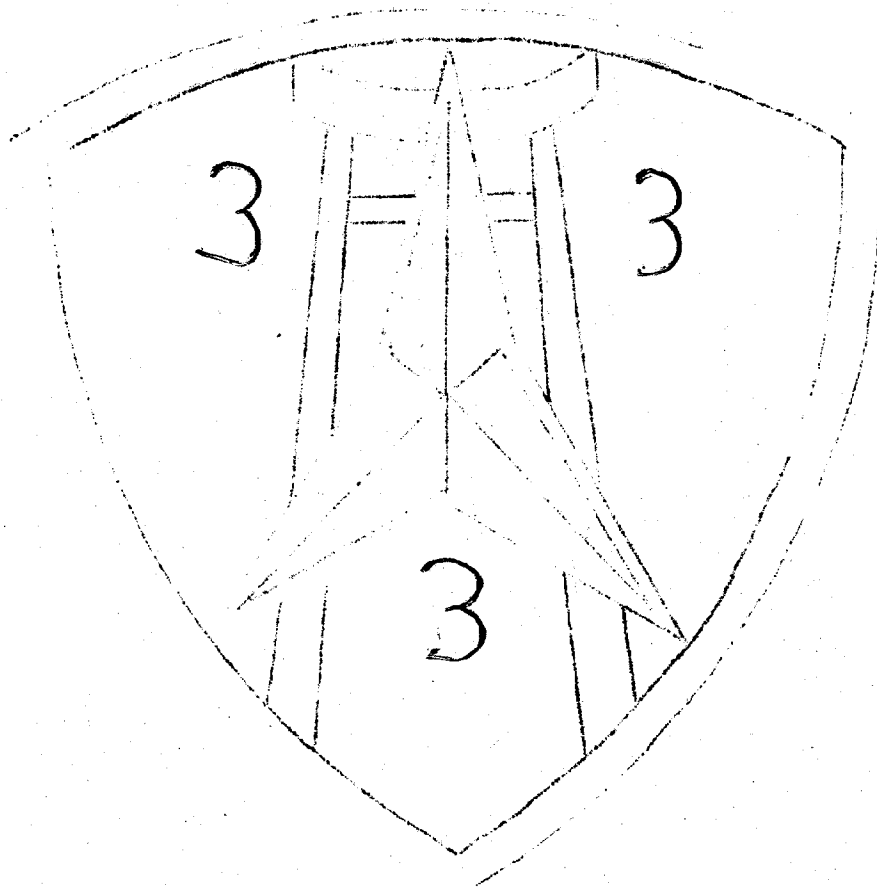


UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~



3RD BN. 3RD MARINES

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 October 1968 - 31 October 1968

Copy .1... of 10... Copies

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

3D CARDIV SEC FILE
BT# 624908

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FIF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

624968

3/ERH/tss
003A3146t
9 Nov 196t

SECRET

(Declassified upon removal
of Enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 3d Marine Regiment
(2) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FIF
(3) Commanding General, III MAF
(4) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for 1 October 196t to 31 October 196t

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPAC 5750.6
(c) DivC 5750.13

Encl: (1) 3d Battalion, 3d Marines Command Chronology, 1-31Oct6t

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), Enclosure (1) is submitted.

R. K. Gutter
R. K. GUTTER
By direction

Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
Declassified after 12 years

3d BATTALION 3d MARINES
00398-68 COPY 1 OF 10

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

Copy 1... of 10... Copies

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FIF
APO San Francisco, California 96302

COMBAT CHRONOLOGY

1 October 1968 to 31 October 1968

INDEX

PART I -----ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II -----NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III -----SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV -----SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
Declassified after 12 years.

UNCLASSIFIED

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. ✓ JOURNAL SUMMARY
2. ✓ BATTALION OPERATION ORDERS
 - a. ✓ 1-68
3. ✓ BATTALION WFOO ORDERS
 - a. ✓ 24-68 Cancelled
 - b. ✓ 25-68
 - c. ✓ 26-68
 - d. ✓ 27-68
 - e. ✓ 28-68

Page 2 of 18 Pages

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

3d Battalion, 3d Marines

COMMANDER

LtCol W. H. BATES 1-31Oct

SUBORDINATE UNITS

HQS Company

Capt M. B. RILEY 1-31Oct

Company I

Capt M. G. MOTTEMAN 1-10Oct
1stLt W. E. HEINLOCKE 11-31Oct

Company K

1stLt L. C. IVARSON 1-11Oct
1stLt B. D. HOLDRIDGE 12-31Oct

Company L

Capt W. B. GRAY 1-31Oct

Company M

Capt B. J. WILLIAMSON 1-31Oct

2. LOCATION

1-23 October: Lancaster II AO Vicinity YD0654 Map Sheet #6342 I

23-30 October: Western Lancaster II AO Vicinity XD7962 Map Sheet #6342 IV

30-31 October: Lancaster II AO Vicinity YD0654 Map Sheet #6342 I

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Major H. W. KIMBELL 1-31Oct

S-1/Adjutant

1stLt D. C. MARCHETTE 1-22Oct
1stLt R. K. COULTER 23-31Oct

S-2

1stLt W. H. DOUGLAS 1-31Oct

S-3

Major E. Evans 1-31Oct

S-4

1stLt G. J. ESCHENFELDER 1-16Oct
Capt C. P. PRUSICK 17-31Oct

S-3A

Capt K. E. JUNKINS 1-31Oct

Personnel Officer

1stLt R. K. COULTER 1-15Oct
1stLt P. P. SAUGER 16-31Oct

Forward Air Controller

Capt W. B. CAMPBELL 1-4Oct
Capt R. J. EASLEY 5-31Oct

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Supply Officer

Motor Transport Officer

Communications Officer

Battalion Surgeon

Battalion Chaplain

Battalion Sergeant Major

1stLt W. J. WHITE 1-31Oct

1stLt K. J. CONLON 1-31Oct

1stLt D. P. BARBIERO 1-31Oct

Lt W. P. ASHFORD 1-31Oct

LtCdr R. W. BEDINGFIELD 1-31Oct

SgtMaj F. E. DES JARDINS 1-31Oct

Page 4 of 18 Pages

UNCLASSIFIED

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Battalion during the month of October was occupied primarily with manning and conducting local search and destroy patrols around static positions. The Battalion had responsibility for Camp Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Dong Ha Mt., and Checkpoint #59. In addition, the Battalion supplied 3 companies later in the month to occupy Fire Support Bases, Pete, Winchester, and Catapult.

Enemy contact during the month of October was minimal. There was one incident of incoming artillery and several enemy sightings. Company L captured 1 NVA in the NW portion of the Western Lancaster II AO. The POW had been left behind on account of illness by a unit moving north. The majority of findings indicated old enemy bivouac areas.

Responsibility for Camp Carroll brought the Battalion in contact with a considerable number of civilians along Route #9 and in the Camp Carroll trash dump. There were several incidents of finding suspected VC in the groups of civilians found along the road or in the trash dump. All suspects were released as innocent civilians.

On 23 October the Battalion departed Camp Carroll on an operation to the Northwestern portion of our AO. This operation was the Northwest-ernmost move that had been made by an Infantry Battalion to date in the Lancaster II AO. Signs of enemy activity were again minimal although Company L did capture the aforementioned POW, who stated his unit as the 1st Battalion of the 246th Regiment. The operation terminated on the 30th of October. Company L was opconned to the 4th Marines, vicinity KD773566. Upon return to Camp Carroll, the Battalion prepared to assume responsibility for the Con Thien, C-2 and C-3 in the Kentucky AO.

UNCLASSIFIED

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

- 1-6 October 1968
1. Continue search and destroy operations in present AO.
 2. Be prepared to conduct search and destroy operations vicinity of Dong Ha-Dong Kio complex. (Regt Frag Order 52-68)
- 6-13 October 1968
1. Relieve Company F, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines of security for Fire Support Base Pete.
 2. Maintain security for Thon Son Lam, Camp Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Dong Ha Mountain OP, and Route #9 in AO. (Regt Frag Order 53-68)(Regt Frag Order 54-68)
- 13-22 October 1968
1. Chop Company K, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines to 3d Marines.
 2. Assume OPCON Company from 4th Marines (D/1/4) upon arrival of the Company.
 3. Continue assigned mission.
- 22-31 October 1968
1. Effective 220600H commence extraction of outlying companies as relieved by 1st Battalion, 3d Marines.
 2. Effective 230600H commence insertion into 2d Battalion, 3d Marines LZ area.
 3. Search and destroy along AXIS RBD toward Division Objective 1.
 4. Seize and destroy installations vicinity of Division Objective 1. (Regt Operation Order (5-68)(Regt Frag Order 56-68 Cancelled)

2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS

7 October - 0800H to 1040H Company L moved by motor march from Camp Carroll to Fire Support Base Pete and assumed security for Fire Support Base Pete.

9 October - 0900H Company K relieved Company I of security for Dong Ha Mountain OP, Khe Gio Bridge, Checkpoint #59, and Route #9 in AO.

1330H Company I was helicopter lifted to Fire Support Base Winchester and assumed the security of Fire Support Base Winchester.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

10 October - 1700H Company M was helilifted to Fire Support Base Catapult for security of Fire Support Base Catapult.

22 October - 1200H All companies of 3d Battalion started helicopter lift and motor march to Camp Carroll.

23-30 October - 0600H the Battalion conducted operations in Western Lancaster II AO.

31 October - 0600H 3d Battalion commenced motor march from Camp Carroll to Con Thien, C-2, C-2 Bridge, and C-3 in the Kentucky AO to assume responsibility for that AO.

3. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY

a. During the month of October the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines captured 1 NVA.

b. Casualties inflicted on the enemy by air strikes and artillery is unknown.

4. NUMBER OF BATTLE CASUALTIES

TOTALS	KIA	MIA	DOW	MIA	NBC	NBC KILLED
USMC 3/3	00	00	00	00	52	1
USN 3/3	00	00	00	00	4	1
USMC OTHERS	00	00	00	00	0	0

5. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

a. None during the month of October.

6. COMMAND RELATIONS

a. OPCON - 3d Marine Regiment

ADCCN - 3d Marine Division

b. Subordinate Units

- (1) 9-16 Oct 1968, Company K 3d Battalion, 9th Marines OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
- (2) 10-21 Oct 1968, Company M 3d Battalion, 3d Marines OPCON 2d Battalion, 3d Marines
- (3) 16-23 Oct 1968, Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
- (4) 30-31 Oct 1968, Company L 3d Battalion, 3d Marines OPCON 2d Battalion, 4th Marines
- (5) 23-30 Oct 1968, Company A 1st Battalion, 3d Marines OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

7. EQUIPMENT

a. As of 31 October only 75.4% of the combat essential equipment was combat operational. (OPSTAT Report of 25 October, updated 31 October 1968).

8. LOGISTICSa. Supply(1) Class II

(a) The Battalion had 82.6% of items of authorized combat essential equipment on hand. Critical shortage existed in the following items:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SHORTAGE</u>
TA-1/PT telephone	55
RC 292 Antenna	6
Flack Jackets	200
Helmets	200

(2) Class V

(a) During the month of October no problems were encountered in obtaining Class V for organic weapons.

(3) Resupply

(a) During the month of October the battalion was resupplied in the field by helicopter from Vandergrift Combat Base. Weather was marginal during the period, however, helicopter resupply kept the battalion adequately supported.

(4) Evacuation and Hospitalization

(a) There was a definite decrease in the number of cases of malaria.

(5) Transportation

(a) The total mileage on the Battalion's organic transportation was 7,400 miles. Three 2½ ton 6x6 trucks from Company B, 3d Motor Transport Battalion were also utilized during the reporting period.

(b) The following vehicles were deadlined as of 30 October: 1 truck, cargo M-37B, 4 trucks, platform M-274 A1; 3 truck, utility M-151 A1.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(6) Service

(a) A platoon of Company B, 3d Engineer Battalion rendered assistance in all engineering tasks, but heavy equipment was unobtainable.

(b) HST, 3d Shore Party Battalion provided helicopter guidance at most LZ's.

9. CIVIC ACTION

Not Applicable

10. ADMINISTRATION

a. No battalion awards ceremony were held during the month.

b. A total of 3 Courts-Martial were held during October; 2 Special Courts-Martial and 1 Summary Court-Martial. Three Courts-Martial are pending. Five Battalion Commanders Office Hours were completed and none are pending. There were 15 Company Commander's Office Hours completed and 24 are pending.

c. Post Exchange services were not available, however, Sundry Packages were distributed.

d. Liberty was not authorized during this period.

11. PERSONNEL

a. Gains: 9 USMC OFF 0 USN OFF
119 USMC ENL 6 USN ENL

b. LOSSES: 9 USMC OFF 0 USN OFF
107 USMC ENL 1 USN ENL

c. The R&R program continues to be a major morale factor within this organization. There were 73 out of country and quotas and 29 in-country quotas used during the month.

d. Morale is considered excellent to outstanding.

e. Postal services during the month have been good.

f. Monthly Strength (Average):

MC OFF	MC ENL	USN OFF	USN ENL
37	1171	2	51

g. Net Loss/Gain:

MC OFF	MC ENL	USN OFF	USN ENL
0/0	0/12	0/0	0/5

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

12. INTELLIGENCE

There were several small contacts during the month of October, including the discovery of trails and several bunker complexes. On 2 October, M/3/3 found an old enemy artillery position which showed signs of recent use. Vicinity XD959536. The position appeared to be possibly booby-trapped and was destroyed by an artillery TCT. On 4 October (040630H), I/3/3 apprehended 9 indigenous personnel. Vicinity YD091564. Detainees were interrogated by 15th ITT and found to be innocent civilians. They were turned over to the Cam Lo District Chief and subsequently released as innocent civilians. On 42120H I/3/3, Vicinity YD026562, heard 3-4 rounds of what was believed to have been AK-47 fire from the NE. Vicinities YD031559 and YD031562. Also movement was heard and a scout dog picked up a scent. They fired 1 WP round and 24 HE rounds of 60mm mortars with unknown results. On 5 October (050015H) L/3/3, in the Vicinity YD062543, heard digging outside of the lines. They fired 6 rounds of illumination and the noise ceased. A short time later, a small explosion was heard. On 6 October (081030H). L/3/3 found 1 NVA body, 1 E-tool. 1 helmet, and 2 RPG rounds approximately 2 months old in the Vicinity XD976588. Search of the body revealed no intelligence information. On 13 October (130800H), M/3/3 found a large bunker complex consisting of approximately 25 6'x3'x9' bunkers in the vicinity XD825611. Bunkers appeared to be 1 month old and were used within the past week. All bunkers were reinforced with logs and dirt and contained racks built of bamboo about 4" off the ground. On the tops of the bunkers were overhead eating or sitting areas with small tables made of wood. There was a trail leading to all bunkers with a cooking site on it. The area appeared to be a rest area, not a fighting area. Everything was destroyed. On 18 October (180500H), K/3/3 observed approximately 100 civilians moving NE to NW toward the river in the vicinity XD089579. They detained 3 of the civilians which were turned over to 15th ITT for interrogation and released by the Cam Lo District Chief as innocent civilians. On 19 October (191745H), L/3/3 observed 1 NVA moving west in the vicinity XD985567. They called an 81mm mortar and artillery mission with unknown results. At 191801H, L/3/3 in the vicinity XD984567 observed 1 enemy approximately 800-900 meters away moving south. They called in 81mm and artillery mission with unknown results. On 20 October (201608H), K/3/3 observed 2 3'x6' paddle boats covered with tarpaulin containing 2 or more men each moving down the Cam Lo River in the Vicinity YD081563. On 21 October (210700H) in the Vicinity XD825611, M/3/3 discovered 28 bunkers, aid station, and a cooking facility which would accommodate a large force. 4 cans of plasma and human blood and intestines were found outside of the bunkers. Company M also heard whistle which was believed, according to the Kit Carson Scout, to be enemy troop signal in area. On 24 October (241515H), K/3/3 found a trail running south. The trail had steps. Also found 2 Vietnamese writings on trees. First sign said, "Who" and pointed north. Second sign said, "2d Company NVA headed south." Trail was followed to XD11604 from XD11607. On 26 October (261030H), I/3/3 found a trail running YD793623 to XD781609. Trail runs north to south at that point. Found area which appeared to have been recently occupied by 1-10 enemy. Also found fresh tracks of 1 man heading north. On 28 October (281030H), I/3/3 found a Vietnamese note in a tree in the Vicinity XD782612.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Translated note read, "No supplies or enemy in area and am leaving area." At 261240H, L/3/3 apprehended 1 sick NVA in a hammock in Vicinity XD778606. Interrogation of POW revealed the following information: He is a Pvt from the 1st Bn, 246th Regt. His battalion returned north and left him behind because of illness. They had stayed near a river at Khe Sanh, but the POW did not know if it was KSCB or SK village. He does not know if there are any other battalions in the Khe Sanh area, although he believes his battalion will be replaced by another. The POW was forwarded to 3d Marines S-2 for 15th ITT interrogation and medevaced to B Med, Quang Tri. At 261530H, K/3/3 found a trail complex. The trail leads from Vicinity XD777628 along finger to Vicinity XD779611 and Vicinity XD778607 to XD 777596. They found a rest area in Vicinity XD778607. At 261700H, I/3/3 found harbor site with 2 fireplaces and 14 bunkers alongside a stream in the Vicinity XD763597. On 29 October (291300H), K/3/3 found a general purpose mine in a grass hut in the Vicinity XD781593. Also found 1 bunker and 2 spider traps with interconnecting trails to hut. They found 2 trails to stream and trails running to SE. The mine was destroyed. Again as during the month of September, the battalion discovered and destroyed many bunkers and fortified areas in our AO, which were mostly newly constructed or under construction, indicating the enemy's desire to build up and occupy positions in the 3d Marines AO before the full effects of the monsoons arrive and hamper their routes of infiltration into this area from the north.

ENEMY WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT CAPTURED 1 to 31 October 1966

2 E-tools, NVA
 1 helmet, NVA
 2 RPG-2 rounds
 1 pick
 1 broken Polaroid Swinger camera, US type
 1 nozzle to gas mask
 2 Chinese soft covers
 1 small lantern
 4 cans of plasma
 1 hammock
 1 poncho
 1 pack
 sewing gear
 protein bars
 letter writing gear from 3d Marine Division
 1 pack polished rice
 2 bottles of antibiotics
 1 diary
 1 NVA uniform
 1 general purpose mine

13. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Significant Events

(1) The Communication Platoon sent an advance party to Quang Tri

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Tri in order to prepare the new Battalion Rear CP for the scheduled move in early October. A bunker was especially constructed for the Message Center and switchboard. The 3d Marine Regiment provided a AN/TRC-27 for Radio Relay telephone communications between the Forward CP in Camp Carroll and the rear CP in Quang Tri.

(2) A relay station was established at LZ Catapult in order to maintain communications during operations northwest of Camp Carroll. This relay proved to be a valuable safeguard.

b. Problem Areas

(1) Adequate generator support.

(2) Short supply of needed spare parts.

14. WEATHER

Periods of continuous rain lasting about a week. Periods of scattered showers and periods of precipitation. During the rain and the showers, visibility was limited. Sometimes as low as 0 in the mountainous portion of the 3d Marines AO. Temperatures were slightly lower than in September while humidity was slightly higher. Winds shifted as the NE monsoons began, but wind velocity remained moderate.

Average High 85
Average Low 72
Average Humidity 81%
Average Daily Rainfall 0.24in at Camp Carroll

15. FIRE SUPPORT

a. Units Providing Direct and General Support

- (1) Battery A, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (2) Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (3) Battery L, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (4) Battery W, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (5) Battery K, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
- (6) Battery I, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
- (7) Battery R, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
- (8) Battery T, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines

b. Missions Fired

(1) Artillery

(a) Preparatory Fires	16
(b) Night Defensive Fires	44
(c) Suspected Enemy Position	64
(d) Live Missions	7
(e) Harassing & Interdiction Fire	290

UNCLASSIFIED

T

(f) Ammunition Expended

4.2 in	113
105mm	1141
155mm	475

(2) 81mm Mortars

(a) Preparatory Fires

(b) Targets of Opportunity

(c) Suspected Enemy Positions

(d) Night Defensive Fire

(e) Illumination

(f) Ammunition Expended

HE	1396
WP	112
ILL	123

16. AIR SUPPORT

a. During the month of October, 3 Flights of Fixed Wing were requested and none were received. 3 TPZ's were requested and none received.

b. 11 AC's were requested and 13 were received.

c. 68 Med Evacs were completed.

d. 206,872 pounds of cargo were lifted and 2 Battalion size, 3 Company size, 3 Platoon size Troop lifts completed.

e. 33 C&C Flights were used.

17. ACTIVATIONS/DEACTIVATIONS/REACTIVATIONS: N/A

UNCLASSIFIED

JOURNAL SUMMARY

October 1968

- 1 Oct 68 1722H In the area of YD 029563 elements of Company I found a skeleton, also a razor and pen. Skeleton returned to Battalion Surgeon. Opinion was of Vietnamese origin.
- 2 Oct 68 0905H In the area of YD 090559 elements of Company I spotted approximately 12 persons entering tree line. A squad was sent to investigate. 4 Men, early 20's were found in a group. They were wearing utilities and straw hats. Only 1 of 4 would present an ID card. The 4 men were sent to Bn/Regimental S-2 for further interrogation.
- 1000H In the area of YD 959536 elements of Company M found signs of recent enemy use of an old artillery base. M26 grenades, smoke grenades, and flares were scattered about this position. Possibility of the area being booby trapped.
- 1100H In the area of YD 030559 elements of Company I found 1 old hole on the hill, fresh tennis shoe and sandal tracks. They also searched along Khe Gio River. Negative results.
- 2230H Elements of Company I heard two artillery rounds come overhead from the North. A total of 11 rounds landed in the area of Camp Carroll during the hours of 2200 to 0100. The caliber of the rounds were unknown. The rounds landed along the West side of the perimeter. A0 on station spotted the flashes from the enemy guns. A0 called in an artillery mission with unknown results.
- 2330H Company M at Thon Son Lam received 4 rounds incoming during the hours of 1330 to 0025. Company I FO called in an artillery mission. Results unknown.
- 4 Oct 68 0745H In the area of YD 077571 a patrol from Company I was informed by civilians that 2 Americans were in a vehicle dead. The dead persons were Army from 2nd of the 94th Artillery. The vehicle was traveling from West to East towards Cam Lo. The Army took over the vehicle and bodies. Apparently, they died of a accident.
- 2120H From Y D 026562, YD 021562, YD 031562 Company I heard shots coming from the northeast direction which had a distinct sound of being AK-47. The shots were about 1000 meters out. Movement was detected near OP2 and a scout dog picked up a scent. Fired was 1 round of WP and 24 rounds of HE 60mm.
- 5 Oct 68 0800H In the area of Y D 029563 OP2 discovered a Claymore mine that was set out the night before was missing. The Claymore was replaced with trip flares around it.

Page 14 of 18 Pages

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- 0015H In the area of YD 062543, Hallmark Y reported digging sounds about 150 meters in front of their lines. 6 rounds of 81mm mortar were fired and the sound ceased. Approximately 10 minutes later, a small explosion was heard in the same area the digging was heard. About 35 meters from the line.
- 7 Oct 68 0930H Elements of Company M discovered a trail showing signs of recent use from YD 971550 to YD 98134 running parallel with the river.
- 1815H Elements of Company F in the area of YD 090577 confiscated 15 cans of "C" rations from a civilian.
- 8 Oct 68 1030H In the area XD 976588, elements of Company L found 1 body, 1 E-tool, 1 helmet, and 2 RPG rounds. All were approximately 2 months old. Everything was buried where found.
- 1615H Elements of Company M found enemy gear and fighting holes that appeared to have been very recently dug. All was destroyed.
- 10 Oct 68 1100H In the area of FSB Pete Company L found a M26 grenade, attached to a trip wire. This is against present policies. The booby trap was removed.
- 11 Oct 68 0230H In the area of YD 087574 elements of Company K observed about 75 civilians moving east to west. The element of Company K was too small to stop them.
- 0630H In the area of YD 085572 elements of Company K spotted about 300 civilians moving east to west on route #9. The civilians were stopped and moved back to Checkpoint #59.
- 12 Oct 68 No report
- 13 Oct 68 0800H In the area of XD 825611 elements of Company M found a large bunker complex approximately 25 bunkers. The bunkers were more than one month old, still being constructed. The bunkers were used last about 2 or 3 days ago. All reinforced with logs. Bunkers were constructed of bamboo about 4 inches off the ground. On top of the bunkers was a eating or sitting area. The bunkers had roofs and contained small tables made of wood. There were bunkers on both sides of the hill with steps leading down to all of them. On the beginning of one trail was one cooking site, with places dug in ground for pits. Also found empty C-ration cans, 1 pick, 1 nozzle for a gas mask, 1 broken polaroid camera, 1 Chinese soft cover, cooked rice, and 1 small lantern. The area proved to be a rest area and not fighting bunkers. The bunkers were destroyed.
- 0830H In the area of XD 970597 elements of Company L discovered one NVA body estimated killed 26 Aug 68, Chicom grenades, 2 AK-47 magazines, and 2 NVA E-tools. The enemy body and equipment was buried. The area showed negative signs of recent use.
- 14 Oct 68 1130H In the area of XD991576 elements of Company L spotted 2 NVA

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

dressed in camouflage light brown utilities, without weapons, moving north. Unable to use supporting arms due to visibility.

1245H In the area of XD895595 elements of Company I reported hearing movement in the brush and clanking sounds like metal on metal. Possibly one or two NVA. Called in artillery mission with unknown results.

15 Oct 68 No report

16 Oct 68 1135H In the area of XD989585 elements of Company L spotted 6 NVA and fired a spotter round and received small arms fire. Fire was returned with 81mm mortar mission. Negative results.

17 Oct 68 0500H In the area of YD 089579 elements of Company K observed approximately 100 civilians moving NE to NW towards the river. 1 Male, 1 female and 1 child were detained the rest were turned back. The civilians were not carrying anything.

0900H In the area of XD977587 elements of Company L found 1 ladder and other building materials, estimated to be one month old. All materials were destroyed.

18 Oct 68 1550H In the area of XD916610 elements of Company L found 1 empty package of cigarettes (Vietnamese), empty rice bags made in South Vietnam, 1 Marine bush ax. Signs of South Vietnamese and U. S. occupation of the area. The fighting holes hadn't been used lately.

19 Oct 68 1745H In the area of XD 984567 elements of Company L observed 1 enemy moving across the stream moving towards a treeline at approximately 800 to 900 meters, moving in a Southern direction. Mission of 81mm mortars and 105 artillery was called. Results unknown.

20 Oct 68 1608H In the area of YD 093561 elements of Company K spotted 3 8x10 foot paddle boats covered with tarpaulin with 2 or more men in each boat. The boats were moving too rapidly down the river to stop them.

21 Oct 68 0700H In the area of XD 825611 elements of Company M while on patrol to blow bunkers found on 13 Oct., also found additional bunkers further down the valley. Found 2 large bunkers, a messhall and a small hospital. The kitchen was located on one end. Sides of the kitchen had 6 foot holes dug out of the walls to fit pots. Smoke escapes coming out about 30 feet from the bunker itself. At the other end was a sleeping area for 3 people. Between the kitchen and sleeping area was an eating area for about 20 people with a large bunker underneath. The messhall was capable of feeding a large number of people. Also found a hospital bunker complex with the capability of sleeping 10 underground. The area on top was large enough to treat 10 to 15 people. Human blood

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

and intestines found outside the bunker. Corpsman estimated blood to be about two days old. Also 4 cans of plasma were found in the bunker. One was opened 3 weren't. A few of the bunkers were used since the last time we were there. While enroute to the bunker complex a strange whistle was heard. The Kit Carson Scout said it was the enemy troops signaling to each other. All the bunkers and housing complexes were destroyed.

- 21 Oct 68 1030H In the area of YD 080591 elements of Company K stopped one small boat with a canvas covered center loaded with driftwood and 2 women and one small child. All three had ID cards. They were all released.
- 23 Oct 68 0800H Began lift of Battalion to Western Lancaster II A0.
- 24 Oct 68 0905H In the area of XD 819608 elements of a Recon Platoon discovered two bunkers (living type) about 2 weeks old and still under construction. These bunkers were destroyed.
- 1545H In the area of XD 811607 elements of Company K found a trail, running south, capable of one person at a time. The trail was graduated in steps. On a few trees were Vietnamese writing. The writing on the first sign said, "Who", and pointed to the north. The second indicated that a Company of NVA was headed south. The trail has not been used recently.
- 25 Oct 68 1600H In the area of ID 828599 elements of Company A, 1st Battalion 3d Marines discovered 8 bunkers and numerous large huts. Also found 1 RPG round and one half box 12.7mm rounds. The bunkers, huts, and rounds were destroyed.
- 26 Oct 68 1600H In the area of XD 802588 a Recon Team discovered a new trail also 1 living bunker newly constructed. It was 10x10x10 feet. The bunker was destroyed.
- 1618H In the area of XD 631616 elements of Company A, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines found 4, 82mm rounds on a carrying pole and 1 can of fuse along a trail built with steps. The 82mm rounds were destroyed.
- 1940H In the area of XD 777597 elements of Company K found a trail where 8 to 10 NVA camped 25 Oct. Several battle dressing wrappers, one ammunition pouch, and four small seeking sites were found. There were fresh tracks heading north. A scout dog alarmed 3 or 4 times on the trail with negative results.
- 27 Oct 68 1850H In the area of XD 825622 elements of Company A discovered 2 NVA graves. Kit Carson scout estimated graves to be 1 year old.
- 28 Oct 68 1100H In the area of XD 778608 elements of Company L captured 1 sick NVA, while still in hammock. The POW gave the following information:

UNCLASSIFIED

- (1) Rank - Pvt
- (2) From 1st Battalion, 246th Regiment
- (3) 1st Battalion, 246th Regiment heading north and left him behind on account of illness.
- (4) His unit stayed near a river at Khe Sanh. Could not determine whether KSCB or Khe Sanh village.
- (5) Doesn't know if they are anymore NVA Battalion's still in the area of Khe Sanh.
- (6) Thinks his Battalion is moving back to be relieved by another Battalion
- (7) The Battalion doctor was killed in September
- (8) Items found: 1 hammock, poncho, pack, protein bars, sewing gear, letter writing gear, 1 sack of polished rice, 2 bottles of anti-biotics, 1 soft helmet, 1 diary.
- (9) NVA uniform in excellent condition.
- (10) Had stayed in the Khe Sanh area.

1440H In the area of XD 782612 elements of Company I found a note on a tree in Vietnamese. Interpreted as saying: "No supplies or enemy in area and am leaving area."

1535H In the area of XD 776605 elements of Company L found a company size harbor site which consisted of 15 fire-places, 15 bunking spaces, plus assorted sleeping spaces. The area was used within the last 15 days. The following items were found: Chinese and Vietnamese writing, 3 AK-47 magazines (empty), 1 empty officers map case, 3 bottles of penicillin.

1945H In the area of XD 764595 elements of Company I discovered 72 blasing caps, 30 mines, 3 Chinese flashlight batteries, 200 pounds of polished rice, 7 cans of 82mm fuses, 2 bottles of serum, 2 bags of 7.62mm rounds, 2 boxes of 82mm fuses, 1 can of boosters, 1 can of increment for 82mm.

29 Oct 68 1135H In the area of XD 783593 elements of Company K found bunkers and shelters in different stages of construction, covered with logs. 1 7x8, 1 7x5, and 3 L-shaped bunkers for fighting. 5 sleeping pads in shelters, Pads 1x6. Also found 12 storage pits. All were destroyed.

1700H In the area of XD 781593 elements of Company K found 13 DH-10, 9-45-Let-La general purposes mines in a grass hut. Also found 1 bunker and 2 spider traps and trails connecting bunkers, and huts. The position and mines were destroyed.

30 Oct 68 0800H Battalion returned from Western Lancaster II.

31 Oct 68 0800H Battalion started movement to Kentucky AO.

UNCLASSIFIED

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

Copy of Copies
Camp Carroll, RVN
131800H Sept 68

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER 16-68

Ref: (a) 3d Marines Frag Order 44-68
(b) Map: 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6342 I.

SITUATION.

- a. Enemy Forces. See Annex C (Intelligence Estimate).
- b. Friendly Forces. 3d Marine (Rein) conducts search and destroy operations to fix and destroy enemy forces, caches and provides security for THON SON LAM, CAMP CARROLL, DONG HA MTN. CP, KHE GIO BRIDGE and ROUTE #9 in AO.
- c. Attachments and Detachments. See Annex A (Task Organization).

2. MISSION.

Provide security for THON SON LAM, CAMP CARROLL, DONG HA MTN. CP, KHE GIO BRIDGE and ROUTE #9 in AO. Provide security for seabee construction, roads sweeps and Camp Carroll to Dong Ha convoys. Conduct ambushes vicinity Route #9 east of YD 042566. Keep civilians east of 08 N-S grid.

3. EXECUTION.

- a. Concept of Operation. See Annex B, (Operations Overlay).
- b. Company "I" (Rein).
 - (1) Provide one (1) Platoon (Rein) with section 81mm mortars and section of 106's for security of Dong Ha Mtn. CP.
 - (2) Provide security for KHE GIO bridge.
 - (3) Conduct day patrols and night ambushes vicinity Route #9 east of YD 042566. Keep Civilians east of 08 N-S grid.
 - (4) Provide security for daily road sweeps on Route #9 from KHE GIO Bridge to Camp Carroll access road and west to YD 002565.
 - (5) Provide security for Seabee construction on Route #9.
- c. Company K (Rein).
 - (1) Provide security for Camp Carroll.
 - (2) Provide security for daily road sweeps for Camp Carroll access road and Route #9 to 08 N-S grid.
 - (3) Provide security for daily convoy to Dong Ha.
 - (4) OPCON 3d Marines.
- d. Company L (Rein).
 - (1) Provide security for Fire Support Base BIRD.
 - (2) OPCON 1st Bn, 12th Marines.
- e. Company M (Rein).
 - (1) Provide security for Thon Son Lam.

Provide security for daily road sweeps south to XD 979520 and

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NE to YD 002565.

(3) 1st Bn, 3d Marines base coordinator for Thon Son Lam.

f. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) Road sweeps to commence on order.
- (2) All reliefs to be contact reliefs.
- (3) Hand held riot control agents authorized.
- (4) Thrust Points effective 130800H.
- (5) Fire Support. See Annex D.
- (6) Effective time for truck and helicopter movement 140800H.
- (7) Operation Order effective upon relief of unit on position.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.a. CAMP CARROLL.

- (1) All items through normal channels as required.

b. THON SON LAM.

- (1) Class I. B rations twice daily from 1st Bn, 3d Marines mess section.
- (2) All other items through normal channels.
- (3) Class V. Maintain stocks as follows:
 - a. 81mm mortar - 5 pallets.
 - b. 106mm RR - 1 pallet.
 - c. Organic weapons - 1 BA in storage plus normal load per man.

c. FIRE SUPPORT BASE BIRD.

- (1) Class I. From 1st Bn, 12th Marines.
- (2) Class II, III, IV, V, VI. From Dong Ha as required.
- (3) Class V. Maintain stocks as follows:
 - a. 81mm mortar - 5 pallets
 - b. Organic weapons - 1 BA in storage plus normal load per man.

d. KHE GIO BRIDGE.

- (1) All class from Camp Carroll as required.
- (2) Maintain 2 Day supply of Class I in storage.
- (3) Class V. Maintain stocks as follows:
 - a. 106mm RR - 1 pallet
 - b. Organic weapons - 1 BA in storage plus normal load per man.

e. DONG HA MTN OP.

- (1) All classes from Dong Ha ISA.
- (2) Class I. Maintain 15 day supply of MCI in storage and 1 water

buffalo.

(3) Class V. Maintain stocks as follows:

- a. 81mm mortar - 10 pallets.
- b. 106mm RR - 1 pallet
- c. Organic weapons - 1 BA and 1000 M-26 grenades in storage,

plus normal load per man.

f. Administration through normal channels.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.a. Communications - Electronics.(1) Thrust Points.

TREES 9563
 BIRDS 9261
 RIVERS 9756
 GEMS 0355
 GIRLS NAMES 0659

(2)

Communications normal except,
 Company I - T.A.C.P. at Dong Ha MPN.
 Company L - Radio Relay to Bn CP.

b. COMMAND.

3d Battalion - Camp Carroll.

Company I - Khe Gio Bridge.

Company K - Camp Carroll.

Company L - Fire Support Base Bird.

Company M - Thon Son Lam.

ANNEXS.

- ✓A - Task Organization.
- ✓B - Operations Overlay.
- ✓C - Intelligence Estimate.
- ✓D - Fire Support.

DISTRIBUTION.

Companies - 1 Copy

File - 1 Copy

OFFICIAL

E. E. EVANS

Major, U. S. Marine Corps.

S-3

W. H. BATES

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S.M.C.

COMMANDING

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Camp Carroll, RVN
131800H Sept 68
Copy___of___Copies

ANNEX A to Battalion Operation Order 16-68. (Task Organization)

India Company (Rein)

Capt MCTERNAN

Section, 81mm Mortar Platoon.

Section, 106mm Recoiless Rifle Platoon.

FO Team, C Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Marines.

Det. TACP.

Kilo Company (Rein)

1st Lt. IVERSON

Section, 81mm Mortar Platoon.

FO Team, C Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Marines.

Det. TACP.

Mike Company (Rein)

Capt WILLIAMSON

Section, 81mm Mortar Platoon.

Section, 106mm Recoiless Rifle Platoon.

FO Team, C Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Marines.

Det. TACP.

Lima Company (Rein)

Capt GRAY

Section, 81mm Mortar Platoon.

FO Team, C Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Marines.

Det. TACP.

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

Copy ___ of ___ Copies
 Camp Carroll, RVN
 131800H Sept 68

Annex C (Intelligence) to Battalion Operation Order 16-68

Ref: Map: 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6342 I.

Time Zone: H

1. ENEMY FORCES.

a. Units.

- (1) Elements of the 52nd Regt. 320th NVA Division.
- (2) Elements of the 54th Arty Regt. 320th Division.

a. These are most probably FO's but the possibility of a 120mm mortar capability exists.

b. Activity.

The enemy in our and adjacent AO's evidently intends to dig in and stay for the monsoons, their mission being to interdict Route #9 and to harass friendly forces in the AO. They have an artillery capability and have been hitting Route #9 convoys with 82mm mortars and sporadic small arms fire. On 12 Sept. 1968 Camp Carroll took incoming 82mm mortar rounds after dark. The tubes are believed to be located in the Dong Ha, Dong Xio area. A company from 2/3 finished a sweep in this area on 12 Sept. They took sporadic 60mm and 82mm fire but made no ground contact. Also along Route #9 there have been at least two reports of indigenous personnel carrying rifles and RPG launchers camouflaged in their bundles of wood.

2. TERRAIN.

The terrain we will encounter in our new AO will differ from the terrain in our last AO. Thick undergrowth will predominate the area with scattered areas of elephant grass and campoy. The greater number of streams in the area which will swell to impassability during the monsoons should be noted. Route #9 is also subject to the ill effects of the monsoons.

3. WEATHER.

a. Five day weather forecast commencing 11 Sept. 1968. Dong Ha Area.

- (1) High - Low 90's

Low - 77

Humidity - 68-75%

Clouds - 3000 scattered, 8000 scattered.

Wind - Not significant.

Rain - One inch per day. Rain and thundershowers activity mid-afternoon to late night.

SECRET

b. Weather forecast for 14 Sept. 1968.
High - 85
Low - 76
Humidity - 88%
Visibility - 5 miles
Wind Velocity - 4 to 6 knots.
Rain - 1 inch.
Forecast. Cloudy with showers intermittent all day.

SECRET

SECRET

Copy of Copies
 Camp Carroll, RVN
 131800H Sept 68

ANNEX D (Fire Support) to Battalion Operation Order 16-68

Ref: (a) Map: 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6342 I.

Encl: (1) Fire Support Overlay.

Time Zone H

1. SITUATION.

a. ENEMY FORCES. See Annex C (Intelligence Estimate).

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) C Btry 1st Bn, 12th Marines provides fire support for 3d Bn, 3d Marines.

2. MISSION.

To provide support for 3d Bn, 3d Marines, in operations to fix and destroy enemy forces, caches and in providing security for Thon Son Lam, Camp Carroll, Dong Ha Mtn. OP, Rhe Gio Bridge and Route #9.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Observed fires will be provided by elements of C Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Marines, coordinating with 1st Bn, 12th Marines FDC, and 3d Marines FSOC.

b. Groups of planned suppressive fires along Route #9 will be used in the event of enemy ambush. See Enclosure (1) (Fire Support Overlay).

c. Check points along Route #9. See Enclosure (1) (Fire Support Overlay).

d. Coordination Instructions.

(1) In the event of enemy mortar attack suppressive fires will be initiated by the forward observer or other personnel.

(2) Enemy position will be send directly to Fighting Mad Baily by giving the location of the friendly unit in relation to checkpoints and the direction to the enemy.

(3) Observerd fires will also be used when necessary.

(4) Restrictions on fires, See Enclosure (1) (Fire Support Overlay).

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. See Para. 4, Battalion Operation Order.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.

a. Primary means of communications will be radio.

b. Battalion artillery liaison will monitor all missions for clearance.

c. Artillery liaison will be located at 3d Bn, 3d Marines Command Post.

SECRET

SECRET

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

Copy of Copies
Camp Carroll, RVN
141000H Sep 68

BATTALION FRAG ORDER 17-68

Ref: (a) Map: VIETNAM, 1:50,000, AMS Sheet 6342 I

1. SITUATION.

- a. Enemy Forces. See Battalion Operation Order 16-68.
- b. Friendly Forces. See Battalion Operation Order 16-68.
- c. Attachments and Detachments.

(1) Company D, 1st Bn, 3d Marines OPCON to 3d Bn, 3d Marines effective 141200H.

(2) Company K, 3d Bn, 3d Marines chop to OPCON 3d Marines effective 140800H.

2. MISSION.

3d Bn, 3d Marines continues mission for security of Thon Son Lam, Camp Carroll, Dong Ha Mtn OP, Khe Gio Bridge and Dust Light Bravo, and Route #9 in AO. Additional security as provided Ref (a). Provide Sparrow Hawk at Camp Carroll.

3. EXECUTION.

- a. Concept of Operations. See Overlay.
 - b. Company D, 1st Bn, 3d Marines provides security for 2nd Platoon, B Btry, 1st 8 inch at XD 978585.
 - c. Coordinating Instructions.
- (1) Company D, 1st Bn, 3d Marines submit position report to 3d Bn, 3d Marines every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. No change.5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION/ELECTRONICS.

- a. Comm-Elec.
- (1) 3d Bn, 3d Marines Tactical Frequency 30.45
- b. Command Posts.
- (1) 3d Bn, 3d Marines - Camp Carroll.

OFFICIAL

E. E. EVANS
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

W. H. BATES
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

SECRET

SECRET

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

Copy of Copies
 Camp Carroll, RVN
 151300H Sep 68

BATTALION FRAG ORDER 18-68

Ref: (a) 3d Marines Frag Order 47-68
 (b) Map: VIETNAM, 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6342 I & II,
 6442 II & IV.

1. SITUATION.

a. Enemy Forces. Current Intsums.

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) T. F. Hotel conducts ground and heliborne attacks into and south of the DMZ to seal off enemy forces and conducts detailed search and clear operations to the south of the enemy main infiltration/resupply routes.

- (2) 1st BDE, 5th Div. (Mach) conducts offensive operations in AO.
- (3) Artillery
 - (a) 1st Bn (-), 12th Marines D/S 3d Marines.
 - (b) 4th Bn, 12th Marines G/S 3d Mar. Div.

(4) No change other air and D/S units.

c. Attachments and Detachments. No change.

2. MISSION.

- (1) GHCP Company L and Company D to 1st Bn, 3d Marines effective 151300H.
- (2) At 151330H conduct helilift of one Company to Camp Mai Loc.
- (3) Provide security for BRU Resettlement Area and conduct patrols West and southwest of the Resettlement Area.
- (4) Continue security for Camp Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Dong Ha Mtn OP, Route #9 in AO and provide Sparrow Hawk and Bald Eagle forces.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of Operations. Overlay.

b. Company L. Chop to 1st Bn, 3d Mar effective 151300H.

c. Company K. Continue Mission.

d. Company D. Chop to 1st Bn, 3d Mar effective 151300H.

e. Company I. Continue Mission.

SECRET

f. Company M. Provide security for BRU Resettlement Area vicinity YD 0651, 0652, 0653, 0751, 0753 and surrounding areas. Conduct patrols West and southwest of the Resettlement Area.

g. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) DURLAUGH with CO A-101 Det, 5th SF Group.
- (2) 3d Marine boundary change effective on order.
- (3) Riot control agents authorized.
- (4) The following Thrust Point is added and effective 151330H.
BOY'S NAMES - 1050

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

a. No change except Company M maintain three (3) day supply Class I on position, and one (1) BA of Class V in storage on position plus normal load per man.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.

a. No change.

OFFICIAL

E. E. EVANS
Major, U.S. Marine Corps.
S-3

W. H. BATES
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps.
Commanding

SECRET

SECRET

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

Copy 6 of 7 Copies
Camp Carroll, RVN
171000H Sep 68

BATTALION FRAG ORDER 19-68

Ref: (a) Message from 3D Mar Regt
(b) Map: VIETNAM, 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6342 II & 6442 III

1. Situation.a. Enemy Forces. Current Intsums.b. Friendly Forces. No Change.c. Attachments.

(1) 3d Flt. "B" Co. 3d Sig. Bn.

(2) "B" Co. 3d Tk. Bn. *SECRET ATTKS. ATTACHED CO.M*2. MISSION.

a. Continue security for Camp Carroll, The Gio Bridge, Dong Ha. Mtn OP, Route #9 in AO and provide Sparrow Hawk and Bald Eagle forces.

b. Search South East along Route #558 attempt to locate enemy forces. Be prepared to attack east toward LZ Pedro and Quang Tri.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of Operation. See overlay.

b. Co. "E" No change.

c. Co. "K" Continue Mission.

d. Co. "I" Continue Mission.

e. Co. "M" Search South East along Route #558. Attempt to locate enemy forces. Report arrival checkpoint #1. Be prepared to attack east from checkpoint #1 toward LZ Pedro and Quang Tri CB.

f. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Report pos every hour.

(2) The following Thrust Point is added and effective 171000H.
SOFT DRINKS 19-46 (This operation only)4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

a. No change except Co "M" will take Five (5) days MCI, Water Buffalo, and One (1) BA of class V on operation.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.

a. No Change.

OFFICIAL

R. E. EVANS
Major, U. S. Marine Corps

W. H. BATES
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

S-3

SECRET

SECRET

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

Copy ___ of ___ Copies
Camp Carroll, RVN
232300H Sept 68

BATTALION FRAG ORDER 24-68

Ref: (a) 3d Marines Frag Order 49-68
(b) Map: VIETNAM, 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6342 I & II, 6442 II & IV.

1. SITUATION.

- (a) Enemy Forces. See Annex A.
- (b) Friendly Forces.
 - (1) 3d Marines (Rein) conducts S/D Operations in eastern LANCASTER II AO to destroy enemy forces in area.
 - (2) 2d ARVN Div. conducts S/D Operation in western KENTUCKY AO.
 - (3) 1st BDE conducts S/D Operations in northwestern KENTUCKY AO.
- (c) Attachments and detachments.
 - (1) Company "K" chop OFCON to 2d Bn, 3d Marines effective on order about 241500H.
 - (2) 3d Plt, Company "B", 3d Eng. Bn, attached.

2. MISSION.

- (a) To provide security to TSL, Camp Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Dong Ha Mtn OP, Camp Carroll-Dong Ha Convoy and CB's working on Route #9 in AO, mine sweep operations in AO, and Route #9 in AO.

3. EXECUTION.

- (a) Concept of operations: To defend Camp Carroll and TSL with one company each, while defending Khe Gio Bridge and Dong Ha Mtn OP with one company. See Annex "B" for change in AO.
- (b) Company "I": No change
- (c) Company "L": No change
- (d) Company "M":
 - (1) Be prepared to depart Camp Carroll at 0700H 24Sept68 by foot march to TSL. Vehicles to follow when Khe Gio Bridge opens.
 - (2) Upon arrival, assume defense of TSL.
- (e) H&S Company: Detach one section from the 81mm Mortar Plt and one section from the 106mm RR Plt to Company "M" effective 240830H Sept 68.
- (f) 3d Plt. "B" Co, 3d Eng: No change.
- (g) Coordinating instructions.
 - (1) D-Day 24 Sep 68
 - (2) H-Hour 1000
 - (3) Hand held riot control agents authorized.

SECRET

(4) Thrust points effective 241000H sep 68

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

- (a) Camp Carroll.
 - (1) All classes from Dong Ha Combat Base by motor convoy.
 - (2) Stock pile 10 DOS.
- (b) Thon Son Lam.
 - (1) Class I
 - (a) B rations twice daily from 1st Bn, 3d Marines Mess section
 - (b) Stockpile 3 DOS MCI and Trioxane.
 - (2) All other classes needed from Camp Carroll by motor convoy.
 - (3) Class V: Maintain stockpile as follow:
 - (a) 81mm Mortar - 5 pallets
 - (b) 106mm RR - 1 pallet
 - (c) Organic weapons - 1 BA
- (c) Khe Gio Bridge: No change from BnOpOrder 16-68 dtd 131800H Sep68.
- (d) Fire Support Base Bird-All classes from 2d Bn, 3d Marines, except as noted
 - (1) Class I
 - (a) From 2d Bn, 12th Marines
 - (b) Stockpile 3 DOS
 - (2) Class V
 - (a) From 2d Bn, 12th Marines
 - (b) Maintain 1 BA for organic weapons, in storage on position.
 - (3) All resupply from VSB as of 27 Sept 68
- (e) Dong Ha Mtn OP
 - (1) All classes from VSB as needed as of 27 Sept 68
 - (2) Class I - Maintain 15 DOS of MCI and Trioxane and 1 water buffalo.
 - (3) Class V - Maintain stocks as follows in storage
 - (a) 81mm Mortar - 10 pallets
 - (b) 106mm RR - 1 pallet
 - (c) Organic weapons - 1 BA plus 1000 M-26 Grenades
- (f) Report current levels of supply in storage daily at 1700 until required level is reached.
- (g) Administration through normal channels.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.

- (a) Communication/Electronics
 - (1) Thrust points

ACTRESSES	9364	COLORS	9962
FOOTBALL TEAMS	9767	TREES	9561
COUNTRIES	0263	CARS	0756
PRESIDENTS	0155		
 - (2) Land lines will be installed at TSL for internal communications.
- (b) Command - No change

OFFICIAL

E. E. EVANS
Major, U. S. Marine Corps.
S-3

W. H. BATES
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps.
Commanding

SECRET

SECRET

Annex A

Tab 1 Intelligence overlay

1. ENEMY FORCES.

(a) There are indications that the enemy may be planning a resurgence of activity during the next two weeks period; very possibly to coincide with the lunar period between 20 and 25 Sept. It again seems likely that the increase in activity will be designed to pull friendly forces into outlying areas, leaving population centers more vulnerable.

(b) An agent report of 18 Sept puts a VC unit of 30 IF VC and 45 VC district sappers in the 165578 area (SW of Cam Lo). Their missions are: 1, collect information from rock workers along Route #9. 2, Induce children to gain information from convoys. 3, observe allied operations along Route #9 and mine Route #9. The possibility of VC activity is supported by a report from the Gio Linh area of NVA moving into villages at night and holding propaganda meeting dressed as civilians. S-2 comment, "The less contact we have with civilians the better". The large number of civilians in the Route #9 area give the VC an excellent atmosphere to work in.

(c) The 64th Regt., the unit we were in contact with NW of ABOUT CAO, (Hill 190) has come back down south. Continued reports (Radio Intercepts) place elements of the 64th on and above the NW edge of our AO; A sizeable element of the 64th is indicated. The first report of this unit was on 12 Sept. and indications are that they are heavily entrenched at this time and intent to reinforce and contact to the west, NW or north. By the same token this unit is capable of hitting Cam Lo and resettlement areas. Their mission has been to avoid contact.

(d) An APD flight (Sniffer) of the 18th returned heavy readings from the 08-11 and the 60-72 grid lines. D/I/II 095636 24 Sep 13WIA 11KIA

(e) Recon Activity

(1) Hasty Foot upon insertion detonated a booby trap then observed 3 NVA to the NW carrying 1 RPG and rounds. The team was extracted.

(2) 011647 Coral Bush made contact with 5-6 NVA. Small arms resulting in one NVA KIA, team extracted.

(f) There has been an increase in the utilization of 82mm mortars throughout 3dMarDiv AO.

2. TERRAIN.

(a) The terrain in the Dong Ha, About Cao and North area is difficult to travel in. There are numerous bald spots but the areas are studded with extremely steep slopes and draws and many camoed areas. Maps do not indicate all compartments and streams.

3. WEATHER.

(a) We are still in the SW monsoon. We expect periods of rain of longer and larger duration until early or mid-October when the NE monsoon begins. Periods of clearing after rains will continue to diminish until the inception of the NE monsoon. Rivers will become less forable as the NE monsoon comes closer.

SECRET

SECRET4. The Enemy Situation for TSL.

(a) The 52d Regiment, 320th Div. continues to show up in the Order of Battle from the URS reports to be heavily placed in the area 4 to 5 clicks west of TSL and spread over a large area extending further west and mostly on a north to south axis, however, the activity around TSL during the past 30 days does not confirm these reports as there has been little enemy activity in the TSL area as reported.

(b) The following incidents have been reported for the TSL area during the past 30 days.

- (1) 23Aug68 Grid 982530 one SLAR return.
- (2) 24Aug68 Grid 977545 Recon team air police observed 4 NVA/VC.
- (3) 24Aug68 Grid 976550 URS report of artillery element of the 320th Div. within 3000 meters.
- (4) 27Aug68 Grid 998546 Recon team Box Score found 20 foxholes.
- (5) 30Aug69 Grid 980557 URS report of U/I unit within 500 meters.
- (6) 3Sept68 Grid 993546 1/3 received 4 rounds of recoilless fire
- (7) 8Sept68 Grid 995530 PI report of 35 foxholes, 2 hills connected by trails.
- (8) 10Sep68 Grid 994559 1/3 rear at TSL received 8 rounds of 85mm artillery and later received another 4 rounds of 85mm artillery.
- (9) 15Sep68 Grid 970549 URS report of U/I unit within 1500 meters.
- (10) 15Sep68 Grid 984546 1/3 received 2 rounds of 82mm mortar
- (11) 15 Sep68 Grid 9955 Company "M" 3/3 received 2 rounds of 82mm mortar at TSL LZ.
- (12) 19Sep68 C/1/3 received 3 rounds of artillery believed to be 100mm rounds. Identifying the incoming rounds at TSL to be 100mm rounds which was later proven to be an erroneous report the rounds actually came from a soviet built 82mm Recoilless Gun. A detailed analysis of the crater and shell fragments verified this fact. This weapon has a maximum horizontal range of 4,470 meters. It was fired from an azimuth of 4950 from the Rockpile, however the actual point of firing has not been determined.

SECRET