

UNCLASSIFIED

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

3/ERH  
Ser: A300869  
8 Jan 1969

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code 103B)  
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
Commanding General, III MAF, Vietnam  
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

3D MARDIV S&C FILE  
BT# 27969

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December 1968 to 31 December 1968.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8

Encl: ✓(1) 3d Battalion, 3d Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Downgraded at 3 year intervals, declassified after 12 years.

*H. W. Kimbrell*  
H. W. KIMBRELL  
By direction

3d BATTALION 3d  
00402-69 COPY 1 OF 7

UNCLASSIFIED

3RD BN/3RD MAR

CMD CHRON

DEC 1968

UNCLASSIFIED

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December 1968 to 31 December 1968

INDEX

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

Downgraded at 3 year intervals.  
declassified after 12 years.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

## 1. 3d Battalion, 3d Marines

H&amp;S Company

Company I

Company K

Company L

Company M

LtCol W. H. BATES 1-12 Dec 68  
 LtCol R. G. SCHWITZ 13-31 Dec 68

Capt M. B. RILEY 1-31 Dec 68

1stLt W. J. KIMMICK 1-3 Dec 68

Capt J. O. TROTT 3-31 Dec 68

1stLt B. B. WOLDRIDGE 1-14 Dec 68

Capt J. J. RYUANO Jr 11-31 Dec 68

Capt W. B. GRAY 1-31 Dec 68

Capt B. J. WILLIAMSON 1-31 Dec 68

## 2. Location:

1-13 Dec - Con Thien

13-14 Dec - Quang Tri

14-18 Dec - An Hoa

18-31 Dec - VC185365, B N GIANG, Map Sheet #6540 II

## 3. Staff Officer:

Executive Officer

Maj H. W. KIMBELL 1-31 Dec 68

S-3

Maj C. R. DAVIS 1-31 Dec 68

S-3A

1stLt W. H. DOUGLASS 1-6 Dec 68

1stLt M. B. MAQUIRE 6-31 Dec 68

Adjutant

1stLt R. K. COUNTER 1-31 Dec 68

S-2

SSgt W. B. HARMON Jr 1-28 Dec 68

1stLt M. B. MAQUIRE 28-31 Dec 68

S-4

Capt C. P. PRESTON 1-31 Dec 68

Supply Officer

Capt W. J. WHITE 1-31 Dec 68

Personnel Officer

1stLt P. P. SAUGER 1-31 Dec 68

Communications Officer

1stLt D. P. BARBIERO 1-6 Dec 68

1stLt S. B. YATES 7-31 Dec 68

Forward Air Control Officer

Capt C. E. CROOKALL 1-31 Dec 68

Air Liaison Officer

1stLt B. B. CRAWFORD 1-31 Dec 68

Chaplain

LtCmdr R. W. BEDDINGFIELD 1-31 Dec 68

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Battalion Surgeon

Lt V. P. ANTONIO 1-31 Dec 68

Battalion Sergeant Major

SgtMaj P. T. DESJARDINS 1-31 Dec 68

## 4. Average Monthly Strength

| <u>USMC</u> |      | <u>USN</u> |     |
|-------------|------|------------|-----|
| OFF         | ENL  | OFF        | ENL |
| 38          | 1138 | 3          | 54  |

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Battalion continued S/D operations in the Kentucky AO. On 4 2315Z December, Co I executed an ambush north of C-2 Bridge resulting in 2 NVA/VC KIA's. A moderate amount of old ordnance was discovered and destroyed. The Battalion was OPCON to Task Force Hotel and Task Force Bravo during the first part of the month. On 14 December, the Battalion moved to An Hoa and was OPCON to Task Force Yankee for Operation Taylor Common. The Battalion made a helicopter assault 18 December on Hill 375 at ZC167365 and set up Combat Base Mace. Company patrol bases were established in the area and S/D operations were conducted. Large amounts of medical equipment, weapons, uniforms, and ammunition were uncovered. These supplies were found in numerous bunker and hut complexes which were searched and destroyed upon discovery. Most of the complexes were used for R&R centers and were not set up for combat defense. Although many trails and complexes have been found in the Battalion AO, actual enemy contact has been limited to occasional fire fights with small units of 3-5 people. Indications are that the NVA/VC main force has left the area while operations are being conducted and only small unit harassment forces have been left to contend with.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED:

## a. Task Force Bravo Operation Order 1-68

- (1) Conduct helicopter assault on LZ Unnamed, seize LZ and continue the attack along the ridge to the north and west and seize and defend Objective 1.
- (2) On Order, continue operations as directed by 4th Marines.

## b. Regimental Operation Order 10-68

- (1) Be prepared on order to secure Objectives 4 and 6 by helicopter-borne assault and establish a Combat Base 406 and FSB 551 respectively. Objective 5 subject to change. FSB may be established on Hill 406.
- (2) Conduct S/D operations in AO.

## c. Regimental Frag Order 65-68

- (1) Secure Objective 4 (ZC13358, Hill 551) on or about 23 Dec 68 and establish FSB for Battery (-) 105mm (4 tubes) and Battery (-) 155 (4 tubes).
- (2) Be prepared to seize Objective 5 on order.
- (3) Be prepared to seize Objective 7 on order.
- (4) Be prepared to conduct 1 company helicopter assault on Objective 9 (ZC091311, Hill 1143).
- (5) Conduct S/D operations in AO.

## d. Battalion Operation Orders:

- (1) Battalion Operation Order 4-68
- (2) Battalion Operation Order 5-68
- (3) Battalion Withdrawal Plan 1-68
- (4) Battalion Embarkation Plan 1-68

2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

- a. 1-13 December conducted S/D operations in the Kentucky AO.
- b. 18-31 December conducted Operation Taylor Common in the Task Force Yankee AO.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

3. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY

|            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| <u>KIA</u> | <u>WIA</u> | <u>POW</u> |
| 4          | 0          | 2          |

4. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

|      |            |            |            |            |            |                   |            |
|------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|      | <u>KIA</u> | <u>WIA</u> | <u>DOW</u> | <u>MIA</u> | <u>NBC</u> | <u>NBC Killed</u> | <u>DAI</u> |
| USMC | 1          | 13         | 1          | 0          | 36         | 0                 | 1          |
| USN  | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0                 | 0          |

5. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED None during the month of December.6. COMMAND RELATIONSa. ADCON - 3d Marine Division

## OPCON:

1-7 December - 3d Marine Division

7-9 December - Task Force Hotel

12-14 December - Task Force Bravo

14-31 December - Task Force Yankee

b. Subordinate Units

- (1) 1-3 December - Co C, 1/61 of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry (Mech) USA
- (2) 10-12 December assume OPCON Co F, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines
- (3) 14-12 December assume OPCON Co G, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines

7. EQUIPMENT

Combat essential equipment at 78.7% on 31 December 68.

8. LOGISTICSa. Supply

- (1) Combat essential supplies on hand was 76.9% on 31 December 68. Critical shortages existed in the following items:

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Item</u>            | <u>Shortages</u> |
| Flamethrower           | 3                |
| Antenna, RC 292        | 6                |
| Telephone, TA-1PT      | 53               |
| Mask, Protective, M9A1 | 200              |
| Typewriter, 11inch     | 17               |

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

## (2) Class V

During the month of December, there were no problems in obtaining Class V. Until the 14th of the month Class V was drawn from the AP at Quang Tri. After moving to An Hoa on the 14th, the source of supply became the LSU Class V dump at An Hoa.

## (3) Resupply

From the 1st to the 14th of December, the Battalion was resupplied exclusively by ground transportation. After moving to An Hoa on the 14th and commencing participation in Operation Taylor Common, the Battalion was resupplied in the field by helicopter. There were no problems in the resupply of Classes I and V. However, due to the limitations imposed by the 3d Marines on the amount of equipment that could be moved from Quang Tri to An Hoa and the non-availability of Class II at An Hoa, Class II resupply was a problem area. This problem was gradually alleviated as Battalion Supply built up its stocks at An Hoa.

## (4) Evacuation and Hospitalization

- (a) During the month of December, operating areas were of 2 types of terrain. In the Kentucky Area terrain was flat with little cover. In the Taylor Common Area terrain was very mountainous with double canopy.
- (b) All medevacs were made by helicopter and no problems were encountered.

## (5) Transportation

- (a) Total mileage on organic vehicles during the period was 9557 miles.
- (b) Truck support in the Kentucky AO was constantly inadequate.
- (c) Truck support at An Hoa was extremely limited.

## (6) Service

- (a) A platoon of B, 3d Engineer Battalion rendered assistance in all engineering tasks, but heavy equipment was unobtainable.
- (b) During the reporting period, the Battalion was supported by 4 HST Teams of the 3d Shore Party Battalion.

9. CIVIC ACTION N/A

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

10. ADMINISTRATION

- a. During the month of December, 3 SPCM were held and 5 Court Martials are pending. The Battalion Commander held 4 Office Hours and 7 are pending. There were 6 Company Commander Office Hours and 10 are pending.
- b. R&R continued to be a major moral factor. There were 68 out of country quotas and 39 in country quotas.
- c. The moral was excellent.
- d. The Postal Service was fair.
- e. No liberty was authorized during the reporting period.
- f. Marine Exchange facilities were not available for the Battalion as a whole. A limited Exchange was available for the rear area personnel at An Hoa.

11. PERSONNEL

Gains: 12 USMC OFF 176 USMC TNL 1 USN OFF 8 USN TNL

Losses: 7 USMC OFF 132 USMC TNL 0 USN OFF 9 USN TNL

12. INTELLIGENCE

For the first half of the month of December, the Battalion was operating out of Con Thien and contacts were small unit incidents. The second half of the month, the Battalion moved from Con Thien to An Hoa, southwest of Da Nang. On 20 December 68, the Battalion commenced Operation Taylor Common. Many bunker and hut complexes were found ranging from platoon to possibly battalion size. M, 3/3 on 211500H found a hut and bunker complex at ZC153379. The area had a small messhall and 1 hut was an aid station. The complex was approximately 1 month old and had been used by approximately 20 people. On 221350H, K, 3/3 found a hut and bunker complex at ZC162385. This area was extensive with messhall facilities, medical huts, and a grain mill. Also found were medical supplies, printing material, and assorted documents. The messhall huts were 75'x25'. Upon finding this complex K, 3/3 had contact with 2 enemy vicinity ZC162385. One was killed and his weapon, a new AK-47 with 3 magazines, captured. On 291500H, L, 3/3 coordinates ZC138353, while crossing a stream, lead elements ran into a house. A search of the house produced 1 basket of clothes, 3 SKS, and 1 carbine. There were also 4 other huts containing medical gear, documents, and new womens clothes. One hut had 2 built-in stoves. 1 AK-47 and 3 carbines were found behind a false wall in a hut. Two bunkers were reconned by fire and heavy return fire was received. 1 POW NVN was taken. On 301100H, L, 3/3 discovered 4 huts, vicinity ZC150366. 47 K-44 rifles, 6 Chicom

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

burp guns, 6 US M-1 carbines, 2000 K-44 rounds, 300 9mm rounds, 12 machetes, 1 ½ pound block of TNT were found. 301505L, M, 3/3 in the vicinity ZC 143382 sighted 2 NVA, wearing black pajamas, who went into dugout type positions. They were taken under fire and 1 NVA was killed. Extensive rest and storage areas were the most common finds and enemy contact was light in the Taylor Common area.

#### Captured Enemy Equipment

|       |                              |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 47    | K-44 rifles                  |
| 6     | SKS rifles                   |
| 7     | Chicom burp guns             |
| 2     | blasting caps                |
| 9     | M-1 US carbines              |
| 2     | AK-47 rifles                 |
| 500lb | medical supplies             |
| 1pr   | tennis shoes                 |
| 400pr | utilities                    |
| 20    | NVA packs                    |
| 200   | AK-47 rds                    |
| 2040  | K-44 rds                     |
| 13    | Chicom grenades              |
| 100   | sweatshirts                  |
| 2pr   | girl's panties               |
| 12    | NVA machetes                 |
| 3     | ½lb blocks of TNT            |
| 1     | rack                         |
| 3     | AK-47 magazines              |
| 2     | magazine pouches             |
| 2     | blankets                     |
| 1pr   | sandals                      |
| 2     | ponchos                      |
| 1     | belt                         |
| 2     | canteens w/gear              |
| 1     | hammock                      |
| 1pr   | black pajamas                |
| 1     | helmet                       |
| 2     | sets of TOP SECRET documents |
| 1     | NVA unit flag                |

#### 13. COMMUNICATIONS

The communications at C which remained excellent. The Battalion moved to An Hoa on 14 December. Communications section at An Hoa set up a PRC47 for communications with Quang Tri. Communication with Quang Tri was sporadic, but relay through Task Force Bravo at Dong Ha provided minimum service. Communication with the Battalion in the field remained satisfactory. The Battalion used the KY38 and PRC77 extensively.

#### 14. WEATHER

The weather during this reporting period was mild and unseasonably dry.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Average Temperature High 80's Low 70's  
 Average Humidity 78%  
 Average Rainfall .07 inches

15. FIRE SUPPORT

## a. Units providing direct and general support

- (1) Btry A, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (2) Btry B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (3) Btry C, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (4) Btry K, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
- (5) Btry L, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
- (6) Btry M, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
- (7) Btry F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines
- (8) Btry T, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines
- (9) Plt A, 3rd 8" Btry
- (10) Btry A, 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery (USA)

## b. Missions Fired

## (1) Artillery

- (a) Preparatory Fires 37
- (b) Night Defensive Fires 41
- (c) Suspected Enemy Positions 37
- (d) Live Missions 35
- (e) Harassment & Interdiction Fires 147

## (2) Ammunition Expended

- (a) 105mm 4216
- (b) 155mm 888
- (c) 8" 36

## (3) 81mm Mortars

- (a) Preparatory Fires
- (b) Targets of Opportunity
- (c) Suspected Enemy Positions
- (d) Counter Mortar Fires
- (e) Night Defensive Fires
- (f) Illumination
- (g) Ammunition Expended
 

|     |      |
|-----|------|
| HE  | 2289 |
| WP  | 214  |
| Ill | 86   |

16. AIR SUPPORT

- a. During the month of December 11 flights of fixed wing were requested and 11 were received. 35 TPQ's were requested and 2 received.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- b. 31 AO's were requested and 39 received.
  - c. 2 flights of UH1H gunships were requested and received.
  - d. 7 flare ships were requested and received.
  - e. 33 medevacs were completed.
  - f. 1 battalion size and 2 company size troop lifts were completed.
  - g. 17 C&C sorties were used.
  - h. 224,315 pounds of cargo were lifted.
17. ACTIVATIONS/DEACTIVATIONS/REACTIVATIONS: N/A

UNCLASSIFIED

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTSJOURNAL SUMMARY

1 Dec 68 0730H In the area of YD094657 elements of Co I discovered 7 mortar pits, 1 3x4x12 foot and a trench running north to south approximately 10 months old. Also in the area of YD115656 discovered 3 mortar pits facing in the direction of the MRR and a trench 3x4x10 feet approximately 10 months old.

2315H In the area of YD132677 elements of Co K observed 2 persons believed to be getting water from the river. Their movement indicated knowledge of the area. Their type of clothing or arms could not be determined. They were taken under fire with small arms and 14 60mm mortar rounds. The area was probed by artillery. The area was checked out and blood stains were found.

2 Dec 68 0915H In the area of YD110707 elements of Co H discovered 3 positions 2x4x1 1/2 feet. A tunnel was also discovered with an opening of 2 1/2 feet in diameter, 3 feet deep, and 10 feet long. The tunnel appeared to be approximately 4 months old and not recently used. The position was destroyed.

0945H In the area of YD143733 elements of C/1/61 (USA) discovered 10 bunkers over a year old containing 50 cases 12.7 rounds, 50 boxes 60mm mortar fuses (300 per box), 350 60mm mortar rounds, 4 82mm mortar rounds, 1 Chicom claymore mine booby trap, 6000 7.62 link ammunition, 1 RPG2 launcher (unservicable), 2 RPG2 boosters, 3000 AK-47 rounds, 1 RPG7 round, 43 boxes blasting caps (10 per box) 5 Chicom grenades, 1 ton of rice, and 1 snake eye bomb. Ordnance was destroyed.

1330H In the area of YD155724 elements of Co L discovered 6 bunkers 6x5x8 feet about 10 months old and in good condition. The bunkers contained 14 60mm mortar rounds and 1 Chicom claymore mine. The ordnance and bunkers were destroyed.

1535H In the area of YD115718 elements of Co L triggered a booby trap believed to be an 82mm mortar round.

3 Dec 68 No significant events.

4 Dec 68 0730H In the area of YD115675 elements of Co M discovered 2 bunkers about 2 months old that showed signs of recent use. The area was searched and 1 NVA poncho, one water bowl, and 50ft of communications wire was found.

1700H In the area of YD110633 elements of Co K discovered 2 mortar pits, 9 living bunkers, 17 82mm mortar rounds, and 1 canister of primers with increments. All ordnance was destroyed. The bunkers were old and unservicable.

UNCLASSIFIED

- 2315H In the area of YD126667 elements of Co I observed 2 persons moving from north to south. They were engaged with small arms and M-79 fire. An artillery mission was also called. Search at first light produced 2 bodies dressed in green pajamas and armed with 1 9mm pistol with 2 magazines, 1 AK-47 with 2 magazines. They also had papers. All items were turned over to S-2.
- 5 Dec 68 1200H In the area of YD106624 elements of Co K made contact with 4-5 enemy wearing camouflaged clothing. They were engaged with small arms and 60 60mm mortar rounds. The area was search results.
- 6 Dec 68 1145H In the area of YD115632 elements of Co K found 4 Chicom grenades laying in the trail. It was turned over to S-2.
- 1200H YD107634 started receiving 4 60 or 82mm mortar rounds. Counter-mortar and artillery was fired with unknown results.
- 1230H In the area of YD115724 elements of Co L discovered 1 bunker approximately 10 months old and 5x5x4 feet. The bunker contained 3 ponchos, 1 pair of khaki trousers, 50 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 2 Chicom grenades, and 1 gas mask. All were destroyed.
- 1245H In the area of YD107634 elements of Co I observed mortar fire of approximately 5-6 rounds of 82mm mortar. All rounds fell short of the perimeter. Counter battery mortar and artillery fire was returned with unknown results.
- 1245H In the area of YD126722 elements of Co I while on patrol triggered a booby trap of unknown ordnance.
- 1400H In the area of YD103647 elements of Co I observed 2 persons, one believed carrying a radio. Fired 60mm mortar and artillery mission with unknown results.
- 1430H In the area of YD093723 elements of Co M discovered 2 bunkers reinforced with logs and dirt approximately 6 months old. The bunkers had not been used recently. They were destroyed.
- 1520H In the area of YD062592 Co K reported 140mm rocket fire being fired from 2 positions. 25-30 rounds were fired. Artillery was fired with unknown results.
- 7 Dec 68 2340H In the area of YD126666 elements of Co K received 3 rounds believed to be RPG. Returned fire with 90mm tank and machine gun fire with unknown results.
- 8 Dec 68 0230H In the area of YD130660 elements of Company observed 3 enemy believed to be carrying a RPG moving across position west to east. Small arms, M-79, and 60mm mortar were fired in the area. A patrol checked out the area with negative results.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

9 Dec 68 No significant events

10 Dec 68 1045H In the area of YD140731 an observer plane reported taking sniper fire from a bunker complex previously discovered and destroyed. Two tanks fired 6 rounds of 90mm HP and 6 of 120 in support of the plane. Results unknown.

2030H In the area of YD152615 elements of Co K observed 2 moving lights among bunkers at south end of the perimeter. Fired M-79's with negative results.

11 Dec 68 1515H In the area of YD115704 elements of Co G, 2d Bn, 3d Marines observed 1 person moving across an open field. Sent out a patrol which brought back 1 person who was turned over to Regimental ITT.

12 Dec 68 No significant events.

13 Dec 68 No significant events.

14 Dec 68 No significant events.

15 Dec 68 No significant events.

16 Dec 68 No significant events.

17 Dec 68 No significant events.

18 Dec 68 No significant events.

19 Dec 68 No significant events.

20 Dec 68 1300H In the area of ZC161370 elements of Co I discovered an old rest area consisting of 4 bunkers, 6 huts, cooking racks, estimated area was capable of housing a platoon. The area was badly decomposed and hadn't been used for 5 months. The bunkers and huts were destroyed.

1350H In the area of ZC160367 elements of Co I observed unknown number of persons wearing dark uniforms and silver gray covers getting water from the south side of the river. Sniper fired 1 round with unknown results.

1500H In the area of ZC177358 elements of Co L discovered a grave with numerous bones.

1505H In the area of ZC1611390 elements of Co K observed 1 person and took under fire with small arms. The man jumped behind a ledge. A frag grenade was thrown and another person was observed. While searching the area the following items were found: 3 wheat sacks containing rice, eating utensils, 1 can full of chicken feed, 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

live chicken, 3 boxes of flashlight batteries, 2 cartons of RVN cigarettes, 2 cans of cream, 2 flashlight bulbs, 1 AK-47, 1 bag of seasoning, 1 can of mackerel, 1 sweater, 11 sheets of tracing paper, 2 bags of noodles, 2 bags of rice, 1 bag of blank receipts, 4 books, 1 bar of soap, 1 can of powdered cream, 3 text books, 2 poncho liners (parachute type), 2 cooking pots, 1 bag of salt, rations, 1 bag of bandages, 2 bottles of pills, 1 basket, 5 items of female clothing, 1 razor blade, 1 pair of black pajamas, 1 shirt, 1 pair of blue trousers, 2 bags of curry powder, sugar, and 1 can of cooked rice. The personnel observed wore dark green shirts, black pajamas and had on no hats or shoes. All items were turned over to Regimental S-2.

2100H In the area of ZC159376 elements of Co K observed movement. Small arms was delivered with negative results.

2120H In the area of ZC159368 elements of Co M initiated an ambush on 10-30 enemy with 2 claymores and a heavy volume of small arms fire. The area was searched with negative results.

21 Dec 68 0915H In the area of ZC158382 elements of Co K while on patrol discovered an ambush by the enemy who prematurely fired 2 carbine rounds. Fire returned with negative results.

1100H In the area of ZC1811355, ZC184357 elements of Co L discovered an area estimated to be a platoon size rest area. The area consisted of hammocks, poncho huts, and fireplaces and no fighting holes. It was estimated to be about 2 months old. Further down the trail they discovered 2 more rest areas and a CP area with a water point. It contained 4 hammocks, 12 inch piece of blue-gray communications wire, and a NVA belt. The places were put together with vines. There was evidence of snails having been eaten. There were fresh tracks running north to south crossing a man-made bridge and were estimated to be of 3 persons.

1200H In the area of ZC162382 elements of Co K discovered a foot bridge across a stream. The bridge was in good condition and old logs had been replaced.

1140H In the area of ZC149379 elements of Co K came upon a natural trench line caused by soil erosion. The trench line was along a trail and fresh NVA tracker tracks were found. The area was further checked out with negative results.

1230H In the area of ZC16836 Co L found living huts and 40-50 places where hammocks could be strung. The area had been used within the past 2 months. A stream running north to south was interlaced with trails that were well used, and an OP on the southeastern side with clear observation of LZ Mace. Area was searched out and all usable items were destroyed. All the trails were searched for approximately 100 meters.

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

1500H In the area of ZC153379 elements of Co M found a large bunker complex consisting of 8 huts 20ft long, 10ft wide, and 15ft high. One hut was determined to be a messhall, one an aid station, and the rest living huts with bunkers underneath. The area had approximately 30 fighting holes 3x4x2 feet. The complex was found by a stream bed approximately 12ft wide and 6ft deep. The stream bed did not appear on the map. The complex had been used within the last 48 hours by an estimated 20 people. The complex was capable of accommodating 3 companies and is believed to be a staging area for platoon size units. The following items were found: Document that listed the names of enemy that are going to join units, parts of a gas mask, 1 canteen, rifle cleaning gear, open civilian canned goods, 1pr of black pajamas, flashlight batteries, 2 tubes of Ben Gay, and old newspapers.

22 Dec 68 0800H In the area of ZC160380 elements of Co K observed 1 person walking east to west. He was taken under fire by small arms. Area was searched with negative results.

0900H In the area of ZC185343 elements of Co L while on patrol had one man step on a booby trap consisting of a blasting cap.

0900H In the area of ZC157383 elements of Co K discovered a campsite approximately 1 week old. The area could accommodate a reinforced squad. It was destroyed. Newspapers were found and sent to S-2.

0900H In the area of ZC163382 elements of Co K observed 3-5 persons. They were taken under fire and fire was returned. Negative results.

1200H In the area of ZC165381 elements of Co K found a letter used as toilet paper. The letter was hard to interpret but was thought to be a father to son letter and was sent to S-2.

1235H In the area of ZC165384 elements of Co K discovered 5 huts constructed over bunkers. The construction was very new. They were destroyed. Two enemy were observed leaving the area but too far away to take under fire.

1320H In the area of ZC150390 elements of Co I heard 25-30 Vietnamese voices and saw 1 person running from the area. Checked out the area with negative results.

1350H In the area of ZC162385 elements of Co K discovered an extensive enemy bunker and hut complex. An undetermined number of bunkers and huts size 8x10 feet and larger with a 2-3 foot overhead. Huts were made of saplings and thatching with hard packed floors size 10x15 feet and larger. A cooking type hut and adjacent hall 75x25 feet. A medical hut containing test tubes, morphine, narcotics, heroin bottles, a vase with artificial flowers, female panties and a slip. The Battalion Surgeon determined fresh parts of a lung. A grain mill and 1 dye marker bunker freshly sealed within the last 24hr, and a 2 hole latrine with a roof. The platoon commander estimated it to be a

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

battalion or larger size R&K center and aid station. There were no fighting holes or security positions. There were indications of extensive tunnel networks, and the general appearance was neat and well used. Two enemy were observed in the central part of the complex. The enemy came from the west into Co K security. They were taken under fire resulting in 1 being killed and the other wounded. The wounded enemy escaped. The KIA had on new green uniform, brown belt and no shoes. His captured AK-47 was in very good condition. Also found were documents, Communist indoctrination pamphlets, instruction manual for nurses, and a homemade intravenous stand.

1430H In the area of ZC153379 elements of Co M discovered an 8 bunker complex containing a NVA belt, 1 empty soy bean oil can, a US first aid packet, 2 cans of powdered milk, tooth paste, empty fish cans, a chicken coop, a clothes line, and a well 5x5 feet. Fighting holes were dug in the bottom of the bunkers and in the side of the stream bed.

1600H In the area of ZC154368 elements of Co M discovered a rest area with no bunkers or fighting holes. It contained 8 huts approximately 1 week old with 12 weapons and gear racks, and 3 fire pits. The rest area was located about 25m off of a heavily used trail going east to west. A NVA helmet and black shorts were found.

2100H In the area of ZC157375 a listening post of Co X was fired upon. Fire was returned with negative results.

2200H In the area of ZC158372 Co M executed 2 ambushes. Checked area at first light with negative results.

23 Dec 68 No significant events.

24 Dec 68 1000H In the area of ZC167331 elements of Co K discovered 100 pounds of rice; saved 50 pounds for possible consumption and destroyed the balance.

1200H In the area of ZC1677382 elements of Co X searched a bunker and hut complex. The complex consisted of approximately 7 living quarters 12x20 feet, 9 bunkers 8x10 feet, a medical hut 8x10 feet, 2 huts 12x20 feet, 5 storage bunkers 5x5 feet, a storage barn 40x15 feet, 1 messhall 8x15 feet, 3 tons of rice, 25 pounds of tea, 1 buck saw, 2 ponchos, 2 ammunition pouches with 23 AK-47 rounds, 5 eating utensils, 75 bowls, 150 spoons, school books, medical equipment for intravenous feeding, vitamin bottles, clothing and documents, 1 with figures 403 inside, a chinese cover, and 2 5 gallon cans of soy bean oil, (1 marked C-RL). The area was destroyed.

1800H Cease Fire until 251800H.

25 Dec 68 Cease Fire ended at 251800H. No significant events.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

26 Dec 68 0930H In the area of ZC164381 elements of Co K discovered a medical bunker with surgical and laboratory equipment, an American surgical kit, drugs from USSR and Czechoslovakia, American eye glass, pictures, medical text books, pharmaceutical hand books, political organization parade banner, family records and pictures, Vietnamese class notes (medical), 1 NVA pack, and 50 pounds of rice. The rice was destroyed and the documents were sent to 3-2.

1030H In the area of ZC150374 elements of Co L observed 1 person. The lead elements opened fire and the individual jumped into the bushes. The lead elements heard some talking and the interpreter talked the individual out of his hiding place. The POW stated that he was an E5 corpsman from the 338 Division, DK75th Co. He claimed that he was going west with 2 other companions to a village then to Route #60. He also stated that there was 27 more NVA on the objective and they had 6 AK-47's and 16 M-14's. The POW was taken to ITT. One pack containing medical supplies and rice was captured.

1530H In the area of ZC160353 elements of Co I observed 2-3 armed enemy going north along a trail. They were taken under fire with small arms and mortar. Writing material, rice, salt, marijuana, and documents similar to a log book was captured.

1530H In the area of ZC143374 elements of Co L observed 1 male and 1 female walking down a trail. They were fired at and the area searched with negative results.

1545H In the area of ZC142368 elements of Co L made contact with 2 persons. They were taken under fire. Items captured were: 101 pounds of noodles, 2 cooking stoves, prepacked shrimp, rice, civilian clothes, medical gear, pieces of poncho and wallet documents, 10 papers, 11 books about chemistry.

27 Dec 68 0915H In the area of ZC136360 elements of Co L found fresh footprints about 1hr old. One was barefooted and the other wore sandals.

0930H In the area of ZC138366 elements of Co I discovered 3 freshly dug fighting holes approximately 2x4x3 feet with small logs and leaves overhead. The bunkers were destroyed.

1000H In the area of ZC155386 elements of Co M discovered 3 thatched huts 20x15 feet approximately 3-4 months old. The area had been used in the last 5-7 days. Also discovered 3 caves approximately 10x10 feet used in the last 5-7 days. This area was apparently a rest area. The bunkers were destroyed. The complex contained 2 BK3 rifles with 10 rounds, 4 NVA packs, 2 mosquito nets, 2 canteens, 3 monsoon sweatshirts, 22 cooking pans, 2 tools, 1 poncho, and documents. The documents were sent to 3-2.

1130H In the area of ZC136383 elements of Co L while proceeding off the trail detonated a booby trap consisting of a blasting cap.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1415H In the area of ZC156355 elements of Co I discovered a grave containing human bones estimated to be 30-60 days old.

29 Dec 68 1030H In the area of ZC150371 elements of Co I found footprints of personnel with and without sandals. The footprints were approximately 24 hours old. The cap of a Chicom grenade was found. Approximately 40 meters from the trail a grave was discovered with a small 3 rail fence around it and a circle with a star in the center made out of bamboo about 18 inches in diameter. A stretcher made out of bamboo was laying beside the grave. The body was 5 feet deep with a towel over his face. He had on 2 pair of trousers, 3 shirts, and a pair of NVA green utilities. The body was wrapped in a poncho and liner which looked like a parachute from an illumination round. The age was estimated to be 25-30 years old. About 40 meters from the trail were 3 huts and several camp sites. The size of the compound was large enough for a company and the fire sites were large enough for a squad. The huts were destroyed.

1145H In the area of ZC1422382 elements of Co K received fire from an unknown number of enemy. Fire was returned with small arms and artillery. The area was searched and 1 bunker 3rd feet with logs overhead was found and destroyed.

1215H In the area of ZC147353 elements of Co I discovered tax and personnel records, 20 pounds of rice in 5 gallon cans, 5 pounds of salt in plastic bags in 2 holes under freshly cut underbrush. The rice and salt was destroyed and the records were turned over to S-2.

1630H In the area of ZC154385 elements of Co M discovered 9 fighting holes, 2 of which had tunnels approximately 7ft long. They were used about a month ago. The complex was destroyed.

1730H In the area of ZC159393 elements of Co K discovered the following items in a hut and bunker complex: 4000 malaria tablets, 50 doses of atropine, 1 cork bottle of crystalline unknown substance, 2 blood pressure cuffs, 1 otoscope, 1 orthoscope, 1 instrument tray, 3 cans of unknown substance, 20 vials of vitamin C, 10 vials of calcium carbonate, 1 pharmacist notebook, 16 bottles of substance, 6 small bottles, 1 first aid case, 15 pounds of unknown powder, 10 needle sterilizers, 3 surgical pans, 1 tin cup, 200 battle dressings, 1 spinal tap set, 11 of rubber 6x44 feet, 200 feet rubber tubing, 300 vials of unknown substances, 2 10 pound cans of unknown powder, 0.25kg magnesium chloride, 600 vials of unknown substances, 2 boxes of amyl nitrate, 1 jar vasoline, 5 5 pound bags of unknown crystalline substance, 5 pounds cotton, 2 rubber stamps, 3 boxes unknown substance, 10 pounds battle dressing, 1 pharmacist spoon, 8 jars of unknown substance, 1 enema set, 2 packages, 3 bags of unknown powder, 1 burner, 4 packages of cotton, 1 box unknown crystalline, 9000 unknown tablets, 1 package of 40 packets of liquid, 1 wire bracket, 1 15" crescent wrench, 1 bag of AK-47 rounds, 20 bottles of unknown acid, 1 box of surgical equipment, 1 pounds of sulfur, 2500ml unknown liquid, 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

pounds of cheese cloth, 2 small heaters, 200 tubes for drawing blood, 1 hemostat, 1 syringe, 4 bags of unknown powder, 1 box of battle dressing and cotton, 11 vials of unknown vaccine, 2 packages of sterile cat gut, 2 bottles of cough syrup, 35 packets of 10 unknown vials each, 1 surgical wrap, 1 T shirt, 1 bottle of plasma, 1 box of pots and pans and surgical pans, 1 test tube sterilizer, 1 can of unknown powder, 100 pounds of rice, 40 gallons of kerosene, and 30 gallons of soy bean oil. The huts 25x15 feet and 2 bunkers 20x10 feet were destroyed. All other items were turned over to S-2.

29 Dec 68 1130I In the area of ZC138375 elements of Co L made contact with an unknown number of enemy. Small arms were used while assaulting the position. While searching the area, a wounded POW was captured as were 2 new SKS rifles, 1 US carbine, medical supplies, literature, womens clothes, and 250 pair of trousers.

1400H In the area of ZC147386 elements of Co M discovered half built huts and fighting holes approximately 1 month old with a tunnel 15-20 feet long. The area had many trails. The trails that lead to the southeast were the most heavily traveled. The huts and tunnel were destroyed.

1500H In the area of ZC138355 elements of Co L found a house and inside a basket of clothes. 3 NVA appeared and were taken under fire; 1 was wounded and they disappeared. A search of the area produced 3 SKS and 1 carbine. Another hut and 2 bunkers were discovered. At this time another platoon of Co L was sent to assist in the search. While advancing, the area was reconned by fire and a heavy volume of fire was received. The area was searched and behind a false wall was discovered 1 AK-47, 3 US carbines, 4 SKS, medical gear, tennis shoes, 400pr of utilities, 20 IV packs, 100 sweatshirts, 80 black pajamas, 2pr of women's panties, 200 pounds of rice, 2 rice bins, 4 clay stoves, 35 carbine rounds, 200 AK-47 rounds, 24 AK-47 magazines, and 12 Chicom grenades.

30 Dec 68 1100H In the area of ZC145365 elements of Co L discovered 4 huts. The first was 20x40x15 feet and located under the floor was 47 K-44 rifles, 6 French submachineguns, 6 US carbines M-1, 2000 AK-47 rounds, 300 9mm rounds, 12 Vietnamese machetes, and a 24 block of TNT. The second hut was 10x16x10 with a bunker underneath 8x10x16 feet. The hut didn't have any sides and may have been used as a classroom. The third was 10x16x10 feet and contained construction materials. A bunker for night security was 20m away. The fourth hut was 80x20x15 feet and judged to be living quarters. A bunker 14x6x2 feet was built on the side. There were spider holes 20m from the hut. The huts were destroyed and the weapons turned into the S-2.

31 Dec 68 1100H In the area of ZC140382 elements of Co M made contact with approximately 2-4 persons. They were taken under fire with small arms and artillery. Results unknown.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

1230H In the area of ZC152386 elements of Co K discovered 30 fighting holes, 3 tunnel-like bunkers 15x3x4 feet, and construction materials for huts. They were last worked on about 2-3 days previous. Everything was destroyed.

1505H In the area of ZC143387 elements of Co M observed 2 persons wearing black pajamas walk into a dugout type of position. They were taken under fire. After the area was searched producing 2 magazines pouches, 1/2 pound of parched rice, 2 blankets, 1pr of sandals, 1 canteen with cover, 1 hammock, 1pr black pajamas, 1 belt, 1 poncho, and 1 battle dressing.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED ON VIOLATIONS

- 3 December 68 1430H In the area of YD157795 OP1 observed 1 person moving west in the area. Observed with BC scope by Sp4 GEDLER, J., US5599378, F 26th Btry USA.
- 1740H In the area of YD13307925 OP2 observed a small fire. Observed with BC scope by Sp5 NERIOS, J M, RA18669484, F 26th Btry USA.
- 1935H In the area of YD192826 OP2 observed 1 stationary light. Observed with MOD by Sp5 NERIOS, J M, RA18669484, F 26th Btry USA.
- 1945H In the area of YD056859 OP1 observed 1 stationary light. Observed with MOD by Sp4 REIK, G L, RA63996310, F 26th Btry USA.
- 1950H In the area of YD128839 OP2 observed 2 lights moving west. Observed with MOD by Sp5 NERIOS, J M, RA18669484, F 26th Btry USA.
- 2007H In the area of YD054851 OP1 observed 2 lights moving east. Observed with MOD by Pfc REDER, M B, US53814231, F Btry USA.
- 2025H In the area of YD143796 OP1 observed 1 stationary light. Observed with MOD by Pfc REDER, M B, US5381231, F 26 Btry USA.
- 4 December 68 2330H In the area of YD182827 OP1 observed 1 stationary light. Observed with MOD by Sp4 RICE, D L, US52859508, F 26th Btry USA.
- 2330H In the area of YD194511 OP1 observed 1 stationary light. Observed with MOD by Sp4 RICE, D L, US52859508, F 26th Btry USA.
- 5 December 68 2225H In the area of YD217812 OP1 observed 1 fire. Observed with MOD by Sp5 CHAMBLESS, R A, RA14961757, F 26th Btry USA.
- 7 December 68 1920H In the area of YD193838 OP1 observed 2 stationary lights. Observed with MOD by Sp4 RICE, D L, US52859508, F 26th Btry USA.
- 8 December 68 0200H In the area of YD203878 OP1 observed 1 light moving west. Observed with MOD by Sp4 REIK, G L, RA16996310, F 26th Btry USA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- 11 December 68 2048H In the area of YD18688 OP1 observed 2 stationary lights. Observed with NOD by Pfc JARRETT, W G, US53812522, F 26th Btry USA.
- 12 December 68 0030H In the area of YD138838 OP1 observed 1 stationary light. Observed with NOD by Sp5 CHAMBLESS, R A, RA14961757, F 26th Btry USA.

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

Copy 1 of 8 Copies  
3d Bn, 3d Marines  
Con Thien, RVN  
120600H Dec 1968

Battalion Operation Order 4-68

Ref: Map VIETNAM, 1:50,000, AMS, Series L 7014, Sheet 6342 I (Cam Lo)

✓Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization)

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces

- (1) A reinforced NVA battalion is operating in the vicinity of GS0366. Heavy contact was made on 11 December with an element located at 024661. Capabilities include infantry weapons, mortars, and rockets.

b. Friendly Forces

- (1) 4th Marines assumes OPCON of 3/3, effective 121000 Dec 68.
- (2) 2/3 assumes responsibility for present Con Thien AO.
- (3) 2/4 occupies blocking positions to east of objective area, in GS0164 and GS0165.
- (4) Artillery
  - (a) Fire support provided by 3/12 along with reinforcing and general support batteries.
- (5) Air
  - (a) 1st MAW provides helicopter gunships, troop lift, command and control, and medevac support, as well as fixed wing attack and observation aircraft.

c. Attachments and Detachments

- (1) See Annex A.

2. MISSION

At 1000 on 12 December 1968, 3/3 conducts helicopter assault from present positions into LZ at 043667, seizes the LZ, and attacks to the west to seize Objective 1, Hill 262, at 031666. Subsequently, conduct operations as directed by CO, 4th Marines.

3. EXECUTION

- a. Concept of Operations: Conduct helilift in the order M, L, CP

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

81's, I, K. Seize high ground adjacent to LZ. Move west by bounds to seize Objective 1. Fire support provided by helicopter gunships, fixed wing aircraft, and direct and general support artillery.

b. Co I

- (1) Conduct third helilift into LZ, move to northeast and seize Objective C (044670). Be prepared to move subsequently to the west or south.

c. Co K

- (1) Conduct fourth helilift into LZ, move to southeast and seize Objective D (048664). Be prepared to move subsequently to the west.

d. Co L

- (1) Conduct ~~initial~~ <sup>second</sup> helilift into LZ, move to northwest and seize Objective A (037670). Be prepared to move subsequently to the south.

e. Co M

- (1) Conduct ~~second~~ <sup>initial</sup> helilift into LZ, move to south and seize Objective B (041662). Initially provide security for the Battalion Command Group. Be prepared to move to the west.

f. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) Tentative Objectives:

|   |        |   |        |
|---|--------|---|--------|
| E | 035663 | H | 019658 |
| F | 026664 | I | 028652 |
| G | 024660 | J | 038655 |

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. Supply

- (1) Normal arms and equipment, plus Class I (2 DOS MCI) and Class V (B/A plus 2 DOA).
- (2) Class I and V, and BA-386's staged for helo resupply at C-2.

b. Evacuation

- (1) Medevacs by helilift.

SECRET

SECRETc. Personnel

- (1) Normal reporting procedures.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS

| a. <u>UNIT</u>   | <u>FREQUENCY</u> | <u>CALL SIGN</u>   |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 4th Marines      | P40.00           | Eversharp          |
|                  | S71.75           |                    |
| 2/4              | P56.40           | Ice Boat           |
|                  | S71.50           |                    |
| 4th Marines Arty | 36.45            | Eversharp 24       |
| 4th Marines Air  | 44.90            | Eversharp 14       |
| 3/3, A-4         | 59.70            | Coming Event Romeo |

- b. Cipher capability is required for Regimental Tactical net.
- c. Spot Reports and Situation Reports submitted as normal. DO NOT DELAY UNNECESSARILY.
- d. Companies report positions each half hour when moving.
- e. Thrust Points (use no others)

|        |      |       |      |
|--------|------|-------|------|
| Trees  | 0766 | Ranks | 0364 |
| States | 0663 | Fish  | 0162 |
| Tools  | 0863 |       |      |

f. Command Posts:

- (1) 4th Marines - Dong Ha Mt
- (2) 3/3 initially with Co M.
- (3) Companies report locations when established.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

OFFICIAL

C. E. DAVIS  
 Captain, U. S. Marine Corps  
 S-3

*R. C. Schulze*  
 R. C. SCHULZE  
 Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
 Commanding

SECRET

SECRET

Copy of Copies  
 3d Bn, 3d Marines  
 Con Thien, RVN  
 120600H Dec 1968

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 4-68

(All attachments effective 12 Dec 1968)

3d Bn(-)(Rein), 3d Marines

LtCol SCHULZ

Command Group "A"  
 Sec, 81mm Mortar Plt

Co I

Capt TROTT

Det, 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Engr Bn

Co K

Lt HOLDRIDGE

Det, 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Engr Bn

Co L

Capt GRAY

Det, 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Engr Bn  
 Det, Scout Dog Plt, 3d MP Bn

Co M

Capt WILLIAMSON

Det, 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Engr Bn  
 Det, Scout Dog Plt, 3d MP Bn

R. C. SCHULZ  
 Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
 Commanding

OFFICIAL

C. E. DAVIS  
 Captain, U. S. Marine Corps  
 S-3

SECRET

SECRET

Copy 1 of 2 Copies  
 3d Bn, 3d Marines  
 An Hoa, RVN  
 160800H Dec 1968

Battalion Operation Order 5-68

Ref: Map: Vietnam, 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6540 I, 6540 II, 6640 III, and 6640 IV.

Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization)

## 1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces Communist activity in the objective area consists of movement along trail networks between base complexes to the west and populated areas to the east. The base complexes support large Main Force Viet Cong units and NVA infiltrators. Capabilities include rocket and mortar attacks as well as infantry units massing up to battalion size. Well-prepared defenses, ambushes, and BOOBY TRAPS will be encountered in this area. Enemy troops can be expected to be using the trails, and to stand and fight. Friendly forces have not penetrated this base complex area since 1965. Current enemy activity indicates some reaction to the build up at An Hoa Combat Base. Recent activity has been reported in GS1741, GS0634, and GS7835.

## b. Friendly Forces

- (1) 3d Marines(-) and 5th Marines(-), as elements of Task Force Yankee, conduct S/D ops in the area west and south of An Hoa Combat Base (GS8747) by helilifting to key terrain features and establishing artillery fire support bases and infantry combat operating bases.
- (2) 1/3 operates to the north, establishing FSB Spear (GS1840). Recon elements will periodically be inserted to the east, south, and far west. 1st Mar Div operates to the far south.
- (3) Artillery: D/S fires will be from F/2/11 located at FSB Lance (GS7941). Upon establishment of FSB Spear, D/S fires will be provided from there by C/1/12. G/S fires initially from T/2/11 at FSB Lance. All other G/S batteries in range are available for support of 3/3.
- (4) Air: Helicopter assault, gunship, and medevac support, fixed wing close air support and AO's will be provided by 1st MAW aircraft.

## 2. MISSION

At H-hour on D-day, 3/3 helilift to vic GS1735, secure the LZ, and

establish Combat Operations Base Mace. Conduct S/D ops in objective area. Be prepared to establish a FSB on Hill 551 (GS1335).

### 3. EXECUTION

- a. Concept of Operation: At H-hour on D-day, 3/3 helilifts from An Hoa to vic GS1735, in sequence I-K-CP-81's-L-M seize designated objectives, improve the LZ, and commencing D+1 conducts extensive S/D patrols from company patrol bases. Fire support will be provided by fixed wing and gunship aircraft, direct and general support artillery, and 2 sections of 81mm mortars.
- b. Co I: Conduct initial lift and seize assigned objective. Establish a company patrol base. Be prepared to provide security for battalion CP group and 81's, and conduct S/D ops commencing D+1.
- c. Co K: Conduct second lift and seize assigned objective. Establish a company patrol base. Be prepared to provide security for battalion CP group and 81's, and conduct S/D ops commencing D+1.
- d. Co L: Conduct third lift and seize assigned objective. Establish a company patrol base. Be prepared to conduct S/D ops commencing D+1.
- e. Co M: Conduct fourth lift and seize assigned objective. Establish a company patrol base. Be prepared to conduct S/D ops commencing D+1.
- f. 81mm Mortars: Conduct lift with battalion CP group. Be prepared to establish positions to provide supporting fires for all units.
- g. Coordinating Instructions:
  - (1) Objectives to be assigned by frag order.
  - (2) D-day and H-hour to be announced.
  - (3) Companies construct LZ's with at least external load capability at patrol bases.
  - (4) Minimum 2 night ambushes and 3 listening posts at each base.
  - (5) Search for and carefully examine graves and caches.
  - (6) Current thrust points and brevity codes must be used.
  - (7) Do not delay initial spot reports of incidents. Submit final reports ASAP.
  - (8) Code name: Operation "Taylor Common".

### 4. ADMINISTRATION & LOGISTICS

- a. Supply: Units carry normal combat equipment.
  - (1) Assault loads - Class I - 4 LRP's, 2 DOS MCI (LRP's consumed only on order).  
Class V - B/A plus 2 DOA.
  - (2) Resupply loads will be staged for helilifts at An Hoa LSA.
  - (3) Units submit resupply requirements daily by 1000.

Copy of Copies  
3d Bn, 3d Marines  
An Hoa, RVN  
162300H Dec 1968

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 5-68

(All attachments effective 16 Dec 1968.)

3d Bn, 3d Marines

LtCol R. C. SCHULZE

CP Group 'A'

Det, III, 1st Mar Div

2 sections, 81mm Mortar Plt

Co I

Capt TROTT

Interpreter, 3d Marines

Scout/Sniper Tm, Hq Co, 3d Marines

Det, 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Eng Bn

Det, HST, 3d SP Bn

Co K

Capt RAPPUNO

Scout/Sniper Tm, Hq Co, 3d Marines

Det, 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Eng Bn

Det, HST, 3d SP Bn

Co L

Capt GRAY

Interpreter, 3d Marines

Kit Carson Scout

Scout/Sniper Tm, Hq Co, 3d Marines

Det, 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Eng Bn

Det, HST, 3d SP Bn

Co M

Capt WILLIAMSON

Interpreter, 3d Marines

Kit Carson Scout

2 Scout/Sniper Tms, Hq Co, 3d Marines

Det, ISO, 3d Mar Div

Det, 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Eng Bn

Det, HST, 3d SP Bn

*R. C. Schulze*  
R. C. SCHULZE

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

OFFICIAL

C. E. DAVIS

Captain, U. S. Marine Corps

S-3

DECLASSIFIED

-A1\*

- (4) Normal combat equipment may be modified by frag orders.
- (5) LRP rations are issued for use only in the event of MCI resupply delays.

b. Casualty Evacuation

- (1) Medevac requests will be through normal procedures, except that medevac helicopters will be contacted on the 1st Mar Div medevac net (35.5, M-168).
- (2) Casualties will be taken to An Hoa or NSA, Da Nang.
- (3) Casualty reporting to 3/3 rear will be expedited from the field.

5. COMMAND & COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Current SOP's, COI, shackle sheets, and brevity code must be used.
- b. Cipher capability will be maintained in the field.
- c. RC-292 antenna will be with each company.
- d. PRC-25 operators will have 2 spare batteries.
- e. Unit commanders and operators will be familiar with the schedule and format of the following reports in accordance with 3d Marines OpOrder 10-68:
  - (1) Situation Reports
  - (2) Spot Reports
  - (3) Day & Night Activities
- f. Report positions of moving elements each  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.
- g. Report CP locations when established.

*R. C. Schulze*  
 R. C. SCHULZE  
 Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
 Commanding

✓ Annex: A - Task Organization

OFFICIAL

C. E. DAVIS  
 Captain, U. S. Marine Corps  
 S-3

UNCLASSIFIED