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S & C FILES  
3D MARINES  
00215-68

HEADQUARTERS  
3d Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/CPM/ell  
5750  
14 Apr:1968  
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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
(2) Commanding General, III MAF  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March 1968 to 31 March 1968  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A Ch 1  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.1  
(e) Maps: Vietnam: AMS Series L7014 1:50,000  
Sheets 6442IV  
Encl: (1) Subject Command Chronology  
(2) Supporting Documents

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

*M. A. Hull*  
M. A. HULL

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3d MARINES  
3d Marine Division (Reinf) FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 MARCH to 31 MARCH 1968

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA - PAGE 3  
PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY - PAGE 5  
PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS - PAGE 24  
PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS - PAGE 55

1 MAR 68 01 210

Enclosure (1)

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## PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDERS

3d Marines (-) (Reinf)

Colonel M. A. HULL (1-31 Mar)

Subordinate Units

Hq Co, 3d Marines

1st Lieutenant G. B. KRUCZKOWSKI  
(1-31 Mar)

Co B (-) (Reinf) 3d

Engr Bn

Blt 2/4, (-) 2nd Bn,

4th Marines

1st Lieutenant A. R. BREHM (1-31 Mar)

1st Bn (-) (Reinf),

3d Marines

Lieutenant Colonel W. WEISE  
(1-31 Mar)1st Amtrac Bn (-)  
(Reinf)Lieutenant Colonel R. W. GOODALE  
(1-31 Mar)Lieutenant Colonel E. R. TONER  
(1-18 Mar)Lieutenant Colonel G. F. MEYERS  
(18-31 Mar)2. LOCATION1-31 March: QUANG TRI Province, CUA VIET River Complex, CAMP  
KISTLER (VD 349694)3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Lieutenant Colonel V. R. STUART  
(1-31 Mar)

S-1

Captain C. S. GIBSON (1-31 Mar)

S-2

Major J. G. HANRAHAN (1-31 Mar)

S-3

Major D. J. MURPHY (1-31 Mar)

S-3A

Major R. M. REED (1-31 Mar)

S-3A/PSYOPS OFF

1st Lieutenant R. R. RICE (1-28 Mar)

S-3A/NBC EMPL OFF

1st Lieutenant W. M. PUGH (1-24 Mar)

S-3A/NBC DEFENSE OFF

1st Lieutenant R. T. STONE (1-31 Mar)

S-3A

1st Lieutenant P. J. WYMES (1-31 Mar)

S-4

Major E. W. ADAMS (1-31 Mar)

S-4A/Regt Sup O

1st Lieutenant V. E. WALLACE (1-28 Mar)

Co Sup O

1st Lieutenant F. H. GOSLIN (1-31 Mar)

ALO

Major H. B. ROTH JR. (1-31 Mar)

Regt Comm O

Major J. F. O'BRIEN (1-31 Mar)

Regt Comm O A

1st Lieutenant W. T. PITCHFORD (1-31 Mar)

MTO

1st Lieutenant W. R. HARGETT (1-31 Mar)

S-5

Captain R. B. STARKE (1-23 Mar)

1st Lieutenant W. M. PUGH (24-31 Mar)

Enclosure (1)

S-5

SECRET

Chaplain

Commander F. R. McALISTER CHC, USN  
(1-31 Mar)

Surgeon

Lieutenant R. G. KIRSCH, MC, USNR  
(1-31 Mar)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
21	217	2	3

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

As the month of March began, the Third Marines had OPERATION NAPOLEON/SALINE well underway. The Commanding Officer of Third Marines assumed operational control of BLT 3/1(-), First Battalion, Third Marines, and First Amtrac Battalion(-)(Reinf). The Third Marines CP was located at (YD 349694), with the BRAVO Command Group located at (YD 305556). In accordance with CG Third Marine Division Operation Order 5-68, the Third Marines continued its assigned mission of conducting combat operations in the NAPOLEON/SALINE AO, on both north and south banks of the CUA VIET River to include all tributaries as necessary, in order to ensure the uninterrupted passage of shipping on the CUA VIET River and to deny enemy access to rocket positions oriented against DONG HA and QUANG TRI Airfield. The Third Marines also continued to provide security for the QUANG TRI Airfield Complex with assigned Third Marine Division forces.

At 010010H a squad from B Company, 1st Amtrac Battalion received small arms fire from an estimated 2-3 NVA at (YD 318702). At 010045H squad again came under small arms fire. Fire was returned with small arms and M-79 with unknown results. Results: 2 WIA (MEDEVAC)

At 010640H a U. S. Navy Swift Boat reported it had overtaken a VC Sampan at (YD 330715) and had taken it under fire. First Amtrac Battalion dispatched an LVT to the location and found the Sampan loaded with 12 SKS's model 56 rifles, 1 AK-47, 112 82mm mortar rounds, 4 75mm rounds, 102 81mm fuses, 82 igniters, 106 firing devices, 1400 12.7mm M-6 rounds, 630 blocks of TNT, and 280 rounds of 7.62mm ammo.

At 010645H BLT 3/1 commenced S/D operation vicinity MAI XA THI (WEST) with M/3/1. While making the crossing they were hit hard by snipers, RPG's, .30 caliber machine gun fire, and 60mm mortars and sustained heavy casualties. I Company moved to M Company's left flank. At 010903H attacking units of 3/1 vicinity of (YD 281668) and (YD 287674) received artillery fire from the north, also received small arms and RPG fire from the enemy in dug in positions. After securing the southern portion of the village, I and M Companies received heavy and accurate sniper fire in the attempt to secure the northern portion of MIA XA THI (WEST). Progress was slow but I and M Companies 3/1 continued the attack fighting house to house and encountering continuous small arms, RPG, mortars, and artillery fire. L Company moved down to aid

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K Company to clear the area to the south. At 011515H tanks were transported to the west side of the river and provided direct support. The attack continued with M Company moving to the west,

I Company swinging northwest, and K Company moving south with L Company conducting search in trace. At 012000H M and I Companies 3/1 still under sporadic small arms and artillery fire, pulled back to set in defensive positions. At 012230H all was quiet. Friendly casualties for the days action were: 23 KIA, 91 WIA (MEDEVAC), and 7 MIA. Enemy losses: 36 NVA KIA, 3 NVA POW, and 4 AK-47's, 2 LMG's, 1 RPG-7 with sight, and documents captured.

At 011155H a patrol from First Amtrac Battalion discovered 1 can of explosives rigged with a pull type surprise firing device at (YD 362677). The device was blown in place.

At 011514H First Amtrac Battalion CP received 7 rounds of 100mm or larger enemy artillery. Results: 2 WIA (MEDEVAC)

At 011800H 1/3(-) completed its displacement from QUANG TRI Airfield Complex to CHU VIET and established a CP at (YD 280672).

At 012215H 1/3 received 10 rounds small arms fire vicinity (YD 306654). Fire was returned with small arms and M-79. 1/3 sustained 1 WIA (MEDEVAC)

At 020001H all units maintained strong defensive positions, employing ambushes, patrols, and listening posts.

At 020930H patrols from M/3/1 found and retrieved 3 USMC KIA in vicinity of (YD 277677) killed in previous action. Later during search of area 2 more USMC KIA were recovered. 3/1 continued to search the area.

At 021030H M/3/1 killed 1 NVA in vicinity of (YD 280666).

At 021100H A/1/3 found 2200 pounds of rice and miscellaneous gear and foodstuffs at (YD 275636). They destroyed the rice and turned the other items into Regimental S-2.

At 021420H D/1/3 captured 1 NVA soldier hiding in an old French bunker vicinity of (YD 307652). He was armed with 1 AK-47 with ammo, 1 C400M grenade, and some unidentified papers.

At 021600H BLT 3/1 completed their sweep of the village at (YD 280666) where they had made contact in the first of the month. They found 6 bunkers. Numerous fighting holes were destroyed. They discovered 45 NVA bodies as well as 12 crew served weapons and miscellaneous gear.

Enclosure (1)  
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At 021655H 1st Amtrac Battalion received 13 rounds of unknown size enemy artillery. Counter battery fires were executed with unknown results.

At 031000H an LVTE from 1st Amtrac Battalion struck a mine in the vicinity of (YD 290667). 4 wheels were blown off. Vehicle was returned to 1st Amtrac Battalion CP at CUA VIET. Results: 6 WIA (MEDEVAC)

At 031115H a civilian student reported to 1/3 that he knew where a wounded VC was hiding. Student took elements of 1/3 to the area (YD 308643). Found 1 wounded NVA. Interrogation revealed that the VC had been trained in HANOI.

From 031200H to 031700H BLT 3/1 searched their objective area with L Company searching the northern part of the village THON MAI KA THI (YD 280666) and the area south of the village, finding 16 enemy bodies and some equipment and capturing 1 POW. K Company found 13 NVA bodies in vicinity (YD 282667) plus the following weapons: 1 AK-47, 2 SK57, 1 .30 caliber bolt action rifle, 2 RPG rounds, and 28 82mm mortar rounds. M Company found 22 NVA bodies, medical supplies, plus a large amount of ammo. L Company located a large amount of personal gear and ammo.

At 031210H an LVTP struck a small AT mine at the river edge vicinity (YD 285669) resulting in moderate damage.

At 031830H a patrol from C/1/3 captured 2 NVA in vicinity (YD 271635).

At 041230H K/3/1, while on a search and destroy mission, in vicinity of (YD 281661) found 1 NVA sighting device, 50 rounds AK-47 ammo, and 10 small bags of gun powder.

At 041300H an OP from 1/3 found several small pouches of medical supplies and 200 pounds of rice. The rice was destroyed and medical supplies were sent to S-2 1/3. Also at this time BLT 3/1 found 550 rounds of 12.7mm, 1 barrel for 12.7mm heavy machine gun, 3 NVA gas masks, and assorted equipment.

At 041415H a platoon from K/3/1 received 6 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. No casualties sustained.

At 041450H L/3/1 received 20 rounds mortar fire at (YD 278 672). No casualties sustained.

At 041515H K/3/1 received 20 rounds incoming, suspected to be 75mm artillery. Requested and received suppressive fires with unknown results. No friendly casualties sustained.

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By 041800H the exchange of M and I Companies 3/1 for G and H Companies 2/4 was completed.

At 041830H a platoon from G/1/3 discovered 1 NVA with weapon, hiding in a ditch in vicinity (YD 272634). While searching the area another NVA was captured. Interrogation revealed that both men were from a recon squad of the 2nd Battalion, 803rd Regiment. Apparently the 2 NVA had crossed the river by boat. Results: 2 NVA POW

At 051135H with the exchange of 3/1 and 2/4 completed, the Commanding Officer, Third Marines, assumed operational control of 1 2/4 and chopped 3/1 to the Fourth Marines.

At 051200H a river convoy in the vicinity of (YD 264625) reported receiving small arms fire and 3-4 recoilless rifle rounds from 8 huts vicinity (YD 259630). The convoy returned fire with small arms and .30 caliber machine gun fire. Gunships were called to the scene and expended all ordnance, damaging 5 huts and destroying 3. Results: 1 USN KIA, 1 USN (MEDEVAC), and 1 USN WIA (MINOR)

At 051205H A/1/3, while crossing river by LVT to objective area, was taken under heavy automatic weapons fire and recoilless rifle fire. They continued the attack with a combined Amtrac infantry assault on the objective vicinity (YD 260630) still under heavy fire. At 051230H they received 8-10 mortar rounds. A/1/3, routing enemy from houses and bushes, remained in contact with an estimated enemy platoon until 051830H. Air strikes and artillery were called on enemy positions with excellent target coverage, but due to the tactical situation, an accurate count of enemy dead could not be obtained. Results for the days action: A/1/3 sustained 5 KIA, 14 WIA (MEDEVAC), while they accounted for 9 NVA KIA (C) and captured 1 AK-47 and other gear and ammo. A search of the objective area was postponed until the next day.

At 051959H a platoon ambush from B/1/3 spotted 3 enemy vicinity (YD 293749). 81mm and 4.2 mortar missions were fired with unknown results.

At 052030H the AN/FPS-5 radar at C-4 detected movement of 4-5 NVA vicinity (YD 306702). 81mm and 4.2 missions fired with unknown results.

At 060140H 2/4 received approximately 60 rounds of unknown size artillery along with sniper fire. Negative friendly casualties were sustained. 2/4 believed an undetermined size enemy force

Enclosure (1)  
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was trying to penetrate their lines. They engaged the enemy with small arms, 3.5, and LAAW's, and called in artillery and 81mm mortar missions. Screams were heard coming from the enemy, but 2/4 was unable to observe any enemy casualties.

At 060219H Third Marines CP received approximately 28 rounds of 100mm artillery fire from the northwest. 1 WIA (MINOR) was sustained. Counter battery plan was fired and incoming ceased. At 060300H B/2/4 received 40 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery. The counter battery plan was fired with unknown results. No casualties were sustained.

At 060305H a squad from A/1/3 spotted 6-10 NVA in vicinity of (YD 255629). Squad fired small arms at enemy and called illumination, observed 3 enemy carrying away what appeared to be a body.

At 060730H 2/4 commenced a sweep of CP area and found 12 NVA bodies, 6 AK-47's, 2 RPG's plus some RPG ammo. The search continued and F/2/4 found a wounded NVA in a trench in vicinity (YD 278668). The NVA was killed when he threw a grenade and fired a machinegun at friendly troops. A photo on the NVA's body identified him as an NVA officer. A light machine gun, machine gun cover, ammo belt, poncho, and medical and personal gear were captured.

At 060830H E/2/4 spotted 1 NVA running toward the village vicinity (YD 266662). Small arms was fired at the enemy with unknown results.

At 061000H Third Marines received a report that a Kit Carson Scout assigned to the Amtrac Bn was assassinated in the village or HA TAY vicinity (YD 340680) the previous night by a 2 man VC execution squad. 1st Amtrac Bn sent a patrol to protect the Kit Carson scout's family from further VC terrorism.

At 061005H F/2/4 found and destroyed in place a mine vicinity (YD 280610).

At 061015H 30 NVA were spotted by F/2/4 vicinity of (YD 271673). The enemy were wearing green, brown, and white clothing. An 81mm mortar mission was fired with unknown results.

A/1/3, while searching village vicinity (YD 254628), found 8200 pounds of rice, 6 NVA ponchos, and clothing in houses and bunkers. They also found 1 recoilless rifle and a poncho in a rice paddy vicinity (YD 256633). The rice was destroyed and the other gear turned into S-2.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

At 061620H G/2/4 vicinity (YD 277661) received 10-15 rounds of incoming artillery of unknown size. Artillery and Naval Gun-Fire missions were fired on suspected sources with unknown results.

At 061630H F/2/4 recovered 2 American bodies vicinity of (YD 267667). The bodies could not be identified and were sent to D Med. Also at 061630H D/1/3 found 3 CHICOM grenades, 2 RPG rounds, and 1 NVA poncho in vicinity of (YD 310642).

At 061700H A/1/3 received approximately 30 incoming rockets at (YD 261636) from the north. Negative casualties were sustained. Fired 81mm mortar mission on suspected source of rockets.

At 062010H F/2/4 observed enemy movement at (YD 278668). Their listening post was pulled back to the lines and artillery mission was called in with unknown results. A little later they spotted 3 enemy with weapons in front of their position at (YD 279670). Using a rifle with a starlight scope they fired and 1 figure fell to the ground.

At 062045H an ambush from 2/4 initiated contact from hasty positions with 4 enemy. 2/4 sustained no casualties and enemy casualties were unknown. When contact was broken by the enemy, the ambush moved to a new position.

At dawn on 7 March 1968 2/4 commenced a joint operation with forces of the 2nd ARVN Regiment to clear the area north of the BO DIEU River.

At 070900H H/2/4 sweeping enroute to a blocking position, found enemy positions and equipment including a recoilless rifle round vicinity (YD 272656). F/2/4 sweeping through village at (YD 265641) received small arms fire and encountered light resistance. Gunships were called in and platoon pressed on.

At 071020H G/2/4 located a supply of enemy clothing and equipment while sweeping vicinity (YD 275673). Enemy gear found was an NVA gas mask, 1 recoilless rifle round, and miscellaneous 782 gear and ordinance.

At 071100H F/2/4 at (YD 276658) rec'd mortar fire and S/A fire. They returned fire with small arms fire and called on artillery mission. While in blocking position at (YD 269659), H/2/4 received extensive automatic weapons fire from the village. They also received 12 rounds of unknown size artillery. Tanks, artillery, and mortars were employed. H/2/4 sustained minor casualties. 2/4 continued the attack with F/2/4 moving to objective BRAVO (YD 26649) and making contact with an unknown size enemy unit vicinity (YD 265649). As F and H Companies remained in contact sustaining

Enclosure (1)  
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more casualties, G/2/4 was moved along the flank of F/2/4 to secure objective BRAVO, which they did with no resistance. H/2/4 was withdrawn back to the Battalion CP. By 071545H F Company had linked up with G Company on objective BRAVO vicinity (YD 263637), and they began consolidating for their night defensive positions; supporting arms were employed to maximum extent. The contact continued on into the night. Throughout the days action, 2/4 sustained 9 KIA, 30 WIA (MEDEVAC), 16 WIA (MINOR), and 1 MIA. 2/4 reported 15 NVA KIA (C) but indications were that the enemy had suffered greater losses.

At 070710H an amtrac transporting A/1/3 across the river hit a mine at vicinity (YD 268626) damaging the track and causing 1 WIA (MEDEVAC).

At 071000H A/1/3 commenced sweeping to the village of PHU TAI in reaction to intelligence received that the enemy was inhabiting the village. As they approached the village they received a heavy volume of automatic and small arms fire as well as mortars from the village. A/1/3 moved employing all available supporting arms. 1/3 moved 2 platoons and a Command Group from D Company to assist A Company. 2 Amtracs attached to A/1/3 were hit by RPG's during the attack. When A and D Companies were linked, they began setting in positions around PHU TAI to contain the enemy for a continuation of the attack on the following day. 1/3 casualties were 13 KIA, 53 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 14 WIA (MINOR).

At 071125H a patrol from B/1/3 observed 2 NVA moving along a tree line in vicinity of (YD 297749), took them under small arms fire and hit 1 NVA. As the enemy crawled away, a 4.2 mortar mission was called with good target coverage.

At 071400H a diving team from 3d Recon Battalion reported that they had completed their assigned mission, having destroyed 2 500 pound dud bombs and a bamboo fence that had slowed river traffic to and from DONG HA.

At dawn on 8 March 1968, D and A Companies 1/3 assaulted their objective at PHU TAI with no resistance. In the village they found 27 NVA bodies, 20 individual weapons, 2 crew served weapons, and miscellaneous gear and ordnance.

At 080900H a patrol from C/1/3 recovered 5 American bodies that had been lost when a Naval boat was sunk on 3 March 1968.

At 081115H 2/4 spotted 23 NVA in the open at (YD 271655). 2/4 called in artillery and 81mm mortar missions and observed enemy bodies blown into the air. Results: 11 NVA KIA

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

At 081230H E and G Companies 2/4 encountered an estimated enemy company in the village vicinity (YD 257648). The enemy were in trenches oriented eastward and employed home made claymore mines. 2/4 made use of all available supporting arms and directed much fire on the enemy positions. Results: 15 NVA KIA, 6 IWC, as well as other gear and documents. 2/4 sustained 8 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 2 WIA (MINOR).

At 081500H 2/4 was searching the area of 07 Mar. contact vicinity of (YD 276658) and found 4 AK47, 3 SKS's, 1 rifle grenade kit in case, miscellaneous 782 gear, food, and ordnance.

At 081630H while returning from a fuel run, an amtrac attached to BLT 2/4 hit a 150 pound mine on the river vicinity (YD 269640). The mine tore open the amtrac and resulted in 4 KIA, 2 WIA (MEDEVAC).

At 081730H A/1/3 found 2 AK-47 rifles and 9 magazines in hole at (YD 295676).

At 090810H an AO working for BLT 2/4 reported 1 NVA KIA at (YD 268648).

At 090915H E/2/4 received 4 incoming rounds at (YD 264634). 81mm mortar and Naval gunfire missions were fired on suspected sources with unknown results.

At 091030H BLT 2/4 moved out to attack objective DELTA (YD 267684). G Company moved to objective CHARLIE to set in blocking position, discovered 2 NVA bodies in village. Another NVA was killed running from a bunker where 9 cases of ammo were found. 2/4 sustained 2 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 5 WIA (MINOR) when they received 6 rounds of unknown size enemy artillery. At 091415H E/2/4 secured objective DELTA with E and G Companies blocking to the south. A detailed search of the area was initiated. Among the gear found was 1 60mm mortar tube, and miscellaneous ordnance. After the search was completed 2/4 pulled back their companies to the Battalion CP.

At 091530H 1/3 continuing their search of PHU TAI area found 600 pounds of rice and miscellaneous medical supplies and ordnance. They also talked to a hamlet chief who reported that 160 VC had passed through his village running from PHU TAI. He indicated that the VC had few weapons and that they were carrying 10 VC WIA.

At 091600H E/2/4 found 4 NVA KIA in shallow graves about 4-5 days old at (YD 263649).

At 091930H elements of B/1/3 sighted 2 NVA vicinity (YD 298749). They called in 4.2 and 81mm mortar missions with good target coverage, but with unknown results.

Enclosure (1)  
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At 100745H a squad from B company, 1st Amtrac Battalion, conducting an ambush engaged and killed 1 NVA, recovered a pistol, 2 grenades, and ammo.

At 100845H the CUA VIET NSAD ramp received incoming artillery which resulted in a fire in the ammo dump that caused extensive damage to both the Naval and Amtrac Battalion area. Many huts, bunkers, and items of equipment were destroyed. Casualty figures for units OPCON to the Third Marines were 8 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 4 WIA (MINOR).

At 101045H H/2/4 found an NVA body at (YD 266658).

At 101100H D/1/3 found 1 AK-47, 1 portable radio, 1 typewriter, and miscellaneous gear and ordnance in vicinity of (YD 314631).

At 101500H an OP from E/2/4 sighted 10 NVA coming out of a village at (YD 258647). 81mm and artillery missions were adjusted resulting in 3 NVA KIA.

At 110940H 2/4 discovered a surprise firing device at (YD 288625). The rigged M-26 grenade was destroyed in place.

At 111030H E/2/4 discovered numerous ordnance while burying NVA bodies in the vicinity of (YD 276667).

At 111000H D/1/3 found 1 NVA body in a grave at (YD 338635).

At 111200H H/2/4 found 1 RPG, 2 AK-47's, 2 SKS's, and miscellaneous gear and ordnance in the vicinity of (YD 263659).

At 111500H D/1/3 found 2 rocket projectiles in containers with Russian markings.

At 111530H a Marine in D/1/3 tripped a rigged M-26 grenade in a hedge row at (YD 318628). Results: 1 WIA (MEDEVAC)

At 111651H G/2/4 found 3 more NVA bodies in the vicinity of (YD 284676).

At 111700H an amtrac attached to BLT 2/4 hit a mine in river in the vicinity of (YD 283667) resulting in 4 WIA (MEDEVAC).

At 112030H G/2/4 at (YD 282667), acting as security for withdrawal of E/2/4 from LAI QUAN, received 2 artillery rounds resulting in 1 WIA (MINOR).

Enclosure (1)  
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SECRET

At 112035H H/2/4 found 1 NVA body at (YD 267608).

At 112045H an ambush from D/1/3 at (YD 338625) sustained 1 WIA (MED VAC) when they received 2 grenades and small arms fire from the vicinity of (YD 340624). They returned fire with small arms, machine guns, and M-79's.

At 112055H an LP from E/2/4 made contact with 4 NVA at (YD 274679) and sustained 1 WIA (MED VAC). An Blmm mortar mission was adjusted with excellent target coverage.

At 112100H F/2/4 found 2 NVA bodies at (YD 298627).

At 112215H D/1/3 received approximately 15 incoming 60mm rounds. Artillery was called in on (YD 340627) where flashes were spotted. Negative casualties were sustained.

At 112345H the AN/PPS-5 at C-4 picked up 10-15 NVA moving southeast at (YD 283713). A 4.2 mission was fired with unknown results.

At 120000H H/2/4 found 1 SKS and other NVA equipment in the vicinity of (YD 268659).

At 121445H F/2/4 made contact with an estimated enemy battalion at (YD 285693). Numerous artillery missions including CS were called. At 121500H 2 platoons of G/2/4 were sent to reinforce F Company. G and F Companies remained in heavy contact, receiving enemy rockets and mortar fire as well as automatic weapons fire. The enemy had so many RPG's that they employed them against individual Marines. 2/4 employed their tanks effectively at fortified positions within the village. Towards evening E/2/4 slowly disengaged the enemy and moved back to the battalion CP. Results of the engagement were: Friendly casualties: 10 KIA, 24 WIA (MED VAC), 2 WIA (MINOR), and 5 MIA. Enemy: 37 NVA KIA

At 121535H two gunships from 1st Air Cavalry Division, working for 2/4, received intensive automatic weapons fire from approximately 25 NVA at (YD 278688). The gunships returned fire but sustained 2 KIA and 1 WIA and damage to 1 helicopter.

At 122345H the AN/PPS-5 at C-4 spotted 4-5 enemy at (YD 294700). A 4.2 mortar mission was fired and the movement ceased.

At 130945H H/2/4 spotted enemy personnel in the vicinity of (YD 288679) and took them under fire with unknown results.

Enclosure (1)  
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SECRET

At 131055H an AO reported enemy troops in trenches west of LAM XUAN in the vicinity of (YD 279691) and adjusted an artillery mission on them with unknown results.

BLT 2/4 continued their attack on LAM XUAN and made contact at 131350H and E/2/4 took sniper and automatic weapons fire from the east bank of the river (YD 283688). At 131400H H/2/4 vicinity (YD 279693) received 10 incoming 60mm mortar rounds, sustaining no casualties. Between 1430 and 1630, E/2/4 was taken under sporadic rocket and artillery fire. Fire missions were fired into NHI HA area. At 131630H H/2/4 moved into the village at (YD 283689) and recovered 4 USMC bodies listed as MIA's from 12 March contact. At 131510H E/2/4 observed an enemy FO position at (YD 279687) and destroyed it with recoilless rifle fire. 2/4 met with continuous resistance all afternoon and began breaking contact at 131925H. 2/4 was forced to abandon 3 amtracs at (YD 282687) when they became stuck. Artillery missions were fired hourly to protect the amtracs from being tampered with by the enemy. All 2/4 units returned to the Battalion CP. Casualties for the contact were 1 KIA, 30 WIA (MEDEVAC), and 6 WIA (MINOR). 2/4 reported 31 NVA KIA's.

At 131530H H/2/4 found 1 AK-47 and 1 CHICOM 7.62mm light machine gun, type 58, buried inside a bunker at (YD 287688).

At 131630H C/1/3 captured 1 VC suspect who led them to another VC suspect at (YD 274634).

On 13 March, B Company, 3d Engineers, in direct support of Third Marines, constructed a wire barrier across "JONES CRTEK" in the vicinity of (YD 284671) to prevent mines from floating into the river traffic area of the CUA VIET.

At 140718H a Navy boat hit a mine at (YD 269635) destroying the craft and killing 2 and wounding 1 navy personnel. The Navy also reported 5 MIA's as a result of the incident.

At 140900H a UH1E gunship spotted and killed 7 NVA escaping from a destroyed bunker at (YD 272698). At 140925H the gunship received intense .50 caliber fire, killed 1 NVA gunner.

At 141050H CUA VIET Complex received 4 rounds of artillery resulting in 1 KIA, 2 WIA (MEDEVAC), and 4 WIA (MINOR).

At 141100H C/1/3 apprehended 3 suspects who had in their possession a fuse lighter, an NVA canteen, and 6900 piasters.

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At 141555H a platoon ambush from B/1/3 spotted 2 NVA in bunkers at (YD 295750). Bunkers were destroyed with 81mm and 106 mm missions.

At 141600H 1/3 apprehended an individual who acted quite suspiciously when questioned by a Kit Carson Scout. Results: 1 detainee.

On 15 March A and C Companies 1/3 set in blocking positions at (YD 288624) and (YD 278622) for ARVN sweep south of 3d Marines AO. G/2/4 commenced a short sweep to DAI LOC while E/2/4 sent elements to recon the possibility of recovering USMC bodies and the 3 amtracs left at (YD 282687) on 13 March.

At 151115H forward elements of E/2/4 arrived at the abandoned amtracs and F/2/4 was dispatched to aid E/2/4. 1st Amtrac Battalion sent a team to assist in recovering the amtracs. At 151334H and 151445H E and F Companies 2/4 at (YD 284690) received about 80 incoming rockets and artillery, negative casualties. E and F Companies were successful in recovering all 16 bodies previously not recovered. 2/4 also found 10 more NVA bodies and numerous gear including 2 AK-47's and a great deal of NVA 782 gear. By 152345H 2/4 had recovered all 3 amtracs which appeared not to have been tampered with by the enemy.

At 160110H and 160335H 2/4 received a total of 8 rounds of artillery and sustained 1 WIA (MEDEVAC).

At 160145H E/2/4 spotted 9 NVA at (YD 297696) and called in artillery with unknown results.

At 160622H several secondary explosions were observed as the LVTH-6's fired on suspected rocket sites at (YD 262668).

At 161645H a Twelfth Marines AO spotted rocket positions oriented toward DONG HA. UH1E gunships moved in at 1700H to hit target and took heavy automatic weapons fire. At 161710H 2/4 reported that their recon team was pinned down by small arms and automatic weapons fire in the same area. Fixed wing air strikes and artillery were conducted as recon team began to withdraw. As they withdrew they ran into an estimated NVA Company at (YD 272660). H/2/4(-) was sent to aid the recon team. Both units remained in contact until 161915H.

At 161700H H/2/4 was taken under mortar attack and made contact with an estimated enemy platoon at (YD 265660) while trying to destroy a large amount of enemy munitions found in the

Enclosure (1)  
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same location. Air, artillery, mortars, and UH1E gunships were employed against the enemy. Results of the contact: Friendly: 1 KIA, 6 WIA (MEDEVAC), and 15 WIA (MINOR) Enemy: 4 NVA KIA

At 161800H a B Company, 1st Amtrac Battalion, patrol discovered 2 105mm rounds buried at (YD 360624).

At 162110H Scouts from the 1st Amtrac Battalion found 2 M-26 grenades rigged as a surprise firing device (YD 325702). The grenades were disarmed and an ambush set up in the area.

At 170930H E/2/4 found 5 home-made claymore mines, 8 home-made grenades, 2 anti tank mines, a rigged grenade, and several fighting holes at (YD 273668).

At 171235H a patrol from G/2/4 observed 15 NVA in the vicinity of (YD 261691). A 4.2 mortar mission was fired and 2 bodies were seen blown into the air. 2 secondary explosions were observed.

At 180035H 3 secondary explosions were reported from a 3d Marine TPQ at (YD 259659).

At 180045H the AN/PPS-5 radar at C-4 indicated 2 groups of 20 enemy each were at (YD 282717) and (YD 286700). 4.2 and 81mm mortar missions were fired and the enemy dispersed into small groups and headed north.

At 180330H BLT(-) 2/4 crossed LOD after artillery and Naval gunfire prep fire, to commence the S/D operation through VINH QUANG THUONG at (YD 2565). At 180810H H/2/4 vicinity (YD 264656) began receiving small arms fire from (YD 261659). They called in artillery and continued to move. As H/2/4 moved on, they recovered 2 USMC bodies that had been listed as MIA's from previous contact. E and H Companies, approaching objective A vicinity (YD 260659), received incoming rockets. The companies continued to move slowly through the fortified enemy positions, taking numerous casualties. Advance was held up at 1400H pending ammo resupply and air strikes, as well as evacuation of casualties. Following the air strikes the assault continued and G/2/4 was committed on the north flank of the village. E and H Companies linked up with G Company and secured objective BRAVO (YD 260650) by 181845H. 10 enemy snipers continued to harass 2/4 but eventually 6 were killed and the others were captured. A search of the village at dawn on 19 March revealed 120 NVA KIA. Much enemy equipment and ordnance was captured to include 1 complete 60mm mortar, 1 radio, 1 RPG-2, 2 RPG-6's, 7 SKS's, and 10 AK-47's. Friendly casualties were 15 KIA, 88 WIA (MEDEVAC), and 18 WIA (MINOR). 4 NVA POW were captured. (It should be noted that

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

General WESTMORELAND sent his congratulations on their success on inflicting such damage on the enemy)..

At 181050H B/1/3 at C-4 reported what appeared to be a tracked vehicle in the vicinity of (YD 295693). It was reported to be boxlike about the size of an ONTOS, and well camouflaged. A tank/infantry team was moved to an intercept position and an AO was called to the area. The AO checked out the area extensively with negative sightings.

At 181135H 10 rounds of unknown size artillery landed at the mouth of the CUA VIET River wounding 2 Naval personnel.

At 181300H the tank/infantry team from C-4 killed 1 NVA and was taken under rocket fire shortly thereafter at (YD 283708).

At 181930H B/1/3 found 5 105mm rounds rigged as a daisy chain at (YD 327708). Rounds blown in place.

At 190900H a tank attached to BLT 2/4 hit a mine at (YD 266661) damaging the tank but causing no casualties.

At 191035H 1st Amtrac Battalion sustained 1 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 1 WIA (MINOR) when approximately 15 rockets or artillery rounds impacted in their CP area.

Between 191240H and 191258H B/1/3 at C-4 received 21 rounds of estimated 85mm artillery, sustaining 2 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 4 WIA (MINOR). Counter battery fire was fired into grid (YD 2677).

At 191400H a patrol from C/1/3 at (YD 337629) detonated a surprise firing device resulting in 1 WIA (MEDEVAC).

At 191500H an individual was seen digging at (YD 267682). A patrol was sent into the area and found and destroyed an anti-personnel mine and a trip flare that had been emplaced there.

At 191550H 3 engineers working with C/1/3 were wounded by an enemy anti-personnel pressure mine at (YD 332629).

At 191950H B/1/3 reported 4 groups of 10-15 persons each vicinity of (YD 288700). Artillery, Naval gunfire, and mortar missions were conducted with unknown results.

SECRET

At 200920H F/2/4 called an artillery mission on 20 NVA that were spotted in the vicinity of (YD 273686). Results unknown.

At 201000H G/2/4 at (YD 262659) found 1 wallet believed to have belonged to NVA officer. Wallet contained photos and papers.

At 201300H B/1/3 at C-4 received 25 rounds of estimated 85mm artillery resulting in 1 WIA (MEDEVAC). Naval gunfire and 4.2 mortar missions were fired into (YD 284758) with unknown results.

At 201315H A Company, 1st Amtrac Battalion completed the transporting of the 3d Battalion, 2nd ARVN Regiment to C-4 in preparation for the exchange of the ARVN battalions at A-1.

At 202145H D/1/3 spotted movement on the river at (YD 296637). M-79 and illumination were fired but no further movement could be observed.

At 210420H 2 incoming rounds of unknown caliber impacted near the mouth of the CUL VIET River. Negative casualties.

At 211045H E/2/4 at (YD 275689) sustained 4 WIA (MINOR) when they received 40 rounds of medium artillery or rockets. Counter battery fires were fired with unknown results.

At 220140H B/1/3 at C-4 received 10 rounds of estimated 85mm artillery. Negative casualties were sustained.

At 220315H C/1/3 sustained 1 WIA (MINOR) from an explosion that was believed to have been a nearby airstrike..

At 220945H a patrol from H/2/4 made contact with an unknown size enemy force vicinity (YD 264649). They received 10 rounds of rockets or mortars along with small arms fire. 6 WIA (MEDEVAC) were sustained. At 221045H the MEDEVAC helicopter also received small arms fire coming into the position.

At 221140H B/1/3 observed 6 NVA carrying large bundles at (YD 304704). As artillery and mortar missions were fired, 1 enemy was hit and another NVA dragged his body into the tree line. B/1/3 sent a patrol/ambush to the area.

At 221500H a recon team performing river reconnaissance operation in vic (YD 264634) found 5, what was believed to be, outer rings for large muzzle loading weapons.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

At 222130H an ambush from E/2/4 exchanged fire with a small enemy unit at (YD 294667) sustaining 1 WIA (MEDEVAC).

At 231700H G/2/4 observed 4 enemy in brush at (YD 285687) and called in artillery with good target coverage. Results unknown.

At 232045H a 1st Amtrac Battalion patrol spotted 7 NVA and lights at (YD 364671). An artillery mission was fired and the lights were extinguished.

At 240001H B/1/3 called artillery, Naval gunfire, and a TPQ at (YD 282712) where radar had picked up a group of about 75 enemy. Results unknown.

At 240410H C/1/3 sustained 1 WIA (MINOR) when they received 10 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. An artillery mission was fired on suspected enemy positions.

During the day of 24 March, all units conducted aggressive patrols and ambushes in their assigned areas of operation. 2/4 conducted a company operation providing security for recon diving team from (YD 266645) to (YD 257641), H/2/4 acted as reserve for F/2/4. Recon diving team swept (YD 293664) for underwater mines with negative results.

At 241107H CAMP KISTLER received 8-10 rounds of artillery of unknown size, 1 LVT was damaged. At 241138H the Navy Port Facility received approximately 4-5 rounds of artillery, no casualties were sustained, however 1 skimmer craft was damaged. At 241158H 15 more rounds of artillery were received at the same location resulting in negative casualties or damage. Counter battery plan was fired immediately in the area where sound sensing had been made.

At 241300H F/2/4 apprehended 5 civilians in the vicinity of (YD 260632) who were suspected of having knowledge of enemy activity. After interrogation the detainees were delivered to 3d Marine Division G-2.

At 250115H A-1 Outpost received approximately 12 rounds of unknown caliber artillery from the vicinity of NHI HA village (YD 271704). Counter battery plan was fired on the suspected enemy positions. At 250309H a TPQ was dropped on NHI HA resulting in a large secondary explosion.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

At 251425H CAMP KISTLER received 45 rounds of mixed artillery and 140mm rockets from vicinity of (YD 287755). C-4 Outpost took 9 rounds and the ARVN's at A-1. (YD 269732) took incoming artillery at the same time, and counter battery fire was initiated. 6 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 3 WIA (MINOR) were sustained at CAMP KISTLER.

At 251400H H/2/4 found 1 60mm mortar tube complete with sight. Also found the remains of 1 NVA body in the vicinity (YD 274668).

At 251435H F/2/4 observed 2 men and 1 woman digging a hole and acting very suspiciously. An 81mm mortar mission was fired and the 2 men fled from the area. The woman was wounded and later evacuated to D-Med, DONG HA.

During the days of 26 and 27 March all units conducted aggressive daytime activities consisting of patrols and ambushes in their assigned areas of operation. There were no enemy contacts. At 261600 G/1/3 found 2 enemy mortar positions in the vicinity of (YD 336647). Fuse caps, firing cartridges for mortars, and 1 RPG round were found at the positions.

At 280706H a Navy monitor patrol craft detonated a large mine in the vicinity of (YD 267637). The mine exploded between 2 craft which were headed upstream. A diving team was dispatched to the area and a search revealed no other mines present. Considerable damage was sustained by 1 craft but there were no casualties.

At 280830H a Vietnamese girl tripped a VC booby trap in the vicinity of (YD 372667). She was delivered to 3d Marines CP for observation and later MEDEVACED to QUANG TRI.

At 290940H G/2/4 observed several Vietnamese which appeared to be moving cattle; also in the same vicinity (YD 284690) 15 other unidentified Vietnamese were observed lingering near a tree line. All were dressed in black and white clothing. A search of the area revealed 17 60mm mortar rounds and 4 CHICOM grenades.

At 291030H H/2/4 in the vicinity of (YD 310684) apprehended 2 Vietnamese civilians who were suspected to be VC. They were sent to Division G-2 for interrogation.

At 291645H E/2/4 in the vicinity of (YD 315693) observed 4 persons with rifles along a tree line. No action was taken due to the close proximity to a resettlement village.

At 291750H an A Company, 1st Amtrac Battalion, patrol/ambush, detonated a surprise firing device in the vicinity of (YD 374666), resulting in 2 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 2 WIA (MINOR).

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

At 300724H F/2/4 in the vicinity of (YD 291699) received light to medium enemy artillery; counter battery plan was fired with unknown results.

At 300750H F/2/4 observed approximately 10 NVA/VC in the vicinity of (YD 288702). F Company engaged the enemy with small arms and called in artillery. While maneuvering to engage the enemy, F/2/4 began to receive light incoming artillery and rockets from the vicinity of (YD 226847). At 300900H F/2/4 captured 1 VC. During interrogation by a Kit Carson Scout, the VC related that other VC/NVA were located in a village at (YD 282710).

At 301000H G/2/4 while in the vicinity of (YD 277699) received small arms fire from across JONES CREEK. Fire was returned. Results: 2 WIA (MEDEVAC).

At 301030H G/2/4 observed approximately 40 NVA running toward JONES CREEK and away from their positions. Small arms were fired resulting in 6 NVA KIA.

At 301100H a tank struck a mine and lost a track in the vicinity of (YD 280714). No casualties were sustained.

At 301320H E/2/4 at (YD 279719) observed 15 NVA moving north in the open. A tank supporting the advance fired its 90mm cannon and accounted for 12 NVA KIA.

At 301355H E/2/4 in the vicinity of (YD 279719) received 15-20 rounds of artillery resulting in 1 WIA (MINOR).

At 301525H G/2/4 in the vicinity of (YD 277637) received small arms and artillery fire resulting in 2 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 2 WIA (MINOR). Counter battery fires were placed on the suspected enemy positions.

At 301820H the Command Group of 2/4 and E/2/4 in vicinity of (YD 279719) received 18 rounds of medium artillery from the vicinity of (YD 205845). Counter battery plan was fired on suspected enemy positions. 5 WIA (MEDEVAC) were sustained.

At 310805H G/2/4 discovered a cache of claymore mines and surprise firing devices. All ordnance was blown in place.

At 310805H E/2/4 swept area in vic (YD 275704) and found 31 82mm mortar rounds, 31 82mm recoilless rifle rounds, 300 caliber rounds, 12 82mm grenades, and 2 drum magazines. 3 82mm recoilless rifle rounds and 2 drum magazines to 3 of 3 1/2 82mm.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

At 311000H 17 civilians entered the F/2/4 position. The people alleged that they had letters from GIO LINH District Headquarters granting them permission to live in the area. The civilians were detained and interrogated at the village of MAI XA THI and later moved to the refugee village on the north bank of the CUA VIET.

At 311540H E/2/4 reported that a tank had struck an anti-personnel mine in the vicinity of (YD 267733). There was no damage to the tank, however E/2/4 sustained 2 WIA (MINOR).

At 311630H E/2/4 reported that a tank had hit an anti-tank mine in the vicinity of (YD 266751) causing the tank to lose a track and sustain 1 WIA (MINOR).

At 311710H BLT 2/4 reported that an LVT had hit an anti-tank mine in the vicinity of (YD 295697) causing considerable damage to the vehicle and 1 WIA (MEDEVAC).

At 311710H H/2/4 secured hamlet in vic (YD 261738) and cleared and swept area. In the attack on the hamlet H/2/4 sustained 1 KIA and 10 WIA (MEDEVAC) while killing 12 NVA and capturing 1 RPD MG and 1 sniper rifle.

At 311830H F/2/4 while searching area in vic (YD 253719) captured 2 NVA, 1 RPG, and 1 personal letter.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED
- B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED
- C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY
- D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED
- E. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED
- F. COMMAND RELATIONS
- G. EQUIPMENT
- H. LOGISTICS
- I. CIVIC ACTION
- J. ADMINISTRATION
- K. PERSONNEL
- L. INTELLIGENCE
- M. COMMUNICATION
- N. WEATHER
- O. FIRE SUPPORT
- P. AIR SUPPORT
- Q. ACTIVITIES/DEACTIVATIONS/REDESIGNATIONS
- R. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS
- S. TRAINING

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET



SECRET

A. Combat Missions Assigned

Basic Mission (NAPOLEON/SALINE). 3d Marines with assigned forces conduct combat operations in your AO on both North and South Banks of CUA VIET and include all tributaries as necessary in order to insure the uninterrupted passage of shipping on the CUA VIET River and to deny enemy access to rocket positions oriented against DONG HA and QUANG TRI. (OpO 5-68)

SECRET

B. Significant Operations Conducted.

On 30 March a preplanned operation, code named TASK FORCE KILO, was initiated to sweep the northern portion of 3rd Marines area of operation and to clear the area of enemy activity. This operation executed the deception plan for a PCV operation commencing 1 April 68. 300600H Mar. was set as D-Day, H-Hour. The operation was a joint effort with the 2nd Arvn Regt (-), the 3rd Sqdn (-) (Reinf), 5th Armored Cavalry, and the 3rd Marine Regt (-) (Reinf). The 2nd Arvn Regt was the center force, the 5th Armored Cavalry was the left force, and the 3rd Marine Regt, utilizing BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf), comprised the right force. All units were to attack to the north.

The following is a summary of the operation commencing at D-DAY, H-HOUR.

At 300600H BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf), left assembly area in vic (YD 305682) with G Company on the left, F Company on the right, and E Company in trace of F Company to attack division objective CHARLIE centered (YD 270704). H Company remained in vic (YD 302685) as battalion reserve. By 0830H, G and F Companies had received light incoming artillery fire, while sustaining light casualties. G Company at this time was linked up with F Company and was in position to assault objective CHARLIE, but held in position waiting for the center force to seize its objective BRAVO centered (YD 268700). At 0940H, B Company, 1st Bn 3rd Marines, was relieved in position by B Company, 1st Amtrac Bn, chopped to BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf), and moved swiftly to phase line APPLE (YD 304743 to YD 272706) maintaining a platoon outpost in vic (YD 295749). E Company skirted F Company's right flank and seized regimental objective 1 centered (YD 280719) at 1035H. Throughout the morning and afternoon BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) continued to sight small groups of NVA fleeing to the north and took them under fire with small arms and all available supporting arms. Although sniper fire was received by BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf), no resistance was met. By late afternoon, F Company had joined E Company on regimental objective 1, H Company had moved up to vic (YD 288710), and G Company had moved to vic (YD 282702) in order to allow the center force to better assault its objective BRAVO. For the remainder of the afternoon, BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) held and searched the terrain, occupied and prepared night defensive positions. As a result of the day's activities, BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) sustained 15 WIA (MEDEVAC) and 2 WIA (MINOR). Enemy casualties were 18 NVA KIA. Division objective CHARLIE was not seized as planned, as the center force was in contact in its assault of division objective BRAVO. Any attempt to take CHARLIE while BRAVO was being attacked would result in BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) masking the center force's fires.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

At 310700H, BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) commenced the assault on objective CHARLIE with G Company, while E Company assaulted regimental objective 2 centered (YD 270720). By 0830H, G Company was on CHARLIE and was encountering many surprise firing devices and bunkers but no resistance. At 0938H, G Company secured CHARLIE, finding 31 82mm recoilless rifle rounds, 31 82mm mortar rounds, 13 chicom grenades, 300 .50 caliber rounds, and 2 drum magazines. At this time, G Company received sporadic sniper fire from the east bank of Jones Creek. G Company silenced the snipers by returning fire with small arms. At 1125H, E Company secured regimental objective 2, encountering many bunkers, fighting positions, and surprise firing devices but meeting no resistance. At 1310H F Company commenced its move on battalion objective FOXTROT centered (YD 255716), while C Company, 1/3, as the regimental reserve, moved from vic (YD 305682) to regimental objective 1 and the LVTH-6 battery displaced to C-4, in order to better support the operation. B Company 1/3, securing regimental objective 3 at 0900H, in the early afternoon, moved to GIEM HA TRUNG (YD 296749) just short of phase line ORANGE (YD 292758 to YD 258737). At 1555H F Company secured battalion objective FOXTROT. While searching the area they captured 2 NVA along with assorted ammo which was blown in place. H Company, assaulting regimental objective 4 centered (YD 261738), encountered resistance from an estimated 15-20 NVA. H Company assaulted through the NVA, killing 12 of them and sustaining 1 friendly KIA and 10 WIA (MEDEVAC). At 1615H, H Company secured the objective. In the late afternoon E, F, and G Companies moved up to join H Company in a defensive night position along phase line ORANGE. B Company remained in the position occupied early in the afternoon. In the day's actions BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) accounted for 12 NVA KIA, 2 NVA POW's, 3 IWC, and 2 CSWC, sustaining 1 friendly KIA, 11 WIA (MEDEVAC), and 3 WIA (MINOR). The night passed without incident.

At 010700 APRIL 68, BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) crossed phase line ORANGE with G Company leading the attack on regimental objective 5 centered (YD 254758). H Company, at 0930H, searching objective 4, found 1 NVA KIA, 8 individual weapons, and 1 crew served weapon. At 0935 H, elements of G Company, with E Company in trace, were on objective 5 and found it well fortified but undefended. While securing the objective, G and E Companies received approximately 50 rounds of medium size artillery and rockets. 8 WIA (MEDEVAC) resulted. At 1125H, G Company secured objective 5 and in so doing found 2 partially destroyed individual weapons and miscellaneous small arms and mortar rounds. B Company 1/3, at 1130H, commenced its move to take regimental objective 6 centered (YD 281765). At 1500H, objective 6 was secured. While on the objective, B Company captured 67 140mm rockets, 30 82mm mortar rounds, 19 antitank mines,

Enclosure (1)

SECRET

SECRET

1 RPG, 1 120mm rocket, plus numerous small arms ammo. B Company destroyed 67 bunkers and 2 rocket sites and then withdrew to vicinity (YD 294746). In the early afternoon C Company, 1/3, sustained 5 WIA (MINOR) as an LVT on a supply mission hit a mine. As dusk approached, BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) consolidated on the southern edge of objective 4 for the night. C Company, 1/3, set up a defensive position in vicinity (YD 280718). At 2220H, E Company was probed by an estimated company size enemy unit. E Company took the enemy under fire, killing 3 NVA and capturing another with his weapon. As a result of the day's activities, 8 Marines were WIA (MEDEVAC) and 5 more were WIA (MINOR). Enemy losses were 4 NVA KIA, 1 POW, 13 IWC, and 2 CSWC.

At 020700H, BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) commenced a thorough search of areas on both sides of Jones Creek to the south, with G and E Companies to the west of the stream and the remainder of BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) on the east side. Key objective areas were outlined by the 3rd Marine Division. G Company by-passed objectives 3, centered (YD 247723), and 5, centered (YD 248707), as they were occupied by the center force, and moved rapidly toward objective 8 centered (YD 268669). In vicinity (YD 262704), G Company received sniper fire from a bunker. Fire was returned with small arms. 2 WIA (MEDEVAC) were sustained, 4 NVA were killed, and 1 wounded NVA and 3 individual weapons were captured. F Company swept south from objective 1, centered (YD 263737), to objective 4, centered (YD 272722), and continued to objective 6, centered (YD 280718). C Company, 1/3, swept from objective 6 down to objective 7 centered (YD 273704), while F Company continued to objective 9 centered (YD 285690). B Company, 1/3, commenced sweeping at 0700H, moved through objective 2 centered (YD 298742), and by 0855H arrived at C-4 and was chopped from BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) to 1st Antrac Battalion. By early afternoon, F Company secured objective 9 and commenced a detailed search of the area. In vicinity (YD 278699), G Company found 20 NVA bodies, 270 60mm rounds, 41 cases 12.7mm ammo, 225 82mm rounds, 16 cases 60mm fuses, 5 cases Ak-47 rounds, 16 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 3 antitank mines, 10 cans of detonators, 45 cans mortar increments, and assorted munitions and NVA 782 gear. E and H Companies returned to BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) CP area in vicinity MAI XA THI area, while G Company remained on objective 8; F Company on objective 9, and C Company, 1/3, on objective 7. All units maintained these positions until the close of the operation at 022400H and on through the night. As a result of the day's activities BLT 2/4 (-) (Reinf) sustained 2 WIA (MEDEVAC) and accounted for 24 NVA KIA, 1 NVA POW, and 3 individual weapons. An additional 2 NVA bodies were found on 3 APRIL 68 bringing the total NVA KIA for the operation to 60.

Enclosure (1)

SECRET

SECRET

C. Casualties Inflicted On The Enemy

(1) Confirmed

<u>NVA KIA</u>	<u>NVA POW</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>VC POW</u>
556	22	0	1

D. Casualties Sustained

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA MEDEVAC</u>	<u>WIA MINOR</u>
91	431	131

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

E. New Techniques Employed. None

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

F. Command Relations

(1) At 010800H March 1968, Third Marines assumed OPCON of BLT 3/1 (-), 1st Bn (-), 3rd Marine and 1st Amtrac Bn (-). 3rd Marines message 020745Z March 1968 refers.

(2) At 051135H March 1968, Third Marines assumed OPCON of BLT 2/4 (-) and chopped BLT 3/1 (-) to fourth Marines, at the same DTG. Third Marines message 050900Z March 1968 refers.

(2) At 181500H March 1968, Lt. Col. George F. MEYERS assumed command of 1st Amtrac Bn (-), relieving Lt. Col. Edward R. TONER.

(4) On 15 March W/1/11 displaced from CUA VIET to CAMP CARROLL and OPCON passed to 1st Bn, 12th Marines.

(5) On 15 March W/3/12 displaced from CAMP CARROLL to CUA VIET and 3rd Bn, 12th Marines assumed OPCON from 1st Bn, 12th Marines.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

G. Equipment. Current allowances of T/E equipment supporting Headquarters, Third Marines is considered adequate. Recommendation for modification of allowances were not received during this period.

#### H. Logistics

1. General Headquarters, Third Marines was moved, during this period, from the AI-TU Airfield Complex at Quang Tri, to the Cua Viet Waterway Area. In Cua Viet the Regimental Commander, in addition to his tactical responsibilities, was named the Installation Coordinator, Cua Viet Waterway Area and assumed responsibility for logistical coordination of installation activities.

#### 2. Supply

(a) Source. FLSG - B, Dong Ha continues to be the primary source for all classes of supply.

(b) Class I. Satisfactory.

(c) Class II. Class II supply/support was adequate. Some shortages exist, primarily in repair parts in Motor Transport and Communications-Electronics equipment.

(d) Class III. Generally satisfactory. 30 weight motor oil is difficult to obtain and unless the situation improves this item could become critical.

(e) Class IV. Satisfactory.

(f) Class V. Adequate.

3. Evacuation and Hospitalization. Routine medical treatment was provided by Regimental Aid Station. More serious cases were evacuated to D Company, Third Medical Battalion, Dong Ha.

#### 4. Transportation

(a) Water Transportation.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET



SECRET

(1) LCM-8. Supplies arrive in Qua Viet by boat from Dong Ha. The boats utilized are empty craft returning to Qua Viet from Supply runs to Dong Ha.

(2) Skimmer Boat. 5 commercial Ski Barges W/35 HP motors are in temporary loan and are used for logistical resupply.

(b) Water Transport. Water Transport Section, Headquarters Company, provided transportation for administrative use. Otter Platoon (-), H&S Co, 3d MTBn, is under operational control of this Headquarters and provided vehicular support for resupply, medical evacuation, and administrative purposes.

#### 5. Service

##### (a) Functions

(1) Construction. Major efforts were erecting a 24'x 36' COC bunker; improving the existing landing zone; and constructing a new camp trash and garbage dump.

(2) Maintenance. Maintenance was hampered by difficulty in obtaining some second echelon repair parts. Operation of wheeled vehicles in deep sand in Qua Viet area results in unusual vehicular wear and increased maintenance problems.

(3) Laundry. Facilities for laundering clothing are not available. Nearest laundry is Dong Ha and has proven to be unsatisfactory in the past. Correspondence is being prepared to request the assignment of a laundry platoon to this area.

(4) Sanitation. A serious sanitation problem exists. The previous method of disposing of garbage and trash was a combination of burn and bury. This system was unsatisfactory and the entire area is now infested with flies, roaches and other insects. A new dump has been constructed and local Vietnamese Nationals are permitted to scavenge this area. A preventive medicine team will be requested on a permanent basis.

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6. Assignment of Responsibilities. "B" Company, Third Engineer Battalion, was in direct support of this Headquarters during this period.

Enclosure (1)  
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SECRET

I. Civic Action(1) Significant Activities

## (a) 1-5 March

(1) Emphasis was directed toward the refugees arriving from KHE SANH to the CAM LO and QUANG TRI refugee areas, distributing clothes and offering assistance to them.

(2) On 5 March the regimental CP was displaced to CUA VIET.

## (b) 6-31 March

(1) Laundry service was established with the local citizens in and around the Vietnamese Junk Fleet. The CAMP KISTLER trash dump was opened to the civilians during specific times each day.

(2) Solatium was paid to the relatives of 7 civilians killed by misdirected gunship fire on 12 March.

(3) 1st Amtracs conducted 4 MEDCAPS/DENTCAPS during the month to the refugee ville and resettlement hamlets.

(4) Lt W. M. PUGH relieved Capt. R. B. STARKE Jr. as the regimental S-5 on 26 March 1968.

(2) Materials Distributed

## (a) 1-5 March

(1) 60 boxes (300 Pounds) of clothing were delivered to the CAM LO refugee area.

## (b) 6-31 March

(1) 1st Amtracs distributed 1250 pounds of bulgar to the new refugee ville (YD318683).

(3) Special Civil Affairs Projects

(a) Due to the displacement of the regimental CP and the changing of S-5 Officers there were no special projects initiated. Existing programs were continued and directed toward the welfare of the refugees.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

(4) Apparent Result of Civil Affairs Program

(a) The opening of the dump to the civilians and the use of same has resulted in excellent rapport between the Marine personnel and the civilians. The civilians voluntarily bring any contraband they find in the dump to the Marines. Sometimes a reward of cigarettes or C-rations are given if deemed important by the Marines, but friendship is the key.

Enclosure (1)  
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SECRET

## J. Administration

(1) Awards

(a) The following recommendations for awards were submitted during this period:

- 1 Silver Star Medal
- 10 Bronze Star Medals
- 1 Navy Commendation Medal
- 1 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Medal.
- 111 Purple Heart Medals

(b) The following awards were presented to members of this Regiment during the reporting period:

- 1 Silver Star Medal
- 2 Bronze Star Medals
- 3 Navy Commendation Medals
- 1 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Medals
- 19 Purple Heart Medals
- 2 Meritorious Mast Awards

(2) Promotions

(a) There was one promotion to Master Gunnery Sergeant that was effected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

(b) There were 44 promotions to Corporal, 40 to Lance Corporal, and 16 to Private First Class.

(3) Legal Matters. Nine "Office Hours" were conducted during this period and none are pending. In addition three Summary "Courts-Martial", and one Special "Court -Martial" were completed. One Summary Court -Martial and one Special "Court -Martial" are pending.

(4) Special Services. None

(5) Marine Exchange. The Marine Exchange at Camp Kistler (CUA VIET COMPLEX) continues to carry basic supplies.

(6) There was no liberty authorized in the DONG HA - CUA VIET area during this period.

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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SECRETK. Personnel

(1) Gains. During this period 8 Marine Officers, 286 Marine Enlisted and 6 Navy Enlisted replacements were received.

(2) Losses. The 3d Marines sustained 609 casualties during this period. 603 were hostile casualties and 6 were non-hostile casualties, 2 of the non-hostile casualties were killed in action, 74 of the 609 casualties were killed in action. The circumstances surrounding the non-hostile casualties were examined, and appropriate investigations were conducted. Administrative losses were 6 Marine Officers, 228 Marine Enlisted.

(3) Emergency Leave/Humanitarian Transfers. Nine Marines were ordered TAD to CONUS in connection with emergency leave. There were no humanitarian transfers during this period.

(4) Administrative Discharges. None

(5) R & R TAD Trips. Out of country R & R trips were afforded to 151 members of this Regiment. R & R trips were to HONG KONG, MANILA, BANGKOK, KUALA LUMPUR, OKINAWA, TAIPEI, SINGAPORE, TOKYO, HAWAII, and Sidney AUSTRALIA. In addition, there were 2 R & R trips (In-Country) to CHINA BEACH.

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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I. INT L INTE

1. Significant Events - During this period of Operation Napoleon/Saline, enemy activity was at a high level with contact frequent and heavy, numerous sightings of enemy troops, and active use of enemy supporting arms.

The enemy has not been on the offensive and has chosen to defend from fortified positions within hamlets when forced into a fight. Battalion 1/3 made heavy contact at Phu Tai (YD2962) with an estimated battalion. The enemy fought from bunkers and employed automatic weapons, mortars, and RPG's.

TY LOC (YD3068) was attacked by Battalion Landing Team 3/1. The enemy is believed to have defended in battalion strength. The enemy again fought from bunkers employing automatic weapons, mortars, RPG's, rockets and artillery.

In Mai Ka Thi (YD2867) the enemy repeated his pattern at this hamlet when BLT 2/4 attacked.

Lam Xuan (East) (YD2868), was attacked by BLT 2/4. The enemy continued the tactic of stubborn defense from fortified positions.

The enemy's supporting arms were active both in defense of his positions and in attacking friendly installations. On 4, 10, 19, 21, 22, and 24 March, Camp Kistler was attacked by fire. The enemy used rockets and artillery in these attacks. The fire came from several locations; the rocket batt YD2973 to YD2775, artillery positions in the DMZ and from the hamlets of Lam Xuan (West) YD2670 and Nhi Ha (YD2770).

Jones Creek is considered to be the main supply route for enemy forces. Interdiction of this waterway is essential. The area between the Cua Viet and the Ben Hai Rivers is a good base from which the enemy can carry out his assigned mission of interdicting the Cua Viet River.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

## SECRET

Agent Reports and overt enemy activity indicate that one of the enemy's main missions is the interdiction of the Cua Viet. He has attempted to carry out this mission by ambushing traffic along the river and by the use of mines in the river. Several craft have been sunk by the enemy by mines or recoilless fire.

Friendly operations have driven the enemy from the immediate vicinity of the river. However, agent reports and recent mining incidents indicate that he has not ceased attempting to interdict the river.

The enemy has also employed antitank mines with some success against friendly vehicles.

Recon activity was limited to patrolling by the unit attached to DLT 2/4 and a diver team used to check the bottom of the Cua Viet.

The enemy has suffered heavy losses in recent battles. Considerable amounts of equipment have been captured, numerous individual and crew served weapons, RPG's mortars, recoilless rifles communication equipment and other miscellaneous equipment.

The enemy forces engaged have been well trained, equipped, and motivated, and despite heavy personnel and equipment losses, remain a threat to the Cua Viet River.

Intelligence indicates intermittent presence of elements of these enemy units in the Third Marines' AO:

CONFIRMED UNITS

1. 3d Bn, 270th Independent Regiment - YD2570
2. 27th Independent Regiment - YD2469
3. 270th Independent Regiment - YD2363
4. 6th Bn, 52nd Regiment - YD2667
5. A-400 Local Force Company - YD2768

UNCONFIRMED UNITS

1. 5th Bn, 52nd Regiment - YD2771
2. 127th Artillery Bn - YD2769
3. 271st District Force Company - YD2566
4. U/I Bn, 27th Independent Regiment - YD2565
5. U/I Bn, 27th Independent Regiment - YD2666
6. 2-U/I Bn's, 270th Independent Regiment - YD2563
7. Cam Lo Local Force Company - YD2362
8. K816 Bn - YD3163

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET



SECRET

2. CONTACTS AND INCIDENTSOPERATION NAPOLEON/SALINE

	<u>DAY</u>	<u>NIGHT</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
(A) Small Arms/Saigons			
2dBn, 4th Mar	14	3	17
1stBn, 3d Mar	3	3	6
1stAmtracBn	0	1	1
3dBn, 1st Mar	2	2	4
Other	2	1	3
TOTAL	21	10	31
(B) Grenades			
2dBn, 4th Mar	0	0	0
1stBn, 3d Mar	0	1	1
1stAmtracBn	0	0	0
3dBn, 1st Mar	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	1	1
(C) Mines			
2dBn, 4th Mar	12	0	12
1stBn, 3d Mar	2	0	2
1stAmtracBn	1	0	1
3dBn, 1st Mar	0	0	0
Other	1	0	1
TOTALS	16	0	16
(D) Booby Traps			
2dBn, 4th Mar	2	0	2
1stBn, 3d Mar	4	1	5
1stAmtracBn	2	0	2
3dBn, 1st Mar	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTALS	6	1	9
(E) Moving or probing action where VC/AVN did not fire or return fire			
2dBn, 4th Mar	5	6	11
1stBn, 3d Mar	1	3	4
1stAmtracBn	2	14	16
3dBn, 1st Mar	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTALS	8	23	31

Enclosure (1)  
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OPERATION NAPOLEON/SALINE

	<u>DAY</u>	<u>NIGHT</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
(F) Mortar/Arty/Rocket Fire			
2dBn, 4thMar	19	5	24
1stBn, 3dMar	2	3	5
1stAmtracBn	10	4	14
3dBn, 1stMar	1	1	2
Other	3	0	3
TOTALS	35	13	48
(G) Engagement			
2dBn, 4thMar	3	2	5
1stBn, 3dMar	1	0	1
1stAmtracBn	0	0	0
3dBn, 1stMar	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTALS	4	2	6
(I) Miscellaneous			
(1) Lights Observed - 1			
(2) Assassination - 1			

3. ENEMY LOSSES

## (A) Personnel

## (1) Confirmed

a. KIA	528 NVA
b. WIA	0
c. PW (NVA)	20
d. PW (VC)	1
e. RETURNEES	0
f. CIVIL DEPENDANTS	0

## (2) Detainees

a. Released as innocent civilians	49
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Enclosure (1)  
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SECRET

## (B) Material

## (1) Weapons:

a.	RPD - IMG	9
b.	AK-47	28
c.	RPC-7	2
d.	SXS	30
e.	RPC-2	2
f.	75MM RR	1
g.	60MM	1
h.	PPS-43	3
i.	60MM BIPOD	1
j.	.38 Cal PISTOL	1
k.	RP-46 MG	1

## (2) Ammunition

a.	.50 Cal rnds
b.	75MM RR rnds
c.	AK-47 rnds
d.	82 RG rnds
e.	60MM rnds
f.	MG rnds
g.	.30 cal rnds

## (3) Demolitions

a.	3 - M-26 grenades
b.	630 lb block of TNT
c.	5 - rifle grenades
d.	electrical firing device
e.	14 - chicom grenades
f.	firing cartridges for 60MM and 82MM rnds
g.	300 ft time fuse

## (4) Weapons accessories

a.	2- 62MM base plates
b.	62MM Bipod
c.	33 - AK-47 magazines
d.	7 - MG drums
e.	2 - 60MM sights
f.	60MM base plate
g.	2 - shoulder harnesses for .50 cal MG

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

## (5) Food

a. Rice - 1800 lbs

## (6) Documents

a. wallet with photos and papers  
 b. notebook containing frequencies  
 c. map  
 d. assorted documents unknown

## (7) Communications

a. field radio with batteries  
 b. telephone arm  
 c. telegraph key

## (8) 702 Gear

a. packs	15
b. cartridge bolts	4
c. bayonet scabbard	1
d. "E" tools	15
e. NVA canteen	1
f. gas masks	13
g. binoculars	1 pr
h. helmets	35
i. ammo pouches	3

## (9) Medical Equipment

a. 100 - Ampie containers and needles  
 b. medical equipment unknown

## (C) Discovered/destroyed fortifications and positions

(1) Bunkers	8
(2) Trenchline	1
(3) Fighting holes	4
(4) Bunker complex	1
(5) Fortified positions	2

## 4. SEVEN UNITS OBSERVED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

<u>SEVEN UNITS</u>	<u>COORD</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
20 NVA	290701	18
1 VC/NVA	295693	18
12 NVA	295715	16

Enclosure (1)  
 SECRET

SECRET

<u>ENEMY UNITS</u>	<u>COORD</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
2 NVA	297750	24
8 VC/NVA	255629	6
10 VC/NVA	288702	30
15 NVA	265714	31
7 VC/NVA	336663	23
75 NVA/VC	282712	24
7 NVA/VC	292689	22
4 NVA	302704	22
70 NVA	288700	19
10 NVA	312702	19
15 NVA	261691	17
2 NVA	292750	10
2 NVA	298749	9

## 5. TRENDS:

(A) Summary of incidents (all types)  
on a monthly basis for past 3 months.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>
SAF	10	39	31
Surprise Firing Devices	0	11	9
Mines	1	0	16
Grenades	1	11	1
Mort/Arty/Rifles	1	7	48
Movement w/o fire	23	19	31
Engagement	1	4	6
Assassination	1	0	1
Sabotage	0	0	0
Kidnappings	0	0	0
Comm interference	0	0	0
Demonstrations	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0
Reward Paid	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	7	2	1
TOTALS	45	105	144

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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SECRET

M. Communications(1) General

(a) During the month of March, communications were maintained in continued support of the Third Marine Regiment.

(b) During this period of time 155 individual pieces of equipment were turned into the regimental tech shop for repair. Of these 116 items were returned to the using units. 39 items were evacuated to a higher echelon of repair.

(c) The Third Marine message center processed 2,065 incoming messages during this period. Of these 552 were delivered by courier. There were 388 outgoing messages for a combined total of 2,453 messages.

(d) During the month of March the remainder of the communication platoon displaced from QUANG TRI to CUA VIET. This period of time was utilized for consolidating and improving on communications in support of the Third Marine Regiment at CUA VIET.

(2) Sequential Listing of Events

1 March - Fireraider forward assumed net control of all radio nets. One division radio relay team of three (3) men and one (1) AN/MRC-62 radio relay van, CUA VIET & DONG HA reverted to control of the Third Marine Regiment. A radio relay circuit from CUA VIET to DONG HA was installed utilizing the AN/TRC-27B. Both of these radio relay units supply the regiment with a total of 12 channels of communications.

4 March - Forward element of message center displaced to CUA VIET.

6 March - Commenced displacement of all Communications gear by helicopter and by road.

8 March - All communication gear displaced except that which was necessary for perimeter defense communications at QUANG TRI.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

11 March - Relieved of responsibility for perimeter defense communications at QUANG TRI by Headquarters Battalion Third Marine Division. Last communication elements displaced to CUA VIET.

25 March - Frequency change on all radio nets.  
Regt TAC #1 37.25 - Regt TAC #2 56.7

27 March - Commenced operating in new command bunker. All wire and radio circuits in operation.

29 March - A two man relay team, with necessary radio equipment, set up a site at C-4 in support of current operations.

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Enclosure (1)  
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N. WEATHER

Weather for the month of March was generally warm with occasional brief showers throughout the month.

The major effects of the weather were periods of limited aerial and ground observation due to fog early in the morning and low ceiling.

The average high for the month was 80 degrees. The average low was 65 degrees. The temperatures have risen since the preceeding month and the average rainfall for this month in comparison to the past year at this time is below average.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET



SECRET

O. Fire Support(1) Units Providing Artillery Support

(a) From 1 March through 31 March 1968, direct support was provided by the Third Battalion (-) (Reinf), 12th Marines, with the following units under its OPCON:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Btry "G", 3d Bn, 12th Marines	QUANG TRI	1-31 March
Btry "I", 3d Bn, 12th Marines	QUANG TRI	1-31 March
Btry "W", 3d Bn, 12th Marines	CUA VIET	15-31 March
2nd Prov. 155mm Howitzer Btry(-)	QUANG TRI	1-31 March
1st Plt, 1st Armored Amphibian Tractor Co.	CUA VIET	1-31 March
Btry "C", 1st Bn, 11th Marines	CUA VIET	1-31 March
Det, Btry "W", 1st Bn, 12th Mar.	C-4	1-31 March
Btry "W", 1st Bn, 11th Marines	C-4	1-15 March

(b) Reinforcing fire was provided by the 12th Marines (-) (reinf), located at DONG HA and C-1.

(2) Significant Displacements

(a) On 15 March, W/1/11 displaced from CUA VIET to CAMP CARROLL and OPCON of W/1/11 was passed to 1st Bn, 12th Marines.

(b) On 15 March, W/3/12 displaced from CAMP CARROLL to CUA VIET and 3rd Bn, 12th Marines assumed OPCON from 1st Bn, 12th Marines.

(c) On 31 March, 1st Plt, 1st Arm Amph Tractor Co. displaced from CUA VIET to C-4.

(d) On 31 March, det, W/3/12 displaced from CUA VIET to C-4.

(3) Missions Fired

Observed	540
Unobserved	442
H&I's	1198
TOTAL	2180

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

(4) Ammunition Expended

	HE	WP	ILL	HC SMOKE	CS	TOTAL
105mm	14,752	1332	60	205	-----	16349
107mm	6,232	323	72	-----	184	6811
TOTAL	20,984	1655	132	205	184	23160

(5) Control and Coordination

(a) Batteries OFCON to 3d Battalion, 12th Marines received their fire missions from 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines who was exercising tactical control and answering all calls for fire.

(b) Missions within 500 meters of a regimental boundary were cleared through Division FSCG. All missions in the portion of the A.O. south of the CUA VIET river were cleared with the 1st ARVN Regiment FSCG.

Enclosure (1)  
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P. Air Support

(1) During March 1968, The Third Marines received air support from elements of the First Marine Aircraft Wing, The Ninth Marine Amphibious Brigade, U. S. Air Force, U. S. Navy and U. S. Army Aviation Units. Among the types of missions flown were command and control, resupply, medical evacuation, river convoy escort, observation, photographic reconnaissance, illumination, troop lift, airborne air control, artillery and naval gunfire spot, and close and direct air support, both conventional and radar controlled.

(2) Helicopter support during the month by mission description and unit was as follows:

UNIT	ADWAC**	R & SUPPLY	CMD/CONTROL	TROOP LIFT
THIRD MARINES	24		16 FLIGHTS	
BDE 3/1				1 FLIGHT
BDE 2/4	131	35,400 LBS	6 FLIGHTS	1 FLIGHT
1st Bn, 3d Mar	94		10 FLIGHTS	
3d Bn, 12th Mar	*	25,200 LBS		1 FLIGHT
1st Amtrac Bn	*	900 LBS	2 FLIGHTS	

\* ADWACs for all units within Third Marines AO except infantry battalions that are listed with Third Marines.

\*\* ADWACs by number of personnel vice number of missions.

(3) Helicopter gunship support for the month was furnished primarily for reconnaissance of the DMZ VIET 400, both day and night. Also for visual observation, artillery and naval gunfire spotting and airborne air controlling. Additionally, some of the flights furnished support to the infantry battalions. 65 flights were in support of river operations, 29 in support of infantry, 10 as observers, and 4 as tactical air controller.

(4) Conventional close and direct air support during the month attacked 31 separate targets with 161,500 pounds of bombs, 40,000 pounds of napalm, and 404 rockets. Radar controlled air support dropped 570,000 pounds on targets within the AO, attacking 90 targets utilizing 132 aircraft. Total ordnance delivered on targets within the AO was nearly 800,000 pounds by 129 flights.

(5) Observation support within and adjacent to the AO during the month was furnished by 56 separate flights for over 72 hours, observing enemy activity, adjusting artillery and naval gunfire, and controlling close and direct air support.

Enclosure (1)  
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Q. Activities/Deactivations/Resignations. None.

SECRET

Q. Activities/Deactivations/Resignations. None.

Enclosure (1)  
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R. Psychological Operations

(1) During the month of March, Third Marines psychological operations remained in the planning stages. An area assessment was begun and plans initiated for a psychological operation program in the NAPOLEON/SALINE AO.

Two armed propaganda teams were requested from Third Marine division. One team was employed with BLT 2/4 and the other with 1st Amtrac Bn. The teams were utilized to broadcast CHIEU HOI and surrender appeals and to gain tactical intelligence from the local populace.

Nine Kit Carson Scouts were attached to the Third Marines. 1st Amtrac Bn utilized 3 and 1/3 employed 6 Kit Carson Scouts. Reports on these scouts have been favorable.

Enclosure (1)  
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S. Training

(1) Objective. To maintain and improve the high state of combat efficiency of the regiment, training was conducted on a formal and individual basis.

(2) Highlights

(a) One officer and one staff WCO attended a two day course on motor transport maintenance assistance. This course was conducted on a division level.

(b) Six skimmer boat operators were trained in the operation and maintenance of skimmer boats which were used within the regiment. Instructors were also dispatched to OPCOM Battalion to train skimmer boat operators.

(c) One officer attended a 30 day embarkation school in OKINAWA.

Enclosure (1)  
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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓1. Staff Journals 01 March - 31 March 1968
- ✓2. CG Third MarDiv - 292310Z - February 1968
- ✓3. CG Third MarDiv - 020428Z - March 1968
- ✓4. Third Marines OPERATION ORDER 3-68
- ✓5. CG Third MarDiv - 290515Z - March 1968
- ✓6. Third Marines - 020745Z - March 1968
- ✓7. Third Marines - 050900Z - March 1968
- ✓8. <sup>OPER ORDER 2-68</sup> ~~Third Marines - 140900Z - March 1968~~

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
3d Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

1/GWM/gwm  
March 1968

STAFF JOURNALS010001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
No significant info to report  
2400 2 Journal closed

020001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
1706 2 SitRep to Div: Took approx 11 rnds 100MM  
arty or larger in CP area.  
2400 3 Journal closed

030001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
No significant info to report  
2400 2 Journal closed

040001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
1425 2 Fr K/3/1, Spt Rpt: Ptl rec'd 6 rds of 60MM  
mortar at 284675. Patrol continued msn.  
No casualties.  
1625 3 Fr K/3/1, Spt Rpt: Rec'd 20 rds incoming  
75MM arty. Suppressive fires called. No  
Casualties reported.  
1626 4 Fr L/3/1, Spt Rpt: Rec'd 20 rds incoming  
mortar fire. Suppressive fire called. No  
Gas reported.  
1955 5 Fr N/3/1: Ptl rec'd 10 rds arty.  
1955 6 Fr N/3/1: Ptl fnd 500 lb bomb and 10-M79  
rds. Blew in place.  
2110 7 Fr C/1/3: Fnd 2 NVA POW. Will be fwd to  
3dMar S-2.  
2400 8 Journal closed

050001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
1807 2 SitRep to Div: A/1/3 in contact, light  
casualties. Boat in convoy hit mine, slight  
damage, neg casualties. Convoy chpt "D"  
picking up disabled amtracs on way back to  
Gua Viet.  
2045 3 Fr A/1/3, Spt Rpt: Rec'd 8-10 rds mortar

Enclosure (2)  
SECRET



SECRET

1/GWM/gwm  
March 1968

4 rds RR while waiting to cross river.  
Called arty msn. Results 5 US medevacs

2050 4 Fr A/1/3, Spt Rpt: Crossed river and attacked enemy. Routed en from his psn. Called arty and air strikes. Contact with en lasted from 1400-1830. Could obs killing effect of arty. Results: 5 USMC KIA, 14 USMC WIA, and 9 NVA KIA.

2400 5 Journal closed

060001H Mar68  
0001 1 Journal opened  
0205 2 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: Rec'd 50 rds incoming unk cal. Also rec'd sniper fire fm YD269675 arty YD269675, fr YD279665 060140H.

0300 3 Fm 2/4 E Co, Spt Rpt: Rec'd 40 rds incoming arty and mortars. Called counter-Bat. Results unk. 30086920 060300H.

0442 4 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: Rec'd 90 rds of mortar and arty. Counter-Bat. Bround units alerted and engaged en w/SAF. 279665 Fr. En 288678 30086920 YD269675 060420H

0600 5 Fm 3dMar, Spt Rpt: 1stAmtrack and 3dMar CP area rec'd approx 28 rds 100MM arty, 060219-060345H rec'd rds. Called counter-Bat fire. One minor WIA 349694

2400 6 Journal closed

070001H Mar68  
0001 1 Journal opened  
1330 2 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: Unit rec'd mortars fm vic 265649, SAF fm vic 265647. Ret SAF, called arty msn.

2400 3 Journal closed

080001H Mar68  
0001 1 Journal opened  
0217 2 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: H Co blocking force rec'd A/W fire, 12 rds unk cal arty. Ret arty and mortars. Broke contact. 271656 071100H-071600H.

1620 3 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: 081055H Spotted 13 NVA coming out of ville. Called 81 msn. Obs bodies being blown in the air and dragged away. 7 NVA KIA.

1710 4 Fm Coastal Div, Spt Rpt: In vic 342682 1 civ working in field was killed by gun ships and 5 more in vic 245663.

2400 5 Journal closed

Enclosure (2)  
SECRET

SECRET

1/GWM/gwm  
March 1968090001H Mar68

0001

2400

- 1 Journal opened
- 2 Fm G Co, 2/4, Spt Rpt: At 091030H rec'd 6 rds arty as moving to obj "D", causing 1 medevac. Took 2 snipers under fire at obj "D". Fnd well estab posits in ville, also fnd 2 bodies obj "C". Was taken under fire by 1 NVA fm bunker.

2400

- 3 Journal closed

100001H Mar68

0001

0708

- 1 Journal opened
- 2 Fm 2/4: Took 6-7 rds 75MM & A/W fire fm vic My Loc.

0835

- 3 Fm 3dMar: Fire started on loading ramp fm unk source. Ammo exploding. Div notified.

0940

- 4 Fm 3dMar: Rec'd call fm Navy admin, 1/3 of ramp is gone, 1 WIA, 4 enl, 1 off still in ramp area admin building, & others burning.

1118

- 5 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: 101045H 4 bodies recovered also 1 NVA body. En seems to have vacated vic 273660.

0845 (L.E.)

- 6 Fm 1stAmtrac, Spt Rpt: 102845H In vic 349694 1stAmtrac Bn CP rec'd 1 rnd unk cal arty resulting in extensive damage to NSA docks. Many secondaries, recap will follow.

0745 (L.E.)

- 7 Fm 1stAmtrac, Spt Rpt: 100745H Co B obs 1 NVA in vic 322695. Took under fire - killed same (1 NVA KIA).

1005 (L.E.)

- 8 Fm 3dMar: USS IWO JIMA is sending fire fighting equip this posit.

1240

- 9 Fm 1stAmtrac: As of this time casualty count is 4 WIA, 3 Medevac priority, 1 KIA, for this posit.

1250

- 10 Fm 1stAmtrac: As of this time casualty count is 2 KIA, 14 WIA, for this posit.

2015

- 11 Fm 2/4 H Co OP: Sighted 10 persons coming out of ville. Called 81 and arty. Results 3 NVA KIA 258647 101600H.

2400

- 12 Journal closed

110001H Mar68

0001

1910

- 1 Journal opened
- 2 Fm Amtracs: 6 civ wounded, 2 killed by unk arty.

2138

- 3 Fm 1/3 D Co, Spt Rpt: Plt spotted 7 VN then rec'd 10 incoming S/A rds.

Enclosure (2)  
SECRET

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SECRET

1/GWM/gwm  
March 1968

2140 4 Fm G 2/4, Spt Rpt: G Co rec'd 2 incoming  
arty rds while security for F Co.  
2370 5 Fm 1/3 D Co, Spt Rpt: Rec'd 15 rds incoming  
60MM. Spotted flashes, called in arty.  
2400 6 Journal closed

120001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
0040 2 Fm E/2/4, Spt Rpt: LP made contact with 4  
NVA. 1 fr WIA.  
1340 3 Fm H/2/4, Spt Rpt: Rec'd 1 rd. Believed  
to be 57 recoilless YD259657  
2400 4 Journal closed

130001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
0200 2 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: F Co, 2/4 came into contact  
w/est Bn size en force. G Co, 2/4 sent to  
rein.  
1131 3 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: E Co rec'd 2 rds incoming  
arty (possible rkts) in vic 287677  
1127 4 Fm 1stAmtrac, Spt Rpt: in vic 298654 1 USMC  
injured due to accidental discharge of M-16  
while cleaning wpn.  
1500 5 Fm E/2/4, Spt Rpt: Taking rkts Nhi Ha.  
1450 took 2 more rds est 100MM rds. RSCC  
notified 1430. They rpt Dong Ha has been  
firing on Nhi Ha since 1430. Naval guns on  
Nhi Ha, YD279689-fr. 1352H H/2/4 took 10  
rds 60MM HE at YD279693. No cal from 10 rds.  
Medevac two people.  
1700 5 E Co 2/4 had 10 medevac, 4 emer, 6 prior.  
1620 H/2/4 had 1 plt in ville. They recovered  
4 USMC KIA missing since yesterday. 1630  
E cross river, 1635 E Co still taking rkts  
fm Nhi Ha, 1645 E in ville, 1645 4.2 mortars  
counter-Bat fired on Nhi Ha. Naval gunfire  
being worked in.  
2200 6 SitRep to Div: Good comm with 2/4, all  
units in Bn CP.  
2400 7 Journal closed

140001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
0725 2 Info: Boat (Navy) hit a mine in vic 265638  
1 survivor at this time. Boat was a total loss.  
0755 3 Fm River Assault: Boat hit a mine, requested  
medevacs. C/1/3 dispatched to search area.

Enclosure (2)  
SECRET

SECRET

1/GWM/gwm  
March 1968

1005 4 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: C Co and Huie spotted NVA  
in vic 272698. 7 NVA KIA.

1207 5 Fm 1stAmtrac, Spt Rpt: rec'd 40-50 rds  
140MM rkts fr vic 287754. Fired Counter-Bat.

2400 6 Journal closed

150001H Mar68  
0001 1 Journal opened  
1519 2 Fm 2/4 E & F Co: All 3 Amtracs have been  
recovered. E & F Co rec'd 80 incoming YD279690.  
2400 3 Journal closed

160001H Mar68  
0001 1 Journal opened  
0715 2 SitRep to Div: E/2/4 rec'd 4 rds incoming.  
E&F returned to Bn CP, 280668. Will conduct  
ptls to Mai Loc 3068 and Quan Ha. Bocy  
missing, 2/4 checking grave registration.  
16 loaded on chopper-15 arrived.  
2400 3 Journal closed

170001H Mar68  
0001 1 Journal opened  
0630 2 Fm 1stAmtrac, Spt Rpt: B Co ambush spotted  
2 personnel running in area of 105MM duds.  
Took under fire, 1 WIA.  
2400 3 Journal closed

180001H Mar68  
0001 1 Journal opened  
0720 2 Fm 2/4: Fnd 3 USMC Bodies, taking sniper  
rds at this time.  
1215 3 Fm 1stAmtracs, Spt Rpt: Cua Viet Complex  
rec'd 10 rds incoming.  
2400 4 Journal closed

190001H Mar68  
0001 1 Journal opened  
1115 2 Fm 1stAmtrac: Rec'd incoming 140MM rkts fm  
vic 258758. Approx 25 rds.  
1320 3 SitRep to Div: B/1/3 rec'd 15 rds of 85MM  
arty fm azimuth 5500 mills, at 191240H.  
At 191253 C-4 took 6 more rds 85MM arty,  
same direction. A-1 obs source farther north  
than that reported by B/1/3 at C-4 278758.  
C-4 fire counter-Bat in 2677 grid square.  
2400 4 Journal closed

Enclosure (2)  
SECRET

## DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

1/GWM/gwm  
March 1968200001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
1159 2 Fm 14: Spotted 5 rows of 20 rkts in vic  
285756. No people could be seen.  
2400 3 Journal closed

210001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
1112 2 Fm 2/4, Spt Rpt: Unit receiving several  
salvos of medium arty/rkts from vic 2670.  
2400 3 Journal closed

220001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
0140 2 Fm Amtrac: C-4 rec'd 10 rds 85MM arty.  
0950 3 Fm NSA: Clipping advised 3dMar that 2 unk  
cal size rounds impacted near boats, near  
vic 286655. Neg damages and casualties.  
2400 4 Journal closed

230001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
1126 2 Cua Viet Complex rec'd incoming.  
2400 3 Journal closed

240001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
0420 2 Fm C/1/3: rec'd 10 rds 60MM. One minor WIA.  
1139 3 Fm 1stAmtrac, Spt Rpt: Cua Viet rec'd 4-5  
rds arty. Neg damage/casualties.  
1158 4 Cua Viet rec'd more incoming.  
1200 5 SitRep to Div: Cua Viet rec'd incoming.  
1645 6 Fm B/1/3 at C-4: rec'd 15 rds en arty, 85MM.  
Fired msn on susp en pos, vic YD250834.  
2400 7 Journal closed

250001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
0120 2 A-1 took approx 12 rds arty.  
1432 3 Cua Viet Complex rec'd incoming, approx 25  
rds arty/rkt, 140MM. C-4 rec'd incoming at  
same time. A-1 reported seeing a tracked  
vehicle in vic YD285755.  
2400 4 Journal closed

260001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
0935 2 Fm Navy Ptl, Spt Rpt: rec'd several mortar  
rds near boat in vic 273650.  
2400 3 Journal closed

Enclosure (2)

SECRET

1/GWM/gwm  
March 1968270001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
 No significant info to report  
 2400 2 Journal closed

280001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
 No significant info to report  
 2400 2 Journal closed

290001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
 1810 2 Fm A Co, 1stAmtrac: Tripped surprise  
           firing device. 3 WIA.  
 2400 3 Journal closed

300001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
 1630 2 G/2/4: Rec'd SAF and arty, 4 WIA. Returning  
           SAF and counter-btry. Fr 277637.  
 1635 3 Fm F/2/4: Rec'd 12-15 rds unk cal arty.  
           Fired counter-bat. Fr 289709.  
 1926 4 Fm 2/4: Rec'd 18 rds med arty. Fired  
           Counter-btry.  
 2400 5 Journal closed

310001H Mar68

0001 1 Journal opened  
 1835 2 Fm 2/4: LVT anti-tank mine.  
 2400 3 Journal closed

Enclosure (2)  
SECRET

**SECRET**

COMM CNTR

THIRD MAR

0 202310Z FEB 66  
FM CG THIRD MAR IV  
TO ZEN/THIRD MAR INES  
INFO ZEN/1ST MAR INES BN  
ZEN/2LT THREE SLANT ONE  
THIRD MAR IV  
RUMWAA/CG 111 R/W  
ZEN/1SG DRAGO  
RUMUAE/15 SEVEN NINE FORT FIVE  
RUMUAE/15 SEVEN NINE FORT FIVE  
RUMN/COO HSA DNG  
BT

SECRET SECTION ONE OF TWO  
OPERATION ORDER 5-65 (SALINE 11)  
1. MY OP O 57-57 (SALINE 11)  
2. MY OP O 2-68 (SALINE 11)  
3. CG 111 R/W 2012111 FEB 66 (NOTAT)  
4. MY OP O 57-57 (SALINE 11)  
5. 101 1-67  
6. UN O 907000-7 (COT)

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PSC TWO RUMWPA 44294 SECRET

6. MY O P120004C (COM SOP)

TAC: ORGANIZATION

THIRD MAR IV (R/W)

MAJEN TOMPKINS

RECON (-)

THIRD MAR INES (-XREIN)

COL FULL

FIRST BN THIRD MAR INES

LTCOL GOODALL

2LT THREE SLANT ONE (-)

LTCOL MCCOY

FIRST AMTRAC BN (-XREIN)

LTCOL TONER

THIRD MAR INES (-XREIN)

COL SHICK

THIRD RECON BN (-XREIN)

LTCOL KENT

THIRD K BN (-XREIN)

LTCOL FORD (NO I)

THIRD ENGR BN

LTCOL FERRIN

THIRD MED BN

COL PROBY

THIRD SHORE PARTY BN

LTCOL QUINN

NINTH MT BN

MAJ STANLEY

Enclosure (2)

1. SITUATION

A. ENEMY FORCES. SEE CURRENT INTSUNS, FOR INTRENS, AND S. L. P. S.

2. FRIENDLY FORCES.

3. COORDINATION WITH 1 ARVN CORPS CONDUCT IS SUSTAINED

COORDINATION WITH 1 ARVN CORPS CONDUCT IS SUSTAINED

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

COMM CNTR

THIRD MAR

PAGE THREE RUMHP 44290 **SECRET**

VC/NVA MAIN AND GUERRILLA FORCES LOCATED IN OCT4.

FIRST MAW PROVIDES CONTROL AIRFIELD OPERATIONS FACILITIES AND  
FIXED WING ROTARY WING ALL WEATHER AIRCRAFT SUPPORT.SEVENTH MAW PROVIDES SHORE BOMBARDMENT AND GUNFIRE  
SUPPORT AND EMPLOYS THE ARG/SIF AS DIRECTED.EIGHTH MAW CONDUCTS OPERATIONS AND SUPPORTS THE REVOL-  
UTIONARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE DIA.

NINTH MAW PROVIDES PATROL CRAFT MINE SWEEPING EQUIPMENT

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT CRAFT ON INLAND WATERWAYS FROM MOUTH OF  
RED RIVER TO HONG HA.FOURTH LOGISTIC COMMAND (FUSHERAWO) PROVIDES SUPPLY AND  
MAINTENANCE SUPPORT.

COMMITMENTS AND DETACHMENTS: SEE TASK ORGANIZATION.

MISSION

CONDUCT IN UNITS, AS ASSIGNED, IN NAROLLON/SALINE OPERATING AREA  
CONDUCT (ATTACHMENT-1) SEARCH AND DESTROY AND COMBAT OPERATIONS; USED  
FOR CUA VIET PORT FACILITY AND OTHER VITAL INSTALLATIONS IN THE CUA  
AREA; SECURE AND MAINTAIN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITHIN CUA; MAINTAIN  
CLOSE GROUP SURVEILLANCE; SCREENING OPERATIONS AND SPOILING ATTACKS  
AGAINST THE VC/NVA FORCES.

PAGE FOUR RUMHP 44290 **SECRET**

1. EXECUTION

a. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:

1. OPERATING AREA AS FOLLOWS: FROM THE SHORELINE AT 10300747 ON  
A STRAIGHT LINE 20 TO 20266728 THEN SOUTH ALONG GRID LINE 26 TO  
206621 THEN NORTHEAST ALONG RIVER BANK TO 266630 THEN ACROSS THE RIVER  
TO 272630 THEN SOUTHEAST ALONG EAST BANK OF RIVER TO 274620 THEN EAST  
ALONG GRID LINE 62 TO 104620 RIVER AT 323620 THEN FOLLOW NORTH  
EAST BANK OF RIVER SOUTHEAST TO BRIDGE AT 333617 THEN NORTHEAST ALONG  
EAST BANK OF RIVER TO 344620 THEN EAST ALONG 62 GRID LINE TO 370520  
THEN NORTHEAST TO THE SHORELINE TO 386637.

2. THIRD MOVING ELEMENTS

1. WITH ASSIGNED FORCES, CONDUCT COMBAT OPERATIONS YOUR CUA AND ON  
FERNANDEZ BANKS OF THE CUA VIET TO INCLUDE ALL RESISTANCES AS NECESSARY  
IN ORDER TO INSURE THE UNINTERRUPTED PASSAGE OF SHIPPING ON THE CUA  
RIVER AND TO DENY EVERY ACCESS TO ROCKET POSITIONS OR IDENTIFIED  
COMBATING PA & QUANG BATTALIONS.

2. ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MISSIONS ASSIGNED FIRST MAW AC  
CROSS RIVER AND FOR OPERATION SALINE.

3. CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE QUANG BATTALION  
4. MAINTAIN SEARCHED,

**SECRET**



**SECRET**

COMM CNTR

THIRD MAR

PAGE FIVE RUMHP 44290 SECRET

(1) SUPPORT EFFICIENTLY FIRST ARVN DIVISION OPERATIONS WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND AS APPROVED BY THIS HQ.

(2) MAINTAIN REACTION FORCES AS REQUESTED BY (1) (B).

(3) THIRD ARVN BN (LONE IN)

(4) PROVIDE RECON SUPPORT WITHIN CAPABILITIES/PRIORITIES AND REQUESTED THIRD MARINES.

(5) IF ALL RECON INTERSECTIONS, FIRE SUPPORT WITH THIRD MARINES.

(6) THIRD MARINES

(7) PROVIDE DYS ARTY AS REQUESTED/REQUIRED.

(8) PROVIDE RECON AND DYS ARTY SUPPORT AS REQUIRED.

(9) MAINTAIN CLOSE DYS ARTY SUPPORT FOR QUANG TRI AREA.

(10) THIRD ARVN

(11) RECON OF RE SUPPORT WITH RECON ASSIGNED ELEMENTS.

(12) COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

(13) REVISIONS OF OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE THAT CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDER ARE SUSPENDED EFFECTIVE TO THIS MSG.

(14) THIS ORDER EFFECTIVE FOR PLANNING ON RECEIPT AND FOR OPERATIONS.

(15) OPERATION CODE NAME SALINE 11.

PAGE SIX RUMHP 44290 SECRET

(1) DYS IN AUTH ALON

(2) VA WILL BE EXPANDED ALONG CUA VIET TO DONG HA AS OPERATIONS PROGRESS. GA CHANGES ONLY ON APPROVAL THIS HQ.

(3) ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

(4) SUPPLY

(5) GENERAL - LAW REF - E

(6) 1ST MAR PROVIDES FIXED WING AND HELICOPTER SUPPORT AS REQUIRED.

(7) SUPPLY SOURCE - 1SG BRAYO

(8) RECON (BED LOGS) - AS REQUESTED BY UNIT CMR

(9) AIRCRAFT OBJECTIVES - 1SG - BRAYO

(10) CLASS I - MC I - 30 UGS

(11) 15 UGS

(12) X - 50S

(13) 1ST MARINE - 30 UGS

(14) CLASS II - 30 UGS

(15) CLASS III - 30 UGS

(16) CLASS IV - AS REQUIRED

(17) CLASS V - 30 UGS

(18) AIRCRAFT OBJECTIVES - THIRD MARINES (L) RECON

(19) CLASS I - MC I - 30 UGS

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

COMM CNTR

THIRD MAR

00 RUMMVA RUHGUAE RUMNA  
 DE RUMHVP 02730 0620428  
 ZNY SSSSS

0 020428Z MAR 68  
 FM CG THIRD MARDIV  
 TO ZEN/THIRD MARINES  
 INFO RUMMVA/CG III MAF  
 ZEN/FIRST AMTRAC BN  
 ZEN/BLT THREE SLANT ONE  
 ZEN/THIRD MARDIV  
 ZEN/PLSS BRAVO

RUMSLAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
 RUMSLAF/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
 RUMHNA/COM NSA DNG  
 BT

**SECRET**

DESIGNATED OPERATIONS

A- MY OPD 292310Z FEB 68 (OPD 5-68)

B- MY 290030Z FEB 68

1- DELETE THE WORDS SALINE !! WHEREVER THEY APPEAR REF A & B AND INS: 1  
 THEREIN NAPOLEON/SALINE.

2- DELETE PARA 3 OF REF C IN ITS ENTIRETY AND INSERT AS FOLLOWS "3.

3- RELATIVE TOTALS FOR SALINE AND NAPOLEON WILL BE COMBINED AND CARRIED

PAGE 0 RUMHVP 02730 **SECRET**

AND AS CUMULATIVE TOTALS FOR NAPOLEON/SALINE."

ALL REFERENCES TO TERM/SUSPENSION & COMMENCEMENT REF A & B ARE TO  
 BE REGARDED.

BT

BT

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Enclosure (2)

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**SECRET & C FILES**  
**3D MARINES**

0095-68

Copy 15 of 25 copies  
 3d Marines (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25)  
 CDA VIET, IVN  
 2802610 28060  
 Ser No: 003408868

Operation Order 3-68

Ref: (a) Map: VIETNAM 1:50,000, Series 1701h, Sheet 6442 IV  
 (b) CG Third MarDiv OpO 8-68  
 (c) 3d Marines OpO 2-68  
 (d) LOI 1-67  
 (e) CG Third MarDiv msg 041200Z March 1968  
 (f) 3d MarDivO P2000.hC  
 (g) 3d MarDivO P2000.hF

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A

# 1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces. See current IPTSUNS, PERINTREPS, and SIRIS.

## b. Friendly Forces

(1) 3d MarDiv(-)(Reinf) continues operations within the Division AO with emphasis on combined offensive operations with the 1st ARVN Division in the northeast portion of the AO.

(2) 7th Air Force provides tactical air support, tactical airlift, and PSYOPS in ICTZ.

(3) 1st MAW provides air control, airfield operations facilities, fixed and rotary wing aircraft support.

(4) 7th Fleet continues to provide tactical air and WGP support to ICTZ.

(5) 2nd ARVN Regt(-) conducts combined, coordinated operations in AO contributing major elements to the COMBAT FORCE of Task Force KIL0.

(6) 3d Sdn(-)(Reinf), 5th Armored Cavalry conducts offensive operations in assigned AO as the WEST FORCE of Task Force KIL0.

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Enclosure (2)

DOWNGRADING AT 12-YEAR INTERVALS  
 NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED  
 DOD DIR 5200.10

**SECRET**

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COMM CNTR

THIRD MAR

(7) CTF Clearwater continues assigned mission on the CUA VIET LOC.

(8) 3d Bn, 12th Marines(-)(Reinf) provides tactical fire direction for all artillery units in the 3d Marines AO; in direct support of the 3d Marines.

## 2. MISSION

As the EAST FORCE of Task Force KILO attack in zone at H-hour, D-day to Phase Line APPLE; seize objective C; prepare to continue the attack on order; continue to support CTF Clearwater operations on the CUA VIET.

## 3. EXECUTION

### a. Concept of Operations

(1) Annex B (Operations Overlay).

(2) Commencing at H-hour, D-day, 3d Marines(-)(Reinf) as the EAST FORCE of Task Force KILO, attacks to the North to Phase Line APPLE with BLT 2/4(-) on the left and 1st Amtrac Bn(-) on the right; seizes Objective C and prepares to continue the attack on order.

(3) Upon reaching C-4 position, 1st Amtrac Bn(-) relieves B/1/3 in place with a provisional company and chops B/1/3 to BLT 2/4 on order.

(4) On order, BLT 2/4 crosses Phase Line APPLE and continues the attack to seize assigned objectives.

(5) On order, all units conduct tactical withdrawal in zone and revert to currently assigned missions.

### b. BLT 2/4(-)

(1) From assembly area in the vicinity of DAI LOC/RY LOC, commence the attack at H-hour, D-day to Phase Line APPLE, destroy enemy forces in zone, seize Division Objective C and Regimental Objective 1.

(2) Destroy facilities/fortifications on Regimental Objective 1 which afford any use to the enemy.

(3) Be prepared to assume OFCON of B/1/3 on order.

(4) Be prepared to continue attack on order.

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(5) Cover desert area in zone by fire/observation during daylight hours and physically during hours of darkness with blocking forces.

(6) Be prepared to conduct tactical withdrawal and to chop 3/1/3 to 1st Amtrac Bn on order.

(7) Exchange of liaison officers with adjacent ARVN units is directed.

(8) Continue to occupy and defend KAT XA THI Base Camp.

c. 1st Amtrac Bn (-) (Reinf)

(1) From assembly area in the vicinity of (YD 341701), commence movement to C-4 position at H-hour, D-day.

(2) Upon arrival at C-4, relieve 2/1/3 in place with provisional company.

(3) Chop 2/1/3 to BLT 2/4 on order.

(4) Conduct continuous screen of left boundary in zone; cover desert areas by fire/observation during daylight hours and physically during hours of darkness.

(5) Continue other currently assigned missions.

(6) Be prepared to assume OPCON of 2/1/3 and conduct tactical withdrawal on order.

(7) Provide additional LVT support to BLT 2/4 as may be required.

d. 1st Bn. (-) (Reinf), 3d Marines

(1) Continue currently assigned missions.

(2) Provide one rifle company (Reinf) as Regimental Reserve to occupy assembly area vicinity (YD 286672) by 1800H, D-1, but not prior to 1600H, D-1.

e. Regimental Reserve

(1) From assigned assembly area, be prepared for employment in 3d Marines zone on order.

(2) Revert to parent control on order.

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f. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) H-hour, D-day to be announced.
- (2) This order is effective for planning upon receipt and for execution on order.
- (3) Direct liaison authorized.
- (4) Phase Line APPLE constitutes northern boundary of 1st Amtrac Bn when crossed by elements of 3d Marines. JONES CREEK inclusive to CENTER FORCE.
- (5) Report reaching Phase Lines; cross only on order.
- (6) Report front line positions and situation hourly on the hour.
- (7) Coordinate use of direct fire weapons to ensure no inadvertent fire received by friendlies beyond target.

## h. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. General. Administrative and Logistical procedures will be conducted in accordance with Annex Q of reference (d).

b. Supply

(1) Source of Supply. FLSG-B DONG HA is the primary source of supply.

(2) Storage Objectives

(a) FLSG-B. Class I, II, III, and V - 30 days  
Class IV - as required

(b) 3d Marines(-)(Reinf)

Class I - MCI and Trioxane - 3 days

Class II - as required

Class III - Oil and Grease - 5 days  
Gas and Diesel - 3 days

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Class IV - as required

Class V - BA plus 10 days except 15 days for crew served weapons.

Water - 3 days. Sufficient halazone to be stocked in CUA VIET area for 3 days supply.

(3) Control and Distribution

(a) Supply Point distribution at TLOG-3.

(b) Routine aerial delivery, to be arranged by using units through normal resupply channels. 3d GP Bn HST/LSA is established vicinity airfield, DONG HA.

(c) Emergency resupply requests are to be submitted to Fire Raider 14 (TACP Net 35.9 (M-3)). Requesting unit will arrange staging of cargo at desired pickup points.

(d) On call air drop packages containing classes I, II, V, and VIII may be requested from 3d AerDiv. Six hour notice is generally required. Reference (e) contains details.

c. Evacuation and Hospitalization

(1) PLT 2/4 will evacuate casualties directly to the USS I 3 J14 (LPH-2) (CROSSWALK) if possible.

(2) Other military personnel will be evacuated to Company 3, 3d Medical Battalion, DONG HA.

(3) Civilians will be evacuated to Civilian Provincial Hospital, QUANG TRI.

(4) MEDEVAC by helicopter may be requested directly through Fire Raider 14, this Headquarters, or through 3d MEDEVAC Guard, if established.

(5) Necessary precautions will be taken to prevent heat casualties.

d. Transportation. Transportation by truck, amphibian tractor, LCH-6, skimmer boat, and OTTER may be requested through S-4 of this Headquarters.

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e. Service

(1) Construction. Minimum essential only. Request from this Headquarters.

(2) Maintenance

(a) Organizational. To be accomplished by using units.

(b) Field. By contact team on-site or at CUA VIET if possible. Vehicles which cannot be repaired by contact team to be evacuated to DONG HA or DA NANG repair facilities as appropriate.

f. Combat Support Responsibilities

(1) 1st Amtrac Bn. Place one R-1 vehicle with maintenance crew in direct support of 2/4.

(2) Third Engineer Bn. General support.

(3) Third Medical Battalion. General support.

(4) Third Shore Party Bn. General support.

(a) Operate HST/LSA DONG HA

(b) Provide HST as required.

g. Personnel. In accordance with reference (d) and current directives.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICSa. Communications

(1) Communications will be in accordance with references (f) and (g).

(2) Regimental Radio Section will establish a relay station at C-4 on the Regimental MAC #1. Call sign will be Fire Raider Relay.

(3) All units will be prepared to utilize effective KAC-PX and QX codes.


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b. Command Posts

- (1) 3d Marines - no change anticipated.
- (2) Report changes as occurring.

  
M. A. HULL  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

ANNEXES: ✓A - Task Organization  
          ✓B - Operations Overlay  
          ✓C - Fire Support  
          ✓D - Distribution

DISTRIBUTION: Annex D (Distribution) to Operation Order 3-68

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Copy 15 of 15 copies  
 3d Marines (-)(Reinf)  
 CUA VIET, RVN  
 280801H Mar 68  
 Ser No: 003A08868

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 3-68

Time Zone: H

3d Marines (-)(Reinf)

COL HULL

Hq Co, 3d Marines  
 Co B(-)(Reinf), 3d Engr Bn  
 OTHER Plat, H&S Co, 3d MT Bn  
 Sub Team(-), 1st ITT

BLT 2/1(-)

LT COL WEISE

2nd Bn, 4th Marines  
 1st Plat, Co D, 3d Recon Bn  
 4th Plat, Co B, 1st Amtrac Bn  
 2nd Plat, Co B, 3d Engr Bn  
 1st Plat, Co A, 5th Tank Bn  
 Det, Hq Co, 3d Marines  
 Det, 1st ITT

1st Bn(-)(Reinf), 3d Marines

LT COL GOODALE

4th Plat, Co A, 1st Amtrac Bn  
 Det, Hq Co, 3d Marines  
 Det, Co B, 3d Engr Bn

1st Amtrac Bn(-)(Reinf)

LT COL MEYERS

Co B, 1st Bn, 3d Marines  
 Sec, 2nd Plat, Co C, 3d Tank Bn  
 Det, 106 Plat, H&S Co, BLT 2/1

Regimental Reserve

\_\_\_\_ Co, 1st Bn, 3d Marines

*M. A. Hull*  
 M. A. HULL  
 Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
 Commanding

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Annex C (Fire Support) to Operation Order 3-68

Ref: (a) Map: VIETNAM 1:50,000 AEC Series L7014, Sheet 6442 IV  
 and 6342 I  
 (b) 3d Marine Division LOI 1-67  
 (c) CG Third MarDiv OnO 2-68  
 (d) 3d Marines OnO 2-68  
 (e) CG III MAF msg 180550Z March 1968

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION. OnO 3-68

2. MISSION. Provide coordinated air, artillery, and Naval gunfire support to the Third Marines(-)(Reinf).

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Fire Support

(1) Fire Support coordination will be accomplished as set forth in reference (b). Third Marines FSCG will exercise overall responsibility for planning and coordinating fires in support of the Third Marines.

b. Artillery

(1) Direct support will be provided by 3d Bn, 12th Marines(-)(Reinf).

(2) Reinforcing and general support will be provided by 12th Marines.

(3) All OPCON batteries be prepared to displace on order.

c. Air

(1) Air support in accordance with Annex F (Air Support) to reference (b) as modified by reference (e).

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(2) Preplanned air strikes forward of no fire line as scheduled by the Division PSCC.

(3) Battalions monitor Regimental TACP local, frequency 35.9 mcs during daylight hours.

(4) On call CAS direct to ASC (Plutocrat-One) on frequency 43.5 or to Regiment on TACP local.

d. Naval Gunfire

(1) Naval Gunfire Support will be provided by fire support ships from the 7th Fleet to consist of 1 CA and 2 DD's in general support.

(2) Additional or direct support ships to be announced.

e. Fire Coordination

(1) Fire Mission Clearance. Clearance will be in accordance with reference (b), modified as follows:

(a) All targets within 500 meters of any boundary will be cleared by 3d Marines PSCC which will obtain any further clearances required.

(b) Battalions will be responsible for clearing all missions within their assigned zones.

(2) Fire Coordination Lines

(a) A circle of 1000 meters in diameter around A-1 (YD 269732).

(b) North-south river from (YD 223700) to (YD 280670) (JONES CREEK).

(c) North-south trail from (YD 207700) to (YD 315693) (boundary between PLT 2/b and 1st Amphib Bn).

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. Reference (d) and CnO 3-6P.

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5. COM AND AN COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS. Reference (d)  
and OpO 3-68.

*M. A. Hull*

M. A. HULL  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

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Annex D (Distribution) to Operation Order 3-60

Time Zone: H

CG Third Marine Division	3
CO, BLP 2/1	2
CO, 1st Bn, 3d Marines	2
CO, 1st Amtrac Bn	2
CO, Co F, 3d Ingr Bn	1
CTG 70.1	1
FILE	1
TOTAL	15

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M. A. HULL  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

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D - 1

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COMM CNTR

THIRD MAR

ZNY S3888

RUYEUAL T BLT THREE SLANT ONE

RUMHMB T THIRD MFO

Z 290515Z MAR 68

FM CG THIRD MARDIV

TO ZEN/THIRD MARDIV

ZEN/TF ROBBIE

ZEN/THIRD SQDN FIFTH AND CAV

INFO RUMHMA/CG PCV

RUMHMAA/CG III MAF

RUMHMB/CG FIRST AIRCAV DIV

RUMSBH/CG ONE ZERO ONE ABN DIV

RUMHAW/CG FMAW

RUMHFL/CG FLC

RUYEUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

RUMHFL/FLSG BRAVO

BT

S E C R E T

D DAY H HOUR

MY 251032Z MAR 68 (OPO 8-68)

1. EXECUTE REF A.

2. D-DAY, H-HOUR FOR TASK FORCE KZLO IS 300600H MAR68.

3. ACTION ADDRES ACKNOWLEDGE.

GP-4

BT

*TOP: 291515Z MAR 68/CON #3 18*

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Enclosure (2)

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HAS BEEN SENT

JRC

7NY 55555  
 O 020452Z MAR 68  
 FM THIRD MARINES FWD  
 TO CG THIRD MARDIV (ATTN: G-3 (OPSTAT))  
 INFO RLY THREE SLANT ONE  
 FIRST BN THIRD MARINES  
 FIRST AMTRAC BN  
 THIRD MARINES  
 CTG 79.5  
 CTG 76.4  
 BT

SECRET  
 OPSTAT 009 AS OF 010800H MAR 68  
 30 MAR REG

PART I  
 COMR COL. M. A. HULL  
 OPCON 30 MARDIV  
 ANCON 30 MARDIV  
 LOC 30 MARDIV MAR REG FWD CUA VIET  
 30 MAR 6 REG QUANG TRI  
 ACTIV. COM.  
 CRPER CI

S-2		912
S-2A		
CHF		7
OOB		2/2
GRID		
PERK		
WKSHT		
FILE		

S-2 File 51-68

MAR 8

PAGE TWO 092U SECRET  
 CC

CEOP C2/01 680401  
 CRSVP C2/01 680401  
 CRTMG CI

PEROF 23

PEREN 220

PART II

COMMY THIRD MARINE REGIMENT ASSUMED OPCON OF RLT 3/1(-) 1ST BN (-)  
 30 MAR AND 1 AMTRBN (-) (REINF) FFF 290600H FEB 68. IFF 010800H MAR 68  
 REINF 30 MAR REG CHOPPED CI -11 MAR AND WAWAQQ MAR TO 12 MAR REG. THE  
 FOLLOWING MSG'S REFER. YR 290358Z FEB 68. YR 290032Z FEB 68. AND YR  
 291658Z FEB 68.

PLY 3/1

PART I

COMDR LT. COL. M. MCQUINN

OPCON 30 MAR REG

ANCON 9TH MAR

LOC CUA VIET

PEROF 41

PEREN 920

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S-3

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PAGE 4 DONG S E D R E T

PART 1

COMBAT BLY 371 ADVISES REMAINING OPSTAT DATA PROVIDED BY SLF.

1/3 MAR

PART 1

COMBAT LT. COL. 4 2 8998-23

OPCON 30 MAR REG

ADCON 30 MAR DIV

LOC CUA VIET

ACTIV.COM.

CRPER C1

CREQP C2/01 680401

CRSUP C2/01 680401

CRING C1

PEROF 37

PEREN 1113

1 AMRTREN

PART 1

COMBAT LT. COL. E R TOWER

OPCON 30 MAR REG

ADCON 30 MAR DIV

LOC CUA VIET

ACTIV.COM

PAGE 4 DONG S E D R E T

CRPER C1

CREQP C2/01 680315

CRSUP C2/01 680315

CRING C1

PEROF 33

PEREN 785

MEQPT LVTP-5 LVTF-1 LVTR-1 LVTP-5 CMD

MECAP CONV.

MEPSO LVTP-5 071

LVTP-1 004

LVTP-1 003

LVTR-5 CM 007

MEORCO LVTP-4 041

LVTF-1 003

LVTR-1 003

LVTP-5 CM 003

MERCNF 050

GP-4

BT TOD 1401Z/02 MAR 68/NAVY/RAC

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S-2 FILE 36-6

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97A  
SVC  
8

DTG 0 05 0900Z MAR 68

THIRD MARINES S-3  
5 MARCH 1968  
MAJOR D. J. MURPHYFM: THIRD MARINES FWD  
TO: CG THIRD MARDIV

IMMEDIATE

INFO: FOURTH MARINES  
BLT THREE SLANT ONE  
BLT TWO SLANT FOUR  
CTG 79.5  
CTG 79.4

SECRET

OPSTAT 011 AS OF 050335Z MAR68

BLT 2/4  
PART IOPCON 3D MAR REG  
LOC CUA VIET

PART II

COMBAT THIRD MARINE REGIMENT ASSUMED OPCON OF BLT  
2/4 (-) AT 051135H MAR68 AND CHOPPED BLT 3/1 (1) AT THE  
SAME DTG TO FOURTH MARINES.

RELEASED BY: COL M. A. HULL

TIME: 050900Z

TOD 052310H MAR 68 CCA 31Z

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 Cua Viet, RVN  
 050301H Mar 68  
 Ser No: 003A06568

*To Co. for info*  
*No Central Sheets available at this time*  
*McConnell*  
 Operation Order 2-68

- Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6442IV  
 (b) CG 3d Mar Div OpO 5-68 (NAPOLEON/SALINE)  
 (c) CG 3d Mar Div OpO 2-68 (Sparrow Hawk)  
 (d) LOI 1-67  
 (e) 3d Mar (Fwd) msg 011330Z Mar 68  
 (f) DivO P02000.2F (COI)  
 (g) DivO P2000.4E (CommSOP)  
 (h) RegtO P02000.1 (COI)  
 (i) 1st Am Trac Bn OpPlan 1-68, (anti-mechanized)

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A.

## 1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy Forces. Annex B and Current Intsums.  
 b. Friendly Forces.

(1) 3d Mar Div conducts operations in assigned AO to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, to defend vital installations, to secure and maintain LOC's and to maintain active ground surveillance against infiltration.

(2) 1st MAW provides air control, airfield operations, fixed wing, rotary wing and all weather aircraft support.

(3) US 7th Fleet provides shore bombardment and gunfire support, and employs the ARG/SLF as directed.

(4) Twelfth Marines provides general support/reinforcing fires.

(a) 3d Bn 12th Mar provides tactical fire direction for all artillery units in AO; Direct support, 3d Marines; Continues to provide artillery support for the Quang Tri Airfield Complex.

S & C FILES  
 3D MARINES  
 00485-48

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(5) 3d Recon Bn provides Recon support within capabilities/priorities as requested.

## 2. MISSION

a. With assigned forces, 3d Marines (-) (Reinf) conducts combat operations in assigned AO on both banks of Cua Viet to include all tributaries as required, to ensure uninterrupted passage of shipping from Cua Viet to Dong Ha and deny enemy access to rocket positions oriented toward Dong Ha or Quang Tri. Third Marines continue to provide close in security for Quang Tri Airfield Complex.

## 3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of operation. See Annex C (Operations Overlay).

### b. BLT 2/4 (-)

(1) With assigned forces, conduct aggressive ground surveillance, search and destroy operations and spoiling attacks in assigned AO to ensure uninterrupted traffic on the Cua Viet, and to detect and interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

(2) Initially conduct systematic search and destroy operations along North bank of Cua Viet in AO to deny enemy's direct fire capability against river traffic.

(3) Be prepared, on order, to extend operations to northern/western portion of AO to deny enemy capability to deliver indirect fire against river traffic, Dong Ha, Cua Viet, and Quang Tri.

(4) Be prepared, on order, for rapid redeployment anywhere in 3d Mar AO.

(5) Establish ~~specified~~ forces in position vic My Loc (YD305682) to maintain surveillance of North bank of Cua Viet in that area and of the Jones Creek infiltration route in AO.

### c. 1st BN (-), 3d Marines

(1) With assigned forces, conduct aggressive ground surveillance, search and destroy

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operations and spoiling attacks in assigned AO to ensure uninterrupted traffic on the Cua Viet, and to detect and interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

(2) Initially conduct systematic search and destroy operations along South bank of Cua Viet in AO to deny enemy's direct fire capability against river traffic.

(3) Be prepared, on order, to extend operations to the southern/western portion of AO to deny enemy's capability to deliver indirect fire against river traffic, Dong Ha, Cua Viet, and Quang Tri.

(4) Be prepared, on order, for rapid redeployment anywhere in 3d Marines AO.

(5) Maintain reaction forces as prescribed by reference (c).

d. 1st Amtrac Bn (-) (Reinf)

(1) Defend Cua Viet port facility, LSA and Cua Viet base area.

(2) Conduct aggressive ground surveillance, combat patrolling and limited search and destroy operations in AO.

(3) Maintain rifle company (reinf) at C-4 position to interdict coastal infiltration routes.

e. Provisional Defense Bn

(1) Provide close in security for the Quang Tri Airfield Complex until properly relieved.

(2) Be prepared to conduct such other operations within capability as may be directed.

f. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Be prepared to support adjacent 1st Arvn Div operations with available resources as directed.

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(2) Submit 6 hour Sitrops promptly at 0500, 1100, 1700, and 2300 daily.

(3) Submit timely Spotrops on significant occurrences to ensure an adequate flow of essential information. Do not delay submission of Spotrops pending complete information. Timely estimates of situation are desired and may be followed by detailed Sitrop when complete information becomes available.

(4) Be prepared to employ riot control agents and COFRAM munitions on appropriate targets.

(5) Ensure small units are alert to avoid isolation by larger enemy forces and do not move beyond range of supporting/reinforcing forces. Exercise caution to avoid pursuit of decoys and subsequent ambushes.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. General. Administrative and logistical procedures will be conducted in accordance with Annex Q of reference (d).

##### b. Supply

(1) Source of Supply. FLSG-B, Dong Ha, has been designated as the primary source of supply. Limited quantities of supplies will be stocked in the vicinity of the LST ramp in Cua Viet.

##### (2) Stockage Objective

- (a) 3d Marines (-) (Rein)
  - Class I - 3 days
  - Class II - As required
  - Class III - Oil and Grease - 5 days
  - Mogas and Diesel - 2 days
  - Class IV - as required
  - Class V - BA plus 10 days except
  - 15 days for crew served
  - weapons.
  - water - 3 days

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(b) FLSG-Bravo

Class I, II, III, and V - 30 days  
Class IV - As required

(c) Prescribed load. As proscribed by unit commander, to include BA plus 1 DOA Class V.

(2) Control and Distribution

(a) Supply point distribution at FLSG-B, Dong Ha.

(b) Aerial delivery for emergency only on approval Division Headquarters.

(c) 3dSPBn HST/LSA established vicinity Airfield, Dong Ha.

c. Evacuation and Hospitalization

(1) Military. Evacuate to Co D, 3dMedical Battalion.

(2) Civilian. Evacuate to civilian provincial Hospital at Quang Tri.

d. Transportation. Transportation by truck, air, Amtrac, boat and Otter may be requested from the appropriate source.

e. Service

(1) Construction. Requests for construction to be forwarded to 3dMarDiv with copy to this headquarters.

(2) Maintenance. Organizational maintenance to be accomplished by using units. 3d echelon maintenance to be accomplished by FLSG-B.

(3) Salvage. In accordance with reference (d).

f. Combat Support Responsibilities

(1) Third Engineer Battalion. General Support

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Support (2) Third Medical Battalion. General

Support (3) Third Shore Party Battalion. General

(a) Operate HST/LSA Dong Ha

(b) Provide HST as required.

General Support (4) Ninth Motor Transport Battalion.

g. Personnel. In accordance with reference (d) and current directives.

#### 5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

a. References (f), (g), and (h).

b. Code Name. Unclassified code name of this operation is NAPOLEON/SALINE.

c. Thrust Points. Reference (e).

d. Brevity Codes. Make maximum use of effective editions of KAC-QX and KAC-PX.

e. Tac Net Usage. Regimental TAC #1 is reserved for use of commanders and operations officers. Reports and other traffic should be on TAC #2. All stations be prepared to operate TAC #2 covered.

*M. A. Hull*  
M. A. HULL  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

#### ANNEXES:

- ✓A-Task Organization
- ✓B-Intelligence
- ✓C-Operations Overlay
- ✓D-Fire Support Coordination
- ✓E-Artillery
- ✓F-Air
- ✓G-Naval Gunfire
- ✓H-Distribution

DISTRIBUTION: Annex H (Distribution) to Operation Order 2-68



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050801H Mar 68  
Ser No: 003A06568

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 2-68

3d Marines (-) (Reinf)

Col HULL

BLT 2/4 (-)

LtCol WEISE

1stBn (-), 3d Marines

LtCol GOODALE

1stAmtrac Bn (-) (Reinf)

LtCol TONER

Co B, 1stBn, 3d Marines

Provisional Defense Bn

LtCol STUART

  
M. A. HULL  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

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 050801H Mar 68  
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Annex B (Intelligence) to Operation Order '2-68

Ref: (a) Maps: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014,  
 Sheet 6442IV  
 (b) LOI 1-67  
 (c) DivO P3800.1F

Time Zone: H

### 1. SUMMARY OF ENEMY SITUATION

- a. See Current Intelligence Estimate
- b. See current Intelligence Summaries and Periodic and Special Intelligence Reports

### 2. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

a. Determine if enemy will defend in present positions. If so, in what strength? Where will his main defenses be located?

b. Determine if enemy will reinforce elements now located in AO. If so, When? With what force? Special attention to enemy 803rd Regiment, 270th Regiment, 43th Regiment and 52 Regiment, elements of which are now located in the AO.

c. Determine what type of ordnance will be employed against our forces. How many? Where? Special attention to Recoilless Rifles and Anti-Tank weapons.

d. Determine what assistance the indigenous populace in the AO can provide us .

e. Additional EEI's will be published periodically.

### 3. INTELLIGENCE TASKS

#### a. Orders to subordinate units

- (1) All Units

B-1

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(a) Report, as obtained, information answering any intelligence requirements stated in this order and other directives.

(b) Maintain surveillance over major avenues of approach leading into friendly positions; report information on enemy or suspected enemy movement along these routes.

(2) Coordinating Instructions

(a) Reconnaissance patrol efforts will be coordinated by this Headquarters.

(b) Submit information, as obtained, to 3d Marines S-2 by most expeditious means and laterally to units with immediate concern.

(c) Submit reports in accordance with reference (c).

(d) Make maximum effort to take enemy prisoners; forward them to appropriate collection points with any accompanying documents and/or equipment for intelligence exploitation.

(e) Submit by the most expeditious means sightings or indications of:

1 Enemy artillery, mortars, anti-aircraft or other heavy caliber weapons. Be especially alert to detect armor employment.

2 Enemy platoon size or larger units.

3 Any unusual activity that represents an immediate or potential threat to any unit, facility or activity.

b. Requests to higher, adjacent and supporting units. (See references (b) and (c).)

5. MEASURES FOR HANDLING CAPTURED PERSONNEL, DOCUMENTS AND MATERIAL. (see reference (b) and (c).)

6. MAPS, CHARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Maps and Charts

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(1) Reference (a) is the standard tactical map series for this operation.

(2) Map Allowances

(a) See Reference (c)

(b) Units will notify 3d Regiment S-2 of any deficiencies or inadequacies in map allowances.

(3) Requisition and Distribution. Maps will be requisitioned in accordance with reference (c).

(4) Map corrections. All units will maintain a record of map correction. Such corrections should be reported to 3d Marines S-2 as encountered.

b. Photographs

(1) See reference (c).

(2) All requests for aerial photography will be forwarded to S-2, 3d Marines.

7. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE. See reference (b).

8. REPORTS AND DISTRIBUTION

a. Submit standard intelligence reports as prescribed by reference (c).

b. Intelligence Summaries (INTSUM). See reference (c).

c. Spot Reports. See reference (b).

d. Shell Reports/Mortar Report/Rocket Report

(1) See reference (b).

(2) All incoming will be performed as soon as practical and results reported to this Headquarters and to the supporting artillery unit.

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## 9. AUXILIARY AGENCIES

a. Air Observers. Request for AO's will be made to Regimental FSCC (Air Officer).

b. Reconnaissance Teams. Request for Recon Teams will be made to Regimental S-2.

c. Interrogation-Translation Teams. ITT support is available at the Regimental C. P. and can be coordinated by contacting Regimental S-2.

d. Counter-Intelligence Teams. CIT support is available and can be obtained through Regimental S-2.

*M. A. Hull*  
M. A. HULL

Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

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Order 2-68

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Annex D (Fire Support Coordination) to Operation  
 Order 2-68

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014,  
 Sheet 6442 IV  
 (b) CG 3dMarDiv LOI 1-67

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A

# 1. SITUATION

## a. Enemy Forces

(1) Annex B (Intelligence) and current  
 INTSUMS.

## b. Friendly Forces

- (1) Annex E (Artillery)
- (2) Annex F (Air Support)
- (3) Annex G (Naval Gunfire)

# 2. MISSION

The 3d Marines Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC) will exercise overall responsibility for planning, coordinating, and controlling all fires supporting elements of the 3d Marines within the Operations Area.

# 3. EXECUTION

## a. Concept

(1) All fires within the 3d Marines Operations Area will be cleared through appropriate Battalion FSCC's, the 3d Marines Air Officer, and the 3d Marines FSCC (Forward). All fires plotting within or near friendly villages must meet the Rules of

D-1

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Engagement or fires will be cleared through appropriate ARVN Channels. In addition, fires within 500 meters of the Regimental boundary will be cleared through the 3d Marine Division FSCC. Reference (G) promulgates the Rules of Engagement.

(2) All fires in support of the Quang Tri Airfield Complex will be cleared through the 3d Marines FSCC (rear).

(3) Logistic Convoys on the Gua Viot will maintain a station on the COP of 1st Plt, 1st Armd. Amph Co for coord of fire support. They will also maintain a station the Regimental TACP net for coordination of Air Support.

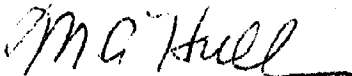
## 4. AIRCRAFT SAFETY

a. Air Sentries

(1) Air sentries will be positioned at all artillery and mortar firing positions and Naval gunfire support ships. Sentries will command check fire when friendly aircraft are observed approaching danger areas.

b. Sav-a-Planes

(1) Sav-a-Planes will be issued on all fire missions within the Operations Area. Those Sav-a-Planes will be passed to all aircraft working in or flying this area and will contain the grid of the firing unit, grid of impact, and maximum ordinate.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS  
Operation Order 2-68


M. A. HULL  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: Annex H (Distribution) to Operation  
Plan 2-68

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 3d Marines (-) (Reinf)  
 Cua Viet, RVN  
 050801H Mar 68  
 Ser No: 003A06568

Annex E (Artillery) to Operation Order 2-68

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam. 1:50,000, Series L7014,  
 Sheet 6442 IV  
 (b) 12th Marine Regiment Order P3000.1G

Time Zone: H

# 1. SITUATION

## a. Enemy Forces

(1) Annex B (Intelligence) and current INTSUMS

## b. Friendly Forces

(1) CTG 70.8 provides 3dMarDiv (Rein) Naval  
 gunfire support

(2) 1stMAW provides 3dMarDiv (Rein) Air  
 support

(3) 12th Marines (-) (Rein) provides  
 general support and reinforcing artillery fires

# 2. MISSION

3dBn (-) (Rein), 12th Marines provide artillery  
 support for 3d Marines (-) (Rein)

# 3. EXECUTION

## a. Concept of Artillery Employment

(1) 3dBn (-) (Rein), 12th Marines will  
 support 3d Marines (-) (Rein) by providing direct  
 support and reinforcing conventional and selected  
 munition fires

(2) 3dBn (-) (Rein), 12th Marines (Fwd)  
 will be deployed to provide maximum direct support  
 fires within the 3d Marines (-) (Rein) area of oper-  
 ations. Howitzer Batteries answer calls for fire  
 from specified infantry battalions and be prepared  
 to provide reinforcing fires on order. Mortar  
 batteries be prepared to provide direct support/

E-1

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reinforcing fires in the 3d Marines (-) (Rein) Area of Operations.

b. Btry G, 3d Bn, 12th Marines

(1) Primary zone of fire is zone of action of 1st Bn, 3d Marines

(2) Provide defensive fire support for Quang Tri Airfield Complex

(3) Be prepared to provide reinforcing fires within either the 3d Marines (-) (Rein) Area of Operations or the Quang Tri Airfield Complex

(4) Position area is present position

c. Btry C, 1st Bn, 11th Marines

(1) Primary zone of fire is zone of action of 2d Bn, 4th Marines

(2) Be prepared to provide reinforcing fires throughout the 3d Marines (-) (Rein) Area of Operation

(3) Position area is present position

d. 1st Plt, 1st Armored Amphibian Co

(1) Primary zone of fire is zone of action of 1st Amtrac Bn

(2) Provide artillery support for logistic convoys on Cua Viet LOC.

(3) Be prepared to provide reinforcing fires throughout the 3d Marines (-) (Rein) Area of Operations

(4) Position area is present position

e. Mortar Battery, 2d Bn, 11th Marines

(1) Provide direct support/reinforcing fires as directed within firing capabilities

SECRET

(2) Position area is present position

f. Dot, Mortar Btry, 1stBn, 12th Marines

(1) Provide direct support/reinforcing fires as directed within firing capabilities

(2) Provide defensive fires for C-4 Complex

(3) Position area is present position

g. Btry I, 3dBn, 12th Marines

(1) Provide defensive fire support for the Quang Tri Airfield Complex

(2) Be prepared to provide reinforcing fires within the 3d Marines (-) (Rein) Area of Operations

(3) Position area is present position

h. 2d Prov 155MM How Btry (-)

(1) Provide defensive fire support for the Quang Tri Airfield Complex

(2) Be prepared to provide reinforcing fires within the 3d Marines (-) (Rein) Area of Operations

(3) Position area is present position

i. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Meteorological data provided by 1stBn, 40th Arty (USA)

(2) Counter Battery/rocket/mortar policy - active(3) Target numbers - reference (b)(4) Restrictions on fire - Annex D (Fire Support Coordination)(5) Clearance Procedures - Annex D (Fire Support Coordination)

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(6) Time of opening fires and registrations unrestricted

(7) Antimechanized fires - in accordance with reference (1)

(8) Reports

(a) 3dBn (-) (Rein), 12th Marines (Fwd) will submit operational reports for 3d Marines (-) (Rein) Area of Operations to 12th Marines

(b) 3dBn (-) (Rein), 12th Marines (Rear) will submit all other reports to higher headquarters as required

(c) Batteries will submit reports to 3dBn (-) (Rein) fwd or rear as directed

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. Supply/resupply will be requested through ADCON channels

b. Available Supply Rate (Kds/Tube/Day)

105MM How(Tr)-----	40
LVTH-6-----	1.5
155MM How-----	32
4.2" Mortar-----	17

#### 5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS

a. The primary means of communication will be radio. Wire will be used as supplementary communication between Regimental COC and the Regimental FSCC.

b. The Regimental FSCC will be co-located with the Arty FDC and duplicated nets will be used by both sections, by utilizing the same radio and operator.

c. All clearances for fire will come to the Regimental FSCC.

d. FDC will have the capability to mass fires for units as determined by the tactical situation.

E-4

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e. All admin traffic will be passed over the Bn Cmd/FD net. Only fire missions and tactical fire traffic will be passed over Conduct of Fire nets.

f. FSCC will utilize the 12th Regimental FD-2 net for co-ordination of fires with higher echelon.

g. All stations will observe proper circuit discipline and communication security measures.

h. Covered radio capability will be maintained at Regimental COC.

i. Command Posts

3dBn (-) (Rein), 12thMar Fwd	YD345691
3dBn (-) (Rein), 12thMar Rear	YD303558
Btry G, 3dBn, 12thMar	YD303557
Btry I, 3dBn, 12thMar	YD313543
2dProv 155MM How Btry (-)	YD304556
Btry C, 3dBn, 11thMar	YD314690
1stPlt, 1st Armored Amphib Co	YD348696
Mortar Btry, 2dBn, 11thMar	YD304680
Det MortarBtry, 1stBn, 12thMar	YD312720

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Annex F (Air) to Operation Order 2-68

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014,  
Sheet 6442 IV

Time Zone: H

## 1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces - Annex B(Intelligence) to  
Operation Order 2-68

b. Friendly Forces - Direct troop support by  
First Marine Aircraft Wing

## 2. PROCEDURES

a. Airstrikes within the AO must be under  
positive control of TAC (A), TACP, or ASRT.

b. Friendly positions will be marked prior to  
calling in airstrikes.

c. Mark targets for air strikes with best  
means available.

d. Submit preplanned mission requests by 1700H  
two days prior to requirement.

e. Submit preplanned helicopter tactical troop  
lift requirements 96 hours prior to requirement.

f. Submit preplanned night TPQ requests prior  
to 1500H.

g. Submit preplanned day/foul weather TPQ  
requests prior to 0300H.

h. Submit emergency requests as soon as possible.

i. Mark helicopter landing areas with best  
available means.

F-1

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j. Medical evacuees will be categorized as emergency, priority, or routine by senior Marine present. Consult trained medical personnel whenever possible.

k. Assist helicopter crews in locating landing areas using the clock system, with the helicopter located in the center and the twelve o'clock position to the pilot's direct front.

l. Make every effort to move medevacs to a secure landing area, free of obstructions.

m. Use current thrust points when referencing friendly positions (troops not in contact) and proposed air strike targets in all requests passed by insecure means.

n. Expect up to a one hour delay for unplanned illumination by aerial delivered flares.

o. All helicopter resupply requests, except those of an emergency nature, submit through logistic channels.

p. Unless specifically requested by the ground unit commander, no EPQ targets within two thousand meters of friendlies will be cleared.

q. Maneuver elements monitor Regimental TACP not during daylight hours.

r. Boat convoy forward observer monitor Regimental TACP not when under way.

s. Be prepared to assist flare ship and helicopter pilots in locating a specific area by referencing TACON radials and distances from the Dong Ha or Quang Tri TACAN station.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS. Operation Order 2-68.

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Annex G (Naval Gunfire) to Operation Order 2-68

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014,  
Sheet 6442 IV

Time Zone H

#### TASK ORGANIZATION

##### 1. SITUATION

###### a. Enemy Forces

(1) Annex B (Intelligence) and current INTSUMS

###### b. Friendly Forces

(1) Naval gunfire support ships are provided by U. S. 7th Fleet consisting of 5-inch destroyers, 6-inch cruisers, and 8-inch cruisers.

##### 2. MISSION

To provide naval gunfire support to all units ashore in Vietnam.

##### 3. EXECUTION

a. Naval gunfire spot teams are available to the 3d Marines to adjust naval gunfire missions in support of units of the Regiment.

b. Requests for naval gunfire support will be passed to the naval gunfire liaison team located in the F300 for units not having a spot team.

c. A naval gunfire spotter will be assigned to all boat convoys from the Cua Viet to Dong Ha and return.

G-1

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4. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

a. Annex F to Operation Order CIG 708 320A-67

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CG 3d Marine Division	3
BLT 2/4	2
1stBn, 3d Marines	2
1st Amtrac Bn	2
CTF Clear Water	1
3d Bn, 12th Marines	2
CTG 79.4	1
FILE	7



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