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00334-68

## HEADQUARTERS

3d Marines

3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, 96602

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07 June 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 May 1968 to 31 May 1968.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A Ch 1  
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
 (c) DivO 5750.1A  
 (d) Maps: Vietnam: AMS Series L7014 1:50,000 Sheets  
 6442IV

Encl: ✓(1) Subject Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

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

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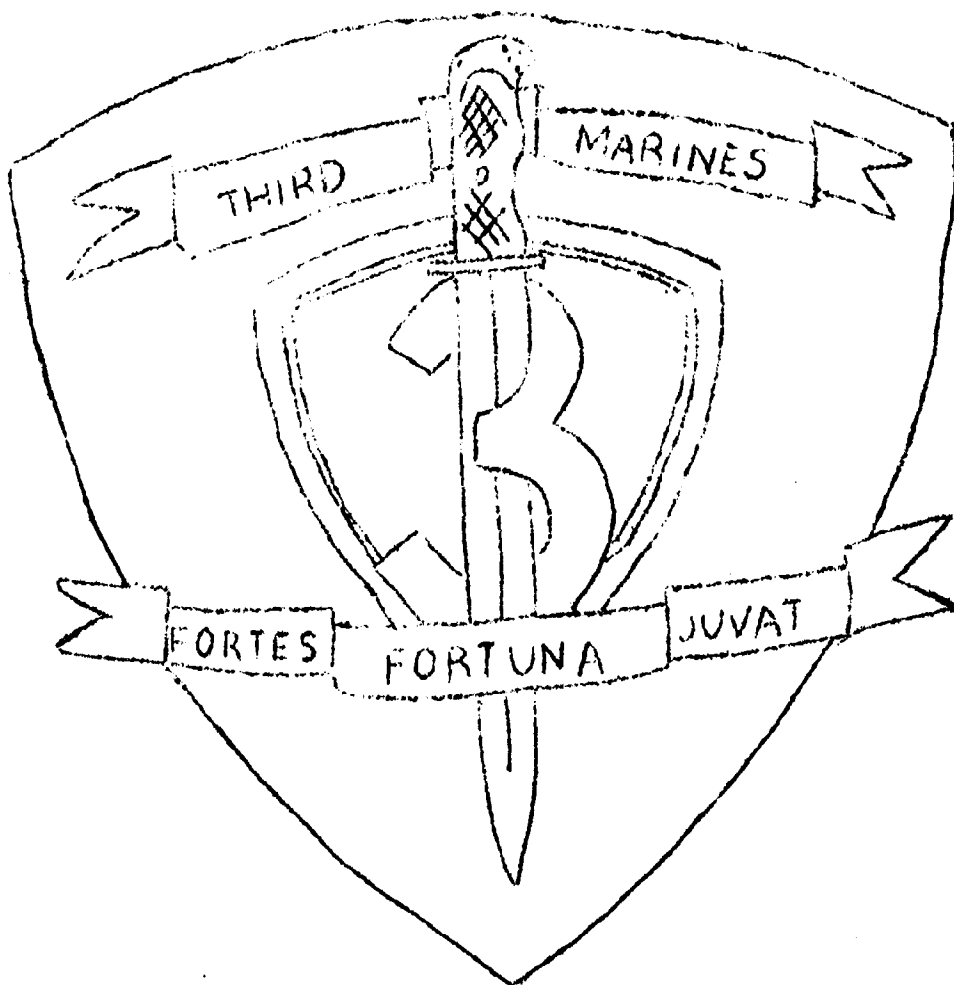
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COMMAND

CHRONOLOGY

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 MAY to 31 MAY 1960

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FORM 100-10 #8-12

Enclosure (1)

## PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDERS

3d Marines(-)(Reinf)

Colonel M. A. HULL

SUBORDINATE UNITSHqCo 3d Marines  
(1-31 May)

1st Lieutenant G. B. KRUCZKOWSKI

Co B(-)(Reinf) 3d

Captain B. M. RANTA

Engr Bn (1-31 May)

Bn 2/4(-), 2nd Bn

4th Marines (1-31 May)

Lieutenant Colonel W. WEISE  
(1-2 May)Major C. W. KNAPP  
(3-5 May)Lieutenant Colonel L. A. RANN  
(6-31 May)1st Bn(-)(Reinf), 3d  
Marines (1-31 May)

Lieutenant Colonel C. V. JARMAN

3d Bn, 3d Marines  
(31 May)

Lieutenant Colonel J. W. MARSH

1st Amphib Bn(-)(Reinf)  
(1-31 May)

Lieutenant Colonel G. F. MEYERS

1st Bn, 9th Marines(-)  
(26-27 May)

Lieutenant Colonel M. V. PALATAS

2nd Bn(-), 9th Marines  
(26-31 May)

Lieutenant Colonel F. S. KNIGHT

3d Bn(-), 9th Marines  
(18-19 May)

Lieutenant Colonel D. J. LA MONTAGNE

3d Bn, 21st Inf, 196th  
Light Inf Bde (1-16 May)

Lieutenant Colonel W. P. SNYDER

1st Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air  
Cav Div (6-8 May)

Lieutenant Colonel C. E. JORDAN JR.

NOTE: Unless other wise indicated commanders commanded their units for the entire period the unit was under 3d Marines' control.

2. LOCATION

1-31 May: QUANG TRI Province, CUA VIET River Complex, CAMP KISTLER (YD 349694)

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3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

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

S-1

Captain C. S. GIPSON (1-31 May)

S-2

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

S-2A/Sniper Plat Ldr

1st Lieutenant C. J. SPAIDE  
(1-17 May)

S-3A/Sniper Plat Ldr

1st Lieutenant C. J. SPAIDE  
(18-31 May)

S-3

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

S-3A

1st Lieutenant R. T. B. STONE  
(1-31 May)

S-3A/NEC Defense Off

1st Lieutenant P. J. WYMS  
(1-31 May)

S-4

Major B. W. ADAMS (1-31 May)

S-4A

Captain V. E. WALLACE (1-31 May)

S-4A/Tab 0

1st Lieutenant J. L. HICKMAN  
(1-31 May)

S-4A/PSYOPS OFF

1st Lieutenant R. R. RICE  
(1-31 May)

Co Sup 0

Captain V. E. WALLACE (1-31 May)

ALO

Major D. J. KIELY (1-31 May)

Regt Comm 0

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

Regt Comm 0, Asst

2nd Lieutenant W. O. WELDON JR.  
(5-31 May)

DFO

1st Lieutenant D. M. BIEVENOUR  
(1-31 May)

S-5

1st Lieutenant W. M. PUGH (1-31 May)

Chaplain

Commander F. R. McALISTER CMC, USN  
(1-31 May)

Surgeon

Lieutenant B. D. MASON, MC, USNR  
(1-31 May)4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
18	216	2	2

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

3d Marine Regt commenced the month of May with BLT 2/4 (-) (Roin) in a major conflict with NVA forces in the DAI DO hamlet complex YD 253628. This conflict will be elaborated on under "SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED" of this Chronology. All other units were conducting search and destroy operation in their respective areas of operations.

01 May: At 1029H, A0 called in arty mission on 20 NVA in vic YD 267704. Results: 20 NVA KIA. At 1100H, elements of 1st Amtrac Bn in vic YD 315689 apprehended 2 VN trying to sell marijuana to Marines. VN were classified as civil defendants and forwarded to 3d MarDiv. At 1722H, CAMP KISTLER received 11 rounds of light arty of which 6 were duds. Extensive damage was done to 1 LVT. At 1800H, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 3d Bn, 21st Inf, 196 Light Inf Bde. At 2245H, B Co Amtrac Bn at C-4 observed 10 - 15 NVA/VC with MOC in vic YD 298694 and YD 314702. LVT-6 mission fired with unknown results. At 2310H, CAMP KISTLER received 50 - 55 rounds of heavy arty. Results: 1 fuel line broken, 1 tropical hut destroyed, 3 NSAD WIA (MED EVAC), 1 NSAD WIA (MINOR). Casualties not carried on 3d Marines totals. Counter battery missions fired with unknown results.

02 May: At 0813H, 3/21 (USA) began search and destroy missions to the north along JONES CREEK. While securing LAM XUAN (East) in vic YD 283688, 3/21 observed 1 secondary explosion from arty fire. LAM XUAN (East) was secured at 1055H. By 1200H, 3/21 secured LAM XUAN (West) in vic YD 268699 and moved to secure NEI HA in vic YD 280705 under heavy small arms and arty fire. By 1800H, half of NEI HA was secured and 3/21 consolidated into night positions. Results: 9 KIA, 12 WIA (MED EVAC), 3 WIA (MINOR), 4 MIA, and 19 NVA KIA. At 1402H, CAMP KISTLER received 5 - 10 rounds of 85mm to 100mm arty. Negative casualties sustained. Counter battery missions fired. At 1535H, CTF CLEARWATER, after completion of mine sweep, opened the COA VIET River for traffic. By 1800H, D/1/3 was relieved at C-4 by B Co Amtrac and moved to CAMP KISTLER for the night. At 2105H, river patrol craft in vic YD 255622 received mortar fire from vic YD 248629. Craft moved down river, but mortar fire was adjusted on craft. Firing ceased when craft reached vic YD 260630. Negative casualties or damage sustained. At 2313H, CAMP KISTLER began receiving light to medium arty. Arty continued until 030105H. 25 rounds were received resulting in

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negative casualties or damage. Counter battery missions fired with unknown results. At 2315H, river patrol craft observed 2 figures in vic YD 266534 and engaged them with small arms. Results: unknown.

03 May: At 0028H, ARVN's at A-1 observed estimated NVA Bn moving south in vic YD 268725. Extensive arty missions fired, and at 0058, A-1 lost sight of enemy. At 0830H, 3/21 found 4 MIA from action on 02 May. All MIA were KIA. During the morning 3/21 directed 6 air strikes and extensive arty missions on NHI HA. Resulting in 2 NVA KIA and destruction of 17 structures, 7 bunkers, 30 meters of trenches, and 2 fighting holes. At 1100H, 3/21 commenced the attack on NHI HA. At 1135H, 3/21 began receiving incoming arty. Counter battery missions were fired. Results: 10 WIA (MED EVAC), 2 WIA (MINOR). At 1715H, 1 F-4 and 1 F-4 aircraft in support of 3/21 were hit by ground fire. The F-4 crashed and burned in vic YD 249716 and the F-4 returned to its base. Pilot of the F-4 died in the crash. At 1801H, AO (HELIX-1-5) searching for pilot of downed F-4 spotted individual in 2672 grid signalling for pickup. C & C helo was dispatched and picked up individual who was signalling. He was NVA CHIEU HOI. He was forwarded to 3d Marines. From 1720H to 2048H, 3/21 met strong resistance from NVA in NHI HA repelling 2 counter attacks. Sporadic arty and mortar fire was received by 3/21 during the attack. 3 air strikes were employed against the enemy and counter battery missions were fired. At 2048H, 3/21 was no longer in contact and set in night perimeters. Results: 1 KIA, 7 WIA (MINOR), 67 NVA KIA. At 2120H, B and D/3/21 reported movement around their perimeter in vic YD 268699. 1 NVA walked into their perimeter to CHIEU HOI. He reported that he belonged to the 10th Co, 5th Bn, 234th Div and left his unit 2 days ago after air strikes. He was forwarded to 3d Marines on 04 May.

04 May: At 0225H, B Co Amtrac Bn at C-4 spotted 6 to 7 NVA heading north in vic YD 297706. 4.2 mortar mission fired. Group moved to YD 298719 and another mission was fired with unknown results. At 0300H, river patrol craft received 7 to 8 rounds of unknown size and type in vic YD 275643. 1/3 was alerted and area kept under observation. Negative casualties or damage sustained. At 0455H, B Co Amtrac Bn at C-4 spotted 4 to 5 NVA in vic YD 304724. 1 round of 90mm howitzer was fired. Area was checked at first light with negative results. At 0500H, river patrol craft received 2 rounds of unknown size and type in vic YD 270640. Negative casualties or damage sustained. At 0936H, upon completion of 4 air strikes and arty

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prop, C and D/3/21 commenced the attack on NHI HA. At 1020H, C and D/3/21 came in heavy contact with NVA in fortified positions. Numerous air strikes and arty missions were directed on the enemy, and at 1930H, 3/21 was no longer in contact and was set in night positions. Results: 2 KIA, 11 WIA (MED EVAC), 5 WIA (MINOR), 53 NVA KIA, and 3 IWC.

05 May: At 0348H, C and D/3/21 in vic YD 262705 received 10 to 15 rounds automatic weapons fire and several grenades. Small arms fire and grenades were returned. Results: 1 IWC. At 0940H, C and D companies, after 4 air strikes and numerous arty missions, commenced the attack on NHI HA meeting no resistance. At 1135H, NHI HA was secured. 3/21 found 64 NVA KIA (killed by supporting arms) and 11 IWC. During the day B/2/4 performed retrieval operations in vic YD 254629 finding 1 barrel and sight for 12.7mm AA gun, 3 AK-47's, 1 CHICOM radio, 16 B-40 rounds, 31 RPG-2 rounds, 9 RPG-7 rounds, 5 82mm rounds, 54 60mm rounds, 7 AT mines, 1 CHICOM claymore, 63 CHICOM grenades, 16 ponchos, and 150 lbs of rice. All items forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1530H, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 1 and M/3/4 and passed OPCON to 1/3. At 1925H, sweep team from CAMP CLEAR-WATER in vic YD 256625 found 1 B-40 launcher with 2 rounds and 2 impulse mines. Items turned over to EOD personnel. At 2110H, CAMP KISTLER received 12 rounds of 85mm to 100mm arty damaging 2 huts and inflicting minor wounds on 2 PSAD personnel. Casualties not carried on 3d Marines totals. Counter battery missions fired on azimuths reported from C-4 and CAMP KISTLER.

06 May: At 0150H, C/3/21 LP spotted 2 NVA with AK-47's moving toward their position in vic YD 266707. LP fired M-79 cannister killing 1 NVA. Other NVA returned fire with AK-47 and LP withdrew to friendly lines. At 0249H, CAMP KISTLER received 75 - 90 rounds of medium arty resulting in 2 WIA (MINOR). Counter battery missions fired in grids 2280, 2381, 2282, 2382, 2383, and 2179. At 0330H, C/3/4 LP heard movement in vic YD 264720. Illumination revealed estimated 70 NVA. Arty missions were fired on enemy and all night activities were withdrawn. At 0410H, A and C/3/21 were probed by unknown size enemy force utilizing 60mm mortars, grenade launchers, and small arms. Arty missions and small arms fire were directed at the enemy, and at 0550H, contact was broken. Results: 3 NVA KIA. At 0700H, while sweeping area of contact, A and C/3/21 made contact with unknown size force. Results: 1 WIA (MED EVAC), 18 NVA KIA, 11 IWC, 5 CSWC, and assorted papers and documents captured. At 1215H, CAMP KISTLER received 70 to 75 rounds of heavy arty. Results: 2 tropical hut destroyed, 2 others damaged, 1 LVT, 1 tank, and 1 TSC-15 slightly damaged,

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and was extracted for repairs. At 1810H, C/3/21 received 4 rounds and B/3/21 received 4 rounds of enemy arty. Negative casualties sustained. Counter battery missions fired with unknown results. At 1825H, A and C/3/21 observed 150 to 200 NVA moving north in vic YD 255714. From 1840H to 1940H, 4 batteries fired on enemy with WP, "FIRECRACKER," HE, and WP. 106mm recoilless rifles and 50 caliber MG's were also employed. FO's credited arty batteries with 70 NVA KIA. At 2045H, D/3/21 reported hearing tracked vehicle in vic YD 293696. D company later reported seeing 2 tanks, 1 moving north, 1 moving south, in same area. At 2050, D company reported seeing 3 tanks in vic YD 235715. A6 and "SPOON" checked area but could not confirm sightings.

08 May: At 0040H, H/2/4 observed 2 figures through starlight scope in vic YD 273685. 60mm mortar mission was fired and area checked at first light with negative results. At 1200H, A/3/21 on body recovery operations in vic YD 256714 recovered 11 KIA. All KIA were KIA. 1 KIA could not be located. At 1430H, B/3/21 in vic YD 268700 received 10 rounds of medium enemy arty. NCF counter battery missions were fired. Result: 1 KIA (KID EVAC). At 1530H, 3d Marines passed OPCON of 1 and H/3/4 to 3d MarDiv. At 1600H, 3d Marines passed OPCON of 1st Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air Cav Div to 3d MarDiv. At 2030H, C/3/21 in vic YD 268703 observed 5 figures moving southeast 400 meters from their position. 82mm mortar mission fired and area checked at first light with negative results. At 2130H, PPS-5 radar and HOD at C-4 detected 17 NVA in vic YD 293701 moving south. Enemy moved out of sight to the southwest before fire mission could be called on enemy. 3/21 was alerted and kept area under observation but observed no further movement. At 2145H, river patrol craft observed 2 figures on river bank in vic YD 263620 and took them under fire small arms and m-79's. Figures dropped out of sight and were not observed again.

09 May: At 0355H, B/3/21 reported observing estimated 100 NVA in vic YD 256685. Extensive arty missions were fired on enemy with unknown results. During the morning H/2/4 moved to vic YD 267649 and established company patrol base site, and 1/3 completed move from the north bank of the CUA VHEP to the south bank in vic YD 293653 and began re-establishing positions. At 1030H, H/2/4 observed possible NVA FO team in pagoda in vic YD 256639. Snipers fired 15 rounds at enemy. Patrol checked pagoda and found footprints leading northwest. At 1245H, H/2/4 patrol in vic YD 250660 received small arms fire from 6 to 7 NVA in vic YD 246669. Patrol returned small arms fire and adjusted arty mission on NVA with unknown results.

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From 1430H to 1530H, E/2/L in vic YD 248661 received 12 rounds of medium to heavy arty. Negative casualties sustained. Counter battery missions fired on suspected enemy positions. At 1600H, E/2/L patrol in vic YD 252659 spotted 20 to 25 NVA in vic YD 249662. Patrol engaged enemy with small arms, m-79's, and arty. NVA fled to the northwest. At 1615H, the patrol received 75-80 rounds of medium enemy arty resulting in 1 WIA (MINOR). Counter battery missions fired. At 1700H, B/3/21 elements in vic YD 268697 found 12 60mm rounds, 5 boxes 7.62mm ammo, AK-47 magazines, 6 CHICOM grenades, 9 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, assorted 82mm mortar fuzes and increments, and 1 can of unknown contents. All ordnance was destroyed except 2 boxes 7.62mm ammo, and the can of unknown contents. At 2105H, CAMP KISTLER received 17 rounds of light arty. Results: 2 WIA (MED EVAC), 2 WIA (MINOR). Counter battery missions fired on gun flashes observed by B Co Antrac Bn at C-4. At 2137H, PPS-5 radar and MOD at C-4 detected 20 NVA in vic YD 292713. 60mm mortar mission was fired on enemy. At 2201H, the NVA were again detected in vic YD 290701. Arty mission was adjusted on enemy with unknown results.

10 May: At 0014H, C/3/21 in vic YD 270705 observed estimated 300 NVA moving toward their position in vic YD 268707. C company extracted all night activities. Arty missions were fired on the NVA and continuous illum was provided by arty and flareship throughout the night. At 0535H, C company began receiving enemy mortar and arty fire, and at 0558H A, B, and C/3/21 were under heavy ground attacks. Fixed wing air strikes, BAF, helo gunships, arty, and an AO were utilized against the NVA, and at 0800H, contact was broken. Throughout the morning, A, B and C companies received sporadic enemy mortar and arty fire. Counter battery missions were fired. At 1015H, 3/21 began clearing the battle area meeting small pockets of resistance. At 1500H, 3/21 was no longer in contact. Results: 1 KIA, 2 WIA (MED EVAC), 1 WIA (MINOR), 1 tank knocked out; 159 NVA KIA, 2 NVA POW, 55 IWC, 18 CSWC. At 0630H, E/2/L observed 5 to 10 NVA in vic YD 253650. Arty mission fired on enemy and area checked at first light with negative results. At 0540H, 2/L CP area in vic YD 280668 received 8 rounds of light arty sustaining no casualties, and at 0550H, CAMP KISTLER received 15 rounds of light arty sustaining no casualties. Counter battery missions fired in vic YD 225825, 212865, and 228862. At 2020H, C/3/21 observed estimated 50 NVA in small groups in vic YD 273704. Arty missions were fired on NVA with unknown results, and flareship provided illum. At 2055H, C company LP received 1 CHICOM grenade. LP returned fire with m-79 and 1 LAAW. Checked area and captured 1 IWC. At 2230H, B Co Antrac

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Bn PPS-5 radar and NOD at C-4 observed 2 groups of 15 to 20 NVA each in vic YD 294703 and YD 281720. NGF missions adjusted on NVA with unknown results.

11 May: At 0145H, A/3/21 LP in vic YD 272660 observed 4 NVA. Arty mission was adjusted on enemy and area was checked resulting in 2 NVA KIA. At 0800H, C/3/21 in vic YD 278705 began receiving heavy sniper fire within their perimeter. All ambushes, patrols, and OP's were extracted and C company engaged enemy with small arms, while arty and air strikes were adjusted on the enemy by an AO. At 1000H, C company began sweeping the battle area. Results: 2 WIA (MED EVAC), 64 NVA KIA (14 by arty, 2 by air, 18 by infantry), 9 IWC, 3 CSWC. At 0925H, CAMP KISTLER received 7 to 10 rounds of light arty at the mouth of the CUA VIET River. C-4 reported observing 10 rounds landing in the sea. C-4 observed gun flashes in vic YD 235845 and NGF fired counter battery missions. At 1600H, E/2/4 observed 4 NVA in vic YD 251660 81mm mortar mission was fired with unknown results. Between 1320H and 1750H, H/2/4 element in vic YD 253659 received 14 rounds of medium enemy arty resulting in no friendly casualties. Counter battery missions fired with unknown results. At 1810H, E/2/4 in vic YD 254657 received 3 rounds of recoilless rifle fire from the west. 81mm mortar mission and 106mm recoilless rifle fired at suspected enemy positions. Negative casualties sustained. At 2032H, C/3/21 LP in vic YD 266704 observed 6 to 7 NVA crawling toward their position. LP engaged enemy with small arms and M-79 fire. Checked area with negative results. At 2115H, B Co Amtrac Bn PPS-5 radar and NOD at C-4 detected 10 NVA in vic YD 291717. Arty mission fired with unknown results.

12 May: At 0330H, E/2/4 ambush in vic YD 276702 observed 5 NVA and took them under fire with small arms and captured 1 NVA. POW was forwarded to 3d Marines for interrogation. At 0356H, C/3/21 in vic YD 267706 observed 10 NVA 100 meters to the north in tree line. Arty mission was fired on enemy with unknown results. At 0725H, G/2/4 while sweeping western area of their AO, made contact with estimated 10 to 15 NVA in vic YD 252658. G company utilized fire and maneuver, arty, helo gunships, and AO's to engage the enemy throughout the morning. At 1010H, G company received 4 rounds of unknown size enemy arty, and at the same time, AO supporting G company received ground fire from recoilless rifle or RPG damaging its landing gear. AO returned to base without further incident. At 1200H, G/2/4 was no longer in contact and had swept the battle area. Results: 4 KIA, 4 WIA (MED EVAC), 19 NVA KIA, 4 IWC, 3 CSWC, and assorted documents. During the morning, E/3/21 swept hamlet in vic YD 306680 finding 4 IWC and 4 CSWC. At 1425H, 3/21 liaison NCO at A-1 reported ARVN patrols had located 5 NVA KIA resulting from air

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strikes controlled by 3/21 units. 5 NVA KBA were added to 3d Marines cumulative totals. At 1500H, A/3/21 patrol in vic YD 273704 found 6 IWC, 2 CSWC, 1 guard roster, 1 notebook containing geographical land divisions, 1 CHICOM radio, and several ID cards. All items were forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1658H, CAMP KISTNER received 18 rounds of heavy arty resulting in 1 KIA and 1 WIA (MED EVAC). NGF and arty counter battery missions were fired on gun flashes observed from NGF spot team in vic YD 298745. At 2030H and again at 2110H, C/3/21 LP's observed and heard several groups of 2 to 3 NVA in vic YD 209703. Arty missions were fired and areas were checked at first light finding 1 NVA KIA. At 2050H, FFS-5 radar at C-4 observed 16 to 20 NVA moving south in vic YD 288714. Enemy moved into prearranged kill zone and 6 M48A3 tank 90mm beehive rounds and 81mm mortar mission was fired on enemy. ARVN's at A-1 observed 8 NVA KIA being carried from that area to the north. Results: 8 NVA KIA. At 2115H, G/2/4 in vic YD 258658 observed 2 to 3 NVA in front of their position and engaged enemy with small arms and M-79 fire. Checked area with negative results. At 2300H, H/2/4 LP's in vic YD 275665 observed movement in front of their positions. 2 LP's engaged suspected enemy with small arms and M-79 fire. Area checked with negative results. At 2305H, B Co Antrac Bn HQD at C-4 observed 4 NVA moving south in vic YD 286710. NGF and 81mm missions were fired with unknown results.

13 May: At 0230H, B Co Antrac Bn observed with starlight scope 2 groups of 2 to 3 NVA moving south in vic YD 286710. M48A3 tank 90mm beehive rounds and NGF missions were fired on enemy with unknown results. At 0810H, G/2/4 patrol in vic YD 264659 exchanged small arms fire with 1 NVA in bunker, resulting in 1 WIA (MED EVAC). NVA was surrounded and interpreter made repeated attempts to make NVA surrender but failed. At 1200H, patrol killed the NVA. Results: 1 NVA KIA, 1 IWC. At 1215H, C/3/21 patrol observed 3 NVA in tree line in vic YD 266704. Arty mission was fired on NVA and area was checked resulting in 2 NVA KIA. At 1615H, B/3/21 patrol observed 1 NVA in vic YD 265700 and engaged him with small arms. Results: 1 NVA KIA, 1 IWC. At 1940H, G/2/4 in vic YD 259659 received sporadic small arms fire from 1 or 2 NVA in vic YD 263660. Resulting in no casualties. Fire was returned with small arms, 60mm mortars, and arty. Area was searched and foot prints were found. At 2050H, C/3/21 fired on 2 NVA in vic YD 268708. Area was checked with negative results. At 2143H, C/3/21 observed 2 NVA in vic YD 270706. Area mission was fired and area checked at first light with negative results. At 2145H, A/3/21 LP throw 1 M-26 grenade at 1 NVA in vic YD 267705. Area was checked at first light with negative results. At 2240H, 1st Antrac Bn ambush

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engaged 3 NVA with small arms in vic YD 293750 resulting in 1 NVA KIA. On 13 May, 3d Marines were advised by 3d MarDiv to add 76 additional NVA KBA to their cumulative totals for period 02 to 12 May due to RDA reports received by 3d MarDiv air officer.

14 May: At 0130H, CTF CLEARWATER reported that river craft anchored in vic YD 324684 received what was believed to be 2 B-40 rockets. M-79 fire was returned with unknown results. Slight damage was done to craft. At 0135H, Amtrac Bn patrol in vic YD 333669 made contact with 15 to 20 VC moving west to east in vic YD 332668. Negative casualties sustained. Between 0845H and 0915H, B/3/21 patrol in vic YD 260705 received 4 rounds of 82mm mortar fire resulting in no casualties. At 1030H, G/2/4 patrol observed 2 NVA in vic YD 260671. 60mm mission was fired. Area was checked with negative results. At 1300H, B Co Amtrac Bn in vic YD 298748 found 1 140mm rocket buried in sand. Rocket was partially damaged and destroyed in place.

15 May: At 0015H, D/1/3 platoon in vic YD 326635 received 1 frag grenade, 2 M-79 rounds, and approximately 20 rounds of small arms fire. Arty provided illumination but no enemy sightings were made. At 0745H, G/2/4 reported that AO spotted 1 body in vic YD 255665. Close check revealed body to be NVA. Results: 1 NVA KIA. At 0900H, B Co Amtrac Bn found and destroyed in place 3 AP mines in vic YD 293756. During the afternoon F/2/4 relieved B/3/21 in place in vic YD 267700, and E/2/4 relieved G/3/21 in place in vic YD 270705. All 3/21 units returned to 3/21 CP area in vic YD 288668 to prepare for helo-lift to QUANG TRI airfield on 16 May. At 1840H, 1 LVT hit mine in vic YD 284677 while moving to F/2/4's position resulting in 1 NVA (MINOR) and 1 track blown from vehicle. Platoon from G/2/4 provided security for LVT until extraction was complete on 16 May. At 2215H, B/1/3 LP observed 1 NVA in vic YD 291637 and took him under fire. While searching area LP received small arms fire resulting in 1 KIA (MED EVAC). 81mm mortar missions were fired on suspected enemy positions with unknown results. At 2217H, B Co Amtrac Bn PPS-5 radar and NOD at C-4 detected 3 groups of 3 to 4 NVA each in vic YD 289699 and YD 295702. 81mm mortar missions were fired with unknown results. At 2350H, B Co Amtrac Bn Ambush in vic YD 293751 observed 1 NVA moving toward their position from the south. Ambush apprehended NVA. Results: 1 NVA POW.

16 May: At 0800H, E/2/4 patrol in vic YD 275706 found 2 82mm recoilless gun rounds in containers and forwarded them to 3d Marines. At 1115H, F/2/4 patrol in vic YD 265702 found and destroyed 11 CHICOM grenades, 1 Russian frag grenade, 1 60mm

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and 2 82mm mortar rounds, and 500 rounds of 7.62mm ammo. At 1400H, 3/21 (USA) completed lift out to QUANG TRI airfield and 3d Marines passed OPCON to 3d MARDIV. At 2021H, A/1/3 in vic YD 252631 found 1 belt of M-60 MG ammo, 2 U.S. claymores, 1 81mm and 1 60mm round, 2 M-26 grenades, 4 LAAN's, 1 3.5" rocket round, 2 RPG rounds, 10 CHICOM grenades, and assorted NVA and U.S. equipment. All serviceable U.S. equipment was placed in supply system, and all other items were destroyed. At 2325H, F/2/4 observed estimated 10 NVA in vic YD 268699 and engaged enemy with small arms and 60mm mortars. Area was checked at first light and blood pools and drag marks were found.

17 May: At 0755H, E/2/4 found 1 IWC in vic YD 259674. Weapon was forwarded to 2/4 CP. At 0925H, E/2/4 patrol in vic YD 256714 made contact with estimated 3 to 4 NVA in bunkers. Patrol engaged enemy with small arms and arty and 81mm mortar missions, while remainder of E company with 2 tanks joined the patrol. E company received additional fire from NVA in vic YD 253714, and AO adjusted arty missions on them and tanks provided direct fire. At 1155H, contact was broken. Results: 2 KIA, 8 WIA (MDEWAC), 18 NVA KIA by supporting arms and 5 NVA KIA by infantry. At 1305H, E/2/4 in vic YD 257713 received 3 rounds of heavy enemy arty. Negative casualties sustained. At 1330H, A/1/3 in vic YD 254629 found and destroyed 6 AT mines, 4 blocks of TNT, 3 RPG rounds, 200 7.62mm rounds, and 1 food plate for .50 caliber MG. At 1515H, E/2/4 received 4 rounds of unknown size arty from 6000 mils. Negative casualties sustained. NGF counter battery missions were fired. At 1537H, E/2/4 in vic YD 263707 received small arms fire from 2 to 3 NVA 300 meters to their east. Negative casualties sustained. Fire was returned with small arms and 81mm mortars with unknown results. At 2005H, LP from D/1/3 spotted 1 VC in water in vic YD 308638. LP apprehended VC but he broke away and ran. VC was shot and killed. Results: 1 VC KIA.

18 May: At 0210H, F/2/4 LP observed 5 NVA with what appeared to be a mortar tube in vic YD 272697. 60mm mortar mission was fired and enemy were observed fleeing. At 0255H, LP observed enemy returning to same area and another 60mm mortar mission was fired with unknown results. At 0430H, F/2/4 in vic YD 269695 received 3 rounds of enemy mortar fire resulting in no casualties. 81mm mortar mission was fired on suspected enemy positions with unknown results. At 0930H, F/2/4 patrol in vic YD 272696 found 1 rifle grenade, 2 CHICOM grenades, 100 rounds of 7.62mm ammo, 1 gas mask, and assorted papers. All items were forwarded to 3d Marines. During the morning, A/1/3 in vic YD 258645 and YD 268649 found and destroyed 12 82mm and 2 60mm mortar rounds,

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1 dud 155mm round, 1 B-40 rocket, and 7 AT mines. At 1615H, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 3d Bn(-) 9th Marines. 3/9 prepared positions in vic YD 304654. At 2030H, E/2/4 LP observed 4 NVA moving southeast in vic YD 265700. 60mm mortar mission was fired and area checked at first light with negative results.

19 May: At 1130H, E/2/4 found 1 homemade bangalore torpedo in their wire in vic YD 278664. Thorough search of area was conducted resulting in no further findings. Torpedo was forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1606H, 3d Marines passed OPCON of 3d Bn(-) 9th Marines to 3d MarDiv and 3/9 was extracted by helo from 3d Marines AO. At 1730H, A/1/3 in vic YD 259634 found 1 250 lb bomb, 4 CHICOM grenades, 3 NVA cartridge bolt, and 2 NVA grenade pouches and destroyed them in place. At 1830H, E/2/4 in vic YD 290661 found well camouflaged sleeping area for 1 man. Blood and drag marks and assorted papers were found in the area. Papers were forwarded to 3d Marines.

20 May: At 0850H, A Co Amtrac Bn found 1 partially buried T41 AT mine. EOD personnel destroyed the mine. At 0910H, D/1/3 in vic YD 254658 found 3 unserviceable M-16 rifles and 1 AK-47 and forwarded them to 3d Marines. At 0915H, D/1/3 in vic YD 254659 found 1 enemy radio and forwarded it to 3d MarDiv G-2. At 1240H, swimmer boat from B1T 2/4 hit submerged explosive device in vic YD 284674 resulting in 1 WIA (MINOR). At 1330H, A/1/3 in vic YD 269639 found 5 CHICOM grenades, 20 7.62mm rounds, assorted food, and a list of names. All ordnance and food was destroyed and the list was forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1330H, E/2/4 in vic YD 272692 found harbor site complex consisting of 30 A-frame bunkers, 60 fighting holes, and 6 reinforced hooches. Bunkers and holes were linked by tunnels and were well camouflaged. Complex was destroyed. At 1850H, E/2/4 in vic YD 270704 received 12 rounds of medium enemy arty resulting in negative casualties. A-1 and A-2 reported gun flashes in vic YD 213832, YD 226827, and YD 230830. NGF counter battery missions were fired on the above grids with 8 inch guns. At 2015H, VN scouts with Amtrac Bn in vic YD 319699 found and disarmed 2 M-26 grenades rigged as surprise firing devices.

21 May: At 0040H, PF's in vic YD 339684 made contact with estimated VC squad. Enemy employed small arms, grenades, and B-40's and withdrew to the south. Negative casualties or VC KIA were reported. At 0900H, 3d platoon of E/2/4 in vic YD 264683 found rocket site with 4 140mm rockets, 1 122mm rocket, and assorted NVA 782 gear. The 140mm rockets were destroyed and the 122mm rocket and 782 gear were forwarded to 3d Marines.

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At 1230H, C/1/3 patrol in vic YD 258615 met with PF squad. PF's gave patrol info about whereabouts of 2 NVA. Patrol proceeded to area indicated by PF's and captured 2 NVA POW, 3 AK-47's, 1 B-40 launcher, and 4 satchel charges. At 1510H, F/2/4 patrol in vic YD 264691 found 2 large bunkers connected with 30 meters of tunnel. Patrol destroyed bunkers and tunnel. At 1630H, F/2/4 patrol in vic YD 262684 found 2 partially buried 100mm arty rounds with CHICOM markings on them. Rounds were destroyed in place. At 2050H, F/2/4 patrol in vic YD 262684 found 1 "A" frame type bunker large enough for 3 or 4 men reinforced with bamboo. Bunker was destroyed. At 2230H, G/2/4 in vic YD 271668 observed 1 NVA moving in front of their perimeter and fired 1 claymore and small arms at him. Checked area at first light with negative results. At 2301H, PPS-5 radar at C-4 detected 9 to 10 NVA moving south in vic YD 282718. MCF mission was fired with unknown results. At 2315H, B/2/4 ambush in vic YD 274703 observed 9 NVA digging in in vic YD 274702 and engaged them with small arms. Ambush checked area with negative results.

22 May: At 0009H, B Co Antrac Bn ambush in vic YD 315692 ambushed approximately 30 NVA. Area was searched after contact was broken resulting in 2 NVA KIA, 4 CHICOM grenades captured, 2 IWC, and assorted NVA 782 gear, documents, and C-4 explosive captured. Weapons and gear were forwarded to 3d Marines. During the morning, elements of BLT 2/4 provided security for PF's checking ID's of civilians harvesting rice in BLT 2/4's AO. At 1000H, A/1/3 patrol in vic YD 255627 found NVA radio book containing frogs, radio accessory bag, 2 packs, and 2 gas masks. The radio book and accessory bag were forwarded to 3d Marines, and as the other gear was unserviceable, it was destroyed. At 1238H, B Co Antrac Bn patrol found 1 AT mine in vic YD 297746. Mine was smaller than T-41 type and was destroyed in place. During the afternoon A Co Antrac Bn swept and searched the resettlement hamlet in vic YD 312699 picking up 1 possible draft dodger and forwarding him to 3d Marines. At 1700H, 2 BLT 2/4 skimmer boats enroute to the DONG HA ramp received fire from vic YD 246617. Fire was also received in the same area on the return trip down river. 2nd ARVN regiment was notified. Negative casualties were sustained. At 2040H, PPS-5 radar at C-4 detected 3 NVA in vic YD 281716. BLT 2/4 was notified. Area was kept under observation with negative sightings.

23 May: At 0655H, H/2/4 patrol in vic YD 265680 found 2 explosive devices and forwarded them to 3d Marines. At 1245H, B/2/4 patrol in YD 274707 uncovered 3 NVA bodies which appeared

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to have been killed approximately 3 weeks ago and 1 SKS rifle. Rifle was forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1600H, A/1/3 patrol in vic YD 250633 found 1 60mm and 2 82mm rounds, 1 notebook, 1 3.5 inch rocket round, 3 large bags of food, 3 NVA entrenching tools, and 1 small repair kit. All items were destroyed except the notebook and repair case which were sent to 3d Marines. At 2155H, river patrol craft spotted 2 beached sampans and 3 NVA/VC in vic YD 266627. Craft investigated and NVA/VC fled. 1 M-1 rifle, 2 packs and other gear was found. A/1/3 elements swept area on request from river assault group and found 6 IWC, 6 OUFION grenades, and assorted gear. Weapons were forwarded to 3d Marines.

24 May: At 0315H, 2 NVA/VC came out of the river in vic YD 263626 and threw 2 concussion grenades at the 1st platoon of A/1/3. The platoon returned small arms fire at the enemy who withdrew back into the river. River patrol craft dropped 4 concussion grenades into the river. Area was searched at first light and 1 AK-47, 2 SKS's, and 2 packs with civilian clothing and rice were found. Rifles were forwarded to 3d Marines. At 0800H, E/2/4 patrol observed 6 NVA with weapons behind grave mounds in vic YD 270714. 81mm mortar mission was fired and area was checked with negative results. At 0915H, D/1/3 patrol in vic YD 259659 found 2 NVA bodies and 1 AK-47 with magazine. NVA appeared to have been killed several weeks ago. Weapon was forwarded to 3d Marines. At 0930H, E Co Antrac Bn on resupply run in vic YD 294752 found 2 Soviet T-41 AT mines placed side by side in recently used LVT trail. Mines were destroyed in place. At 1200H, A/1/3 patrol in vic YD 262627, while searching sampan, found 1 AK-47. Notebook with VN writing was found nearby in brush. Rifle and notebook were forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1640H, E Co Antrac Bn OF spotted 5 NVA in vic YD 285759. Coast Guard vessel exchanged fire with NVA and HCP mission was fired with unknown results. At 1745H, E/2/4 patrol in vic YD 278714 found 1 NVA entrenching tool, small amount of small arms ammo, 1 roll of comm wire and 6 NVA helmets. NVA had been sighted in this area previously. All items forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1945H, E/2/4 observed 15 to 20 NVA moving south in vic YD 282717. All activities were alerted but no further sightings were made. At 2145H, LP from B/1/3 in vic YD 295641 heard movement and observed lights near their position. 3 figures were observed running from the area. 60mm mortar provided illum and LP fired on figures. Area was checked with negative results.

25 May: From 0027H to 0105H, CAMP KISTLER received 111 rounds of light and heavy arty from grids YD 226822, 235825,

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and 236613 resulting in 4 WIA (MINOR). 14 fuel colls destroyed, 120,000 gal JP-4 and 67,000 gal MO gas destroyed, 6 6x6 trucks destroyed, and 4 tents and 1 hut damaged. Counter battery missions were fired and artilight strikes were requested. At 0830H, B/2/4 in vic YD 282713 made heavy contact with large NVA size force. E company engaged the NVA with small arms and called in extensive air strikes and arty missions. At 1200H, B/2/4 moving to reinforce E company killed 3 NVA with small arms in vic YD 282702 sustained no casualties. E company joined E company and both companies remained in heavy contact until 1815H. Results: 18 KIA, 33 WIA (MED EVAC), 238 NVA KIA (many were killed by supporting arms), 4 POW, 4 IWC, 1 CGMC. At 0725H, B Co Antrac Bn observed 10 NVA in vic YD 281717 and arty mission was fired with unknown results. At 1130H, helo assault on THANH HOI (YD 385638) began when A/1/3 landed in vic YD 389646. At 1221H, D/1/3 and command group landed and joined A/1/3, and 1/3(-) began sweeping north without contact. At 1355H, A company tripped a surprise firing device in vic YD 389641 resulting in 2 WIA (MED EVAC). 1/3(-) completed the sweep without further incident and was helo lifted to vic YD 270660. At 1645H, 3d Marines assumed OPCOM of command group and I and M/3/3 from 3d MARDIV. 3/3(-) moved to vic YD 263657. 3/3(-) and 1/3(-) were to move west on 26 May and occupy blocking positions for forces employed by 9th Marines. Due to numerous intelligence reports, during the day extensive arty TOT's were fired on the hamlets of the DAI DO/THUONG DO complex centered YD 250633 with unknown results. At 1945H, 3d Marines assumed OPCOM of A/1/9 from 3d MARDIV. A/1/9 occupied a position in vic YD 275660 for the night. At 1930H, M/5/3 in vic YD 262653 made contact with unknown size enemy force. E company engaged the NVA with small arms and at 2000H broke contact reporting no casualties. At 2000H, F, G, and H/2/4 received undetermined number of mortar, rocket, and arty rounds. No casualties were reported. Naval gun, 81mm mortar, and arty missions were fired on suspected enemy positions. At 2015H, H/2/4 received large volume of small arms fire. E company returned fire with small arms and supporting arms and enemy fire ceased. Negative casualties were sustained. At 2015H, B Co Antrac Bn HOD at C-4 detected 17 NVA in vic YD 287729. 90mm beehive round was fired with unknown results. From 2040H to 2052H, CAMP KISTLER received 9 rounds of medium arty from grids YD 225823, 220859, and 225825 resulting in 1 WIA (MINOR). Counter battery missions were fired with unknown results. At 2100H, B Co Antrac Bn PPS-5 and HOD at C-4 detected 10 NVA in vic YD 304720, 10 NVA in vic YD 298714, and 25 NVA in vic YD 300710. 6 rounds of 90mm beehive were fired at the enemy and "SPOOKY" took them under fire with unknown results.

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26 May: At 0055H, H/2/4 received 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire resulting in negative casualties. Counter battery missions were fired with unknown results. At 0100H, F/2/4 received small arms and rifle grenade fire from estimated 10 NVA in vic YD 265701 sustaining no casualties. 60mm mission was fired and enemy fire ceased. At 0130H, B Co Amtrac Bn outpost in vic YD 293754 observed 10 NVA in vic YD 285749 and 2 NVA in vic YD 291755. Outpost fired small arms at enemy and called in NGF, arty, and mortar missions on the NVA. 11th Coastal Group also fired on the enemy. Results were unknown. At 0555H, F/2/4 in vic YD 271703 received mortar fire from vic YD 234805 sustaining no casualties. Counter battery missions were fired with unknown results. At 0600H, 1 wounded NVA surrendered to H/2/4 in vic YD 268708. At 0830H, B Co Amtrac Bn in vic YD 292754 captured 1 wounded NVA. At 0845H, A/1/9 tripped surprise firing device in vic YD 265648 resulting in 1 WIA (KIED EVAC). During the morning 3/3(-) swept to the west meeting light resistance in vic YD 263651 and captured 1 57mm recoilless rifle, 1 RPD MG, and 1 SKS rifle. No casualties were reported. At 1100H, 3d Marines passed OPCON of 3/3(-) to 3d MARDIV. During the morning E and H/2/4 utilized air strikes and arty props in area of their 25 May contact (YD 282713). E and H companies then swept the area with no contact finding 138 NVA KIA mostly as result of air strikes and arty fire. At 1255H, F/2/4 in vic YD 268700 received 5 to 10 rounds small arms fire from unknown direction resulting in 1 WIA (KIED EVAC). At 1345H, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 1/9 from 3d MARDIV. 1/9 occupied positions in BIE 2/4's area, after being held lifted in. At 1500H, H/2/4 in vic YD 260698 received 2 82mm mortar rounds resulting in no casualties. At 1730H, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 2/9(-) from 3d MARDIV. 2/9(-) moved to position in vic YD 270703. A and D/1/3 and A/1/9 moved to vic YD 267697. At 2250H, G/2/4 LP observed 35 to 45 NVA in vic YD 269703 moving toward their position. Mortar and arty missions were fired and enemy dispersed. Area was checked at first light with negative results.

27 May: At 0230H, B Co Amtrac Bn outpost in vic YD 292752 observed 2 NVA moving north 150 meters from their position. Outpost engaged them with small arms. Area was checked at first light and 1 wounded NVA was captured. At 0310H, G/2/4 in vic YD 271658 received 14 rounds of enemy arty from unknown direction. Counter battery missions were fired on suspected gun positions with unknown results. At 0710H, arty props were commenced on LAI AM (YD 247724) while 2/9(-) moved to seize the hamlet. A and D/1/3 followed in trace. At 1004H, CAMP KISSNER received 8 rounds of light arty from azimuths of 5600 and 5800 mils resulting in no casualties or damage. Counter battery missions were fired. At 1020H, 2/9(-) in vic

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YD 248715 observed 20 to 30 NVA running north into LAI AN (YD 247724). At the same time, A and D/1/3 in vic YD 260705 received mortar fire from LAI AN. Both units halted and extensive arty missions and air strikes were employed on LAI AN with unknown results. At 1120H, 1/3 B command group in vic YD 288647 received 2 rounds of enemy arty sustaining no casualties. At 1200H, 3d Marines passed OPCON of command group and B and D/1/9 to 3d MARDIV. At 1200H, 2/9(-) in vic YD 256710 came in contact with estimated NVA Bn dug in in LAI AN. NVA utilized mortars and art- against 2/9(-) as well as A and D/1/3. 2/9(-) sustained 2 KIA, 44 WIA (MED EVAC), 42 MED EVAC, and 10 WIA (MINOR). Casualties were 7 KIA, 64 WIA (MED EVAC), and 10 WIA (MINOR). Enemy casualties were unknown. At 1255H, B Co Antrac Bn elements in vic YD 319723 captured 1 wounded NVA. POW was MED EVACED to D-Med. At 2000H, E/2/4 in area of 25 May contact, reported finding 18 IWC and 6 GSWC. Weapons were forwarded to 3d Marines.

28 May: At 0015H, B Co Antrac Bn PPS-5 at C-4 detected 10 NVA moving southeast in vic YD 303705. Contact was lost before fire could be directed on NVA. Patrol in area was notified but made no sighting. At 0630H, E/2/4 in vic YD 252702 captured 1 NVA with AK-47 as he wandered by their position. 7 other NVA were observed in vic YD 250707. PSYOPS support was requested and attempts were made to capture the 7 NVA without success. POW was sent to A and D/1/3 for use to persuade other NVA to surrender. Between 0600H and 1100H, 2/9(-) and A and D/1/3 received 12 and 18 rounds of enemy arty, respectively. No casualties were sustained and counter battery missions were fired. At 1055H, D/1/3 in vic YD 250706 found 1 NVA KIA and 2 IWC. Weapons were forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1145H, B Co Antrac Bn patrol in vic YD 288753 found 1 IWC and forwarded it to 3d Marines. At 1305H, 3d Marines passed OPCON of E/2/9 to 3d MARDIV. At 1757H, CAMP KISLER received 17 rounds of light to medium arty on azimuths of 5900 mils from C-4 and 5900 mils from YD 293753 resulting in 1 WIA (MED-EVAC) and 1 WIA (MINOR). Counter battery missions were fired with unknown results. At 2110H, E/2/9 BR in vic YD 257708 observed 12 NVA in vic YD 259708 and fired small arms at them.

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81mm mortar illum was fired but enemy had fled. Area was checked at first light and 1 IWC, 2 OSWC, and blood trails were found. Weapons were forwarded to 3d Marines. At 2400H, F/2/4 in vic YD 255707 observed 3 NVA moving toward their position and engaged them with small arms. NVA returned fire resulting in 1 WIA (MED EVAC). Area was searched with negative results.

29 May: At 0725H, A and D/1/3 in vic YD 251708 attacking LAI AN (XD 248722) came in contact with NVA using arty, rockets, and small arms in vic YD 249708. Air strikes and arty fires were utilized against the NVA as well as small arms. 1/3 remained in sporadic contact all day sustaining 11 KIA, 26 WIA (MED EVAC), and 3 WIA (MINOR). Enemy casualties were unknown. At 0745H, H/2/4 in vic YD 271703 received 3 rounds of 130mm enemy arty from direction of 6100 mils. No casualties were sustained and counter battery missions were fired. At 0900H, H/2/4 spotted flashes from mortar in vic YD 263722 firing on 1/3 units. Arty and 81mm missions were fired on suspected NVA positions. At 1530H, G/2/4 in vic YD 274699 received small arms fire from unknown size NVA force 30 meters from their position. Fire was returned and NVA broke contact. Results: 1 KIA, 2 WIA (MED EVAC), 1 NVA KIA, 2 IWC. At 1100H, G/2/4 patrol in vic YD 258702 received unknown number of mortar rounds resulting in 4 WIA (MED EVAC). Counter battery mortar mission were fired on grids YD 263722 and YD 260740 with unknown results. At 1814H, H/2/4 observed 10 EVA in vic YD 280718 moving northwest. 81mm mortar mission was fired with unknown results. At 1815H, D/1/3 in vic YD 252708 captured 1 NVA. POW stated that he ran from his bunker in LAI AN on 25 May when napalm landed near him and that his unit had 200 men out of 300 killed since crossing the BEN HAI river. POW was forwarded to 3d Marines. Early in the evening A and D/1/3 broke contact with the NVA and set in night positions. At 2030H, CAMP KISTLER received 11 rounds of enemy arty from vic YD 295795 resulting in negative casualties or damage. Counter battery missions were fired. At 2336H, H/2/4 observed 8 NVA moving north 75 meters from their position in vic YD 266705 and fired H-79 and small arms at them. Checked area at first light and found 2 bangalore torpedoes, 1 satchel charge, 1 box of 7.62mm ammo, 1 pack, and 3 sets of drag marks. Gear was forwarded to 3d Marines.

30 May: At 0510H, A and D/1/3 in vic YD 255707 received 12 to 15 rounds enemy arty from direction of 355°. Counter battery missions were fired and "SPCOKY" checked possible gun

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sites with negative results. During the morning, A/1/9 and A and D/1/3 searched the area of the previous days' contacts finding 40 NVA KIA, 3 POW, 12 IWC, 1 CSWC, 3 radios, 1 telephone, and assorted gear and ordnance. At 0930H, G/2/4 spotted 2 NVA in vic YD 284680 and took them under fire. Results: 2 NVA KIA, 2 IWC. At 0950H, A/1/3 in vic YD 255701 received 25 85mm arty rounds from direction of 6200 mils sustaining no casualties. AO was requested and counter battery missions were fired. At 1045H, G/2/4 observed 1 NVA running north in vic YD 275697 and took him under fire. Results: 1 NVA KIA. A and D/1/3 and A/1/9, continued to sweep north to LAI AN during the afternoon meeting medium resistance from NVA. 2/9(-) swept behind them. At 1245H, A/1/3 in vic YD 247717 received 15 rounds of 85mm arty resulting in no casualties. AO checked possible arty positions with negative results. At 1330H, H/2/4 completed search of area in vic YD 282717 and found 30 CHICOM grenades, 10 RFG rounds, 3 AT mines, 25 assorted mortar rounds, 5 bangalore torpedos, assorted NVA and US 782 gear, and 2 graves containing 5 NVA in each. All ordnance was destroyed and US 782 gear was put in supply system. At 1430H, G/2/4 in vic YD 283627 found 10 boxes of AK-47 ammo and forwarded it to 3d Marines. At 1545H, skimmer boat heading down river in vic YD 270642 hit dud round which exploded and blew the motor off without injury to personnel. Boat was retrieved and returned to BLT 2/4 GP. At 1550H, H/2/4 in vic YD 270705 received 25 enemy mortar rounds sustaining no casualties. Counter battery mortar missions were fired with unknown results. At 1635H, A/1/9 and A and D/1/3, after being in contact with the NVA for the afternoon, broke contact and began moving south with 2/9(-). A/1/9 remained with G/2/4 in vic YD 268700, while A and D/1/3 and 2/9(-) moved to vic BLT 2/4 GP. Results of 1/3's contacts: 4 WIA (3RD BVAC), 6 WIA (MINOR), 38 NVA KIA, 3 POW, 17 IWC, and assorted gear and ordnance captured. POW's and weapons were forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1800H, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 3/3 and command group 1/9 with D company. At 2045H, H/2/4 in vic YD 270704 received 2 rounds of 130mm arty from direction of 5900 mils resulting in no casualties.

31 May: At 0710H, B Co Antrac Bn outpost in vic YD 293753 observed 1 NVA in vic YD 290750 with no weapon and engaged him with small arms with unknown results. At 0730H, 3d Marines passed OPCON of 2/9(-) to 3d MARDIV. At 1010H, L/3/3 in vic YD 242672 found 7 IWC, 8 CSWC (including 1 12.7mm MG with AA sight and tripod), and assorted mortar and small arms ammo. All weapons were forwarded to 3d Marines. At 1142H, L/3/3 in vic YD 246668 found 4 NVA KIA. At 1430H, H/3/3 in vic YD 268659 found and destroyed 25 bunkers. During the afternoon, command group 3/9 with D company relieved H/2/4 in vic YD 270706. G and

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H/2/4 moved to BLT 2/4's OP and prepared for helo lift out of 3d Marines AO. A and D/1/3 returned by "MIKE" boat to the south side of the THACH HAN river and joined the remainder of 1/3. At 1800H, BLT 2/4 completed helo lift out of 3d Marines AO. 3d Marines passed OPCON of BLT 2/4 to 3d MARDIV at that time.

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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. ACTIVATIONS/DEACTIVATIONS/REDESIGNATIONS
- R. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS
- S. TRAINING

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A. Combat Missions Assigned

Basic Mission (NAPOLÉON/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 EA and QUANG TRI. (OpO 5-68)

Supplemental Missions. 3d Marines conducts extensive supplemental operations throughout AO during rice harvest to deny enemy access to rice stores, uncover enemy assembly areas and caches, and deny enemy freedom of movement. 3d Marines also provide local security for equipment and personnel involved in dredging operations on the CUA VIET LOC.

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### B. Significant Operations Conducted.

Although the operation covered in this section was not directed by 3d MARDIV, it is felt that the action was of enough significance to be included in this section. Intelligence gleaned from POW's and other sources, indicates that the NVA units encountered by the 3d Marines consisted of at least 2 regiments of NVA (49th & 52nd) with at least two battalions each, supported by artillery, rockets, transportation and communications units. During the period 300601H Apr through 090600H May, the action in DAI DO and vicinity resulted in 768 NVA KIA, 10 NVA POW, 128 IWC, 44 C3WC, and large amounts ordnance and NVA equipment. The following is a chronological record of the significant events of that period.

30 April: At 0440H, a river patrol craft in vic YD 258622 received scattered small arms fire from the north bank of the river. The craft returned fire and vacated the area, heading back to the DONG HA ramp. The 2nd ARVN Regt was notified. Although this incident did not take place in 3d Marines AO, a platoon size patrol from H/2/4 was dispatched to the southern most edge of the AO to investigate. At 0610H, the platoon came in contact with what was estimated to be an NVA company in fortified positions in vic YD 261632. The platoon engaged the NVA from the north bank of the stream to the immediate north of the NVA. 3d Marines received an extension of their AO from the 2nd ARVN Regt, and the rest of H/2/4 reinforced with 2 tanks and the recon platoon moved to assist the platoon in contact. The River Assault Group lent fire support to the unit in contact. H company moved to vic YD 262634, and utilized an AO to direct helo gunships, fixed wing air strikes, and arty missions on enemy positions in the YD 2662, 2663, 2562, and 2563 grids. The AO reported that the NVA were employing AA weapons, and air strikes and helo gunships were utilized against them, destroying 3 known .50 caliber MG positions. At 1005H, an Alpha Command Group moved to H company's position to better control the action, while F company (-) moved to vic YD 260635 in order to attack the hamlet of DAI DO (YD 254628). 1 platoon of F company remained behind in the BLT 2/4 CP area. H company, under heavy small arms, RPG, recoilless rifle, automatic weapons, and arty fire, maneuvered to find a point at which to cross the stream between them and the NVA. By 1145H, B/1/3 had crossed the THACH HAN river and deployed in vic YD 264619, available for reinforcing. At 1353H, F company began receiving heavy fire from DAI DO as well as from vic YD 261632. At 1400H, air strikes were run on DAI DO, and at 1405H, under heavy fire, F company crossed the stream and moved

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on DAI DO, while H company crossed the stream and moved on the NVA in vic YD 261632, also under intense fire. At 1412H, H company had a foot hold in their objective and were engaging the NVA at close range. F company, meanwhile, was partially pinned down in vic YD 259639 under increasing enemy fire. 2 LVTP-5's were hit. At 1435H, both companies began receiving sporadic enemy arty fire which continued throughout the afternoon. Extensive counter battery missions were fired on enemy gun positions. By this time otters were on the way to the battle area with ammo resupply, ready to assist in casualty evacuation. At 1500H, F company was in DAI DO meeting fierce resistance. Although heavy casualties were being sustained, F company continued to move through the hamlet. At 1505H, H company secured their objective, consolidated, and began evacuating their casualties by hoist, skimmer boat, and otter. At 1600H, OPCON of B/1/3 was passed to BLT 2/4 from 1/3, and B company moved to cross the BO DIEU river. At 1625H, the first wave was across in vic YD 259623 under heavy RPG recoilless rifle, and small arms fire from vic YD 266627 as well as receiving enemy arty fire. At 1710H, B company was entirely across the river and was in heavy contact with NVA in vic YD 260624. One LVT took 3 hits from recoilless rifles and was destroyed. F company, still in heavy contact in DAI DO began to withdraw back to H company's position. At 1840H, F company was with H company set in a perimeter in vic YD 261632, and B/1/3 had consolidated in vic YD 259625 and was no longer in contact. At 1925H, helos lifting G/2/4 from vic YD 268700 to BLT 2/4's CP area, after extracting 1 platoon, were forced to return to base as G company began receiving intense arty and mortar fire. At 1945H, G company began moving to the CP area by foot. At 1950H, G company again received large amounts of enemy arty. At 2230H, all G company units were in the CP area. During their move, G company received between 200 and 210 rounds of arty and mortar fire. Results for 30 April: 16 KIA, 104 WIA (RED EVAC), 3 WIA (MINOR), 96 NVA KIA, 22 IWC, 7 CSWC.

01 May: The night of 30 April - 01 May passed quietly with all units set in night positions, while 12th Marines continued to fire extensive arty missions on enemy positions. At 0600H, B/1/3 moved from their position and began to assault through the area of 30 April's contact and continued toward the southern side of DAI DO. At 0626H, F and H companies began receiving enemy rocket and arty fire, and B/1/3 began taking small arms, RPG, recoilless rifle, and arty fire. B company called extensive arty missions on the NVA in DAI DO utilizing an AO, and NGF counter battery missions were fired. By 0700H, a foot hold had been secured in the southern edge

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of the hamlet, but B company was still receiving fire from the enemy. F and H companies then began to attack DAI DO from the east. At 0750H, H company spotted 20 to 30 NVA moving south toward B company's position and took them under fire with small arms and arty missions. At 0831H, B company was heavily counter-attacked by the NVA. F and H companies were held in position by heavy enemy arty fire. By 0900H, B company had repelled the NVA thrust. At 0915H, G company with 2 tanks and the CO of BLT 2/4 landed on 2 "AJIKS" boats and made way to join the elements in contact. At 0945H, an AC directed fixed wing air strikes on the NVA in DAI DO. At 1002H, F and H companies were again receiving enemy arty as well as intense small arms fire. Fire was returned, and 12th Marines and naval guns continued to fire counter battery missions throughout the day. By 1040H, G company had landed and was moving to continue the attack and to pass through F and H companies which had moved back to vic YD 263632. Between 1100H and 1246H, DAI DO was probed by arty and air strikes directed by an AC. At 1253H, G company commenced the attack on DAI DO from the east. H company moved to vic YD 259631 to act as a base of fire and screening force, while F company moved behind G company to clear the areas of their contacts on 30 April. B company remained in position in vic YD 255627. While G company moved into DAI DO, fires were shifted to DINH TO (YD 250632), THUONG DO (YD 257634), and THUONG NGHIA (YD 243633). At 1309H, G company began receiving heavy small arms fire from across the stream to DAI DO's west. At 1319H, B company spotted an estimated 100 NVA moving to cross the stream to hit G company's western flank. B company engaged the NVA with small arms and arty missions. A smoke and WP mission was fired along the western edge of DAI DO which effectively limited the fire that G company was receiving on its western flank. G company continued to attack the NVA. At 1330H, BLT 2/4 reassumed OPCOM of E/2/4 from 3d MARDIV (Co E had been displaced to DONG HA bridge on a security mission), and E company began moving east to reinforce G company. At 1445H, F company, having moved into DAI DO behind G company clearing the battle area, began receiving large quantities of enemy arty. At 1515H, F company had joined H company in the screening position, and both units were taking enemy arty fire. At 1600H, G company had swept to the northern edge of DAI DO and was moving and clearing back to the southeast. At 1625H, an estimated Bn of NVA counterattacked G company behind a furious arty and mortar barrage. F and H companies were once again pinned down by enemy arty in addition to small arms fire. At 1635H, B company began moving north to reinforce G company, and E company started crossing the stream in vic YD 256623. At 1715H, E company completed the crossing but was unable to reinforce G and B companies due to continuous enemy

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arty and mortar fire. At 1745H, B company in vic YD 253628 made heavy contact with NVA forces. G company in vic YD 253630 was still in heavy contact. Both companies formed tight but separate perimeters and repelled the counterattack. At 1815H, the BLP 2/4 recon platoon began LFD EVAC operations along with elements of 3d Marines and 1/3 utilizing skimmer boats and otters. At 1857H, all units in the DAI DO area began receiving enemy arty and mortar fire. The arty nets were being jammed by the NVA so the frequency was changed. No difficulties were encountered in effecting a quick, complete frequency change. At 1954H, B company, having sustained heavy casualties, began to pull back to join E company. B company began the move while still receiving enemy fire. At 2030H, a flareship was providing illum and B company has successfully joined E company. By 2040H, all wounded had been evacuated to the BLP 2/4 CP area and were being further evacuated to the USS TWO JINA. By 2110H, G company had forced the NVA to break contact. The remainder of the night was spent in relative quiet with isolated, small contacts. Results for 01 May: 24 KIA, 144 MIA (LFD EVAC), 91 NVA KIA, 2 NVA POW, 12 FWC, 7 CSWC.

02 May: At 0550H, H company began to move to take up a position behind G company, while E company moved to link up with G company on the left flank. At 0715H, E company began receiving small arms fire from small groups of NVA in DAI DO but pushed on and linked up with G company at 0720H. By 0745H, both companies, attacking to the northwest, were heavily engaged with NVA forces but continuing to push the NVA back. At 0805H, otters were sent to assist F company which was evacuating casualties sustained by E and G companies. At 0853H, G company was two-thirds through DAI DO, and E company was one-half through. Both companies were still in heavy contact. At 0914H, E and G companies were linked up and consolidated at the north end of DAI DO but still receiving a heavy volume of small arms, RPG, and automatic weapons fire from DINH TO. From 0915 to 0930H, all units in the battle area received large quantities of enemy arty fire. Counter battery missions were fired throughout the day. At 0955H, H company started clearing pockets of resistance and moving to join G and E companies which had sustained heavy casualties during the morning. At 1025H, the 2nd ARVN Regt which had moved into position on the west side of the stream bordering DAI DO, commenced the attack in an effort to parallel BLP 2/4's attack into DINH TO. At 1240H, H company moved through G company's position and linked up with E company. At 1250H, E and H companies attacked DINH TO. At 1322H, both companies had secured the hamlet to vic YD 250632 meeting light resistance. E and H companies then began to consolidate. At this time the ARVN's had secured the hamlet

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of DONG LAI (XD 247628). At 1340H, E and H companies were being counterattacked from THUONG DO. Large groups of NVA were spotted by an AO, moving southeast through the hamlets toward E and H companies. The AO adjusted arty on the advancing NVA and requested emergency air strikes. At 1430H, both companies were in extremely heavy contact and in danger of being overrun by NVA attacking in "waves". The remaining platoon of F company, which was at BLT 2/4's CP, quickly joined F company. F and G companies then attacked to the northwest to aid E and H companies. They immediately came in contact with NVA forces. The AO continued to adjust arty fires and helo and fixed wing air strikes on the NVA. Between 1600 and 1645H, as F and G companies moved further to the northwest, resistance became stronger. By 1645H, they were in heavy contact on the northern edge of DAI DO. At 1740H, it was learned that the CO of BLT 2/4 (Lt. Col. WEISE) was wounded and was being MED EVACED to the USS IWO JIMA and that F and G companies were moving again to join E and H companies. The XO of BLT 2/4 (Maj. KNAPP) left the CP area to assume command on the battlefield. At 1830H, F and G companies reached the hasty perimeter of E and H companies. Although contact was still heavy, casualty retrieval and evacuation was conducted. At the same time, 60 Marines from H and S company, BLT 2/4 were sent to assist the rifle companies, and more personnel were requested from the USS IWO JIMA. During the entire contact, helo gunships, fixed wing air strikes, and arty missions were directed continuously by AO's on the advancing enemy with devastating results. At 2040H, the Marines from H and S company arrived at the battle area reinforcing the thinned rifle companies. By 2130H, the NVA attack had been broken. Arty missions were adjusted around BLT 2/4's position to "box" the perimeter to prevent the NVA from massing. For the remainder of the evening, BLT 2/4 received sporadic ground, arty, and mortar fire from the enemy, but no significant ground action took place. Results for 02 May: 40 KIA, 108 WIA (MED EVAC), 3 MIA (MIA), 374 NVA KIA, 2 NVA POW, 10 IWC, 1 CSWC.

03 May: During the morning, BLT 2/4 held their positions and swept the areas to their immediate north. D/1/3, having moved from C-4 to CAMP KISTLE in the evening of 02 May, displaced to 1/3's position via LVT. At 0605H, D company arrived at 1/3's position and 1/3 assumed OPCON of the company. AO's observed many NVA fleeing north from THUONG DO during the morning. Air strikes and arty missions were directed on the NVA as they fled, while BLT 2/4 prepared to move back to their CP area and allow 1/3(-) to affect passage of lines and continue

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the attack. D/1/3 moved to C/1/3's position in the YD 273628 and at 1211H, commenced an amphibious river crossing to the west bank of the THACH HAN river. At 1455H, 1/3 assumed OPCON of B/1/3 from BLT 2/4. At 1515H, C company as well as D company had crossed the THACH HAN and passed through BLT 2/4's positions. B and F/2/4 withdrew and boarded "NIKE" boats to return to the 2/4 CP area. G and H/2/4 remained behind to police the battle area behind 1/3(-)'s advance through the THUONG DO - DINH TO hamlet complex. At 2116H, G and H companies had completed their sweep of the battle area and returned to the BLT 2/4 CP area to join the remainder of the BLT. C and D companies formed a perimeter in vic YD 249633 and B company remained in vic YD 258624. Results for 03 May: 3 NVA KIA, 1 IWC, 6 CSWC.

04 May: 1/3(-) spent a quiet night in defensive positions preparing to commence the attack in the morning. 4 air strikes were run on the hamlet of THUONG DO in the early morning. After the air strikes, C and D companies swept to vic YD 246635 with scattered, light contacts. B company joined C and D companies in the early afternoon. At 1340H, C company received 5 rounds of enemy arty, and counter battery missions were returned. 1/3(-) consolidated in defensive positions after sweeping through THUONG DO to remain in position until 05 May when the attack would be continued to the north. During the evening D company reported receiving 20 to 30 rounds of enemy small arms fire, but no other incidents occurred. Results for 04 May: 1 KIA, 5 WIA (WED EVAC), 1 WIA (BIROR), 4 NVA KIA, 1 IWC, 3 CSWC.

05 May. At 0645H, 1/3(-) completed their sweep of THUONG DO and attacked to the north to seize Regimental Objective 4 (the hamlet and graveyard in vic YD 249649). Arty and NGF props were directed on the objective while 1/3(-) moved. The 2nd ARVN Regt was to sweep north from their positions to the west of 1/3(-)'s position. At 0800H, 1/3(-) was in the hamlet in vic YD 240636 and found it to be ringed with concertina and single strand wire. The area was well fortified but unoccupied. At 1040H, 1/3(-) was on objective 4 with C company on the left, D company on the right, and B company to the rear. Light resistance was met from NVA in fortified positions. At 1140H, 1/3(-) began receiving an increasing volume of fire from Regimental Objective 6 (YD 245651) as well as from vic YD 257646. Fixed wing air strikes as well as army missions were called in on enemy positions in both areas. It was believed that the mass of enemy forces was on objective 6 and all available fires were directed on that area, while 1/3(-) continued to assault through objective 4. At 1250H, 1/3(-) was heavily

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counterattacked by NVA moving from objective 6. C company maneuvered to the east of D company, which was in the heaviest contact, in order to flank the enemy. B company moved up to cover and screen C company's move. The ARVN's were in heavy contact with NVA forces to the southwest of 1/3(-) which left 1/3(-)'s left flank open to enemy fires. 3d MARDIV, in response to a request from 3d Marines, passed OPCOM of I and M/3/4 to 3d Marines at 1530H. 3d Marines committed the 2 companies by helo to vic YD 248634 to cover 1/3(-)'s west flank. At 1800H, the FVA broke contact with 1/3(-). 1/3(-) then moved to vic YD 240636 where I and M/3/4 joined them to consolidate for the night. The night passed without incident. Results for 05 May: 15 KIA, 64 WIA (120 EVAC), 6 WIA (MINOR), 151 NVA KIA, 3 IWC, 1 CSWC.

06 May: At 0946H, 1/3(-)(Reinf) commenced the attack on objective 4 and secured it without contact. B company, with I and M/3/4, remained in position in vic YD 240636. C company moved through objective 4 and attacked objective 6, while D company remained on objective 4. At 1352H, C company secured objective 6, finding numerous NVA KIA, weapons, and FVA 782 gear left from the previous day's action. At 1715H, 3d Marines assumed OPCOM of the 1st Bn, 5th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division from 3d MARDIV. 1/5 (USA) deployed in vic YD 276659 and prepared to commence the attack to the west on 07 May. 1/3(-)(Reinf) consolidated into company size perimeter on the terrain occupied and spent a quiet evening without contact. Results for 06 May: 1 WIA (120 EVAC), 22 FVA KIA, 3 POW, 72 IWC, 18 CSWC.

07 May: At 0100H, C company was probed by a small group of NVA using mortar and small arms fire. The FVA did not attempt to breach the perimeter and withdrew after a short contact. 1 FVA was killed and 1 AK-47 was captured. At 0805H, 1/5 (USA) commenced the attack with C company moving on Regimental Objective 3 (YD 267649) and B company moving on Regimental Objective 2 (YD 267660). A company followed in trace of B company, and D company acted as reserve. At 0853H, objectives 2 and 3 were secured without contact. At 1120H, C company secured Regimental Objective 5 (YD 257646), and B company secured Regimental Objective 1 (YD 251660) without resistance. A company occupied Regimental Objective 7 (YD 259659) at the same time. At 1405H, A company moved to objective 1, while B company secured Regimental Objective 8 (YD 245669). By 1645H, all 1/5 (USA) units were located on objective 1, preparing night positions. During the day, 1/3(-)(Reinf) swept around the areas occupied by them finding NVA killed from

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previous action as well as weapons and equipment. At 2105H, a D/1/5 (USA) ambush observed 3 NVA moving toward their position and ambushed them resulting in 1 NVA KIA. Results for 07 May: 8 NVA KIA (not previously reported) found by 1/3(-)(Reinf), 1 NVA KIA by 1/5 (USA), 7 IWC, 1 CSWC.

08 May: During the day, 1/3(-)(Reinf) conducted search and destroy operations around the terrain they occupied finding 2 NVA KIA and capturing 3 POW. At 1000H, D/1/5 (USA) found 16 NVA buried in 8 shallow graves in vic YD 245670. 1/5 (USA) continued sweeping to the west. At 1530H, 3d Marines passed OPCOM of I and 1/3/4 to 3d MARDIV. At 1600H, 3d Marines passed OPCOM of 1/5 (USA) to 3d MARDIV. Results for 08 May: 18 NVA KIA, 3 NVA POW.

09 May: All 1/3 units completed operations in the western portion of 3d Marines AO and returned to their positions on the south bank of the THANH KAN river.

Thus ended the Battle of DAI DO. It had its beginning on 30 April when the 3d Marines began shifting units into a posture to intensify coverage of the CUA VIET LOC prior to 1 May. Intelligence indicated that an offensive campaign would be opened by the NVA on 1 May -- an International Communist Holiday. The full impact of this battle is difficult to comprehend so close in time to the event, however the following facts are considered significant:

The 320th NVA Division made an exhaustive effort, as evidenced by 4 counterattacks supported by directed artillery fire, to isolate and attack DONG HA by cutting routes 1 and 9 and blocking the CUA VIET LOC. Their plan was apparently triggered one day early and they were decisively defeated with extremely heavy losses. They did not succeed in isolating DONG HA. In fact, supplies continued to flow on the CUA VIET LOC throughout the fighting. Explosive devices captured on 30 April were never employed and were determined to be extremely sophisticated influence mines assembled from components of Russian manufacture. Some of these components later proved to be the first of their kind to fall into U.S. hands. The CHIEU HOI picked up on 1 May (see entry page 6) later proved to be one of the assembly technicians who brought the mines down from NVA and provided information of significant intelligence value.

Their staggering losses in DAI DO, combined with similarly severe losses in engagements with adjacent U.S. and ARVN units, apparently left the 320th a badly decimated, ineffective unit. If their rebuilding effort takes as long as it appears it may, the importance of DAI DO will become more apparent.

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C. Casualties Inflicted On The Enemy

<u>NVA KIA</u>	<u>NVA POW</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>VC POW</u>
1801	31	3	2

D. Casualties Sustained

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA (MED EVAC)</u>	<u>WIA (MINOR)</u>	<u>MIA</u>
165	505	120	1

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L. New Techniques Employed. Mono.

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P. Command Relations

(1) At 011900H May 1968, 3d Marines Assumed OPCOM of 3d Bn, 21st Inf, 196th Light Inf Bde from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 020800Z refers.

(2) At 021740H May 1968, Major C. P. KNAPP assumed command of BLT 2/4, relieving Lt Col W. WEISE.

(3) At 051230H May 1968, Lt Col L. A. RANN assumed command of BLT 2/4, relieving Major C. P. KNAPP.

(4) At 051530H May 1968, 3d Marines assumed OPCOM of Companies I and H, 3d Bn, 4th Marines from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 060050Z refers.

(5) At 061715H May 1968, 3d Marines assumed OPCOM of 1st Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air Cav Division from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 061115Z refers.

(6) At 081530H May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCOM of Companies I and H, 3d Bn, 4th Marines to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 091025Z refers.

(7) At 081600H May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCOM of 1st Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air Cav Division to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 091025Z refers.

(8) At 161400Z May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCOM of 3d Bn, 21st Inf, 196th Light Inf Bde to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 161216Z refers.

(9) At 181615H May 1968, 3d Marines assumed OPCOM of 3d Bn(-), 9th Marines from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 181110Z refers.

(10) At 191606H May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCOM of 3d Bn(-), 9th Marines to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 191100Z refers.

(11) At 251645H May 1968, 3d Marines assumed OPCOM of Command Group, 3d Bn, 3d Marines with Companies I and H from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 251135Z refers.

(12) At 251945H May 1968, 3d Marines assumed OPCOM of Company A, 1st Bn, 9th Marines from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 262355Z refers.

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(13) At 261100H May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCON of Command Group, 3d Bn, 3d Marines with Companies I and II to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 261150Z refers.

(14) At 261345H May 1968, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 1st Bn(-), 9th Marines from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 261151Z refers.

(15) At 261730H May 1968, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 2nd Bn(-), 9th Marines from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 261152Z refers.

(16) At 271200H May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCON of Command Group, 1st Bn, 9th Marines with Companies B and D to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 270450Z refers.

(17) At 281305H May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCON of Company C, 1st Bn, 9th Marines to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 280715Z refers.

(18) At 301800H May 1968, 3d Marines assumed OPCON of 3d Bn, 3d Marines and Command Group, 1st Bn, 9th Marines with Company D from 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 310045Z refers.

(19) At 310730H May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCON of 2nd Bn(-), 9th Marines to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 310505Z refers.

(20) At 311800H May 1968, 3d Marines passed OPCON of BLT 2/4 to 3d MARDIV. 3d Marines message 311330Z refers.

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G. Equipment. Allowance of T/E equipment supporting Headquarters, Third Marines was considered adequate. No recommendations for modification of allowances were received during this period.

#### H. Logistics

1. General. Logistically, May was a problem month. Transportation of supplies and equipment to and from units in the Cua Viet area was difficult due to non-availability of sufficient river transportation. Declining of certain vehicles and pieces of equipment also presented problems. Some of these problems have been solved. Others are pending action.

#### 2. Supply

##### (a) Source

(1) The Regimental Supply Distribution Point established at the mouth of the Cua Viet River maintained stocks of Class I and V Supplies for the use of units in the Regimental AO. The distribution point worked effectively and greatly reduced material handling until the non-availability of sufficient boat transportation made resupply from this point difficult.

(2) FLSG-B at Dong Ha remained the primary source for all classes of supplies.

(b) Problems continued to exist in obtaining certain Class II items such as repair parts for motor transport and communication equipment. Generally all other classes of supply were available provided, transportation could be arranged to deliver them where needed.

3. Evacuation and Hospitalization. The Regimental Aid Station provided routine medical treatment and emergency first aid. Serious cases were evacuated to D-Medical Company for treatment and further evacuation.

#### 4. Transportation

##### (a) Water Transportation

(1) LCM-8. Third Marines controlled one LCM-8 during the first half of the month for accomplishing resupply from the Cua Viet Distribution Point as well as movement of troops and equipment. It worked quite satisfactorily until commitments for the craft became too great to handle. Division G-4 referred the problem to Division Embarkation and control of the LCM-8 was given to them. However, the problem still exists as one LCM-8 is insufficient to meet the logistical needs of units deployed in the Napoleon/Saline AO.

(2) Skimmer/Fire Team Assault Boats. Third Marines maintains a boat section with five Skimmer (commercial ski barges) boats and seven Fire Team Assault Boats. Opon Battalions also maintain small boat sections. These boats are employed for resupply, troop movements, medical evacuation and administrative travel between units. A problem existed on keeping these boat motors operational. To alleviate this problem, a man is presently being trained to perform the required motor maintenance and repair.

(b) Motor Transport. The Headquarters Company Motor Transport Section provided land transportation for administrative use with 1/4 ton and 3/4 ton vehicles.

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Many of the 1/4 ton "Mighty Mites" have been deadlined due to the adverse effect of the sandy terrain but are expected to be replaced shortly when the new M151A1 becomes available. Eight 2 1/2 ton trucks from BLT 2/4 were utilized in general support but most of them also became deadlined and are awaiting repair. The Otter platoon from 3d Motor Transport Bn. has been deployed to support the various battalions in the field. Providing vehicular support in marginal terrain, the otters have been indispensable in accomplishing internal distribution of supplies and medical evacuation of casualties.

#### 5. Service

- (a) Construction. No major construction was accomplished during this period, minor construction consisted of repairs and improvements to existing facilities.
- (b) Maintenance. Problems continued to exist in obtaining certain first and second echelon repair parts.
- (c) Laundry. Service from the Vietnamese civilian establishment in Dong Ha remained satisfactory.
- (d) Sanitation. Problem areas have been eliminated and frequent inspections ensure that sanitation continues to be satisfactory.

6. Assignment of Responsibilities. B Company, 3d Engineer Bn. remained in direct support and provided excellent engineer assistance during the period.

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I. Civic Action(1) Significant Activities

(a) One rice thresher was introduced into TRIEU DO village. It was so well received that they requested an additional five, but the request could not be filled through our channels.

(b) Forty cement boxes were given to the schools of TRIEU DO village for the construction of new furniture. Five bags of cement were also given to "touch up" one of the schools.

(c) 150,000 dollars Vietnamese from TARP was distributed to families of GIA DO (XD 275632) and PHU TAI (XD 300625) hamlets who suffered injury or loss of home during TET.

(2) Materials Distributed

(a) 210 LNH district headquarters distributed 1200 bags of bulgur, oats, and cornmeal and many cases of salad oil to the refugee island (XD 318682). This quantity of food stuff is sufficient enough to sustain 2500 people for one month.

(3) Special Civil Affairs Projects

(a) There were no special civil affairs projects this past month.

(4) Apparent Results of Civil Affairs Program

(a) The Vietnamese people continue to improve their personal and community well being. The presence of Marines and the CA program has allowed them to progress at a quicker rate than on their own.



SECRET**J. Administration****(1) Awards**

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

- 3 Navy Cross
- 6 Silver Star Medal
- 1 Legion of Merit
- 28 Bronze Star Medal
- 17 Navy Commendation Medal
- 6 Navy Achievement Medal
- 347 Purple Heart Medal
- 20 Gallantry Cross (Vietnam)

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

- 2 Navy Cross
- 3 Silver Star Medal
- 8 Bronze Star Medal
- 12 Navy Commendation Medal
- 63 Purple Heart Medal
- 5 Gallantry Cross (Vietnam)

**(2) Promotions**

(a) The following promotions were effected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps:

- 2 Staff Sergeant
- 2 Gunnery Sergeant
- 1 First Sergeant
- 1 Master Sergeant

(b) There was 1 promotion to Sergeant (meritorious), 119 to Corporal, 150 to Lance Corporal, and 31 to PFC.

(3) Legal Matters. The following is a break down of Legal matters conducted 38 Marine Regiment: Office Hours Conducted 15, pending 3; Summary Court Martial 14, pending 4; Special Court Martial 7, pending 7.

(4) Special Services. None

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(5) Marine Exchange. The Marine Exchange at Cua Viet continued to carry basic supplies for health and comfort.

(6) Liberty. There was no liberty authorized during this period.

#### K. Personnel.

(1) Gaing. During this period 33 Marine Officers and 709 Marine Enlisted replacements were received. 17 Naval Enlisted were received.

#### (2) Losses.

(a) The 3d Marine Regiment sustained 165 KIA, 665 WIA, 23 Non-battle casualties, and 1 MIA (USA). The figures listed are computed for Hq Co, 3d Marine Regiment, 1/3, MLT 2/4, 1/9, 2/9, 3/9, 3d Bn 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 1st Bn, 5th Cavalry 1st Air Cavalry Division, and 1st Amphib Bn for the reporting period they were OPCOM to the 3d Marine Regiment.

(b) There were 14 Marine Officers, 192 Marine enlisted, and 22 Naval enlisted reassigned or transferred to CONUS.

(3) Emergency Leave/Humanitarian Transfer. There was 13 personnel that were ordered TAD or PCS to CONUS.

(4) Administrative Discharges. None

(5) R & R/TAD Trips. Out of country R & R trips were afforded to 180 members of the Regiment. There were 27 in country quotas used.

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# 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. Significant Events - As May began enemy activity was at its highest peak during Operation Napoleon/Saline. The large NVA units withdrew from the area on about 13 May, and the 3d Marines AO was then relatively quiet until 25 May, when another engagement began. This second surge of enemy activity during the month lasted through the 29th. On 30 and 31 May, there were no contacts.

a. The heavy contact, which commenced at the end of April, was in and near the village of Dai Do (XD2562). There an estimated two NVA regiments, believed to be the 52d and 48th of the 320th Division, entered the area unnoticed, prepared extensive defensive positions, and initiated contact by firing upon U. S. Navy boats on the Bo Dien River. The enemy's objectives based on his action, PW's and captured documents, appear to have been: (1) To interdict the Bo Dien - Cua Viet River transportation route between Ding Ha and the sea as part of an effort to block all surface routes to Dong Ha; (2) To attack the town of Dong Ha. After the contact had begun the NVA defended determinedly, attempting several counterattacks, before he was driven from the area on the 9th of May (the tenth day of the contact). The enemy's withdrawal was disorganized; he left dead, wounded, and weapons in bunkers and throughout the battle area.

b. While the battle for Dai Do was going on, the NVA initiated another engagement on the 3d this one in the Thi Ha/Lam Quan area (XD2770), using an estimated two battalions. The enemy battalions are believed to have been from the 270th Independent Regiment or the 320th Division although some PW's claimed to be from the 304th Division. The engagement lasted through the 11th.

c. Another contact with an estimated enemy battalion began on the 12th, in grid square XD2565. The enemy was not identified. The action lasted two days.

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d. The next major enemy contact began on the 25th, when an estimated regiment-size NVA force was met near Lai An (XD2473). The enemy unit involved was the 40th Regiment. It is believed to have been enroute to Dai Do for a second attempt at interdicting the Bo Dien - Cuc Viet River waterway, but it was stopped at Lai An. Here the NVA again defended, holding off the attacking Marine battalion for four days despite extensive use of U. S. supporting arms.

e. In the portion of the Napoleon/Saline AO south of the Cuc Viet River, there was almost no enemy activity during the month of May. In response to a report from a usually reliable source that the command post of the 5th battalion, 112th Regiment, NVA, was located in the vicinity of XD3664, a sweep of that area was conducted. Only a few surprise-firing devices were found.

f. During May's contacts the units of the 320th Division displayed less discipline than in previous contacts. There were more prisoners captured, some Boi Chanh, more enemy KIA, and more weapons and equipment left by the enemy on the battlefield than in any previous engagement. Almost all of the prisoners captured stated that they had been in the NVA only a few months, and they had very little training before infiltrating south, and had been in the south only a few days. Condition of their weapons and equipment, however, was as good, if not better, than in the past.

g. Statistics for the month of May reveal the following:

(1) Enemy losses in the Napoleon/Saline AO were more than triple the previous high for one month. More NVA prisoners of war were captured than during any month before. More individual and crew-served weapons were also captured than ever before.

(2) Enemy artillery/rocket/mortar fire in the AO more than doubled since April, and it was 25% greater than ever before. In addition, 111 rounds were received at Camp Kistler on 27 May, the most received at one time since movement of the 3d Marine GP to this location on 29 February.

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(3) Mining incidents in the AO decreased for the third consecutive month.

(4) Surprise-firing device incidents decreased significantly.

## 2. Contacts Incidents

Operation Napoleon/Saline

	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Total</u>
a. Small Arms/Sniper			
2ndBn, 4thMar	13	2	15
1stBn, 3rdMar	7	2	9
1stAmtresBn	1	4	5
3rdBn, 21stInf 196th Lig Inf Bde	3	1	4
TOTAL	<u>24</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>33</u>
b. Grenades			
2ndBn, 4thMar	1	1	2
1stBn, 3rdMar	0	1	1
TOTAL	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
c. Mines			
1stBn, 3rdMar	2	0	2
1stAmtresBn	5	0	5
Other	2	0	2
TOTAL	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>
d. Booby Trap			
2ndBn, 4thMar	1	0	1
1stBn, 3rdMar	5	0	5
1stAmtresBn	1	1	2
2ndBn, 9thMar	1	0	1
TOTAL	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
e. Moving or probing action where VC/NVA did not fire or return fire			
2ndBn, 4thMar	6	4	10
1stBn, 3rdMar	0	1	1
1stAmtresBn	1	6	7
3rdBn, 21stInf 196th Lig Inf Bde	1	6	7
Other	0	1	1
TOTAL	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>26</u>

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SECRETOperation Napoleon/Saline

	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Total</u>
f. Mortar/Arty/Rocket Fire			
2ndBn, 4thMar	19	16	35
1stBn, 3rdMar	6	2	8
2ndBn, 9thMar	1	0	1
3rdBn, 21stInf 196thLigInfBde	5	0	5
Camp Kistler	5	6	11
Other	0	2	2
TOTAL	<u>36</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>62</u>

g. Engagement			
2ndBn, 4thMar	3	0	3
1stBn, 3rdMar	1	0	1
3rdBn, 3rdMar	1	1	2
2ndBn, 9thMar	1	0	1
3rdBn, 21stInf, 196LigInfBde	1	1	2
Other	0	1	1
TOTAL	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

h. Miscellaneous  
Light Observed - 1

## 3. Enemy Losses

## a. Personnel

(1) Confirmed

- a. KIA (NVA) 1801
- b. KIA (VC) 3
- c. POW (NVA) 33
- d. POW (VC) 2
- e. Returnees 2
- f. Civil Defendants 7

(2) Detainees 1

- a. Released as Innocent Civilians 27

## b. Material

(1) Weapons

- 12.7 HMG 4
- RPG-2 13

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7.62 HMG	7
RPD	30
82MM MORTAR	4
82MM RG	2
60MM MORTAR	6
AK-50	3
SKS'S	100
AK-47	105
RPG-7	3
SK-44	6
AK-44	5
AK-54	4
Flame Thrower	1
57MM RT	1

## (2) Ammunition

RPG RDS	144
7.62 RDS	9,400
60MM RDS	418
82MM RDS	327
57 RR RDS	4
140MM MKTS	6
122MM MKTS	1
RPG-7 RDS	9
12.7 RDS	7,000

## (3) Demolition

ChiCom Grenades	212
Rifle Grenades	2
AT Mines	40
AP Mines	3
Claymore Mines	9
Mortar Bazes	6
82MM Mort Increments	9
TNT	4 Blocks
Explosive Device (UNK)	2
Satchel Charges	5
Detonator Cord	Unknown Amount

## (4) Weapons Accessories

AK-47 Magazines	86
RPD Drum Magazines	11
82MM Mortar Sight	3

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- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 60MM Mortar Sight               | 2              |
| Barrel for 7.62 HMG             | 5              |
| Tripod for AAW                  | 1              |
| 60MM Mortar Base Plate          | 1              |
| 82MM Mortar Base Plate          | 2              |
| 82MM RG Extension               | 2              |
| 82MM RR Tripod                  | 2              |
| (5) Food                        |                |
| Rice                            | Unknown Amount |
| (6) Documents                   |                |
| Letters and Diaries             |                |
| Map                             |                |
| I. D. Cards                     |                |
| Notebook                        |                |
| Papers                          |                |
| Wallet W/Paper                  |                |
| Radio Book                      |                |
| (7) Communication               |                |
| Radio                           | 5              |
| Battery                         | 1              |
| Field Phone                     | 3              |
| Radio Accessory Bag             | 1              |
| Roll Comm Wire                  | 1              |
| Hand Mike                       | 1              |
| (8) 702 Gear                    |                |
| Gas Mask                        | 42             |
| Ammo Pouch                      | 5              |
| Poncho                          | 33             |
| Packs                           | 60             |
| Helmets                         | 26             |
| E-Tool                          | 28             |
| Canteen                         | 3              |
| Cartridge Bolt                  | 1              |
| (9) Medical Equipment           |                |
| Bandages                        |                |
| Medical Supplies (Unknown Type) |                |
| Personal Health Kits            |                |

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## c. Discovered/Destroyed fortification &amp; position

Dunkers	368
Fox Holes	31
Spider Holes	11
Harbor Site	1
Structure	15

## 4. Enemy units observed during the reporting periods.

<u>Enemy Units</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>May</u>
13 NVA	3111702	1
1 NVA	256628	1
20 NVA/VC	267627	2
7 NVA/VC	268627	2
2 NVA/VC	266634	2
125 NVA	250632	3
5 NVA	316722	4
3 NVA	282705	4
17 NVA	293703	5
2 NVA	266701	6
10 NVA	223703	6
10 NVA	297708	6
20 NVA	290718	6
12 NVA	322700	6
9 NVA	298715	7
150 NVA	255714	7
170 NVA	268704	7
13 NVA	298703	7
17 NVA	293701	8
100 NVA	255685	9
22 NVA	249662	9
5 NVA	253650	10
4 NVA	272699	11
4 NVA	294702	12
18 NVA	288719	12
3 NVA	258658	12
3 NVA	292746	13
2 NVA	268706	13
2 NVA	269707	14
12 NVA	295702	15
1 NVA	283689	15
12 NVA/VC	329697	16
3 NVA	281716	22
10 NVA	281717	25

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10 NVA	291752	25
17 NVA	287729	25
3 NVA	269700	26
2 NVA	292752	27
10 NVA	303705	20
1 NVA	275697	30
1 NVA	290750	31
3 NVA ..	264706	31

## 5. Trend

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

	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>
SAP	31	39	33
Surprise Firing Devices	9	14	9
Mines	16	15	9
Grenades	1	7	3
Host/Arty/Arty fire	48	29	62
Movement w/o fire	31	3	26
Engagement	6	11	10
Assassination	1	0	0
Sabotage	0	0	0
Kidnappings	0	1	0
Comm Interference	0	0	0
Demonstration	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0
Rewards Paid	29	12	1
Miscellaneous	1	2	1
TOTALS	<u>173</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>154</u>

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M. Communications(1) General

(a) During the month of May, communications were maintained in support of the 3d Marine Regiment.

(b) During this period of time, the Regimental repair shop received 174 pieces of communications equipment for repair. Of these, 116 were repaired by the Regimental tech shop and 58 were evacuated to higher echelon for repair. Of these 10 were returned.

(c) The Regimental Message Center processed a total of 2,046 messages. Of the total 838 were incoming (electrical) 857 being deliver by courier. The number of outgoing was 351.

(2) Sequential Listing of Events

05 May: Put into operations two common user trunk lines to III MAF. Equipment being used is an AN/TRC-97B (Perp).

06 May: Communications platoon was subjected to especially heavy incoming. A total of nine personnel were wounded and one was killed. Of the nine wounded four were dropped from the rolls and one is still aboard the USS REPOSE. Equipment losses were also heavy. Refer to letters to the commanding officer dated 06 May 1968.

17 May: Two persons were dispatched to the 3d Marine Regiment rear to evacuate five PU-278s and two TD-1013s for repair. This equipment was being transported by skimmer boat. This boat capsized and one PU-278 was lost. Refer to Communications Officer letter dated 17 May 1968.

28 May: A radio Relay Link, 8 channel, AN/TRC-27 was established between Regimental Headquarters switchboard and the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines.

28 May: One man was wounded and is presently located at NSA DA NANG.

31 May: As of this date the number of PU-278s evacuated for repair is 13. This is 43% of the PU-278s on hand.

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SECRETH. Weather

a. Weather for the month of May was generally hot and clear with rain showers at the end of the month.

b. The major effects of the weather were numerous heat casual ties, and periods of limited aerial and ground observation due to heavy rain at the end of the month.

c. The average high for the month was 98 degrees. The average low for the month was 78 degrees. The temperature s have risen since the preceding month.

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0. Fire Support(1) Units Providing Artillery Support(a) Direct Support

Battery "I", 3d Battalion  
12th Marines, 3d Marine Division, FMF  
1-31 May 68.

2nd Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery  
3d Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division(Rein), FMF  
1-31 May 68.

Battery "A", 1st Battalion  
40th Artillery U.S. Army  
1-3 May 68.

Battery "D", 3d Battalion  
82nd Artillery U.S. Army  
10-17 May 68.

Battery "C", 1st Battalion  
11th Marines, 1st Marine  
Division(Rein), FMF  
1-31 May 68.

Battery "H", 3d Battalion  
12th Marines, 3d Marine  
Division(Rein), FMF  
26-31 May 68.

Battery "W", 3d Battalion  
22th Marines, 3d Marine  
Division(Rein), FMF  
1-31 May 68.

Detachment Battery "W", 1st Battalion  
12th Marines, 3d Marine  
Division(Rein), FMF  
1-31 May 68

1st Platoon, 1st Armored  
Amphibious Company, FMF  
1-18 May 68

3d Platoon, 1st Armored  
Amphibious Company, FMF  
19-31 May 68

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(b) Reinforcing Units

Reinforcing fires were provided by the general support units of the 12th Marines, particularly Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines, 1st 8" Battery, and the 5th 155 Gun Battery.

(2) Significant Displacement

On 3 May 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery was chipped to 1st Battalion, 13th Marines remaining at their location at QUANG TRI Airfield (YD 312544).

On 10 May 1968 Battery "D", 3d Battalion, 82nd Artillery displaced to HAM XA TEAL (YD 286671); this battery was hololifted out on 17 May 68.

On 19 May 1968 1st Platoon, 1st Armored Amphibious Company was relieved in place (YD 345697) by the 3d Platoon.

(3) Missions Fired

Observed	521
Unobserved	143
H & I	1286
Total	1950

(4) Ammunition Expenditure - organic units

	HE	WP	ILL	HC	CS	Special
105	21372	1595	2955	307	0	6
107	5549	179	2736	0	0	0
155	440	25	0	0	0	0

(5) Damage Assessment

KIA (Confirmed) 339

(6) Naval Gunfire Support(A) Missions:

NVA (Confirmed) - 11  
 Call Fire - 257 (13,831 rounds expended)  
 H & I's - 175 (1,020 rounds expended)  
 Counter Battery - 97

(B) Damage Assessment:

Secondary explosions - 15  
 Structures destroyed - 31  
 Structures damaged - 46

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**(7) Significant Missions**

At 071000H May 68, elements of 3d Bn, 21st Infantry requested fire on NVA in the open. "C" Battery 1/11 expended 1 round of WP and 109 rounds of HE at YD 283699. The surveillance was reported as 5 KIA's (confirmed).

At 071855 May 68, "C" Battery 1/11 expended 277 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of WP on 150 NVA. Elements of 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry called this mission at YD 255714 and gave 75 KIA's (confirmed) as the surveillance.

At 092325H May 68, elements of 3/21 requested fire on 300 NVA at YD 267710. "C" Battery 1/11 expended 811 rounds of HE which resulted in 40 KIA's (confirmed).

At 130555H May 68, elements of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines requested fire on NVA at YD 250660. "C" Battery 1/11 and 1st Platoon, 1st Armored Amphib Co. expended 16 HE rounds resulting in 15 KIA's (confirmed).

At 251530H May 68, elements of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines reported incoming small arms fire from YD 282716. 3d Platoon, 1st Arm. Amphib. Co. expended 2 rounds of HC smoke, 16 rounds of WP, and 273 rounds of HE. The surveillance was reported as 97 KIA's (confirmed).

**(8) Command and Coordination**

On 18 May 68, Command Group "A" continued to operate the CUA VIET FDC and the 3d Marines FSCC at YD 346697. On this same date Command Group "B" and the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines Headquarters relieved the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines at the QUANG TRI Airfield (YD 300551). Co-ordination was effected between the CUA VIET and QUANG TRI FDC's and FSCC's for the direct support of the 3d Marines and the defense of QUANG TRI Airfield.

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P. Air Support

(1) During the month of May 1968, Third Marine Regiment units received air support from 1st Marine Air Wing units, 7th Air Force, 9th MAB, and the U.S. Army. Rotary Wing support was provided by MAG-16, MAG-36, MAG-39, and units of the U.S. Army. Fixed wing support came from 1st MAF, and 7th Air Force units. Observer flights were provided by 1st MAF and U.S. Army units.

(2) Rotary WingMedevac Missions

- (A) 3d Marine Regiment (HQ Co):  
1 KIA (US), 23 WIA (US), 1 WIA (CIV), 1 WIA (VC/NVA), 12 NBC (US), 10 ILL (US), 1 ILL (CIV).
- (B) 1st Bn, 3d Marine Regiment:  
13 KIA (US), 183 WIA (US), 1 WIA (CIV), 5 WIA (VC/NVA), 12 NBC (US), 3 NBC (CIV), 30 ILL (US), 1 ILL (CIV).
- (C) 2nd Bn, 4th Marine Regiment:  
72 KIA (US), 216 WIA (US), 1 WIA (VC/NVA), 24 NBC (US), 5 ILL (US).
- (D) 3d Bn, 21st Inf, 19th Light Inf Bde:  
12 KIA (US), 49 WIA (US), 1 NBC (US), 3 ILL (US).
- (E) 3d Bn, 3d Marine Regiment:  
1 WIA (US), 1 NBC (US).
- (F) 1st Bn, 9th Marine Regiment:  
14 NBC (US), 1 ILL (US).
- (G) 2nd Bn, 9th Marine Regiment:  
9 KIA (US), 31 WIA (US), 1 WIA (VC/NVA), 3 NBC (US), 58 ILL (US).
- (H) 3d Bn, 4th Marine Regiment:  
1 WIA (US), 3 ILL (US).
- (I) 3d Bn, 9th Marine Regiment:  
1 WIA (CIV).

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(3) Totals:

<u>KIA</u>	<u>MBC</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>ILL</u>
107 (US)	70 (US)	507 (US)	110 (US)
	3 (CIV)	6 (CIV)	5 (CIV)
		8 (VC/NVA)	

Totals: 794 (US)

Others: 14 (CIV), and 8 (VC/NVA).

(4) Gunship

<u>Flights</u>	<u>A/C</u>	<u>Ordinance</u>
22	14	468 rockets 244,000 rnds. 7.62

(5) Command and Control

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Flights</u>	<u>No A/C</u>	<u>No Pax.</u>	<u>No POS's</u>	<u>lbs Gear</u>	<u>VRoverflts.</u>
Third Marines	29	58	145	8	22,000	9
1/3	13	26	57			2
BLT 2/4	23	46	1720		9,775	1
	<u>65</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>31,775</u> lbs	<u>12</u>

(6) Resupply Missions

<u>Total Load</u>	<u>Unit</u>
36,000	3d Bn, 21st Inf, 196th Light Inf Bde
44,000	1st Bn, 3d Marines
202,625	2nd Bn, 4th Marines
9,500	3d Bn, 3d Marines
4,000	1st Bn, 9th Marines
56,000	2nd Bn, 9th Marines
10,500	3d Bn, 9th Marines
101,400	12th Marines
464,025 pounds	<u>Total</u>

(7) Fixed Wing

(A) CSS. CSS or RFQ-10 flights provided by 1st MAW and 7th Air Force provided deep support for 3d Marine Regiment operations by interdicting enemy troop and storage areas and active artillery sites. On a total of 75 flights, 85 aircraft

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dropped a total of 431,950 lbs of ordnance on enemy targets.

(B) CAS. In May, 137 CAS missions, a total of 265 aircraft dropped 793,250 lbs of bombs on enemy targets. The noteworthy contribution of 1st MAW and 7th Air Force aircraft contributed materially to the success of operations within 3d Marines AO.

(C) Air Observers. The efforts of American Beauty and Southern controllers were major additions to 3d Marine Regiment operations. On 131 flights, totalling 215.7 hours, air observers called in timely artillery and air strikes as well as providing timely intelligence to ground commanders.

(D) Illumination Aircraft. During May flare-ships provided by MAG-11, MAG-13 and 7th Air Force supported 3d Marine Regiment units and 21 flights for a total of 42.3 hours. In addition to illumination, 7th Air force "SPOOKY" aircraft provided devastating support with 7.62mm machine guns in direct support of 3d Marine units.

(E) Pay-Ops Aircraft. During May, 3d Marine Regiment units had occasion to utilize 7th Air Force Pay-Ops aircraft. A single flight provided 3 hours of continuous propaganda broadcast over enemy lines. The flight resulted in a material contribution to the CHIEU HOI program in the I Corps area.

#### A. Control Functions

(A) During the month of May 3d Marine Regiment controller handled a total of 2,248 separate flights, a significant increase over the previous month. During this period the average number of control functions was 73 per day, with the high day at 116 and the low day 32. The increased activity during the first and last weeks of the month accounted for the high number of flights controlled and efforts by 3d Marine controllers during these periods greatly increased the effectiveness of air support provided to 3d Marines by 1st MAW and 7th Air Force units.

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Q. Activitions/Deactivations/Redesignations, Mono.

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B. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

Psychological Operations during the month were limited due to a shortage of psy-op resources. Numerous leaflet drops and aerial loudspeaker missions were requested in areas of known enemy activity and in population centers. Though specific leaflets and tapes were not available, a number of these missions were flown. Attempts to employ ground loudspeaker teams to exploit recent enemy defeats were prevented by the difficulty in obtaining the HB teams and in getting them to the place where they were needed. A "bullhorn" is being utilized to broadcast "Chiou Hoi" and "surrender appeals" when HB teams are not readily available. Also a large number of leaflets and newspapers have been ordered. When received they will be distributed by units in the Qua Viet area to promote support for the GVN and the "rewards program".

Third Marines continued to employ Kit Carson Scouts with its opcon battalions. These scouts were employed on patrols, medcaps, and in fostering better relations with the local populace. Reports on the performance of these scouts still remain quite favorable.

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5. 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 Lieutenant Colonel and one Staff Sergeant attended Division Personal Response Schools in QUANG TRI.

(b) One Lieutenant attended III MAF Orientation Course in DANANG.

(c) One Gunnery Sergeant attended Multi-Fuel Instruction Team Course in QUANG TRI.

(d) Two Lance Corporals attended Basic Organic Supply Accounting Schools in DANANG.

(e) One Corporal attended Communications Sec/Crypto School in Yokosuka, JAPAN.

(f) One Lance Corporal attended a Personnel Accounting Course in QUANG TRI.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

/1. Staff Journals 01 May - 31 May 1968.

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

1/GCK/gck  
May 1968

STAFF JOURNALS010001H May68

- 0001 1 Journal opened.  
1010 2 Fm Co F, 2/4: taking heavy auto-weapons fire and UNK cal. of arty incoming.  
1106 3 Fm AO: called in arty mission on 20 NVA in open; results 4 NVA KIA's.  
1805 4 Fm 3d Mar, Camp Kistler: rec'd 11 rds med to light arty; neg casualties; one Amtrac damaged.  
2400 5 Journal closed.

020001H May68

- 0001 1 Journal opened.  
0125 2 Fm spot report: Camp Kistler rec'd 50-55 rds heavy arty; bulk fuel line broken, 1 tropical hut hit and burned.  
1610 3 Fm 3d Mar AL0: fixed wing attacked enemy troops and enemy posit, destroyed 3 structures, 2 bunkers and 18 NVA KIA's confirmed.  
2400 4 Journal closed.

030001H May68

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

040001H May68

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

050001H May68

- 0001 1 Journal opened.  
2140 2 Fm spot report: Cua Viet rec'd 12 rds of 85 to 100MM Arty; two huts damaged.  
2400 3 Journal closed.

060001H May68

- 0001 1 Journal opened.  
0333 2 Fm 1st Amtrac: rec'd 20-30 rds incoming.

Enclosure (1)  
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2400 3 Journal closed.

070001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.

No significant info to report.

2400 2 Journal closed.

080001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.

0920 2 Fm Co B 1/5: ambush spotted 3 NVA; set up ambush.  
Results 1 NVA KIA by SAF.

2400 3 Journal closed.

090001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.

0520 2 Fm 3/21: reported spotting 100 NVA, grid 255685.

2220 3 Fm spot report; Cua Viet rec'd incoming. Cua  
Viet port facility rec'd 17 rds light arty, LP  
at Co A sustained 3 WIA in tower.

2400 4 Journal closed.

100001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.

No significant info to report.

2400 2 Journal closed.

110001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.

No significant info to report.

2400 2 Journal closed.

120001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.

1047 2 Fm 2/4: observed 1 USA helo shot down by  
enemy ground fire.1715 3 Fm 1st Amtrac; Camp Kistler rec'd 18 rds heavy  
arty; 1 KIA, 1 WIA from 3d Engr.

2400 4 Journal closed.

130001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.

2340 2 Fm 1st Amtrac Bn: Co B, 1st Amtrac, spotted 3  
NVA moving, fm S-N; took under fire w/SA and  
M-79; results 1 NVA KIA.

2400 3 Journal closed.

140001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.

No significant info to report.

2400 2 Journal closed.

Enclosure (1)  
SECRET



SECRET

150001H May68

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

160001H May 68

0001 1 Journal opened.  
 2310 2 Fm 1st Amtrac Bn: OP spotted 7 secondaries  
 fm Arclight.  
 2400 3 Journal closed.

170001H May68

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

180001H May68

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

190001H May68

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

200001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.  
 1350 2 Fm 2/4 spot report: in vic 284674 skimmer  
 boat hit submerged explosive device; 1 WIA,  
 skimmer destroyed.  
 2400 3 Journal closed.

2100001H May68

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

220001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.  
 1730 2 Fm 2/4: 3 skimmer boats rec'd SAF while on  
 scheduled run to Dong Ha and again on the  
 return trip.  
 2400 3 Journal closed.

230001H May68

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

Enclosure (1)  
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SECRET

240001H May68

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

250001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.  
 0233 2 Fm 1st Amtrac Bn: Cua Viet rec'd 111 rds arty;  
 report damage bulk fuel cell burning, minor  
 damage 2 trucks 6x6, 4 tents, 1 hut.  
 1815 3 Fm 1st Amtrac Bn; final damage report; 6 trucks  
 destroyed, 1 LVT extensive damage, 14 bulk fuel  
 cells destroyed, pumps and hoses for bulk fuel  
 destroyed, 120,000 gal. JP-4 and 67,000 gal.  
 MOGAS destroyed.  
 2400 4 Journal closed.

260001H May68

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

270001H May68

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

280001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.  
 1830 2 Fm Cua Viet: rec'd 17 rds of light to med arty  
 fm 5900 mills fm C-4 and 5610 mills fm  
 Ocean View.  
 2400 3 Journal closed.

290001H May68

0001 1 Journal opened.  
 2105 2 Fm Cua Viet: rec'd 11 rds of unknown arty;  
 sighting 5600 mills 5595 mills Cua Viet tower  
 2400 3 Journal closed.

300001H May68

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

310001H May68

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

Enclosure (10)  
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3d Mar Div  
 File w/ N Ap Saline  
 - overlay -  
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 3rd Marines (-) (Rein)  
 GUA VIET, RVN  
 020801H May 68  
 SerNo: 003A12368

Frag Order NR 8 Opn Napoleon/Saline

Ref: (a) MAP: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6442 IV  
 (b) My Opn 2-68

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: No change except 3d Bn, 21st Inf, 196th  
 LIBde reported 0700H 3d Mar 011900H May 68.

# 1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy Forces.-- Current INTSUMS
- b. Friendly Forces.-- No change except 2nd Arvn Regt conducts joint S&D Opn with 2/4 southwest of 3d Mar AO.

# 2. MISSION

3d Mar (-) (Rein) conducts S&D Opns in coordination with 2nd Arvn Regt via Dong Ha in an extension of the 3d Mar AO.

# 3. EXECUTION

- a. Concept of Operation.-- 3d Mar (-) (Rein) continues basic missions IAW ref (b) and conducts S&D Opn in coordination with 2nd Arvn Regt per previous frag orders. See Annex A (Opn overlay).
- b. BLT 2/4
  - (1) Continue current S&D Opn in extended AO IAW previous orders.
  - (2) Maintain OP/Log base via MAI XA CHANH
  - (3) Be prepared to continue current opns as directed.
  - (4) Be prepared to resume old AO and missions on order.
- c. 1st Bn, 3d Mar (-).-- Continue currently assigned missions.
- d. 1st Amtrac Bn (Rein).-- Continue currently assigned missions.

SECRET

SECRETc. 3dBn, 21stInf

(1) Establish CP in and assume responsibility for AO depicted on Annex A.

(2) Conduct S&D Opns in assigned AO to screen Cua Viet LOC and interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

(3) Initially, attack to North along Jones Creek to seize and hold Objectives A and B. Establish patrol bases in that area when secured to deny enemy capability to deliver indirect fire against river traffic, Dong Ha, Cua Viet or Quang Tri.

(4) Provide rifle squad positioned at night in vic of Dredge loc at mouth of Jones Creek. Establish daily liaison with dredge personnel as long as dredge positioned in your AO.

f. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Direct Liaison authorized.

(2) Enforce land curfew (2000-0600) and water curfew (24 hours daily) as established by Province Chief for all VN civilians.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS -- No Change

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS -- No Change

M. A. HULL  
Colonel, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
Commanding

## ANNEX:

## A - Operation Overlay

DISTRIBUTION: 1 - CG, 3dMarDiv  
1 - 3dMar  
1 - 1/3  
1 - 2/4  
1 - 1stAmtracs  
1 - 3/21

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Ser No: 003A13168

3rd Mar Div  
Capt Shultz  
for your brief  
on 12 May  
H

Frsg Order NINE Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series 1/014, Sheet 6142 IV  
(b) My Op Order 2-68 (NAPOLEON/SALINE)  
(c) CG 3dMarDiv OpO 2-68 (Sparrow Hawk)

Time Zone: II

Task Organization: Annex A

## 1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces. Current Intsums and SIR's.

b. Friendly Forces. No change except 2ndBde, 1stAirCavDiv conducts search and destroy ops in the adjacent AO to our West.

## 2. MISSION

3rdMar(-) (Rein), with such forces as may be assigned, conducts combat operations in assigned AO on both banks of the SONG THACH HAN, including all tributaries as required, to ensure uninterrupted passage of shipping from CUA VIET to DONG HA and to deny enemy access to rocket positions oriented toward DONG HA or QUANG TRI. 3rdMar(-) (Rein) conducts supplemental operations within AO to deny enemy access to rice stores, caches and harvest operations, to deny enemy freedom of movement within AO and to provide security for dredging operations within AO.

## 3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation

(1) Annex B (Operation Overlay).  
(2) 3rdMar(-) (Rein) continues basic missions by patrolling extensively, both day and night, from patrol bases established within Battalion AO's, to screen the CUA VIET LOC and to interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

b. 1stBn, 3rdMar

(1) Continue to maintain operating base via GIAO LIEM (YD 292645) and logistic area via (YD295654).

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(2) Continue S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

*No Comment about this.*  
(3) Be prepared to chop one rifle company to 1st AmtracBn for employment in C-4.

(4) Be prepared to move to QUANG TRI Airfield Complex on a 2 hours notice to reinforce defenses at that installation.

(5) Be prepared for employment anywhere in 3rdMar AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

c. BLT 2/4

(1) Continue to maintain operation base in MAI XA THI vic YD282688.

(2) Continue S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

(3) Be prepared to chop one rifle company to 1stAmtrac Bn for employment in C-4.

(4) Be prepared to assume responsibility for AO currently assigned 3rdBn, 21stInf on order.

(5) Maintain reaction forces IAW ref (c).

(6) Be prepared for employment anywhere in 3rdMar AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

d. 3rdBn, 21stInf

(1) Continue to maintain operating base in MAI XA CHANH (YD 285671).

(2) Continue S&D ops in assigned AO to screen the CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy access to rocket sites in AO.

(3) Continue to maintain patrol bases in vic LAM XUAN (YD267700) and NHI HA (YD271705).

(4) Continue to patrol the built-up area of DAI LOC/ MY LOC (YD304680) to deny enemy access to inhabitants and restrict enemy freedom of movement in that area.

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(5) Employ supporting armor east of JONES CREEK.

(6) Be prepared for employment anywhere in 3rdMar AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

e. 1stAmphib Tractor Bn

(1) Continue assigned missions in assigned AO.

(2) Be prepared to employ provisional rifle company from organic assets to operate in and from C-4 position when a rifle company is not assigned.

(3) Employ a light section of the AT Plt, BLT 3/1 at C-4 and the heavy section of the AT Plt, BLT 3/1 on the S/SW perimeter of Camp KISTLER.

(4) Assign a detachment (4 LVTP-5) of the Amtrac Plt, plus the Tank Plt (-), of BLT 3/1 in direct support of 3rdBn, 21stInf.

(5) Provide one platoon of Amtracs with one Comd tractor in direct support of 1/3. Be prepared to augment the Amtrac Plt, BLT 2/4 if required.

f. Co B, 3rdEngrBn

(1) General support of 3rd Marines.

(2) Be prepared to provide combat engineer support as well as mine sweep, water point and demolition support as required.

g. Coordinating Instructions

(1) This Frag Order supersedes all previously issued frag orders and consolidates currently valid missions.

(2) All units be prepared to provide security for dredging operations when dredge is within AO. Security will normally consist of a rifle squad positioned on the bank in vicinity of dredge. Recommend daily liaison with dredge personnel when security mission assigned.

(3) During rice harvest, April through June in 3rdMar AO, all units conduct supplemental operations within AO's to deny enemy freedom of movement, uncover assembly and storage areas, and deny enemy's access to rice stores.

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(4) Cooperate with River Security Units patrolling rivers within AO's by clearing fires as requested and responding to call for assistance from boats.

(5) Be especially alert to apprehend personnel who appear to be conducting a reconnaissance of the river or river traffic. In addition, make every effort to locate and apprehend any NVA/VC artillery forward observers in AO.

(6) Enforce the land curfew (2000-0600) and water curfew/blockade (24 hours daily) as established by the Province Chief for all VN civilians.

(7) Avoid setting patterns of patrolling within AO's as to size, routes, times, etc.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS: No Change

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS: No Change

*M. A. Hull*

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

#### ANNEXES:

A-Task Organization

B-Operations Overlay (Limited Distribution)

#### DISTRIBUTION:

CG 3rdMarDiv	1 w/Annex B
Maneuver Battalions	1 w/Annex B
CTF Clearwater	1 w/Annex B
3rdBn 12thMar	1
Internal	15
File	1 w/Annex B

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Annex A (Task Organization) to Frag Order NINE Operations  
 NAPOLEON/SALINE

3rd Marines (-) (Rein)

Col HULL

Hq Co, 3rd Marines

Co "B", 3rd Engr Bn

Other Plt, H&S Co, 3rd MT Bn

1st Bn, 3rd Mar

LtCol JARMAN

BLT 2/4

LtCol RANN

3rd Bn, 21st Inf, 196th Lt Inf Bde

LtCol SNYDER

1st Amphib Tractor Bn (-) (Rein)

LtCol MEYERS

3rd Bn, 12th Mar (-) (Rein) (D/S)

LtCol COMO

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

Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
 Commanding

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CUA VIET, RVN  
160801H May 68  
Ser No: 003413768

Frag Order TEN Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6442 IV  
(b) My Op Order 2-68 (NAPOLEON/SALINE)  
(c) CG 3dMarDiv OpO 2-68 (Sparrow Hawk)

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A

## 1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy Forces. Current Intsums and SIR's.
- b. Friendly Forces. No change except 2ndBde, 1stAirCavDiv conducts search and destroy ops in the adjacent AO to our West.

## 2. MISSION

3rdMar(-) (Rein), with such forces as may be assigned, conducts combat operations in assigned AO on both banks of the SONG THACH HAN, including all tributaries as required, to ensure uninterrupted passage of shipping from CUA VIET to DONG HA and to deny enemy access to rocket positions oriented toward DONG HA or QUANG TRI. 3rdMar(-) (Rein) conducts supplemental operations within AO to deny enemy access to rice stores, caches and harvest operations, to deny enemy freedom of movement within AO and to provide security for dredging operations within AO.

## 3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation

- (1) Annex B (Operation Overlay).
- (2) 3rdMar(-) (Rein) continues basic missions by patrolling extensively, both day and night, from patrol bases established within Battalion AO's, to screen the CUA VIET LOC and to interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

b. 1stBn, 3rdMar

- (1) Continue to maintain operating base via GIAO LIEM (YD 292645) and logistic area via (YD 295654).

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(2) Continue S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

(3) Establish a company patrol base in vic DAI DO (YD 235630) to screen approaches to CUA VIET LOC from the West and North.

(4) Be prepared to chop one rifle company to 1st AmtracBn for employment in C-4.

(5) Be prepared to move to QUANG TRI Airfield Complex on 2 hours notice to reinforce defenses at that installation.

(6) Be prepared for employment anywhere in 3rdMar AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

## c. BLT 2/4

(1) Continue to maintain operation base in KAI XA THI vic (YD 282688) to include both banks at mouth of JONES CREEK.

(2) Continue S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

(3) Continue to maintain patrol bases in vic LAM XUAN (YD 267700) and NHI HA (YD 271705).

(4) Continue to patrol the built-up area of DAI LOC/ MY LOC (YD 304680) and the line of hamlets in AO along the 66 EW grid line to deny enemy access to inhabitants and restrict enemy freedom of movement in that area.

(5) Employ supporting armor east of JONES CREEK.

(6) Be prepared to chop one rifle company to 1stAmtrac Bn for employment in C-4.

(7) Maintain reaction forces IAW ref (c).

(8) Be prepared for employment anywhere in 3rdMar AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

## d. 1stAmphib Tractor Bn

(1) Continue assigned missions in assigned AO.

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(2) Be prepared to employ provisional rifle company from organic assets to operate in and from C-4 position when a rifle company is not assigned.

(3) Employ a light section of the AT Plt, BLT 3/1 at C-4 and the heavy section of the AT Plt, BLT 3/1 on the S/SW perimeter of CAMP KISTLER.

(4) Assign the Tank Plt (-), of BLT 3/1 in direct support of BLT 2/4.

(5) Provide one platoon of Amtracs with one Comd tractor in direct support of 1/3. Be prepared to augment the Amtrac Plt, BLT 2/4 if required.

e. Co B, 3rd Engr Bn

(1) General support of 3rd Marines.

(2) Be prepared to provide combat engineer support as well as mine sweep, water point and demolition support as required.

f. Coordinating Instructions

(1) This Frag Order supersedes all previously issued frag orders and consolidates currently valid missions.

(2) All units emphasize the employment of supporting arms to exploit contacts and avoid the isolation of small units.

(3) All units be prepared to provide security for dredging operations when dredge is within AO. Security will normally consist of a rifle squad positioned on the bank in vicinity of dredge. Recommend daily liaison with dredge personnel when security mission assigned.

(4) During rice harvest, April through June in 3rd Mar AO, all units conduct supplemental operations within AO's to deny enemy freedom of movement, uncover assembly and storage areas, and deny enemy's access to rice stores.

(5) Cooperate with River Security Units patrolling rivers within AO's by clearing fires as requested and responding to call for assistance from boats.

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(6) Be especially alert to apprehend personnel who appear to be conducting a reconnaissance of the river or river traffic. In addition, make every effort to locate and apprehend any NVA/VC artillery forward observers in AO.

(7) Enforce the land curfew (2000-0600) and water curfew/blockade (24 hours daily) as established by the Province Chief for all VN civilians.

(8) Avoid setting patterns of patrolling within AO's as to size, routes, times, etc.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS: No Change

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS: No Change

*M. A. Hull*

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

## ANNEXES:

A-Task Organization  
B-Operations Overlay (Limited Distribution)

## DISTRIBUTION:

UNIT	COPY NR
CG, 3rdMarDiv	1 w/Annex B
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3rdBn, 12thMar	7
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Annex A (Task Organization) to Frag Order TEN Operation  
 NAPOLEON/SALINE

3rd Marines (-) (Rein)

Col HULL

HqCo, 3rd Marines  
 Co "B", 3rd Engr Bn  
 Otter Plt, H&SCo, 3rd MTBn

1st Bn, 3rd Mar

LtCol JARMAN

BLT 2/4

LtCol RANN

1st Amphib Tractor Bn (-) (Rein)

LtCol MEYERS

3rd Bn, 12th Mar (-) (Rein) (D/S)

LtCol COMO

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

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CG, 3rd Mar Div

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 Ser No: 003A13968

Frag Order ELEVEN Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE

FILE

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6442 IV  
 (b) My Op Order 2-68 (NAPOLEON/SALINE)  
 (c) CG 3dMarDiv OpO 2-68 (Sparrow Hawk)

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A

## 1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy Forces. Current Intsums and SLR's.
- b. Friendly Forces. No change.

## 2. MISSION

3rdMar(-) (Reinf), with such forces as may be assigned, conducts combat operations in assigned AO on both banks of the SONG THACH HAN, including all tributaries as required, to ensure uninterrupted passage of shipping from CUA VIET to DONG HA and to deny enemy access to rocket positions oriented toward DONG HA or QUANG TRI. 3rd Mar(-) (Reinf) conducts supplemental operations within AO to deny enemy access to rice stores, caches and harvest operations, to deny enemy freedom of movement within AO and to provide security for dredging operations within AO.

## 3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation

- (1) Annex B (Operation Overlay).
- (2) 3rdMar(-) (Reinf) continues basic missions by patrolling extensively, both day and night, from patrol bases established within Battalion AO's, to screen the CUA VIET LOC and to interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

b. 1stBn, 3rdMar

- (1) Continue to maintain a combat operating base via GIAO LIEM (YD 292645).

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(2) Continue S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

(3) Maintain company patrol bases in vic DAI DO (YD 235630) and the hamlet vic (YD 265648) to screen approaches to CUA VIET LOC from the West and North.

(4) Be prepared to chop one rifle company to 1st AmbacBn for employment in C-4.

(5) Be prepared for employment anywhere in Zone AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

c. BLT 2/4

(1) Continue to maintain a combat operating base in MAI XA THI vic (YD 282688) to include both banks at mouth of JONES CREEK.

(2) Continue S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

(3) Maintain company patrol bases in vic LAM XUAN (YD 267700), NBI HA (YD 271705) and DAI LOC/THI LOC (YD 30481) to deny enemy access to inhabitants and restrict enemy freedom of movement in that area.

(4) Employ supporting armor east of JONES CREEK.

(5) Be prepared to chop one rifle company to 1st AmbacBn for employment in C-4.

(6) Be prepared for employment anywhere in Zone AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

d. 3rd Bn, 9th Mar

(1) Establish and maintain a combat operating base in vic YEN CU (YD 310655). Report CP location when established.

(2) Conduct S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO. Initially, establish company patrol bases vic VINH HOA (YD 343655) and LA XUYEN (YD 345635) to expedite



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familiarization with the terrain and inhabitants and of known VC/NVA harbor/storage sites.

(3) Subsequently, expand operations to the southern/southeastern positions of the AO to eliminate VC/NVA activity in that area.

(4) Maintain reaction forces LAM reference (1).

(5) Be prepared for employment anywhere in the AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

(6) Be prepared for employment anywhere in the AO. Be prepared to commence movement by boat or other means within 2 hours of notification.

#### c. 1st/Amphib Tractor Bn

(1) Continue assigned missions in assigned AO.

(2) Be prepared to employ provisional rifle companies from organic assets to operate in and from C-4 positions where a rifle company is not assigned.

(3) Employ a light section of the AT Plt, BMT 3/1 at C-4 and the heavy section of the AT Plt, BMT 3/1 at the S/SW perimeter of CAMP KISTLEH.

(4) Assign the Tank Plt (a), of BMT 3/1 in direct support of BLT 2/4.

(5) Provide one platoon of Amphtracs with one tank tractor in direct support of 1/3 and 2/9. Be prepared to augment the Amphtrac Plt, BLT 2/4 if required.

#### d. Co B, 3rd Log Bn

(1) General support of 3rd Marines.

(2) Be prepared to provide combat engineer support as well as mine sweep, water pump and demolition support as required.

#### e. Coordinating Instructions

(1) This Reg Order supersedes all previously issued Reg orders and consolidates currently valid missions.

SECRET

(2) All units emphasize the employment of supporting arms to exploit contacts and avoid the isolation of small units.

(3) All units be prepared to provide security for dredging operations when dredge is within AO. Security will normally consist of a rifle squad positioned on the bank in vicinity of dredge. Recommend daily liaison with dredge personnel when security mission assigned.

(4) During rice harvest, April through June in AO, all units conduct supplemental operations within AO to deny enemy freedom of movement, uncover assembly and storage areas, and deny enemy's access to rice stores.

(5) Cooperate with River Security Units patrolling rivers within AO's by clearing fires as requested and signaling to call for assistance from boats.

(6) Be especially alert to apprehend personnel who appear to be conducting a reconnaissance of the river or river traffic. In addition, make every effort to locate and capture any NVA/VC artillery forward observers in AO.

(7) Enforce the land curfew (2000-0600) and water curfew/blockade (24 hours daily) as established by the Province Chief for all VN civilians. Political situation depicting village boundaries, VC hamlets and blockaded areas in Annex C.

(8) Avoid setting patterns of patrolling within AO as to size, routes, times, etc.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS: No Change

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS: No Change

*M. A. Hull*

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

## ANNEXES:

A-Task Organization

B-Operations Overlay (Limited Distribution)

C-Political Situation Overlay (Limited Distribution)

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## DISTRIBUTION:

UNIT	COPY NR
CG, 3rdMarDiv	1 w/Annex B
Maneuver Battalions	2-5 w/Annex B
CTG 79.4	6 w/Annex B
CTF Clearwater	7 w/Annex B
3rdBn, 12thMar	8
Internal	9-19
File	20 w/Annex B

7

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 3rd Marines (-) (Reinf)  
 GUA VIENT, RVN  
 180801H May 68  
 Ser No: 003814968

Annex A (Task Organization) to Frag Order NLEVIN Operations  
 NAPOLEON/SALINE

<u>3rd Marines (-) (Reinf)</u>	Col HULL
HqCo, 3rd Marines	
Co "B", 3rd Engr Bn	
Otter Plt, H&SCo, 3rd Engr Bn	
<u>1st Bn, 3rd Mar</u>	LtCol JAMNAR
<u>BLT 2/4</u>	LtCol RATTN
<u>3rd Bn, 9th Mar (-)</u>	LtCol LA MONTAGNE
<u>1st Amphib Tractor Bn (-) (Reinf)</u>	LtCol MEYERS
<u>3rd Bn, 12th Mar (-) (Reinf) (D/S)</u>	LtCol COMO

*M. A. Hull*

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

DISTRIBUTION: Same as Frag Order NR NLEVIN

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3d Marines (Reinf)  
CMA VINT, RVN  
310800H MAY 68  
Sec No: 003/15568

Frag Order TWELVE Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000, Series 17014, Sheet 3442 IV  
(b) My Op Order 2-68 (NAPOLEON/SALINE)  
(c) CG 3dMarDiv OpO 2-68 (Spartan Hawk)

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A

### 1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy Forces. Current Intsums and SIR's.
- b. Friendly Forces. No change.

### 2. MISSION

3dMar(-) (Reinf), with such forces as may be assigned, conducts combat operations in assigned AO on both banks of the SONG THACH HAN, including all tributaries as required, to ensure uninterrupted passage of shipping from CMA VINT to DONG HA and to deny enemy access to tactical positions oriented toward DONG HA or QUANG TRI. 3dMar(-) (Reinf) conducts supplemental operations within AO to deny enemy access to rice stores, caches and harvest operations, to deny enemy freedom of movement within AO and to provide security for dredging operations within AO.

### 3. EXECUTION

#### a. Concept of Operation

- (1) Annex B (Operations Overlay).
- (2) 3dMar(-) (Reinf) continues basic mission by patrolling extensively, both day and night, from patrol boats established within Battalion AO's, to screen the CMA VINT LOC and to interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

#### b. 1stBn, 3dMar

- (1) Continue to maintain a patrol operating area via GIAO LIEH (YD 292645).

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(2) Continue S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

(3) Maintain company patrol bases in the hamlets (YD 2763), VINH HOA (YD 3365) and YUEN LAM via CUA VIET LOC to screen approaches to CUA VIET LOC from the South.

(4) Be prepared to chop one rifle company in support to 1st AmtracBn for employment in C&H.

(5) Be prepared for employment anywhere in AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

(6) Maintain reaction forces 192 reference loc.

c. 3d Bn, 3d Mar

(1) Establish a combat operating base in the area TH1 via (YD 282688) to include both banks of south of C&H CREEK.

(2) Conduct S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

(3) Maintain company patrol bases in the hamlets (YD 261632), the hamlet via (YD 261630), and CUA VIET LOC (YD 304680) to deny enemy access to inhabitants and deny enemy freedom of movement in this area.

(4) Be prepared to chop one rifle company in support to 1st Amtrac Bn for employment in C&H.

(5) Be prepared for employment anywhere in AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

d. 1st Bn, 9th Mar

(1) Establish and maintain company patrol bases in BRI HA (YD 269704) and LAI XUAN (YD 268704). Report locs when established.

(2) Conduct S&D ops in AO to screen CUA VIET LOC, interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

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(3) Be prepared for employment anywhere in 3d Marine AO on short notice. Commence movement within 30 minutes of notification.

e. 1st Amphib Tractor Bn

(1) Continue assigned missions in assigned AO.

(2) Be prepared to employ provisional rifle company from organic assets to operate in and from C-4 position when a rifle company is not assigned.

(3) Assume operational control over all tactical tracked vehicles assigned in direct support of 3d Marines. Be prepared to employ available assets as directed by this headquarters.

(4) Provide a detachment Antracs with one Cent tractor in direct support of 1/3, 3/3 and 1/9.

f. Co B, 3d Engr Bn

(1) General support of 3d Marines.

(2) Be prepared to provide combat engineer support as well as mine sweep, water point, and demolition support as required.

g. Coordinating Instructions

(1) This Frag Order supersedes all previously issued frag orders and consolidates currently valid missions.

(2) All units emphasize the employment of supporting arms to exploit contacts and avoid the isolation of small units.

(3) All units be prepared to provide security for dredging operations when dredge is within AO. Security will normally consist of a rifle squad positioned on the bank in vicinity of dredge. Recommend daily liaison with dredge personnel when security mission assigned.

(4) During rice harvest, April through June in 3d Marine AO, all units conduct supplemental operations within AO's to deny enemy freedom of movement, uncover assembly and storage areas, and deny enemy's access to rice stores.

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(5) Cooperate with River Security Units patrolling rivers within AO's by clearing fires as requested and responding to call for assistance from boats.

(6) Be especially alert to apprehend personnel who appear to be conducting a reconnaissance of the river or river traffic. In addition, make every effort to locate and apprehend any NVA/VC artillery forward observers in AO.

(7) Enforce the land curfew (2000-0600) and water curfew/blockade (24 hours daily) as established by the Province Chief for all VN civilians.

(8) Avoid setting patterns of patrolling within AO's as to size, routes, times, etc.

(9) Emphasize promptness and accuracy in reporting. Six-hour Sitreps due 0500, 1100, 1700 and 2300. Spotreps due ASAP after occurrence.

(10) Boundaries between units within 3d Marine AO are established as flexible control measures, subject to change on request to exploit contacts, facilitate pursuit, etc.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS: No Change

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS..ELECTRONICS: No Change

*M. A. Full*

N. A. FULL  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

## ANNEXES:

A. Task Organization  
B. Operations Overlay (Limited Distribution)

## DISTRIBUTION:

UNIT	
Maneuver Battalions	2-5 w/Annex B
CTF Clearwater	7 w/Annex B
3dBn, 12thMar	6 w/Annex B
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Annex A (Task Organization) to Frag Order TWELVE Companies  
NAPOLEON/SALINE

3d Marines (-) (Reinf)  
HqCo, 3d Marines  
Co "B", 3d EngrBn  
Otter Plt, H&SCo, 3d MEBn

Col FULL

1stBn, 3d Mar

LtCol JAGRAE

3dBn, 3d Mar

LtCol MARSE

1stBn, 9thMar(-)

LtCol PALITAN

1stAmphibTractorBn(-) (Reinf)

LtCol NEWELL

3dBn, 12thMar(-) (Reinf) (D/3)

LtCol COPE

*M. A. Full*

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

DISTRIBUTION: Same as Frag Order FR TWELVE

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