

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
1st Field Artillery Group
11th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein)
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

1st FAG S+C No. 005-67
Copy 1 of 8

Copy 1 of 8 Copies
3/MPH/cas
5750
001315367
2 June 1967

S E C R E T

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division (Rein) FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 11th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 May 1967

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) First Field Artillery Group Command Chronology

1. The Command Chronology for the First Field Artillery Group at DaNang RVN is submitted in compliance with reference (a) for the period 1-31 May 1967.


R. B. METCALFE

S E C R E T

TAB (E)

DECLASSIFIED

1st FAG S+C No. 005-67

1st FAG S+C No. 005-67

S E C R E T

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
PART I

1. DesignationCommander

First Field Artillery Group	LtCol W. PLASKETT, Jr.	1-3 May 1967
	LtCol R.B. METCALFE	4-31 May 1967

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. Location. 1 May 1967, Chu Lai TACR, RVN
2-31 May 1967, DaNang TACR, RVN

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Maj C.J. STANARO Capt D.L. BASTIAN Maj R.P. PALMER	1-19 May 1967 20-29 May 1967 30-31 May 1967
S-1	1stLt M.E. RAFFERTY	1-31 May 1967
S-2	1stLt W.B. BOVEE	30-31 May 1967
S-3	Capt M.L. HEFTI Capt D.L. BASTIAN	1-26 May 1967 30-31 May 1967
S-4	Capt D.L. BASTIAN	1-31 May 1967
Adjutant	1stLt M.E. RAFFERTY	1-31 May 1967
Survey/Metro Officer	1stLt W.B. BOVEE	1-31 May 1967
Ordnance Officer	2ndLt J.T. BOBB	1-31 May 1967
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt P.V. SULLIVAN	1-31 May 1967
Liaison Officer	Capt J.A. RESSMEYER Capt J.W. STADTLER, Jr.	1-31 May 1967 1-31 May 1967
Assistant S-3	1stLt W.B. BOVEE	1-31 May 1967
Supply Officer	2ndLt J. KETTLER	1-31 May 1967

S E C R E T

Chief Aerial Observer	Capt J.R. GUNEO	1-31 May 1967
Commanding Officer, Hq Btry	Capt J.B. HICKS, Jr.	1-7 May 1967
	Capt M.L. HEFTI	8-26 May 1967
	1stLt M.E. RAFFERTY	27-31 May 1967

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN		OTHER	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
11	114	0	2	0	0

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of May 1967 the major effort of the First Field Artillery Group was directed at establishing a Base Camp collocated within the 11th Marines area.

The First Field Artillery Group at 011800H May displaced from grid BT 512041 and proceeded to the Chu Lai LST ramp for embarkation. Upon arrival the shipping assigned to move the First Field Artillery Group was still unloading. Loading of personnel and equipment commenced at 012200H May 1967, and except for 12 vehicles and palletized equipment was completed at 020300H May 1967. The remaining 12 vehicles and palletized equipment were loaded aboard ship on 3 May 1967. The First Field Artillery Group departed Chu Lai at 020630H May 1967, and arrived at DaNang at 021430H May 1967. The LST was unloaded and the First Field Artillery Group motor marched to the 11th Marines Command Post, grid AT957756, arriving at 021630H May 1967. Upon arrival at the Command Post area, vehicles were unloaded and perishable equipment was placed under canvas. The remaining 12 vehicles and palletized equipment arrived at DaNang on 031900H May 1967. By 5 May all vehicles and equipment were located at the First Field Artillery Group Command Post area.

On 15 May elements of the Mobile Construction Battalion began constructing the First Field Artillery Group cantonment. Construction of 12 buildings was completed on 22 May 1967.

The remainder of the month was used to improve office spaces, storage areas, personnel living areas and areas for maintenance of equipment.

Searchlight Platoon. On 9 May 1967 the First Field Artillery Group assumed OPCON of a Searchlight Platoon which consisted of 2 lights and associated equipment and 13 personnel which were attached to this Headquarters.

S E C R E T

The searchlight platoon, plus one officer and 2 radio operators from Headquarters Battery, First Field Artillery Group were emplaced on the military crest of hill 327, grid AT971738. The searchlight platoon became operational on the evening of 9 May 1967, and conducted its first illumination mission at 092200H May 1967. The next 5 days, during daylight, was spent on building defensive fortifications, personnel living quarters, and improving the position area.

At 140015H May 1967, hill 327 was infiltrated by approximately 30 VC. The living quarters and a head were destroyed by satchel charges. An adjacent unit, located on the hill was infiltrated and suffered light material damage. The enemy was engaged while inside the wire and although no bodies were recovered, there were many heavy blood patches on the ground. Blood trails were traced the next morning to the bottom of the hill where bloody rags and battle dressings were found. It was decided to send an additional 9 personnel for security to the searchlight position each evening at 1800 and have them return at 0700 the next morning. No further enemy action has occurred.

From 9 May to 31 May there were a total of 15 light missions conducted.

PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. Losses

- (1) Battle: None
- (2) Non-Battle: None
- (3) Administrative: 23

b. Gains

- (1) Replacements: 18

c. POW's Captured: None

d. Morale and Personnel Services. Morale is high. Mail service is good. A PX is located in the vicinity of the Command Post.

- e. Promotions.
- 1 to 1stLt
 - 1 to Sgt
 - 5 to Cpl
 - 8 to LCpl

S E C R E T

f. Awards and Decorations. 2 Purple Hearts, 1 Army Commendation Medal.

2. Administration

- a. Normal administrative functions were accomplished during the month.
- b. One special court martial, one summary court martial and one non-judicial punishment was administered.

3. Organization and Operations

a. The First Field Artillery Group on 1 May 1967 consisted of a Headquarters Battery. All subordinate units were chopped OPCON to the 11th Marines during the month of April 1967 due to Operation Oregon.

b. Operations. The First Field Artillery Group participated in one operation during the month of May.

Operation Union. Operation Union was a search and destroy operation conducted by units of the 1st Marines, 5th Marines, 11th Marines, Special Landing Force and the 2nd ARVN Division. This operation took place in the Lao Son, Que Son, Thang Binh districts of Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces. At 060800H May 1967, the Commanding Officer and S-3 of the First Field Artillery Group with 6 enlisted marines departed the CP by helicopter for Operation Union. Their mission was to advise the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines, Commanding Officer, Special Landing Force and Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines on artillery matters. They were instructed to keep the Commanding Officer, 11th Marines informed as to the progress of the operation and of any difficulties encountered that would affect the artillery units mission.

Operation Union was a highly successful and well coordinated operation and there was little need for the Commanding Officer, First Field Artillery Group to remain in the field after the initial phases of the operation.

4. Enemy, Weather and Terrain. Nothing significant to enter.

5. Training. The first half of the month was used to prepare and improve the CP area and to construct living areas. During the later part of the month a new training syllabus was established and placed into effect which placed the emphasis on formal training both for General Military Subjects and MOS Training.

6. Civic Action. There was no significant civic action.

7. Logistics. Normal logistics support continued for Headquarters Battery, First Field Artillery Group. Subordinate units previously supported by the

S E C R E T

First Field Artillery Group were displaced within the DaNang TAOR.

Headquarters Battery, First Field Artillery Group embarked aboard ship on 1 and 2 May and arrived 2 and 3 May at DaNang. Unloading and movement to the 11th Marines Command Post was accomplished by 5 May 1967.

The logistics effort for the remainder of the month consisted of providing necessary support for construction of the position area and storage of equipment and supplies.

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

File ✓ Appendix 1

S-1 Journal

chron ✓ Appendix 2

S-3 Journal

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

S E C R E T

S-1, First Field Artillery Group
DaNang, RVN
010001H May to 312400H May 1967

010001H Journal opened.

010800H Non-judicial punishment case of LCpl JOHNSON - Forfeit \$20.00.

011300H T.E. McNEIL, D.G. MOREY, G.E. PITTS, J.E. THOMAS and C.L. WOOD promoted to Corporal. D.F. AXE, S.R. CARROLL, R.L. PARKS, R.H. SINNOTT, G.W. SNYDER, S.J. TRACY, R.J. WILLINGHAM and G.R. WITNER promoted to Lance Corporal.

040800H LtCol R.B. METCALFE assumed command of the First Field Artillery Group.

041300H 2ndLt P.V. SULLIVAN promoted to 1st Lieutenant

061400H Cpl A.C. HARDY meritoriously promoted to Sergeant.

090100H MSgt M.P. HERL WIA (Medevac).

140130H SSgt T.R. BARGER WIANE.

201530H Pvt G.H. RAY to III MAF Brig as a result of Special court martial.

261300H Summary court martial conducted in the case of Pvt D. BEARCHILD.

261500H Capt M.L. HEFTI awarded Army Commendation Medal.

291300H MSgt M.P. HERL awarded Purple Heart

311300H SSgt T.R. BARGER awarded Purple Heart

312400H Journal closed.

S E C R E T

DECLASSIFIED

S E C R E T

S-3, First Field Artillery Group
DaNang, RVN
010001H to 312400H May 1967

010001H Journal opened.

011500H Advance detail from First Field Artillery Group Command Post departed to the Chu Lai LST ramp for embarkation.

021810H Remainder of personnel from First Field Artillery Group Command Post departed to the Chu Lai LST ramp for embarkation.

020630H First Field Artillery Group aboard the LST 603 departed Chu Lai for DaNang.

021430H LST 603 arrived at DaNang, First Field Artillery Group commenced unloading.

021630H First Field Artillery Group arrived at the 11th Marines CP, grid AT957756 and proceeded to a collocated area for billeting.

030800H Headquarters Battery, 1st Field Artillery Group commenced unloading and establishment of the Command Post.

060800H Commanding Officer, First Field Artillery Group, S-3 First Field Artillery Group and 6 enlisted marines departed the 11th Marines CP by helicopter for hill 29, grid BT228319. The mission was to be an artillery liaison/advisory group for the SLF, 5th Marines and units of the 11th Marines during Operation Union.

060845H Commanding Officer, First Field Artillery Group and party arrived at hill 29.

061000H First Field Artillery Group liaison team operational.

061030H Commanding Officer, First Field Artillery Group made liaison with the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines and Commanding Officer, Special Landing Force on Operation Union.

061200H Commanding Officer, First Field Artillery Group commenced making reports to the 11th Marines.

062210H FIRCAP for SLF Mortar Battery, grid BT043343, direction 0600.

062230H FIRCAP for Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 12th Marines, grid BT 043343, direction 0800.

S E C R E T

090110H Hill 29, grid BT228319 received mortar attack, 1 WIA from First Field Artillery Group while opposing insurgent VC forces.

090900H First Field Artillery Group 1 WIA medevac to 1st Hospital Company, Chu Lai.

101050H FIRCAP for Battery "D", 11th Marines, grid BT043343, direction 2800.

101300H Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 11th Marines OPCON to Amigo, displaced from Operation Union to their primary position, grid AT986643.

120830H Commanding Officer, First Field Artillery Group departed from hill 29 (Operation Union) returning to First Field Artillery Group CP at grid AT958756.

150800H Mobile Construction Battalion arrived for First Field Artillery Group cantonment program.

220600H Mobile Construction Battalion team completed work on the cantonment program.

312400H Journal closed.

S E C R E T