

HEADQUARTERS
1st Light AA Missile Battalion
Marine Air Control Group-18
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

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5750
Ser No 003-69
6 Jan 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group-18
Subj: Command Chronology, Submission of (U)
Ref: (a) GrdO 5750.1
Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for the period 1-31 December 1968
1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1 to 31 December 1968.

J. W. DRURY

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Marine Corps History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of CNO ltr Ser 009D323/232095 of
21 Feb 1979

Signature

Date

ENCLOSURE (1)

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1ST LAAM BN

CMD CHRON

DEC 1968

HEADQUARTERS
1st Light AA Missile Battalion
Marine Air Control Group-18
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

Command Chronology
DaNang, Republic of Vietnam
1 to 31 December
1968

Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	1-31 Dec	1stCol John W. DEWRY
Sergeant Major	1-31 Dec	3rdMaj Bill A. PARSONS
Executive Officer	1-31 Dec	Maj George H. EARLE, JR.
S-1/Adjutant	1-31 Dec	1stLt Robert L. DOUP
Legal Officer	1-31 Dec	1stLt William L. TOWNSLEY
Asst Legal Officer	27-31 Dec	1stLt Harold D. MAYO, JR.
S-2/3 Officer	1-31 Dec	Capt James M. WUTTER
Asst S-3/Training O	1-31 Dec	1stLt Gregory P. BOCHSTEIN
Asst S-2/MHC O	1-23 Dec	1stLt Robert E. GARNER
Asst S-2/MHC O	24-31 Dec	1stLt Glenn K. EVANS
Asst S-3/Adison O	1-23 Dec	1stLt Glenn K. EVANS
Asst S-3/Adison O	24-31 Dec	1stLt Robert E. GARNER
S-4 Officer	1-31 Dec	Capt Elton R. BROWN, III
Asst S-4/Reberk O	1-31 Dec	1stLt Charles J. BORRANI, III
Asst S-4 Officer	1-31 Dec	1stLt Thomas J. GALIA
Motor T Officer	1-31 Dec	1stLt Freddie J. FALSBOUT
Motor T Maint O	1-31 Dec	CWO-3 Glenford A. NEWTON
Maint Plt Cndr	1-31 Dec	1stLt Ray G. RAMIERI
Weapons Systems Maint O	1-31 Dec	CWO-2 Edward G. HOWARD

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Supply Officer

Asst Supply Officer

Comm Officer

CO HAS Battery

Executive Officer

Admin Officer

Battery Officer

OIC AFU "E"

OIC AFU "E"

Maint O AFU "E"

Asst OIC AFU "E"

CO Battery "A"

Executive Officer

Executive Officer

Firing Flt Cndr

Firing Flt Cndr

Support Flt Cndr

Support Flt Cndr

Gnd Def Flt Cndr

CO Battery "E"

Executive Officer

Executive Officer

Firing Flt Cndr

Firing Flt Cndr

1-31 Dec Capt Dennis E. DAMON

16-31 Dec 1stLt Ralph J. RECKAMP

1-31 Dec 1stLt Thomas J. STAFFORD, III

1-31 Dec Capt William A. DAVIDSON, III

1-31 Dec 1stLt Billy R. COURTNEY

1-31 Dec 1stLt George R. DIMATTIO, JR.

3-8 Dec 1stLt Robert B. GEMERDES

1-8 Dec 1stLt Denham B. CLEMENTS

9-31 Dec 1stLt Robert B. GEMERDES

1-8 Dec CWO-2 Ira T. SMITH

9-31 Dec 1stLt Denham B. CLEMENTS

1-31 Dec Capt Charles A. PARSONS, JR.

1-18 Dec Capt Richard T. KERRAN

19-31 Dec 1stLt Paul M. COOK, II

1-18 Dec 1stLt Paul M. COOK, II

19-31 Dec 1stLt Richard F. COX

1-2 Dec 1stLt Robert B. GEMERDES

3-31 Dec CWO-2 Stanley S. MYNATOGAWA

1-18 Dec 1stLt Richard F. COX

1-31 Dec Capt Lynn W. WILSON

1-18 Dec 1stLt Dennis A. HEDGE

19-31 Dec Capt Richard T. KERRAN

1-18 Dec 1stLt Robert W. JOHNSON

19-31 Dec 1stLt Dennis A. HEDGE

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Asst Firing Plt Cndr

19-Jl Dec 1stLt Robert W. JOHNSON

Support Plt Cndr

1-Jl Dec 1stLt Don G. THOMPSON

Asst Support Plt Cndr

15-Jl Dec 1stLt Charles G. T. COLLINS

CO Battery "C"

1-Jl Dec Capt John E. MOORE

KneeG/Support Plt Cndr

1-Jl Dec Capt Edward H. NEWMAN, JR.

Firing Plt Cndr

1-Jl Dec 1stLt John W. JONES

Asst Firing Plt Cndr

25-Jl Dec 1stLt Robert J. BOARMAN

Maint Plt Cndr

1-Jl Dec 2ndLt Richard H. CARRT

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

a. Task Organization: N/A

b. Unit Location

B&S Battery Coordinates	(1:50,000)	NT007750	15 Feb 65
"A" Battery Coordinates	(1:50,000)	AT943917	21 Aug 66
"B" Battery Coordinates	(1:50,000)	NT091837	1 Sep 65
"C" Battery Coordinates	(1:50,000)	AT972737	26 Mar 65
AFU "E" B&S Coordinates	(1:50,000)	AT770420	27 Aug 66

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. Total Battalion

- (1) 38 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 676 Enlisted (USMC)
- (3) 0 Officer (USN)
- (4) 12 Enlisted (USN)

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b. H&S Battery

- (1) 2½ Officers (USMC)
- (2) 360 Enlisted (USMC)
- (3) 0 Officer (USN)
- (4) 12 Enlisted (USN)

c. Battery "A"

- (1) 4 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 120 Enlisted (USMC)

d. Battery "B"

- (1) 5 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 87 Enlisted (USMC)

e. Battery "C"

- (1) 5 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 109 Enlisted (USMC)

h. Important Visitors

On 1 December 1968, LtCol J. W. DUNN, USMC, Commanding Officer, 1st Light AA Missile Battalion, visited Battery "B" in order to inspect the damage caused by the rock blasting done by an Underwater Demolition Team on 28 November 1968.

On 5 December 1968, Capt R. V. MCELLEN, USMC, III Marine Amphibious Force, visited Battery "A". The purpose of his visit was to supervise road repair near the Battery site. On 5 December Capt J. J. KNOCKE, USMC, Wing Food Services Officer, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, inspected the Battery "A" messhall.

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On 6 December 1968, LtCol J. W. DRURY, USMC, Commanding Officer, 1st Light AA Missile Battalion, visited Battery "C" in order to promote several enlisted members of that command.

On 7 December 1968, LtCol J. W. DRURY, USMC, Commanding Officer, 1st Light AA Missile Battalion, visited AFU "E" in order to promote an enlisted Marine.

On 8 December 1968, LtCol J. W. DRURY, USMC, Commanding Officer, 1st Light AA Missile Battalion, visited Battery "A" in order to promote several enlisted members of that command.

On 9 December 1968, 2ndLt F. G. CARLSON, USMC, 7th Engineer Battalion, established liaison with Battery "A" in order to provide food services for members of that command who are working at Hai Van Pass.

On 11 December 1968, Capt J. B. EMMONS, USA, Battery "D", 1st Battalion/44th, visited the Commanding Officer of Battery "A" to discuss matters concerning food services for operators of M-42 twin 40mm "clusters" stationed at Hai Van Pass.

On 17 December 1968, Maj E. C. OBYRNE, USMC, 26th Marines, Communications Officer, visited Battery "A" site for relay shot liaison purposes.

On 20 December 1968, LtCol R. C. WHITNEY, USMC, and Maj N. P. FITZGERALD, USMC, of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Base Development Officer, inspected the Battery "A" messhall and road. Also 1stLt J. J. PFIEFFER, USMC, an Assistant Communications Officer, of the 1st Marine Division, visited Battery "A" for relay shot liaison purposes. Maj C.L. MANWARRING, USMC, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Motor Transport Officer, visited Battery "B".

On 23 December 1968, Maj E. C. OBYRNE, Communications Officer, 26th Marines, and his relief, Maj MASON, visited Battery "A" in order to observe operations of their relay shot. Also on 23 December, Col E. S. PRIS, Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group-18, and LtCol J. W. DRURY visited Battery "C" to inspect damages sustained by a rocket attack. On 23 December LtCol R. W. WARREN, USA, and Maj F. T. EVANS, USA, 56th Artillery Group, visited LtCol J. W. DRURY, Commanding Officer, 1st Light AA Missile Battalion.

On 28 December 1968, LtCol J. W. DRURY, USMC, Commanding Officer, 1st Light AA Missile Battalion, visited Battery "C" in order to inspect work accomplished by MCB-12 on the Battery messhall.

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 3 December 1968, 1stLt Robert P. GEMMES was transferred from Battery "A" to H&S Battery. 1stLt GEMMES relieved 1stLt Donham B. CLEMENTS as the OIC of AFU "E" on 9 December 1968.

On 12 December 1968, CWO-2 Ira T. SMITH rotated to CONUS.

On 15 December 1968, 1stLt Charles G. T. COLLINS joined Battery "E" as the Assistant Support Platoon Commander. Also, on 15 December, 1stLt R. J. HECKAMP joined H&S Battery as the Assistant Supply Officer.

On 19 December 1968, a memorial service was held at Battery "C" for Private First Class D. A. FLEISHER, formerly of that Battery, who died on 16 December 1968 in Japan.

On 24 December 1968, 1stLt Robert J. BOARDMAN joined Battery "C" as Assistant Firing Platoon Commander. Also, on 24 December, 1stLt Robert B. GARNER, Assistant S-2/NBC C was transferred to Panama where he relieved 1stLt Glenn K. EVANS as the H&M Liaison Officer. 1stLt EVANS assumed duties as Assistant S-2/NBC C.

On 27 December 1968, 1stLt H. E. MAYO joined H&S Battery and assumed duties as Assistant Legal Officer.

On 31 December 1968, 1stLt B. R. COURTNEY rotated to CONUS.

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Enemy Action

a. Enemy activity was relatively low during the month of December. Although numerous probes and sniper fire were received from Nams and Lang Co, none were in the immediate area of Battery "A". From 16 to 21 December and on 25 and 26 December 1968, AFU "E" and adjacent 7th Marine Regiment forces assumed an increased readiness posture based on intelligence reports which stated the 21st NVA Regiment was massing for an attack in the 7th Marines TAOR. During this period of time Hill 55 received only scattered small arms fire. There were no casualties or equipment damage for AFU "E".

b. At 0400 on 23 December 1968, Battery "C" received a rocket round from an attack centered about the DaNang Air Base complex. Battery "C"'s galley was severely damaged and the Enlisted Club sustained minor damages. There were no casualties nor any other Battalion damage.

2. Casualties

- a. SSgt MORITT, R. D., Myocardial Inf. Evacuated to USNH, Yokosuka.
- b. Sgt EVANS, K. P., Herniated Disc. Evacuated to USNH, Guam.
- c. Cpl SANGSTER, T. D., Cervical Strain. Evacuated to USNH, Guam.
- d. Cpl AGUIRO, M. A., Inguinal Hernia. Evacuated to USNH, Guam.
- e. LCpl VANALLEN, F. C., Milt Shrap Wds. Evacuated to 249th GH, Japan.
- f. LCpl HURST, M. A., Milt Shrap Wds. Evacuated to USNH, Yokosuka.
- g. LCpl VAITKEVICIUS, R. J., FX R. Carpal Navicular. Evacuated to 106th GH, Yokosuka.
- h. Pvt USNER, D. H., Torn Ligament. Evacuated to USNH, Guam.
- i. Pvt NEWKIRK, G. C., Milt Shrap Wds. Evacuated to USNH, Yokosuka.

3. Civic Action

- a. Five students of the Sacred Heart Orphanage School are still receiving

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General Walt Scholarships Assistance through the Battalion's sponsorship.

b. Two Med Caps were conducted the past month. However, Med Caps have been discontinued because the villagers are unwilling to pay an interpreter to assist the Corporal.

c. The Battalion distributed 120 school kits to two schools in Nai Nam.

d. Work is 50% complete on a new school building. It measures 20 feet by 40 feet. The planning and the actual construction has been done by the villagers.

4. Air Defense

a. The Battalion had 1375 targets during 75 AAWK's. Of this total 1372 or 99.8% were successfully engaged.

b. Two unknowns occurred during December; both were successfully tracked. Tracking discontinued when these aircraft proved to be friendlies.

c. There were four HAWK runs with three being successfully engaged for a total of 75%.

d. Annual totals for 1968 are 13,597 targets during 869 AAWK's. Of this total 13,450 or 98.8% were successful. There were 7 unknowns during 1968. The Battalion participated in 66 HAWK runs and 53 were successful for a total of 81%.

5. Ground Defense

a. Battery "A" made preparations to lay wire from Post #8 to Post #10. Post #10 was partially rebuilt. Defoliants were sprayed around Posts #8, #9, #10 and #11. Post #13 was completed.

b. Battery "B" has rebuilt Post #1 along with two new secondary positions to supplement Post #1. A Ground Defense Drill was conducted on 18 December 1968. Additional perimeter wire has been strung along the avenues of approach leading up to Post #1 and an additional 60 trip flares have been employed along the perimeter confronting Post #17.

c. Battery "C" completed its COC bunker and installed six napalm barrels around its perimeter wire. Burning the high grass around the Battery perimeter continued this month and will continue until completed.

d. B&B Battery continued work on the bunkers within and around the

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compound. AFV "F" has completed an underground resupply tunnel complex and completed twelve fighting positions along the trenchline perimeter.

6. Training

a. Battery "A" conducted two hours of GMS and eight hours of Technical Training.

b. Battery "B" conducted eight hours of GMS and nineteen hours of Technical Training. An MHC drill was held on 18 December, a fire drill was conducted on 26 December and all personnel Fan-Fired the M-16 on 28 December.

c. Battery "C" conducted five hours of GMS and four hours of Technical Training.

d. M&S Battery conducted one hour of GMS and thirty hours of Technical Training.

7. Logistics

a. Weapons Systems Maintenance received one PV 603 generator (Serial # 4220025) from rebuild, which was damaged and inoperable and was subsequently returned to WERS-17. One TSM-45 Shop Van was received from COMUS. Twenty-eight missiles and one BOC (Serial #07017) were retrograded to COMUS.

8. Supply

a. During the month \$11,823.45 was expended from Op Bud, \$10,826.65 from Hotel and no Quebec funds were expended. This leaves a balance of \$53,639.48 in Op Bud, \$37,924.75 in Hotel and \$1,442.40 in Quebec funds.

b. During December, Battalion Supply processed a total of 2469 requisitions, not including clothing or Serr-Mart items. Of this number 1490 issues were made from stock, thus creating a gross effectiveness of 60%. Of the total number of requisitions submitted, 192 were for items not previously carried. This accounted for a net effectiveness of 61%.

c. Supply has completed 60% of its wall to wall inventory. An average of 300 items per inventory class are being picked up. Construction of the new technical research room, extension of the clothing and 782 gear issue area and rewarehousing of 782 gear is complete.

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d. Transfer of all property in the messhall to Marine Air Control Group-18 was accomplished.

9. Motor Transport

a. Total vehicle mileage was 45,631; 18,627 passengers were carried; and 12,858 tons were transferred.

10. Military Construction and Camp Improvements

a. Battery "A" has received assistance from 7th Engineer Battalion in making improvements on the Battery messhall. The stage has been remodeled for mobility and versatility.

b. Battery "B" has completed the road revetment along the upper firing level. Work is continuing on rewiring the Battery Compound.

c. Battery "C" has installed steel matting in the entrance to all generator pits. MGB-12 has completely repaired the messhall. A drainage ditch has been constructed by the generator pits on top of the hill. The Operations Ready Room has been improved.

d. NAS Battery has started construction on the new Battalion Sick Bay. AFU "E" has constructed a 15 foot by 15 foot generator pad to house a new 30 kw 60 cycle generator. The entire AFU "E" camp complex and the adjacent MASS-2, ASRT #2 emplacements has been completely repaired in preparation for the new generator. Construction has been completed on both launcher revetments. Construction still continues on the new missile storage pit/missile test area.

11. Operations

a. The lack of a proper air conditioner for the TSQ-57 continues to hamper evaluation of the systems performance.

b. The AN/UPS-1B has been moved from Battery "C" to the AAC in the new area. It is expected to be fully operational by 6 January 1969.

12. Communications

a. NAS Battery has re-laid the security loop in a number of places. Corrosion and excessive splices made it necessary to re-lay a 100 yard portion of the motor pool line. A new monitoring system is being established which enables the relay operator to monitor both AAC and AAI nets during an AAWK.

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