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HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 3rd Marines
3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

2nd Bn, 3rd Mar, 500
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology, 1 through 31 Dec 1968

Ref: (a) HCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPao 5750.8A
(c) DivO 5750.1B (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines Command Chronology for 010001H
to 312400H Dec 68

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

J. J. MCNUGLE

GP-4
DO NOT REGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

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2nd Bn, 3rd Mar, 500

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DEC 1968

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HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 3rd Marines
3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

010001H to 312400H December 1968

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION	COMMANDER	PERIOD
2nd Bn, 3d Mar	LtCol B. T. GREEN LtCol J. J. MCMONAGLE	1-7 Dec 68 8-31 Dec 68

SUBORDINATING UNITS

HQS Company	1stLt J. L. McDONNELL	1-31 Dec 68
Company B	1stLt W. C. BELTON Capt. K. W. NISENBAUER	1-5 Dec 68 6-31 Dec 68
Company F	1stLt J. H. MARTIN II Capt. M. J. REILLY	1-5 Dec 68 6-31 Dec 68
Company G	Capt. D. D. DEAN	1-31 Dec 68
Company H	Capt. D. J. MYERS	1-31 Dec 68

2. LOCATION

Cam Lo District, Quang Tri Province, RVN.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj. J. C. CLICK Maj. J. R. GUMMSEN	1-3 Dec 68 4-31 Dec 68
S-1/Adjutant	1stLt P. J. MATTHEWS	1-31 Dec 68
S-2	2ndLt. G. A. SUMNER 1stLt. W. E. QUIGLEY	1-6 Dec 68 6-31 Dec 68
S-3	Maj. T. C. DOLSON	1-31 Dec 68
S-4	Capt. P. J. SINNOTT	1-31 Dec 68
S-5	1stLt R. P. AYRES	1-31 Dec 68
CommO	1stLt W. T. GEORGE Jr.	1-31 Dec 68

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

OFF	USMC	AMT	OFF	USN	AMT
45		1085	3		50

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PART II

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

December was an ~~extremely~~ active period for the Second Battalion, Third Marines. This hyper-activity was due to the diversity of missions and relative size of the area of operations, rather than intense combat or frequent contact.

The month began with most of the battalion completing a cordon and search operation in Cam Lo District, (Operation Vinh Dai). As with the previous cordon and search operations it was run in cooperation and coordination with Regional and Popular forces.

Upon finishing this seven day cordon and search operation, the deception plan for a like operation in Huong Hoa District commenced. This cordon and search was named "Operation Mai Loo" and encompassed the majority of the hamlets in Huong Hoa District, Mai Loo being the best known.

The results of both cordon and search efforts were very encouraging in that expertise increased, timing was improved, and success was noted in the number of VC suspects detained. Still needing improvement was the internal coordination of the RVN District Intelligence Agencies which conduct the screening and coordination.

Immediately upon completion of the latter cordon and search, the battalion was given an extension to its AO, to encompass the area previously assigned to 3/3. Thus, the command found itself on 12 December with an AO stretching from the DMZ in the north to the Cua Valley in the south. This area was 30KM long and averaged 10KM from east to west.

The mission statement of 2/3 remained basically the same, with the battalion committed to both pacification assistance and search and destroy operations. However, the increased AO now added the task of providing security for the fixed installations of A-4 (Con Thien), C-2 Bridge, C-2, and C-3. The significance of the latter was that three of these positions were designed for battalion sized units, yet only two companies were available to provide the security mission and conduct search and destroy operations.

Thus, the last three weeks of December found 2/3 with two companies, "F" in Huong Hoa District and "H" in Cam Lo District, conducting pacification assistance through integrated operations and training with Regional and Popular Forces. Company "J" provided security for A-4 and C-2 Bridge, as well as conducting vigorous patrol and ambush operations in a 54 square KM area. The remaining company, "G", provided security for C-2 and C-3 while patrolling and ambushing a 51 square KM AO. The battalion CP remained at the Cam Lo District Headquarters with a liaison station at the Huong Hoa District Headquarters.

To assist in the seemingly insurmountable tasks assigned, several supporting arms were employed. Two companies of tanks, one platoon of Dusters, one 105 howitzer battery, and a 4.2" mortar platoon were all in direct support of the battalion. Maximum use was made of these supporting

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weapons, both day and night, to gain full coverage of the AO with either infantry or supporting arms or both. Additionally, surveillance equipment was employed from all the fixed positions and seismic intrusion devices were installed along the DMZ.

A vigorous target acquisition program was instituted by the intelligence officer. This proved to be particularly effective and in the latter stages of the month, hundreds of rounds of artillery, mortar, tank, and duster fires were delivered on known and suspected targets.

The logistical support of the battalion slowly became untenable, due to long lines of communications and poor roads. This was improved to a point of adequacy with the assignment of a truck section in D/S of the battalion for the second half of December.

The month ended with a score of only a few kills, but full confidence that the AO was being denied to the enemy due to total effort on the part of all companies and supporting weapons.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION.

a. AWARDS

SILVER STAR MEDAL	1	
BRONZE STAR MEDAL	4	
NAVY COMMENDATION	28	
PURPLE HEART	24	
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT	84	
	186	TOTAL AWARDS

b. PROMOTIONS

PFC	6	
LCpl	29	
CPL	9	
	44	TOTAL PROMOTIONS

c. A total of 95 R&R quotas were utilized during the month of December

d. Personnel losses and gains for December.

USMC				USN			
Join	Drop	Join	Drop	Join	Drop	Join	Drop
12	4	65	105	0	0	2	9

e. Casualties for December 1968

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
KIA	0	1	0	0
MIA	1	6	0	1
DOW	0	0	0	0
REI	0	0	0	0

f. Legal and Discipline. A total of five Non-Judicial punishments were held during December 1968. There are six investigations pending. There are no Special Court-martials pending this month.

g. Pay and Allowances. Satisfactory.

h. Postal. Fair.

i. Post Exchange. Exchange facilities in Quang Tri are available to the battalion rear. A P.X. truck was available to some units in the field, depending on their locations, twice a week. Supplementary packs are being obtained through resupply channels.

j. Religious Services. Protestant services were held by the Battalion Chaplain whenever possible in the field. Catholic mass was celebrated by visiting chaplains when available. Rear echelon personnel attended services in Quang Tri complex.

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2. ~~ENEMY, WEATHER, AND TERRAIN.~~

a. Summary of Enemy Activity: Enemy activity for the month of December would be termed light. The enemy concentrated on infiltrating small units from the DMZ, ~~primarily~~ down along the westward boundary of the AO, into the Cua Valley area. During the course of these infiltrations, he made definite efforts to avoid contact with friendly units. Enemy units normally operating within this AO (C-9 Co, 31 Grp) also, limited their activities to general harassment, sniping, and mining operations along friendly lines of communication. Based on incidents which took place and agent reports, the enemy's main efforts were pointed towards spreading propaganda and collecting rice from the populace in settlement areas.

(1) Personnel: NVA KIA--6; NVA POW--0
VC Suspects detained -- 428

(2) Equipment and Weapons:

4 AK 47's	2 RPG Rounds
3 AK magazines (loaded)	1 can 82mm mortar fuses
1 Case AK ammo	10 anti tank mines
1 M14 7.62 Cal Rifle	1 pressure type M.E.
24, 60mm mortar rounds	1 Chicom grenade
36 82mm mortar rounds	18 M79 rounds
7 blasting caps	Numerous documents and propaganda leaflets.

b. Weather and terrain: During the month of December the weather remained moderate, with an average temperature of approximately eighty degrees, along with noticeable drops in late evening. There were some intermittent showers in the late afternoons, with increased cloudiness. The terrain varies from low cultivated areas (paddies) in the east and progressively grows from moderate vegetation and low hills to steep draws and slopes and heavy vegetation towards the west. Road conditions remained traversable for wheeled and tracked vehicles. Off the main routes there are numerous streams and gullies that would hamper tracked vehicles. Many of these streams and gullies are not shown on the maps currently issued.

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3. OPERATIONS.

011000H Company H, 2/3 (YD 103583) was informed by indigenous personnel of ammo in the area. A fireteam size patrol searched out the area and found 18-M79 rounds, 15-60mm rounds and two M26 grenades. Rounds were scattered throughout the area and some half buried. Retained M-79 rounds and M26 grenades. Engineers blow 60mm in place.

011100H Company F, 2/3 reported that a truck from the 446th Transport Company, U.S. Army, hit a mine (YD 107546). Truck was in convoy moving from Cam Lo to Mai Loo. Five vehicles including ontos were in front of truck that hit mine. Mine blew entire front suspension and tire from truck. Cab was left at scene of incident because of difficulty in moving same. Company F provided security throughout the night.

021420H Company D, 1/3 (attached) reported (YD 058550) that 2nd Bn, 94th Field Artillery, U.S. Army, trash vehicle was leaving dump area in route back to Camp Carroll. Approximately seven people jumped on truck, truck hit bump and two girls fell off right side of vehicle. One girl died when she fell under right rear wheel. 2nd Bn., 94th F.A. investigated incident.

3Dec68 Company G, 2/3 had one platoon returned to their opoon from Sparrow Hawk reaction status in Quang Tri.

031315H Company H, 2/3 reported that their resupply jeep was returning from their 1st platoon position, received eight rounds sniper fire from ville. Civilians in area observed to scatter immediately.

4Dec68 Completed Gorden and Search Operation at Vinh Dia refugee hamlet.

Results:

85 Viet Cong Suspects (VCS) detained.
1604 Civilians screened.
335 Med-evacuated.

Units Involved

2nd Bn., 3rd Mar.
350th and 912th RF Companies.
Cam Lo District Intelligence Agencies.
Platoon National Police Field Force, Quang Tri.
MACV Advisors, Cam Lo District

5Dec68 Company G, 2/3 chopped one platoon opoon to 3rd Recon Battalion, Quang Tri as Sparrow Hawk reaction force.

050745H Company D 1/3 reported taking seven rounds sniper fire (YD045555). Spotted one native, who fled before fire could be returned. Sent fireteam to check area; negative results. Two civilians in area reported three NVA moving southwest.

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051100H Company H 2/3 reported 22nd MCB (YD061576) received 35 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from (YD 059586). Fired arty mission on suspected enemy position. 22nd MCB had two WIA med-evacs.

051140H Company G 2/3, while in night defensive position, (YD 139509) received approximately 10 rounds 60mm mortar fire and two RPG rounds, causing two KIA and eight WIA med-evacs. Called in arty mission, results unknown.

051245H Company G 2/3, point element of patrol spotted two persons about 150 meters away. One person was carrying weapon with banana style magazine. Subjects were in a low crouch. Point element opened fire, causing one wounded VC who died while waiting for med-evac. Approximately 45 minutes later search team spotted armed person with weapon at 300 meters. VC escaped.

6Dec68 Commenced Cordon and Search Operation in Huong Hoa District populated area, Quang Tri Province. Forces participating:
 2ndBn., 3rd Marines
 256th Regional Force (RF) Company
 73rd, 74th, and 107th Popular Force (PF) Platoons
 One Brou Company, Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG)
 Cam Lo and Huong Hoa District Intelligence Agencies
 MACV Advisory team, Huong Hoa District

060255H Company G 2/3 platoon (YD 139508) in night defensive position reported taking 25 to 30 artillery rounds from southwest; approximate range of 4500 meters. Called in counter-battery mission with unknown results.

062225H Regional Force, GVN ambush reported enemy blow bridge (YD 194591) RF's observed explosion. VT artillery called on suspected enemy routes of withdrawal.

7Dec68 Company D 1/3 chopped from 2/3 to support of Task Force Hotel.

072200H Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG), while assisting in cordon and search received seven to eight rounds 60mm and small arms fire. Returned fire with small arms and 81mm. Results were negative.

08055H CIDG received incoming small arms and automatic weapons fire. Returned fire with small arms and M79's. Results were negative.

081145H Mine sweep on Route # 558 found one anti tank mine (YD 104542). Mine was blown in place.

082215H CIDG, while in ambush position, (YD 103518) received two probes by an unknown sized enemy force. The probes consisted of automatic weapons fire and 10 to 15 rounds of 60mm. Returned fire with small arms, automatic weapons fire, M79's and 81mm. Two CIDG personnel were wounded from short round. Checked out area with negative results.

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082230H Company G 2/3 (YD 101537) reported one person outside company defense perimeter. He was challenged three times by platoon commander. Man did not answer challenge, one M26 was thrown. It was discovered that, person was a Marine away from his assigned area. Marine received shrapnel wounds in hand, chest and legs, and was med-evacuated.

092015H Company G 2/3 reported their perimeter (YD 100526) received an incoming grenade five meters outside lines. Grenade came from ville. Requested 81mm illumination. Result were negative.

100006B Completed cordon and search operations in Huong Hoa District.

Results:

2345 Civilians screened
218 VCS detained
900 Med-evacuated.

Received Task Force Bravo Operation Order 1-68 redesignating 2/3's area of operations:

- (1) Effective 120000H, assume security of A-4, C-2, C-2 Bridge, C-3 and C-3 Bridge.
- (2) Conduct road sweeps of Route #561, Route #558 and Route #9 in AO to N-S grid line 19.
- (3) Conduct counter-ambushes along Route #561 between A-4 and C-3.
- (4) Conduct S/D operations in AO.
- (5) Continue pacification assistance program with GVN forces in Cam Lo area and Huong Hoa District.

2/3 responded to the AO change (Bn. OpOrder 13-68) by moving Company E to A-4 and C-2 Bridge and Company G to C-2 and C-3. These units were to relieve the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines on position within one or two days. (See supporting documents).

Company E 2/3 arrived at A-4 and C-2 Bridge and was chopped upon to 3/3.

101350H Company H 2/3, while on patrol (YD 088608) found four fighting holes and one bunker under construction. Further search resulted in finding nine 60mm rounds, one can mortar fuses and one RPG round. Destroyed fighting holes returned ammo to battalion CP.

110006B 3/3 assumed opcon of Company G 2/3, upon the latter's arrival at C-2 and C-3.

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- 111515H Company E 2/3 saw one person moving across open field. Fireteam sent out to search area, resulting in one Chieu Hoi. Chieu Hoi sent to Division III.
- 12Dec68 2/3, assumes security of C-3 through A-4. Company G 2/3 and E 2/3 returned to opcon 2/3 from 3/3.
- 122100H Company F 2/3 while moving to ambush position sighted five NVA/VC, believed to be enemy laying mines. Opened fire with small arms, automatic fire and M79's. Search of area resulted in finding one dead VC, M14 bayonet, one pack, one mine ten inches in diameter and eight inches high, one pack containing rice and milk, one AK 47, and personal documents.
- 131428H Company E 2/3, at A-4 sighted four NVA (YD 13508284) moving in open. Reported DMZ violation.
- 132000H Company B, 3rd Tanks D/S, 2/3 (YD 170587) while in night defensive position, reported three trip flares were set off. Movement was spotted. Fired 50 rounds automatic fire and checked out area with negative results.
- 132145H Company G 2/3, at C-3, heard movement outside their perimeter (YD 147617). Illuminated area with popups and spotted movement. Opened fire with small arms and checked out area with negative results.
- 151200H Company E 2/3 reported that 1/44th Artillery, U. S. Army (Dusters) spotted one man wearing green utilities kneeling in brush. Duster opened fire with M60 machine gun; supporting Marines fired small arms. Searched area with negative results.
- 160900H Company E 2/3, while on patrol (YD 104708) found one U. S. 250 pound bomb. Engineers blew bomb in place.
- 161230H Company E 2/3 (YD 091713) found small bunker complex. Bunkers appeared to be a year or more old. Some bunkers destroyed due to ARC light bombing. Searched area with negative results.
- 161445H Company A, 3rd Tanks, D/S, 2/3, in counter ambush position (YD 122685) received five rounds of sniper fire (YD 123677). Returned fire with five beehive rounds at suspected enemy position. Results were negative.
- 161715H Company F 2/3 reported that road patrol vehicle on Route #558 rolled off road (YD 111547). Ambush was set up near scene of incident, until first light.
- 172225H Company F 2/3 reported one of their squads with an PF Platoon (YD 100518) made enemy contact. Two trip flares were set off at perimeter of Huong Van village, exposing three enemy personnel. PF unit initiated small arms fire. USMC squad and PF platoon.

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received several rounds of small arms fire with green tracers. Returned fire with small arms, 60mm, 81mm and 4.2" mortars. Results of search were negative.

- 181100H Company E 2/3 patrol found booby trap (YD 096701). Booby trap had a pressure release type fuse with trip wire. Booby trap was in metal case weighed five pounds. Blow booby trap in place.
- 181830H Company F, 2/3 patrol (YD 111552) spotted 20 VC in open (YD 108557). 81mm and 4.2" mortars fired on target. Searched area thoroughly with negative results.
- 182230H Company F 2/3 squad providing security for vehicle hoard movement, also what sounded like radio transmissions (YD 111552). Squad threw grenades and received small arms fire. Small arms ceased and heavy movement continued. Squad pulled back and called in 81mm and illumination. Ten to twelve VC were sighted, called in 81mm mortars. Movement ceased. Searched area with negative results.
- 191045H Company F 2/3 patrol took 15 to 20 rounds sniper fire (YD 118553) patrol was unable to locate sniper.
- 191300H Company F 2/3 patrol took heavy small arms fire (YD 129552). Returned fire with small arms and M79's. Flight of fixed wing called in (YD 123555). Patrol searched area of air strike with negative results.
- 201130H Company E 2/3 (YD 117724) . Patrol point man tripped booby trap. Device exploded negative casualties. Mine was approximately five pounds in weight, encased in metal.
- 201230H Company E 2/3 patrol found one 500 pound bomb (YD 115724) and blow it in place.
- 201400H Company H 2/3 patrol found 13 well constructed bunkers (YD 082617). Bunkers were made of logs and dirt and appeared three to four months old.
- 211130H Company F 2/3. O.P. spotted one VC/NVA (YD 118511) wearing green utilities, helmet and carrying rifle approaching RF sector of O.P. The VC/NVA spotting O.P., turned and ran. Two Marines moved up to RF sector of O.P. and fired one magazine into brush where VC/NVA disappeared. Search of area with negative results.
- 211430H 2/3 Liaison Officer in Cua Valley notified of a 2 1/2 ton civilian type truck (YD 087523) moving from east to west on road hit a 30 pound anti-tank mine causing seven civilian casualties. Three of the wounded were med-evacuated.

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- 211630H Company F 2/3 (YD 111549). Reported a grenade was thrown at the rear of a tank moving from Cam Lo to Cua Valley. It was thrown from the high bank on left hand side of road, causing negative damage to tank. Tanks fired five rounds cannon and 350 rounds of 30 caliber. Area was swept with negative results.
- 211930H Company E 2/3 O.P. # 2, Night Observation Device (NOD) operator spotted approximately 50 NVA moving south in seven to thirteen man groups (YD 16897851) from 1800 to 1825. Reported DMZ violation.
- 212000H Company F 2/3 ambush (YD 105524) spotted six VC on ridge line 100 meters north of their position. Ambush opened fire with small arms. Ambush searched area with support from 81mm HE and illumination. Ambush again spotted movement and opened fire. Search of area revealed negative results.
- 212110H Company E 2/3, at 1-4, detected enemy movement (YD 12207350), YD 14057316, and YD 092712) by Seismic Intrusion Device (SID). Called in arty mission results unknown.
- 212130H Company E 2/3, at 1-4, detected enemy movement with SID (YD 09107185). Called in arty mission results unknown.
- 220500H Company E 2/3, at 1-4, detected movement by SID (YD 122735). Called in arty mission; results unknown.
- 230150H CIDG reported receiving two rounds of incoming, after investigation it was determined 4/12 FDC was firing the mission (YD 084519).
- 231415H Company H 2/3 patrol (YD 173608) found a log and dirt bunker approximately 20 foot long, 15 feet deep and three foot wide. Bunker was approximately one year old, but appeared to have been used recently. Further search of area revealed nothing.
- 231600H Company B 2/3, patrol found one 500 pound dud bomb (YD 165708) and blow it in place.
- 242130H Company G 2/3, ambush received two rounds of small arms fire while moving to position (YD 140650). Returned fire and called in illumination. Observed four to five VC/NVA moving in northeast direction. Ambush checked out area with negative results.
- 242215H Company F 2/3 ambush spotted one VC on trail (YD 111521). Ambush opened fire resulting in one VC killed and one AK47 rifle.
- 242245H Company G 2/3 ambush observed 15 NVA/VC moving southwest. Ambush opened fire with small arms and M79's. Enemy returned fire and escaped in southwest direction. Searched area with negative results.
- 251800H 2/3 CP at Cam Lo received report of one M79 round fired from convoy into village (YD 137592). No one was injured.

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- 251900H Company F 2/3 ambush, while moving into position, came across body believed to be a result of previous night's action. Results were one VC killed, two packs, 20 pounds of rice, 10 pounds of flour small cooking stove and poncho.
- 252200H Company E 2/3, at 1-4; SID detected enemy movement of unknown size (YD 141732). Arty mission called in, results unknown.
- 26Dec68 Company E 2/4 arrived at 2/3 CP for opcon to 2/3.
- 261040H Company E 2/3 patrol (YD 134708) found abandoned cave. Search revealed one boot, six empty oil drums and numerous cans of fruit. Cave had not been used recently. Trail 50 meters away from cave was being used frequently.
- 261330H Company G 2/3 patrol found VC propaganda leaflets on trail (YD 137608). Leaflets turned into S-2.
- 261700H Company G 2/3 patrol found nine old living bunkers (YD 086627). Several bunkers were eight to ten feet in depth with air vents for cooking. Found well used trail with numerous side trails. Called for fuse delay artillery mission on area.
- 27095H Company E 2/3 patrol found seven bunkers (YD 128728) partially destroyed by artillery. Search of area revealed 20 82mm rounds, one case AK47 ammo, one RPG round, one M14 rifle (US type) 782 gear and assorted cooking utensils. 82mm rounds blown in place.
- 271345H Company E 2/3 patrol found four anti tank mines 100 to 150 meters apart (YD 139728). Mines were blown in place.
- 272107H Company E 2/4 ambush was triggered (YD 078611) when it spotted five to seven NVA walking along stream. Ambush waited until NVA were five foot away and opened up with automatic fire and M60 machine gun. Ambush received two AK 47 rounds and two grenades. NVA broke contact and ran. Ambush kept tight security all night and checked out area at first light and found two NVA killed, two AK 47's, three packs, three ponchos, shirts, blasting caps, documents and personal gear.
- 272140H Company A, 3rd Tanks reported seeing what appeared to be six enemy helicopters (YD 093738) flying at treetop level moving to the south. Tanks fired 25 rounds HE; results unknown.
- 272230H Company E 2/3, at 1-4, detected enemy movement by SID (YD 140739). Artillery mission called in; results unknown.
- 281105H Company A, 3rd Tanks, while in support of Company E during coordination and search operations, tank hit mine (YD 140739). Mine was approximately 75 pounds in weight, with pressure cap, in metal case and buried about two feet in ground. Tank had to be towed in.

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- 281615H 2/3 S-2 patrol (YD 118552) exchanged fire with snipers (YD 118551). Called in aerial observer and gunships. Gunships propped area and patrol searched area with negative results.
- 281625H Company F 2/3 reported that two resupply trucks took semi-automatic fire and automatic fire (YD 117558). Fire was coming from (YD 118554). One truck took hit on 50 caliber ring mount and gunner saw two NVA/VC in brush. Returned fire with 350 rounds of 50 caliber; results negative.
- 281919H Report received from an intelligence agent that ambush, on 24 December by Company F, killed three VC and wounded six. KIA's identified as VCI hamlet chief, assistant hamlet chief and a local guerrilla. All were on the 3rd Marine Division Black List.
- 282040H Company F 2/3 reported that two, four man LP/OP's (YD 117509) received small arms fire simultaneously from unknown number of enemy. Returned small arms fire, and called in artillery mission.
- 282320H Company G 2/3, at C-3, reported spotting ten to eleven VC/NVA by star light scope moving from east (YD 143611). Fired small arms, machine guns, M79's and 81mm illumination. NVA/VC retreated in southeast direction.
- 290001H Company E 2/3 reported they received four to five rounds 90mm incoming. Investigation showed them to be friendly rounds.
- 291110H Helicopter on visual reconnaissance mission (YD 074624) took small arms fire. Aerial Observer called in air strike.
- 291330H Company E 2/4 patrol spotted three NVA (YD 095604) 100 meters to the west. Opened fire with small arms; received no return fire.
- Patrol swept through area, with the support of 81mm mortars, and found spider traps and tunnels.
- 292230H Company E 2/4, (YD 091619) lines were probed; received two chicom grenades. Returned fire with two M26 grenades and movement stopped. 60mm and 81mm mortars and artillery were called in on likely avenues of withdrawal. Searched at first light with negative results.
- 301530H MUCV located at Cam Lo reported makeshift rocket struck and entered wall of Buddhist Temple. (YD 0933592)
- 302035H Company E 2/3, at A-4, reported spotting one large light by NOD (YD 107716). Tanks fired 22 rounds of 90mm within five minutes of sighting. Initial volley appeared to topple light off its elevated position, but the light kept on burning. Tanks then fired another volley at light. After rounds impacted in area of light, object was observed burning. Kept fire under observation for three hours till fire went out. At first light checked out area with negative results.

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- 302210H Company F 2/3 reported that 3rd platoon, B Company 3rd Tanks while moving along ridgeline (YD 138552) saw some type of HE rounds detonating 100 meters to their east and in front of lead tank. Upon checking area, crater was found and analysis indicated that they were 60mm mortars, fired from the east. Checked out area 1000 meters to the east with negative results.
- 311025H Company B 2/3 reported that A.O. spotted fresh camp site (YD 099721) possible enemy position. A.O. called in artillery mission. A.O. observed three bunkers and one fighting hole destroyed.
- 311215H Company B 2/4, while moving found land mine (YD 080635) type unknown. Engineers blew mine in place.
- 312100H Company G 2/3 reported that their PPS-6 picked up two people approximately 300 meters outside perimeter. Starlight also picked up two people. The perimeter received two rounds of sniper fire. Returned fire and covered area with 75 rounds 60mm and 30 rounds M79. Squad swept through area with negative results.
- 312115H Company E 2/3, at 1-4, detected enemy movement (YD 123734) by SID. Tanks fired immediately and artillery fired on target within five minutes of report. Results unknown.

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4. TRAINING.

During the month of December special emphasis was placed on weapons safety, mines and booby traps and ambush techniques. CO/ATP training was held for all replacement personnel in the battalion. Classes were held in the field whenever the time and tactical situation permitted. Personnel in the battalion rear participated in on the job training.

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>No. ATTENDED</u>
3rd Div Personal Response Course	Quang Tri	1
Basic Org. Supply and Accounting School	Quang Tri	2
Infantry Weapons Course	Okinawa	2
SNCO Leadership Course	Quang Tri	2
PPS-6 (Battalion school)	Quang Tri	20

5. ARTILLERY SUPPORT.

a. On December 9, 1968 2/3 FSOC assumed the dual responsibilities of Battalion and Regimental FSOC for 2/3 and units in Task Force Bravo. During the month of December, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines and 4.2" Mortar Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines were in direct support of 2/3. Batteries of 4th Battalion, 12th Marines were in general support and reinforced the fires of the D/S batteries. 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery U.S. Army; 2nd Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery; and 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery (U.S. Army) reinforced the fires of direct support/general support units. The round expenditure breakdown is as follows:

<u>Bravo 1/12 105mm</u>		<u>Charlie 1/12 105mm</u>		<u>Mike 4/12 155mm</u>		<u>Lima 4/12 155mm</u>	
HE	2405	HE	187	HE	771	HE	16
WP	43	WP	4	WP	4	WP	2
ILLUM	436	ILLUM	0	ILLUM	0	ILLUM	0
COFRAM	0	COFRAM	0	COFRAM	0	COFRAM	0
TOTAL	2884	TOTAL	191	TOTAL	775	TOTAL	18

<u>Kilo 4/12 155mm</u>		<u>Kilo Delta 4/12 155mm</u>		<u>Whiskey 2/12 4.2mm</u>	
HE	93	HE	377	HE	517
WP	0	WP	5	WP	20
ILLUM	0	ILLUM	10	ILLUM	113
COFRAM	0	COFRAM	0	COFRAM	0
TOTAL	93	TOTAL	397	TOTAL	650

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<u>1st Bn. 40th Arty USA</u>		<u>1st Battery 8"</u>		<u>2nd Prov 155 Howitzer</u>	
HE	0	HE	20	HE	15
WP	0	WP	0	WP	0
ILLUM	0	ILLUM	0	ILLUM	0
COFRAM	29	COFRAM	0	COFRAM	0
TOTAL	29	TOTAL	20	TOTAL	15

6. AIR SUPPORT.

- a. Air support for the month of December, 1968 was satisfactory.
- b. There was a total of 209 support missions flown for this battalion during the month of December.
- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| (1) Mod-ovno | 13 |
| (2) Visual Recon | 40 |
| (3) Administrative | 43 |
| (4) Logistics | 32 |
| (5) Airborne Observer | 27 |
- c. There were a total of 54 flights of fixed wing run for this battalion during the month of December.

7. LOGISTICS.a. General.

(1) The overall logistical support of the battalion was satisfactory and only one significant problem was encountered during December, that being a ~~critical~~ shortage of BL 386's in latter part of the month.

(2) The forward echelons were located at Dong Ha Combat Base and Cam Lo District Headquarters (Bn. CP). An operational stock of class II and class V was maintained at the former and classes I, II, III, IV and V at the latter.

(3) Aerial resupply was utilized to resupply Company F at Mai Loc until discontinued by Division on 13 December. Since that time aerial resupply was used only to resupply Company E 2/4 (attached) during the period 26 to 30 December.

b. Supply. During this reporting period, Battalion Supply maintained its location in the 3rd Marine Regimental rear, Quang Tri Combat Base. Representatives of supply were deployed with forward CP at Cam Lo and 3-4 detachments at Dong Ha for purposes of resupply to the companies.

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Class II and IV supplies continued to be requisitioned from FLSC Bravo, Quang Tri. Emergency items required couriers to be sent to FLC Da Nang for immediate combat emergency requisition and resupply.

No problems of a significant nature have been encountered in this reporting period.

c. Motor Transport. The assignment of eight 2 1/2 ton, 6x6 trucks to this battalion, since 15 December, has provided an element of increased flexibility and greatly reduced the resupply and logistical transportation problem. The eight trucks are assigned throughout the battalion A.O.: one at A-4 in support of Company E; one at C-2 in support of Company G; three at Cam Lo in support of the forward CP and Company F, and three at Quang Tri. The battalion's organic vehicles located in Quang Tri logged a total of 14,452 miles and vehicles located in Cam Lo logged 5,414 miles. The M274's located in Quang Tri logged 453 operating hours and the ones located in Cam Lo logged 175 operating hours.

d. Services.

(1) Messing. The battalion took over operation of the Regimental messhall at Quang Tri during December. In addition a second messhall has been established at Cam Lo. All companies have been provided with a combination of hot food and MCI's. Company B (-) messed with A Battery, 1st Battalion, 90th Artillery (USA) and one hot meal a day was provided for the remaining detached platoon. Vao-cans were used for the latter. Company G was provided with fresh food and dry stores and one platoon messed with Nike Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines, on a daily basis. The platoons were rotated to "spread the wealth". Company F has been provided with a cook, two field ranges and sufficient stores to provide one hot meal per day to the company. Company H works, lives, and feeds with the local Regional Forces in the Cam Lo area.

(2) Showers. A field shower unit is maintained and operated at the battalion CP at Cam Lo. Water for the shower is supplied daily by MCB - 22.

(3) Maintenance. Motor Transport received 3rd Echelon repairs from FLSC-B in Dong Ha. A total of five M514's and three M274's were turned in for repair. The motor transport maintenance service received from FLSC-B was outstanding. Two quarterly PM's were performed on M514's and one quarterly PF performed on a M274.2.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

a. During the month of December, the communication platoon supported the battalion throughout their movements and operations. Communications were maintained at Cam Lo (Bn. CP) and Huong Hoa District Headquarters, (Liaison Station). Stations were established at A-4 and C-2.

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b. Throughout the month technicians repaired 23 RT-505's and turned in 10 RT-505's to FLSG-B. The major problem with the RT-505's is the A-10 module, which is in short supply. Also, the A-10's received in the last shipment have proven defective. Currently there are 24 RT-505's in FLSG-B; the majority of which are awaiting module A10. The communications platoon stood a 3rd Marine Division Communication/Electronics inspection with satisfactory results.

c. Supply was able to acquire BL 386's relieving the problems caused by the previous shortage. The battalion received six directional antennas, AS-2236/GRC. There is still an extreme shortage of message books, NAVMC 69/4-GS.

9. MEDICAL.

a. First echelon care was provided by the hospital corpsmen assigned to the line companies. They were equipped to hold routine sick call and provide emergency treatment for casualties.

b. Second echelon care was provided by the Battalion Aid Station which was composed of three units whose locations were fixed during this month. The Battalion Aid Station at Quang Tri provided administrative and medical supply support. The Battalion Aid Station at Cam Lo District Headquarters and the Battalion Aid Station element at Huong Hoa District Headquarters provided routine sick call and emergency care for military and friendly civilian units operating in their respective areas. In addition, men and material were provided for Med Caps in the districts of Cam Lo and Huong Hoa.

c. Third echelon medical support was provided by the following units:

3rd Medical Battalion, Quang Tri
Dong Ha Childrens Hospital, Dong Ha
NSA Hospital, Da Nang
USS Repose and USS Sanctuary

d. Statistics.

Total outpatients seen:	386
Total immunizations:	255
Prescriptions:	346

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FUO	18	DERMATOLOGY	81	EARS	06
URI	19	ORTHOPAEDICS	26	NP	08
GI	22	BURNS	00	GSW	00
GU	01	MALARIA	04	S/W	06
VD	06	EYES	05	INFECT	40
RAT BITES	02	LACERATIONS	17	MISC	115
		RING WORM	06		

10. PSYOPS AND CIVIL AFFAIRS.

a. During the month of December, the Battalion Civil Affairs/Psypops

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Officer started a drive to collect unwanted "C" Rations which would have otherwise been destroyed or burned in the trash pits. Approximately 1000 cans were distributed to needy Vietnamese in the Cam Lo area. Also, distributed, at Christmas time, were 200 pounds of clothing and 846 toys. This was accomplished in cooperation with the Cam Lo District Chief. Candy was distributed to children in this area through a Catholic priest. Forty-one dollars and eighty-six cents was collected and turned in for the Dong Ha Childrens Hospital. Arrangements were made for roofing tile for a protestant church in the area.

b. A fair price, free enterprise laundry was set up and is being run by indigenous personnel and patronized by Marines at Cam Lo.

c. A project has been started to help establish a pig farm for relocated Krou tribes in the Cua Valley. This project should be completed by January.

d. One solatium payment was made during December to the parents of a child killed by a truck.

e. During operation Mai Loc 7-11 December 2/3 fed 3200 meals, showed nightly psyops movies, provided treatments to 900 persons through medcap, and distributed 3000 VIP handouts to detainees.

f. In the psyops area, ten separate leaflet drops were made in carefully selected areas of 2/3's AO. 25,000 leaflets were used on each drop. Leaflets consisted of Cheu Hoi, Anti VC and VIP types. Also distributed in local villages, were 10,000 TU DO and JUSPAO newspapers.

g. The S-5 officer attended the personal response course in Dong Ha.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
✓ A	Operation Order 12-68, Extracts	23
✓ B	Operation Order 12-68, Overlay	24
✓ C	Operation Order 13-68, Overlay	25
D	A/A Report (Opn Vinh DAI	
E	Operation Plan 12-68	
F	Annex B Intelligence to Operation Order 13-68	

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Operation Order 12-68 (Operation Mai Loc)

Ref: (a) Maps: Vietnam, 1:50,000, Cam Lo, 2nd Doc Kinh,
AMS series L7014 sheets 6342I and 6442II

Mission. At 0001 on D-Day 2/3 (-) (Rein) and GVN forces conduct a combined ~~cordon~~ and search operation of the Mai Loc population center; a civil affairs program will be conducted in conjunction with the operation.

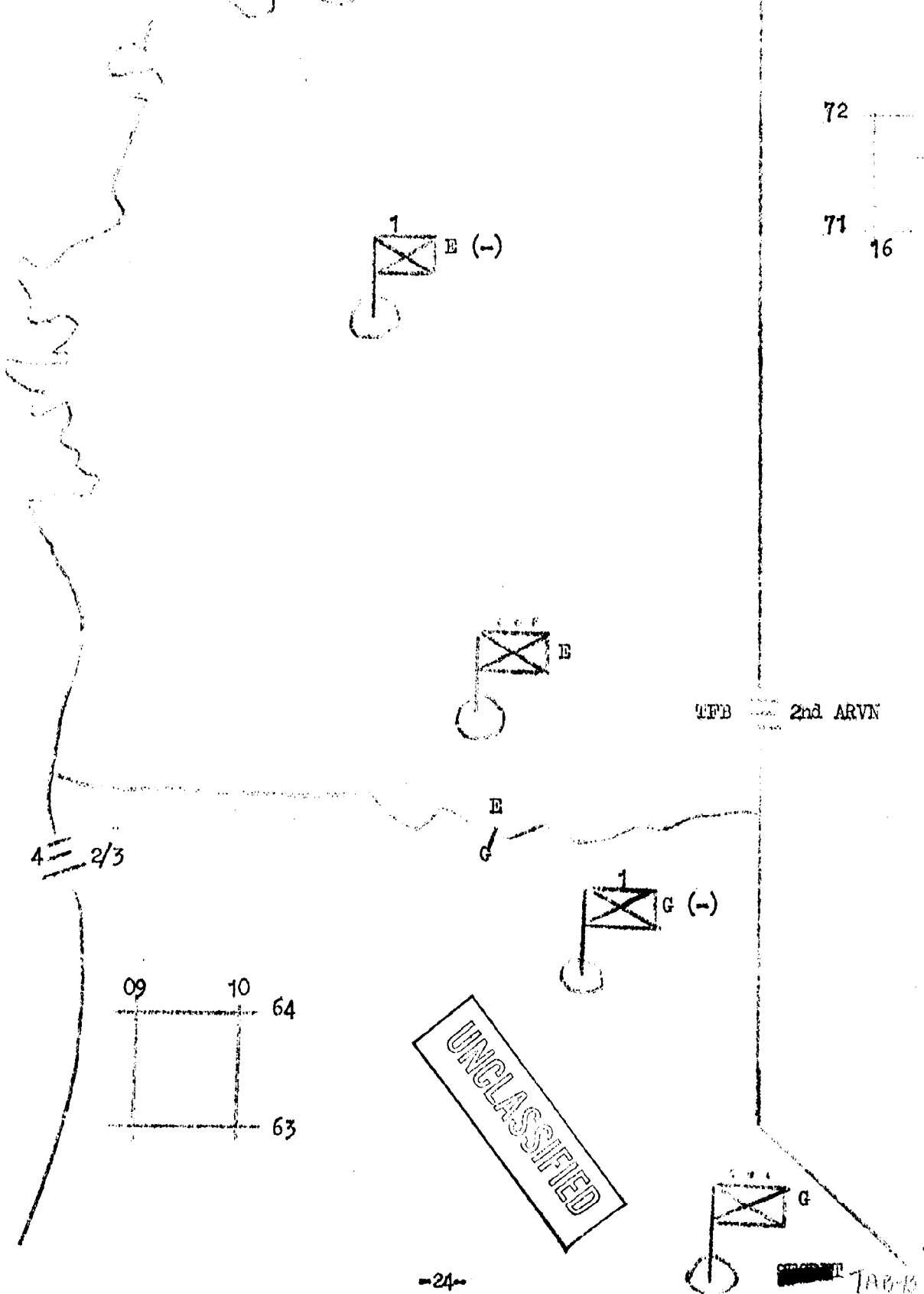
Concept of Operation. Manoeuvor Annex B (Operation Overlay)
See Annex F (Operation Diagram). After the completion of Operation Vinh Dia, 2/3 (-) commences Operation Mai Loc by occupying the NW, NE and Eastern sectors of cordon. The PF Platoons, with integrated Marines, will occupy the SW sector of cordon, with CIDG filling in the SW sector, and thus completing the cordon by H-Hour. Company F will assume the mission of Battalion reserve, and the RF Company will establish the interior cordons.

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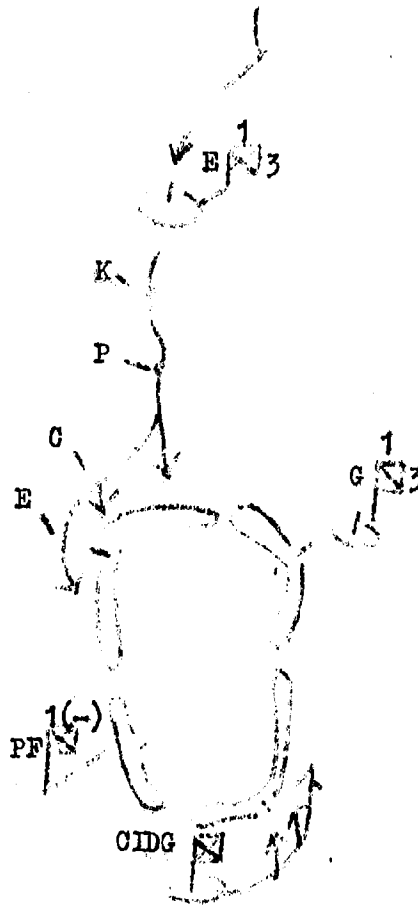
Annex D (Operation Overlay)
Operation Order #13-68



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Operation Order #12-68
Annex A

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