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Mar Div  
Ca. # 1

13466

1st 8" HOWITZER BATTERY (SP)  
3rd Marine Division (Rein)  
Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California 96601

EJC:wro  
5750  
2 Jan 1966

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines Regiment (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology; report of  
Ref: (a) RegtO 5750.1

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is submitted:

a. Organizational Data.

- (1) 1st 8" HowBtry (SP) (-) (Rein)/Da Nang, South Viet Nam.
- (2) Period - 1Dec65 - 31Dec65.
- (3) Commanding Officer - Major Paul E. WILSON 053178  
Executive Officer - Captain Ervin "J" CRAMPTON 069268  
1stSgt - 1stSgt Hoyt S. HALE 507907
- (4) Officers-8 Enlisted-195 USN-4

b. Significant events.

(1) Current additions and losses have maintained battery strength at same level. One officer still in CONUS on Emergency Leave. Preparations being made to effect numerous intra-regimental transfers of enlisted personnel in order to ease the problem within the battery of many men with the same rotation tour date.

(2) Problem has arisen concerning personnel records (SRB's, etc.) of battery personnel who have been medically evacuated for treatment and subsequently returned to this unit. Several weeks time lag in the return of the individual's records has been experienced on occasions.

(3) Battery has reported several more occurrences of small arms fire originating from moving vehicles traveling along Route # 1 east of battery position. Incidents always occur at night. Popular Forces personnel at check point on highway indicate military personnel (possibly Marines) have been shooting at cement road marker in vicinity of PF check Point. Recon patrols continue to be sent out twice daily on random routes around battery CP. Some small markers

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ENCLOSURE (6)

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have been found and picked up and/or destroyed. The night of 27 December 1965, one round of tracer small arms fire impacted within 100 meters of the Battery CP. The round appeared to be one of several fired from a south easterly direction at an unknown range.

(4) Incoming and outgoing personnel receiving indoctrination as per Division instructions.

(5) Total of four (4) 8" Howitzers and two (2) 155 Guns sent to forward firing positions in support of various operations.

(6) One officer and five enlisted went TAD to Okinawa for assembly training.

(7) No change from last report.

(8) SIDs continue to be employed with no significant results. Land lines being laid to forward firing positions as a hot line back-up for radio communications which provides channel for transmission of firing data from centrally located FDC to Gun positions. Existing land lines had been used in past, but routing through several switchboards proved unsatisfactory.

(9) No change from last report.

(10) Fired 590 rounds 8" HE, 326 rounds of 155 Gun HE, one round of 155 Gun WP on various targets. H&I type mission continues to be primary effort. Other will adjust, fire for effect, and precision destruction missions fired with good results.

(11) Class 4 supplies becoming plentiful. Ordnance spares more readily available, however some repair parts (recoil cylinders) although available, all do not have current required modifications. This is increasing down time of guns sent in for 3rd echelon repairs. Seasonal rainy weather continues to adversely effect access and heavily used roads. Strong back kits now about 7/8 on hand. Heavy timber is arriving for the construction of bunkers.

(12) No change in equipment status. Seventy-seven battery personnel took part in 50 Cal MG live fire exercise at Marble Mountain Range.

(13) N/A

(14) None

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(15) Battery CO & EXO attended opening of 7th Engineer/1-3 Chapel on Christmas Day. New Regimental chaplain to continue conducting Protestant services in Battery area.

(16) Milk, clothes and soap were distributed to people of Kim Lien hamlet on 1 Dec 1965. Battery recon patrols have passed out candy, soap & cigarettes to inhabitants of nearby hamlets during conduct of patrols.

c. Documentation - N/A

  
PAUL E. WILSON

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