose of the offensive reportedly is to influence the Paris peace talks. In summary, VC counterintelligence-related activity was primarily comprised of intelligence and reconnaissance preparations for any future offensive actions and widespread propaganda, subversion and terror designed to discredit the GVN and improve the position and prestige of the NLF SVN, both at home and in Paris.

(2) Propaganda and Subversion. Viet Cong propaganda activity remained at a high level during the month with frequent propaganda meetings conducted by local cadre in VC controlled areas and by armed units in contested areas. Leaflets in both English and Vietnamese were found in many government controlled areas. Agent reports frequently stated that the reason for the continuing propaganda drive was to prepare the population for a coalition government. A prevalent theme continued to be the claim that North Vietnam was winning great victories at the Paris peace talks.

(3) Political Activity. Reported political activity declined slightly. It is probable that the Viet Cong have established People's Liberation Committees in those areas where such activities are possible and are now concentrating efforts on extending the influence of these established committees. Scattered reports were received of VC attempts to exploit Buddhist organizations. An absence of mention of the Alliance of National

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Democratic Peace Forces possibly reflects an effort to eliminate this organization as a potential rival for the NLF/SVN in the context of the present peace talks.

(4) Terrorism. Terrorist activity generally remained at the high level of November. Continued emphasis was given to harassment of refugee camps and assassinations of government officials. Reports indicate that personnel assigned to the pacification program have been targeted for increased terrorist activity.

(5) Sabotage. Sabotage remained at a low level with the pattern of activities unchanged. River traffic on the CUA VIET River, bridges and culverts on LOC's remained a target for interdiction.

(6) Espionage. Reported espionage activity increased slightly during the month with activity primarily being reported in the two Northern provinces of I Corps. A relatively large number of reports were received of low level espionage and reconnaissance activity in the HUE City area.

e. Enemy Losses. Enemy losses during the month of December were as follows:

	<u>III MAF</u>	<u>ARVN</u>	<u>ROKMC</u>	<u>CIDG</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	2848	1806	283	110	5047
Detainees	1935	680	3	98	2716
PW/NVA	50	0	0	1	51
PW/VC	115	890	1	10	1016
Returnees/NVA	9	0	0	0	9
Returnees/VC	24	58	0	0	82
Civil Defendant	234	1	0	0	235
Innocent Civilian	1116	0	0	0	1116
Indiv Weapons	804	597	108	22	1531
C/S Weapons	54	69	6	1	130

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SECRETKIT CARSON SCOUTS PROGRAM

9 December 1968. The G-2, III Marine Amphibious Force, assumed staff supervision for the Kit Carson Scout Program in accordance with III MAF order 3410.5B, Subject: "Standing Operating Procedures for Kit Carson Scouts Program." The program had been under the supervision of the Force PSYOPS officer since October 1966.

31 December 1968. The status of Kit Carson Scouts was as follows:

<u>EMPLOYING UNIT</u>	<u>HIRED</u>	<u>IN TRAINING</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
1st MARDIV	102	0	0	1
3rd MARDIV	106	9	0	0
101st ABN DIV (AM)	153	10	0	2
Americal DIV	115	3	1	2

1-31 December 1968. Major accomplishments during this period were as follows:

	<u>1ST MARDIV</u>	<u>3RD MARDIV</u>	<u>101ST ABN DIV (AM)</u>
A. VC KIA	39	2	10
B. VC CAPTURED	6	3	7
C. VCS CAPTURED	14	0	0
D. RETURNEES	3	0	1
E. WEAPONS RECOVERED	12	3	18
F. MINES/BOOBY TRAPS	39	0	39
G. GRENADES FOUND	65	25	6
H. CACHES DISCOVERED	38	10	8
I. CAVES/TUNNELS DISCOVERED	34	0	7
J. PATROLS	775	350	1073
K. CLASSES CONDUCTED/ ASSISTED	320	0	0
L. PSYOPS BROADCAST CONDUCTED	41	10	0

NOTE: Americal Division did not collect data on major accomplishments due to a misunderstanding of new reporting procedures.

15 December 1968. A scout employed by 1st Battalion, 26th Marines was kidnapped from his home by eight armed enemy. On 22 December 1968 he escaped from his captors. He returned to the control of the Marines on 28 December 1968.

28 December 1968. A scout employed by 1st Battalion, 26th Marines was recommended for the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Gold Star) for heroic action in the conduct of an ambush of an estimated twenty NVA soldiers. The scout accounted for fifteen confirmed kills. Although wounded during the action, he continued the fight throughout the engagement.

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31 December 1968. Americal Division. Requests for Draft Deferments for all scouts employed have been prepared for submission to the Ministry of Defense, GVN.

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6. LOGISTICSa. General.

(1) The month of December was characterized by reduced demands on the overall logistic system in ICTZ. The two factors chiefly responsible for this were the displacement of the 1st Air Cavalry Division from ICTZ during November and the general shift in operational emphasis from northern ICTZ to the South-Central portion of the Zone.

(2) The departure of the 1st Air Cavalry (Operation LIBERTY CANYON) permitted a marked reduction in the Northbound shipping backlog and in general eased the pressure on the logistical system.

(3) The shift in operational emphasis from NICTZ to the vicinity of the Danang TAOR typified by MEADE RIVER, a multi-battalion operation which required substantial logistic support. More than balancing the load by this operation were the factors of Short LOC and unexpectedly good weather.

(4) The unseasonal weather permitted unexpected gains in airfields and LOC improvement, including the establishment of the full-scale LSA at An Hoa.

(5) The above factors, combined with a trend of reduced enemy interdiction of LOC's are covered in greater detail in paragraph c. (Embarkation) and d. (Engineer), below.

b. Dental.

(1) Periodic visits to III MAF dental facilities and medical/dental facilities throughout ICTZ were made by the Force Dental Officer during December.

(2) On 14 December the 18th Dental Professional and Administrative Conference was held in conjunction with a meeting of the I Corps Dental Society.

(3) The Force Dental Officer continues to hold MEDCAP for the local populace at III MAF Dental Facility.

(4) Dental Civic Action (MEDCAP II) was conducted by III MAF Dental Companies during the month of December as follows:

(a) Patients Treated:	2,797
(b) Dental Procedures:	7,111

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SECRETc. Embarkation.

(1) Narrative Summary. There was sporadic opening and closing of several airfields during the month. This was due to airfield repairs which caused no adverse effect on operational commitments. An Hoa was closed during the period 3-7 December for resurfacing of the runway. Airlift operations commenced on 8 December for movement of troops and cargo to An Hoa in support of Operation Taylor Common. Two airfields were opened to C7A aircraft (Minh Long and Ha thonh). The personnel and tonnage for the month were lower in comparison to last month by 12,228 PAX and 1,574 S/T. The month of December showed a marked decline in cargo backload for ICTZ ports. This was due to the movement of the 1stAirCavDiv from I Corps to III Corps, good weather and full utilization of shipping assets. Enemy activity had no effect on shipping during the reporting period. During this period there were 77 resupply, 53 retrograde and 11 unit move convoys.

(a) Air Operations Summary:

USAF		USMC (FIXED WING)		TOTAL	
<u>PAX</u>	<u>CARGO(S/T)</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>(CARGO(S/T)</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>CARGO(S/T)</u>
60,676	23,398.9	38,825	10,138.0	99,501	33,536.9

Special Missions Flown During December:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>REQUEST NO.</u>	<u>ACFT</u>	<u>TOTAL CARGO(S/T)</u>	<u>PAX</u>
CE	26	C130	1,371.7	4,128
CE	1	C7A		215

(b) Surface Summary Operations:

63 Deep draft vessels debarked/embarked at Danang
 40 MSTs LST's debarked/embarked at Danang
 28 USN LST's debarked/embarked at Danang
 361 LCU/YFU's debarked/embarked at Danang
 64 Barges debarked/embarked at Danang

MONTHLY PORT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (S/T)

<u>PORT</u>	<u>OFFLOAD</u>	<u>DAILY AVG</u>	<u>THROUGHPUT</u>	<u>DAILY AVG</u>
Danang	226347	7301	345145	11134
Dong Ha	40018	1291	48937	1579
Phu Bai	35097	1132	39681	1280
Chu Lai	38250	1234	46818	1510
Total	339712	10958	480581	15503

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SECRET(c) Highway Operations SummaryRESUPPLY MISSIONS (S/T)

Danang to An Hoa	4779
ARVN Convoys North	450
Others	3123
Total	8352

(2) CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF EVENTS.

- 1Dec - CE to move Lox Trailer from Chu Lai to Cam Rhan Bay. CE to move 1,498,195 lbs AM2 and M81 matting from Danang to An Hoa.
- 2Dec - Movement of matting to An Hoa completed. CE to move Lox Trailer from Cam Rhan Bay to Chu Lai. Dong Ha closed for repairs.
- 3Dec - Dong Ha airfield opened. An Hoa closed for runway repairs.
- 4Dec - CE for movement of cannon assembly from Danang to Dong Ha.
- 5Dec - US Tourist departed for Okinawa with 108 S/T retrograde cargo.
- 6Dec - Mayfield Victory departed for Japan with 27 S/T retrograde cargo. CE to take J-65 engine from Danang to Chu Lai and to move 350 PAX from Danang to Duc Pho.
- 7Dec - USS Cohoes recovered LCM 6 No. 18 which sank near Tan My on 18 Nov. CE to move primer percussion from Danang to Dong Ha.
- 8Dec - An Hoa airfield opened. CE to move 166 PAX from An Hoa to Danang and to move GCA set from Chu Lai to An Hoa.
- 9Dec - Dong Ha airfield closed till 1600 for repairs. CE to move antenna from Danang to Chu Lai, 150 PAX from Dong Ha to An Hoa and advance party for Operation TAYLOR COMMON. SS Los Angeles departed to CONUS with 372 S/T retrograde cargo.
- 10Dec - CE to move 150 PAX from Dong Ha to An Hoa. Transglobe departed to CONUS with 234 S/T retrograde cargo.

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- 11Dec - Committed for a daily shuttle of 200,000 lbs of ammo from Danang to An Hoa via C123. CE to move switchboard from Danang to Dong Ha.
- 12Dec - CE to move 147 PAX and cargo for Operation TAYLOR COMMON.
- 13Dec - CE to move 1100 PAX and cargo from Quang Tri to An Hoa and 155 PAX and cargo from Dong Ha to An Hoa.
- 14Dec - CE to move 1100 PAX and cargo from Quang Tri to An Hoa and 70 PAX and cargo from Dong Ha to An Hoa. CE to move generator and electrical equipment from Danang to An Hoa. Dredge Sandcaster damaged when dredging in the mouth of Perfume River at approx 140935H by explosion thought to be caused by a dud mortar round.
- 15Dec - CE to move 215 PAX from Danang to Baldy.
- 16Dec - Seatrain Carolina departed for Okinawa with 134 S/T retrograde cargo.
- 18Dec - American Corsair departed for CONUS with 371 S/T retrograde cargo.
- 19Dec - Requirement for daily ammo shuttle from Chu Lai to Minh Long via C7A aircraft, delayed due to status of Minh Long airfield.
- 20Dec - CE to move radar gear from Danang to Phu Bai.
- 21Dec - LCM-8 No. 857 hit mine causing light damage at Dong Ha/Cua Viet.
- 22Dec - Quang Tri line mined near Camp Evans in several places. Repairs will take approx 2 days. Tan My YOG 76 went aground port side of channel. Rescue attempts unsuccessful due to heavy seas. ARS on scene and will make rescue attempts at first light. CE to move JP-4 from Danang to An Hoa.
- 23Dec - YOG 76 rescue attempts unsuccessful due to 8-10 foot surf in channel. No indication of bottom damage to YOG or that YOG is in danger of breaking up. ARS standing by to assist when weather abates. Tan My RMK/BRJ Tug Farmer capsized and sank in channel 220945H.

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No personnel casualties. Channel considered blocked until Tug Farmer located/salvaged. Port of Tan My closed.

- 24Dec - CE to move cannon assembly from Danang to Dong Ha. Minh Long airfield opened. YOG freed from Tan My channel at 241030H and towed to Danang by Reclaimer.
- 25Dec - CE to move JP-4 from Danang to An Hoa. Ammo shuttle committment to Minh long started. Quang Tri line repaired (see 22Dec entry). Port of Tan My opened. Tug Farmer not located as of this date.
- 26Dec - Camp Evans airfield closed for repair until approximately 6Jan69. Quang Tri airfield closed until 27Dec for repair. Gretna Victory departed for Barstow with 345 S/T retrograde cargo. Tug Farmer located and is not blocking channel.
- 27Dec - Quang Tri opened. CE to move JP-4 from Danang to An Hoa. Transglobe departed for Okinawa with 532 S/T retrograde cargo.
- 28Dec - Grove City Victory departed for Subic/Hawaii with 59 S/T retrograde cargo.
- 31Dec - An Hoa airfield closed by 834th Air Division. Ha Thanh opened to C7A aircraft.

d. Engineer.

(1) Road and Bridge Resume. Incidents of enemy harassment and interdictions on primary lines of communication declined slightly from the previous month. Five (5) bridges and five (5) culverts were damaged or destroyed. New construction during the month produced twelve (12) new bridges and thirty-nine (39) new culverts while repairs continued on sixteen (16) bridges. 750 feet of tactical bridging was installed. Asphalt paving of QL-1 between Chu Lai and Tam Ky by the 9th Engineer battalion, with Seabee equipment, commenced during the month, with 5.7 Kms of two-lane highway paved.

(2) Vietnamese National Railroad. Restoration of the Danang -Hue segment of the railroad has continued rapidly and is nearing completion. A 150 foot bridge northwest of Lang Co was completed on 24 December and repairs to a 160 foot bridge east of Phu Loc were completed on 31 December. Only twelve (12) kilometers of track remain to be restored, and the entire 103

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kilometers between Danang and Hue should be completed well ahead of the previously estimated 1 February completion date.

(3) An Hoa Airfield/Combat Base. The 3500 foot runway and turnarounds were completely resurfaced with AM-2 Aluminum Matting, the runway was widened from 60 feet to 72 feet, and the taxiways and parking aprons were resurfaced with M8A1 Steel Matting. The runway was closed for these repairs on 3 December, and was reopened again on 8 December. A 140 foot by 400 foot Logistic Support Area was completed for operations on 10 December, and accelerated efforts continued through this month in accomplishing the construction of new ammo storage areas, new refueling facilities, and many other cantonment facilities to support increased combat operations in this area.

e. Food Services.

(1) On 5 December, Force Order P10110.5 (III MAF Menu Service) was approved for publication and will become effective on 1 February 1969.

(2) The monthly meeting of the III MAF Food Service Planning Board was held at Camp Horn on 9 December.

(3) On 10 December FLC assumed control of the Army Class I dump at Quang Tri. The Marine Corps now provides all Class I Support in the Quang Tri - Dong Ha complex.

(4) The III MAF Subsistence Operational Analysis Report for the month of November was submitted to HQMC on 19Dec. Data highlights follow:

Value of "A" and "B" Rations Issued	\$3,026,571.19
Value of MCI's issued	\$1,256,613.73
Average Daily Fed "A" and "B" Rations	77,885
Average Daily Fed MCI's	19,460
Daily Average Cost to Feed "A" and "B"	\$1.2953
Daily Average Cost to Feed "A", "B" & MCI's	\$1.4666
Pounds of Bread Manufactured	639,544
Pounds of Bread received from Army	55,968
Gallons of Milk Purchased (Foremost)	408,580
Gallons of Ice Cream Purchased (Foremost)	64,677
Gallons of Ice Cream Manufactured	3,167
Pounds of Ice Purchased (Commercial)	8,665,094
Number of Rations Sold	9,088
Cash Collected for Meals Sold	\$13,068.77
Total expenditures for Class I Supplies for Nov U.S. and ROK forces	\$5,462,652.64

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SECRETf. Motor Transport

(1) Statistics for the month of December for the five motor transports are as follows:

Mileage:	354,161
Tonnage:	49,334
Passengers:	95,506

(2) On 1 and 2 December the FMFPac MT Supervisor's Course was conducted for members of FLC. This service was performed for the 1st Marine Division from 4 to 24 December.

(3) On 3 December Major J.N. EGGLESTON departed III MAF at the completion of his tour of duty. CWO PAGE assumed duties as Force Motor Transport Officer until the arrival of LtCol K.D. BARNES on 23 December.

(4) On 6 December instruction on the M123A1C Truck Tractor was completed, and the team departed for Okinawa on the following day.

(5) On 31 December the Multifuel Instruction Team arrived from Okinawa under the charge of Captain J. BROWN.

g. Ordnance

(1) The direct exchange of chrome chambered rifles to III MAF units and initial issue of M16A1 rifles to 1stMAW, 1st FSR, and 7th Bulk Fuel continues. The status of the program is as follows:

(a) Maneuver Units. 100% equipped with chrome chambered rifles. Rifles on hand total approximately 28,782 (Reported in November Chronology).

(b) Combat Support and Combat Service Support Units. 96% equipped with chrome chambered rifles. Chrome chambered and standard chambered rifles on hand total approximately 25,825 and 1,121 respectively. Standard chambered rifles are in the process of being exchanged at the present time.

(c) Initial Issue. Total remaining initial issue requirements for III MAF are as follows:

1st MAW	3,963
1st FSR	3,885
7th Bulk Fuel	155
Total	8,003

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(2) As of 30 November 1968, there was a total of 3,321 short tons of suspended ammunition in the ASP's on which disposition instructions from CMC had not been received. During the period 1 December to 31 December, an additional 3406.9 short tons of ammunition was suspended, bringing the total number of short tons in the ASP's to 6727.9. During the month of December, disposition instructions from CMC were received on 112.9 short tons of suspended ammunition, thus reducing the quantity to 6615 short tons.

(3) 21 M107 175mm Guns are currently being held at FLC pending spare parts distribution and deprocessing. Firing tables for the M107's have been mailed direct to the batteries affected and a provisional ISSA is being formalized by CMC and the Department of the Army for technical assistance in deprocessing and initial deployment.

h. Supply

(1) Currently, approximately 93% of the in-country requirements for lightweight rainsuits have been satisfied. The quantity to be delivered to the Third Force Service Regiment for Contingency Reserve, replenishment and available for issue (in preparation for the 1969-1970 Monsoon Season) exceeds 56,000.

(2) Increased emphasis has been placed on the recovery of lightweight utilities in order to reduce requirements for new procurement. Force Bulletin 4400 of 21Dec68 was published directing command attention to this matter. Additionally, the Third Force Service Regiment will provide a monthly report to this Headquarters reflecting total monthly recoveries.

(3) The rehabilitation of unserviceable but reparable lightweight utilities was studied during the month. The Purchasing and Contracting Officer, III Marine Amphibious Force, has invited price quotations and is obtaining work samples prior to determining the practicability of a rehabilitation program.

(4) In an effort to determine the impact of various stockage criteria, major commands have been requested to provide statistical data to this office. Data will be analyzed and the results and a recommendation will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

(5) Planning for the 1969-1970 Monsoon, including analysis of past and projected requirements, has been completed. Notable is the reduction of line items to be force fed to using units. This reduction was determined to be essential because the force feeding of quantities based on requirements submitted almost 8 months in advance of need generated excesses at the using unit level. Additionally, the requisitioning of required items will eliminate unnecessary management programs.

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(6) A conference concerning the transfer of responsibility for processing personal effects and baggage in the Phu Bai area was held on 23 December 1968. As a result, effective 15 January 1969, the 26th General Support Group, U. S. Army will assume these duties. (Force Logistic Support Group-Alpha, currently responsible, is being deactivated). The Force Assistant Supply Officer represented the III Marine Amphibious Force and directed the conference. Representatives from the following commands were present: Force Logistic Command, Force Logistic Support Group-Alpha, 26th General Support Group, XXIV Corps, USA Support Command (Danang) and the Naval Support Activity (Danang).

i. Medical

(1) The total average patient load for the two Medical Battalions and 1st Hospital Company was 362 with a total of 1448 admitted and 301 patients evacuated out of country. 514 pints of whole blood were expended to use.

(2) Information relative to III MAF in-patient treatment facilities is as follows:

<u>TAOR</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AUTH BEDS</u>	<u>ACT BEDS</u>	<u>AVG CENSUS</u>	<u>%OCC</u>
Quang Tri	3d Med Bn (-) 3d MarDiv	240	140	74	53
CSB Vandergrift	C-Co (-) 3d MedBn		10		
Dong Ha	D-Co 3d MedBn	15	15	6	40
Danang	1st MedBn 1st MarDiv	240	180	111	62
Danang	1st HospCo 1st MarDiv	100	100	70	70

(3) The USS Sanctuary (AH-17) was LogSup III MAF the entire month of December. The USS Repose (AH-16) was LogSup III MAF from 1 December 1968 until 26 December 1968. Departed for Subic Bay for Up-Keep, 27 December 1968 and will return LogSup III MAF on 7 January 1969. Both ships were on station at the below listed locations as the tactical situation required.

- (a) Quang Tri - Dong Ha operating area
- (b) Northern Station - approximately equidistant from Phu Bai and Wunder Beach
- (c) Danang Harbor

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(4) III MAF Medical Department strength as of 31Dec68 is as follows:

	<u>2100</u> <u>Allow/OH</u>		<u>2300</u> <u>Allow/OH</u>		<u>HM's</u> <u>Allow/OH</u>	
1st MarDiv	90	75	17	14	1137	1224
3rd MarDiv	74	68	14	13	1075	984
1st MAW	34	34	2	3	234	194
FLC/1stFSR	13	8	7	4	166	149
III MAF Hq	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>138</u>
Totals	<u>213</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>2746</u>	<u>2689</u>

(5) Figures shown under III MAF Headquarters include 126 Hospital Corpsman assigned for the Combined Action Program. as follows:

CAG #1 (Chu Lai)	CAG #2 (Danang)	CAG #3 (Phu Bai)	CAG #4 (Quang Tri)
26	49	35	16

(6) There was no dispersal of insecticides accomplished during the month of December 1968.

(7) Col H. R. UNGER, MC USAF, Chief of Professional Services, Office of the Command Surgeon, MACV and Maj L. O. PRATT, WC USAF, Nursing Advisor, visited facilities ICTZ period 7-11 December 1968.

(8) Cdr H. E. DANIEL, MSC USN arrived 29 December 1968 and relieved Cdr W. B. MC DUFFIE, MSC USN as Administrative Assistant to the Force Surgeon on 1 January 1969.

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7. Comptroller

a. Significant Events for December

6th Piaster Expenditure Control Committee meeting conducted. Discussed Piaster Expenditure and AIK Budget execution.

7th LtCol. FORD to TAD, Saigon to discuss establishment of credit unions with congressional subcommittee.

9th LtCol. FORD from TAD, Saigon.

SECRET**8. Civil Affairs.**

a. Objectives. The basic objectives of the III Marine Amphibious Force Civil Affairs program remain the same.

b. Civic Action.

(1) Military civic action projects continue on the increase during December with a noted improvement of active participation by the populace. Closer coordination of civic action projects at all levels between FWMAF and GVN officials is one of the deciding factors contributing to the overall success of the program.

(2) Especially noteworthy this month is the evidenced comradeship between US/FWMAF Forces and the local populace that was brought forth due to the Christmas holiday celebrations in which numerous gifts were distributed by FWMAF. Many hamlets and villages placed a new (TET like) importance on the Christmas celebrations. A large number of social gatherings were held by the people of the hamlets and villages in honor of FWMAF in respective areas. The sentiment expressed was one of unity of cause, close friendship and gratitude. This good relationship between FWMAF and the local populace has continued to produce valuable intelligence information to military units throughout I Corps.

(3) Although MEDCAP's continue to be one of the most effective civic action projects, several new innovations have been introduced during this period. Noteworthy has been the introduction of 15 mechanical cultivators in Thua Thien Province, which caused wide spread interest and utilization by rice farmers of the area.

(4) Noted during this month has been the increased interest by the people in self-improvement and the improved coordination between the populace and GVN officials.

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SECRET9. PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE OPERATIONS

a. Chieu Hoi Program. 287 enemy personnel rallied during the reporting period.

b. Statistics:

- (1) Total leaflets distributed by air: 280,664,978
- (2) Total hand distributed: 4,162,425
- (3) Total number hours US grd/waterborne loudspeaker broadcasts 2,963:05/30:15
- (4) Total number aerial loudspeaker broadcasts 517:00
- (5) Total posters produced: 29,737
- (6) Total movies shown: 725
- (7) Total cultural drama performances: 94

c. Campaign Support, number of leaflets/air broadcasts:

	<u>Lfts (air Dropped)</u>	<u>Broadcast Hrs (Air)</u>
(1) Chieu Hoi	219,857,938	265:55
(2) Anti VC/NVA	22,866,890	92:25
(3) Support GVN	19,252,650	92:40
(4) Rewards	18,687,500	66:00

d. Tactical PSYOP in support of Major Operations:

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>LFTS DROPPED</u>	<u>AIR BDCST HRS</u>
(1) Nevada Eagle	15,607,650	59:03
(2) Vernon Lake II	10,792,000	40:25
(3) Hardin Falls	130,000	None
(4) Fayette Canyon	3,716,900	6:55
(5) Scotland	5,986,200	29:50
(6) Dawson River	6,548,000	18:00
(7) Kentucky	6,896,600	14:00
(8) Napoleon/Saline	5,592,800	16:30
(9) Marshall Mountain	4,615,000	13:45
(10) Lancaster	761,000	:50
(11) Meade River		:20
(12) Taylor Common	620,000	2:55

e. Kit Carson Scout Activities. Cognizance over the Kit Carson Scout Program has been transferred from PSYOPS to the G-2 Section. Accordingly, the KCS input to the Psychological Operations Command Chronology is deleted for the month of December.

f. Narrative Summary.

- (1) General.

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(a) The III MAF monthly PSYOP Conference convened on 20 December at the III MAF Headquarters, with representatives of III MAF PSYOP, CORDS/PSYOP, CORDS/Chieu Hoi, 7th PSYOP Battalion, and major US, ARVN and ROKMC tactical units in attendance. The agenda included discussion of security for the Quang Ngai Chieu Hoi center; summation of PSYOP support for the Nguyen Trai Campaign; and reviews of the status of the Accelerated Pacification Campaign, the Chieu Hoi inducement rewards campaign, and the Chieu Hoi Center Visitation program.

(b) Third Marine Division instituted operational employment of leaflet loaded artillery rounds. After overcoming initial fusing and packing problems, the Third Marine Division is now successfully utilizing these rounds for PSYOP targeted against otherwise inaccessible enemy units in Northern areas.

(c) During the month of December, the Third Marine Division emplaced 40 transistorized "mini-radios" in bunkers and along trails in the DMZ. These inexpensive radios, capable of air dissemination as well as hand emplacement, are intended for discovery and use by NVA troops. It is anticipated that these radios, capable of receiving Radio HUE, will be a practical means of delivering non-Communist versions of news developments, particularly news of the Paris Talks, to the NVA soldier.

(2) Chieu Hoi Campaign.

(a) A total of 287 Hoi Chanhs rallied in ICTZ during December, bringing the yearly total for the III MAF/I Corps 1968 Chieu Hoi Campaign to 3,118 Hoi Chanhs. This surpasses the 1967 ICTZ total of 2,539 Hoi Chanhs.

(b) During December, a new program was initiated to arrange tours of Chieu Hoi Centers for civilians from contested areas. In Quang Tri Province, a tour was arranged for 100 families, many of whom were known to have relatives in the Viet Cong. The visitors talked to ralliers in the center and listened to speeches explaining the Chieu Hoi Program. The visitors provided the names of more than 100 relatives in the Viet Cong, and individual letters are to be written to these Viet Cong encouraging them to rally. Similar tours were conducted on two occasions at the Danang Chieu Hoi Center. In Danang, the tours included visits to the Lam Son Armed Propaganda Company compound.

(3) Anti NVA Campaign.

(a) During the month of December, NVA tactical activity remained at a relatively low level, with the result that PSYOP exploitation of NVA unit vulnerabilities placed less emphasis on enemy casualties and greater emphasis on such continuing vulnerabilities as food shortages, hardships, and lack of medical supplies.

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SECRET(4) Anti VC Campaign.

(a) PSYOP activity targeted against the Viet Cong emphasized the "Denounce the Viet Cong Infrastructure" (DVCI) Campaign. PSYOP support of the DVCI Campaign continued to saturate new areas with propaganda as additional hamlets were uncovered in the progress of the Accelerated Pacification Campaign.

(b) Americal Division integrated it's PSYOP efforts in support of the DVCI Campaign with efforts to counter local VC elections, supplementing "most-wanted VCI" rewards leaflets with appeals to boycott false elections.

(5) Support GVN Campaign.

(a) PSYOP activity conducted in support of the Government of South Vietnam was concerned primarily with support of the Accelerated Pacification Campaign. The emphasis of this support was placed on "face-to-face" PSYOP, including the use of APT's and PRU's, the utilization of HE team loudspeakers for speeches by local officials, and hand distribution of newspapers and handbills informing civilians of developments in the Paris negotiations.

(b) In order to increase and improve dissemination of news among the rural populace, III MAF PSYOP and I Corps POLWAR have begun joint production of the bi-weekly newspaper, Ban Tien. This small, but highly regarded, newspaper is a collection of relevant news articles culled from Saigon newspapers flown daily to Danang. Initial circulation was 30,000 copies of each bi-weekly edition; 7th PSYOP Battalion has now increased production to 50,000 copies per edition in order to meet the increasing demand.

(6) Civilian Rewards Campaign. The III MAF/I Corps Civilian Rewards program yielded 966 instances of rewards payments to Vietnamese civilians for information leading to the recovery of weapons and explosives. This brings the yearly total for 1968 to 8,828 rewards incidents, which is a quantum increase over the 1967 total of 1,083.

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SECRET10. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Message volume through the III MAF Communication Center

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Incoming	38,400	35,997		2,403
Outgoing	20,046	20,882	836	
Total	58,446	56,879		1,567

b. Combat Operations Center Communication Center traffic

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Incoming	5,643	6,454	811
Outgoing	9,395	10,247	852
Total	15,038	16,701	1663

c. Headquarters, III MAF message traffic originated

November	3,870
December	4,080
Increase	210

d. The average daily subscriber initiated call rate through the III MAF AN/TTC-28 was 9200 calls. This figure does not include an estimated average of 2000 operator processed trunk calls for which no accurate count is available due to capability of equipment.

e. Battlefield Surveillance Radar School operational and administrative control passed from III MAF to 1st MarDiv on 15 December 1968.

(1) During the reporting period, the III MAF operated school graduated 5 student operators and conducted a special, one-week class for 5 student operators.

(2) While operated by III MAF, the school trained a total of 381 personnel and calibrated 269 Radar Sets, AN/PPS-6.

f. Colonel MATTHEWS, Assistant Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, visited Colonel HORNER, G-6 on 2 December 1968.

g. LtCol DAVIS visited CEO, 3dMarDiv on 3 December 1968.

h. LtCol DAVIS visited 1st Log Comd on 4 December 1968.

i. LtCol DAVIS and Major CONNELL visited the Crypto Repair Facility project under construction at NSA DaNang (Sea Anchor) on 5 December 1968.

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- j. LtCol DAVIS made a liaison visit to N-5, NSA DaNang on 7 December.
- k. Major CONNELL made a liaison visit to ForLogComd (CCP) on 7 December.
- l. Colonel BURNS, Dir, Ops, 1st Signal Bde, Colonel RICHARDSON, C-E, USARV, Colonel CRAWFORD, Ch, CommSysMgmtAgency, 1st Signal Bde, and Colonel MODISETT, MACV J-6 visited with G-6 representatives to discuss message relay delays in ICTZ on 9 December.
- m. LtCol DAVIS visited Maintenance Bn, ForLogComd and 1st MAW CEO on 10 December.
- n. III MAF/Area Coordinator ICTZ Cable Coordinating Committee met at III MAF on 10 December.
- o. LtCol DAVIS visited 5th Comm Bn and CEO, 1stMarDiv on 11 December.
- p. LtCol DAVIS made staff visits to 1st Log Comd(Maint) and 5th Comm Bn on 12 December.
- q. Colonel TABOR, Dep ACofS, G-3, USARV, met with III MAF G-6 representatives to discuss Advisor/CORDS communications in ICTZ on 12 December.
- r. Major CONNELL, Asst Maint Officer, III MAF G-6, transferred to CONUS on emergency leave/PCS on 14 December.
- s. LtCol DAVIS made a staff visit to CEO, 1stMarDiv on 16 December.
- t. Lt KROUSLIS, ICTZ Telephone Maintenance Officer, was killed in an aircraft accident near Chu Lai on 17 December.
- u. Colonel HORNER briefed BGen DOOLEY, prospective Chief of Staff, III MAF, on 17 December.
- v. LtCol DAVIS made a staff visit to ForLogComd on 19 December.
- w. AUTOSEVOCOM Terminals at III MAF Hq became fully operational on 27 December.
- x. BGen RIENZI, Dep CG, 1st Signal Bde, visited Colonel HORNER on 28 December.
- y. 1stLt SHULGAY attended a MACV J-3 briefing to discuss communication requirements for POW Release Teams on 30 December.
- z. LtCol DAVIS made a liaison visit to 5th Comm Bn on 31 December.

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SECRET**11. COMBAT INFORMATION BUREAU**

a. BACKGROUND. During December, 1968, the CIB provided escorts to accompany newsmen on 333 newsgathering assignments covering I Corps Tactical Zone ground and air operations, civic action, and the CAP program. The Press Center provided accommodations for 151 newsmen during the month.

b. MOTOR TRANSPORT. The vehicles^{1st}at NSA are being inspected thoroughly to determine whether they will be repaired or surveyed. Vehicles on hand are as follows:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>VEHICLE #</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
M-37	312260	Working
S-10	250871	Working
M-151	358467	Working
M-151	353697	Working
Ford-100	500x014	Deadline NSA
Dodge-200	500x031	Deadline NSA
Datsun	500x130	Working
M-151	94-69171	Deadline NSA
M-151	94-69487	Deadline NSA

c. PHOTOGRAPHY. The following are the production figures for all Photographic Sections in I Corps:

<u>UNITS</u>	<u>NEGATIVES</u>	<u>PRINTS</u>	<u>MOPIC (FEET)</u>
CIB	3,670	18,773	4,800
1stMarDiv	2,564	10,529	3,700
3rdMarDiv	6,548	7,338	6,240
1stMAW	4,226	10,461	1,400
FLC	3,727	10,456	0
I Corps	648	1,213	0
TOTAL	21,383	58,770	16,140

(1) Motion Picture Capability. The III MAF Photo Unit is close to achieving its long-time goal of having a sound-motion picture capability. Two Arriflex 16mm motion picture cameras and two $\frac{1}{4}$ inch Nagra tape recorders were received by the unit recently. Marines currently serving in the III MAF Photo Unit will be used for the motion picture team.

The III MAF Motion Picture Team will be employed as assigned by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commanding General of the III Marine Amphibious Force. The motion picture footage produced by the team will be used in GMC Film Reports, news film releases that DivInfo distributes to television stations throughout the United States, footage for historical purposes, and other such purposes as required.

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Since the equipment arrived in Vietnam in a damaged condition (on 26 November), "trial runs" have been ~~performed~~ and the unprocessed film has been sent to Headquarter Marine Corps. No report has been received as yet on the quality of this trial footage. Events covered in the "trial runs" include:

Deactivation of Camp Carroll
 Dedication of the Preziosi School at Nam O Village
 CAP Director (Col Danewitz) visiting CAP units
 Honors for MGen Anderson

The III MAF Motion Picture Team will greatly increase the Marine Corps' motion picture capability in Vietnam. Planned usage for the team includes:

Two Special Reports for CMC (THE SQUAD LEADER and THE AIR OBSERVER)

CMC's Visit to Vietnam
 CMC's Press Conference at CIB

(2) Television News Film Clips. The following news clips have been received at CIB:

Marine CH-53 Aerobatics - $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes
 Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital - $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes
 Marine Rough Rider (SOF) - $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes

(3) CMC Special Film Report. CMC (Code A03P) has sent out its latest CMC Special Film Report. It runs for 13 minutes and is entitled "Refugees." It deals with how the Marine Corps handles the refugee problem in I Corps. All relief agencies are mentioned.

(4) Photographic Knowledge Report. CMC (Code A03P) has requested an input to MCO 3480.2 (Program for Exploiting Professional Knowledge Gained from Marine Corps Experience in South Vietnam). This input will deal with Photographic Knowledge. All Marine Corps Photo Labs in I Corps have been visited by the Force Photo Officer and his Photo Chief to gather information for this input and to discuss tighter coordination of the photographic effort in I Corps.

d. RADIO/TELEVISION. III MAF Informational Services Offices produced and forwarded to Fleet Home Town News Center, nearly 12,000 taped interviews with Marines during 1968. This was nearly double the number for 1967. The figures below represent the Radio/TV features and PHINC interviews submitted by III MAF during the month of December 1968:

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<u>SUBMITTING UNIT</u>	<u>TAPED STORIES SUBMITTED TO CIB</u>	<u>TOTAL PRODUCTION FOR DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>FTHNG TAPES</u>
CIB	9	1,120	0
1stMarDiv	29	N/A	130
3rdMarDiv	15	N/A	317
1stMAW	0	N/A	250
FLC	0	N/A	300
TOTAL	53	1,120	997

(1) One Radio/TV announcer was used in conjunction with the CIB Photo (Sync-Sound) coverage of the closing of Camp Carroll and award ceremonies at III MAF Headquarters.

e. OPERATIONS/ESCORT. The Operations/Escort Unit has put out a year's-end wrap-up of activities in I Corps during 1968. It has been distributed to all Marine Corps District Headquarters, all post and station ISOs, Headquarters Marine Corps, FMFPac, and to civilian news media. Much of the information, plus photographs and additional chronological material will be used in a MACV Information Office booklet, "1968, A Year of Progress."

(1) Operation Holly. During December, Major Joel A. Martin, the Operations Officer, was a member of the Operation Holly staff which coordinated the Bob Hope show in I Corps. He served as Press Officer for the committee. His duties consisted of arranging for both civilian and military press coverage of the events, advising on restrictions placed on coverage, setting up a press tent at the Freedom Hill performance, arranging for friends and relatives of the cast to be brought to Da Nang to meet with the cast and to be interviewed by the press, and determining the distribution of limited numbers of press passes to the military ISO personnel in I Corps.

(2) CBS Special Film Report. During December, CBS filmed a large part of a documentary on military justice in III MAF units. It is to be shown in the U. S. sometime in late February or early March.

(3) Notable News Items. Notable items in the news in the U.S. included a story by Peter Braestrup of the Washington Post on the general situation in III MAF, and CBS interviews with Generals Cushman and Davis.

(4) Notable Newsmen. Notable news media representative at the Press Center during December numbered 151 and they were escorted on 333 newsgathering missions throughout I Corps. Among them were Ken Gale, Don Baker, R. Rosenbaum, and Frank Mariano, ABC; Tom Reynolds, Larry Pomeroy, Tony Sargent, Sy Wolen, Don Webster, and Dick Threlkeld, CBS; Bob Jones, Bob Goralski, and Jim Bennett, NBC; Dick Pyle, Toby Pyle, John Lengel, George Esper, Yvon Cornu, D. V. Phouc, and Henri Huet, AP; John Walsh, Dave Lamb, Bert Okuley, Nat Gibson, Kent Potter, Barry Newberry, Ray

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Wilkinson, and S. Akatuska, UPI; Ben Golden, REUTERS; Bob Wildau and Hugh Greenway, TIME-LIFE; Gabriel Conesa, PARIS MATCH; Zalin Grant and Susan Harrigan, NEW REPUBLIC; B. D. Ayres, N.Y. TIMES; Peter Braestrup, WASHINGTON POST; R. Ross MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE; J. Foise and P. Fradkin, L.A. TIMES; Bob Turner, INDIANAPOLIS NEWS; Buck Lanier, LONG BEACH, CALIF. INDEPENDENT PRESS-TELEGRAM; Ann Bryant, Terry Reynolds, and D. Hirst, OVERSEAS WEEKLY; Suteami Terada and Hiroshi Ohta, TOKYO BROADCASTING SYSTEM; Henry Schoute, AVRO R/TV, HOLLAND; Anil Naren Dra, DAILY PRATAP, NEW DELHI; J. C. Malet and R. K. Nagai, VISNEWS; Uwe Siemon, SPRINGER NEWS SERVICE; Guido Rossi, L'EUROPEA MAGAZINE; Edward Opton, PACIFICA FOUNDATION; John Steinbeck, Jr., FREELANCE.

(5) Newsmen Casualties. Three newsmen were WIA (evac) in December. They were Pierre Issot, UPI-TN, on 1 Dec with a gunshot wound to the lower right leg. He was evacuated to Saigon on 6 Dec.; Barry Newberry, UPI, suffered shrapnel wounds to the shoulders and back on 5 Dec. Both men were wounded during Operation Meade River. The third newsmen was S. Yasuda of NBC who suffered minor shrapnel wounds on the right side on 30 Dec., while covering Operation Le Loi (ARVN portion of Operation Taylor Common).

f. PRESS UNIT. During 1968, press releases produced by III MAF Informational Services Offices numbered 5,326, an average of nearly 450 a month and 594 more than were produced in 1967. An all-time III MAF record was established during December, 1968, when the CIB Press Unit processed, for dissemination to civilian and military news media, 676 news releases from III MAF units. This represented the greatest number of news releases processed in any one month in the history of the CIB. Supporting these 676 news releases were 426 photographs with captions. A breakdown of the over-all release total for December is as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1stMarDiv	148
3rdMarDiv	145
1stMAW	133
CIB	126
FLC	103
SLF	21
TOTAL	676

(g) FHINC Releases. During 1968, 110,500 items were sent to FHINC. This compares with 94,000 for 1967. During December, 1968, 11,310 items were forwarded. These were as follows:

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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1stMarDiv	5,984
3rdMarDiv	2,102
1stMAW	1,522
FLC	1,502
CIB	200
TOTAL	<u>11,310</u>

(2) SEA TIGER Awards. The III MAF newspaper, SEA TIGER, won the following awards during 1968:

Silver Anchor Award as the Sea Service Newspaper of the Year for "Outstanding Achievement." This was awarded by the Armed Forces Writers League, Washington, D.C., with some 500 newspapers competing.

Chief of Navy Information (CHINFO) Merit Award, First Quarter of 1968, for "Exemplary Achievement."

CHINFO Merit Award, Third Quarter of 1968, for best five-column newspaper in the Navy and Marine Corps.

g. COMBAT ART. The Combat Art Unit continues to forward its productions to Headquarters Marine Corps, where it is utilized in art exhibits and publications throughout the U. S. Of special noteworthiness are:

The recently published book, "Vietnam Combat Art," consisting entirely of the works of Marine and civilian artist who have spent a tour in Vietnam under the auspices of the Marine Corps Combat Art program.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps' Christmas Card which featured a sketch by Corporal Henry C. Casselli. Corporal Casselli has rotated to the U.S. and will be on the staff of Leatherneck Magazine.

(a) Personnel. Corporal Casselli rotated to CONUS on ~~16~~ Dec 68. LCpl Richard L. Yaco is with the Third Marine Division. Staff Sergeant R. J. Jordan of Operations/Escort Section assumed additional duties as caretaker of the Combat Art Unit until 28 Dec 68 when SSgt J. A. Fairfax, a 1461 (Illustrator) reported aboard. SSgt Fairfax is assigned to the Combat Art program on a "trial basis." A determination will be made at a later date as to his suitability for the program. Colonel John H. Rogers, USMCR, Assistant Head, Combat Art Branch, DivInfo, is expected to arrive in the near future. He will remain about seven weeks and will function as a combat artist as well as assisting and inspecting the on-board Combat Artists. A civilian artist, Mr. Jean Auger, will arrive about 10 Jan 69 for a normal tour of duty under the auspices of the Combat Art program.

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h. PRESS CENTER UNIT. The Press Center Unit (restaurant, hotel and bar) finished the year with net earnings of \$19,486.04, a 12.2 percent net profit. The monies will be used for the Equipment and Improvement Reserve and the Operating Surplus as a "bridge" for the time when the newsman population (and subsequently business) declines.

(1) Notable Improvements. The following improvements have been made to the utilities, buildings and grounds of the Press Center:

- (a) A new water tower has been constructed.
- (b) Two new water tanks have been installed.
- (c) Old and leaky roofing has been replaced as part of an extensive re-roofing program.
- (d) The compound has been surfaced with asphalt and gravel.
- (e) Room 50 of the hotel complex has been remodeled.
- (f) All hotel rooms are now air conditioned.
- (g) An underground drainage system has been installed in the back compound to eliminate a standing water problem.

(2) Future Projects. The following projects to improve the Press Center are planned or are ~~awaiting completion~~:

- (a) Installation of a more secure storeroom for high cost and pilferable items.
- (b) Completion of a repainting program for all rooms.
- (c) Installation of an increased ~~capacity water tank to~~ meet the high water volume and pressure requirements of the Photographic Unit.
- (d) Completion of protective shelter (bunker) building program.

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12. CHRONOLOGY OF VIP VISITS.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK/SERVICE</u>	<u>BILLET</u>
1Dec68	Wm. G. BRAY	Mr;Rep.	(R) Indiana
1Dec68	H. G. MACHEN	Mr;Rep.	(D) Maryland
1Dec68	J. ALSOP	Mr;	Washington Post
4-5Dec68	J. G. WHEELLOCK III	BGen;USA	Prospective Dep AC/S J-3, MACV
5-6Dec68	G. M. SEIGNIOUS	MGen;	Military Representative of Paris Peace Conf.
6Dec68	C. W. ABRAMS	Gen;USA	COMUSMACV
6Dec68	L. J. BINDER	Mr;	Editor, Army Magazine
7-8Dec68	J. E. WILLIAMS	BGen;USMC	CG, 9th MAB
9Dec68	G. F. BING	Dr;GS-18	Science Adv., SHAPE
9Dec68	P. C. DICKINSON	Dr;	MACV Science Adv. Off.
11Dec68	J. D. LAVELLE	LGen;USAF	Dir, DCPG
14Dec68	W. L. SHEIRBON	Mr;	Nat'l Cmdr, Disabled American Veterans
15-17Dec68	H. W. BUSE Jr.	LGen;USMC	CG, FMFPAC
20Dec68	F. CURRAN	Mr;Mayor	San Diego, Calif.
21Dec68	E. R. ZUMWALT Jr.	VADM;USN	COMNAVFORV
22-25Dec68	J. W. KELLY (CHC)	RADM;USN	Chf of Chaplains
23-25Dec68	B. GRAHAM	Dr;	Evangelist
24-25Dec68	J. S. McCAIN	ADM;USN	CINCPAC
24Dec68	B. HOPE	Mr;	Entertainer
26Dec68	T. J. COOKE	Archbishop	D. D.

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PART IV

REFERENCES

- (A) Third Marine Division Command Chronology, December 1968.
- (B) First Marine Division Command Chronology, December 1968.
- (C) First Marine Aircraft Wing Command Chronology, December 1968.
- (D) Force Logistics Command Command Chronology, December 1968.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- (1) December 1968 Editions, III MAF Newspaper, "SEA TIGER."
Removed. Relocated in NES library.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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