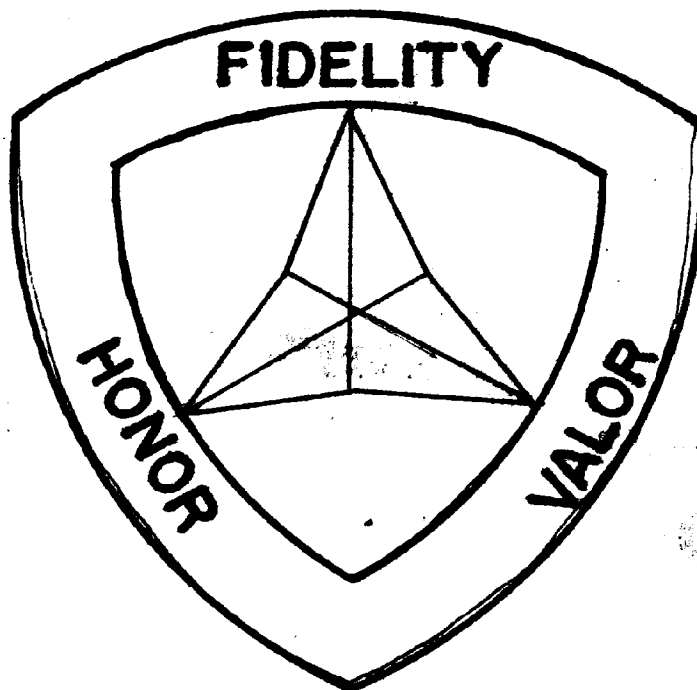


3 D

65 5151
Part 13

MARINE DIVISION FORWARD



COMMAND DIARY

MAY 1965

*III MAF Diary
ENCL: (3)*

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
3d Marine Division (Forward), FMF
FPO, San Francisco 96601

3/HHS/rrm
1522
0040-65
15 Jun 1965

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Commanding General
To: Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
Subj: 3d Marine Division (-)(Rein)(Forward) Command Diary
Ref: (a) III MAFO 3121.1A
Encl: (1) 3dMarDiv(Fwd) Command Diary for period 7-31 May 1965
1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

[Signature]
L. W. WALT

UNCLASSIFIED

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

SECRET

Copy # 1 of 6 Copies

DECLASSIFIED

PART I**ORGANIZATIONAL DATA SHEET**

3d Marine Division (Forward), FMF,

William Robert COLLINS,

Major General, United States Marine Corps,
Commanding.**UNCLASSIFIED**

COMMAND DIARY for the period 6 May 1965 to 31 May 1965

Submitted 13 June 1965

From the Division (Forward) Command Post
in the

Marine Compound, DA NANG Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

SUBORDINATE UNITS**COMMANDING OFFICERS**Headquarters Battalion (-)
(Forward)

Major Charles W. ABBOTT, USMC

3d Marine Regiment (-)
(Reinforced)Colonel Edwin B. WHEELER, USMC
to 24 May 1965
Colonel Frank E. GARRETSON, USMC4th Marine Regiment (-)
(Reinforced)Colonel Edward P. DUPRAS, Jr.,
USMC1st Battalion (-)(Reinforced)
12th Marine Regiment

Major Gilbert W. FERGUSON, USMC

3d Battalion (-)(Reinforced)
12th Marine RegimentLieutenant Colonel Arthur B.
SLACK, Jr., USMC3d Engineer Battalion (-)
(Reinforced) (Forward)Major William G. BATES, USMC
to 13 May 1965
Major Bernard A. KAASMAN, USMC
to 29 May 1965
Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas J.
DENNIS, USMC3d Reconnaissance Battalion (-) Lieutenant Colonel Don H.
BLANCHARD, USMC**UNCLASSIFIED****SECRET**

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY1. BACKGROUND AND MISSION ASSIGNED

Headquarters, 3d Marine Division (Forward) FMF, opened at the Marine Compound, DA NANG Air Base, Republic of VIETNAM, at 1800H on 6 May 1965, under Major General William R. COLLINS, USMC. Simultaneously, the Headquarters, 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Brigadier General Frederick J. KARCH, USMC, Commanding, was disbanded and its functions absorbed by the III Marine Expeditionary Force, 3d Marine Division (Forward) FMF, or Marine Air Group 16 (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, as appropriate. Since active operations were in progress, the III MEF staff initially was superimposed on the existing MEB Staff. After a period of several days, the Division Staff gradually took over and the MEF Staff moved to separate quarters. On 7 May, by direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, III MEF was redesignated as III Marine Amphibious Force.

Headquarters, 3d Marine Division (Rear) remained at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, initially under Colonel Andrew I. LYMAN, USMC, Division Chief of Staff, and, subsequently to 15 May 1965, under the Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General KARCH, who returned to Okinawa from DA NANG on that date. Colonel LYMAN came forward and assumed duties as Chief of Staff, Third Marine Division (Forward) on 17 May.

The establishment of the Headquarters of the Division (Forward) in the Republic of VIETNAM was authorized by higher headquarters. This became a necessity when approval of the projected landings at CHU-LAI clearly indicated that the Division would then have 7 of its infantry battalions committed in VIETNAM, supported by most of the 12th Marines and significant portions of all other elements of the Division.

Initially, the mission assigned the Division was identical to that of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade: provide security for the Air Base at DA NANG and for the 8th Radio Research Unit at HUE PHU BAI in the Republic of VIETNAM. On 12 May, this mission was further expanded to include the furnishing of security during the construction of a SATS-type expeditionary airfield in the CHU LAI area, approximately sixty-five miles south of DA NANG. This area was seized and occupied by RLT-4 (-) under the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade on 7 May 1965. RLT-4 passed to Division control at 1200H, 12 May 1965.

By letter of Instruction dated 5 May 1965, Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (COMUSMACV), spelled out a new mission to govern the operations of the III Marine Expeditionary Force in the Republic of Vietnam. Since all of it applied to 3d Marine Division (Forward), it is repeated here in its entirety:

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

"In general render combat support to RVNAF. In coordination with CG, I Corps participate in or provide for the defense of HUE PHU BAI, DA NANG, and CHU LAI airfields and ancillary facilities. Maintain the capability to conduct, on order, deep patrolling and offensive operations and reserve/reaction operations in coordination with CG, I Corps. Be prepared to execute U. S. contingency plans as directed by COMUSMACV."

2. RESUME OF ACTIVITIES, MOVEMENTS, AND RESULTS

On 6 May 1965, when Major General William R. COLLINS, USMC, broke his flag at DA NANG and took control of the ground tactical units previously under 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, the basic posture was still defensive, with gradually increasing emphasis being placed on aggressive patrolling within assigned Tactical Areas of Responsibility (TAOR) at increased distances from primary defensive positions. For the remainder of the month, these activities were continued, and on several occasions, two-company patrols under battalion control were conducted along the forward edges of the DA NANG TAOR. These patrols were backed up by other company-sized, helicopter-borne quick reaction forces, close air support, light, medium, and heavy artillery, and, if needed, naval gunfire up to 8" 50 caliber (USS CANBERRA).

On 11 May, the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines jumped off on a planned search and destroy operation on the village of LE MY in the northwest portion of the DA NANG TAOR. Resistance was encountered and casualties sustained, but the battalion, with three companies committed, accomplished its mission and seized the village, liberating some 400 inhabitants from over two years of terroristic VIET CONG control. After thorough search of the area, seizure of suspected VIET CONG adherents, and destruction of all trenches, traps, bunkers, tunnels and other defensive installations, control of the area was turned over to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam. At least one company remained in the general vicinity in case the VC should attempt to reestablish their hegemony in the village. Medical treatment teams were sent into LE MY as soon as it was secured.

This was the first such operation conducted by Marine Corps Forces in Vietnam, and the results are being closely monitored. The villagers have welcomed the medical treatment afforded them and have thus far appeared to be cooperative with the newly constituted civil and military authority established by the Republic of South Vietnam. General COLLINS defined the actual military objective of this Division as being the people of VIETNAM, and stated that if they can be won over to the side of their own government by such tactics, the LE MY operation may well be the pattern for future employment of Marine Corps forces in this area.

The weather and terrain continued to constitute formidable obstacles. The steep terrain, high grass, dense underbrush and

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

the fringe of the jungle canopy along the western edge of the DA NANG TAOR impeded individual and unit movement, and tended to favor the enemy's harrassing hit-and-run tactics.

On 6 May 1965, the 3d Marines (-)(Reinforced) were occupying defensive positions in the DA NANG Air Base complex and were conducting aggressive combat patrolling during daylight hours. Static defensive positions and ambush sites were occupied during hours of darkness. The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines occupied the 327/268 hill mass on the left (South) flank of the high ground just west of DA NANG Air Base. The 2d Battalion, 3d Marines occupied the 368/278 hill mass on the right (North) flank of the high ground which trends northwest from DA NANG Air Base. This battalion had two companies in the lower terrain between hill 278 and the CA DE SONG River incident to the security of LE MY village and projected search and destroy operations to the north and west. The 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, attached to the 3d Marine Regiment occupied the DA NANG Air Base perimeter with three companies on line and one in reserve as a mobile rapid reaction force for employment within or without the Air Base defense perimeter. During the latter part of the month one of the companies of this battalion was employed as a patrol force in the western sector of the DA NANG TAOR.

At HUE PHU BAI, the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, also attached to the 3d Marine Regiment, maintained two companies deployed in a perimeter around the airfield and kept its remaining two rifle units on continuous patrol missions in the rolling, gradually rising high ground to the west of the airfield proper out to a distance of about 5000 meters. On several occasions, the two patrol companies were joined in search and destroy operations toward the outer limits of the assigned TAOR.

The two companies which maintained the airfield perimeter defense also had the mission of carrying out the local "People to People" Program. A medical team visited friendly villages three times a week, and on 24 May, these operations were expanded in a southerly direction on a gradual basis. Generally speaking, 3/4 had very few confirmed contacts with the Viet Cong during this period.

RLT-4 (-)(Reinforced) began landing over the beaches in the CHU LAI area at 0800 on 7 May 1965. Although configured for an assault landing, the regiment came ashore in a secure environment created by prior sweeping and clearing operations conducted by the 2d Division, ARVN. Inasmuch as the landing itself was conducted by the Commanding General, 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, under the overall command of Commander, Task Force 76, the details will have been reported by those units and are therefore not repeated here.

UNCLASSIFIED

RLT-4 passed to the operational control of 3d Marine Division (Forward) at 1200H on 12 May 1965. BLT 3/3 arrived from Okinawa by sea and landed incrementally between 12 May and 19 May. Upon landing, units of the regiment occupied defensive perimeters within the assigned TAOR to prevent enemy penetration and to provide security for the engineer units tasked to install an 8,000 foot SATS-type expeditionary airfield. After the initial clearing operations and consolidation of basic defensive positions, the regiment began aggressive patrolling beyond those positions in order to expand the TAOR, first so that the airfield site would be placed beyond 4.2" mortar range, and subsequently beyond light artillery range. Cordial relations were established with local Province and District Chiefs and the basic groundwork was laid for a future People to People Program.

DECLASSIFIED

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 3 May Division Headquarters (Forward) advance Party of four Officers and 3 Enlisted arrived DA NANG.
- 6 May Major General William R. COLLINS, USMC, broke his flag without ceremony at 1800H in the Marine Compound DA NANG Air Base, as Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Forward). The Ninth Marine Expeditionary Brigade was simultaneously disbanded as a operational unit.
- 7 May Third Marines conducted company-sized combat patrols within TAOR. Third Battalion, 9th Marines conducted reconnaissance patrols within perimeter of DA NANG Air Base. Third Battalion, 4th Marines established ambushes along avenues of approach into positions and received some enemy small arms fire.
- 8 May A company-sized patrol from 1/3 killed 1 VC sniper and wounded another. Commanding Officer, 2/3 and a party of 15 others plus the local District Chief, visited villages lying just south of CA DE SONG river. The group was fired on by snipers, resulting in 1 Marine KIA. First Battalion, 12th Marines fired reinforcing fires for ARVN artillery units with 105mm, 155mm and 8" howitzers.
- 9 May First Battalion, 3d Marines utilized helicopters to lift a company sized-combat patrol to a landing zone in the northwest portion of regimental TAOR and moved a company into an assembly area during the late afternoon preparatory to operations planned for 10 May. First Battalion, 12th Marines displaced "A" Battery forward in order to support projected 10 May operations. The weather continued to be hot and very humid, with a resulting decrease in personnel efficiency.
- 10 May First Battalion, 3d Marines continued company sized patrol operations in southwest sector of TAOR. Second Battalion 3d Marines' operation planned for 10 May was postponed to 11 May. Two companies were in position by late afternoon.
- 11 May Second Battalion, 3d Marines, with 2 companies, commenced search and destroy operation in the vicinity of the village of LE MY at 0625H. One Marine KIA and two WIA by sniper fire, which continued sporadically. A third company was committed during the morning. Six more Marines were wounded by booby traps and "punji" stakes. A total of 51 suspected VC were captured and delivered to Vietnamese authorities for interrogation. Over 400 others

were liberated from VC control. All three companies remained in the vicinity of LE MY pending completion of consolidation phase. Able-bodied Vietnamese were put to work destroying "punji" traps, bunkers, trenches and other VC fortification in the area.

All other units continued normal patrol and night ambush operations. A 10-man patrol from Company "D", 3d Reconnaissance Battalion was inserted by helicopter in a preselected site in the southwest portion of 3d Marine TAOR. This operation was found to have been observed by a sizeable group of armed VC, however, and the patrol was withdrawn by helicopter prior to the onset of darkness.

- 12 May First Battalion, 3d Marines sent out a company-sized patrol in an attempt to establish contact with VC who caused withdrawal of reconnaissance patrol on preceding evening, with negative results. Second Battalion, 3d Marines had five WIA as a result of booby traps in LE MY. Another search of the village disclosed two weapons and one VC, who was killed while attempting to escape. An additional six VC suspects were captured and turned over to Vietnamese Authorities. Fourth Marines passed to Division Control at 1200H. First Battalion, 4th Marines and 2d Battalion, 4th Marines conducted patrols within regimental TAOR. Leading elements of 3/3 arrived on USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2) and commenced off loading at 0800H.
- 13 May First Battalion, 3d Marines had one Marine WIA by 12-inch arrow or blow gun missile while on security duty for a supporting artillery battery. Second Battalion, 3d Marines ambush fired on 8-10 VC approaching position. Subsequent search yielded no bodies, but bloodstains, abandoned mess gear and rice, and a bullet perforated hat indicated some VC casualties were inflicted. The VC continued their practice of removing their dead and wounded from the scene of an action so that it is usually difficult to assess their casualties accurately. Pacification action continued at LE MY by elements of 2/3. A 3/4 reconnaissance patrol captured 2 VC, their weapons, camp gear and a quantity of rice, which was distributed to the village of PHU BAI.
- 14 May Second Battalion, 3d Marines established a medical assistance team in LE MY and continued careful search of hamlets of the village for VC and their weapons. During the morning, patrols from Company "D", 3d Reconnaissance Battalion became engaged in a fire fight with several groups of VC which turned into a running engagement. After losing 1 Marine KIA and 7 WIA and inflicting an estimated 5 KIA and 16 WIA on the VC, the

UNCLASSIFIED

patrols were extracted by helicopter during the afternoon under cover of a succession of close air support missions flown by VMFA 531.

- 15 May Company H, 2/3 was relieved in LE MY village by Vietnamese Regional Forces unit and moved into position on high ground in the vicinity of LE MY Fort. A 6 X 6 truck from 3/4 struck a mine in the HUE PHU BAI TAOR, blowing off a front fender and tire. Reports indicated this mine may have been emplaced years ago by the French. Lack of roads and poor trafficability continued to hamper beach operations at CHU LAI.
- 16 May No significant developments.
- 17 May Lieutenant General Victor H. KRULAK, USMC, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, visited all units of the 4th Marines (-)(Reinforced) at the CHU LAI airfield site.
- 18 May Lieutenant General KRULAK inspected elements of 3d Marines (-)(Reinforced) in the DA NANG TAOR, BLT 3/4 at HUE-PHU BAI and the village of LE MY.
- 19 May Commanding General, FMFPAC and party departed DA NANG enroute SAIGON. 1/3 launched a two company-sized search and clear operation in the southwest portion of the 3d Marines' TAOR. These operations were supported by Howtar Battery (-), 12 H-34, 2 Ol-B, 4 HU-1B and 3 F4B aircraft. 2/3 continued operations in the northwest section of the TAOR, landing one company on the north bank of the CA DE SONG river at the village of TRUONG DINH. After silencing harrassing automatic weapons fire with 81mm mortars, the company found and destroyed extensive VC field fortifications in the area. Units of the 4th Marines continued extensive patrolling of assigned TAOR. There was some evidence of VC probes by small groups around tactical perimeters. The remainder of BLT 3/3 arrived off CHU LAI and commenced offloading at 0800H.
- 20 May 1/3 company-sized patrol operations in southwest sector of TAOR resulted in 4 VC killed and 3 wounded. USMC casualties were 1 KIA and 2 WIA as a result of the first use of mortars by VC against USMC tactical forces in RVN. 2/3 continued patrolling and searching and clearing operations along CA DE SONG river within TAOR. Effective use of LVTP-5 was made for moving troops across river and for maintaining surveillance of transient river traffic. 3/4 People to People medical team in HUE PHU BAI received a warm welcome from the villagers. 1/4 had one Marine WIA by sniper fire while on combat patrol within TAOR. 3/3 completed occupation of all assigned positions in regimental perimeter. Operational control of 3d Engineer

DECLASSIFIED

Battalion (-)(Reinforced) was passed to 3d Marine Division (Forward) by Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force.

- 21 May 2/3 Patrol in vicinity of LE MY killed 2 VC and captured one suspected female VC sympathizer who was turned over to Vietnamese authorities. Platoon-sized patrol from Company K, BLT 3/4 flushed VC from an abandoned village near southern boundary of TAOR, and found .30 and .50 caliber ammunition, VC clothing and 782 gear, and Czechoslovakian penicillin tablets. The village was burned before the platoon departed that area. A road reconnaissance patrol from 3d Engineer Battalion was ambushed by a road mine in the DA NANG TAOR. One Officer was wounded by the blast. The ensuing firefight with an estimated 8 to 10 VC was inconclusive. Lieutenant General THROCKMORTON, Deputy COMUSMACV, visited various units and installations of the 3d Marine Division (Forward).
- 22 May 1/3 platoon-size patrol operating in southwest sector of TAOR had 2 USMC WIA by VC grenades. A second patrol discovered and destroyed apparent VC base camp in the same general area. 8 huts, 15 khaki uniforms, 20 BAR magazines, 20 flash lights, 5 miles of communication wire, and a large supply of civilian clothing was destroyed in place. Several documents found were forwarded for intelligence study. Units from 2/3 continued to locate and destroy VC machine gun emplacements, "punji" traps, and spider traps in area along CA DE SONG river in the vicinity of LE MY. LVTP-5 continued to restrict and control river traffic. 3/4 used air support with napalm to defoliate area in Free Zone south of the assigned TAOR. 4th Marines continued extensive patrolling and consolidation of positions with only occasional VC contact. Removal and exclusion of indigenous people from the TAOR and area purchased for the CHU LAI airfield site has been a continuing problem.
- 23 May A platoon patrol of Company A, 1/3, surprised 2 VC who decamped, leaving their packs full of drugs, overlays, diaries, and clothing. A villager reported placement of a hand grenade booby trap near the LVT POL dump. The grenade was found and destroyed. This incident considered to be significant, since it indicates the indigenous people may now be inclined to furnish U. S. Forces in this area with accurate information. A 3/4 mine clearing detail was the object of an unsuccessful VC ambush. The resulting action left 2 VC KIA and 1 WIA. One .38 caliber pistol and 2 submachine guns of CHICOM manufacture were recovered from VC bodies. There were no USMC casualties. 3d Reconnaissance Battalion with H&S Company,

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Company A, and Company B, displaced from CHU LAI to DA NANG by LST. Battery F, 1/12, engaged in a fire fight with infiltrators attempting to enter battery position during the night. VC fled when Howtar battery fired illumination over the area. One unfortunate result at this night action was the killing of one 6 year old Vietnamese girl and the wounding of another in a neighboring village.

- 24 May Company B, 1/3 moving south on three parallel axes, engaged an estimated 5 to 7 VC in a 15-minute fire fight. The VC employed 4 automatic weapons and a 60mm mortar before breaking contact and withdrawing through dense underbrush. Local villagers reported that the trails in the area may have been mined. Company A, 3d Tank Battalion, provided 3 minutes of searchlight illumination in the 3d Marines area in an effort to detect VC movement or attempts at infiltration. In the CHU LAI TAOR, 2/4 CP received sniper fire which was ineffective. A 2/4 rifle platoon operated in conjunction with a Regional Forces platoon in searching and clearing the village of AN HAI. 1/12 fired 9 harassing and interdiction missions during the night in support of 2/3. Battery L, displaced forward during the day and fired in support of 1/3 on suspected VC CP area.
- 25 May In the southern sector of 3d Marines TAOR, Company B, 1/3, killed 2 VC and wounded another, who later died. One French rifle and two others of unknown make were captured. A two year old girl from the village of HOA PHAT returned from the U. S. Naval Hospital, SAIGON, where 1/3 sponsored her for a successful operation to correct a cleft palate. 2/3 conducted a two-company search and clear operation in the northwest sector of the TAOR along the CA DE SONG river, utilizing 25 UH-34D, 2 HU-1B, and 2 F4B aircraft for movement and support. No VC were contacted. 2/3's Surgeon and 4 corpsmen treated approximately 50 Vietnamese in the LE MY Dispensary. The majority were children who had traveled up to three miles to come in for treatment. A morning patrol from 3/9 distributed boxes of C rations to the villagers of HOA PHAT. In the HUE PHU BAI TAOR, 3/4's medical contact team treated approximately 250 people in the town of PHU BAI. Colonel Frank E. GARRETSON, USMC, arrived from Okinawa and took command of 3d Marines during the temporary absence of Colonel Edwin B. WHEELER, USMC, on emergency leave. In the CHU LAI TAOR, Company C, 1/4 killed 2 VC and wounded another while losing one Marine WIA, who was treated and returned to duty. Company B, 3d Engineer Battalion began digging a well for

the villagers who live near the 2/4 CP. With patrol and search and clear operations moving closer to the limits of the DA NANG TAOR, artillery batteries were having to displace with increasing frequency in order to provide support for the infantry units.

26 May 1/3 continued extensive patrolling operations in the southwest sector of 3d Marines TAOR. Two armed HU-1B's were called in to run a strike on a suspected VC camp. Company E, 2/3, received six rounds of sniper fire while in defensive position on high ground overlooking village of PHU NAN THUONG HA. One Marine was wounded. 2/3's Medical Officer and four of his corpsmen treated 40 Vietnamese in LE MY, while corpsmen from Company E treated approximately 30 more in PHU NAN THUONG HA. Soap, candy, and 100 "C" rations accessory packs were distributed to the people of the village. One company from 3/9 was withdrawn from the DA NANG airfield defenses and utilized in patrol operations in the western sector of 3d Marines' TAOR. 3/4, at HUE PHU BAI, and 4th Marines at CHU LAI continued patrol and night ambush operations without any firm VC contacts. Company B, 3d Engineer Battalion continued assistance to displaced villagers in the CHU LAI area by digging three wells and employing villagers to assist in local road repair and construction. General William C. WESTMORELAND, USA, COMUSMACV visited CHU LAI and inspected 3d Marine Division units there.

27 May 1/3 and 2/3 continued patrol and ambush operations within the TAOR assigned to 3d Marines which resulted in 1 Marine WIA, 2 VC KIA, and 2 VC WIA. Company A helped local villagers construct dikes in their area. 2/3 continued to employ LVT to control traffic in CA DE SONG river. The battalion surgeon and his team of corpsman treated an estimated 70 people in LE MY village. 3/9 continued patrol operations around DA NANG airfield perimeter and distributed "C" rations to the people of NGHI AN village. In the CHU LAI TAOR, 2/4 continued its People to People program by digging wells and improving roads for displaced villagers.

The Commanding Officer, 4th Marines asked his wife to organize a clothing drive among the regimental wives remaining in Hawaii. When received, this clothing will be distributed to Vietnamese evacuees, hospital patients, and other needy persons. Company C, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, moved from DA NANG to HUE PHU BAI via Highway #1 as part of a combined motor march with the 11th Transportation Company, I Corps, ARVN. Authority was

received from COMUSMACV to proceed with Phase II operations in the HUE PHU BAI and CHU LAI areas. TAOR's for all three areas were expanded in agreement with Commanding General, I Corps, ARVN. Phase II operations provide for deep patrolling and offensive operations in each TAOR.

28 May 1/3 continued extensive patrolling operations in the southern sector of 3d Marines' TAOR. One Marine was wounded by a land mine and another by a booby-trapped hand grenade. 2/3 alerted a quick reaction force of one company to assist elements of 3d Reconnaissance Battalion returning from HUE PHU BAI via Highway #1 if help should be needed. The Battalion Surgeon continued his work in LE MY by treating approximately 120 people from the area surrounding LE MY village. 3/9's Motor Transport Section repaired a water pump for St. Mary's Orphanage at MARBLE MOUNTAIN, and the battalion is planning to purchase a 35mm slide projector for St. Mary's School out of the Battalion Chapel Fund. 3/4 at HUE PHU BAI continued reconnaissance and combat patrols without any contacts. A dispensary was set up in the village of TAN TO and an estimated 160 indigenous people were treated. At CHU LAI, 2/4 underwent a small but violent VC night attack. It was repulsed at a cost of 1 Marine KIA and 10 WIA. The VC broke off the action, leaving 6 dead and a number of weapons and ammunition, including a modified M-14 rifle, a .45 Cal. pistol, a machine pistol, and 140 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition. This attack was characterized by a relatively small amount of small arms fire and extensive use of fragmentation grenades. Company C, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion returned to DA NANG over Highway #1 without incident. Rear Admiral NORVELL G. WARD, USN, Senior Naval Advisor to COMUSMACV Staff, Brigadier General KEITH B. MCCUTCHEON, USMC, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, and Brigadier General MARION E. CARL, USMC, Commanding General, Task Force 79, were briefed by 4th Marines and inspected the CHU LAI area.

29 May A helicopter-supported quick reaction exercise was conducted by the Division, using Company A, 1/3, as the alert company. Company L, 3/9, previously a part of the DA NANG airbase defensive unit, established a company-sized patrol in the western sector of 3d Marines' TAOR. 2/4 at CHU LAI underwent sporadic probes throughout the night which resulted in 2 Marines WIA and one killed by an accidental discharge. There were no confirmed VC casualties as a result of this action, but observations through the Sniperscope indicated that the

enemy did not get away unscathed. In the 3/3 portion of the TAOR, an M-14 rifle was recovered which had been lost by a member of Company L a few nights earlier. Five VC walked into a hasty ambush set up by Company M. Three VC were wounded, but Company M also lost one Marine WIA who died subsequent to evacuation to the USS IWO Jima (LPH-2). 3d Reconnaissance Battalion began operating in DA NANG TAOR, utilizing both ground and aerial reconnaissance methods. A total of 17 patrols and 21 ambushes were planned for all Division TAOR's for the next 24 hour period.

30 May Company A, 1/3, completed participation in alert exercise. A platoon patrol from Company H, 2/3 uncovered a cache of food and clothing in its assigned area. Approximately 50 people came to the LE MY dispensary for treatment. Company L, 3/9 patrolling in the western sector of DA NANG TAOR discovered caves containing rice, ammunition, grenades, and clothing, all of which was destroyed in place. Elements of 3/4 at HUE PHU BAI continued active patrolling and establishment of deliberate ambushes within its assigned TAOR. At CHU LAI, a platoon patrol from Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion became involved in a fire fight on Hill 410 which resulted in 4 VC killed and 2 wounded at a cost of one non-seriously wounded Marine. One M-1 and 3 bolt-action rifles were taken from the bodies of the dead VC. Company E, 2/4, took part in a combined clearing operation with ARVN troops in KY XUAN Island outside the regimental TAOR to the north. This operation was initiated by 4th Marines because KY XUAN lies in the approach path to CHU LAI airfield and was reported to have VC troops with weapons up to including 81mm mortars. 3 VC were killed and 6 captured. There were no Marine casualties. In the 3/3 area at the southern end of 4th Marines TAOR, a rifle grenade was fired on a VC infiltrator who had set off a trip flare. When a fire team went out to search for results, it set off another rifle grenade from friendly positions which resulted in two Marines wounded. Major General Lewis W. WALT, USMC, prospective Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF, arrived at DA NANG by air.

31 May As a result of significant VC activity in the QUANG NGAI area to the south of CHU LAI and subsequent reports that, that city might be in danger of falling into enemy hands, 1/3 was alerted for possible deployment south of the CHU LAI perimeter. Simultaneously, 3/3 was alerted for possible commitment in the QUANG NGAI area. At CHU LAI, 2/4 completed search and clear operations on KY XUAN Island. Only sporadic sniper fire was encountered. Company B,

DECLASSIFIED

G-4 JOURNAL

<u>DATE/TIME</u> (HOTEL Time)	<u>SUBJ MATTER W/REFS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1. 091800 May	Commenced operations as Division G-4 (Fwd). Arranged for message pickup; guard mail; instituted message logs, office routing and commended dairy with this as first entry.	
2. 100900	Set up G-4 office space upon departure III MAF G-4. DivSupO assigned space within G-4.	
3. 102330	3dMar 090401Z requested ammunition storage in magazines at DONDA Trng Ctr. Message passed to III MAF by 3d MarDiv 110515Z for action.	
4. 111400	CG III MAF msg 300845Z May recommended additional data be made to the COMUSMACV OPLAN 37-65 to the effect of adding the supporting medical facilities and units listing. Information passed to Chief of Staff per his request	
5. 11 May	As per a request from 3/4, 3d MarDiv msg 110515Z was addressed to III MAF asking them to arrange for ammo storage for 3/4	
6. 11 May	Readdressed 3/4 090401 (Req for ammo storage) to III MAF for action by our 110516Z	
7. 13 May	AdminO Third MarDiv msg 130727Z requested our Proj 11 Fund Requirements for FY65. Action was passed to FLSG for submission.	
8. 130800	Report of 50 cal MG's and Mounts to III MAF in response to their 081736Z. Report covers 1/12 and RL-3. HqCo negative.	
9. 131000	Received approval for HqCo to utilize northern portion of parade ground for HqCo use (III MAF approved).	
10. 131110	3d MAF msg 131110Z promulgated the attachment of 3d Recon to 3d MarDiv OpCon	
11. 131300	CG III MAF 120759 established requisition procedures for PRI O2 documents and stated that only CO's could sign documents. Documents must be approved by the G-4 or SupO.	
12. 13 May	AdminO 3d MarDiv by his 130416Z requested submission of unprogrammed costs by 23 May.	

DECLASSIFIED

G-4 JOURNAL

DATE/TIME SUBJ MATTER W/REFS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REMARKS
 (HOTEL Time)

13. 14 May In response to III MAF request for submission of shore base requirements, our ltr 4/pds 11100 of 14 May was submitted showing our requirements.
14. 141600 Fitness reports on MSgt ROGERS and SSgt SUMRALL forwarded to G-4 Rear to cover period 1-Feb to 7 and 3 May respectively.
15. 141600 The G-4 attended a conference at III MAF RE: Shore Base Development.
16. 141600 A request for III MAF signs was submitted to Div Engr for accomplishment of work.
17. 15 May Out 150815Z established D/L equip reporting procedures for Div Units in that msg On-Off reports would be discontinued and the regular bi weekly letter reports would be made to AdminO Third MarDiv with copy to us.
18. 16 May Our 161520Z directed Fuji to ship 6 630Cu Reefers to FLSG for Div Units in RVN.
19. 18 May 1/3 msg 180020Z requesting replacement of Auto Comp of Radio Sets was passed to AdminO 3d MarDiv for appropriate action.
20. 18 May Our msg 180822Z directed all units to remove fording gear from all motor transport vehicles to prevent damage to engines.
21. 19 May Our 190641 requested NCC handle all turn around shipping.
22. 20 May Our 200815Z requested all div Units to submit a density report on certain engineer and ordnance items.
23. 23 May Our 232312Z requested unit report all M-37, M101 and M105 vehicles in R-2 condition or worst in order to establish replacement requirements to AdminO 3d MarDiv.
24. 23 May Our 230704Z submitted our proj 11 Fund Requirements to FMFPac in response to entry #7 of this diary.
25. 24 May Our msg 232316Z published to all units procedures and special instructions for the movement of convoys while in RVN.

DECLASSIFIED

G-4 JOURNAL

DATE/TIME SUBJ MATTER W/REFS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REMARKS
 (HOTEL Time)

26. 24 May Our msg 240724Z directed all units to address all messages on shipping to III MAF/NCC with info to this Hqs.
27. 24 May Our 241304Z to AdminO 3d MarDiv requested latest data on Laundry Units for RVN units.
28. 24 May Our 242322Z to all units requested a selected equipment inventory and task organization.
29. 25 May CONUSMA CV 200740Z requested information as to IBM Civilians in III MAF Area for repair of 1401 computer. FLSG directed to take for action by our 250724Z
30. 25 May AdminO 3d MarDiv 220218Z requested July Fund requirements. Passed to FLSG by our 250804 for submission of requirements.
31. 26 May Reply to Entry 29 of this diary was made by our 260822Z.
32. 26 May Recommendations were made to III MAF by our ltr 4/CCZ/pds 4000 of 26 May regarding recommendations for Shore Party Support.
33. 27 May Our ltr 4/CCZ/pds 11100 of 27 May to III MAF established Div priorities for Shore Base Development.
34. 27 May The sewage problem within the present CP Area was presented to III MAF by our msg 271256Z for remedial action.
35. 27 May Requested AdminO 3d MarDiv ship the 1st Bridge Platoon to RVN for attachment to 3d Engr (Fwd)
36. 27 May Our concurrence with the deletion of a Plt of 9th MT and addition of remainder of Plt 3d MT with HQ was made by our 271318Z to III MAF.
37. 28 May Requirements for 26 Butler Buildings was submitted to III MAF by our 280322Z
38. 28 May Our 280645Z requested III MAF to advise this Hqs when the 10 630cu reefers would arrive on RVN.

DECLASSIFIED

G-4 JOURNAL

DATE/TIME SUBJ MATTER W/REFS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REMARKS
(HOTEL Time)

39. 29 May. Our initial Logistics Status Report as of 271800 May was submitted to III MAF by our ltr 4/PDS of 29 May 65.
40. 30 May Our msg 301132 to AdminO 3d MarDiv requested a copy of the submission to FMFPac on the support of FMFPac WestPac Units.
41. 30 May In response to AdminO 3d MarDiv as to our acceptance of 36 inch fans vise the 55 inch fans was made by our 300424Z as being acceptable.
42. 30 May Our msg 300426 established the schedule for the contact team on wreckers and refuelers to all Div units.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

3d Reconnaissance Battalion, reinforced with a platoon of ONTOS, conducted a motorized road reconnaissance patrol from CHU LAI TAOR south to QUANG NGAI and return. Air cover was furnished by 2 F4B from VMFA-531 at DA NANG.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED