

1ST 8" HOW (SP)  
CONTROL # *02427668*1st 8" howitzer battery (SP)  
3d Marine Division, MAF  
APO San Francisco 963083D MARDIV S&C FILE  
BT# 566568 *02427668*~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer

To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, MAF

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 September 1968 to 30 September 1968

Ref: (a) MCL 5750.2A  
(b) MCL 5750.8

Encl: ✓ (1) 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*[Signature]*  
P. L. TORREZ

Copy to:

CG, 12th Marines

Downgraded at 3 year intervals,  
declassified after 12 years.  
DD Form 5700.10

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1ST 8" HOW BTRY

CMD CHRON

SEP 1968

1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)  
3d Marine Division, FMF  
APO San Francisco 96302

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 September 1968 to 30 September 1968

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)

COMMANDERCapt. P.L. TOWNSEND  
087362/0802

1 Sept 1968 - 30 Sept 1968

2. LOCATION

"A" Platoon

1 Sept - 30 Sept 1968 - Two 8" Howitzers (M115) at A-3, RVN

"B" Platoon

1 Sept - 13 Sept 1968 - Two 8" Howitzers (M110) at Rockpile, RVN

14 Sept - 30 Sept 1968 - Two 8" Howitzers (M110) at Landing Zone Pete, RVN

"C" Platoon

1 Sept - 30 Sept 1968 - Two 8" Howitzers (M110) at 1-4, RVN

3. TACT OFFICERS

Not Applicable

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHUSMCOFF  
7ENL  
190USNOFF  
0ENL  
5

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## PART II

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The most note-worthy achievement of the month of September was the move by "B" Platoon from the Rockpile to Landing Zone Pete. This cross-country move involved the fording of two large creeks and the climbing of several very steep hills. The move was led by two EIMCO's that cut out roads and pulled the trucks up the steeper grades. The move was necessitated by an infantry operation in the DMZ and the Division Commanding General's expressed desire that 8" be moved into position to support the operation. Resupply is possible only by use of U.S. Army M548 Tracked Vehicles. While at Landing Zone Pete, "B" Platoon is under the operational control of 2/12.

"A" Platoon continued to work under the operational control of the U.S. Army 108th Field Artillery Group. Due to frequent bad weather the Aerial Observers were not able to fly as much as in previous months. This resulted in fewer missions for both "A" and "C" Platoons.

"C" Platoon was under the operational control of the U.S. Army 108th Artillery Group through 15 Sept. On 16 Sept they went under the operational control of the 12th Marines with the understanding that 108th Group could assign them missions with the permission of the 12th Marines. This arrangement was established in order to give 12th Marines primary control in case support was needed for the operation in the DMZ.

Activity at the Battery Headquarters has primarily involved the construction of 8 S.E. Asia Huts and a shower. These new buildings allowed the Battery to evacuate it's position at C-3 and consolidate all maintenance and controlling activities at Dong Ha.

On the night of 28 September a fire broke out in the FDC Bunker at A-3. The bunker, and everything in it, was a total loss. One man was injured by an exploding small arms round. Among the gear lost was 5 AN/PRC-25 radios, complete FDC set-up and 6 men's personal gear. The re-actions of the personal in attempting to combat the blaze and removing smoldering ammunition was of such a high caliber that 4 are being recommended for Navy commendation Medals and 2 for Bronze Stars.

During the month of September, the U.S. Army 108th Field Artillery Group submitted through their chain of command a recommendation that 1st 8" Howitzer Battery be awarded the Army Valorous Unit Award.

During the month of September, the howitzers of this battery fired 152 observed missions and 183 unobserved missions, expending 359 rounds of M106 (HE) and 22 rounds of M404 (HE).

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSA. COMBAT MISSION ASSIGNED

General Support of the Third Marine Division

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

1. Operation Kentucky
2. Operation Highrise
3. Operation Saline II
4. Operation Lancaster II
5. Operation Scotland II East
6. Operation Highrise Thor

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY

1. 47 Confirmed KIA's
2. 20 Probable KIA's
3. 11 Artillery Guns Destroyed
4. 9 Artillery Guns Damaged
5. 59 Bunkers Destroyed
6. 2 Bunkers Damaged
7. 77 Secondary Explosions
8. 5 Secondary Fires
9. 50 Meters of Trenchline Destroyed
10. 1 Anti-Aircraft Gun Destroyed
11. 2 Tracked Vehicles Destroyed
12. 1 Truck Destroyed
13. 1 Tracked Vehicle Damaged
14. 16 Structures Destroyed
15. 1 50 Cal Machinegun Destroyed
16. 5 Automatic Weapons Positions Destroyed
17. 1 AK 47 Destroyed
18. 2 Escape Routes Destroyed
19. 2 Supply Dumps Destroyed
20. 1 Steel Bridge Destroyed
21. 1 60 MM Mortar Destroyed
22. 1 Camouflaged Arty Position Destroyed
23. 1 Truck Park Destroyed
24. Large Quantity of Rice Destroyed

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## PART III (cont)

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

One (1) MIA, One (1) Non-Combat Injury

E. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

None

F. COMMAND RELATIONS

N/A

G. EQUIPMENT

The 8" Howitzers (M110) continue to function satisfactorily. The spare parts situation has become critical. There appears to be no relief in sight. Weapons are being maintained primarily with parts obtained from U.S. Army units. Three trucks have also been deadlined all month due to lack of parts. We have received 3 new M151 jeeps and two more new M37B 3/4 Ton Trucks.

H. LOGISTICS

The resupply of "B" Platoon at Landing Zone Pete can only be accomplished by use of tracked vehicles. The resupply of "C" Platoon is seriously hampered by the fact that the bridge over Cam Lo River collapsed. The engineers are in the process of constructing a new bridge. The road from Highway 1 into A-3 becomes increasingly difficult to traverse. This is due to the frequency of mines ( up to 9 found in one day) and the fact that whenever it rains, the road is a virtual sea of mud.

I. CIVIC ACTION

None

J. ADMINISTRATION

No Problems

K. PERSONNEL

The battery has joined 32 and dropped 12 enlisted men, resulting in a operating percentage of 92%. The battery has joined 0 and dropped 2 officers, resulting in an operating percentage of 66.7%.

L. INTELLIGENCE

No Comment

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## PART III (cont)

M. COMMUNICATIONS

The loss of 5 AN/PRC 25's in the fire at "A" Platoon has caused the battery to re-distribute it's remaining radios. As a result all stations are no longer able to monitor as many nets as is preferable. This has not affected our operational ability.

N. WEATHER

Generally Cooler with Frequent Thundershowers.

O. FIRE SUPPORT

N/A

P. AIR SUPPORT

N/A

Q. ACTIVATIONS / DEACTIVATIONS / REDESIGNATIONS

None

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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1. None

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