

HEADQUARTERS  
4th Combined Action Group  
III Marine Amphibious Force  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/HGD/hde  
5700  
25 July 1970

[REDACTED]

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Combined Action Force  
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July to 25 July 1970  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8B  
(c) CAFO 5750.1

Encl: (1) 4th Combined Action Group Command Chronology

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

2. Downgraded at 3-year intervals, declassified after 12 years, DOD Dir 5200.10.

*W. D. LeDeboer*  
W. D. LEDEBOER

*4th CAAG*

*(21110)*

*1-25 Jul 1970*

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HEADQUARTERS  
4th Combined Action Group  
III Marine Amphibious Force  
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July to 25 July 1970

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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## PART I

Organizational Data1. Designation

Headquarters  
4th Combined Action Group  
III Marine Amphibious Force  
FPO San Francisco 96602

Commander

Major W. D. LEDEBOER  
1-25 July 1970

Subordinate Units

CACO 4-1  
CACO 4-2  
CACO 4-3

Capt J. T. LOFTUS  
1stLt S. E. RICHMOND  
Capt A. B. HINSON

1-16 July 1970  
1-11 July 1970  
1-11 July 1970

2. Location

Headquarters

1-22 July 1970  
22-25 July 1970

Quang Tri Combat Base  
Combined Action Force Hq  
Dong Ha District Hq  
Hai Lang District Hq  
Trieu Phong District Hq

CACO 4-1  
CACO 4-2  
CACO 4-3

1-16 July 1970  
1-11 July 1970  
1-11 July 1970

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer  
S-1 Officer  
S-3 Officer  
S-4 Officer

Maj H. G. DUNCAN  
Capt J. E. RISER  
Maj H. G. DUNCAN  
1stLt G. R. BROWN

1-25 July 1970  
1-25 July 1970  
1-25 July 1970  
1-25 July 1970

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC  
Off Enl  
4 106

USN  
Off Enl  
1 5

Others  
Off Enl  
0 0

5. End-of-Month Unit Diary Strength

USMC  
Off Enl  
0 0

USN  
Off Enl  
0 0

Others  
Off Enl  
0 0

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The month of July was a most significant month in that orders were received to deactivate the 4th Combined Action Group after two years of combat action against Communist Forces in Quang Tri Province. Despite the deactivation proceedings, this Group had appreciable contact with the enemy. One CAP killed a total of nine NVA. An unusual aspect of monthly operations was the relatively high number of POWs taken. A total of three NVA were taken, as listed in Part III hereunder, one of whom was classified as a Chieu Hoi.

The first CAP to deactivate was CAP 4-2-1 which ceased operations on 6 July 1970. Eleven days later, on 16 July, the final of sixteen CAPs, CAP 4-1-5, was deactivated. Personnel in these CAPs were reassigned to other Combined Action Groups within the Combined Action Force.

There was a relatively short notice on the deactivation, and this entailed a certain amount of rapid planning in the Psychological Operations concomitant with such deactivation. Results, however, were most gratifying. The PsyOps Officer for Quang Tri Province provided excellent support in the use of a loud speaker truck which toured each CAP Area of Operation playing a pre-recorded tape exploiting the theme that the local Popular Forces were sufficiently trained and prepared to enable the withdrawal of Marine Corps CAPs. The civilians were further informed that for the Popular Force units to continue to be successful it would be necessary to rely primarily upon the moral and intelligence support of the villagers.

The preparation of the various ceremonies were<sup>CS</sup> most satisfactory. At the appointed time for the official deactivation, the District Chief, the Village Chief, the Village Elders, many villagers, and the entire PF Platoon gathered at the pre-selected site with the CAP. The Americans were represented by the CAP, the Commanding Officer of the 4th Combined Action Group, the District Senior Advisor, the Combined Action Company Commander, and other invited guests. Speeches were made; gifts exchanged; and often small social gatherings held at the conclusion of the ceremony. The themes of the speeches were inevitably and consistently that of regret on the part of the Vietnamese that the Marines were leaving. Sincere expressions of appreciation for what the Marines had done were made from all echelons.

With the deactivation of the last CAP, the Combined Action Group Headquarters set about to conclude its administrative and logistics activities. On 22 July, the conduct of final business was in such a state that the remainder of the Headquarters Group displaced south to Combined Action Force Headquarters in Danang with a skeleton force of four officers and seven enlisted men. On 25 July, without fanfare or ceremony, the 4th Combined Action Group, having fulfilled the unique and most successful mission of combat and pacification, was deactivated.

This is a final Command Chronology.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. Operations Summary

## a. Nighttime activities

- (1) 1 Jul 1970. At 0130, an ambush from CAP 4-2-3, located about 13 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City, was approached by an NVA force of about 40-50 personnel. This force later was strongly suspected to have been the advanced element of the K-8 Battalion, NVA, which moved into Hai Lang District, <sup>NVA</sup> was subsequently severely decimated in contact with Territorial Forces. The CAP ambush and enemy element simultaneously initiated contact at a range of less than ten meters, using SAF and M-79 and RPGs. Contact lasted about 15 minutes, after which the enemy force broke contact and fled to the West. A sweep under illumination produced 5 NVA KIA, 5 AK-47 IWC, 3 60mm Mortar RDs (HE), 1 pair of ChiCom binoculars, two satchel charges, various documents, and two bags of potatoes. There were two Marines and one PF (Platoon Trung Si) wounded in the action. The wounded were evacuated by helicopter to 18th Surgical Hospital, where the PF died of wounds. Illumination for the sweep was provided by the 81mm Mortar recently installed in the center of CACO 4-2 AO.
- (2) 2 Jul 1970. At 0230, an ambush from CAP 4-2-3, located about 13 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City, observed four armed NVA/VC moving along sanddunes in a southerly direction at a range of about 125 meters. Sighting was made with starlite scope. The ambush initiated contact with M-60 and SAF, and received return fire. The enemy broke contact and fled north along the sanddunes. A sweep under illumination produced negative results. A sweep at first light failed to produce anything further. There were no friendly casualties.
- (3) 2 Jul 1970. At 0340, a second ambush from CAP 4-2-3, located about 13 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City, had a PF who observed movement near occupied houses about 125 meters from ambush site. He (PF) fired three rounds of M-79 HE. The Marines, lacking a discernible target, caused the PF to cease fire. A sweep of the area revealed two civilians wounded by the PF fire. A priority medevac was called and completed, with the patients being taken to 18th Surgical Hospital. A sweep at first light revealed evidence that armed troops had been in the area. One NVA pack with a large fresh blood stain, and containing about 70 rounds of AK-47 ammo, electrical firing device, seven non-electric blasting caps, two blocks of plastic explosive,

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and various other items, was recovered. Several sleeping positions were also found around the area of contact. There were no friendly casualties.

- (4) 2 Jul 1970. An ambush from CAP 4-2-3, moving into position at about 2005 hours, and located about 13 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City, sighted USEF which apparently saw them at the same time. Both units opened fire at a range of about 100 meters. The enemy broke contact and fled to the south. An ambush from CAP 4-2-5, located south of the area of contact about 1200 meters, later sighted what probably was the fleeing unit, and initiated contact with SAF and M-79, at a range of about 150 meters. CAP 4-2-3 swept their area of contact under illumination, finding one NVA KIA and one AK-47. Heavy drag marks were also found, indicating enemy dead or wounded having been dragged away. A sweep by CAP 4-2-5 in their area of contact produced negative results. There were no friendly casualties.
- (5) 2 Jul 1970. At 2145, an ambush from CAP 4-2-3, located about 13 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City, observed three armed enemy troops moving SW. The ambush initiated contact at a range of 175 meters. The enemy fled west without returning fire. A sweep of the area of contact produced negative results. There were no friendly casualties.
- (6) 3 Jul 1970. At 2115, an ambush from CAP 4-2-3 observed an USEF of armed NVA moving toward their ambush position located about 13 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City. The CAP ambush initiated contact at a range of 15 meters with SAF and M-60. The enemy returned SAF, broke contact, and fled to the west. A sweep team from CAP 4-2-3, working under flareship illumination, came under fire from the enemy force. Gunships on station joined the CAP in returning fire. Gunships reported several NVA running toward and into a tree line. Further sweeping revealed several blood trails and one NVA KIA with AK-47, two ChiCom Grenades and one B-40 booster charge. A second sweep at first light failed to reveal anything further. There were no friendly casualties.
- (7) 4 Jul 1970. At 2030, enroute to their ambush site, an ambush team from CAP 4-1-2, located about 3 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City observed six armed VC in a populated area. Hesitant to fire into an area where innocent civilians could be hurt, the CAP fired M-79 illumination, which caused the VC to flee away from the area to a nearby rice paddy dike, behind which they opened fire upon the CAP ambush team at a range of 150 meters. The ambush team returned SAF. The VC broke contact and fled to the southwest where they were taken under fire by a Regional Force unit operating in the area. The results of this contact were negative. There were no friendly casualties.

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- (8) 5 Jul 1970. At 2315, CAP 4-2-1, located about 17 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City, received a report that a non-CAP PF unit reported sighting a Platoon sized enemy force moving toward the CAP AO from the west. CACO 4-2 Mortar position fired illumination. The CAP maneuvered into a blocking position. Results were negative. No contact was made.
- (9) 10 Jul 1970. At 2045, an ambush from CAP 4-1-1 observed three armed NVA moving toward the ambush position located about 6 kilometers SW of Quang Tri City. The ambush initiated contact at a range of about 75 meters, using SAF. The enemy fled to the south without returning fire. A sweep of the area under illumination produced one NVA WIA. A medevac helicopter was called, and the prisoner was taken to 18th Surgical Hospital. One AK-47 with three magazines, one M-26 hand grenade, first aid items, and various documents were taken. There were no friendly casualties.
- (10) 10 Jul 1970. At 2150, a Vietnamese Intelligence Squad, working in CAP 4-2-3 AO, located about 13 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City, made contact with approximately two platoons of NVA. The squad called for support. CACO 4-2 Mortar site provided illumination while CACO Headquarters called for flare and gun ships. CAP 4-2-3 moved into position to support by fire. Gunships firing under flareship illumination, reported the NVA fleeing to the west. A sweep of the area of contact produced one NVA KIA with AK-47, 25 ChiCom grenades, one NVA pack, one helmet, 3 B-40 rounds, various documents and papers, and five AK-47 magazines. A second sweep at first light failed to produce anything further. There were no friendly casualties.

## b. Daytime activities

- (1) 1 Jul 1970. At 0945, CAP 4-1-2, on a day patrol about 3 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City, found one NVA asleep in the open in a rice paddy. When awakened, the NVA surrendered, claiming to be a Chieu Hoi. He was armed with an RPG-2 with six B-40 rounds. His equipment consisted of one NVA entrenching tool, a canteen, a pack, one poncho, one cartridge belt, one small bag of rice, one knife, and various documents. The prisoner and his equipment were turned over to District Headquarters. After interrogation, he was classified a Prisoner of War; not a Chieu Hoi.
- (2) 2 Jul 1970. At 0855, CAP 4-2-3 acting on intelligence from the Hai Lang District Chief, moved east out of their AO, about 14 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City to contact an USEF. Sweeping the area, they saw one lone NVA in the open. Attempting to take him prisoner, they maneuvered in close to him, calling to him to surrender. The NVA answered by throwing several hand grenades. The CAP patrol fired SAF and killed him. One Marine received a minor fragment wound to his right arm from a grenade thrown by the NVA. A search of his equipment revealed many medical items. It was later determined that

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- (16) 11 Jul 1970. CAP 4-2-5, with a geographical center located 14 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City was deactivated at 1400 with appropriate ceremony.
- (17) 11 Jul 1970. CACO 4-2 Headquarters, located at the Hai Lang District Headquarters, was deactivated at 1400.
- (18) 12 Jul 1970. A Vietnamese civilian turned over one B-40 Round to CAP 4-1-4 at 1700 at a location 3 kilometers NE of Dong Ha City. VIP Payment was made, and the round destroyed.
- (19) 13 Jul 1970. CAP 4-1-1, with a geographical center located 6 kilometers WSW of Quang Tri City was deactivated at 0730 with appropriate ceremony.
- (20) 14 Jul 1970. CAP 4-1-2, with a geographical center located 4 kilometers SE of Quang Tri City was deactivated with appropriate ceremony at 1000.
- (21) 15 Jul 1970. CAP 4-1-4, with a geographical center located 4 kilometers N of Dong Ha City was deactivated at 1000 with appropriate ceremony.
- (22) 16 Jul 1970. CAP 4-1-3, with a geographical center located 4 kilometers NW of Dong Ha City was deactivated at 1000 with appropriate ceremony.
- (23) 16 Jul 1970. CAP 4-1-5, with a geographical center located 2½ kilometers west of Dong Ha City was deactivated at 1130 with appropriate ceremony.
- (24) 16 Jul 1970. CACO 4-1 Headquarters, located at the Dong Ha District Headquarters, was deactivated at 1200.
- (25) 22 Jul 1970. 4th CAG Headquarters displaced to Combined Action Force Headquarters with skeleton force.
- (26) 25 Jul 1970. 4th Combined Action Force deactivated.
- c. Multi-CAP Operations - None
- d. Combined Operations - None
2. Neutralization of Enemy Forces
- a. NVA KIA - 9
- b. VC KIA - 0
- c. NVA POW - 2
- d. VC POW - 0
- e. VCI POW - 0
- f. HOI CHANH - 1

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## 3. Battle Casualties Sustained

- a. USMC KIA - 0
- b. USMC WIA(E) - 2
- c. USMC WIA(M) - 1
- d. USMC MIA - 0
- e. USN KIA - 0
- f. USN WIA(E) - 0
- g. USN WIA(M) - 0
- h. USN MIA - 0
- i. CAP PF KIA - 1
- j. CAP PF WIA(E) - 0
- k. CAP PF WIA(M) - 0
- l. CAP PF MIA - 0

## Non-battle Casualties Sustained

- a. USMC - None
- b. USN - None
- c. PF - 1 NECK  
1 NBCW(E)

## 4. New Techniques Employed - None

## 5. Command Relationships

a. CAPs continue to be under the operational control of the various District Chiefs. Administrative control of U. S. personnel and KCS is maintained by the 4th Combined Action Group.

b. 4th Combined Action Group is provided limited logistical support by the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) in areas of Class I and Class V supplies, and in maintenance of motor transport and electronics. A close liaison with the Advisors on District and Province levels enhances the planning and execution of CAP operations.

## 6. Significant Accomplishments of Attachments - None

## 7. Lessons Learned - None

## 8. Logistics

a. Significant events: Continuous efforts were devoted this month to preparing the Camp for the departure of Fourth Combined Action Group. This involved extensive police of the area and buildings as well as securing the structures as they fell into disuse.

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b. Supply: All assets of Fourth Combined Action Group were screened and either invoiced to Second Combined Action Group, MC114 or MC100. This involved some 1600 line items. Fiscal records show a total obligation of \$213,208.35 with \$87,291.65 remaining in the available balance.

c. Maintenance: All equipment in maintenance channels was pulled and invoiced to MC114. Equipment that had been evacuated was invoiced citing the TERO number. All other equipment invoiced to MC114 had to have a TERO requesting a Limited Technical Inspection.

d. Motor Transport: All rolling stock was thoroughly cleaned and prepared for turn-in. This involved three crews working around the clock in order to prepare the equipment so it would pass the agricultural inspection. Motor Transport also hauled 95% of Fourth CAGs gear 120 miles to DaNang for turn-in. Motor Transport logged 24,303 miles during this month.

e. Miscellaneous: All records were closed out and final reports submitted.

9. Civic Action. During the period 1-25 July, 4th Combined Action Group was limited to completion of current civic action projects and daily MEDCAP activities to coincide with the deactivation of the command. During the period, 8,152 Vietnamese were treated by CAP Corpsmen; 13 Vietnamese were evacuated to 18th Surgical Hospital and Quang Tri Provincial Hospital for more intensive care; 7 adults and one child was treated for injuries from hostile action. CAP Corpsmen held 32 personal hygiene/sanitation classes attended by 230 Vietnamese civilians. Four English language classes were held with a total attendance of 64 Vietnamese.

Specific civic action projects completed during the month of July were:

<u>CAP</u>	<u>UTM COORD</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
4-1-2	YD 358513	MEDCAP dispensary was completed and turned over to Vietnamese Health Workers upon deactivation of CAP.

#### 10. Personnel Administration

a. Personnel Transactions. During the month of July the following personnel transactions were completed:

(1) <u>Joined</u>	USMC <u>Off Enl</u> 0 0
(2) <u>Rotated CONUS</u>	USMC <u>Off Enl</u> 1 15
(3) <u>Reassignment within WestPac</u>	USMC <u>Off Enl</u> 6 265

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(4) Transferred by Service Records While Sick (Out of country Hospital)

USMC  
Off Enl  
 0 1

(5) Extension of WestPac Tour Effected

USMC  
Off Enl  
 0 0

b. Promotions: During the month of July the following promotions were effected:

To PFC	2	To SSgt	<u>0</u>
To LCpl	<u>18</u>	To GySgt	<u>0</u>
To Cpl	<u>0</u>	To 1stSgt/MSgt	<u>0</u>
To Sgt	<u>1</u>	To SgtMaj/MGySgt	<u>0</u>

c. Legal Matters

(1) Courts held: GCM 0  
 SpCM 0  
 SCM 0

(2) Article 32 Investigations Completed: None

(3) NJP: 9

(4) JAG Type Investigations Completed: None

d. Award Recommendations

SSM - 1  
 BSM - 2  
 NCM - 5  
 NAM - 3  
 PH - 2

e. CONGRINTS/SPLINTS/WELREPS

CONGRINTS - 1  
 SPLINTS - 0  
 WELREPS - 3

f. Morale and Welfare

(1) R&R. The command has utilized the following number of quotas to the R&R areas listed.

(a) Hong Kong (0)	Japan (0)
Taipei (0)	Bangkok (1)
Hawaii (1)	Sydney (0)



Okinawa (0)

Manila (0)

(b) In Country (0)(2) Mail. Daily average bags of mail processed:

<u>Incoming</u>	<u>Outgoing</u>
1	1

(3) Hospital Visitations. Personnel of this Command listed as patients in the 18th Surgical Hospital are visited very frequently by officers and staff NCOs from the CAG. Upon evacuation to hospitals in the Danang area, visits are made to coincide with official visits and trips to the Danang area.

g. Career Planning

Re-enlistments: 2

Extensions: 0

11. Intelligence

Enemy activity showed a carryover from June's increase. The K-8 Sapper Battalion, operating on obviously faulty intelligence, moved into Hai Lang into a position near the Song Vinh Dinh River about 8 kilometers East of Quang Tri City. This battalion was virtually annihilated in contact with Vietnamese Territorial Forces which inflicted more than 150 confirmed kills. The movement of the Battalion into Hai Lang District, and the subsequent disorganized and scattered parties of survivors attempting to leave the district were ~~targets for~~ <sup>RESERVED</sup> the nine enemy killed by CAPs in July.

Enemy attempts to gather food, and to spread propaganda accounted for most of the activity effecting CAP operations.

Cooperation of the villagers in reporting enemy presence continues to be good. Reports by villagers of ordnance discovered dropped slightly, but not appreciably in July.

12. Communications

There were no significant problems with communications in July.

Due to CAP deactivation, various stations on the nets closed down as units deactivated. The NCS for the Group ceased operation on 16 July after all CAPs and CACOs had deactivated. A radio watch was maintained and monitored the Quang Tri Base Defense Net.

Wire communications within the 4th CAG compound was reduced to a bare minimum, in order to facilitate the turn-in of communications equipment. The switchboard, and all remaining telephonic facilities were secured on 22 July 1970. The remainder of the Group Headquarters displaced to Danang to ~~Combined Action Force~~ Headquarters.

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13. Fire Support

Fire support is available from several sources, both U. S. Army and ARVN. Response to request for fire, particularly illumination, has proven to be satisfactory. CACO 4-2 continued to provide their own illumination by the use of the 81mm Mortar emplaced during June.

14. Air Support

Helicopters were used for medevacs, illumination, and for fire support during July. Response and results were excellent.

Medevacs were provided by the 237th Medical Detachment with a most satisfactory speed of response.

A helicopter attached to Province Advisory Team 19 continued to be available on occasions for resupply of operating CAPs beyond reach of vehicle or during inclement weather. It was unnecessary, however, during July to call upon this assistance.

15. Activations, Deactivations, Resignations, Relocations of CAPs

The schedule used for deactivation of CAPs and CACOs was as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE DEACTIVATED</u>
CAP 4-2-1	6 July 1970
CAP 4-3-3	7 July 1970
CAP 4-3-5	7 July 1970
CAP 4-3-1	8 July 1970
CAP 4-3-6	9 July 1970
CAP 4-3-4	9 July 1970
CAP 4-3-2	10 July 1970
CAP 4-3-7	10 July 1970
CACO 4-3 Hq	11 July 1970
CAP 4-2-6	11 July 1970
CAP 4-2-5	11 July 1970
CAP 4-2-3	11 July 1970
CACO 4-2 Hq	11 July 1970
CAP 4-1-1	13 July 1970
CAP 4-1-2	14 July 1970
CAP 4-1-4	15 July 1970
CAP 4-1-3	16 July 1970
CAP 4-1-5	16 July 1970
CACO 4-1 Hq	16 July 1970
4th CAG Hq	25 July 1970

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16. Schools

As a result of the deactivation of this Group, no students were assigned to the various schools. Three Marines from this Group, however, graduated from the 1st Marine Division NCO Leadership School which they started in June.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE

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