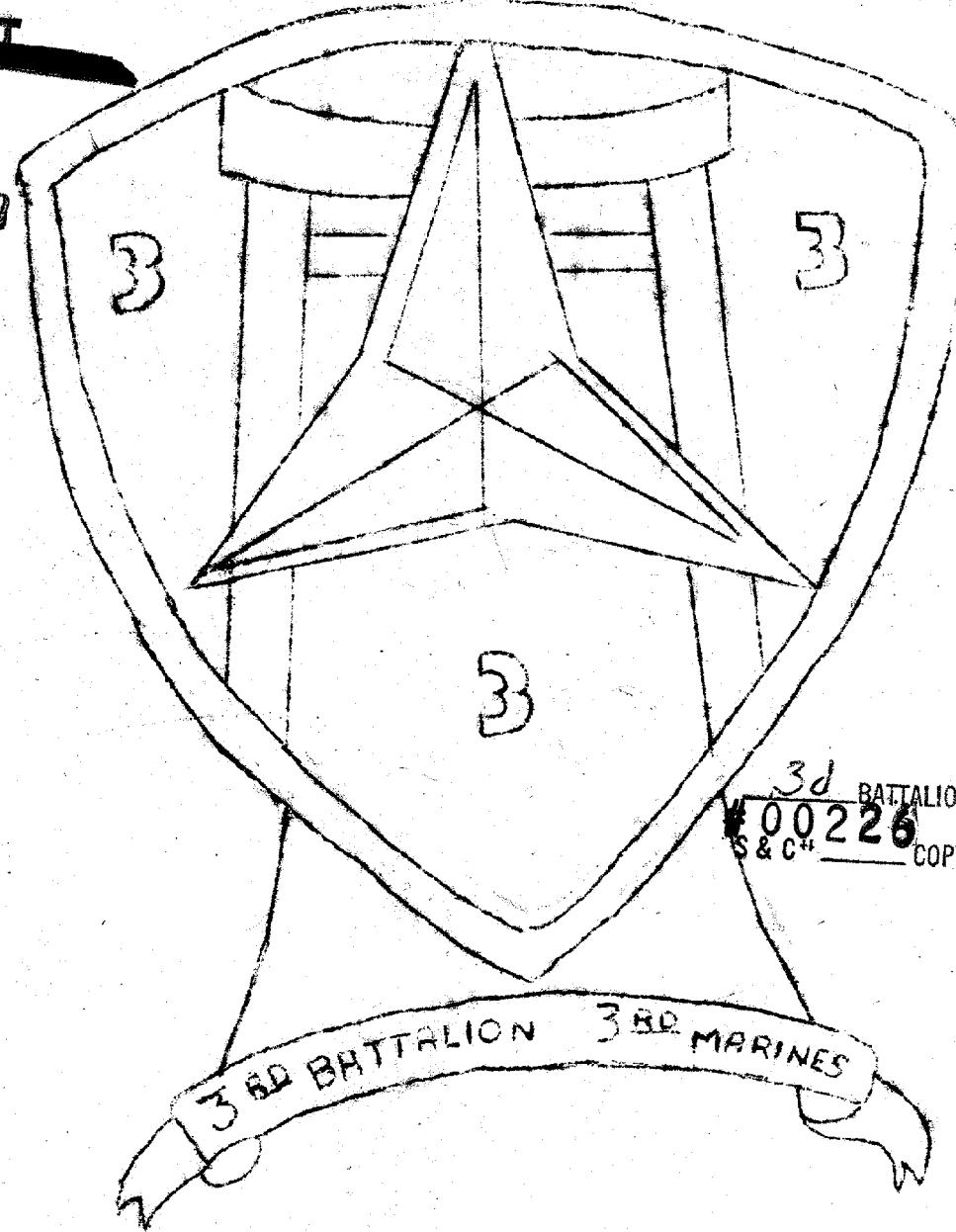


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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY JULY 1968

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HEADQUARTERS

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

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3/JAF/jjm
9 July 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
Commanding General, III MAF
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July - 31 July 1968

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

Encl: (1) July 1968 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (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
DONALD C. MARCHETTE
By direction

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HEADQUARTERS

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

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1968 to 31 July 1968

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PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY	PAGE	5
PART III	SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS	PAGE	7
PART IV	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	PAGE	17

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PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA

1. DESIGNATION

3d Battalion, 3d Marines

COMMANDER

LtCol. J. W. MARSH	1 - 28 July
LtCol. W. H. BATES	28 - 31 July

Subordinate Units

H&S Company	Capt. W. H. MCADAM	1 - 31 July
India Company	Capt. M. G. MCTIERNAN	1 - 31 July
Kilo Company	Capt. F. R. MATTHEWS	1 - 13 July
	1st Lt. F. STOKES	13 - 28 July
	1st Lt. I. G. NELSON	28 - 31 July
Lima Company	1st Lt. R. E. LOGAN	1 - 24 July
	Capt. B. J. WILLIAMSON	24 - 31 July

ATTACHED UNITS

Company "B" (-) 3d Engineer Battalion	19 - 31 July
---------------------------------------	--------------

2. Location.

1 - 6 July	Quang Tri Province. Leatherneck Square Vicinity YD 168698.
6 - 9 July	Quang Tri Province. Napoleon/Saline AO.
10 - 11 July	Quang Tri Combat Base.
11 - 12 July	Camp J. J. Carroll.
12 - 15 July	Cam Lo area. Lancaster II AO.
15 - 19 July	Camp J. J. Carroll
19 - 26 July	Dong Ha Mountain. Lancaster II AO. Vicinity YD 032604.
27 - 31 July	FSB Joan, vicinity XD 938608. Companies "M", "K" and Bravo Command Group.
27 - 31 July	FSB Margo, vicinity XD 903615. Companies "L", "I" and Alpha Command Group.

3. Staff Officers.

Executive Officer	Major G. P. SLADE	1 - 31 July
S - 1	1st Lt. D. C. MARCHETTE	1 - 31 July
S - 2	SSGT W. E. HARMON	1 - 28 July
S - 3	1st Lt. W. H. DOUGLASS	28 - 31 July
S - 4	Major J. A. RINDFLEISCH	1 - 31 July
	1st Lt. G. ESCHENFELDER	1 - 31 July

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4. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC

OFF
31

ENL
1010

USN

OFF
2

ENL
51

4

Enclosure (1)

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of July the Battalion conducted operations in the Kentucky, Napoleon/Saline and Lancaster II AO's. The first six days of July was spent in Leatherneck Square under the OPCON of the 9th Marines. Numerous contacts were made with small NVA units during this period.

On 2 July at approximately 0500H Company "K" received automatic and small arms fire from the vicinity of YD 171693. Artillery and 81mm mortar missions were fired and Company "K" returned fire with small arms and automatic weapons, contact was broken and Company "K" swept through the area of contact discovering 21 NVA KIA confirmed, 3 crew served weapons and 7 individual weapons were captured. Approximately a half hour after Company "K" gained contact, the Battalion at YD 168692 received 20 rounds of enemy mortar fire (60mm) which resulted in 20 WIA's. At 0815H a Company "I" unit sighted 8 NVA at YD 169690 and artillery and mortar missions were called, a search of the area resulted in one NVA Prisoner of War. At 1715H the same day, Company "M" sighted two NVA in the open and engaged with small arms fire and artillery, later the size of the NVA unit was estimated at 20-30 personnel. The NVA broke contact and a search of the area revealed 15 NVA KIA confirmed along with weapons and equipment.

A second Prisoner of War was captured on the night of 3 July when a NVA walked into a Company "L" ambush, the NVA was armed with a RPG-2 rocket launcher.

During the period 3-4 July there were other small unit contacts which resulted in one friendly WIA, no NVA casualties could be confirmed.

On 5 July a unit of Company "K" while on a recon mission was taken under fire by an estimated 50-70 NVA fighting from well dug in positions and supported by 60mm mortars. The enemy initiated the contact with a command detonated mine, The Company "K" unit received 60mm mortar and small arms fire which resulted in casualties to the point squad. The other units of Company "K" were deployed and fixed wing air and gunships were requested. Company "K" maneuvered and extracted casualties under the cover of air strikes, gunships and artillery. Contact was broken at 1400H. NVA Casualties were 15 KIA's confirmed, Company "K" suffered 2 KIA's and 8 WIA's med evac.

On 6 July the Battalion rejoined the 3d Marines for a operation in the Napoleon/Saline AO. No contact was made by the Battalion during the operation and on 10 July the Battalion moved to Quang Tri for the S.U.R.E. program, the following day the Battalion was moved by truck to Camp J. J. Carroll and assumed the mission of security for Camp Carroll and convoys on route #9.

On 12 July the Battalion departed Camp Carroll to conduct ambush and anti-infiltration missions, no contact was gained during this period. On three occasions the Battalion was subjected to enemy mortar fires, 4 WIA's were sustained. The Battalion returned to Camp Carroll on 15 July.

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On 18 July Company "K" and the Bravo Command group chopped to the OPCON of the 3d Marines and conducted a heliborne assault landing at LZ Cardinal (XD 939610) with the mission of establishing a Company patrol base and observation posts at XD 946624). The landing was made without incident and no resistance was encountered.

On 19 July the Battalion (-) was heli-lifted to conduct a assault landing at LZ Buzzard (YD 032604). The landing was made without resistance. On the evening of 19 July and the morning of 20 July Company "I" while searching bunkers at YD 028599 and YD 027602 discovered two 75mm pack howitzers complete except for one barrel, the second barrel was found later in the day in a bunker at YD 027598. 26 rounds of 75mm howitzer ammunition was also found.

On 22 July the Bravo Command group and Company "K" were chopped to OPCON 1st Bn, 3d Marines and on 23 July were heli-lifted to XD 939605 to establish a fire support base.

No contact was made during the operation and the Battalion returned to Camp Carroll on 26 July leaving a platoon (rein) from Company "M" on Dong Ha Mountain. The other elements of Company "M" were lifted to FSB Joan to join the Bravo Command group. On 27 July the Bravo Company "K" and the Bravo Command group were chopped to the OPCON of the Battalion.

On the afternoon of 27 July Companies "L", "I" and the Alpha Command group were heli-lifted to conduct a assault landing at LZ Margo (XD 903615), the landing was without contact and the LZ was consolidated. Three WIA's were sustained on 28 July when a Marine detonated a U.S. type A.P mine.

Company "M" (-), Company "K" and the Bravo Command group continued the mission of defending Fire Support Base Joan. On the 28th of the month, the platoon from Company "M" was relieved and heli-lifted to FSB Joan.

A U.S type A.P mine was detonated on 29 July resulting in one WIA. The end of the month found the Battalion with two Companies ("L", "I") and the Alpha Command group at Fire Support Base Margo and the Bravo Command group with two Companies ("K", "M",) at Fire Support Base Joan.

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Combat Missions Assigned.

- a. Basic Mission. To conduct missions in assigned area of operations in accordance with 3d MarDiv Operations Order 5-68.
- b. Conduct combat operations to seek out and destroy Enemy forces and installations in assigned zone. Reference: 3d Mar FragO 14-68. (Napoleon/Saline)
- c. Establish base and provide security for Camp Carroll and road sweeps as directed, provide convoy security. Provide Bald Eagle force on 30 minute notice. Reference: 3d Mar FragO 15-18. (Lancaster II)
- d. Conduct ambush/anti-infiltration operations in assigned AO. Reference: 3d Mar FragO 15-68. (Lancaster II)
- e. (1) Be prepared to reinforce or assume the mission of either 1/3 or 2/3.
(2) On D+1 or D+2 be prepared to conduct a helicopter borne assault to secure LZ Buzzard and secure Objective #11 on order.
(3) Be prepared to continue to attack and seize Objective #13 on order.
(4) Be prepared to furnish one (1) rifle company (rein) with command group to execute a helicopterborne assault to seize LZ Cardinal and conduct patrols in immediate vicinity. Reference: 3d Marines Operations Order 3-68. (Lancaster II)
- f. Conduct Helicopterborne assault to seize LZ Margo commencing 271400H Jul to provide blocking force. Establish LZ and FSB and conduct limited search and destroy operations in TAGR. Reference: 3d Mar FragO 24-68. (Lancaster II)

2. Significant Operations Conducted.

- a. During the period 1-6 July while under the OPCON of the 9th Marines, the Battalion conducted search and destroy operations in the vicinity of grid squares 1569, 1669, and 1869 in Leatherneck Square. Contact was gained with the enemy nine times during this period, the majority of these contacts were with squad sized units. The most significant of these contacts occurred on 2 and 5 July 1968. On 2 July 68 Company "K" at YD 168693 was engaged with automatic and small arms fire from the vicinity of YD 171693, fire was returned with small arms and automatic weapons, artillery and mortar missions were called. Contact was broken and at 0700H Company "K" swept through the area of contact. 21 NVA KIA's confirmed were counted and 3 crew served and 7 individual weapons were captured along with other equipment and ordnance.

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At 0830H on 5 July a platoon of Company "K" gained contact with an estimated NVA platoon at YD 156706. The contact was initiated by the NVA with a command detonated mine, 60mm mortar fire and small arms fire. The remainder of Company "K" deployed to exploit the contact and recover casualties. The NVA unit was estimated at 50-70 personnel fighting from well dug in positions. Movement was limited and artillery gunships and air strikes were used to extract casualties. Contact was broken and Company "K" returned to its position at 1400H. 15 NVA KIA's were confirmed, Friendly casualties were 2 KIA's and 8 WIA's med evac.

While operating in Leatherneck Square 2 prisoners of war, 6 crew served weapons and 8 individual weapons were captured. 59 NVA KIA's were confirmed.

b. On 19 July the Battalion was heli-lifted from Camp Carroll to LZ Buzzard (YD 032604) on Dong Ha Mountain, the LZ was secured without resistance and the Battalion commenced a search and clear mission of the Dong Ha Mountain complex. On the evening of the same day, Company "I" discovered 6 bunkers in the vicinity of YD 026599, one bunker was found to have a false bottom which contained parts of a 75mm pack howitzer. The next day (20 July) while searching a bunker complex at YD 027602 Company "I" again discovered 75mm pack howitzer components. That afternoon a second 75mm barrel was found in a bunker at YD 027598, in all two complete and serviceable 75mm pack howitzers were captured.

No contact was made during this operation, approximately 122 fighting and living bunkers were destroyed. The Battalion (-) returned to Camp Carroll by heli-lift in 28 July.

3. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy.

a. During the month of July the 3d Battalion inflicted the following casualties on the enemy; 59 NVA KIA (confirmed).

4. Casualties Sustained.

a. Name of Surgeon: Lt Walter P. Ashford, MC, USNR.

b. Significant Events.

1. On 1 July, one member of India Co. and one member of H&S Co. WIA due to enemy small arms fire.

2. On 2 July, 24 members of Kilo Co., 4 members of India Co. and 3 members of H&S Co. WIA due to enemy mortars. 4 members of Mike Co. WIA due to enemy small arms fire. One member of Mike Co. non-hostile injury due to sprained ankle. 2 members of Kilo Co. KIA due to enemy grenades. One member of Kilo Co. DOW due to wounds inflicted by enemy mortars.

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3. On 3 July, one member of Lima Co. WIA due to enemy small arms fire, one member of Mike Co. NBC to possible malaria, one member of Mike Co. NBC due to appendisitis, one member of Mike Co. NBC due to heat exhaustion.
4. On 5 July, 5 members of Kilo Co. WIA due to enemy grenades, 3 members of Kilo Co. WIA due to enemy small arms fire, 2 members of Kilo Co. KIA due to enemy small arms fire.
5. On 7 July, one member of H&S Co. NBC due to falling from boat and being cut by propellers.
6. On 10 July, one member of Lima Co. and One member of Mike Co. non hostile wounded due to fragmentation grenade detonated by an unknown individual.
7. On 12 July, 6 members of India Co. WIA due to enemy mortars, one member of Mike Co. WIA due to friendly artillery.
8. On 15 July, one member of India Co. non hostile injury due to conex box shifting on a truck and fracturing his pelvis, one member of Mike Co. non hostile wounded due to friendly 155mm air burst.
9. On 19 July, 2 members of H&S Co. NBC due to heat exhaustion, one member of Kilo Co. NBC due to phlebitis, one member of Kilo Co. due to abdominal pain.
10. On 20 July, one member of Lima Co. NBC due to heat exhaustion, one member of Mike Co. NBC due to sprained right knee.
11. On 21 July, one member of Kilo Co. NBC due to sun irritation of the eyes.
12. On 24 July, one member of India Co. NBC due to possible fractured spine.
13. On 27 July, one member of Lima Co. NBC due to sprained knee.
14. On 28 July, 4 members of Lima Co. WIA due to enemy mines, one member of Lima Co. non hostile wounded due to wood splinter in right eye from helicopter prop wash.
15. On 29 July, one member of Lima Co. WIA due to enemy mine.

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16. There were a total of 510 inoculations given during the month of July 1968.

17. Out Patient Visits.

a. Common complaints.

1. FUO	06
2. Heat Casualties	07
3. Possible Malaria	04
4. Dental	80
5. Cellulitis	204
6. Diarrhea	10
7. Miscellaneous	1126
	1437 Total

18. Number of Battle Casualties.

TOTALS	KIA	WIA	DOW	MIA	NBC	NBC KILLED
USMC 3/3	04	57	01	00	18	00
USN 3/3	00	02	00	00	01	00
USMC OTHERS	00	00	00	00	00	00

c. Medical Trends. An increase in the number of cellulitis in the month of July is due largely to the intermittent wet and dry weather. A stronger emphasis has been made on medical personnel to insure that open wounds receive prompt attention.

d. Problem Areas. None.

e. A new and more effective malaria chemoprophylaxis tablet known as DAPSONE is being used, taken daily as prescribed is supposed to be effective against all types of malaria encountered in Vietnam. The effects will be observed and subsequently reported.

5. New Techniques Employed. None.

6. Command Relations.

- a. OPCON - 9th Marines, ADCON - 3d MarDiv.
- b. On 1 July Company "M" was chopped to OPCON 2nd Bn, 26th Marines.
- c. On 1 July the Bravo Command group assumed OPCON of the A-3 position.
- d. On 2 July the Bravo Command group chopped OPCON of the A-3 position.
- e. On 4 July Company "L" was chopped to OPCON 3d Marines.
- f. On 6 July the Battalion was chopped to OPCON 3d Marines.

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- g. On 9 July the Battalion was chopped to OPCON 3dMarDiv.
- h. On 11 July the Battalion was chopped to OPCON 3d Marines.
- i. On 12 July Company "M" was chopped to OPCON 3d Bn. 4th Marines.
- j. On 18 July Company "K" and the Bravo Command group was chopped to OPCON 3d Marines.
- k. On 27 July Company "K" and the Bravo Command group returned to OPCON of the Battalion.

7. Equipment. None.

8. Logistics.

a. Supply.

(1) General. During the reporting period the Battalion operated in Leatherneck Square, the Cua Viet area and the Camp Carroll area.

During most of the reporting period the Battalion was resupplied via helicopter from LZ Stud and the Dong Ha LSA.

(2) Class I. A daily resupply maintains the regular supply of Class I at a three to five day level. Water, in cans, water bulls and water bladders, were lifted in and out of the Battalion positions by helicopter.

(3) Class II. There still remains a critical on;

Gas Masks

Flak Jackets

Compasses

Magazines, Cal.45

Binoculars

(4) Class III. There were no problems encountered in keeping an adequate supply of POL on hand.

(5) Class IV. There were still shortages in the following items;

Air Strip matting 8 foot engineer stakes

(6) Class V. The Battalion supply of Class V was maintained at a BA+5 DOA. There were no significant shortages noticed.

b. Motor Transport.

(1) The present status of the Battalions vehicles is as follows;

	T/E	O/H	2Ech	3Ech
M151A1	20	20	3	0
M274A2	30	30	7	2
M37	4	4	0	3
MRC 109	2	2	0	0
MRC 83	2	2	0	0
M718	1	1	0	0

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(2) A shortage of magnetos, cable leads, starter assemblies for the M274A2 and regulators for the M151A1 still exists in the section.

c. Engineer Assistance. Engineer assistance was received from the 3d Engineer Bn, Company "B" (-) was attached and rendered assistance by clearing and constructing landing zones.

d. Ordnance.

(1) At the end of the month the Battalion maintained the following;

ITEM	T/E	O/H	OPERATIONAL	2ECH	3ECH (FLSU)
M-14 Rifles	52	52	52	0	0
45. Pistols	329	351	351	0	0
Shotguns	13	19	18	1	0
M-60 MG	35	32	32	0	0
106 RR	8	8	6	2	0
M-79	36	37	34	3	0
81mm Mortars	8	8	8	0	0
60mm Mortars	12	12	10	1	1
3.5 Rockets	32	27	24	3	0
M-16 Rifles	919	982	971	11	0
106 Mounts	8	8	7	0	0
Flamethrowers	8	6	4	2	0

9. Civic Action. None.

10. Administration.

a. No awards ceremony was held during the month.

b. A total of 2 court martials were held during July; 2 SPCM, and 3 SCM are pending. 3 Battalion Commanders Office Hours were completed and one is pending. There were 5 Company Commanders Office Hours completed and 9 are pending.

c. Special Services provided the below during the month of July;

- (1) Stationary Kits
- (2) Nightly motion pictures films in the rear area.
- (3) Athletic recreation equipment
- (4) Free soda and beer.

d. Post exchange services were not available, however, Sundries Packages were distributed.

e. Liberty was not authorized during this period.

f. During the month 3 officers and 46 enlisted Marines rotated to CONUS. 39 enlisted Marines were transferred within the Regiment or Division. 62 enlisted Marines were transferred as a result of medical evacuation.

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a. Gains: 12 USMC OFF. 123 USMC ENL. 2 USN OFF. 22 USN ENL.
 b. Losses 10 USMC OFF. 139 USMC ENL. 2 USN OFF. 17 USN ENL.
 c. Monthly strength (Average)

MC OFF	MC ENL	USN OFF	USN ENL
31	1010	2	51

d. Net Loss/Gain:

MC OFF	MC ENL	USN OFF	USN ENL
0/2	16/0	0/0	0/5

e. Emergency leave for the month of July: 4 USMC enlisted. Twice/thrice wounded or resigned outside RVN due to father/brother in country: 12 USMC enlisted.

f. There were no Hardship Discharges applied for during the past month and none 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 87 out of country R&R quotas and 28 in country quotas used during the month.

i. Morale is considered excellent to outstanding.

j. Postal Services during the month have been good.

12. Intelligence.

During the month of July the Battalion participated in operations in the Kentucky, Napoleon/Saline and Lancaster II AOs. There were no major conflicts, but light and medium sized contacts along with enemy mortar attacks were numerous in the early part of the month while operating in the Kentucky AO. (Leatherneck Square). Operations which were run along the eastern coast above the Cua Viet, produced no enemy sightings and no contacts. The Battalion then moved to the Lancaster AO operating out of Camp J. J. Carroll. Little resistance was met while operating in this area, on a few occasions the Battalion was subject to mortar and artillery attacks, but made no ground contact.

The Battalion operated in Leatherneck Square (OPCON to 9th Marines) for the first week in July. There were numerous small unit contacts which produced close to 60 NVA KIA's and two prisoners of war. Captured documents and POW interrogations indicated the enemy had many small units operating in Leatherneck Square with the mission of destroying helicopters.

On 2 July 1968 at 0530H the Battalion at YD 16892 was hit with 15-20 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from YD 155694. The mortar attack was on target and the Battalion suffered 20 WIA's. At 0500H of the same day Kilo Company at YD 168933 received small arms fire from the vicinity of YD 171693, they engaged the enemy with small arms, artillery and 82mm mortars, contact was broken just prior to 0900H. a search of the area

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of contact disclosed 21 confirmed NVA dead, numerous weapons and equipment were captured. Also on 2 July at 1705H at YD 155700 Mike Company engaged a small enemy unit with small arms, while checking the area 15 NVA dead were found along with weapons and equipment.

The largest contact of the month occurred on 5 July at 0830H when elements of Kilo Company were taken under fire by an estimated 50-70 NVA. The point squad suffered early casualties as the NVA used command detonated mines, mortars and small arms. An AO and fixed wing were requested. Kilo Company returned fire with small arms, artillery and 81mm mortars. Upon arrival of the AO and air support Kilo Company maneuvered to exploit the contact and recover casualties, this was difficult as the enemy was well dug in and supported by 60mm mortars. The casualties were recovered under the cover of air and supporting arms. Contact was broken and Kilo Company returned to its original position. 15 NVA KIA's were confirmed.

Upon leaving Leatherneck Square the Battalion went OPCON to the 3d Marines and conducted operations in the Napoleon/ Saline AO before moving to the Lancaster AO in the middle of the month. The Battalion conducted operations out of Camp Carroll while in the Lancaster AO. There were no ground contacts with enemy forces and the Battalion was subject to only a few mortar rounds. There were many bunkers found especially while operating around Dong Ha mountain. These were overheaded with false tops or bottoms. Company "I" on 19 and 20 July found two 75mm pack howitzers at YD 028594 and YD 027602 while operating on Dong Ha mountain.

ENEMY WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT CAPTURED 1 - 31 JULY 1968

26	rounds 75mm artillery ammunition	2	75mm Pack Howitzers (US)
4	RPG-2 Launchers	12	RPG Charges
18	RPG rounds	1	60mm mortar tube
10	AK-47 rifles	200	82mm mortar rounds
1	82mm Mortar w/base plate and bipod	38	Cans, 82mm mortar
2	SKS carbines		increments
1	Cal. 30 Machine Gun (ChiCom)	4	Cans, 60mm mortar
28	Magazines, AK-47		increments
6,350	rounds 7.62 ammunition	50	Fuses, 60mm mortar
250	rounds 12.7 MG ammunition	35	AP rifle grenades
500	rounds cal.30 linked ammunition	3	Water Cans (NVA)
2	M-16 rifles (U.S.)	3	Canteens
1	Pistol cal.45 (U.S.)	1	AT mine
1	LAAW (U.S.)	2	AP mines
9	M-16 magazines	2	DH-10 mines
1	Knife (K-bar U.S.)	5	1bs TNT
13	M-26 Grenades (U.S.)	1	CS Grenade
1	Compass	12	Entrenching tools
1	Pair field glasses	256	ChiCom Grenades

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4	Batteries	1	NVA Pack
1	AN/PRC-25 radio (U.S.)	6	Gas masks
1	AN/PRC-93 radio (U.S.)	3	Picks
500	lbs of Rice		assorted medical supplies

13. Communications. During the month the Battalion was almost always in the field on operations. A relay was maintained at Camp Big John to ensure communications to Dong Ha. On 11 July the Battalion moved to a fixed position at Camp Carroll. Wire was completely installed and normal wire and radio communications returned. A message center was set up to handle traffic through Camp Carroll. Another station on the Battalion Administrative net was set up at LZ Stud for resupply purposes.

a. Training.

Cross training between the wire and radio sections continued.

b. Equipment Status.

The Battalion received six (6) AN/PRC-25's this month and 30 tapes and bases. Essential equipment down is as follows;

3	AN/PRC-25	1	TA-1PT
1	AN/PRC-41	1	AN/GRR-5
1	TA-312PT	1	AN/USM-50

c. Problem Areas. The shortage last month of a 2847 was resolved when the platoon received a new KY-8 technician. The current tactical situation necessitates the maintenance of communications at five different positions simultaneously. This has stretched the Battalion radio and operator assets to their limit.

14. Weather. The weather during the month of July was hot and humid, generally clear with sporadic rains.

Average High. 95 degrees Humidity 71%

Average Low. 79 degrees

Winds. The winds were generally from the northwest at 8 knots.

15. Fire Support. During the month of July the Battalion was almost continually in the field. Forward Observers concentrated their fires on preparatory fires, possible enemy infiltration routes and missions in support of patrolling units. The Battalion on 28 July was heli-lifted to LZ Margo to prepare a Fire Support Base, the FSB became operational on the evening of the same day and Battery "C", 1st Bn, 12th Marines was lifted into the base to provide support for elements of the 3d Marines.

a. Units Providing Direct and General Support.

- (1) Btry "A" 1st Bn, 12th Marines
- (2) Btry "B" 1st Bn, 12th Marines
- (3) Btry "C" 1st Bn, 12th Marines
- (4) Btry "K" 4th Bn, 12th Marines
- (5) Btry "A" 1st Bn, 40th Artillery USA

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b. Missions Fired.(1) Artillery.

(a)	Night Defensive Fires	35
(b)	Preparatory Fires	84
(c)	Suspected Enemy positions	20
(d)	Live Missions	9
(e)	Marking Rounds	4
(f)	Illumination	2
(g)	Counter Battery Fire	4
(h)	Smoke	2
(i)	TOT's	6
(j)	H&I's	122

(2) 81mm Mortars.

(a)	Night Defensive Fires	10
(b)	Targets of Opportunity	1
(c)	Practice Missions	9
(d)	Preparatory Fires	11
(f)	Suspected Enemy Positions	5

c. Ammunition Expended.(1) Artillery

(a)	105 mm	3371
(b)	155 mm	8
(c)	8 inch	28

(2) 81mm Mortars.

(a)	HE medium	296
(b)	WP (new)	84
(c)	Illumination	5

16. Air Support. During the month of July 17 flights of fixed wing aircraft ran strikes in support of the Battalion. All strikes were controlled by an AO in coordination with the ALU/FAC team. The AN/PRC-93 radio was checked on several of these flights with the same results as previously noted in other months.

- During the month 17 flights of fixed wing were run.
- One TPQ was requested.
- 15 AO's were requested and received.
- 99 Med evacs were completed.
- 9 C&C flights were used.
- 137,140 pounds of cargo were lifted and 963 passengers lifted.
- Three troop lifts were executed.

17. Activities/Deactivations/Reactivations. None.

18. Training Report. Due to operational commitments no training was conducted by the Battalion. On 25 July selected personnel from H&S Company and the rifle companies were sent to Ground Surveillance school at Dong Ha for a period of 5 days.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓1.	JOURNAL SUMMARY	PAGE	18
✓2.	BATTALION FRAG ORDER 12-68	PAGE	26
✓3.	BATTALION OPERATION ORDER 13-68	PAGE	30
✓4.	BATTALION FRAG ORDER 14-68	PAGE	40 36

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JOURNAL SUMMARY JULY 1968

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1 July 68. At 0715H Company "M" was chopped to OPCON 2nd Bn, 26th Marines.

At 0805H Company "L" commenced helicopter lift to A-3 position. The lift was completed at 0840H.

At 0825H Company "L" and the Bravo Command group assumed OPCON of the A-3 position.

At 1930H elements of Company "I" while making a water run at YD 169692 received small arms and automatic weapons fire from an estimated enemy squad located at YD 167695. Fire was returned with small arms and automatic weapons, 81mm mortar and artillery missions. 2 WIA's med evacs were sustained by the Company.

2 July 68. At 0500H elements of Company "K" at YD 168693 received small arms and automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of YD 171693, fire was returned with small arms, artillery and 81mm mortar missions. 7 WIA's were sustained.

At 0530H at YD 168692 the Battalion received 15-20 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from YD 155694, counter mortar missions were fired, 20 WIA's were sustained by the Battalion.

At 0700H Company "K" elements checked the general area of the contact of 020500H and found 21 NVA KIA's confirmed. The following equipment was captured;

2 RPG-2 Launchers	1 ChiCom Cal.30 Machine Gun
4 AK-47's	2 SKS Carbines
5 RPG-2 rounds	6 ChiCom grenades
1 Entrenching tool	1 NVA Pack

Misc. 782 gear

At 0815H Company "I" elements sighted 8 NVA at YD 169690, the enemy were equipped with helmets and flak jackets. The NVA were taken under fire by mortars and artillery.

At 1045H the Bravo Command group chopped OPCON of the A-3 position.

At 1030H a search of the area of contact at YD 169690 disclosed the following;

1 NVA KIA Confirmed.	1 AK-47 w/magazine
3 ChiCom grenades	1 Gas mask

A prisoner of war was captured and forwarded to Regimental S-2.

At 1145H Company "K" sighted approximately 15 NVA at YD 155700 and engaged with artillery with unknown results.

At 1705H Company "M" elements engaged 2 NVA in the open at YD 155700 with small arms fire. The size of the enemy unit was estimated as 20-30 personnel. A check of the area disclosed the following;

15 NVA KIA's Confirmed	4 AK-47s
1 RPG-2 Launcher	11 AK-47 magazines

100 rounds AK-47 ammunition

Friendly casualties were 1 KIA and 4 WIA's med evac.

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At 1720H Company "L" sighted 8-10 NVA moving east to west at YD 181697, the NVA were taken under, the NVA returned fire and moved eastward. Artillery missions were fired. A sweep of the area disclosed nothing significant.

At 2045H a Company "I" IP spotted 6 persons moving in a northeast direction at YD 174695, the IP engaged with small arms, M-79's and 81mm mortars with unknown results.

At 2330H a Company "L" ambush captured 1 NVA at YD 177698. The NVA was walking along a road when captured. 1 RPG-2 launcher and 3 ChiCom grenades were also captured.

3 July 68, At 0800H Company "L" at YD 192695 while searching area were taken under fire by a squad sized enemy element with small arms and automatic weapons fire, artillery missions were called. Contact was broken due to another operation. 1 friendly WIA was sustained.

At 0930H Company "M" reported that a search of the area of contact of 021705H disclosed 6 NVA KIA's and the following weapons and equipment;

1 RPG-2 Launcher	1 RPG-2 round
1 AK-47	6 ChiCom grenades

At 0925H Company "M" received 15-20 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from a azimuth of 6000 mils and a distance of 200-300 meters, no casualties were sustained. A counter mortar mission was fired with unknown results.

At 1000H Company "M" elements at YD 169696 found 1 Claymore type mine in a bunker. The mine was turned into S-2.

At 1145H Company "I" elements at YD 166694 discovered 18 bunkers and the following equipment and ordnance;

1 Gas mask	3 ChiCom grenades
250 12.7 cal. MG rounds	150 AK-47 rounds
1 A.P. mine	Various medical gear
1 A.T. mine	

The bunkers and ammunition were destroyed, the A.T. mine was turned into S-2.

At 1630H Company "I" found and destroyed a bunker at YD 152692.

At 1845H Company "L" at YD 158703 discovered a DH-10 mine with a command detonated device. The mine was found in a old destroyed pagoda, the mine operated on a pressure release system and had a wire leading to a spider hole 45 meters away. As the mine appeared to be booby trapped it was destroyed in place.

At 2115H a Company "L" IP observed 8 NVA moving towards their lines, the NVA divided into two groups. The IP engaged with small arms and grenades, the NVA threw ChiCom grenades and withdrew. The area will be checked at first light.

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4 July 68. The area of the Company "L" listening post contact was checked with negative results.

At 0630H Company "I" found and destroyed 3 bunkers at YD 156695, the following gear was captured;

3 Shovels	2 Picks
2 Gas masks	3 lbs of TNT
1 AK-47 magazine	

At 1430H Company "L" was chopped to OPCON 3d Marines.

5 July 68. At 0830H a element of Company "K" accompanied by the Battalion Commander made contact with a estimated platoon of NVA at YD 156706. The NVA initiated contact with detonation of a command detonated mine, 60mm mortar and small arms fire which resulted in casualties to the point squad. A AO was requested and mortar and artillery missions were fired, Upon the arrival of the AO, fixed wing and gunships Company "K" maneuvered to exploit the contact and recover casualties. Movement was limited. The NVA unit was estimated to be approximately 50-70 personnel in well dug in positions and supported by 60mm mortars. Casualties were extracted under the cover of supporting air and artillery, contact was broken and Company "K" returned to its orginal position at 1400H. NVA casualties were 15 NVA KIA's Confirmed. Friendly casualties were 2 KIA's and 1 WIA's med evac.

At 1630H the Battalion received 12 60mm mortar rounds, a counter mortar mission was fired with unknown results.

At 1740H Company "K" observed 1 NVA in the open, the NVA was engaged with small arms fire and killed. 1 NVA KIA Confirmed.

At 2010H Company "M" received 10-15 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from a azimuth of 5600 mils, the rounds impacted west of the Companys position, no casualties were taken, a counter mortar mission was fired.

6 July 68. At 1900H the Battalion was chopped to OPCON 3d Marines. in the Napoleon/Saline AO.

7 July 68. No significant events.

8 July 68. No significant events.

9 July 68. At 1000H the Battalion was chopped to OPCON 3d MarDiv.

10 July 68. The Battalion returned to Gua Viet and moved to Quang Tri for the S.U.R.E. program.

11 July 68. The Battalion entrucked and moved from Quang Tri to Camp J. J. Carroll and at 1500 was chopped to OPCON 3d Marines.

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12 July 68. At 0900H the Battalion departed Camp Carroll in accordance with 3d Marines Frag Order 16-68. Company "M" was chopped to OPCON 3d Bn, 4th Marines.

At 1200H the 1st Platoon, Company "L" chopped to OPCON Task Force Hotel.

At 1225H at YD 074576, Company "I" received 30 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from YD 062592, a artillery mission was fired, 4 WIA's were sustained.

At 1800H Company "I" discovered the following equipment at YD 072593;

1	LAW	1	45Cal pistol
1	M-16	11	M-26 grenades
1	CS grenade	1	82mm Mortar w/bipod and base plate
25	ChiCom grenades	1	AN/PRC 93 radio
1	DH-10 mine	15	AK-47 magazines
1	AN/PRC-25 radio		

13 July 68. At 1230H Company "I" at YD 065594 discovered the following items of 782 gear and ordnance in a bunker complex;

13	ChiCom grenades	92	82mm mortar rounds
300	AK-47 rounds	20	Cans, increments, 82mm Mortar
2	RPG-2 rounds	24	Cans, increments, 60mm Mortar
Misc. 782 gear			

At 1330H Company "I" found the remains of a Marine at YD 067593, the body was med evaced.

14 July 68. At 0700H Company "I" found the remains of a Marine in the vicinity of YD 067593, the body was med evaced.

At 0700H Company "I" elements found the following equipment at YD 067595;

1	M-16 Rifle (damaged)	3	Canteens
1	Knife (K-bar)	1	Compass (damaged)
9	M-16 magazines	3	M-26 grenades

All weapons were forwarded to S-2.

At 0915H Company "L" received 2 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from the vicinity of 069559, counter mortar missions were fired with unknown results.

At 1105H Company "K" received 2 rounds of 60mm mortar and 6 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from the vicinity of YD 069605, artillery and fixed wing missions were called with unknown results.

At 1615H Company "M" returned to OPCON of the Battalion.

At 1645H Company "K" reported finding the following equipment and ordnance in a bunker complex at YD 057588;

100	82mm Mortar rounds	35	A.P. rifle grenades
50	Fuses for 60mm mortar	18	Cans increments for 82mm Mortar
12	RPG-2 charges	8	Shovels
1	Pick	500	Rounds, 30cal linked
5,800	Small arms rounds	10	RPG-2 rounds

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100 7,62 rounds

500 lbs of rice

2 Gas masks (NVA)

100 ChiCom grenades

3 Water cans (NVA)

1 60mm mortar tube

Approximately 75 bunkers were found, many with false bottoms. All ordnance was destroyed.

At 1730H Company "I" at YD 068594 received 8 rounds of 60mm mortar fire, counter mortar missions were fired, no casualties were sustained.

At 2125H Company "I" elements sighted 3 NVA through the use of a starlight scope, a artillery mission was fired. The area will be checked at first light.

15 July 68. At 1000H Company "I" returned to Camp Carroll.

At 1200H the Battalion assumed responsibility for Sparrow Hawk and Bald eagle.

At 2208H a Marine from H&S Company was injured by shrapnel when a 155mm round burst over the Battalion position.

16 July 68. Between the hours of 0630H and 0900H Company "K" discovered 2 bunkers at YD 057558, each bunker was large enough for 20 people. The bunkers were destroyed.

17 July 68. At 1945H Company "M" returned to Camp Carroll.

18 July 68. At 1300H Company "K" and the Bravo Command group were OPCON to the 3d Marines.

19 July 68. At 0800H the Battalion departed in accordance with 3d Marines Operation Order 3-68.

At 0840H landing at commenced.

At 0900H the 1st wave landed in LZ Buzzard, no opposition was encountered.

At 0928H LZ Buzzard was secured.

At 1830H elements of Company "I" at YD 028599 found 6 bunkers, 1 bunker was found to have a false bottom which contained the following parts to a 75mm pack howitzer;

1 Cradle

1 Base

2 Wheels

1 Elevating mechanism

4 Batteries

1 Pair field glasses

Cleaning gear for 75mm pack howitzer

20 July 68. At 0920H elements of Company "I" at YD 027602 found 17 bunkers and the following ordnance and equipment;

1 Sub assembly to 75mm pack howitzer

1 75mm pack howitzer cradles

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1	Elevating mechanism	2	wooden spoked wheels
2	Breach assemblies for 75mm pack howitzer		
2	Sight assemblies		
2	Screwdrivers	4	Fuse wrenches
2	10"X1" steel pins	2	Shell extractors
1	Oil grease gun	1	Lanyard
1	75mm Pack Howitzer barrel	4	Spools of wire
26	rounds, 75mm Ammunition		

The bunkers were destroyed and all equipment turned into S-2.

At 1630H Company "I" found a second barrel for a 75mm pack howitzer in a bunker in the vicinity of YD 027598, the bunker had a fire post oriented in the direction of Camp Carroll.

At 2030H Company "I" elements observed a person moving approximately 50 meters in front of their lines and engaged with small arms and M-79's. The area will be checked at first light.

21 July 68. At 1820H Company "I" discovered 13 living bunkers and 1 artillery bunker for a 75mm pack howitzer at YD 026598, 10 additional bunkers were found later in the same vicinity. All bunkers were destroyed.

22 July 68. No significant events.

23 July 68. No significant events.

24 July 68. At 1100H elements of Company "L" discovered approximately 75 bunkers and fighting holes in the vicinity of YD 023614, the bunkers were checked for false bottoms and destroyed.

At 1725H 2 platoons of Company M with attachments were dropped to OPCON of the Bravo Command group.

25 July 68. At 1400H Company "L" elements found a utility cover at YD 001596, the cover was camouflaged and looked to be old.

26 July 68. At 0855 Companies "L", and "I" and the Alpha Command group commenced a heli-lift to Camp Carroll, the lift was completed at 1050H, 1 platoon and a 81mm mortar section were left on position.

At 2340H elements of Company "M" on Dong Ha mountain reported suspected enemy movement in the vicinity of YD 020594 and YD 065593, A 100% alert was ordered and artillery missions were fired at possible enemy assembly area and avenues of approach.

27 July 68. At 1400H Companies "L" and "I", with the Alpha Command group commenced a heli-lift to LZ Margo, the lift was completed at 1530H without incident and the LZ was consolidated.

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Company "M" (-) and Company "K" and the Bravo Command group continued the mission of defending Fire Support Base Joan.

At 1700H Company "I" elements found a path leading to the river in the vicinity of XD 906611, 30 feet of the path had steps and bamboo hand rails, the path appeared to be well used.

28 July 68. At 1200 Company "I" found 7 fighting holes in the vicinity of XD 897615 running parallel and approximately 100 meters from the river, the holes were well camouflaged and was a good ambush position.

At 1415H Company "L" reported 3 WIA's from a U.S. type A.P. mine at XD 900615, a med evac was called and completed at 1545H.

At 1445H the platoon of Company "M" on Dong Ha mountain was relieved by a unit from Company "H", 2nd Bn, 3d Marines and was lifted to Fire Support Base Joan.

At 1530H Lt. Col. W. H. BATES relieved Lt. Col. J. W. MARSH as Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines.

At 1845H LZ Margo was completed and operational as a Fire Support Base.

19 July 68. At 0300H Company "L" reported movement approximately 15 meters in front of their lines at XD 900600, M-79's were fired at movement with unknown results.

At 0730H after a recon by fire, the area of suspected movement in front of Company "L" was searched and blood trails were found.

At 0900H Company "I" found 3 grass lean-to type shelters terraced with rock tops at XD 905900, the site had not been used recently.

At 0900H A Marine from Company "L" stepped on a US type mine at XD 902610 resulting in 1 WIA. A med evac was called and completed at 1015H.

At 1205H Company "L" observed 1 individual sitting in the open at XD 896609, A 81mm mortar mission was fired with good target coverage with unknown results.

30 July 68. At 0830H Company "I" elements discovered a trail junction at XD 897624, one trail was followed, the trail ran through coordinates XD 893622, XD 893619, XD 894617 and XD 897617. The trail was made with reinforced steps with a handrail, at the end of the trail there were a series of fighting holes. The position had not been used for several months.

At 2130H Company "I" elements observed the movement of 2-3 persons in the vicinity of YD 102622. Artillery and 81mm mortar missions were fired with good target coverage. The area will be checked at first light.

At 2213H Company "L" reported 2 explosions believed to be frag grenades approximately 75 meters in front of the lines. Approximately 5 minutes later, lights were reported moving away from the lines in a southwest direction approximately 125 meters from their position, the lines were alerted.

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21 July 68. At 0915H a Company "I" patrol checked the area where movement was observed the night before, a trail running northeast was found. The trail had steps and handrails. Footprints were found at XD 90459. At XD 904623 a campfire and huts were found, the campfire was 9-12 hours old. The huts had been used the night before, all huts were destroyed.

At 1800H Company "I" fired a 82mm mortar mission in the vicinity of XD 914596, a secondary explosion was observed.

At 2000H Company "I" observed 4 NVA in the vicinity of XD 898608, moving toward friendly positions, 1 NVA was carrying a rifle. Movement continued until 2115H when a 60mm mortar mission was fired and a frag grenade thrown, movement ceased.

At 2330H Company "I" in the vicinity of XD 992621 heard movement to their northeast, a artillery mission was fired with unknown results.

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

Copy of Copies
 Camp Carroll, RVN
 12 July, 68

Battalion Frag Order 12-68

Time Zone H

References: (a) 3d Marines Frag Order 16-68.
 (b) Map 1:50,000 AMS Sheet 6342 I

Task Organization.

3d Battalion, 3d Marines

Lt. Col. J. W. MARSH

Company "I" (Rein).

Det. Btry "C", 1/12 (FO Team)
 Det. 81mm Mortar Plt. (FO Team)
 Det. 3d Eng Bn.
 Det. HQ Co. 3d Mar (Snipers)
 FAC/TACP Team.

Capt. MCTIERNAN

Company "K" (Rein).

Det. Btry "C" 1/12
 Det. 81mm Mortar Plt.
 Det. 3d Eng Bn.
 Det. HQ. Co. 3d Mar.
 TACP Team

1st Lt. IVERSON

Company "L" (Rein).

Det. Btry "C" 1/12
 Det. 81mm Mortar Plt.
 Det. 3d Eng Bn.
 Det HQ. Co. 3d Mar.
 TACP Team.

1st Lt. STOKES

Company "M" (Rein).

Det. Btry "C", 1/12
 Det. 81mm Mortar Plt.
 Det. 3d Eng Bn
 Det. HQ Co. 3d Mar.
 TACP Team

1st Lt. LOGAN

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1. Situation.a. Enemy Forces.

(1) Current intelligence identifies the 64th Regt. NVA operating in the area bounded by the NE corner of the 3d Marines AO and the western side of the 9th Marine AO. Operating east of the 3d Marine AO is the 27th Ind. Bn. Around the area of Cam Lo, operates the Cam Lo VC Company.

(2) Incidents of the last few days have increased along Route #9, indicating small groups of enemy in close proximity to Camp Carroll. These incidents have included interdiction of Route #9 convoys by small arms fire and indirect fire weapons.

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) 2/3 establishes a COB at Than San Lam, provides security of Route #9 in 3d Marines AO, Camp Carroll and Khe Ghia, provides Bald Eagle and Sparrow Hawk at Camp Carroll. Provides security for road sweeps and convoy security. Be prepared to assist 3/3 on order.

(2) Artillery.

(a) 3/12 in direct support of 3d Marines.

(b) Btry "B", 1/12 in direct support of 3/3.

(c) Btry "A", 1/40 USA refacing fires to 3/12.

c. Attachments and Detachments.

(1) Effective 120900H Company "M" chops to Task Force Hotel.

2. Mission. Conduct ambush/anti-infiltration operations in assigned AO (See Operations Overlay). Be prepared to conduct other operations as directed.

3. Execution.

(a) Concept of Operations. One Company moves through Objective A, secures high ground in area of Objective B to provide base of fire for support of the other two companies crossing Cam Lo river to Objectives C and D. Other two companies, on order, pass through Objective A, effect river crossing in vicinity of YD 080588 and move to assigned objectives and conduct patrols and ambushes in AO as assigned.

(b) Company "I". On order move by truck to assembly area in vicinity of Objective A. On order effect river crossing in vicinity of YD 080588, secure Objective D and be prepared to conduct further patrol and ambush activities as ordered. Be prepared to support movement of Company "K" to Objective C.

(c) Company "K". On order move by truck to assembly area in vicinity of Objective A. On order effect river crossing in vicinity of YD 080588, secure Objective C and be prepared to conduct further patrol and ambush activities as ordered. Be

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prepared to support movement of Company "I" to Objective D.

(c) Company "L". At approximately 0830H move by truck to vicinity of Objective A. Secure Objective A and B and be in position to protect river crossing at YD 080588. Be prepared to conduct patrol and ambush activities south of Cam Lo river as directed.

(d) Company "M". At 0900H move by helicopter to LZ Sheppard. On departure Camp Carroll chop to OPCON Task Force Hotel.

(e) 81mm Mortar Platoon. Be prepared to support movement of battalion within areas bounded by maximum effective range from present position at Camp Carroll.

(f) 106mm Recoiless Rifle Platoon. Remain in present position at Camp Carroll with Bravo Command group.

(g) Coordinating Instructions

(1) D Day - 12 July
(2) H hour 1200H
(3) Thrust points - 3d Marine thrust points effective 101800H July 68.

(4) Priority of artillery fires will be with moving element except when in contact. On contact, priority of fires shifts to most heavily engaged unit as determined by S-3.

4. Administration and Logistics. No Change.

5. Command and Signal.

(a) Command group will move initially with Company "L". On order Command group will join and move with Company "I".

ANNEX J "A" Operational Overlay.

J. A. RINDFLEISCH
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

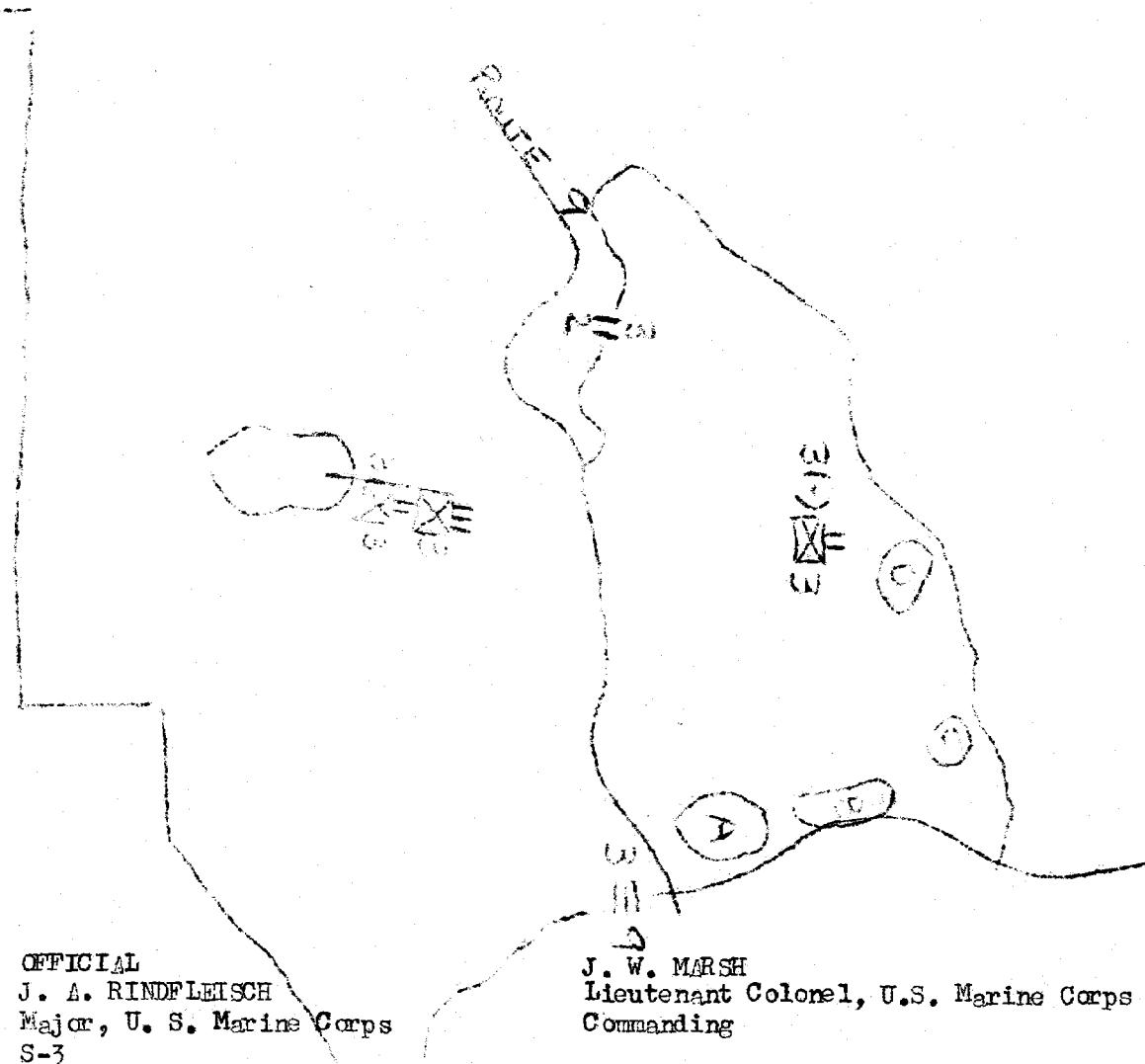
J. W. MARSH
Lieutenant Colonel U.S.M.C.
Commanding

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ANNEX "A" to Battalion Frag Order 12-68
Map Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Sheet 6342 I

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OFFICIAL
J. A. RINDFLEISCH
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

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

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

Copy of Copies
 Camp Carroll, RVN
 16 July, 68

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER 13-68

Time Zone H

Reference: (a) 3d Marines Operation Order 3-68
 (b) Map 1:50,000 AMS sheets 6242 I, 6242 II

1. Situation.a. Enemy Forces.

- (1) Current intelligence information lists an unidentified NVA Regiment (believed to be the 2nd Regt, 339th Div.) operating in the vicinity of Objective #13.
- (2) Enemy incident experiences of the past few weeks shows 60mm and 82mm mortar capabilities and small groups of enemy interdictory mission of Route #9.
- (3) The enemy can fight a delaying action and attempt to escape through established infiltration routes in the area, probably withdrawing towards the north and northwest while being covered by supporting weapons to include artillery and rear guard/ambush action.

b. Friendly Forces.

- (1) 2/3 conducts search and clear operations between Mutters Ridge and the DMZ from east to west.
- (2) 1/3 conducts search and clear operations along Mutters Ridge and Helicopter valley from east to west.
- (3) 2nd ARVN Regiment conducts search and clear operations west of 3d Marine AO.
- (4) 9th Marines conducts search and clear operations east of the 3d Marines AO.
- (5) Artillery.
 - (a) 3/12 in direct support of 3d Marines.
 - (b) 4/12 provides reinforcing fires to 3/12.

c. Attachments and Detachments.

- (1) Det. Comm Plt, 3d Marines.
- (2) Det. Scout/Sniper Plt, 3d Marines.
- (3) HST Team, 3d Shore Party Battalion.
- (4) Effective upon order, Bravo Command group with Company "K" echps to 3d Marines. (anticipated 0700H, 18 July 1968).

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2. Mission.

- (a) Initially Regimental Reserve. Be prepared to reinforce or assume mission of either 1/3 or 2/3.
- (b) On D+1 or D+2 be prepared to conduct heliborne assault to secure LZ BUZZARD (YD 032604) and seize Objective #11.
- (c) Be prepared to continue the attack and seize Objective #13 on order.
- (d) Be prepared to furnish one (1) rifle company (rein) with Bravo Command group to execute heliborne assault to seize LZ CARDINAL (XD 9461) and establish patrol base in the vicinity of Hill #461.

3. Execution.a. Concept of Operations.

- (1) Scheme of maneuver, See Operations Overlay.
- (2) On D Day and D+1 the Battalion will be the 3d Marines Reserve. As such, the Battalion will be prepared to reinforce or assume the missions of the 1st or 2nd Battalions.
- (3) The Battalion will conduct a heliborne assault landing in LZ CARDINAL (XD 946624) with one (1) rifle company (rein) and a small command group on D+1. This company will secure LZ CARDINAL, establish a company patrol base and conduct patrols and establish observation posts in the immediate vicinity.
- (4) On D+2 the Battalion will conduct a heliborne assault landing in LZ BUZZARD (YD 032604) with three (3) rifle companies. The assault company will secure the LZ. The second company to land will move eastward from the LZ and search and clear the eastern portion of the Dong Ha mountain complex. The third company to land will move westward from the LZ to search out approaches to Regimental Objective #11. On D+2 the Battalion will seize Regimental Objective #11 and be prepared to seize and occupy Regimental Objective #13.

b. Company "I". At L-hour on D+2 land in LZ Buzzard. Secure LZ BUZZARD. Be prepared to support, reinforce or assume the missions of Company "L" and/or Company "M".

c. Company "Y". On order on D+1 land with the Bravo Command group in LZ Cardinal. Secure LZ Cardinal and after consolidation of LZ move to Hill #461 (XD 946624). Establish a company patrol base on Hill #461 and conduct patrols and establish observation posts in the immediate vicinity of Hill #461.

d. Company "L". On D+2 Company "L" will follow Company "I" into LZ Buzzard. Upon assembly and consolidation of the company in the LZ, Company "L" will move east of LZ Buzzard and establish a company patrol base in the vicinity of coordinates YD 036605. From the patrol base Company "L" will conduct search and destroy operations of the portion of Dong Ha mountain from LZ Buzzard to the east.

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e. Company "M". On D+2, Company "M" will follow Company "L" into LZ Buzzard. Upon assembly and consolidation of Company "M" in the LZ, Company "M" will on order, move toward Regimental Objective #11 reconnitering approaches to the Objective. In the absence of determined enemy resistance on Regimental Objective #11, Company "M" will occupy Regimental Objective #11.

f. 81mm Mortar Platoon. At 171600H July 68, attach one (1) section of 81's to Company "K" for employment in LZ Cardinal and hill #461. On D+2, move remaining two (2) sections and FDC to LZ Buzzard to support operations on the Dong Ha Mountain complex.

g. 106 RR Platoon. Effective at 0700H on D+1, one (1) section will be on a 30 minute alert to be heli-lifted to LZ Cardinal/Hill #461. On D+2 the alert will be expanded to two (2) sections, the second section to be lifted to LZ Buzzard if required.

h. Engineers. Engineer Platoon will be attached to Company "K" and carry out assigned missions in LZ Cardinal as prescribed by Co. Bravo Command group.

i. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) Supporting arms will be used to the maximum extent possible.
- (2) Priority of fires will be with maneuver company. If in contact, priority of fires will be with unit most heavily engaged as directed by the Battalion Commander.
- (3) Thrust points are as published by 3d Marines effective 151800H July 68.
- (4) D-Day is 17 July
- (5) L-Hour for Company "K" is 18100H July 68.
- (6) L-Hour for 3d Battalion (-) is 190700H July 68.
- (7) Hand held riot control agents are authorized. Bulk distribution/desemination of CS must be approved by 3d Marines.
- (8) Position reports will be submitted each hour to Battalion.
- (9) Spot reports will be submitted as they occur.
- (10) Air panels and smoke will be utilized to mark lines for air.

4. Administration and Logistics.

a. Supply.

- (1) The source of supply is the Battalion S-4 representative.
- (2) All resupply will be effected from LZ Stud.
- (3) Battalion unit distribution will be in effect.
- (4) Prescribed loads carried will be in accordance with established Battalion SUP to include 3 MCI's and a minimum of three (3) canteens of water upon departure from Camp Carroll.
- (5) Resupply will be accomplished by helicopter from LSU, LZ Stud to the designated LZ's in the field.

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G-3 DRAFT

(6) Request for resupply will be submitted to Battalion S-4 representative, LZ Stud, by 1100H daily.

(7) An emergency package of Class I, Class V and water for one (1) rifle company will be staged at LZ Stud. In the event that this package is used, reconstitute immediately.

(8) Emergency resupply requests will be submitted directly to the Battalion Commander, with justifications.

(9) Emergency medical supplies for 20 casualties will be staged by the Battalion Surgeon for on call delivery to area of operations.

b. Captured Material.

(1) Particular attention will be devoted to liaison with the Battalion S-2 representative for evacuation of captured materials.

(2) Prisoners will be evacuated to a Battalion collection point, to be designated by S-2 representative upon arrival at LZ Buzzard as rapidly as possible. Additional collection points will be announced as available.

c. Evacuation and Hospitalization.

(1) An up to date med evac roster will be prepared by S-1. Company "K" submit roster to S-1 prior to 0600H on D+1. The remainder of the Battalion submit roster to S-1 prior to 0600H on D+2. Deletions as a result of rotation, R&R and casualties will be reported as soon as possible after individual leaves the field. The S-1 will provide the S-3 with effective field strength at 0700H daily. Companies submit strength report to S-1 by 0530H daily.

(2) Casualty reports will be provided to S-1 not later than $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after the med evac is completed.

(3) Under normal circumstances, casualty evacuations will not be attempted until the enemy force at the point of contact has been neutralized.

(4) All casualties requiring evacuation will be transported to Company "D", 3d Medical Battalion at Dong Ha except severe head wounds which require neurological attention. In these cases the patients will be taken directly to the hospital ship.

d. Miscellaneous.

(1) Spot reports will be submitted as per occasion. Submit initial report with basic information as soon as possible, forward complete information by follow on report.

(2) Constant police of LZ's will be emphasized. LZ's will be kept clear of trash, loose equipment and any matter that can be swept into helicopter rotors.

(3) Each unit will ensure that the appropriate number of air panels will be carried to mark LZ's.

(4) All water cans, helicopter slings and cargo nets will be returned as expeditiously as possible.

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(5) Ensure that the maximum amount of a casualty's 782 gear be evacuated with the individual to Dong Ha. All equipment that can not be evacuated with the casualty will be cached and returned to LZ Stud expeditiously as possible for reinsertion into the supply system.

5. Command and Communications.

a. Command.

(1) Command Group ALPHA will consist of;

CO. w/ radio operator	Corpsman
S-3 w/ radio operator	S-1 representative
24 w/ radio operator	S-2 Chief
14 w/ radio operator	S-4 representative
81mm Plt Cmdr. w/ radio operator.	HST team (3)
Sergeant Major	Wire team (2)
Communications Tech.	Journal clerk
Interpreter	Radio operators (3)
Chaplin	(Admin, Bn, Regt, Tac.)

(2) Command Group BRAVO will consist of;

Executive Officer w/ radio operator.

14A w/ radio operator.

24A w/ radio operator.

Interpreter

S -2 representative.

S-4 representative

Corpsman

Journal clerk

Wire Team (1)

Radio operators (4)

Sniper Squad leader.

(3) Initial location of the Alpha Command Group will be LZ Buzzard.

(4) Initial location of the Bravo Command Group will be with Company "K".

b. Communication and Electronics.

(1) Frequencies and call signs are as distributed by the Battalion Communications Officer.

ANNEX "A". Operations Overlay.

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J. A. RINFLEISH

Major, USMC

S-3

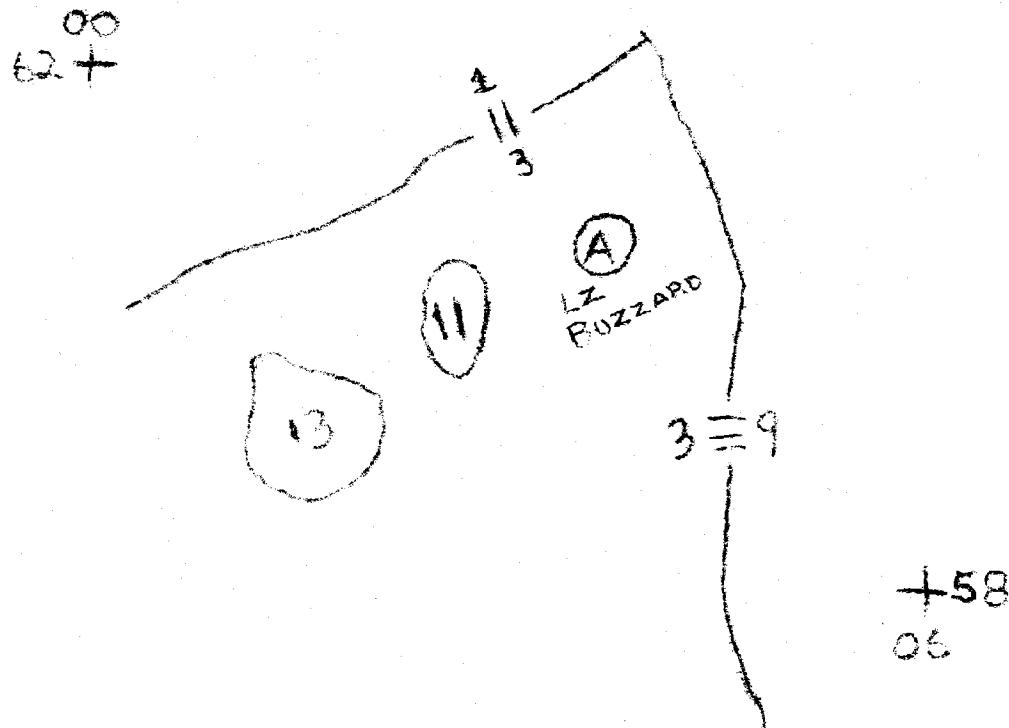
J. W. MARSH

Lieutenant Colonel, USMC

Commanding

UNCLASSIFIED
Enclosure (1)

ANNEX "A" to Battalion Operations Order 13-68
Map: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS 6242 I, 6242 II



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J. A. RINFELDISH
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

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

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

Copy _____ of Copies
 Camp Carroll, RVN
 26 July 1968

Battalion Frag Order 14-68

Time Zone H

Reference: (a) 3d Marine Frag Order 24-68
 (b) Map 1:50,000 AMS Sheets 6342 IV, 6342 I

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces.

(1) Current intelligence reports an unidentified NVA Battalion operating in the western portion of the Cam Lo River valley. Current intelligence also reports the possibility of the NVA 308th Division Headquarters being located somewhere in the Cam Lo River valley.

(2) Enemy initiated incidents of the past few weeks in the 3d Marine AO shows 82mm and 60mm mortar capabilities and small groups of enemy indicating interdictory missions against Route #9.

(3) Experiences of the 9th and 4th Marines and the 2nd ARVN regiments operating to the east and south of the 3d Marines AO respectively show sizeable enemy forces capable of offensive action or determined resistance. It is anticipated the enemy will fight a delaying action and attempt to escape through established infiltration routes in the area, probably withdrawing towards the north or south while being covered by supporting weapons to include artillery and rear guard/ambush actions.

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) 1/3 conducts a heliborne assault commencing 270700H to seize LZ Becky. Establish a possible FSB at LZ Becky. Conduct search and destroy operations in and along the Cam Lo River Basin and effect link-up with 3/3 at LZ Margo on order.

(2) 2/3 will be 3d Marines reserve effective 271400H and continues present mission of Route #9 security in 3d Marines AO.

(3) Artillery.

(a) 3/12 will provide direct support of 3d Marines from FSB Joan, Margo and Camp Carroll.

(b) Det. 3/12 will provide direct support fires from FSB Joan.

(4) 1st MAW provides air support.

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1. Attachments and Detachments:

- (1) Company "B" (-) 3d Eng. Bn. is attached on order.
- (2) Companies "K" and "M" remain attached to Task Force Sierra.
- (3) Bravo Command Group remains attached to Task Force Sierra.

2. Mission. At 270700H 3/3 (-) becomes 3d Marines reserve prepared to reinforce or assume the mission of 1/3. At 271400H 3/3 (-) will conduct heliborne assault to seize LZ Margo. Establish a Fire Support Base at LZ Margo and be prepared to receive 2/12 NLT 28 July. Conduct limited search and destroy operations in TAOR being prepared to link-up with 1/3 on order.

3. Execution.a. Concept of Operations.

- (1) See Operations Overlay.
- (2) 3/3 will land initially with two (2) companies to seize LZ Margo and the high ground at XD 902609. Upon arrival of the Battalion (-) in LZ Margo, observation posts will be established at XD 909612, Hill #253 (XD 897620) and Hill #202 (XD 994614) and preparation of the FSB will be made to receive Btry "C" 1/12 NLT 28 July.

b. Company "I". Initially will be Battalion reserve prepared to reinforce or assist Company "I" in seizure of LZ Margo. On order, establish a platoon sized OP on Hill # 253 (XD 897620) and a squad sized OP at XD 909612. Assume responsibility of FSB Margo from 11 0'clock. Be prepared on order, to conduct limited patrols within the Battalion TAOR.

c. Company "K". Continue assigned mission.

d. Company "M". Conduct heliborne assault at 271400H to seize LZ Margo and the high ground at XD 902609. Upon arrival of Company "I" in LZ assume perimeter responsibility of FSB Margo from 2 O'clock. On order establish a squad sized OP on Hill #202 XD 994614. Be prepared to conduct limited patrols within the Battalion TAOR.

e. Company "M". Continue assigned mission.

f. 106mm Mortar Platoon. Land with one (1) section in LZ Margo. Establish position in general vicinity of XD 903610 to support battalion operations in battalion TAOR. Be prepared to support 1/3 within range capabilities.

g. 106mm RH Platoon. Maintain one (1) section of 106's on alert at LZ Stud for delivery to FSB Margo on order.

h. Engineers. On arrival at LZ Margo, be prepared to liaison with advance party from Btry "G", 1/12 to determine reassessments necessary to establish FSB Margo. Prepare FSB Margo to receive Btry "C", 1/12 NLT 28 July 68.

i. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) Supporting arms will be used to the maximum extent possible.

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- (2) Priority of fires will be with the maneuver company. If in contact, priority of fires will be with the most heavily engaged unit, as directed by the Battalion Commander.
- (3) Thrust points are as published by 3d Marines effective 151800H July 68 and include Cars 8763 and Fruit 8462.
- (4) D-Day is 27 July 1968.
- (5) L-Hour for 3d Battalion (-) is 271400H July 68.
- (6) Hand held riot control agents are authorized. Bulk distribution or dissemination of CS must be approved by 3d Marines.
- (7) Position reports will be submitted each hour to Battalion.
- (8) Spot reports will be submitted as they occur.
- (9) Air panels and smoke will be utilized to mark lines for air.
- (10) FCL Blue is established on order.
- (11) Clock system will be used in defense of FSB Margo with grid north being 12 O'clock.

4. Administration and Logistics.

a. Supply.

- (1) The source of supply is the Battalion S-4 representative.
- (2) All resupply will be effected from LZ Stud.
- (3) Battalion unit distribution will be in effect.
- (4) Prescribed loads carried will be in accordance with established Battalion SOP to include 3 MCI's and a minimum of three (3) canteens of water upon departure of Camp Carroll.
- (5) Resupply will be accomplished by helicopter from LSU, LZ Stud to the designated LZ's in the field.
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- (2) Prisoners will be evacuated to a Battalion collection point, to be designated by S-2 upon arrival at LZ Margo as rapidly as possible. Additional collection points will be announced as available.

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d. Evacuation and Hospitalization.

(1) An up to date med evac roster will be prepared by S-1. Companies submit roster to S-1 prior to 0700H 27 July. Deletions as a result of rotation, R&R and casualties will be reported as soon as possible after individual leaves the field. The S-1 will provide the S-3 with effective field strength at 0700H daily. Companies will submit strength reports to S-1 by 0630H daily.

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a. Command. Command Group ALPHA will consist of;
CO. w/ radio operator. S-3 w/ radio operator.

24 w/ radio operator. 14 w/ radio operator.

81 Plt Cmdr. w/ radio operator.

Sergeant Major. Communications Tech.

Interpreter. Chaplin.

Corpsman. S-1 representative.

S-2 Chief. S 4 representative.

Radio operator (3). HST Team (3)

Wire Team (2). Journal clerk (2)

(1) Initial location of the Alpha Command group will be LZ Margo.

b. Communications and Electronics. Frequencies and call signs are as distributed by the Battalion Communications Officer.

ANNEX "A" Operation Overlay.

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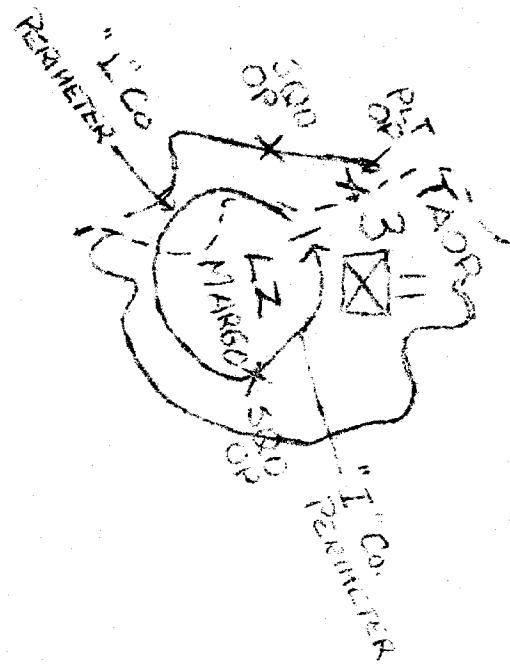
J. A. RINDFLEISH
Major, USMC

b-3

J. W. MARSH

Lieutenant Colonel, USMC
Commanding

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[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED5
W+ 50
51ANNEX "A" To Battalion Frag Order 14-68
Map: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Sheets 6342 IV, 6342 IOFFICIAL
J. A. RINDFLEISCH
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3J. W. MARSH
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
CommandingNHC 851
JOCAN

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Enclosure (1)

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