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1ST 8" HOWITZER BATTERY (SP)  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

TCC/tcc  
5750  
024-69  
11 Aug 1969

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1ST 8" HOW (SP)  
CONTROL # 69-024

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July to 31 July 1969

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1C  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.1C

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

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. Downgraded at 3-year intervals, declassified after 12 years, DOD Dir 5200.1C.

  
W. H. BARNARD

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1ST 8" HOWITZER BATTERY (SP)  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FIF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 July 1969 to 31 July 1969

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)  
3d Marine Division (-) (Rein), FMF

COMMANDER

Major K. E. SOESBE  
071960/0802/5715  
1-11 Jul

Major W. H. BARNARD  
070251/0802  
12-31 Jul

SUBORDINATE UNITS"A" Platoon

1stLt R. H. FAGNESS Jr.  
0103095/0802  
1-18 Jul

1stLt D. T. WALLINGFORD  
0105303/0802  
19-31 Jul

"B" Platoon

1stLt T. L. CARLSON  
0103394/0802  
1-3 Jul

1stLt R. D. FULMER  
0108011/0802  
4-31 Jul

"C" Platoon

1stLt G. N. BARNES  
0105018/0802  
1-31 Jul

2. LOCATION

Battery Headquarters: 1-31 Jul, Dong Ha Co, RVN

"A" Platoon: 1-31 Jul, Elliot Combat Base, RVN

"B" Platoon: 1-31 Jul, CON THIEN (A-4), RVN

"C" Platoon: 1-31 Jul, GIO LINH (A-2), RVN

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3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer/Fire Direction Officer

Capt J. N. HUDSON  
090558/0802  
1-31 Jul

Assistant Fire Direction Officer

1stLt F. J. WATKINS  
0100115/0802  
1-31 Jul

Supply Officer

1stLt M. C. KIRK  
0104051/3002  
1-31 Jul

Air Observer/Motor Transport Officer

1stLt B. L. NICHSWONGER  
0104733/0802  
1-31 Jul4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

| <u>USMC</u> |            | <u>USMC</u> |            |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| <u>OFF</u>  | <u>ENL</u> | <u>OFF</u>  | <u>ENL</u> |
| 9           | 186        | 5           | 6          |

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY1. General Overview of all Activities

The majority of fire missions fired by this battery were against bunker complexes in the southern half of the DMZ. During the month of July, the howitzers of this battery fired 185 observed missions and 67 unobserved missions, expending 3215 rounds of Shell HE, and 89 rounds of Improved Conventional Munitions. Construction continued in the firing positions and in the motor transport area of the battery headquarters.

2. Mission Assigned. General Support of the 3d Marine Division.3. Operations

Operation HIGHRISE, 1-31 Jul

Operation VIRGINA RIDGE, 1-16 Jul

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Operation HERKIMER MOUNTAIN, 1-16 Jul

Operation IDAHO CANYON, 16-31 Jul

Operation ARKINGTON CANYON, 16-31 Jul

Operation UTAH MESA, 1-9 Jul

Operation IROQUOIS GROVE, 1-31 Jul

Operation GEORGIA TAR, 16-31 Jul

4. Fire SupportMissions Fired by this Battery from 1-31 Jul

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>OBSERVED</u> | <u>UNOBSERVED</u> | <u>ROUNDS EXPENDED</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1           | 5               | 1                 | 106 HE                 |
| 2           | 5               | 0                 | 101 HE                 |
| 3           | 4               | 3                 | 100 HE                 |
| 4           | 5               | 0                 | 52 HE 10 ICM           |
| 5           | 6               | 0                 | 117 HE                 |
| 6           | 7               | 2                 | 109 HE 18 ICM          |
| 7           | 1               | 1                 | 14 HE                  |
| 8           | 6               | 0                 | 91 HE 12 ICM           |
| 9           | 3               | 7                 | 86 HE                  |
| 10          | 4               | 4                 | 120 HE 6 ICM           |
| 11          | 4               | 7                 | 56 HE                  |
| 12          | 0               | 4                 | 32 HE                  |
| 13          | 5               | 8                 | 173 HE 3 ICM           |
| 14          | 3               | 2                 | 68 HE 8 ICM            |
| 15          | 5               | 0                 | 67 HE                  |
| 16          | 5               | 8                 | 124 HE 6 ICM           |
| 17          | 8               | 3                 | 113 HE                 |
| 18          | 7               | 0                 | 97 HE                  |
| 19          | 4               | 2                 | 66 HE                  |
| 20          | 7               | 0                 | 176 HE 3 ICM           |
| 21          | 5               | 4                 | 126 HE                 |
| 22          | 8               | 0                 | 157 HE 6 ICM           |
| 23          | 8               | 0                 | 207 HE 3 ICM           |
| 24          | 3               | 1                 | 54 HE                  |

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| <u>DATE</u> | <u>OBSERVED</u> | <u>UNOBSERVED</u> | <u>ROUNDS EXPENDED</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 25          | 4               | 0                 | 241 HE                 |
| 26          | 7               | 3                 | 130 HE 6 ICM           |
| 27          | 8               | 0                 | 148 HE                 |
| 28          | 8               | 1                 | 66 HE                  |
| 29          | 3               | 1                 | 30 HE                  |
| 30          | 3               | 3                 | 23 HE                  |
| 31          | <u>2</u>        | <u>1</u>          | <u>132 HE</u>          |
| Totals      | 185             | 67                | 3215 HE 89 ICM         |

5. Surveillance of Fire Missions

KIA - 14  
 .50 Cal Positions Destroyed - 1  
 .50 Cal Positions Damaged - 1  
 Automatic Weapons Positions Destroyed - 1  
 Mortar Pit Destroyed - 1  
 Structures Destroyed - 2  
 Bunkers Destroyed - 105  
 Bunkers Damaged - 41  
 Bunkers Uncovered - 4  
 Tunnels Destroyed - 1  
 Tunnels Uncovered - 1  
 Meters of Trenchline Destroyed - 25  
 Meters of Trail Destroyed - 205  
 Secondary Explosions - 19  
 Secondary Fires - 2  
 Trail Junctions Destroyed - 4

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6. Casualties Sustained. None7. Logistics

a. Gun pads, powder bunkers, projectile bunkers and a new FDC bunker are in the process of being constructed at this time.

b. Additional electrical power is still required at Elliot Combat Base. The present situation does not allow sufficient power to drive the ME-10 Reefer Unit thus causing a storage problem.

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c. One additional bunker is required in the battery headquarters to afford adequate protection from incoming hostile fire. One additional SEA Hut is required in the battery headquarters area to eliminate tentage.

d. Twenty-foot towers are needed at Elliot Combat Base and Con Thien to comply with XXIV Corps SOP concerning safety checks of the lay of pieces. Also, crushed rock is needed for positions at Con Thien and Gio Linh for proper seating of howitzer recoil spades.

8. Communications-Electronics. No problems

9. Equipment. A new howitzer was received 13 Jul 1969 and assigned to "C" Platoon.

10. Civic Action. The Battery Corpsmen conducted 7 MEDCAPS, treating 272 Vietnamese Nationals.

11. Personnel and Administration. The Battery joined 1 Officer and 6 Enlisted, and dropped 2 Officers and 12 Enlisted. The Operating Percentage (of manning level) of Officers is 90%; Enlisted, 98%.

12. Training. Unit/Section Training, COARIP, Personal Response and GMS Training continued through the month.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. On 12 July 1969 Major W. H. BARNARD assumed the duties of Commanding Officer, 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP).

2. On 31 July 1969 the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP), was presented the U. S. Army Valorous Unit Award by Lieutenant General Melvin ZAIS, Commanding General, XXIV Corps. The ceremony was held on the parade field at the 12th Marines Regimental CP.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Originated Messages

✓ 010110Z Jul 69

✓ 060615Z Jul 69

✓ 060626Z Jul 69

✓ 2. USARV General Orders Number 1229 of 8 Apr 1969

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ZNY:ETEE

R 040140Z JUL 69

FM FIRST EIGHT INCH HOW BTRY (SP)

TO CG THIRD MARDIV

INFO TWELFTH MARINES

BT

UNCLASIE FT O

ATTN: (SC-10)

REF YOUR 290436Z APR 69

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

A NONE

B. THREE (TOTAL ON HAND)

BT

HAS BEEN SENT

CCN: 026

ADJ

HQBTRY

8"

TOD: 040300Z/JUL 69/TT-06/RLP

\*\*\*\*\*

000615Z JUL 69

FM FIRST LIGHT NO4 HOWITZER BATTERY (SP)

TO CG THIR MARP V

CCN: 046

HAS BEEN SENT

ADJ  
8"

REQUEST RE PAGE

FM CG THIR MARP V

TO ADM N MCA PHUA

INFO TWELTH MARINES

FIRST LIGHT NO4 HOWITZER BATTERY (SP)

MESSAGE F T C

MLSTRIP-10

1. AFI/MPB/T/2520-937-5284/EA/00001/M/1270/3092/4210/R/

BLNK/C/BLNK/BLNK/892/05/BLNK/BLNK

2. AFI/MPB/T/2520-530-0574/EA/00003/M/1270/4023/N/

BLNK/C/BLNK/BLNK/892/02/BLNK/BLNK

3. AFI/MPB/T/120-448-0132/EA/00001/M/1270/6341/876/N/

BLNK/C/BLNK/BLNK/892/05/BLNK/BLNK

AUTHORITY CMC MSG R 132213Z MAY 68

TOD: 060725Z JUL 69/TT-07/DJM

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NNNNNN  
R 060526Z JUL 69

CCN: 047 HAS BEEN SENT

FM FIRST EIGHT INCH HOWITZER BATTERY (SP) ADJ  
TO CG THIRD MARDIV 8"

REQUEST RELEASE

FM CG THIRD MARDIV  
TO CG THIRD FORCE SERVICE REGT  
(INFO TWELFTH MARINES)  
FIRST EIGHT INCH HOWITZER BATTERY (SP)

UNCLASIE F T O

ELSTRIP FOLLOW-UP

1. AT1/MR1/T/5120-541-6013VEA/00001/M/1270/9023/2426/R/

BLNK/C/BLNK/BLNK/888/02/BLNK/BLNK

2. AT1/MR1/T/3431-856-9521VEA/00001/M/1270/9017/2348/N/

BLNK/C/BLNK/BLNK/892/02/BLNK/BLNK

TOD: 060733Z JUL 69/TT-08/DJM

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam  
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 1229

8 April 1969

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1g(2), AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded to the following named unit of the United States Marine Corps for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

The 1ST 8" HOWITZER BATTERY, 3D MARINE DIVISION, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period 4 August 1968 to 12 September 1968 in the northern I Corps Tactical Zone. Initially assigned to the 108th Artillery Group with the mission of silencing enemy artillery in the northern sector of the Demilitarized Zone, the men of the battery heroically braved enemy rocket, mortar and artillery fire to discharge more than 5600 rounds against communist 85mm and 130 mm long range gun emplacements. On numerous occasions, the men of the 1ST 8" HOWITZER BATTERY, 3D MARINE DIVISION, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS faced enemy artillery in a duel of gun against gun and although under a constant enemy artillery barrage, the personnel of the unit responded with counterbattery fire which totally eliminated the aggressors. The exceptional proficiency and singular determination of the battery was evidenced when they were credited with 19 confirmed enemy killed in action and the destruction of 27 communist artillery pieces in the Demilitarized Zone. Through their unrelenting perseverance, determined resourcefulness and dedication to mission accomplishment, the battery's members contributed immeasurably to the Free World effort against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam. The men of the 1ST 8" HOWITZER BATTERY, 3D MARINE DIVISION, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1229, dated 8 April 1969, DA, Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 (Cont)

FOR THE COMMANDER:



LEO B. JONES  
Major General, US Army  
Chief of Staff

ED V. HENDREN, JR.  
Colonel, AGC  
Adjutant General

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