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HEADQUARTERS  
1st Searchlight Battery  
3d Marine Division (Rein), MAF  
APO San Francisco 96602

RE: dgp  
5750  
Ser 001A 09668  
5 Apr 1968

SECRET

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), MAF  
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) MAFpac 5750.8

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the following report is submitted.

2. Reporting Period: 1-31 March 1968.

3. Organizational Data:

a. Designation of Unit. Reporting unit 21503, 1st Searchlight Battery, 3d Marine Division (Rein), MAF, APO San Francisco 96602.

b. Commanding Officer. Captain Frederick C. MCQUEG, 8 February 1968 - present.

c. Location of Unit. Dong Ha Combat Base, Republic of Vietnam, 29 June 1967 - present.

d. Battery Officers:

(1) 1stlt Robert B. WEITHAMER - Executive Officer.

(2) 1stlt Wilbur W. SHIPER, Jr. - Liaison Officer.

e. Battery Strength

USMC		USF	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
3	91	0	2

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1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY

CMDCRON

MAR 1968

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4. Narrative Summary:

1 Mar 1968. Final count for the action at the Dong Ha LCU ramp on 29 Feb 1968 was 35 KIA confirmed. Received two searchlights from FLSG-B which had been turned in for repair.

3 Mar 1968. While proceeding West from the Naval Supply Activity, the patrol boat with 1st Platoon's searchlight and crew was sunk with all hands by an unknown type explosive device. Two men from the battery were KIA. The searchlight was recovered and subsequently classified code Y by FLSG-D.

5 Mar 1968. Two men from the 3d Platoon at The Binh were wounded by incoming mortar fire and MED-EVACED to Co D 3d Med Bn, Dong Ha. They were treated and returned to the Battery Sick Bay for recovery. One searchlight was also damaged, evacuated to Dong Ha for repair and returned to The Binh. 1st Platoon replaced the destroyed light and crew on another navy patrol boat in support of operation Napoleon/Saline.

10 Mar 1968. One searchlight deadlined for 2d Echelon maintenance.

12 Mar 1968. One light deadlined, sent to FLSG-B for repair.

14 Mar 1968. Received one light from FLSG-B which had been turned in 12 Mar 1968.

17 Mar 1968. The 2d Platoon was relieved of responsibility for the Dong Ha LCU ramp. 1st Platoon assumed responsibility for Dong Ha LCU ramp, Task Force Clearwater and 3d Marine Regiment at Cua Viet, Quang Tri Province.

19 Mar 1968. 2d Section 2d Platoon sent to Con Thien with one light, from deadline 10 Mar 1968, OPCON of 1st Bn, 4th Marines. 3d Section, 2d Platoon at C-2 spotted 3 NVA with infra-red light. Elements of 2d Bn, 1st Marines notified, engaged enemy under white light. Three NVA KIA (confirmed).

21 Mar 1968. 2d Section, 2d Platoon assumed OPCON of Dyemarker searchlight at C-2 bridge, OPCON of 1st Bn, 4th Marines.

23 Mar 1968. Received one searchlight from FLSG-B which had been turned in for repair.

26 Mar 1968. Additional light with 1st Platoon crew placed on navy patrol boat in support of Task Force Clearwater and 3d Marine Regiment, OPCON Task Force Clearwater.

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28 Mar 1968. Third and final light and crew from 1st Platoon placed on Navy patrol boat in support of Task Force Clearwater and 3d Marines, OPCOM Task Force Clearwater. Scope of operations calls for three patrol boats with searchlights and two gun boats as security to patrol the Cua Viet River between Dong Ha and Naval Supply Activity, Cua Viet. Mission is to prevent mining of the friendly river MSR and cut enemy MSR from the North to Quang Tri City.

31 Mar 1968. One searchlight deadlined, turned in to FMSG-B for repair. 26th Marines chopped OPCOM from 3d MarDiv to 1st Air Cavalry Division. 3d Platoon now direct support 26th Marine Regiment, general support 1st Air Cav, OPCOM 1st Bn, 13th Marines. Operation Scotland terminated, Operation Pegasus initiated.

#### 5. Sequential listing of Significant Events

##### a. Combat Missions assigned:

(1) 1st Platoon - General Support of 3d Marines and Task Force Clearwater - 107 hours of white light.

(2) 2d Platoon - General Support of 9th Marines - 35 hours of white light.

(3) 3d Platoon - General Support of 26th Marines and 1st Air Cavalry - 3 hours of white light.

##### b. Significant Operations conducted:

(1) Scotland (Quang Tri Province)

(2) Lancaster II (Quang Tri Province)

(3) Kentucky (Quang Tri Province)

(4) Napoleon/Saline (Quang Tri Province)

(5) Dyemarker (Quang Tri Province)

(6) Pegasus (Quang Tri Province)

c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy: 33 KIA.

d. Casualties sustained: Two KIA, four WIA.

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e. New techniques of employment. The mobility gained by employing the searchlight on patrol boats has greatly improved Task Force Clearwater's capability to interdict a major enemy LOC with limited assets.

f. Equipment

(1) 58% of the battery searchlights are deadlined for 3d and 4th echelon repair.

(2) 22% of the battery M-18 binoculars are deadlined for 3d and 4th echelon repair.

(3) 8% of the battery motor vehicles are deadlined for 2d echelon repair.

g. Logistics. The overall battery logistics situation is satisfactory. Battery motor transport section statistics are:

(1) Road Miles - 665.

(2) Personnel Transported - 201.

(3) Tons of supplies transported - 2,324.

h. Personnel. Personnel situation remains satisfactory. Statistics are as follows:

	Off	Enl
Transferred	3	9
Joined	0	12

*F. C. McQuigg*  
 F. C. McQUIGG

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 CO, 12th Marines