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

3/RTF/wb
13131
6 Feb 68

From: Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: Commanding Officer, 9th Marine Regiment (Rein) FMF
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
Commanding General, VII MAF
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 January 1968 - 31 January 1968.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) January 1968 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Group IV: Downgrade at three year intervals with declassification after twelve years. Declassified upon removal of enclosure.


DONALD C. MARCHETTE
By direction

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 January 1968 to 31 January 1968

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Enclosure (1)

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PART I

Organizational Data1. DesignationCommander

3d, Battalion, 3d Marines

1stCol R. C. BENDIAN 1-20 Jan

1stCol J. W. WATSON 21-31 Jan

Subordinate Units

"A" Co.	Capt F. R. MATTHEWS	1-31 Jan
"I" Co.	Capt R. R. BIERE Capt O. J. LEHRACK	1-7 Jan 8-31 Jan
"K" Co.	Capt T. W. ARNOLD Capt D. R. FRANK	1-29 Jan 30-31 Jan
"L" Co.	Capt R. ZENSEN	1-31 Jan
"M" Co.	1stLt J. A. GIALONE Capt W. H. MCADAMS	1-29 Jan 30-31 Jan

Attached Units

3d Plt, "C" Co, 3d Tank Bn.	1stLt W. L. BUCKLEY	1-31 Jan
4th Section, 2d Plt, "A" Btry, 1st Bn, ADA AW(SF), 41th Arty, USA	1stLt B. M. GIEGER	19-31 Jan

2. Location.

1-31 Jan, Quang Tri Province, YD 175723 (A-3) RVN

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Major C. V. LYNN	1-31 Jan
S-1	1stLt D. C. MARCHELLE	1-31 Jan
S-2	2dLt B. D. CREWS	4-6 Jan
	1stLt G. L. ASHEURN	7-31 Jan
S-3	Major R. F. FINDLAY JR	1-31 Jan
S-4	Capt O. J. LEHRACK	4-7 Jan
	1stLt E. N. LAWRENCE	8-31 Jan

4. Average Monthly Strength:

USMC	
OFF	ENL
43	1137

USN	
OFF	ENL
2	61

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PART II

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Battalion continued to carry out its assigned mission in accordance with 9th Marines Operation Plan 1-68, for the A-3 position. During the period of 1-7 January the Battalion devoted a major effort to completing the required fortification of 39 Dye-Marker living bunkers and four radar bunkers. A fire support plan and attendant defensive scheme of maneuver for both a two and three company defense was completed, and standard fighting positions, obstacles, overhead wire, and ammunition bunkers were completed to support both plans. Third Battalion, Fourth Marines occupied Hill 28 (YD170730) to the northwest of A-3 and screened in its AO north of the trace to the DMZ, until 12 January. With the major Dye-Marker construction effort largely completed, greater emphasis shifted to long range and local security operations. It was therefore determined that the presence of 3/4 on Hill #28 was no longer required to ensure the security of the northern approach to A-3. On 12 January 3/4 moved to a new location near Con Dinh and chopped "K" 3/4 to the OPCOM of this Battalion. Kilo 3/4 along with Kilo 3/3 occupied defensive positions on Hill #28 while Lima and India Companies defended the A-3 position. On 14 January Kilo 3/4 was chopped OPCOM to the 12th Marines to relieve Mike 3/3 which was returned to the A-3 position on the same date. Upon the return of Mike Company from the OPCOM of the 12th Marines Lima Company was moved forward to defend the eastern sector of Hill #28. In addition to preparation and improvement of defensive positions on A-3 and Hill #28, the battalion committed over two reinforced companies per day to security and sweep operations. Tactical operations routinely included a requirement to employ one company (rein) to provide security for the 11th Engineer Battalion personnel constructing M&R #566 between Route 41 and A-3. This mission was accomplished by sweeping all probable ambush sites and north-south avenues of approach in the eastern portions of the AO, as well as providing close in security for the construction personnel. Additionally not less than one platoon (rein) swept the western sector of the AO and a minimum of five squad or fireteam sentinal posts were employed for daylight local security. A minimum of four squad size night ambushes and three fireteam listening posts were also employed. Extensive use of night observation devices, starlight scopes and PPS radars, substantially contributed to the security and fire direction efforts of the Battalion. This month also saw a marked increase in the exploitation of all supporting fires, in particular direct and general support artillery and ground controlled air support. Of particular note was the continued professionalism and expertise of the Aerial Observers assigned to cover the Battalions AO.

On 13 separate occasions a total of 54 friendly artillery rounds were received in or near the inner perimeter of A-3 and Hill #28. These rounds were fired from C-1, A-2 and C-2 and on certain of these occasions great difficulty was experienced in achieving the coordination required to "check fires". Corrective action appears to have been initiated and a definite improvement in this regard has been made during the latter part

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of the month.

Enemy artillery and mortar fires have been received on eight occasions for an overall total of 143 rounds most of which did not strike the perimeter. Only four casualties were sustained from enemy incoming artillery and mortars. Ground contact has been generally limited to meeting engagements of limited scope and both friendly and enemy sniper activity. On several occasions the enemy attempted night probes ranging from 4-15 personnel in strength. On each occasion enemy personnel were engaged by local security at close range. On 30 January Mike Company engaged a column of 25 NVA conducting a night movement from north to south approximately 1,000 meters from the A-3 position. The NVA were engaged at close range from an ambush position and heavy casualties were inflicted upon the NVA. A large quantity of enemy equipment and documents were recovered.

There have been several changes in command and staff assignments in the past month, the most significant of which was the assumption of command by LtCol J. W. MARSH from LtCol R.C. WETZEL, on 21 January 1968.

There have been no significant problem areas experienced during the past month. Casualties have been light, morale is considered excellent to outstanding and support has been substantial.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat Missions Assigned:

a. Basic Mission. To conduct missions in assigned area of operations in accordance with 3d MarDiv Operation Order 59-67. (Kentucky)

b. To conduct anti-infiltration operations in AO with special emphasis on interdicting north-south infiltration routes, assume responsibility for enlarged AO, to include outpost of Hill #28 with not less than two rifle companies at night; defend A-3 and provide protection for construction effort on Route 566. Reference: 9th Marines Operation Plan 2-68; 9th Marines Frag Order Number 12 (Opn Kentucky).

c. On 24 January 1968, Lima and Mike Companies and Command Group (-) mission was to seize Battalion Objective #1 (YD 197716) and #2 (YD 201705) and sweep assigned axis of advance, to destroy all bunkers and tunnels encountered, to apprehend all civilians making an overt attempt to avoid friendly forces. Reference: Battalion Frag Order 1-68

d. On 29 January 1968, Lima and India Companies and Command Group Alpha's mission was to secure Battalion Objectives #1 thru #4 and establish OP's on commanding terrain; destroy enemy bunkers and positions encountered; determine possible enemy positions, infiltration routes; OP's and ambush sites; conduct terrain analysis of areas in the vicinity of Objectives #1 and #2 in connection with planning of night platoon ambush operations. Reference: Battalion Frag Order 2-68.

2. Significant Operations Conducted.

a. On 24 January, Lima and Mike Companies conducted a sweep of the entire western AO south of MSR 566. Lima Company moved west of the A-3 position with the Command Group and subsequently changed direction to the southeast in a diversionary effort. Mike Company moved from A-3 directly in an easterly direction south of the MSR to Hill #44 and established a company base camp. This phase of the operation was conducted under the cover of darkness with little difficulty. At such time as Mike Company was in position, Lima Company began a detailed search of the southern most section of the AO with negative results. The companies returned to the perimeter at A-3 prior to last light without contact.

b. On 28 January, Lima Company departed its defensive positions on Hill #28 to sweep the northern boundary of the AO and subsequently established a blocking position/patrol base at YD 190745. India Company moved with the Command Group 1,000 meters south of Lima Company and subsequently swept north to the intersection of the railroad tracks and the DMZ at YD 193752. Initial movement was executed without contact. While Lima Company remained in position India Company swept south to YD 187710, at which time both companies returned to their defensive positions prior to last light. Negative contact was gained.

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3. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy.

a. During the month of January, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, inflicted the following casualties on the enemy; 14 NVA KIA (confirmed); 1 Viet Cong (POW); and 2 Vietnamese detainees which were subsequently released as innocent civilians.

4. Casualties Sustained:

a. Name of Surgeon: Lt Walter F. DRYSDALE, MC USNR

b. Significant Events:

(1) On 9 Jan Mike Company came under attack by enemy mortars sustaining 3 KIA's and 2 MIA's.

(2) On 11 Jan one member of Lima Company was wounded by friendly artillery during a fire mission.

(3) On 13 Jan a Corpsman assigned to Kilo Company fell into a hole and suffered a fractured left tibia.

(4) On 14 Jan 4 Marines and 1 Corpsman were injured when a Marine allegedly threw a grenade among them

(5) On 15 Jan one member of Lima Company was shot by a sniper while on patrol.

(6) On 23 Jan 3 members of Mike Company sustained injuries from enemy mortars. One member of tanks was also wounded.

(7) On 24 Jan Kilo Company sustained one KIA from enemy sniper fire.

(8) On 26 Jan received notification of death of one member from Mike Company wounded on 23 Jan.

(9) On 30 Jan one member of Mike Company was wounded by enemy action while on patrol.

c. Number of Battle Casualties

	KIA	MIA	DOW	MIA	NBC
USMC 3/3	4	8	1	0	36
USN 3/3	0	0	0	0	2
USMC Other	0	1	0	3	0

d. There was a total of 412 inoculations given during the month.

e. Number of Outpatient Visits: 438

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. (1) Common Complaints.

(a) Fever Undetermined Origin	28
(b) Lacerations	8
(c) Traumatic Injuries	42
(d) Malaria	4
(e) Heat Casualties	0
(f) Diarrhea	19
(g) Upper Respiratory Infections	35
(h) Cellulitis	23
(i) Animal Bites	1
(j) Venereal Disease	18

f. Medical Trends.

(1) For the last one and a half weeks there has been a rash of viral dysentery with fever. Malaria seems to be on the decrease.

g. Problem Areas.

(1) We have a problem obtaining material for fly proofing our hounds.

5. New Techniques Employed. None6. Command Relations.

- a. OPCON - 9th Marines, ADCON - 3d MarDiv
- b. 12Jan68, Kilo Company, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines to OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines.
- c. 14Jan68, Kilo Co, 3d Bn, 4th Mar from OPCON 3d Bn, 3d Mar to OPCON 12th Marines.
- d. 14Jan68, Mike Company, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines from OPCON 12th Marines to OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines.

7. Equipment. None8. Logistics.a. Supply.

(1) General. During this reporting period the battalion has been building up the A-3 position. A daily resupply by helicopter is the only means of transportation to A-3. This resupply carries all classes of supply plus personnel and equipment.

The battalion has built up its stocks on position with a 10 day supply of Class I and V for reserve purposes. This stock is set aside and wired up and can only be used in case of emergency.

The weather has been the only problem of resupplying the battalion and

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has had a large effect on being able to resupply the A-3 position.

(2) Class I - A daily resupply keeps the regular supply of Class I maintained at a three to five day level. Water buffalos are hauled out with the resupply by helicopter.

(3) Class II - There still remains a critical shortage on:

Gas Masks & Spare Filters	Blankets
Upper Body Armor	Binoculars
Bayonets	Jungle Kits
Canteen Cups	.45 Cal & M-16 Magazines
Packets Ammo .45 & M-16	Knife, Hunting

(4) Class III - No problems encountered in keeping an adequate supply of POL on hand.

(5) Class IV - Due to Operation Dye-Marker, no problems encountered in obtaining Class IV items.

(6) Class V - The battalion supply of Class V is maintained at a BA + 10 DOA.

b. Motor Transport.

(1) The present status is considered adequate on M274A2's (Mules) for current operations but our present status on M422A1 is below normal operational level. This battalion is without a jeep ambulance at this time. It has been deadlined at 3d echelon maintenance for over 60 days.

(a) Breakdown of M422A1 (Mules)

- (1) T/E QTY-20
- (2) On hand - 14
- (3) 2d Echelon Maintenance - 2
- (4) 3d Echelon Maintenance - 4
- (5) Code "X" - 6

(b) Breakdown of M274A2 (Mules)

- (1) T/E QTY 30 - Operational - 29 One Code "X"ed.

(c) We have one MRC-87 Code "X" and one MRC-83 Code "X".

(2) Ninth Motor Transport Battalion provides trucks to pick up and deliver supplies to the ISA for helicopter resupply.

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c. Engineer Assistance.

(1) 11th Engineers has been utilized to clear and lay minefields, dig revetments for ammunition and vehicles and smooth and clear driveways throughout the battalion area. The only problem encountered is when a vehicle goes down it takes several days to get repair parts.

d. Maintenance Problems.

(1) A shortage still exists on carburetors for the M422A1, spark plugs for both M422A1 and M27412. Front and rear pull cables for mules and cable leads.

e. Ordnance.

(1) At the end of the month the battalion maintained the following status:

Item	T/E	OH	Operational	FLSU-1 (3d Ech)
M-14 Rifles	52	52	52	0
45 Pistols	329	262	262	55 on order
Shotguns	13	7	7	6 on order
M-60 MG	35	35	31	4 on order
106 RR	8	9	7	2 on order
M-73	36	31	31	5 on order
81mm Mortar	8	8	8	0 on order
60mm Mortar	12	12	11	1 on order
Flame Thrower	8	7	7	1 on order
3.5 Rockets	32	23	22	9 on order
M-16 Rifles	919	979	979	0 on order
106 RR Mounts	8	6	5	2 on order

9. Civic Action. None10. Administration.

a. There were no awards ceremony held during the month of January.

b. There were no court-martials held during January. Three Court-Martials are pending. Five Battalion Commander's Office Hours were completed and none are pending. There were seventeen Company Commander's Office Hours completed and ten are pending.

c. The only Special Service activity during January was the issuance of 3d Marine Division stationary kits.

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d. Post Exchange services were not available to this battalion due to the battalion being located at A-3.

e. Liberty was not authorized during this period.

f. During the month two officers and 113 enlisted Marines rotated to CONUS. 26 enlisted Marines were transferred within the regiment or division. 17 enlisted Marines were transferred as a result of medical evacuation.

11. Personnel

a. Gains: 2 USMC Off; 25 USMC Enl
1 USN Off; 1 USN Enl

b. Losses: 5 USMC Off; 164 USMC Enl
1 USN Off; 7 USN Enl

c. Monthly Strength (Average):

<u>MC OFF</u>	<u>MC ENL</u>	<u>USN OFF</u>	<u>USN ENL</u>
43	1137	2	61

d. Net loss/gain:

<u>MC OFF</u>	<u>MC ENL</u>	<u>USN OFF</u>	<u>USN ENL</u>
3/0	139/0	0/0	6/0

e. Emergency leave for the month of January: 8 USMC Enlisted. There were no Humanitarian Transfers during the month of January. Twice/thrice wounded or reassigned outside of RVN due to father/brother in country: 3 USMC Enlisted.

f. There were no Hardship Discharges applied for during the past month: Five are pending.

g. One Administrative Discharge is pending.

h. The R&R program continues to be a major morale factor within this command. There were 28 In-Country and 73 Out-of-Country R&R quotes used during this reporting period.

i. Morale is considered to be excellent to outstanding.

j. Postal services during the month of January has been excellent.

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12. Intelligence.

Enemy activity was at a low key in the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines AO during the reporting period. There was evidence of numerous small unit movements in the AO.

Well used trails, small unit sightings and the interrogation of a Viet Cong POW indicated that local Viet Cong and NVA units are receiving resupply and reinforcements from North Vietnam through the use of harbor sites and base camps in the southern DMZ area.

A Viet Cong POW was captured on 18 Jan 68 during a sweep by Mike Company. Interrogation of the prisoner determined that he was a local force Viet Cong leader who had been trained in North Vietnam. The POW's mission was to spread propaganda and harass U.S. and ARVN troops with sniper fire. His unit, consisting of 10 to 15 men, conducted its operations from a base camp located at An Ya, and used this area as an entry point south to the 9th Marines AO. The prisoner stated that the 27th Independent Battalion received resupply across the Ben Hai River every 5-15 days. 20 men were used to carry supplies.

The infiltration routes used are along the railroad tracks parallel to Route #1 and the north-south trail at YD 190745. The time of movement has been in the late afternoon or early evenings, prior to 2300H.

Two contacts were made with enemy elements on or near the north-south trail. The first resulted in 2 NVA KIA and 1 POW. The most significant contact was made by a Mike Company ambush on 30 January 68. The ambush site was checked at first light and revealed one NVA KIA (corp), blood trails, 2 individual weapons, many packs and large quantities of rice, meat and clean uniforms. Also found were 600 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, ponchos, hammocks, surgical equipment, money, picnics, grenades and a pouch of unopened mail. The quality and amount of equipment found indicates that the enemy element was a resupply unit.

The discipline of the enemy unit under fire and his actions at the time of the ambush indicate that the enemy were new reinforcements carrying resupply items rather than regular transients who would be familiar with the area.

The 2d Battalion, 805d NVA Regiment had been identified as operating north of the 4-3 position, in the southern DMZ. To date no evidence of a platoon size or larger unit has been found in the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines area of operations.

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ENEMY GEAR CAPTURED 1-- 31 Jan

4 AK-47	3 NVA covers
1 U.S. Carbine M-2 .30 Cal	4 flashlights
25 ChiCom Grenades	25 walking sticks
3 AP Mine DH-10	3 cooking pots
1 Gas Mask	15 Eating bowls
1 AK-47 Bayonet	3 pair sandals
1 Knife	5 NVA ponchos
6 NVA packs	10 NVA hammocks
5 NVA E-tools	19 sets NVA uniforms
5 NVA belts	2 insect nets
5 NVA cartridge belts	10 canvas bags
8 AK-47 magazines	2 pack camouflage devices
1 light MG 7.62 drum	10 battle dressings
1500 rds 7.62 ammo	3 NVA canteens
2 82mm mortar rds	1 booby-trap device
50 rds 30 cal ammo	2 pair tennis shoes
3 60mm mortar rds	900 lbs rice
3 NVA flags	3 lbs. tobacco
Various types of medicine	7 grenade pouches

ENEMY DOCUMENTS CAPTURED

Various Anti-American Propaganda Leaflets	1 billfold
15 unopened letters	North Vietnamese money
personnel correspondence	3 calender notebooks
15 note books	Personal Pictures

13. Communications.

a. General. The communications platoon operated both radio and wire during the month of January in the forward and rear positions. Battalion, Regimental and Admin nets were maintained. A switchboard was maintained by Lima Company during the period of time that this company was operating outside the battalion perimeter. The wire section completed the task of wiring and overheading a new wire cable throughout the entire perimeter. During the month of January the construction was completed on a new communications bunker in our rear area. This bunker serves to house message center, switchboard, radio sets, as well as all classified documents and equipment.

b. Training. The majority of the platoon's training was of an on-the-job basis. However, during this time, classes were conducted in order to cross-train both radio and T/C sections. There still remains a constant effort to cross-train wire and radio personnel. New radio personnel are training with the rifle companies.

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c. Communication Equipment Status. The following is a list of combat essential equipment that is not operationally ready:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| (1) 1 - AN/MRC-83 | (8) 1 - TCC-14 |
| (2) 5 - AN/PRC-25 | (9) 1 - AN/PRC-41 |
| (3) 2 - TA-1 | (10) 1 - AN/PRC-47 |
| (4) 3 - TA-312 | (11) 2 - TEG-21 |
| (5) 3 - AN/GRA-39 | (12) 2 - RC-302 |
| (6) 1 - KY-8 | (13) 3 - EP-3240 |
| (7) 1 - GTC-3 | |

d. Problem Areas. Thin and tape antennas remain in short supply. We now have 10 AN/PRC-25's still to be replaced. This remains to be a handicap for the proper functioning of this platoon. It is noted that the overall life of our BA-386's has taken a sharp decrease during the month. This is especially true of both the "Burgess" and the "Crown" batteries. Relative to this, is the fact that the "Crown" batteries are not packed in a plastic waterproof bag, and therefore are somewhat exposed to moisture before their initial use.

14. Weather. The general weather for the month of January was mild with sporadic rain, cold and sunny, dry days. The rain became sparse toward the end of the month allowing the ground to dry considerably and become hard. However, fog has remained a problem in the early morning hours, remaining thick and wet until mid-morning. The temperature averaged a high of 73.8 degrees and a low of 64.1 degrees. Total rainfall was only 1.36 inches for the month. The wind was generally from the northwest and averaged 6.4 knots. The average humidity was 84.2 per cent and mean visibility was 5.2 miles.

15. Fire Support.

a. General. The majority of missions fired were of suspected enemy position nature. Very few live missions were fired and those that were, generally took place at night and surveillance was impossible. Artillery was credited with three confirmed kills from either H&H's or prep fires.

b. Problem Areas. The major problem area came from friendly fire impacting in and around the perimeter. The problem in some cases was found at the firing battery but in most cases no answer was found.

The other problem areas included a lack of feed back. The battalion never knew how many of our hits were fired and when they were cancelled or why they were cancelled. For this reason the count on hits is inaccurate.

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c. Units Providing Direct and General Support.

- (1) Btry "K", 4th Bn, 12th Marines
- (2) Btry "M", 4th Bn, 12th Marines
- (3) Btry "F", 2d Bn, 12th Marines
- (4) Btry "E", 2d Bn, 12th Marines
- (5) Btry "D", 2d Bn, 12th Marines
- (6) Btry "C", 3d Bn, 12th Marines.
- (7) 1st 8" Howitzer Btry, 3d MarDiv
- (8) 1st Plt, "A" Co, 1st Bn, 4th AW(SP), 44th Arty, USA
- (9) 3d Plt, "C" Co, 3d Tank Bn.

d. Missions Fired.(1) Artillery

(a) Suspected Enemy Position	154
(b) Active Enemy Mortar/Artillery	42
(c) Enemy Personnel	40
(d) Defensive Fires, fired in	18
(e) Prep Fires	73
(f) Illumination	1
(g) Harassing and Interdiction	952

(2) 4.2 Mortars

(a) Suspected Enemy Position	24
(b) Prep Fires	15
(c) Confirmed Enemy Activity	6
(d) Defensive Fires, fired in	2

(3) 81mm Mortars

(a) Prep Fires	0
(b) Targets of Opportunity	19
(c) Practice Missions	1
(d) Counter-mortar Fires	6
(e) Harassing and Interdiction	240

e. Ammunition Expended(1) Artillery

(a) 105 HE	10,653
(b) 105 WP	0
(c) 105 Ill	0
(d) 155 HE	557
(e) 155 WP	0

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(f) 4.2 HE	906
(g) 4.2 WP	0
(h) 8" HE	16

(2) 81mm Mortars

(a) 81mm New HE (m)	1,223
(b) 81mm Old HE (m)	0
(c) 81mm HE (1)	0
(d) 81mm New WP	29
(e) 81mm Old WP	0
(f) 81mm Ill	57

16. Air Support.

a. There was an increased use of air support during the month of January. The First Marine Air Wing support consisted of medical evacuation, logistics and troop helicopter lifts, recon overflights, aerial observation, air strikes and TPQ-10 missions.

b. The battalion has been totally resupplied by air this month. Helicopters have flown into A-3 approximately 358 tons of supply and 400 troops.

c. There was an increased use of close air support. The ALO/FAC controlled six close air support strikes in support of the battalion.

d. Air Support Missions.

- (1) Logistic and Troop Lifts; 358 tons and 405 troops
- (2) Medical Evacuation; 6 completed for 12 troops
- (3) Air Strikes; 6 strikes, 31,000 lbs of ordnance
- (4) TPQ-10 Strikes; 125 requested and 15 completed
- (5) Aerial Observation; used daily
- (6) Recon Overflight; one flown

17. Activities/Deactivations/Redesignations. None

18. Training Report. During the month of January the battalion had limited company training due to operational commitments, construction of Dye-Marker bunkers and construction of the A-3 position. When training was conducted the companies covered basic military subjects. Other subjects stressed were patrolling, map and compass reading, radio procedure and forward observer procedures.

There were two special schools held during the month. A radar school was held for H&S Company and selected personnel within the individual companies. Also an aircraft recognition school was held for the S-2 Scouts, personnel on the OP's, and selected personnel in the individual companies.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

I
II

✓ JOURNAL SUMMARY
OPERATION ORDERS
✓ TABS A FRAG Orders 1-68
✓ B " " 2-68

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JOURNAL SUMMARY

01Jan68 - The battalion maintained a cease fire posture due to the New Years truce.

02Jan68 - No Significant Events

03Jan68 - At 1540H, the battalion received (7) rounds of incoming 85mm artillery. The rounds impacted outside the perimeter wire. No casualties were sustained.

04Jan68 - At 0445H, the position received 9 rounds of incoming artillery fire. A crater analysis held at first light indicated that rounds probably came from a friendly unit. Four (4) rounds impacted inside the perimeter. No casualties were sustained.

05Jan68 - At 1000H, a patrol from Kilo Company discovered a bunker complex at YD 192720 containing 12 bunkers and numerous fighting holes. Enemy equipment was found on the position and forwarded to Regimental S-2.

06Jan68 - At 1610H, a Kilo Company patrol found a small amount of enemy equipment at YD 192720. Gear was forwarded to Regimental S-2.

07Jan68 - At 1300H, an India Company patrol discovered M-16 mines, firing devices and 81mm illumination rounds at YD 197726. The mines and 81mm rounds were destroyed in place.

08Jan68 - No Significant Events.

09Jan68 - At 0800H the wire sweep team found six (6) strands of double apron wire cut and a trip flare disarmed at YD 178718. The wire was repaired. At 0845H, a Lima Company patrol discovered freshly dug fighting holes at YD 206727. The holes afforded excellent observation and fields of fire on Route 566. At 0900H, six (6) crates of 60mm mortar containers and cargo net were found by a Lima Company patrol at YD 201721. All containers were empty. At 1200H an engineer bulldozer ran over an explosive device at YD 178722 resulting in (1) WIA non-evac. At 1330H, at the same coordinates, the engineers uncovered 5 AT mines. 3 mines were blown in place. 2 of the AT mines were deteriorated beyond effective use. A deteriorated AT mine was disarmed and forwarded to Regimental S-2.

10Jan68 - At 0010H, a Kilo Company patrol discovered fighting holes and bunkers at YD 195715 and YD 207717. Bunkers were destroyed. At 1420H the 9th Marines Regimental Commander visited the battalion position.

11Jan68 - At 1445H six rounds of artillery fire were received. The rounds impacted in the wire resulting in (1) WIA non-evac. As a result of a crater analysis the artillery was determined to be from a friendly unit.

Enclosure (1)

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12Jan68 - At 0930H, Kilo Company, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines was chopped OPCON to the battalion. Kilo company, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines moved to the Hill #28 position. Previously occupied by 3d Battalion, 4th Marines. At 1400H Kilo Company received 6-8 sniper rounds from YD 168738. Returned fire with small arms and M-79's. There were no casualties received from the sniper fire. An artillery mission was called. One NVA was observed to run north up a ridgeline. Subsequent artillery rounds impacted directly on the NVA. At 1945H, the forward position on Hill #28 received 40 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Counter-battery fire was called with a reaction time of 15 minutes. At 2300H, a sniper team observed three (3) NVA at YD 164-736. The sniper team fired and observed (1) NVA fall. The other NVA recovered the body.

13Jan68 - At 0715H, Kilo Company, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines patrol observed (1) NVA at YD 177728. The NVA was engaged by the point with small arms and M-79's. The area was checked with negative results. At 1505H, Kilo Company received sniper fire from YD 164739. An artillery mission was called. Small arms and 106 RR fire were returned. At 1525H, the battalion received 20 rounds of presumed friendly artillery fire. No casualties were sustained. At 1645H Kilo Company received approximately 10 rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire from YD 155735. Counter-mortar fires were returned. At 1800H, 18-20 enemy 82mm mortar rounds were received at YD 158742 on an azimuth of 5040 mils. At 2340H, an India Company ambush observed 2 persons at YD 170725, approximately 50-70 meters from the ambush site. Ambush fired small arms. Area was checked at first light. Footprints of two persons were found. There were no indications of enemy casualties.

14Jan68 - At 0827H, a M-26 grenade exploded in Kilo Company's area resulting in (5) non-battle casualties. An investigation indicates incident caused by an alleged violation of UCMJ Article 118 or 128. An investigation was ordered. At 1330H, Mike Company was chopped from OPCON 12th Marines and returned to the A-3 position. Kilo Company, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines was chopped from OPCON of the battalion to 12th Marines.

15Jan68 - At 0800H, Kilo Company received 10-12 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. A forward observer spotted enemy mortar positions at YD 158745. An artillery mission was called with a reaction time of 30 minutes. A crater analysis confirmed mortars as 82mm. At 0905H, Lima Company received sniper fire from the vicinity of YD 172734 resulting in one NVA MedEvac. Fire was returned with M-79's and small arms. Kilo Company sniper team observed two NVA at YD 176739 and engaged them with small arms. One NVA was observed to fall. Two NVA were observed retrieving the body. Results: One NVA KIA (conf). At 2258H the battalion received (2) rounds of incoming 105MM artillery fire. Rounds impacted at YD 174721. A crater analysis was held and rounds were determined to be from a friendly unit.

16Jan68 - At 0930H, the 9th Marines Regimental Commander visited the position. At 1610H, a Mike Company forward observer sighted (6) NVA in the

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open at YD 189740. An artillery mission and 60mm mortar mission was called with good coverage of target. At 1900H Mike Company received one round of incoming artillery believed to be friendly. A check fire was called.

17Jan68 - No Significant Events

18Jan68 - At 0930H Mike Company elements sighted one Viet Cong in a tree-line at YD 189713 and an artillery mission was called. One Viet Cong was wounded and surrendered to point elements. Mike Company reconnoitered tree-line by fire with M-79's and 60mm mortars. The action resulted in 3 Viet Cong KIA and three enemy weapons were subsequently discovered in the tree-line. The POW was MedEvaced at 1015H. At 1047H Lima Company patrol elements sighted 6-10 NV at YD 161739. The patrol engaged the enemy with small arms. The enemy returned small arms fire and commenced to withdraw. The patrol continued to pursue by fire with small arms and M-79's. The results of the action were two NVA KIA (conf). At 1225H a sniper team sighted three NVA at YD 160744. The team engaged the enemy with small arms and observed one NVA fall. Small arms fire from Lima Company kept the NVA pinned down until artillery could be adjusted on enemy. A direct hit was observed. The results of this action were three NVA KIA. At 1400H the 9th Marines Regimental Commander visited the A-3 position. At 1350H the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines had enemy contact and requested assistance. India Company was deployed, at 1425H, to a blocking position at YD 168722. At 1715H India Company returned to the battalion position.

19Jan68 - At 0245H the battalion position received one round of incoming 105mm artillery fire. It was believed to be friendly artillery. A check fire was called. At 0830H an M274A2 (Mule) caught fire at the battalion trash dump. An investigation was conducted.

20Jan68 - At 0845H LtCol J. W. MARSH arrived at the battalion position. At 1000H General GLICK and Col SMITH visited the battalion position and departed at 1040H. At 1010H at YD 204715 a Mike Company patrol discovered a platoon size position with mortar pits and tunnels. One Vietnamese male was apprehended with a PRC-25 battery. While searching position patrol discovered one Vietnamese female hiding in a tunnel. Gas was used to get the girl out of the tunnel. The detainees were helo lifted to 9th Marines CP. At 2130H and 2220H the battalion position received 6 and 4 incoming rounds of friendly artillery fire. A check fire was called.

21Jan68 - At 0815H LtCol J. W. MARSH assumed command of the battalion vice LtCol R. C. NEEDHAM. At 1045H, a request was received from the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines asking for assistance on counter-battery fire. Fired 90mm and 81mm mortars with 90 second reaction time.

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22Jan68 - At 1439H, Mike Company elements at YD 191721 observed 10-15 NVA moving in treeline. The enemy was engaged with small arms and M-79's. Two platoons swept the treeline at YD 195721 and discovered one Viet Cong KIA.

23Jan68 - At 1727H, the battalion received 23 rounds of 82mm mortar fire at YD 173719. Enemy fire resulted in (4) WIA MedEvac.

24Jan68 - At 1525H an enemy sniper fired from YD 164731 and wounded a Marine. Fire was returned with small arms and LAWS. The Marine died before MedEvac could be completed.

25Jan68 - No Significant Events.

26Jan68 - At 1410H a Lima Company patrol found a bunker complex containing 2 NVA bodies three or four weeks old. At 1508H, an OP received sniper fire. Friendly sniper team from Kilo Company returned fire and observed one NVA fall.

27Jan68 - No Significant Events.

28Jan68 - No Significant Events.

29Jan68 - At 1815H, a message was received from the 9th Marines CP cancelling the cease fire.

30Jan68 - At 0150H, two rounds of incoming were received at YD 168726, it was believed to be friendly fire. A crater analysis was held with negative results. At 2012H, a Mike Company ambush observed and engaged approximately 20-25 NVA at YD 183719. At least 15 NVA were in killing zone at a distance of 5-25 meters when ambush leader triggered ambush. The M-60 machine-gun malfunctioned after approximately 5 minutes and the ambush withdrew to the objective rally point. The enemy fired only small arms and was observed withdrawing to the northeast. The enemy element was carrying packs. Several NVA fell during the initial burst of fire. Heavy H&I fires were continued throughout the night in area of killing zone and known infiltration routes. The site of the ambush was checked out at 0600H 31Jan68. One NVA KIA was found and also two weapons and numerous packs and equipment. One Marine was wounded and MedEvaced.

31Jan68 - At 1000H, elements of India Company found 70 gallons of rice at YD 160734. At 1115H, a Machine-gun was accidentally discharged on Hill #28 area. The round ricocheted off a metal stake and resulted in one NBC non-evac.

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

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3d Bn, 3d Mar
A-3 Position
23Jan68

Frag Order 1-68

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6342I and 6442IV.

Time Zone: H

Task Organization:

Company "L" (Rein)

Capt R. ZENSEN

FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
Dog Team, 3d MP Bn.
S-2 Scout
Two Kit Carson Scouts
Engineer Detachment, 3d Eng Bn
One Sniper Team, Hq Co, 9th Marines
FAC/TACP Team

Company "M" (Rein)

1stLt J. A. CIALONE

FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
S-2 Scout
One Kit Carson Scout
Engineer Detachment, 3d Eng Bn
FAC/TACP Team
One Sniper Team, Hq Co, 9th Marines

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces. Indications are that the enemy is increasing his efforts to infiltrate the battalion's AO in the vicinity of the north/south, 19 and 21 grid lines. There is strong evidence of recent enemy activity. A bunker complex with connecting trenches and mortar pits is located at YD 205715. The enemy has withdrawn rapidly to the south to an unknown location when friendly contact has been gained. Mines and booby-traps have been found throughout the area. Recent intercepts of "VA" transmissions have indicated his intentions to ambush infantry security elements assigned to support the MSR construction effort.

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b. Friendly Forces

(1) Operation Kentucky continues and the 9th Marines AO remains the same

(2) The 2d Bn, 2d ARVN and Gio Linh subsector PF and RF units continue to operate on our right flanks, as well as Kilo Company 3/4.

(3) 3d Bn, 4th Marines (-) is presently conducting sweep and destroy operations from a Battalion Patrol Base at YD 162649.

(4) See current 9th Marines Operation overlay for appropriate AO's.

(5) Fox Battery, 2/12 and Kilo Battery, 4/13 will be in direct support and general support respectively. (See Annex A for fire support plan).

c. Attachments and Detachments

(See Task Organization)

2. Mission.

a. Seize Objectives #1 (YD 197716) and #2 (YD 201705) and sweep assigned **axis** of advance.

b. Destroy all bunkers and tunnels encountered.

c. Apprehend all civilians making and overt attempt to avoid friendly forces.

3. Execution.a. Concept of Operation.

(1) With one reinforced company sweep the southern axis of advance to seize Objective #2, from which point OP's and security patrols will be dispatched.

(2) At such time as the southern company has moved to check point two, one company reinforced will sweep assigned route and seize Objective #1. Establish a blocking position on Objective #1.

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b. Company "L". Move at H-hour to seize Objective #2, exercising particular caution to avoid detection by remaining in concealed avenues of approach. Upon seizure of Objective #2 conduct short range security patrols and establish OP's. On order be prepared to sweep from Objective #2 thru Check Point 8. Exercise particular caution in approaching Objective #2 so as not to drift south of assigned objective. If visibility precludes movement along axis of advance at H-hour, move a sufficient distance to Check Point 1 so as to ensure the unit is in defilade at first light on the axis of advance. Make maximum use of night observation devices and scout dogs during periods of reduced visibility.

c. Company "M". Be prepared to move at H+1, on order, to seize Objective #1. On seizure of Objective #1 establish OP's and ambushes along obvious avenues of approach, not further than 300 meters from Objective #1.

d. 81mm Mortar Platoon. Be prepared to engage targets of opportunity as requested.

e. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) D-Day - 24 Jan 68
- (2) H-Hour - 0500
- (3) Line of Departure - Respective company perimeters.
- (4) Rifle companies will make liaison as necessary with companies remaining in position to ensure adequate security is established in the A-3 and Hill #28 positions vacated by the maneuver companies.
- (5) Ensure all hands are briefed as to the location of all friendly units.
- (6) Reference Points - Days 1971; Colors 2074
- (7) Exercise light and noise discipline during night movement.
- (8) Avoid recon by fire in danger areas unless specific approval is granted.
- (9) Caution all personnel to be alert for booby traps.
- (10) Conduct frequent security patrols accompanied by flank patrols and extensive use of scouts.

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(11) Make use of attached Division Engineers for destruction of ordnance and/or bunkers as appropriate.

(12) Ensure snipers are properly instructed as to friendly positions.

4. Command and Logistics.

- a. Ensure all squads are equipped with a pyro and demo bag.
- b. Carry 1 meal per man.
- c. Carry B/A of ammo and normal equipment.
- d. All units carry air panels. One per fire team.

5. Command and Communications.

a. The Command Group (-) will accompany Lima Company. One squad from Lima Company will meet the Command Group at the Battalion CP at H-15

b. Mark friendly lines and LZ's with green and yellow smoke.

J. W. MARSH
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

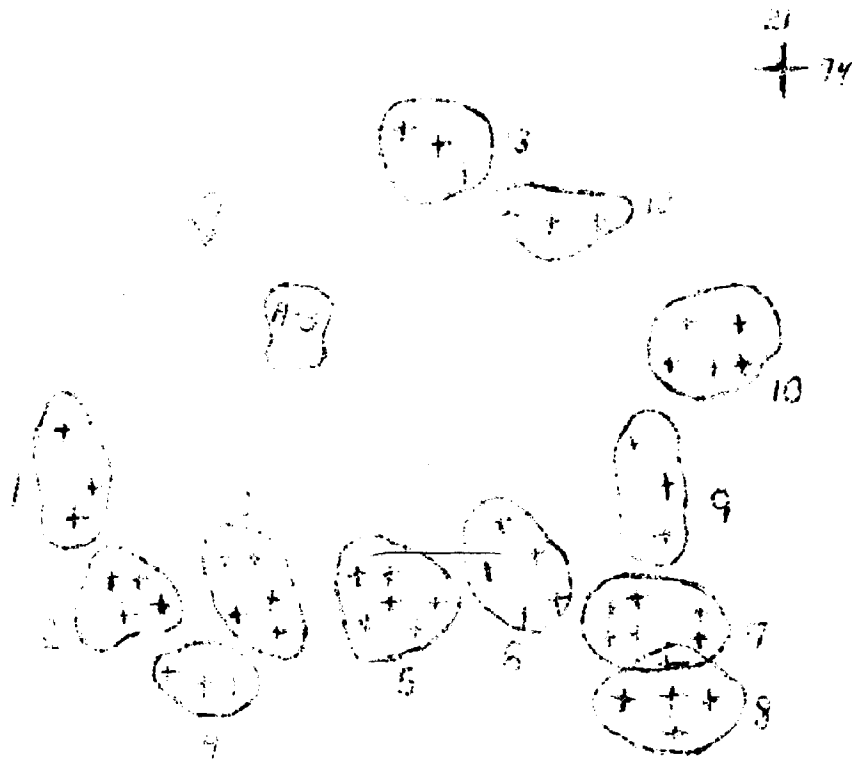
R. F. FINDLAY JR.
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

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ANNEX A

ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT PLAN



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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 95602

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3d Bn, 3d Mar
A-3 Position
28Jan68

Frag Order 2-68

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6342I and 6442IV.

Time Zone: H

Task Organization:

Company "L" (Rein)

Capt R. ZENSEN

FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
S-2 Scout
Engineer Detachment, 3d Eng Bn
Two Sniper Teams, Hq Co, 9th Marines
FAC/TACP Team

Company "I" (Rein)

Capt O. J. LEHRACK

FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
S-2 Scout
Dog Team, 3d MF Bn
Engineer Detachment, 3d Eng Bn
FAC/TACP Team
One Sniper Team, Hq Co, 9th Marines

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces.

(1) See Current INTSUMS

(2) Recent patrol reports indicate the enemy is continuing his efforts to infiltrate the AO in the vicinity of Battalion Objectives #1 and #2, and continuing his movement south along well used trails from these entry points. Contact in the vicinity of Objectives #1 and #2 is probable. Encounters with enemy booby-traps and mines are eminent.

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b. Friendly Forces.

(1) The Regimental AO remains the same as Operation Kentucky continues.

(2) 2/4 is presently operating from a patrol base on our west flank at YD 148692.

(3) Kilo Company, 3/4 continues operations on our east flank from A-2.

(4) See current 9th Marines operation overlay for current Battalion AO's

(5) On call groups and prep fires are as indicated in the fire support overlay.

(6) Whiskey Battery, 3/12 and Fox Battery, 2/12 will be in direct support and Kilo Battery, 4/12 will be in general support.

2. Mission.

a. Secure Objectives #1 thru #4 and establish OP's on commanding terrain.

b. Sweep axis of advance enroute to assigned objectives.

c. Adjust artillery fires to gain maximum coverage of avenues of approach and record as "on calls" for future use.

d. Destroy enemy bunkers and positions encountered.

e. Determine possible enemy weapons positions, infiltration routes, OP's and ambush sites.

f. Conduct terrain analysis of areas in the vicinity of Objectives #1 and #2 in connection with planning of platoon night ambush operations.

3. Execution.a. Concept of Operation.

(1) Move with one reinforced company at H-Hour from Hill #28 to seize Objective #1 and establish a blocking position and OP's from areas, providing maximum observation, on order.

(2) One reinforced company will sweep from A-3 to Objective #2 and upon completion of a thorough recon of the area continue sweep and seize Objectives #3 and #4.

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b. India Company. Commence movement under the cover of darkness at H-hour to seize Objective #2. Upon seizure of Objective #2, deploy and consolidate the objective in a perimeter defense. Make maximum use of local security, snipers, FAC and artillery FO's to direct fires into areas north of the DMZ. Conduct a thorough recon of the area commanding the railroad tracks at YD 193746. Move on order along axis of advance taking particular note of any evidence of enemy infiltration efforts. Upon seizure of Objective #4 conduct reconnaissance to the south in an effort to locate a suitable night ambush site in the vicinity YD 192719.

c. Lima Company. Move at H-hour to seize Objective #1, consolidate a perimeter defense, with daylight ambush sites along probable daylight avenues of approach and establish commanding OP's to observe enemy movement to the N-NE. Employ artillery FO's to adjust artillery fires to the north. Conduct a thorough reconnaissance of the area at YD 187746 in order to conduct night ambush activity (platoon size). Move from Objective #1 to Phase Line Red and on order move from Phase Line Red to Hill #28. Be prepared to move on order to support India Company or assume a portion of their mission.

d. Mike Company (Reserve). Be prepared to move with two platoons to reinforce either of the attacking companies on order.

e. Kilo Company. Assume responsibility for the defense of Hill #28 (A-3A). Coordinate daylight security with Lima Company.

f. 8mm Mortar Platoon. Be prepared to engage targets of opportunity or execute counter-mortar plan.

g. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) Line of Departure - Outer wire of A-3/A-3A.
- (2) H-Hour - 0530
- (3) D-Day - 29Jan63
- (4) Report arrival at Phase Line Red and objectives.
- (5) Ensure all hands are briefed as to the location of all friendly activities.
- (6) Emphasize light and noise discipline.
- (7) Carry one demo bag per squad.
- (8) Take detailed notes on terrain.

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(9) Reference Points - First Names 1873; Months 2074; Magazines 1971.

(10) Caution all personnel to be alert for booby-traps.

(11) Regard all civilians in the vicinity of Objectives #1 and #2 as enemy suspects.

(12) Conduct frequent security halts and make maximum use of flanks patrols and scouts.

(13) Secure initial route of advance prior to departure from outer wire.

(14) Make maximum use of supporting arms.

4. Administration and Logistics.

- a. Ensure all squads are equipped with complete pyro and demo bag.
- b. Ensure all hands take two salt tablets prior to move and two more at H+4.
- c. Carry two filled canteens.
- d. All hands carry entrenching tools.
- e. Each man will carry a BA of ammo and one individual ration.
- f. Each squad will carry not less than three air panels.

5. Command and Communications.

- a. Command Group will move with INMA Company.
- b. Monitor Battalion TAC #1, commanding 0545H.

J. W. MARSH
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

R. F. FINDLAY JR.
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

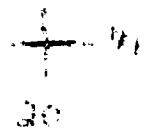
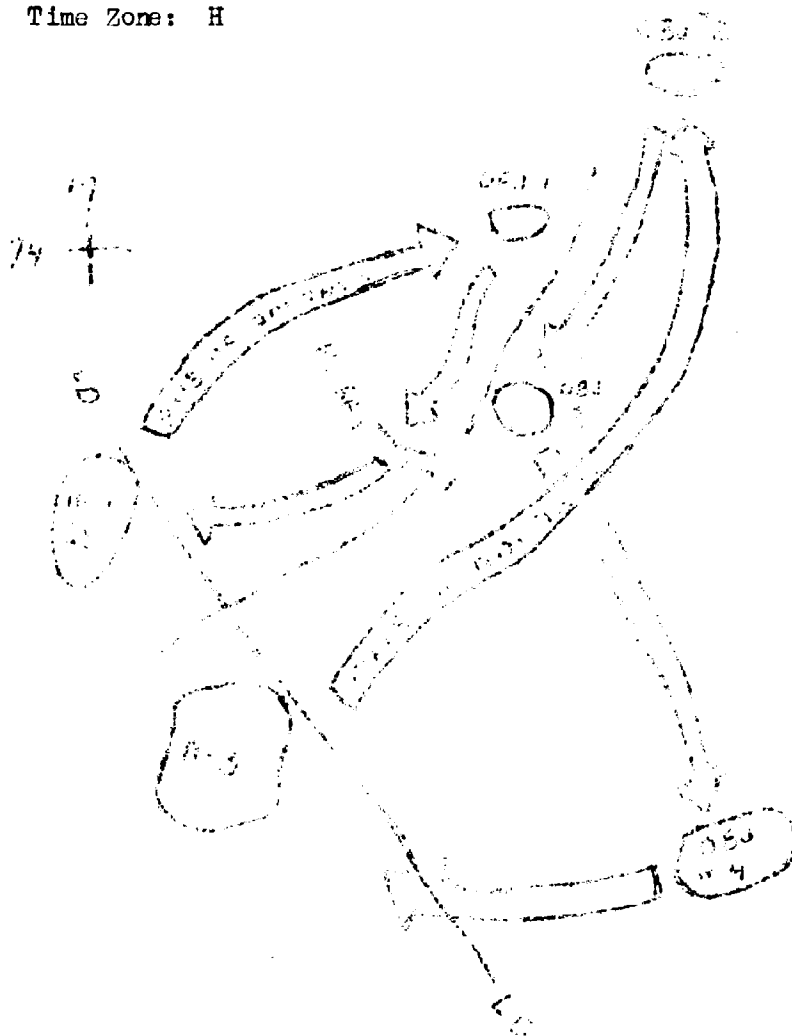
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Annex A (Operation Overlay) to Frag Order 2-68
Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam 1:25,000 Series L8020, Sheet 6342
(b) 3d Marines OP Plan 2-68

Time Zone: H



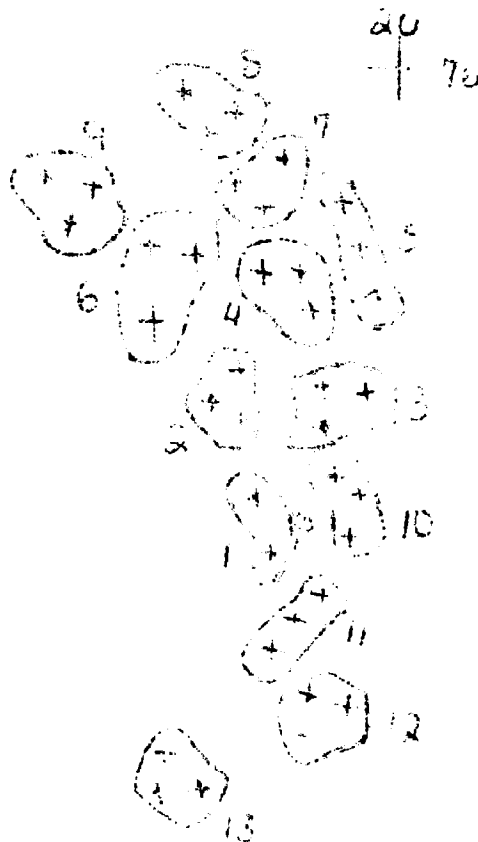
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ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT PLAN



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