

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS  
3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

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3/JRW/jcs  
05750  
15 Jan 1969  
5-69

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (G-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 December 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8A  
(c) DivO 5750.2A

Encl: ✓(1) December 1968 Command Chronology  
✓(2) Copies of December 1968 Situation Reports (with original only)

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

2. Upon removal of enclosures (1) and (2), this letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED.

*J. E. Hennegan*  
J. E. HENNEGAN

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3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 December 1968

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- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
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15 Jan 1969**5-69**PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion

LtCol J. E. HENNEGAN, 1-31 Dec

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company - Capt S. F. WHITE, 1-31 Dec  
 "A" Company - Capt D. J. SCONYERS, 1-31 Dec  
 "B" Company - Maj F. M. VANN, 1-31 Dec

UNITS IN DIRECT SUPPORT

Det, Sentry/Scout Dog Platoon, 3d Military Police Battalion  
 Det, 1st Shore Party Battalion, Mine Sweep Team  
 Det, 1st Dental Company

2. Location: 1-31 Dec: DaNang, Quang-Nam Province, Republic of VietNam

3. STAFF OFFICERS

CO - LtCol J. E. HENNEGAN, 1-31 Dec  
 ExecO- Maj J. H. KEEGAN, 1-31 Dec  
 S-1 - 1stLt W. J. PETERS, 1-31 Dec  
 S-2 - 2ndLt R. EQUI, 1-16 Dec  
       1stLt H. C. BARGER, 17-31 Dec  
 S-3 - Capt J. R. WILLIAMS, 1-31 Dec  
 S-4 - Maj J. F. MOLINEAUX, 1-31 Dec

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC	
OFF	ENL
26	542

USN	
OFF	ENL
1	14

OTHERS	
OFF	ENL
0	0

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PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During this period the Battalion supported the 1st, 5th, 7th, and 26th Marines; ROK Marine Corps and Task Force Yankee. Technique of employment consisted of two platoons (+) to ROK Marine Corps, one platoon each to 2/1, 5th Marines, 1/7 and 3/7; one platoon (-) to 1/26; and a section (-) to Task Force Yankee.

During the second half of the month, a significant increase in Viet Cong activity occurred in the Chinstrap Mountain complex. This increased Viet Cong activity prompted our Battalion to meet with the various Vietnamese Religious and Military authorities to solicit their recommendations on how to halt the Viet Cong's infiltration of these mountain/cave complexes. A variety of proposals and counter proposals were offered. Finally, by mutual consent it was determined that the villagers from Nui Kim Son, utilizing American furnished materials, would close the caves by constructing brick walls at their entrances. Similar cave denial operations are planned for the adjacent mountains and will be implemented as time and materials become available.

The Battalion had an average of fifty-three vehicles committed daily in direct support of the 1st Marine Division. The mission and frequency of specific tasks were:

- Security - 94
- Recovery - 44
- MedEvacs - 15
- Resupply - 112
- Convoy Escort - 50
- Blocking Force - 43
- Reaction Force - 81
- Administration - 51
- Troop Movement - 81
- Search and Destroy - 37
- Patrols and Mine Sweeps - 37
- Water Denial and River Patrol - 1

Vehicle utilization averaged seven hours per day carrying an average of four persons and 330 pounds of cargo per day. In addition, the LVTE-1's fired nine line charges.

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PART III  
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. TOPICS:a. Personnel and Administration

(1) Our personnel readiness category remains as C-2. We do not anticipate a change in this readiness category unless a significant increase or decrease in replacements occurs.

(2) Two Marine officers and forty-nine Marine enlisted rotated to CONUS. One Marine officer, forty-nine Marine enlisted and three Navy enlisted were received as replacements.

(3) Reenlistment rate for the month was 43%. This was based on three reenlistments.

(4) Casualties were two USMC KIA and six USMC WIA.

(5) There were seven extensions of overseas tours.

(6) Five new USAFI and eleven MCI enrollments were received this month.

(7) Awards. Six Purple Hearts were awarded.

(8) Forty-five personnel went on R&R. This program is well received and a great morale booster.

(9) Our Savings Bond participation was 81%.

(10) The Exchange Services were adequate.

b. Enemy

(1) There were nineteen enemy contacts as follows:

- (a) Three LVTs mined
- (b) Seven boobytraps, all rigged with trip wires
- (c) Four enemy sightings totaling ten Viet Cong
- (d) Three attacks by fire resulting in three Viet Cong KIA's
- (e) One sniper incident
- (f) One enemy cache consisting of 100 pounds of rice and one

(1) M-33 hand grenade

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(2) During the month there were three detainees. All were classified as innocent civilians and released.

(3) A total of one hundred and five patrols were conducted of which forty-five were during the hours of darkness.

c. Training

(1) Formal training and OJT were conducted in conjunction with operational commitments. The following classes were presented:

- (a) First Aid
- (b) Leadership
- (c) Weapons Safety
- (d) Combat Patrols
- (e) Quick Fire/Kill
- (f) Tactical Trends
- (g) Moral Leadership
- (h) Landmine Warfare
- (i) Personal Response
- (j) LVT Driving School
- (k) FAM Firing of Weapons
- (l) VC Mines and Booby Traps
- (m) Professional Terminology

(2) One officer and one enlisted Marine attended the Division Leadership School.

d. Logistics

(1) Supply Situation

(a) Minor LVT suspension parts continue to be a problem. The D.X. program is improving and has become more responsive to our needs. Adequate quality control checks appear to be absent as some of the LVTP5A1 starters were found to be inoperative once installed in the vehicle.

(b) One LVTEL has been deadlined since 3 September 1968 awaiting a pallet lift cylinder. This vehicle is incapable of firing line charges until the defective cylinder is replaced. The ICP at Philadelphia is the present holder of this requisition.

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(c) T/E replacement vehicles are badly needed to maintain a C-1 status of equipment/supplies on hand. Combat losses through enemy mine activity and the recent submergence of one LVTP5A1 has brought the Battalion to the brink of entering into a C-2 status for equipment/supplies on hand.

(d) The shortages of typewriters remains critical, of the 18 typewriters authorized 13 are on hand.

(e) The LVTR-1s are essential vehicles within an Amphibian Tractor Battalion as they provide a recovery and maintenance capability for each of the Companies. As a result of the unavailability of boom chains, "A" Company has been unable to fully utilize their LVTR-1.

## (2) Maintenance

(a) There were two vehicles destroyed by enemy mine action; one has been dropped as a Code H loss; the other is pending as a Code H loss.

(b) One T/E deficiency was received. The LVTP5A1 submerged on 17 November 1968 has been located and liaison effected with salvage personnel. A formal request for salvage assistance has been forwarded.

(c) The average Battalion daily deadline rate was six vehicles with an average vehicle deadline of two LVTR-1s and four LVTP5A1s.

(d) A maintenance area which is quickly developing into a problem is antenna matching units (MX6707). Presently there are sixteen of the subject units in the D,X. program at 1st FSR. The units have not been repaired nor have code letters been received; consequently, we are unable to order replacements and are short sixteen antenna matching units.

## (3) Meter Transport

(a) The daily deadline rate for wheeled vehicles was 6%.

(b) The Battalion Meter Transport logged 28,665 vehicle miles with one minor accident. A total of 1,748 passengers were carried and 490.8 short tons of cargo were transported.

(c) Our vehicles participated in five Rough Rider convoys to An Hoa to resupply the 4th Platoon, "A" Company.

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(4) Services. Contact teams have been working on previously approved work requests.

(5) Medical

(a) The following statistical information is provided concerning medical activities:

Total patients seen at MedCaps	453
Total Battalion patients (Non-MedCap)	441
Total Venereal Disease cases (new)	3
Total Innoculations	310

e. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

(1) 453 Vietnamese were treated in MedCaps in addition to thirty-two Vietnamese dental patients.

(2) The following commodities were distributed to the villagers of HOA LONG: 140 pounds of rice, 230 individual rations, 230 packs of cigarettes, twenty pounds of candy, 200 pencils and writing tablets.

(3) The Battalion Commanding Officer and the S-5 officer presented ten General WALT Scholarship awards to the children of HOA-VANG Elementary School.

(4) A Battalion sponsored Christmas party for the Orphanage donated \$120.00 in cash, a refrigerator and various toys to the children.

(5) Two solatium payments were made.

(6) Building materials were purchased from AIK funds to construct a toilet for the HOA-VANG Elementary School.

f. Communications

(1) Personnel. The overall personnel status remains adequate. Two personnel were joined this month, one a radio operator, the other a teletype operator. Ten Communications personnel were transferred from this unit; the majority of these Marines were in OF28 which has been in excess of the M/L.

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(2) Equipment. Six LVTP-5 (CMD) tractors remain to be modified with single sideband equipment. The needed parts are on priority 02 requisition. Both AN/MRC 83s have been sent to 1st FSR. One of these is awaiting radio parts while the other is having the vehicle replaced.

(3) Maintenance. We have expended the remainder of the dux seal on hand to pack 70% of the tractor antenna bases. More dux seal has been placed on order.

(4) Operations. 738 messages were received and 57 were transmitted by this unit.

PART IV  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ See enclosure (2) for Situation Reports

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SITREP 197 AS OF ~~020001H~~ TO ~~022400H~~ DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS: AT ~~021145H~~ AT COORD ~~086513~~ WHILE ENROUTE TO 2ND BATTALION  
 5TH ROK BRIGADE B-38 (AMTRAC) HIT APPROX 150LB LAND MINE. B-38 WAS  
 LEAD VEHICLE IN THIS CONVOY. KOREAN MARINES ESTABLISHED SECURITY  
 AND HAD ANGLICO CALL IN HELO MEDEVAC.
- F. (A) ONE USMC KIA
- G. (A) TWO USMC WIA
- N. (A) ONE LVTP-5
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE
5. CASUALTIES: ONE USMC KIA  
 TWO USMC WIA

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SITREP 198 AS OF 040001H TO 042400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION; NO CHANGE  
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION; NO CHANGE  
3. CONTACTS; AT 041700H AT COORD 091691 3D AMTRACBN PATROL FOUND 100LB CACHE OF BURIED RICE. UPON FURTHER SEARCH ONE M-33 GRENADE WITHOUT FUZE ASSEMBLY WAS FOUND. ESTABLISHED SECURITY & PROBED AREA FOR OTHER CACHES WITH NEG RESULTS. MADE DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AND CONFISCATED GRENADE.

(B) AT 042220H AT COORD 082688 3D AMTRACBN PATROL FOUND BOOBY TRAP CONSISTING OF ONE 105MM HOWITZER ROUND COVERED BY A CONE SHAPED WATER CAN WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. TRIP WIRE WAS EXTENDED ACROSS PATH AND ANCHORED TO SMALL BUSH. ESTABLISHED SECURITY & BLEW IN PLACE.

(C) AT 042245H AT COORD 082688 3D AMTRACBN PATROL FOUND SECOND IN A SERIES OF 105MM HOWITZER ROUND BOOBY TRAPS. BOOBY TRAP CONSISTED OF ONE 105MM HOWITZER ROUND COVERED BY A CONE SHAPED WATER CAN WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. TRIP WIRE WAS EXTENDED ACROSS A PATH AND ANCHORED TO A BUSH. ESTABLISHED SECURITY & BLEW IN PLACE.

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; NONE

5. CASUALTIES; NONE

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SITREP 199 AS OF ~~050000H~~ TO ~~052400H~~ DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS: AT 052120H AT COORD ~~078703~~ NAVY RETRANSMISSION SITE SPOTTED MOVEMENT. STATED MOVEMENT WAS A MALE APPROX 50 METERS FROM THEIR WIRE. TOOK TARGET UNDER FIRE WITH M-79. M-79 FIRE RESULTED IN ONE MALE & ONE FEMALE VIETNAMESE WIA. WIA MEDEVACED TO CAP 2-5-1 FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT. MOMENTS LATER 3RD AMTRACBN CONDUCTED SAME MEDEVAC TO NSA.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE
5. CASUALTIES: ONE MALE & ONE FEMALE VIETNAMESE WIA. IT IS UN-DETERMINED AT THIS TIME WHETHER BOTH CASUALTIES ARE ENEMY OR FRIENDLY.

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SITREP 200 AS OF #62230H TO #62400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS: AT #61850H AT COORD #84689 3D AMTRACBN PATROL DISCOVERED ONE 81MM MORTAR ROUND WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. BLEW IN PLACE WITH 1LB OF C-4.  
(B) AT #62230H AT COORD #82689 3D AMTRACBN PATROL, WHILE IN AMBUSH, FOUND TWO 81MM MORTAR ROUNDS WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. THE BOOBY TRAPS WERE PLACED ABOUT 50M APART. BLEW IN PLACE WITH 1/2LB OF C-4 EACH.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE
5. CASUALTIES: NONE

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SITREP 201 AS OF 090001H TO 092400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS: AT 091640H AT COORD 127594 VC FROM ENEMY BUNKER COMPLEX THREW A GRENADE AT BULLDOZER OPERATOR WORKING IN AREA. OPERATOR INJURED. LVT'S B-21 & B-25 TOOK BUNKER UNDER FIRE WITH SMALL ARMS AND HAND GRENADES, RESULTING IN THREE VC KIA. CAPTURED 2 M1'S, 1 M-14, 1 M-16, 1 CARBINE, 3 AK47'S, 2 PLASTIC SHEETS, 1 MEDICAL KIT, 2 NVA CARTRIDGE BELTS, 3 LOADED CARBINE MAGAZINES.  
 (B) AT 092000H AT COORD 087696 TWO VCS WERE SPOTTED MOVING THROUGH TREE LINE IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION. TOOK UNDER FIRE WITH SMALL ARMS. NEG RESULTS.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE
5. CASUALTIES: {1} USMC WIA (MINOR)  
 {3} VC KIA

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SITREP 202 AS OF 100001H TO 102400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION; NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION; NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS; AT 100700H AT COORD 088688 PATROL FOUND (1) BOOBY TRAP. 81MM MORTAR WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. ESTABLISHED SECURITY AND BLEW IN PLACE.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; NONE
5. CASUALTIES; NONE

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SITREP 203 AS OF 130001H TO 132400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS: AT 132055H AT COORD BT 086700 SOUTHEAST TOWER OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY THREE (3) VIET CONG SUSPECTS MOVING IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION 300 METERS SOUTH OF TOWER. AFTER FIRING AT VIET CONG SUSPECTS, ENEMY RETURNED FIRE. ENEMY BROKE CONTACT AND WITHDREW. WILL HAVE COMBAT PATROL CHECK OUT AREA.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE
5. CASUALTIES: NONE

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SITREP 204 AS OF 140000H TO 142400H DEC68

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1. UNIT LOCATION; NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION; NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS; AT 140000H AT COORD 076710 FOB-4 COMMENCED SEARCH AND CLEAR OPERATION OF CHIN STRAP MOUNTAIN WITH COMPANY(-). THROUGHOUT THE DAY THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED CONTACT WITH FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY SIX (6) VIET CONG. ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING WITHIN MOUNTAIN CAVE COMPLEX. THIS CONTACT APPEARS TO BE SIGNIFICANT BASED ON LATEST INTELLIGENCE REPORTS. WILL ADVISE AS IMPORTANT CHANGES OCCUR. SEVEN (7) INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL WIA, FOUR (4) USA WIA.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; NONE
5. CASUALTIES; (4) USA, WIA  
 (7) INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL WIA

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SITREP 205 AS OF 150001H TO 152400H DEC 68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS: AT 152305H AT COORD 076708 PATROL FROM 3D AMTRAC BN WHILE IN AMBUSH POSITION, RECEIVED FIVE (5) GRENADES BELIEVED TO HAVE COME FROM CHINSTRAP MOUNTAIN AT COORD 077711. SENT REACTION FORCE OUT TO PICK UP WOUNDED. ALL WOUNDED PERSONNEL MEDEVACED TO NSA.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE
5. CASUALTIES: ONE (1) USMC, KIA  
ONE (1) USMC, WIA (SERIOUS)  
TWO (2) USMC, WIA (MINOR)

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SITREP 206 AS OF 160001H TO 162400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS: AT 162000H AT COORD 084697 NAVY RADIO RETRANSMISSION SITE HAS REPORTED VIETNAMESE IN GROUPS OF FIVES (5'S) AND SIXES (6'S) DEPARTING THEIR VILLAGE OF TAN AN COORD 090691. THESE CIVILIANS APPEAR TO BE EVACUATING THEIR HOMES, SUCH AS TAKING POULTRY, ARTICLES OF CLOTHING AND MINOR POSSESSIONS. BASED ON THIS THE VILLAGE OF NUI KIM SON COORD 076706 WAS CHECKED. APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE OF MIDDLE AGED MALES FROM VILLAGE. WILL ADVISE AS SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OCCUR.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE
5. CASUALTIES: NONE

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SITREP 207 AS OF 170001H TO 172400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION; NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION; NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS; AT 172200H AT COORD 077708 PATROL FROM 3D AMTRACBN SPOTTED THREE INDIVIDUALS AT COORD 076707 AND CALLED FOR ILLUMINATION. WHEN ILLUMINATION WENT OFF, THE THREE INDIVIDUALS DOVE INTO A DITCH. PATROL OPENED FIRE WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE AND ARE NOW CHECKING OUT THE AREA.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; NONE
5. CASUALTIES; NONE

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SITREP 208 AS OF 190001H TO 192400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS: AT 191900H AT COORD 076707 3D AMTRAC PATROL RECEIVED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WHILE MOVING THROUGH NUI KIM SON. ENEMY ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR (4) VIET CONG. RETURNED FIRE AND ESTABLISHED LOCAL SECURITY. IN APPROXIMATELY TWENTY (20) MINUTES, REINFORCED PATROL WITH REACTION SQUAD FROM THIS CP.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE
- CASUALTIES: NONE

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SITREP 209 AS OF 220001H TO 222400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION; NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION; NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS; AT 221030H AT COORD 072710 PERSONNEL FROM ALPHA-6 TRIPPED BOOBY TRAP CONSISTING OF ONE (1) M-26 GRENADE WITH TRIP WIRE. BOOBY TRAP FAILED TO DETONATE. ESTABLISHED SECURITY AND BLEW IN PLACE.  
(B) AT 221300H AT COORD 065622 WHILE IN SUPPORT OF ROK'S, ONE (1) MAN FROM SANFORD BRAVO WAS WOUNDED BY ONE (1) SNIPER ROUND. POSITION OF SNIPER WAS UNKNOWN. NO FIRE RETURNED. ROUTINE MEDEVAC CONDUCTED ON WOUNDED MAN.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; NONE
5. CASUALTIES; ONE (1) USMC (MINOR)

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SITREP 210 AS OF 230001H TO 232400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION; NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION; NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS; AT 230755H WHILE ON RUN FOR "H" COMPANY 2/1 TO PICK UP CAPTURED RICE AT COORD 067644. VEHICLE B-15 HIT A MINE. THIS VEHICLE WAS SECOND IN COLUMN BEHIND A TANK. MINE ESTIMATED AT 100 POUNDS AND BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN COMMAND DETONATED. VEHICLE IS NOW BURNING. ONE MAN WIA. WIA TAKEN TO 2/1 BATTALION AID STATION.
4. CASUALTIES; ONE (1) USMC (MINOR)
5. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; NONE

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SITREP 211 AS OF 290001H TO 292400H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION; NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION; NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS; AT 290010H AT COORD 076708 AMBUSH PATROL FROM SANFORD RECEIVED TWO (2) INCOMING GRENADES IN THEIR AMBUSH SITE. RETURNED FIRE TO AREA WHERE GRENADES WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN COMING FROM. PATROL ALSO SIGHTED MOVEMENT ON BOTH OF THEIR FLANKS. TOOK MOVEMENT UNDER FIRE WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. AREA ALSO CHECKED OUT AT THIS TIME WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; NONE
5. CASUALTIES; NONE

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SITREP 212 AS OF 300001H DEC68 TO 240001H DEC68

1. UNIT LOCATION; NO CHANGE
2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION; NO CHANGE
3. CONTACTS; AT COORD 055666 AT 301705H LVT B-13 DETONATED SMALL ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE THOUGHT TO BE M-26 GRENADE. DAMAGE AND PERSONNEL CHECK MADE. VEHICLE CONTINUED ON WAY AFTER IT WAS DETERMINED ALL WAS IN ORDER. NO CASUALTIES.
4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; NONE
5. CASUALTIES; NONE

GP4

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

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