

1st FAAB B.T. NO. 424-67

440267

HEADQUARTERS  
1st Field Artillery Group  
12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 August 1967  
Ref: (a) DivO 5750.1  
Encl:  (1) First Field Artillery Group Command Chronology

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

*R. B. McKeane*  
R. B. MCKEAN

Commanding Officer, 12th Marines

1st FAAB Group and Chronology

Aug 1967

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
PART I

1. DesignationCommander

First Field Artillery Group LtCol R. B. METCALFE 1-31 Aug 1967

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Battery "B", 6th Battalion, Capt R. L. MENZNER  
27th Field Artillery (USA) 2-31 Aug 1967

Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, Capt M. A. CLAY  
94th Field Artillery (USA) 1-10 Aug 1967

1st Plt. Battery "L" ---  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines 1-31 Aug 1967

1st Plt. 1st 155mm ---  
Gun Battery, (SP) FMF 1-3 Aug 1967

ATTACHED UNITS

NONE

2. Location. 1-31 August 1967, Phu-Bai, RVN.3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Maj R. P. PALMER	1-31 Aug 1967
S-1	1stLt M. E. RAFFERTY 1stLt B. W. PEARCE	1-17 Aug 1967 8-31 Aug 1967
S-2	1stLt W. B. BOVEE	1-31 Aug 1967
S-3	Capt D. L. BASTIAN Maj R. P. PALMER	1-17 Aug 1967 18-31 Aug 1967
S-4	Capt A. R. JOYNER	1-31 Aug 1967
Adjutant	1stLt B. W. PEARCE	1-31 Aug 1967
Survey Officer	1stLt S. A. JONES III	1-31 Aug 1967
Ordnance Officer	1stLt J. T. BOBB	1-31 Aug 1967
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt P. V. SULLIVAN	1-31 Aug 1967
Liaison Officer	1stLt W. G. EADS	1-31 Aug 1967
Communications Officer	Capt J. E. O'BRIEN	1-31 Aug 1967

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## S E C R E T

Assistant S-3	1stLt D. B. ANDERSON	1-31 Aug 1967
Assistant S-2	1stLt R. J. BRENNAN	1-31 Aug 1967
Chief Aerial Observer	Capt J. R. CUNEO	1-17 Aug 1967
Supply Officer	2ndLt J. KETTLER	1-31 Aug 1967
Battery Commander HqBtry	1stLt E. P. KICHI Capt A. R. JOYNER	1-7 Aug 1967 8-31 Aug 1967
Executive Officer HqBtry	1stLt B. W. PEARCE	1-31 Aug 1967

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
15	100	0	2	0	0

PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During August the major effort of the First Field Artillery Group continued to be long range fires into the A SHAU Valley, general support for the 3d Marine Division with priority to deep reconnaissance activities and close defence/counter mortar/counter battery fires in defense of the fire support base. During this month the First Field Artillery Group occupied two separate locations. The command group, consisting of the operations platoon and the communications platoon were located within the Cumberland area, and the administrative and supply sections remained in the Phu-Bai TAOR.

Operation Cumberland First Field Artillery Group employing light, medium and heavy artillery supports elements of the 3d Marine Division from the established fire support base at grid YD 620095, from which heavy artillery (175mm Gun) can attack targets in the A SHAU Valley, and light/medium artillery (105mm/155mm) can provide supporting fires for ground operations.

At 310800H July 1967 a platoon of 155mm Guns was Chopped OPCON to the First Field Artillery Group. This platoon arrived at the Cumberland fire support base at 021345H August 1967. On 032300H the platoon was Chopped OPCON to the 4th Battalion 12th Marines but remained in the Cumberland area until 5 August 1967. The platoon was assigned the mission of long range fires in support of the fire support base and its adjacent areas.

At 010915H August 1967, Battery "A", 2nd Battalion 94th FA(USA)(175mm Gun) fired the first round of 175mm Gun ammunition into the A SHAU Valley from the Cumberland fire support base located at grid YD 620095.

S E C R E T

Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 94th FA. (USA) remained in support of "Operation Cumberland" until 090700H August 1967 when they displaced from the fire support base and proceeded to Phu-Bai for transportation to another operating area.

Battery "A", 2nd Battalion 94th FA (USA) at 101000H August 1967 was Chopped OPCON from the First Field Artillery Group to the 2nd Battalion 94th FA.

At 020900H August 1967, Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th FA (USA) (4-175mm Guns) arrived at the fire support base and occupied grid YD61850919. Immediately after occupation of position, Battery "B" commenced firing long range fires into the A SHAU Valley.

## PART III

SEMI-DAILY LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnela. Losses

- (1) Battle: 0
- (2) Non-Battle: 0
- (3) Administrative: 39

b. Gains

- (1) Replacements: 1

c. POW's Captured. None

d. Morale and Personnel Services. Morale is good. Mail service good. FM in vicinity of Command Post.

e. Promotions. 3 to 1stLt  
2 to LCpl  
2 to Ffo

f. Awards and Decorations. Capt J. R. CUNEO awarded gold star in lieu of Seventh Air Medal.

2. Administration

a. Normal administrative functions were accomplished during the month.

b. One Special Court-Martial and one Summary Court-Martial were convened by the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines for members of this unit.

3. Organization and Operations

ENCLOSURE (1)

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S E C R E T

a. Organization

(1) The First Field Artillery Group on 1 September consisted of the following

Headquarters Battery  
 Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th FA(USA)(4-175mm Guns)  
 1 Platoon, Battery "L", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines (2-155mm How (SP))

b. Operations. The First Field Artillery Group during the month of August continued to participate in operation Cumberland. This operation commenced prior to the reporting period and continued throughout the month of August.

The Commanding Officer First Field Artillery Group is designated as the area commander of Cumberland area of operations.

The mission of the fire support base at Cumberland is to place long range fires into the A SHAU Valley utilizing heavy artillery weapons (175mm Guns), provide deep supporting fires for long range reconnaissance patrols for units of the 3d Marine Division. The light/medium artillery weapons (105mm/155mm) are to provide supporting fires for ground operations and defense of the fire support base.

The First Field Artillery Group fired a total of 3,856, 175mm rounds into the A SHAU Valley during the month of August 1967.

Ammunition Expended

Ammunition expended during the month of August 1967.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>155 HOW</u>	<u>175 GUN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
4th MAR	127	88	215
RECON	212	116	328
CUMBERLAND	1160	3955	5115
TOTAL	1499	4159	5658

Missions Fired (175 Guns)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>OBSERVED</u>	<u>UNOBSERVED/H&amp;I</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
4th MAR	8	11	19
RECON	12	5	17
CUMBERLAND	33	731	764
TOTAL	53	747	800

Missions Fired (155mm How SP)

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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S E C R E T

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>OBSERVED</u>	<u>UNOBSERVED/H&amp;I</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
4th MAR		23	23
RECON	90	9	99
CUMBERLAND	6	163	169
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>291</b>

#### 4. Enemy, Weather, Terrain

There was little intelligence matter received other than periodic intelligence summaries and target listings within the A SHAU Valley.

On 3 August a counter-mortar plan was put into effect which was to support the fire support base at grid YD 602095. This plan was updated and published on 12 August 1967 to include those weapons located at Battery "G", 3d Battalion, 12th Marines position grid YD 7161C7. This fire support base is also mutually supporting Battery "G", 3d Battalion, 12th Marines position with on-call counter-mortar fires.

The weather was generally good with only a few days of precipitation towards the later portion of the month. Weather did not effect any movement or commitments at this base. During several short periods 175mm gunfire into the A SHAU Valley (Zone 3) was delayed due to heavy rain. The heavy rain caused premature bursts with Fz Q.

#### 5. Training.

Due to personnel shortages and operational commitments, training, other than on-the-job training was negligible during the period.

In order to ease the work load created by shortage of personnel within certain occupational specialities, security personnel were given the opportunity to cross-train into critical occupational fields with the battery.

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

#### 7. Logistics

Normal logistics support continued for the First Field Artillery Group located at Phu-Bai and also at the Fire Support Base grid YD 620.

During August a Logistical Support Area was established at the fire support base.

The LSA performed the logistical support duties for the Cumberland area. All items were procured by the LSA except class II spare parts and organizational equipment.

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Headquarters Battery normally dispatched one M-35 and one M-38 daily to the fire support base. The 2 vehicles were used mostly for rotation of personnel, personal effects, ice, beverages and certain supply items.

On 21 August while proceeding to the fire support base a convey containing the headquarters battery vehicle was attacked and during the battle an M-35 (6x6) was burned and destroyed by an RPG rocket. The burned chassis was later returned to the fire support base and then returned to Phu-Bai for disposition.

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PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS  
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ Appendix 1

✓ Appendix 2

S-1 Journal

S-3 Journal

## DECLASSIFIED

S E C R E T

S-1, First Field Artillery Group  
Phu-Bai, RVN  
010001H to 312400H August 1967

- 010001: Journal Opened
- 011300: Cpl S. W. EGGLESTON to sk 3dMedBn.
- 011400: 2ndLt R. C. BRENNAN promoted to 1stLt.
- 050800: 1stLt S. L. JONES TAD to Okinawa.
- 051300: Cpl D. M. KONWICK from sk.
- 080800: Capt A. R. JOYNER assigned as HqBtry CO, 2ndLt B. W. FEARCE assigned as Group S-1 Officer and 1stLt E. P. KICHI assigned as Group Fire Direction Control Officer.
- 160800: Cpl R. T. GORMAN and Cpl J. M. NOONAN TAD Paris, France in connection with 30 days special lv.
- 171000: Capt J. R. CUNEO awarded gold star in lieu of Seventh Air Medal.
- 211045: SSgt A. A. RUNDLELL, Cpl J. K. STROUPE, Pfc J. R. FOSTER and Pfc T. R. JARVIS WIA at Hue - Phu Bai, RVN returned to duty.
- 211045: LCpl B. W. BELFLOWER WIA at Hue - Phu Bai, RVN, to sk 3dMedBn.
- 211300: Pfc J. E. SANDERS III to sk 3dMedBn.
- 220800: 1stLt W. C. EADS to TAD.
- 231045: Pfc J. P. SCHILLER, Pfc K. D. COHEND promoted to LCpl.
- 231045: Pvt R. J. MERILL promoted to Pfc.
- 241300: Pvt W. L. CLARK promoted to Pfc.
- 241300: Summary Court-Martial; case of Pvt W. R. BAKER Jr. convened 4thBn, 12thMar.
- 251200: Special Court-Martial; case of Pvt H. C. GRAYSON Jr. convened 4thBn, 12thMar.
- 281300: 2ndLt J. T. BOBB promoted to 1stLt.
- 281700: 2ndLt B. W. FEARCE promoted to 1stLt.
- 312400: Journal Closed

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ENCLOSURE (1)  
Appendix 1  
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S-3, First Field Artillery Group  
Phu Bai, RVN  
010001H To 312400H August 1967

- 010001H: Journal Opened.
- 010915H: Battery A, 2nd Bn, 94th FA(USA) (4-175mm Guns) fired the first 175mm Gun Round into the A SHAD Valley from the fire support base located at grid YD 620095.
- 020900H: Battery "D", 6th Bn, 27th FA(USA) Chopped OPCON from A/2/94 to 1stFAG.
- 021815H: Battery B, 6th Bn, 27th FA(USA) (4-175mm Guns) arrived at the fire support base position vicinity grid YD 61850919.
- 021345H: 1st Platoon 1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP) arrived at the fire support base position vicinity grid YD 620096.
- 021420H: Battery B, 6th Bn, 27th FA(USA) (4-175mm Guns) in position grid YD 61850919, laid on direction 4500.
- 021605H: 1st Platoon 1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP) in position grid YD 62010965 laid on direction 4000.
- 032300H: 1st Platoon 1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP) Chopped OPCON from 1st Field Artillery Group to 4th Battalion, 12th Marines, (12th Mar msg. 031520Z)
- 051100H: 1st Platoon 1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP) march ordered from grid YD62010965 via convoy to Phu Bai TAOR.
- 090700H: Battery "A", 2nd Bn, 94th FA(USA) march ordered from position grid YD62020953 to road adjacent to fire support base.
- 090838H: Battery "B", 6th Bn, 27th FA(USA) displaced from grid YD 61850919 to grid YD 62020953.
- 090852H: Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 94th FA(USA) commenced motor march from the fire support base to Phu Bai TAOR.
- 090940H: Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th FA(USA) in position grid YD 62020953. Two guns directions 4500, two guns direction 3700.
- 091913H: Battery "G", 3d Bn, 12th Mar assigned counter-mortar fires to support the fire support base.
- 101000H: Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 94th FA(USA) Chopped OPCON from 1st Field Artillery Group to 2nd Battalion, 94th FA(USA) (12th Mar msg 101200Z Aug67).

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ENCLOSURE (1)  
Appendix 2  
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- 211045H: One M-35 (6x6) was burned and destroyed while enroute to the fire support base within a Fourth Marines convoy, resulting with four marines from 1stFAG WIA.
- 220545H: Fire support base was under attack by enemy mortars. The mortars were spotted on hill grid YD627083 and taken under fire by 60mm and 81mm mortar sections of A and B Companies of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines which are security for the fire support base. The attack ended at 220605. There was extensive damage to engineer equipment within the area, which included, TD-15's, trucks, trailers, sawmill, and portable electric saws.
- 220620H: Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th FA(USA) reported 3 WIA non-medevac in battery position.
- 220830H: Patrol from "A" Company, 1st Bn, 4th Marines returned from vicinity of VC/AVA mortar site, indicated there was blood and drag marks in area.
- 282030H: Conducted counter-mortar drill, results satisfactory.
- 312400H: Journal Closed.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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