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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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1-14
APRIL
1971

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MAY 13 1971
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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CG, III MAF ltr 3:12/emp over 5750
Ser: 00157-71 of 30 April 1971

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

Subj: Command Chronology

1. Forwarded.

G. R. Scharnberg
G. R. SCHARNBERG
By direction

Copy to:
CG, III MAF

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS, III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, FMF
FPO, SAN FRANCISCO 96602

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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5750

Ser:00157-71

30 APR 1971

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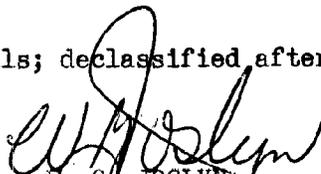
From: Commanding General
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1C
(b) FMFPAGO 5750.8B

Encl: (1) III MAF Command Chronology, 1-14 April 1971

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. Downgraded at 3 year intervals; declassified after 12 years.


W. G. JOSLYN
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
MACV
CMC (Advance Copy)

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 April - 14 April 1971

INDEX

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PART II	-	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III	-	SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION COMMANDER

III Marine Amphibious Force Lieutenant General Donn J. ROBERTSON
U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

DEPUTY COMMANDER (AIR)

Major General Alan J. ARMSTRONG
U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

DEPUTY COMMANDER (GROUND)

Major General Charles F. WIDDECKE
U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

SUBORDINATE UNITS

1st Marine Aircraft Wing Major General Alan J. ARMSTRONG
U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

1st Marine Division Major General Charles F. WIDDECKE
U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

Force Logistic Command Brigadier General James R. JONES
U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

2nd Combined Action Group Lieutenant Colonel John J. TOLNAY
U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

Communication Support Company Major R. T. HIMMERICH
7th Communication Battalion U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

Commanding Officer Colonel William J. SPIESEL
Headquarters III Marine U. S. Marine Corps
Amphibious Force 1-14Apr71
Headquarters Commandant

1st Radio Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Edward D. RESNIK
U. S. Marine Corps
1-14Apr71

2. LOCATION. 1-14 April 1971, Northwest Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam.

3. STAFF OFFICER

Chief of Staff	Brigadier General William G. JOSLYN U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Deputy Chief of Staff	Colonel Eugene H. HAFNEY U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1	Colonel Lavern J. OLMER U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2	Colonel Forest J. HUNT U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Deputy G-2	Colonel Robert E. GRUENLER U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3	Colonel Charles H. LUDDEN U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Deputy G-3	Colonel Jesse L. GIBNEY U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4	Colonel Warren E. MCCAIN U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5	Major Donald E. SUDDUTH U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6	Colonel Robert L. WILLIS U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Force Supply Officer	Colonel Clarence H. SCHMID U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Force Staff Judge Advocate	Colonel Daniel F. MCCONNELL U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71

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Force Engineer Officer	Lieutenant Colonel Thomas W. JONES U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Force Adjutant	Major John F. ANGIL U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Officer in Charge, Command Center	Major Bernard MCMAHON U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Force Chaplain	Captain John H. CARNES U. S. Navy 1-14Apr71
Force Surgeon	Captain Harold P. PARISER U. S. Navy 1-14Apr71
Force Dental Officer	Commander William P. ARMSTRONG U. S. Navy 1-14Apr71
Staff Secretary	Lieutenant Colonel Carlo ROMANO U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Protocol Officer	Major J. D. WATSON U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Force Special Services Officer	Major Hans S. HAUPT U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
Force Public Affairs Officer	Major Phillip T. ARMAN U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71
USMC Liaison Officers, MACV USMC Liaison Officers, 7th AF	Colonel Stephen G. WARREN U. S. Marine Corps 1-14Apr71

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

a. III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE HEADQUARTERS

	<u>OFFICERS</u>		<u>ENLISTED</u>	
	USMC	USN	USMC	USN
FORCE HQS, III MAF	92	5	265	6
2D CAG	18	1	581	52
1ST RADIO BN (-)	15	0	246	6

b. III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

<u>OFFICERS</u>		<u>ENLISTED</u>	
USMC	USN	USMC	USN
1466	107	15613	761

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY1. INTRODUCTION

a. General. On the 14th of April 1971, an Activation and Re-deployment Ceremony was held on the parade field at Force Logistic Command, Camp Books, Northwest Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam. At the Ceremony, Lieutenant General Donn J. ROBERTSON, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, redeployed and reassigned the units of his command and activated the 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade under the command of Major General Alan J. ARMSTRONG. During the period 1-14 April 1971, Headquarters, III Marine Amphibious Force, was located at Camp Haskins, Northwest Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam. The average Marine/Navy strength in Military Region 1 was 17,947, a decrease of 3,312 personnel from the previous month.

b. Activities. III Marine Amphibious Force activities were guided by COMUSMACV Directive 10-11, dated 5 April 1970, and I ARVN/FWMAF MR-1 Combined Fall-Winter Campaign Plan, dated 8 September 1970, in pursuit of its objectives for the period 1-14 April 1971.

2. OVERALL EVALUATION

a. Incidents of enemy initiated activity increased during the period 1-14 April. The enemy had staged a number of bold attacks during the end of March in initiating their Spring K-850 Campaign, and they continued that campaign with numerous probing attacks and rocket and mortar attacks throughout Quang Nam Province. A thorough analysis of enemy activity is contained in Section III, Paragraph 5, (Intelligence), of this chronology.

b. In addition to normal, small unit operations, there were two major, named operations continued or initiated during the period 1-14 April 1971. Operation "IMPERIAL LAKE" continued under the operational control of 1st Marines. During the reporting period this operation resulted in 7 enemy killed. There were no Marine casualties. On 8 April 1971, 1st Marines initiated operation "SCOTT ORCHARD". This operation was designed to locate prisoner of war camps and liberate FWMAF and indigenous POW's and to kill or capture enemy in the area of operation, vicinity (ZC 0541). The operation terminated on 12 April. Results were, 4 enemy killed, 1 enemy captured and 12 individual weapons captured. There were no Marine casualties. Results of all Marine operations during the reporting period were 57 enemy killed and 17 weapons captured.

3. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

a. III MAF CASUALTIES

(1) Battle

<u>KIA</u>		<u>WIA</u>		<u>DOW</u>		<u>MIA</u>	
USMC	USN	USMC	USN	USMC	USN	USMC	USN
3	0	46	5	0	0	0	0

(2) Non-Battle

<u>DEATHS</u>		<u>ILL/INJ</u>	
2	0	116	11

b. NUMBER OF COURTS-MARTIAL TRIED:

SUMMARY	7
SPECIAL	5
GENERAL	2

c. SHORT MONS OF MAIL SENT AND RECEIVED BY III MAF:

SENT	94
RECEIVED	174

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING 1-14 APRIL 19711. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

a. GENERAL. During the period 1-14 April, one major named operation was continued from the previous month and one operation was initiated by Marine units in Military Region 1. Operation "IMPERIAL LAKE" was continued and operation "SCOTT ORCHARD" was initiated. Effective dates and results are listed below;

<u>MAJOR OPERATION</u>	<u>FND CAS</u>		<u>EN CAS</u>		<u>PERIOD</u>
	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WC</u>	
IMPERIAL LAKE	0	0	7	0	1-14Apr71
SCOTT ORCHARD	0	0	4	12	8-12Apr71

SMALL UNIT ACTIVITY

1ST MARINE DIVISION	0	11	54	15	1-14Apr71
2ND COMBINED ACTION GROUP	1	4	3	2	1-14Apr71
TOTAL	1	15	57	17	1-14Apr71

b. EVENTS. During the period 1-14 April 1971, the following significant events were reported;

At 020200H, "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, received a call for fire from 2nd of the 51st ARVN Regiment who were in a night defensive position 4 Kms southwest of Hill 119. The artillery fire mission resulted in 7 enemy killed.

At 022000H, CAP 2-7-6, while in a night defensive position 5 Kms northwest of Dien Ban, initiated small arms fire on 6 VC, resulting in 3 enemy killed and 1 individual weapon and 4 grenades captured.

At 030020H, CUPP Team "SKINNER" from 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, observed a flash of light and enemy movement 2 Kms northeast of their position on Hill 55. The CUPP Team fired M-79 rounds at the target. A sweep of the area at first light disclosed 3 VC killed and 1 AK-47 and 2 M-26 grenades were captured.

At 050205H, Da Nang Air Base received seven 122mm rockets, resulting in 2 VN civilians wounded, 2 VN houses destroyed and 1 VN house damaged. Counter-battery fire was employed on 8 preplanned targets of egress with unknown results.

At 051448H, a forward observer on Hill 65, with the use of an IOD, observed 3 VC with weapons moving 2 1/2 Kms southwest of Hill 65. An artillery fire mission was called, resulting in 1 VC killed. Then at 051715H, the same forward observer spotted 3 VC carrying weapons and mortar tubes in the same general area. A second fire mission was called, resulting in 2 more VC killed.

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Enclosure (1)

At 071553H, a forward observer on Hill 65, with the use of an IOD, sighted 30-40 VC/NVA 2 1/2 Kms southwest of his position. An artillery fire mission was called, utilizing "A" Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines and an 81mm mortar Battery on Hill 65. The artillery and 81mm mortar fire resulted in 34 confirmed enemy killed. The remainder of the enemy could not be observed due to dust and smoke.

At 090055H, Da Nang Air Base received five 122mm rockets, resulting in 5 VN civilians wounded. In addition, 2 buildings, 1 house, 2 trucks and 1 car sustained major damage and 2 buildings, 1 house and 1 truck received minor damage. Counter battery was employed on 8 preplanned targets of egress with unknown results.

2. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy. See page 15.

LIST OF SPECIAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL
1971 UP TO THE 14TH

3. Personnel

a. Stars and Stripes: From 1Apr71 to 14Apr71, the amount of free issues of Stars and Stripes newspapers to be distributed to III MAF personnel is 43,700.

b. R&R Activities (Out-of-Country): The total number of seats allocated to the III MAF for this time period is 519. The number allotted to Okinawa was 46. The MACV percentage of utilization is not available at this time.

c. In-Country R&R: The total China Beach In-Country R&R allocation for this period was 6 Officer Quotas and 135 enlisted quotas, all of which were used.

d. Special Services/Clubs Flight to Hong Kong: One round-trip Special Services Hong Kong Flight was made during this period utilizing 45 seats.

4. FORCE CHAPLAIN

- 2 Apr Staff visit to III MAF, FLC, 1st MarDiv.
- 4 Apr Conducted divine services at 1st MP Battalion and Wing Memorial Chapel.
- 8 Apr Conducted Holy Communion service at Wing Memorial Chapel on Maundy Thursday.
- 9 Apr Conducted Good Friday service in the Wing Memorial Chapel. Service featured a dialogue sermon on the theme "Were You There?" Jewish personnel departed Danang at 1400 for observance of Passover Holy Days in Chu Lai. Church party will return Monday. Transportation provided by 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Checks in the amount of \$3254.18 were forwarded to the National Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation of Princeton, New Jersey for the Capodanno Memorial Scholarship. These represented contributions from all III MAF units.

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5. Intelligencea. General Enemy Situation

(1) Enemy activity during the first week of April was moderate. Mortar attacks against ARVN, RF, and PF Outposts, resettlement hamlets, and bridge security elements continued. A few of these mortar attacks were followed by ground attacks. Contacts between friendly patrols and small enemy elements continued, indicating that the VC/NVA were remaining in the lowland areas. The major effort for this week was the firing of seven rockets into the Da Nang area on 5 April. Three rockets impacted on the airfield while the other four landed in the surrounding city area. Total damage reported for the attack was one AirForce F-4 with minor damage, two Vietnamese civilians injured, two civilian homes destroyed and one civilian home heavily damaged. During the second week of April, there was a slight surge of activity. Hill 55 received four 122mm rockets the morning of 8 April and four more on the morning of 9 April. There were no reported casualties or damage from either attack. Also on 9 April, the enemy fired five 122mm rockets on Da Nang Airbase and the adjacent portion of the city. Two of the rockets landed on the airfield, causing no casualties or damage. Three rockets impacted in nearby residential areas, injuring five Vietnamese civilians, and damaging six houses and three civilian motor vehicles. Following the rocket attacks, enemy initiated activity decreased. Mortar attacks declined, and no ground attacks of consequence were reported.

(2) The enemy will probably return to his base areas to prepare for his next high point. Although casualties and damage inflicted during this phase of the K-850 campaign were negligible in proportion to the ordnance and lives expended by the enemy, he may have succeeded psychologically. The communists demonstrated again to the Vietnamese populace that they can and will carry out attacks despite the best efforts of the Allied Forces. Combined with the reduction in U.S. Forces, this demonstration could have a detrimental effect on the ARVN, the Territorial Forces and the civilian population.

b. Significant Contacts During The Period

(Note: Significant U.S. Marine contacts during the reporting period are listed under paragraph 1.b., part III of this Chronology.)

(1) On 1 April at 0145, an unknown size enemy unit fired six B-40 rounds at Cau Do Bridge, four kilometers southwest of Da Nang Airbase (AT 998706). The RPG attack was followed by approximately 100 rounds of small arms fire. There were no damage or casualties.

(2) At 1000 on 2 April, the 81st PF Platoon, guarding a bridge five kilometers west of Dai Loc (AT 867574), was attacked by an estimated VC platoon. The enemy was beaten off, and there was only minor damage to the bridge. Enemy losses are unknown.

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(3) On 3 April at 0301, Duc Duc District Headquarters and the nearby civilian resettlement area (AT 862472) were attacked with 100 rounds of 82mm mortar fire, an unknown number of B-40 RPG rounds and small arms fire. There were no known enemy losses.

(4) In an unusual daylight attack on 3 April at 1345, the 192d RF Company Compound, seven kilometers southwest of Hoi An (BT 104514), was attacked by two VC platoons. Satchel charges were thrown against the defensive positions and followed by a ground attack. One VC was killed and one AK-47 captured.

(5) Rounding out his activities on 3 April, at 1945 the enemy conducted mortar attacks against Dien Ban (BT 069582) and the Vinh Dien Bridge (BT 057588). Dien Ban received 15 rounds of 82mm fire and nine rounds of 82mm landed around the bridge. Four civilians were killed and nine wounded. There was no major damage to the bridge.

(6) At 1830 on 4 April, elements of the 97th and 105th RF Companies made contact with five VC nine kilometers southwest of Baldy Combat Base (BT 092367). Three of the enemy were killed and ten hand grenades captured.

(7) At 0330 on 5 April, the First Platoon, 34th RF Company in a night position six kilometers southwest of Marble Mountain (BT 046665) received 50 rounds of incoming 82mm mortar fire. Two RFs were slightly wounded.

(8) On 5 April at 1800, the 162d RF Company engaged an unknown size enemy unit five kilometers northwest of Baldy Combat Base (BT 080470). Four of the enemy were killed, and two individual weapons captured.

(9) At 0900 on the morning of 6 April, a patrol from the 927th RF Company discovered six VC in a bunker five kilometers northwest of Dien Ban (BT 010638). The patrol engaged the enemy, killing five and capturing one. Also captured were one AK-47 and one M-79.

(10) At 0400 on the morning of 7 April, the 916th and 220th PF Platoons ambushed an unknown size enemy force seven kilometers southwest of Baldy Combat Base (BT 080382). Five VC were killed and one captured. Also captured were three B-40 launchers and two AK-47s.

(11) On 9 April at 0630, Hill 55 (AT 967617) received three 122mm rockets. There were no casualties or damage.

(12) At 1950 on 9 April, the 104th RF Battalion ambushed an enemy junk six kilometers southeast of An Hoa (AT 977546). Ten enemy

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were killed in the action, the junk was sunk, and two AK-47s were captured.

(13) At 0915 on 11 April, the 708th RF Company made contact with an unknown size enemy force eight kilometers southwest of Dai Loc (AT 896507). Ten enemy were killed, and one antitank mine and seven grenades were captured.

(14) At 0930 on 12 April, the 3d Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment while on a search operation made contact with an unknown size enemy force three kilometers west of An Hoa (AT 850477). Ten enemy were killed, and one M-16 was captured.

c. Enemy Action Statistics. The following are statistics on enemy activities for the period 1 - 14 April 1971: (Against U.S. forces)

Enemy Initiated Activities

Attacks	00
Ambushes	00
Assaults by fire	00
Harassing fire	29
Mines/Booby traps	04
AA Fire/Hits	26/11

d. Enemy Order of Battle. There were no changes to the enemy Order of Battle for this two week period. Total enemy strength remains at 9,500.

e. Counterintelligence

(1) Counterintelligence Overview. VC/VCI Counterintelligence related activity during the period 1 - 14 April continued to show terrorist and intimidation tactics within the III MAF AO directed against the civilian populace. Terrorist activity by Da Nang Special Action Units has increased in conjunction with the K-850 campaign. There were a total of six incidents during the period as opposed to 28 incidents during March 1971 and ten incidents for the month of February. The total of kidnappings and structures destroyed increased significantly during the period as compared with the month of March.

(2) Terrorism and Propaganda. Terrorist activity within the III MAF AO consisted of six incidents during the reporting period. At approximately 0100 1 April, an estimated VC squad entered Phiem Ai (H) (AT 901571), Ai Nghia (V), Dai Loc (D), and kidnapped the Hamlet Deputy Chief and one civilian. At approximately 0500, 2 April 1971, an unknown

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size enemy force entered Thu Bon 4 (H) (AT 874494), Xuyen Thu (V), Duc Duc (D) and kidnapped 36 villagers (27 males, two females and seven children). The force then burned 37 houses. At approximately 0400, 7 April 1971, an unknown size enemy force infiltrated Phu Da (H) (AT 868490), Xuyen Thu (V), Duc Duc (D) and kidnapped 18 civilians; five civilians voluntarily left with the VC. The enemy force also destroyed 17 houses and inflicted damage to one pagoda and one school-house. The number of victims and structures damaged/destroyed during the period is as follows:

Killed	2 (-16)
Wounded	23 (-30)
Abducted	42 (+18)
Structures-Dam/Dest	59 (+51)

There were no propaganda incidents reported.

(3) Subversion. No incidents of subversion are known to have occurred during the reporting period.

(4) Sabotage. There were no reported incidents of sabotage during this period.

(5) Espionage. There were no reported incidents of espionage during the month. However, it can reasonably be assumed that the VC/VCI maintain a continuing intelligence collection effort within the III MAF AO for the purpose of identifying prospective targets.

f. Enemy Losses. Enemy losses for the period 1 - 14 April were:

KIAs	57
Detainees	05
PWs VC	01
PWs NVA	00
Innocent Civilians	00
Civil Defendants	00
Individual Weapons	17
Crew Served Weapons	00
Rice Captured	190lbs
Total Hoi Chanhs returned to both military and civilian authorities -	00

g. Kit Carson Scout Program

(1) Significant accomplishments of Kit Carson Scouts employed by 1st Marine Division for the period 1 - 14 April were:

Patrols	94
Classes Conducted	01
Psyops Broadcasts	00

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Enemy Captured/Suspects Apprehended	01
Enemy Killed	00
Weapons Recovered	03
Returnees	00
Caves/Tunnels Detected	03
Mines/Booby Traps Detected	01
Caches Discovered	00

(2) Additional statistics on Kit Carson Scouts employed by the 1st Marine Division are:

No of KCS:	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Recruited</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>ABSENT/TERMINATED</u>
	37	00	00	00	00	15

ENCLOSURE (1)

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6. LOGISTICS

a. General. During the period 1-14 April 1971, the G-4 section and cognizant staffs were busy preparing for redeployment of III MAF Headquarters to Okinawa. In addition, a major portion of the G-4 section effected establishment of counterpart assignments in anticipation of the activation of 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade. In the area of G-4 operations, the III MAF Real Estate/Base Development Office, Redistribution Center, and Ordnance moved intact into new offices to service 3d MAB in its primary role of phasedown. III MAF Embarkation also moved intact to future 3d MAB Headquarters. The above transfer of identical personnel and missions from III MAF to 3d MAB ensured continuity in the vital G-4 areas of Marine Corps redeployment from Vietnam. On 14 April 1971 the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 departed Vietnam with a reduced staff to assume a new mission and responsibilities on Okinawa.

b. G-4(1) Redistribution Program

(a) The III MAF Redistribution Program terminated during the reporting period to continue as a function of 3d MAB. Present statistics show that III MAF redistributed 306,924 items at a value of approximately 42.1 million dollars since the program's inception.

(b) Project 805 continued to show real progress during the reporting period. 98 items of equipment were offered for transfer to the Vietnamese armed forces and all were accepted. The dollar value of these transfers was \$84,876.45. The cumulative totals for equipment transferred under the program since 30 June 1970 are 10,089 items offered and 9,349 items accepted which reflects 93% acceptance rate and a dollar value of 3.2 million.

(2) Real Estate/Facilities

(a) Transfer of the following real estate/facilities was effected during 1-14 April 1971:

<u>CANTONMENT NAME</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED TO</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Hill 65	USA	12 April 1971
MACG-18	USAF	10 April 1971
Hill 37N	ARVN	13 April 1971

(b) No additional real estate/facilities were offered for transfer during April 1971.

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(3) Airlifts

(a) Marine Corps intra-Republic of Vietnam passenger and cargo airlift data was not available for the reporting period.

(b) Personnel flown out of the Republic of Vietnam in connection with permanent change of station orders totalled 1,897 for the reporting period.

(4) Ordnance

(a) The regular meeting of the Joint Ammunition Resources Board (JARB) was held in Saigon during the reporting period. As a result of this JARB meeting 212 short tons (\$231,904.00) and 180 short tons (\$316,143.00) of ground ammunition were transferred to U. S. Army and Vietnamese forces respectively.

(b) During the reporting period, telephone calls to MACV, USARV, and ARVN resulted in the transfer of further ground ammunition to U. S. Army, U. S. Air Force, and ARVN forces. Total tonnage transferred was 50 short tons valued at approximately \$91,570.00.

c. Embarkation Summary. During the period 1-14 April 1971, three amphibious ships were loaded and departed for the United States and Japan, with stopovers on Okinawa and at Hawaii in connection with Embarkation Units VI, VIII, and IX of Keystone Robin (Charlie).

d. Engineer Summary

(1) Force Engineers continue to support III MAF in MR-1 by maintaining 34.2 miles of road. Additionally, Force Engineers supplied mine sweep teams for 5.1 miles of HL-545. Force Engineers and NMCB-3 completed LTL-4 East during the reporting period.

(2) Force Engineers continued the dismantling and retrograde of 26 Butler buildings. To date 19 buildings have been dismantled and 15 shipped.

e. Dental Summary - Statistics regarding the number of dental treatments provided by III MAF dental detachments during 1-14 April 1971 are not available. Due to redeployment, treatment of Vietnamese in connection with the Dental Civic Action Program was reduced from a daily/weekly service at nine facilities to service at seven facilities.

Enclosure (1)

f. Medical Summary

(a) Redeployment planning and firming of the organizational and personnel Medical structure of 3d MAB highlighted the medical administrative effort for the reporting period.

(b) The USS Sanctuary operated in Vietnam waters throughout the period 1-14 April 1971.

(c) During the period 1-10 April, the total average patient load for the 1st Medical Battalion was 31, with a total of 89 admitted and 42 evacuated out of country.

(d) There were eight malaria cases for the period 1-10 April.

(e) Information concerning III MAF inpatient treatment facilities during 1-10 April follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AUTH BEDS</u>	<u>ACT BEDS</u>	<u>AUG CENSUS</u>	<u>% OCCUPIED</u>
Medical Battalion	60	60	31	52%
USS Sanctuary	Not Available			

g. Chronological Listing of Highlights for 1-14 April 1971

1971

1 Apr Transfer of 392 short tons of Class V(W) ordnance to U. S. Army and ARVN forces.

1 Apr USS Duluth (LPD-6) completed loading Emb Unit VI and sailed for CONUS.

1 Apr Ordnance Officer in attendance at Joint Ammunition Resources Board Meeting in Saigon.

2 Apr Force Engineers and NMCB-3 completed road work on LTL-4 East

6-8 Apr USS Charleston (LKA-113) loaded Emb Unit VIII and FLC cargo and sailed for CONUS via Okinawa and Hawaii

7 Apr An emergency loan of 40 each, 105mm Blank ordnance was received from USARV for change of command ceremony on 14 April 1971

8 Apr Transfer of 50 short tons of Class V(W) ordnance to U. S. Air Force, U. S. Army, and ARVN

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- 9 Apr USS Washtenaw CTY (LST-1166) loaded Emb Unit Ix
and sailed for Iwakuni, Japan
- 10 Apr Transfer of MACG-18 facility to the U.S. Air Force
- 12 Apr Transfer of Hill 65 to the Army.
- 13 Apr Transfer of Hill 37 North to ARVN.

7. COMPTROLLER

a. Significant events for 1-14 April. There were no significant events for the period 1-14 April.

8. CIVIL AFFAIRS

a. Objectives. The basic objectives of the III Marine Amphibious Force Civil Affairs Program remains the same. Emphasis during this reporting period has been on the orderly turnover of the program to the 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade.

b. Civic Action Statistics

(1) Cost of supplies contributed from military resources for Civic Action Projects (does not include cost of commodities obtained from USAID, CORDS, CRS and like organizations):
\$VN 966,774

(2) Expenditures from US/FWMAF Civic Action/PSYWAR Fund:
\$VN 0

Application has been made to turnover AIK Fund, Account Number 315, administered by the 1st Marine Division to the 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade, AIK Fund, account Number 334, administered by the 1st Marine Air Wing has been terminated and AIK Fund, Account Number 322, will continue to be administered by the Force Logistic Command under the supervision of the 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade.

(3) Major Civic Action Programs:

	<u>Man-days</u> <u>(10-hr days)</u>	<u>\$VN</u>
a. Economic Development	77	52,120
b. Education	73	54,280
c. Social Welfare	245.5	808,294
d. Transportation	31.5	52,080
e. Refugee Assistance Support	77	676,889

(4) Number of separate institutions supported during the reporting period:

a. Schools	23
b. Orphanages	7
c. Hospitals/Dispensaries	4
d. Others	2

(5) MEDCAP-DENTAL

(a) Treatments	<u>Number of Patients</u>
Medical	
Resulting from Non-Hostile Action	2650
Immunizations	0
Dental	<u>112</u>
Total	2762

(b) Number of Vietnamese Health Workers Trained: 13

c. Civic Action Projects. The following is a highlight of significant civic action projects conducted during the period of 1-14 April 1971:

Units of III MAF have completed all civic action projects prior to standdown with the exception of a village office in Tau Luu which is approximately 70% complete.

(6) Selected civic action projects having particular human interest appeal:

LtCol. ROSENFELT, Commanding Officer of 11th Motor Transport Bn. presented \$500.00 to the China Beach Protestant Orphanage and \$221.00 to World Vision, Inc. The funds were volunteer contributions from the Officers and men of the Bn.

9. PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE OPERATIONSa. Chieu Hoi Program

PROVINCE	TOTAL	NVA	VC	NON-MIL	WPNS
QUANG NAM	1	0	1	0	1
DA NANG CITY	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	0	1	0	1

b. Campaign Support. Figures for campaign support are not available; however, the use of leaflets and aerial and ground broadcasts in support of III Marine Amphibious Force operations continued as in past months.

c. Narrative Summary. During the period 1-24 April 1971, III Marine Amphibious Force units continued to employ all forms of PSYOP support. PRO-GVN and ANTI-VC/NVA themes continued to dominate campaign support activities in support of redeployment of certain III Marine Amphibious Force units. These themes stress the points that redeployment is a joint decision made by the US and the GVN and that redeployment is possible because of the strength and effectiveness of the GVN and the RVNAF. As the semi-annual harvest of rice began in Quang Nam Province in early April, increased PSYOP activity was directed at denying rice, as well as other logistic resources, to the enemy. Face-to-face activities such as MEDCAPS/DENTCAPS and civic action projects continued to play an important, day-to-day role in the activities of the III Marine Amphibious Force.

10. Communications

a. Combat Operations Center Communications traffic during the period 1 - 14 April 1971:

<u>Teletype</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Incoming	3860	1270	0	1590
Outgoing	212	220	8	0
Total	4072	1490	0	1590

Radio

Incoming/Outgoing 0

b. Headquarters, III MAF message traffic originated:

March 13

April 1

Decrease 12

c. 7 Apr - MGySgt LATTIN gave final brief on communication continuation/phasedown at the last III MAF (RVN) monthly SgtMaj conference.

d. 9 Apr - Last NESTOR Report submitted to MACV.

e. 9 Apr - LCpl MEIER received a meritorious mast from the Headquarters Commandant.

f. 10 Apr- LtCol SLAWTER, DACofS, G-6, transferred to 3d MAB.

g. 12 Apr- Col WILLIS, ACofS, G-6, attended the Senior Communications Officer Conference at MACV, J6 in Saigon, RVN.

h. 13 Apr- MGySgt LATTIN, III MAF CommChf and Sgt FRANKLIN, AdmChf transferred to 3d MAB.

i. 14 Apr- Circuit #XP5G (A-Route), MACV critical, re-routed from III MAF COC to 3d MAB COC.

j. 14 Apr- Circuit XP5L (A-Route), MACV critical, re-routed from III MAF COC to 3d MAB COC.

k. 14 Apr- Circuit 00405, MACV critical, deactivated.

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- l. 14 Apr- Circuit 00406, MACV critical, deactivated.
- m. 14 Apr- Col WILLIS, ACofS, G-6 departed for CONUS.
- n. 14 Apr- GWO2 WATTS, CommSptCo LnO/Systems Control Officer, G-6 Section, relocated with 3d MAB, G-6 Section.
- o. 14 Apr- LCpl MEIER, Driver, G-6 Sect, relocated to CommSptCo., 7th Communication Battalion.
- p. 21 Apr- Maj DONEHOWER, EngrPlansO, G-6 transferred to III MAF (Okinawa). Time delay is to monitor the close out of III MAF COC and packaging/shipping of the AN/TGC-37.
- q. This is the final III MAF, G-6 (RVN) Command Chronology submitted.

a. BACKGROUND. During the period 1-14 April the Force Public Affairs Office provided escorts to accompany newsmen in news gathering assignments covering Military Region 1 ground and air operations, civic action and CAP Program.

b. MOTOR TRANSPORT. Only one tactical vehicle is on hand at the Public Affairs Office.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
M-151	357720	PAO

Another jeep is in use at the Da Nang Air Base, Press Operations by the Marine Liaison Officer.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
M-151	357146	PAO

c. PRESS. Press copies of the April 2 and April 9 issues of the SEA TIGER are enclosed.

d. STAFF VISITS. The following is a list of staff visits made by the Force Public Affairs Officer during the period 1-14 April 1971.

2 April 1971 - Force Public Affairs Officer visited Grand Hotel to distribute releases on units standing down.

6-9 Apr 1971 - Force Public Affairs Officer made liaison visit with MACOI and the major news agencies in Saigon, relative to Activation and Redeployment Ceremony.

12. CHRONOLOGY OF VIP VISITS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK/SERVICE</u>	<u>BILL#</u>
<u>10Apr71</u>	MCCLOSKEY, JR., P. W.	Congressman/R-CA (Civ)	Congressman



3. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

a. III MAF CASUALTIES

(1) Battle

<u>KIA</u>		<u>WIA</u>		<u>DOW</u>		<u>MIA</u>	
USMC	USN	USMC	USN	USMC	USN	USMC	USN
10	0	145	7	1	0	1	0

(2) Non-Battle

<u>DEATHS</u>		<u>ILL/INJ</u>	
2	0	606	34

b. NUMBER OF COURTS-MARTIAL TRIED:

SUMMARY	27
SPECIAL	40
GENERAL	7

c. SHORT TONS OF MAIL SENT AND RECEIVED BY III MAF:

SENT	53
RECEIVED	251



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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. April 2, 1971 and April 9, 1971 editions, III Marine Amphibious Force Newspaper, Sea Tiger. *Remained. Record of US Navy*
2. ✓ III Marine Amphibious Force, Activation and Redeployment Ceremony, 14 April 1971, Program of Events and Historical Review.

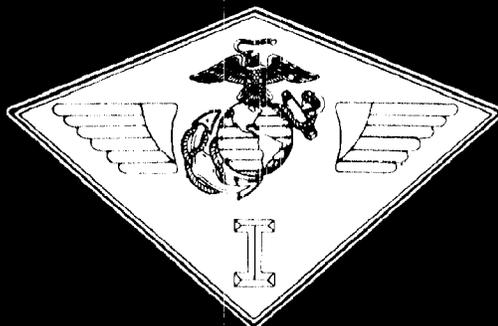
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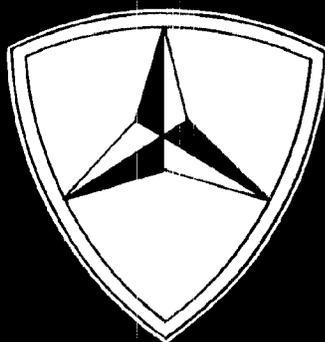
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END OF AN ERA



1965 - 1971



**III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

DECLASSIFIED

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
ACTIVATION AND REDEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

14 APRIL 1971

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

ATTENTION

ADJUTANT'S CALL

SOUND OFF

OFFICERS CENTER

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

HONORS TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERTSON

ACTIVATION OF 3d MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE

REDEPLOYMENT AND REASSIGNMENT OF

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE UNITS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

REMARKS

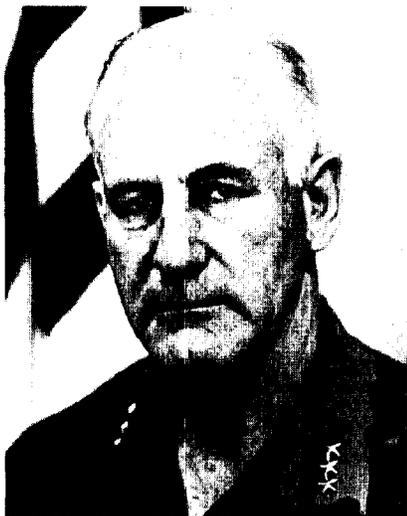
PASS IN REVIEW

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COMMANDING GENERAL

III MAF



Lt. Gen. Donn J. Robertson

CG
1970--

Lt. Gen. Donn J. Robertson assumed command of the III Marine Amphibious Force on December 24, 1970 and was concurrently promoted to his present rank.

Gen. Robertson, who earned the Navy Cross on Iwo Jima, was born September 9, 1916, in Willow City, North Dakota, and completed high school in Minot, North Dakota in 1934. In 1938 he graduated from the University of North Dakota where he captained the basketball squad in his senior year. Shortly after graduation he resigned an Army reserve commission and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in July 1938.

After attending Basic School at the Philadelphia Navy Yard Lt. Robertson's first duty assignment was with the Marine Detachment aboard the USS WEST VIRGINIA. He then served as a company officer and division adjutant with the 2d Marine Division from August 1940 to March 1942. He was promoted to first lieutenant in August 1941 and to captain in February 1942.

Following the outbreak of World War II, Capt. Robertson was Adjutant of the Samoan Defense Force for nearly two years. During this assignment he was promoted to major in March 1943. Returning to the United States the following March he attended the 5th Command and Staff Course at Marine Corps Schools,

Quantico, Virginia, until June 1944 when he joined the 5th Marine Division prior to embarking again for the Pacific area that September. The following month he was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

As Commanding Officer of the 3d Battalion, 27th Marines, Lt. Col. Robertson participated in the Iwo Jima campaign and was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in personally inspiring his men, who had been pinned down by heavy fire, to attack and seize a heavily fortified hill. Later, he rallied his depleted units for defense of the position, then directed the action to repulse a strong counterattack, and remained throughout the night at the front lines consolidating the position.

Lt. Col. Robertson was later named Regimental Executive Officer of the 27th Marines and served with the unit in the occupation of Japan until December 1945 when he was appointed Executive Officer of the Eighth Service Regiment. Returning to the United States in May 1946, he became Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, San Diego. That November he was named G-1 of the 3d Marine Brigade at Camp Pendleton, and later moved up to G-1 of the 1st Marine Division, remaining in that post until March 1948 when he was an Officer in Charge of the Enlisted Detail Branch.

In June 1951 he was assigned as Executive Officer and later Commanding Officer of Marine Barracks, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Returning to the United States after two years in Cuba he completed the Senior School at Quantico in June 1954, and while at Quantico was promoted to colonel.

In October 1954, Col. Robertson joined the 1st Marine Division in Korea as Senior Advisor to the Korean Marine Corps. He was awarded the Korean Ulehi Distinguished Military Service Medal with silver star for service in this capacity. On his return to the United States in September 1955, he headed the plans Branch of the G-3 Division at Headquarters Marine Corps until June 1958. He then served as G-3 of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific for two years. In June 1961 he was graduated from the National War College, Washington, D. C.

Returning to Quantico, he served as Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Schools from July 1961 through August 1963. He

was promoted to brigadier general August 30, 1963.

Gen. Robertson served for two years as Commanding General, Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In September 1965, he became Deputy Fiscal Director of the Marine Corps. For service in this capacity he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal. He was promoted to the rank of major general on May 5, 1967 and assigned duty as Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, in the Republic of Vietnam where he served until June 1968. For service in this capacity he earned the Distinguished Service Medal.

Upon his return to the United States, Gen. Robertson served for two years as Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, with additional duty as Commanding General, 4th Marine Division Headquarters Nucleus from July 1968 until July 1970, and as Commanding General, 5th Marine Division (-) (Rein), for three months (May-Aug 1969). He was appointed Director, Marine Corps Reserve, HQMC, in September, 1970. While serving in his position, he was nominated for three star rank to serve as Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force.

A complete list of his medals and decorations includes: the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star the American Defense Service Medal with Base clasp, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze star, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Occupation service Medal with Asia clasp, the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars, the Korean Ulehi Distinguished Military Service Medal with silver star, the National Order to Vietnam, 5th Class, the Vietnamese Army Distinguished Service Order, 1st Class, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with bronze palm the Vietnamese Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Gen. Robertson is married to the former Elaine S. Swiggum of Grand Forks, North Dakota. They have four children: Donn J., Jr., Thomas R., Tamara and David L.

COMMANDING GENERAL

3d MAB



Maj. Gen. Alan J. Armstrong
CG
1971—

Maj. Gen. Alan J. Armstrong Commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing becomes commanding general of 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade April 14, 1971.

A Naval Aviator, he was born in Garland, Nebraska on April 18, 1920.

He was graduated from high school there in 1937, and went on to the University of Nebraska, attending college there until 1940.

In January 1941, he began flight training at Pensacola, Florida and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant and designated a Naval Aviator that July. He then served as a flight instructor in the Naval Air Training Command until transferred to VMF-212 at El Toro, California, later serving with that Squadron on Midway Island in the Pacific theater of operations. From August 1943 until July 1944, Maj. Armstrong served as Operations Officer, and later as Executive Officer of VMF-223 in the Solomon Islands-New Britain area where he earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Air Medal with six Gold Stars, and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Returning to the Pacific in August

1944, he became the S-3 Officer of MAG-44 in Hawaii and in July 1945, he assumed command of VMF-472 on board CVE 105. In January 1946, he became Executive Officer, Marine Corps Air Station, Mojave California. The following March, he entered the Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia. Upon completing the course in 1946, he became an instructor at the School, serving there until June 1948. Ordered to Cherry Point, North Carolina later that month, he became Operations Officer and Executive Officer, respectively, of VMF-122.

Maj. Armstrong was an exchange pilot with the 20th Fighter Bomber Group, USAF, where he served from November 1949 until January 1951. Promoted to lieutenant colonel in February 1951, he reported to Headquarters Marine Corps that same month and was assigned duty as Assistant Operations Officer, Operations Branch, Division of Aviation. He served in this capacity until June 1953.

For service during the Korean conflict, while serving on the staff of MAG-33 from August 1953 until February 1954, Lt. Col. Armstrong was awarded the Gold Star in lieu of a second Navy Commendation Medal.

Following this tour, he reported to COMSTRIKEFORNSOUTH, Naples, Italy, where he served as Assistant Plans Officer until August 1956. Returning to the United States later that month, Lt. Col. Armstrong entered the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, graduating in January 1957. After completing the course, he was assigned Assistant G-3, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic at Norfolk.

Reporting to Headquarters Marine Corps again in July 1958, he became Aide to Admiral Arleigh Burke, the Chief of Naval Operations, and was promoted to colonel in October 1959. In August 1960, Col. Armstrong became Aviation Safety Officer with the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California, and

in March 1961, he became Commanding Officer, MAG-15, at El Toro, serving there until July 1962.

That August, Col. Armstrong entered the Army War College Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, where he completed the course in July 1963. Transferred overseas, he served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Japan for the next year.

Upon his return to the United States that October, he became a member of the Joint Planning Group, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, Headquarters Marine Corps. He served in this capacity until he was assigned duty as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (Air), in March 1965. Upon his promotion to brigadier general on August 4, 1966, he remained in his assignment until 1 February 1968 when he assumed duties as Director, Development Center, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia, where he remained until May 21, 1969. While serving in this capacity he was promoted to his present rank in September 1969. Maj. Gen. Armstrong assumed his present command July 1, 1970.

A complete list of the general's medals and decorations includes: the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Air Medal with six Gold Stars denoting subsequent awards, the Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, the American Defense Service Medal with Base clasp, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Maj. Gen. Armstrong and his wife, the former Norma Jean Weyand of Lincoln, Nebraska, have two children; Brian James (born April 10, 1945) and Melanie Claire (born May 31, 1949). His mother, Mrs. Lida Armstrong, resides in Riverton, Wyoming.

HISTORY OF III MARINE

The III Marine Amphibious Force was activated in the Republic of Vietnam on May 7, 1965. Its first commander was Maj. Gen. William R. Collins. Under his command were the 3d Marine Division and the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

Elements of these two major commands had begun arriving as early as March 8, 1965, when the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade splashed ashore at Red Beach, north of Da Nang, and Wing units began landing at Da Nang Air Base.

At the time of its formation, III MAF's tactical areas of responsibility covered 249 square miles encompassing the coastal enclaves of Phu Bai, Da Nang and Chu Lai. The 14,500 Marines of the command had a four-fold mission: (1) Defense of the highly strategic airfields, (2) Destruction of enemy forces, (3) Destruction of the Viet Cong infrastructure, and (4) Conduct of civic action and revolutionary development programs in conjunction with the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.



Maj. Gen. William R. Collins
CG
1965

On June 4, 1965, then Maj. Gen. Lewis W. Walt assumed command of the III Marine Amphibious Force and Marine forces began moving out to seek the enemy.

Operation Starlite in August was the first large scale American operation conducted against VC main force units. Elements of the Marine air-ground team followed this operation with Piranha, Harvest Moon, Utah and Texas, as the

pace of the war quickened.

By the end of the year, III MAF units had conducted 50 regimental or battalion



Gen. Lewis W. Walt
CG
1965-'67

size operations, more than 390 company size operations, over 13,500 patrols and more than 7,500 ambushes.

The year 1966 saw the continued expansion of Marine forces in the Republic with the arrival of the remaining units of the 1st Marine Division and its headquarters.

In July the III MAF Headquarters moved from the Da Nang Air Base to newly constructed quarters on the banks of the Song River in Da Nang East. In October the 3d Marine Division moved its headquarters to Phu Bai and the 1st Marine Division moved north from Chu Lai to Da Nang as the tempo of the war in the northern provinces increased. Operation Hastings near the DMZ in July against the North Vietnamese 324 B division marked the beginning of many hard-fought battles in this area.

As the emphasis on Marine operations shifted north, Army units began arriving in Military Region I to augment the Marines in areas to the south.

By May, 1967, the area under Marine influence had expanded to more than 1,700 square miles, encompassing 183 villages and increasing the number of civilians under RVN control by more than one million.

In their first two years, III MAF Marine forces alone accounted for more than 22,500 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops killed in action. Another 2,100 were captured along with nearly 3,500 weapons. Marine units had engaged in more than 140 major operations and 267,000 small unit operations.

Civic action programs had resulted in the building of 97 bridges, 61 wells and more than 2,100 miles of road. Medical treatment was given to more than 1,788,000 Vietnamese citizens.

Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr. became Commanding General, of III MAF on June 2, 1967. He assumed command of a Marine Force numbering approximately 76,000 men and operational control of an aggregate Free World Forces of nearly 123,000 in Military Region I.



Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman, Jr.
CG
1967-'69

As 1968 began, pressure on Khe Sanh and other Marine bases increased and communist forces launched their abortive Tet Offensive. Additional American forces were placed under the command of III MAF, including two units, the 27th Marines and the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, which were airlifted from the United States on 48 hour notice.

By the summer of 1968, III MAF forces had expanded to more than 150,000 personnel in Military Region I. In a farewell visit, COMUSMACV, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, told an assembled honor guard of Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and ROK Marines: "The III Marine Amphibious Force is the largest field Marine Command that our country has ever deployed on the field. The III

E AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Marine Amphibious Force is the first Marine Headquarters that has also been a joint Headquarters because it has commanded Army troops as well as Marine troops in the performance of their combat functions."

These units included: the 3d Marine Division, the 1st Marine Division, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Force Logistic Command 101st Airborne Division, 1st Cav Division (Air Mobile), 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Headquarters, XXIV Corps. Also included in Military Region 1 forces were American Air Force and Naval personnel as well as the 2d Marine Brigade of the Republic of Korea's Marine Corps.

In the beginning of 1969, 81,000 Marines were stationed throughout Military Region 1 but by the end of the year only 55,300 remained, as the redeployment of American forces from Vietnam gained momentum. On March 26, 1969, Lt. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr. assumed command of III MAF.



Lt. Gen. Herman Nickerson, Jr.

CG
1969-'70

As the III Marine Amphibious Force began its fifth year in Vietnam in May, 1969, it could look back on a year of unparalleled success in which the largest ammunition and supply caches of the war had been uncovered in Operations Dewey Canyon and Maine Crag and the largest Marine Combat helicopter assault in history, Operation Meade River, smashed enemy base camps and sanctuaries. As

1969 drew to a close, the 3d Marine Division redeployed on November 7.



Lt. Gen. Keith B. McCutcheon

CG
1970

On March 9, 1970, control of American forces, in MRI shifted from III MAF to U.S. Army XXIV Corps as Marine redeployments resulted in a preponderance of Army forces in Military Region 1. Concurrently, Lt. Gen. Keith B. McCutcheon assumed command of III MAF.

Marines continued to carry the war to the NVA and VC in 1970, but large scale operations diminished in number as redeployment continued. The Vietnamese Armed Forces shouldered an increasing share of the fighting thus testifying to the effectiveness of the Vietnamization program.

By December 1970 Marine Forces were reduced to 25,000 men as Lt. Gen. Donn J. Robertson became the new Commanding General, III MAF. In almost six years of combat operation, Marine forces of III MAF had participated in approximately 400 major combat operations, and innumerable smaller unit actions, patrols and ambushes.

Redeployments continued in 1971 and culminated in April with the departure of the Headquarters of the III Marine Amphibious Force, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and the 1st Marine Division. The remaining Marine forces in the Republic of Vietnam, have been redesignated as the 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade under the command of Maj. Gen. Alan J. Armstrong.

The III Marine Amphibious Force has been a unique combat organization. Combined under a single commanding general were all of the elements necessary for sustained combat in the air and on the ground. Not only were Marine riflemen there to seize and hold any assigned objective, but Marine air was backing them up in the skies with close air support fixed wing aircraft, aerial refuelers, transport and cargo helicopters, reconnaissance aircraft and helicopter gunships.

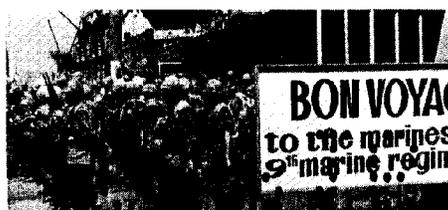
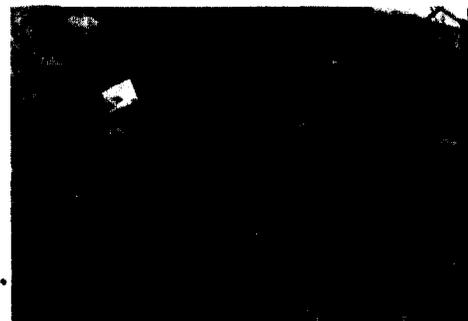
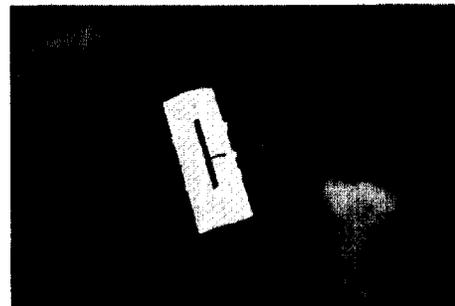
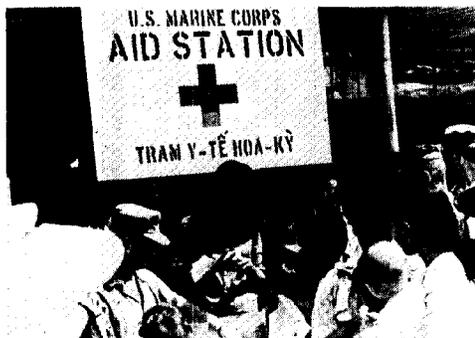
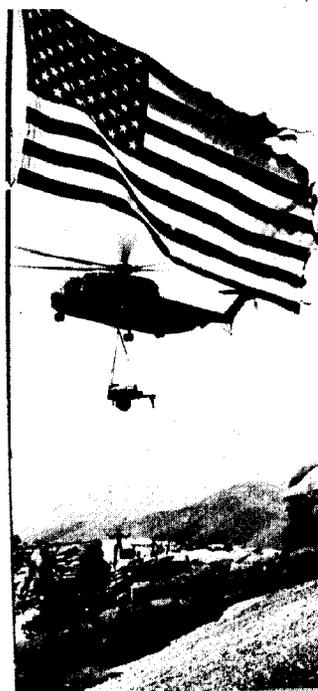
The artillery fired every weapon from the 4.2 mortar to the 175MM cannon. Marine trucks hauled supplies the length and breadth of Military Region 1 and where water obstacles were present, amphibian tractors from the Marine inventory were used. Marine tanks combined with the infantry to knock out fortified positions. The Force Logistic Command kept all of these disparate elements supplied and functioning. Other units as diverse as Communication and Military Police Battalions, scout dog and searchlight platoons provided their own special skills.



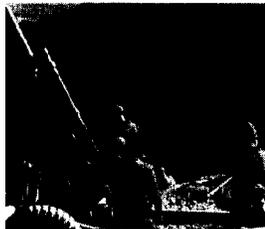
Lt. Gen. Donn J. Robertson

CG
1970-

The sum total was the most effective and powerful amphibious force ever dispatched by our nation to foreign shores. The Marines who fought as a part of this force were highly trained, dedicated men who have brought honor to their Corps and Country.



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1st MARINE AIRCRAFT WING



Maj. Gen. Alan J. Armstrong
C G
1970-'71

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's commitment in the Republic of Vietnam began in April 1962 with the arrival of increments of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362, for Operation Shu Fly.

The operation provided helicopter support for Army of the Republic of Vietnam units. It continued without interruption until March 1965 when the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade landed at Da Nang. With it came the Marine Aircraft Group 16 Headquarters.

In April 1965, the first Marine Corps F-4B Phantom jets were added to the aviation inventory in RVN and MAG-11 began operations from Da Nang. On May 11, 1965, Headquarters of the 1st MAW was shifted from Iwakuni, Japan to Da Nang.

Seabees and Marines landed at Chu Lai on May 1, 1965 and began work on a Short Airfield for Tactical Support. An engineering marvel built on deserted sandy wasteland, the field was operational in three weeks when A-1H Skyhawks from MAG-12 began using the 3,000 foot aluminum runway.

Through the remainder of the year the 1st MAW supported the highly successful Operations Starlite, Piranha and Harvest Moon.

During the first six months of 1966, the 1st MAW provided close air support for more than 25 combat operations, while simultaneously expanding its civil affairs program throughout MR I.

In July 1966 the 1st MAW surpassed all previous sortie records for close air support of a combat operation when Operation Hastings began. Elements of MAG-16 deployed 2,200 Marines and 1,400 ARVN on the first day of the operation.

On November 1, the 1st MAW received the A-6A Intruder jet, newest fixed wing aircraft in the Marine Corps inventory.

During the early morning hours of January 1, 1967 radar controlled jets caught an estimated 1,000 Viet Cong moving toward Hue. They killed more than one third of the enemy force.

In late April the NVA commenced operations to overrun Quang Tin Province but the move was thwarted with the help of 1st MAW pilots who continuously set records for number of sorties flown and ordnance delivered.

1st MAW A-6A jets struck for the first time at enemy targets near Hanoi and Haiphong during May.

By July, enemy pressure shifted to the eastern DMZ area near Con Thien. The 1st MAW provided close air support, assault and resupply helicopters as ground Marines countered with Operations Buffalo and Kingfisher. Marine pilots also supported 13 operations by Marine, U. S. Army and ARVN elements between Hoi An and Tam Ky, south of Da Nang.

Close air support and helicopter and fixed wing resupply were essential to the maintenance of Khe Sanh in early 1968. Fixed wing support, named Operation Niagara, provided a continuous umbrella of U. S. Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy jets over Khe Sanh. Marine helicopters flew 9,109 sorties, flying 18,563 troops and 4,661 tons of cargo.

In November, the largest helicopter assault in Marine Corps history lifted elements of the 1st Marine Division in support of Operation Meade River.

Late January 1969 saw the beginning of Operation Boney Canyon, a seven weeks thrust into the Northern Ashau Valley. The operation proved the effectiveness of the Marine Corps air-ground team, by killing 617 enemy killed. In April a helicopter was added to the 1st MAW inventory with the arrival of the AH-1G Cobra at MAG-16.

August saw the beginning of Phase I redeployment of the 1st MAW units from RVN. Units departing were the 1st Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 334.

The same month also saw the retirement of the UH-34 helicopter from Marine Corps combat service when Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 was decommissioned at Phu Bai.

Phase II redeployment in October saw the departure of Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Observation Squadron 6 and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462.

In early November 1st MAW (Rear) was activated at Iwakuni, Japan, controlling all Marine air units in Japan and Okinawa and under the command of I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Phase II redeployment continued in November with MAG-36 moving from Phu Bai to Futema, Okinawa. It was the first complete 1st MAW group to redeploy.

Phase III redeployment commenced in late January 1970. Departing for CONUS were Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 542, Marine Attack Squadron 223 and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361. The phase was completed in February with the departure of VMA-211 and MAG-12, the first fighter-attack group to depart RVN.

Phase IV redeployment commenced July 15, with the redeployment of Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 1 from Da Nang to Iwakuni, Japan. In August, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 departed for Santa Ana, Calif., and Marine Wing Support Group 17 went to Iwakuni, Japan.

During September, Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 242, the first A-6A Squadron to fly in Vietnam combat, along with Chu Lai based Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 departed RVN.

Redeployment of Headquarters, Marine Aircraft Group 13, H&MS-13 and MABS-13 in October ended the 1st MAW's increment IV reduction of forces.

Statistically during 1970, 1st MAW helicopters flew more than 360,000 sorties while carrying over 800,000 troops and lifting over 64,000 tons of cargo. Fighter and attack squadrons flew more than 35,000 sorties, dropping over 85,000 tons of ordnance in destroying thousands of structures and bunkers. 1st MAW pilots were credited with 713 enemy dead.

The new year began for the 1st MAW with a continuation of Increment VI Troop Redeployment.

On February 1, 1st MAW units returned to Khe Sanh for the first time since the 1968 enemy Tet offensive when called to provide logistical support to units engaged there. An additional mission was to provide logistical support of ARVN forces participating in the South Vietnamese Operation, Lam Son 719, in Laos.

1st MAW units redeployed during February and March were MACS-4, VMFA-115 and HMM-364, followed in April by H&HS-18 and VMO-2.

Headquarters of the 1st MAW shifted from Da Nang to the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan also during April. This marked the close of nearly six years continuous combat service for the 1st MAW.

1st MARINE DIVISION



Maj. Gen. Charles F. Widdecke

C.G.
1970-

The initial commitment of 1st Marine Division units to the Republic of Vietnam began with the landing of Marines at Qui Nhon, 170 miles southeast of Danang on July 1, 1965.

The 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, an artillery unit, landed at Qui Nhon to help in the defense of the U. S. Air Force airstrip there.

August 15, 1965, marked the beginning of the first named combat operation in Vietnam. Operation Starlite was conducted by the 1st and 2d Battalions, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, and the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, 3d Marine Division, on Batangan Peninsula about 20 miles south of Chu Lai.

By the end of 1965, Division units in-country included the 1st and 2d Battalions, 1st Marines; 1st, 2d and 3d Battalions, 7th Marines, and elements of the 3d and 4th Battalions, 1st Marines. Individual support battalions of the Division that were in-country at the close of the year included Medical, Motor Transport, Reconnaissance and Engineer battalions.

On April 1, 1966, the 1st Marine Division Command Post was established at Chu Lai and major units of the Division were operating in Vietnam.

The Division's responsibilities during this spring period included the security of air bases at Phu Bai, Da Nang and Chu Lai; driving the enemy out of the Division area; and rice and corn collection and civic action operations designed to deny moral and material support to enemy forces.

During 1966, Division units conducted combat operations from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the north to the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) south of Saigon. The largest of the operations during the year were Operations Prairie

and Hastings which were conducted along the DMZ and in Quang Tri Province. These operations accounted for more than 1,300 and 800 enemy killed, respectively.

Following a lull in action during the 1967 TET holiday, the 1st and 2d Battalions, 1st Marines, launched Operation Stone on Go Noi Island south of Da Nang. When the 11 day operation ended, the Marines had accounted for nearly 300 enemy killed, and more than 60 detained. Just as important as the combat portion of the operation, it also signaled the start of a complete clearing and resettlement program.

During Operation DeSoto, in the Duc Pho area 100 miles south of Da Nang, more than 350 enemy were killed. This operation enabled the 7th Marines to establish the southern most combat base in the I Corps area at Duc Pho.

The 5th Marines conducted Operations Union I and II in the Que Son Valley, 21 miles south of Da Nang, from April 21 to June 5, 1967. During the period, the 5th Marines earned a Presidential Citation after inflicting more than 400 enemy casualties and "eliminating the 2d NVA Division as an effective force."

Throughout 1967 found the 1st Marine Division concentrating on civic action, and revolutionary development programs designed to hinder the enemy in obtaining material and moral support from the civilian population.

The year 1968 began quietly with only scattered fighting being recorded in the Division area by the February Communist offensive which ended the relative calm.

Operation Prairie II began on January 1, 1968, when the 1st Marine Division of the Republic of Vietnam announced that the area had been cleared and was under attachment with an evacuated two NVA elements.

The 1st Marines began the battle and then were joined by the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines who conducted an amphibious assault against the enemy utilizing landing craft and sampans. Following 24 days of bitter street-to-house fighting, Company 1st Battalion, 5th Marines raised the U. S. Flag signifying that the southwest coast was again under Allied control. During operation Hue City, Marines accounted for more than 1,880 enemy killed, 336 individual and 24 crew-served weapons captured. One hundred thirty-six Marines died during the battle.

Although several operations were conducted during the year, primary emphasis was assigned on destruction of the enemy's ability to procure supplies and manpower from the civilian popula-

tion with additional efforts taken in civic action and civil affairs programs within the Division's area.

The last major operation of 1968 carried over into 1969 and accounted for more than 2,160 enemy killed. Operation Taylor Common covered an area from the An Hoa Basin to the Laotian Border and was designed to destroy NVA rest areas, infiltration and supply routes, lines of communication, and several enemy headquarters areas. The 1st Division operated with the 1st ARVN Ranger Group, and captured more than 1,000 individual and 80 crew-served weapons as well as 210 tons of enemy rice.

1969 also saw the continuation of Go Noi Island operations when U. S. and Korean Marines, along with Vietnamese Rangers and Army forces began Operation Pipestone Canyon which included the clearing of that island. U. S. and Allied Forces killed more than 850 enemy and captured more than 150 individual and crew-served weapons.

There followed the rebuilding of the island so that the Vietnamese who were forced to leave could return to their land and rebuild their homes.

Then, during November 1969, the Division launched the Combined Unit Pacification Program (CUPP). CUPP sent Marine units to work and live with the Vietnamese Popular (PF) and Regional (RF) Force troops in villages and hamlets. By day the Marines assisted the people in dozens of tasks from building projects to planting and harvesting crops while at night they joined RF and PF troops in defending and patrolling the village and hamlet areas.

While the Division conducted combat operations, the year 1970 also signaled the redeployment of U. S. Forces from Vietnam. The initial 1st Marine Division units to leave Vietnam included the 1st Tank and the 7th and 9th Battalions, which departed during August.

September and October saw the redeployment of the 7th Marine Regiment, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines. The Division continued rice and corn collection, civic action, and civil affairs programs in conjunction with combat operations, including Imperial Lake, Lam Stream and Hoang Dieu 101 and 103.

As 1971 began, the Division continued its combat operations and civic action programs.

During more than five years of combat action in Vietnam, 1st Marine Division units have participated in more than 160 named combat operations from the Demilitarized Zone area in the north, to the Rung Sat Special Zone south of Saigon.

FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND



Brig. Gen. James R. Jones
CG
1970-

On March 15, 1966, Force Logistic Command (FLC) was born of necessity. A new unit its mission essentially is the arming, feeding, clothing and supplying of Marine forces scattered throughout MR I.

Now headquartered at Camp Jay K. Books, the command is an integral part of the Marine Corps air-ground team in the Republic of Vietnam.

After the initial landing near DaNang in March 1965, Marine strengths continued to grow until they reinforced divisions and a reinforced aircraft wing, comprising III MAF, were situated between Chu Lai and the DMZ. FLSG-A supported the 3d Marine Division with FLSG-B supporting 1st Marine Division forces. Two Logistic Support Units operated at Dong Ha and Phu Bai.

Each support element operated under various controlling headquarters and support was complicated. It was decided that one senior headquarters would be established from elements of FLSG-A and FLSG-B to coordinate all support activity. Thus, Force Logistic Command was born.

The goal to be attained was effective, efficient, sustained logistic support to III MAF forces including Republic of Korea and other Free World Forces in MR I, with self-sustaining, balanced, mobile logistic support elements.

Redesignated from Force Logistic Support Group, FLSG-A came into being March 15, 1966. Its subordinate units were charged with supporting 3d Marine Division troops from Phu Bai to the DMZ. Logistic Support Units were established at Phu Bai, Dong Ha, Hue and Khe Sanh.

In early January 1969, the main body of FLSG-A was moved from Phu Bai to Da Nang after turning over many of its

combat support bases to the Army. FLSG-A was redeployed to Okinawa and deactivated on Nov. 7, 1969.

The 7th Motor Transport Battalion arrived in May 1965 with its command elements arriving in Chu Lai in March 1966.

7th Motors participated in numerous operations against enemy forces. Rough Rider convoys ground out nearly 4.5 million miles through choking dust and sucking mud to carry more than 945,000 tons of cargo to Americans and their Allies before redeploying to the U. S. late in February 1970.

Originally headquartered in Chu Lai, FLSG-B was redesignated from FLSU-1 on March 15, 1966. Later it moved to Quang Tri where it became responsible for providing logistic support to all Marine and Allied forces near the DMZ. At the height of operations, FLSG-B supported more than 70,000 troops.

During its four years-plus, FLSG-B established LSUs at Quang Tri, Landing Zone Stud and embattled Khe Sanh to maintain closer contact with combat units.

Late in 1969 FLSG-B was moved from Quang Tri to Camp Books. It was deactivated Sept. 15, 1970 and was reactivated as 1st Service Battalion, 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade at Camp Pendleton.

In mid-August 1970, 1st and 2nd Military Police Battalions were moved from Camp Pendleton to Camp Books. After more than three years of logistic service.

Under the administrative control of III MAF, the battalion assumed control of III MAF Correctional Center, POW Detention Facility, Air Force Police, Da Nang, the III MAF Medical Investigation Department, and vital bridges in the Da Nang area.

The 1st Military Police Battalion was activated at Camp Pendleton in December 1965 and arrived in Vietnam the following May. It was assigned defense of the Da Nang Vital Area. The mission required integrating the defense efforts of all friendly forces in mutual defense of the area, with emphasis on the Da Nang Air Base and vital bridges within the area. This important defense of the Air Base continues today.

Supply Battalion was established within the FLC structure at Camp Books in February 1967 and has provided a most vital link in accomplishing the FLC mission.

The 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Co. dispensed more than 76 million gallons of petroleum products from fuel points throughout MR I. Bulk Fuel Co. was charged with procuring and issuing food. Marines able to visit messhalls received close to 11 million meals.

Combat Meals in the past 13 months alone.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines recovered over 449,000 deadly U. S. and enemy explosive items, disarming and destroying 95,000 of them.

The battalion's Ammunition Supply Points #1 and #2 dispensed ordnance ranging from 5.56mm rounds for M-16 rifles to 175mm shells for artillery guns.

The bakery made and distributed more than 12 million doughnuts and almost 23 million pounds of bread.

The battalion's Retrograde Facility, charged with the shipping of all classes of excess or damaged gear to other commands, continues to transfer hundreds of thousands of measured tons of equipment.

Maintenance Battalion came into being in February 1967 and was originally located at the Da Nang Air Base until commitments grew too large and space too small. In 1969 repair sections began moving to Camp Books.

At Motor Transport Maintenance Co., more than 4,235 vehicles have been repaired and returned to their parent organizations within the past 13 months. General Supply Maintenance Co., disbanded in July 1970, processed nearly 5,700 work requests on items ranging from typewriters to canvas. Communications/Electronics Maintenance Co. has repaired more than 40,000 damaged items. Ordnance Maintenance Co. has replaced more than 1,600 barrels on small arms and artillery guns in addition to reassembling other pieces. Engineer Maintenance Co. provided maintenance support for three Force Engineer Battalions, two Division Engineer Battalions, and all engineer equipment organic to III MAF. Over 8,000 work requests have been processed.

Headquarters and Service Battalion was formed in February 1967. Among its major duties, the transportation of combat support of combat operations and regulating administrative functions ranked high on the list.

While transporting two million tons of cargo in support of 1st and 3d Marine Divisions operations, Truck Co. ground out over 11 million miles.

Comm. Co., FLC's communications link with the world, handled 12 million transmissions, both incoming and outgoing, on their complex computerized transmitters.

Perhaps one of the greatest achievements by U. S. personnel in relation to Civic Action was construction of the spacious, 120-bed Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital at Camp Books.

From a tent facility, the hospital grew and prospered, providing in-patient and out-patient medical treatment to thousands of children. Operation of the hospital was turned over to the World Relief Commission in June 1970.

3d MARINE DIVISION



Maj. Gen. Louis Metzger

CG

1971-

Forward elements of the 3d Marine Division, the first division size ground combat unit of the U. S. Armed Forces to arrive in the Republic of Vietnam, landed on beaches off Danang on March 8, 1965. This began nearly five years of combat action and 120 Major operations which accounted for more than 36,000 VC/NVA killed in action.

Interlaced with combat activities were numerous and continuing pacification programs throughout the Division's Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR). At one time or another the TAOR included four of the five provinces in I Corps (now Military Region 2).

Within two months of their initial landing the 3d Marine Division was operating from three TAOR's; Da Nang, Hue/Phu Bai and Chu Lai.

In July 1965, more elements landed at Qui Nhon, 150 miles south of Da Nang, creating a fourth TAOR for the Division. The remainder of the year found 3d Division Leathernecks participating in several major operations including Starlite, and Harvest.

During the early months of 1966, the 3d Division developed the County Fair concept, a combination of military, civic, and psychological-warfare actions to reestablish Vietnamese control over the populace of a given area. During County Fair operations Marines isolated an area, cutting off all routes of access. The inhabitants of the area were assembled with the aid of Vietnamese officials and their identification verified. They were then given medical aid, food and other essentials and entertained while their village was searched for Viet Cong suspects and equipment. Following the operation a unit remained with the village to aid

them in providing security from the Viet Cong and to train the village security force.

Another concept developed by the Marines, based on the village security forces, is the Combined Action Program. Combined Action units were formed consisting of U. S. Marine/Vietnamese forces and employed within villages and hamlets to protect the people and renew their confidence in the Vietnamese government.

In addition to small unit actions and pacification programs, the Division conducted eleven major operations during 1966, including Georgia, Macon, Hastings, Prairie and Chinook I, with the majority of these taking place in Quang Tri Province against soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA).

On October 9, 1966, the Division's headquarters moved to Phu Bai, 50 miles north of Da Nang. The move enhanced control of combat operations as elements of the Division continued to develop daily contacts with NVA forces in the areas south of the DMZ while protecting the populace there from incursions.

The following year, 1967, opened with the Division still in Quang Tri Province, operating from such places as Khe Sahn, Dong Ha, Camp Carroll, Gio Linh and Con Thien, names which will long be remembered. The major named operations during this period were Crockett, Cimarron, Buffalo, Hickory II and Kingfisher.

Renewed operations south of the DMZ required greater freedom of operation by the Division without jeopardizing the lives of innocent civilians. To accomplish this, more than 10,000 civilians were relocated in July 1967 from the DMZ to a total of 100 villages.

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The center of attention was drawn to Khe Sanh on January 20 when an NVA force consisting of two divisions, reinforced with artillery, tanks, anti-aircraft artillery and rocket units, encircled and lay siege to the combat base. Elements of two additional NVA divisions were available in the area to support this attack. The siege continued until April 7 when a joint 3d

Marine Division/1st Air Cavalry Division task force caused the enemy to retreat.

Action continued during the Spring of 1968 when Division elements, principally the Fourth Marines, engaged an estimated two regiment NVA force at the little village of Dai Do just north of Dong Ha. Marine units were credited with killing 1,801 NVA during the two week battle.

During the next two months, June and July, the Division developed the concept of mutually supporting fire support bases which allowed for rapid deployment of mobile Marine company size units into prepared landing zones under the constant protection of artillery fire.

As 1968 ended, the Division conducted operations throughout its AO, including Scotland II and Lancaster II which resulted in the discovery and destruction of several NVA base camps, training areas and huge stores of supplies.

On January 22, 1969, operation Dewey Canyon began in the A Shau Valley. During the next two months the Ninth Marines brought disaster to the enemy in the area who suffered 1,617 soldiers killed and the loss of 1,223 individual weapons and 243 crew served weapons, including 12 Russian make 122mm field guns. As a result of numerous operations from the first of the year, until relieved of its combat operations in October, the Division accounted for over 5,000 more NVA killed in action.

One of the most essential aspects of the Division's operations in the Republic of Vietnam has been its contributions toward the Vietnam Pacification Program through Civil Affairs and Civic Action efforts. Although it is impossible to enumerate for the entire period of the Division's tour in Vietnam, an example can be taken from the first six months of 1969 when more than 200,000 Vietnamese were treated under the Medical Civic Action Program and more than 15,000 Vietnamese were treated under the Dental Civic Action Program in the Division's TAOR.

By early August 1969, acting on President Nixon's orders to reduce the U. S. Armed Forces strength in the Republic of Vietnam, the Ninth Marines and their supporting units redeployed to Okinawa. The remainder of the Division continued operations in the vicinity of Vandegrift Combat Base and just south of the DMZ to prevent the NVA from infiltrating into Quang Tri Province.

In October 1969, the Third Marines returned to the U. S. The rest of the Division redeployed to Okinawa in early November 1969 where they stand today as a force-in-readiness.

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

CIVIC ACTION

No summary of Marine activities in the Republic of Vietnam would be complete without mentioning Civic Action. Sometimes called "the other war," it was never this to the Marines who showed as much determination in helping the Vietnamese people as they did in destroying the invading enemy.

Essentially the Marines sought to bring peace and security to a troubled land. Civic action was one means of doing this.

MEDCAP

MEDCAP (Medical-Civic Action Program) was the most widespread early program. It was carried out by Navy corpsmen who accompanied Marine squads on patrols. As the Marines passed through villages and hamlets, the corpsmen gave what medical assistance they could. Later the program expanded into regularly scheduled sick calls, and medical aid stations were set up to treat the more seriously ill. This was followed up with instruction in hygienic and sanitary practices which included distribution of soap, a commodity rarely available to the rural Vietnamese.

CARE

The Marines then began a building program to give the villagers new schools, wells and market places.

Organizations such as the Catholic Relief Service, USOM (United States Operations Mission), CARE and HANDCLASP began contributing materials. Aside from the professional organizations, U.S. citizens responded to letters from friends and relatives serving with the Marine Corps and also began to send goods.

During this period two other major events occurred that gave impetus to the civic action program and supported the Vietnamese government's rural construction efforts: Operation Golden Fleece and the development of the Combined Action Program.

By providing a cordon of Marines to protect the farmers during the harvest period, Golden Fleece operations denied rice to the enemy and kept it for the

farmers to whom it belonged.

CAP

The Combined Action Program (CAP) integrated Marine rifle squads with Vietnamese Popular Force platoons to provide continuous local security for the villages and hamlets within the TAOR. The concept proved successful from the start and became an important organization for combating the guerrilla in his own "backyard" and destroying the VC infrastructure.

CAP platoons provided the necessary security to carry out a continuous civic action program in their areas. The Marines ate, worked, lived, fought and suffered hardships with their Vietnamese counterparts and through their training and guidance raised the PF's level of combat efficiency.

COUNTY FAIR

County Fair operations, described earlier in the 3d Marine Division history, were another important innovation combining civic action, psychological warfare and combat power. By vigorously pursuing all of these programs, in addition to regular combat operations, the Marine Corps expanded its tactical areas of responsibility and created areas in which the Vietnamese people and their government grew strong and prospered.

Instruction in technical skills such as carpentry, heavy equipment operation and truck driving began in a school sponsored by the Naval Support Activity at Da Nang. At the same time other schools were teaching women how to operate sewing machines and the number of English language classes multiplied as rapidly as the people's interest and trust in the Marines who had come from far away to help them.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

One of the most successful and well known civic action projects has been the 120 bed Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital. In late 1965 Navy Corpsmen recognized the need for special medical treatment for Vietnamese children and established an all bed tent hospital.

When the Force Logistic Command moved into the Camp Books compound, the facility was expanded by construction of a wood and tin building able to accommodate 70 children.

The hospital's fame spread among the people and parents brought their children from as far away as the DMZ. Soon the facility was again overtaxed.

Vietnamese laborers under the supervision of Marine engineers and Navy Seabees began work on a new facility in the fall of 1967. Two wings were added in 1968 giving the building its present "U" shape.

The cost of construction was about \$300,000, all donated by servicemen and U.S. patrons. Officially opened in January, 1969, the hospital is stocked with equipment valued at more than \$500,000. It is staffed by four Navy doctors who work part time in addition to their regular duties as FLC medical officers. Eight Navy corpsmen make up the balance of the volunteer staff. There are also 56 Vietnamese workers employed including 29 nurses under the supervision of Head Nurse Nguyen Thi Khang. The World Relief Commission now operates the hospital.

SUCCESS

As the Marines of III MAF Forces redeploy from the Republic of Vietnam, they leave behind tangible evidence of the Civic Action Program's success.

It surrounds us in the lush fields of grain produced from new strains of seed and nurtured by chemical fertilizers. It is carried in the air by the hum of the busy rice milling machines. New roads connect hitherto inaccessible hamlets and carry the products of handicraft industries recently started.

The schools are full and there are many more of them. The children are healthy because of milk and food distribution programs and increased medical care. New wells, market places, irrigation projects and bridges dot the countryside.

Civic Action has been a significant part of Marine Corps operations in the Republic of Vietnam.