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

EJC:wro
5750
4 Feb 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines (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. Organization Data.

- (1) 1st 8" HowBtry(SP)(-)(Rein)/Da Nang, South Viet Nam.
- (2) Period - 1Jan66 - 31Jan66
- (3) Commanding Officer - Major Paul W. WILSON 053178
Executive Officer - Captain Ervin "J" CRAMPTON 069268
1stSgt - 1stSgt Hoyt S. HALE 507907
- (4) Officers - 8 Enlisted - 197 USN - 3

b. Significant Events.

(1) Numerous intra-regimental transfers effected in order to stabilize the rotation tour date spread within the battery. Other intra-battery transfers made to complete the job. Two upcoming months will unavoidably still have a relatively large rotation of personnel out of the battery.

(2) Recently reenlisted personnel are reporting to the battery with incomplete SREs. Some entries made while personnel were at staging battalion incomplete. Many personnel reporting in do not have complete travel itineraries.

(3) Twice daily patrols continue to operate in and around battery position. Battery patrol on 1 January detained two (2) VCs, one with false ID card. Delivered suspects to collection point. On 6 January, 300 feet of communication wire cut out of battery FDC link with forward firing position. Wire removed near AN NAGI THI village vic. coordinates (921791). A 3/4 ton truck from the battery was fired on and hit in the windshield with small arms fire on the night of 16 January resulting in driver being KIA. Incident took place on route 1 vic coordinates (968775). Fire returned with unknown results.

Enclosure (7)

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Second occurrence of vehicle being fired on from that location. On 31 January battery wire detail received five (5) rounds of fire vic coordinates (955768). Patrol searched area from which fire came with negative results.

(4) Indoctrination of incoming and outgoing personnel continues as per Division Instructions. Other classes were held as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>No attending</u>
16Jan	Fam fire (M-14, M-60)	30 (Gd Pers)
21Jan	Counter Intelligence	65
22Jan	Religions of Viet Nam	45
25Jan	Patrolling	45
25Jan	VC Land Mines	45
26Jan	Vietnamese Language	59

(5) 8" Howitzers and attached 155 guns continue to occupy forward positions periodically in order to provide support for various operations as they occur.

(6) One (1) officer and six (6) enlisted went TAD to Okinawa for assembly training.

(7) No change from last report.

(8) Land lines laid to forward position cut soon after laid - see (3). SIDs utilized with no significant results. Change to unit TE requiring turn in of AN/GRC-5 received. Equipment currently being effectively utilized. Request made by CO, 8" Howitzry (SP) letter (4400 of 18Jan66) to retain subject radio sets and for the TE modification be retained for this unit.

(9) N/A

(10) Fired 258 rounds 8" HE, 275 rounds 155 gun HE, 10 rounds of 155 WP on various targets. H&I fires still predominate. Exercised battery defensive plan and adjusted mortar illumination provided by adjacent unit. Adjusted concentrations plotted and recorded.

(11) Logistics picture brightens with each passing month. However, some admin supplies (forms) and howitzer bore brushes still unavailable. Lacking four (4) major items of vehicular equipment - one (1) MRC-37, one (1) M-35, one (1) M-62 and one (1) M-51. Strong back kits now almost 100% on hand. Heavy timber for four (4) MG bunkers, six (6) ammo bunkers, and one (1) FDC bunker not yet available.

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(12) No change from last report.

(13) N/A

(14) Battery medical personnel rendered medical aid to approximately thirty (30) people in nearby village.

(15) Battery donated \$41.00 to help defray expenses of 7th Engineer Chapel. 12th Marine Protestant chaplain conducts weekly services in battery area.

(16) During the reporting period the following civic actions were conducted:

(a) Battery patrols passed out approximately 40 lbs of candy and 30 bars of soap during conduct of daily patrols.

(b) Battery representatives met with nearby village chief and arranged to pass out 150 lbs candy, 500 bars of soap and 300 lbs of clothes. Medical attention paid 30 villagers (see #14).

(c) 50 lbs candy and gum distributed to children along road by battery recon parties.


PAUL E. WILSON

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