

DECLASSIFIED

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[REDACTED]  
1ST 155MM GUN BATTERY (SP)  
1st Field Artillery Group  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 1st Field Artillery Group  
(2) Commanding Officer, 11th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.2B  
(d) RegtO 5750.2D

Encl: (1) 1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), (c), and (d) enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1-31 March 1968.

2. This page is down graded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (i).

*N. J. Beckman*  
N. J. BECKMAN

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS.  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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1st 155MM GUN BATTERY (SP)  
1st Field Artillery Group  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMT  
APO San Francisco 96602

EXTENDED CHRONOLOGY

1 March - 31 March 1968

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PART I - Organizational Data

PART II - Narrative Summary

PART III - Sequential Listing of Significant Events

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ENCLOSURE (1)  
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PART I (U)

COMBINATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

Commander

1st 155mm Gun Battery (GP)

Major N. J. BECKMAN

2. Location

1-31 March 1968; Phu Bai, RVN

3. Battery Officers

Executive Officer

Capt. T. P. HOWE 1-31Mar68

Platoon Direction Officer

1stLt. J. B. GRAVES 1-31Mar68

Supply Officer

1stLt A. P. EDELMANN 1-31Mar68

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
Off	Enl
4	5

USN	
Off	Enl
0	5

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PART IV

ENEMY WEAPONS

During the period 1-31 March 1968, the battery continued to improve its position area and defensive fire plans. Numerous modifications were effected on perimeter bunkers, fighting holes, interior bunkers, and perimeter wire. As a part of the battery's overall security measures, 3<sup>1</sup> listening posts were established and 4 patrols run.

On 15 March 1968, at approximately 0805, an explosion on gun # 2 claimed the lives of six members of that section while another was seriously wounded. On 30 March 1968, the wounded Marine died of complications as a result of the accident. The probable cause, as determined by investigation, was the failure of the breech block to be fully closed and locked prior to firing.

On 26 March 1968, approximately four enemy mortars began firing toward the Phu Bai Air Field from a position 1200 meters south of the battery area at 0300. Immediately, 200 rounds of twin 40mm cannon fire and 800 rounds of .50 cal. machinegun fire were brought to bear on the enemy mortars. The mortars were quickly silenced. Although no enemy were found when a patrol was sent out the following day, villagers in the area reported seeing the enemy carrying their wounded away after the engagement.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel and Administration

a. Personnel

- (1) Battle Evac: 7
- (2) Battle Non-Evac: None
- (3) Non-Battle: None
- (4) Administrative: 6

b. Gains

- (1) Replacements: 22

c. Enemies Captured: None

- d. Morale and Personal Services: Morale is good. Mail services have been disrupted due to the tactical situation and limited availability of government aircraft. PF and laundry service located in vicinity of Command Post.

e. Awards and Decorations: None

f. Promotions: 5: 2 ECpl to Cpl; 1 PFC to LCpl; 2 Pvt to PFC

g. Billeting: Furnished transient billeting for 3 officers and 20 enlisted personnel during March 1968.

h. Administration: Normal administration accomplished during the month.

2. Operations

a. Combat Missions Assigned

- (1) 1-31 March 1968 - General Support/Rein 1stBn, 11th Marines Direct support designated Recon Patrols.

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ORG	WEAP	RAI	TOTAL
28	101	157	284

c. Firing

04 Mar 68 0800 one gun departed the battery area, arriving Gia Le (YD82661527) at 0900 and was laid on azimuth 4500

07 Mar 68 One gun departed Gia Le (YD82661527) at 0945 and arrived in the battery area at 1220

03 Apr 68 At 0805 one M-53, 155mm (SP) Gun exploded in the battery area; 6 KIA's and 1 WIA sustained as a result

17 Mar 68 Received two M-53, 155mm (SP) Guns from 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP). Guns were moved to this battery.

d. Disposition of Fire Missions

251700H Mar 1968 Fired 12 rounds HE at NVA on trail vic. YD946024. Two confirmed WIA's. Mission shot for 1st Force Recon.

294050H Mar 1968 Fired 6 rounds HE and 3 rounds WP on active rocket sites vic. YD780070. Two secondary explosions were observed. Mission shot for 1st Force Recon.

291540H Mar 1968 Fired 18 rounds HE on 9 V.C. on trail vic. YD927026. One confirmed KIA. Mission shot for 1st Force Recon.

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### 3. Logistics

#### a. Supply

- (1) The overall supply status of the unit is satisfactory.  
Major items on loan are:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
1. Telescope, Telescopic M100	2	1st8" HowBtry (SP)
2. Sight, M142	1	HqBn3dMarDiv (Rein) FMF
3. Compass, Magnetic	15	HqBn3dMarDiv (Rein) FMF

#### b. Maintenance

- (1) During the month of March, 1 Gun, 155mm (SP) M-53, received a new tube. One Quarterly Preventive Maintenance service was held during the month.

#### c. Ammunition Expended (1-31 March 1968)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>WE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
213	2	45	905

#### d. Inventory

<u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DATE D/I</u>	<u>CAN BE FIRED</u>	<u>WORK ORDER #</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
213242	M-53		Yes		
213243	M-53		Yes		
213252	M-53		Yes		
213174	M-53		Yes		
213207	M-53		Yes		

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TAB (E) (1st 155mm Gun Btry (SP) Command Chronology)

To Enclosure (1)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

(E-1)

1st 155mm Gun Btry

End of line

Mar 1965

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