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HEADQUARTERS

4th Marines (-) (Rein), 3d Marine Division, (Rein), FMF
c/o FPO San Francisco, 96601

3d MAR DIV (FWD)
SYC # 1604-65

3: PWF:mm
6 September 1965

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (FWD), FMF
Subj: Command Diary for period 1-31 August 1965
Ref: (a) MCO 3480.1 w/ch 1
(b) 3d Mar DivO 3100.1

Encl: (1) Five copies of Command Diary for Headquarters, 4th Marines (copy 5/NF-1)
(2) Five copies of Command Diary of 1st Bn, 4th Marines copy 5/NF-1
(3) Five copies of Command Diary of 2d Bn, 4th Marines copy 5/NF-1
(4) Five copies of Command Diary of 3d Bn, 3d Marines copy only

1. In accordance with instructions set forth in reference (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted as the Command Diary for 4th Marines (-) (Rein). The Command Diary covers the period 1-31 August 1965.

W. E. Melby
W. E. MELBY
By direction

4th Marines
encl 5

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4TH MARINES (REIN)
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4th Marines (-) (Rein), 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
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Command Diary

Part I: Organization Data Sheet

Part II: Narrative Summary

Part III: Supporting Documents

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PART I

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1. Reporting Unit. 4th Marines (-) (Rein).
2. Period Covered. 1 August - 31 August 1965.
3. Date of Submission. 6 August 1965.
4. Commanding Officer. James F. McCLANAHAN.
5. Command Post. Chu Lai, Vietnam, (BT 531089).
6. Maps: Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L701 Sheets 6757 I, 6757 II, 6757 III, 6756 II, 6756 III, 6756 IV.
7. Subordinate Units.

Hq Co, 4th Marines (-) (Rein)
 1st Bn, 4th Marines (Rein)
 2d Bn, 4th Marines (Rein)
 3d Bn, 3d Marines (Rein)
 Co B (Rein), 3d Recon Bn
 Co B (-), 3d Engineer Bn
 Co A (Rein), 1st AmTrac Bn
 Co B, 3d AT Bn
 Co C (-) (Rein), 3d Tank Bn

1st Lt C. L. H. BAER
 LtCol R. J. PERRICH
 LtCol J. R. FISHER
 LtCol J. E. MUIR
 Capt J. L. COMPTON
 Capt R. D. COMER
 Maj P. M. HELSHER
 1st Lt E. P. ROSKI
 Capt J. P. SANDERS

3d Battalion (-) (Rein), 12th Marines were redesignated Artillery Battalion Group by 3d Marine Division Operation Order 327065, and commenced reporting to the Commanding Officer, 12th Marines effective 30 August 1965.

DET, 1st Force Reconnaissance Company was detached from direct support 4th Marines effective 29 August 1965.

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PART II

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1. MISSION ASSIGNED. As of 1 August 1965, the 4th Marines (-) (Rein) mission as assigned by the Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF was to defend the Chu Lai Airfield against enemy attack within the assigned TAOR. In addition, other missions assigned were: conduct unilateral search and destroy operations in up to Battalion strength, maintain one company in a one hour reaction posture for employment anywhere in Division's areas of responsibility, conduct aggressive combat/reconnaissance patrolling throughout the assigned TAOR, be prepared to conduct counterattacks to restore the integrity of Chu Lai Airfield and be prepared to conduct combined operations with RVNAF beyond the boundaries of the assigned TAOR. On 2 August 1965, the 4th Marines were assigned the mission to search and clear an assigned area in Quang Ngai Province in a joint operation with the 51st Regiment, 2d Division, ARVN. Operation Thunderbolt was the code name assigned to the operation conducted 6 - 7 August. On 15 August the Commanding General issued Operation Order 327-65 assigning the 4th Marines the continuing mission of defending the Chu Lai Airfield, be prepared to conduct, on order, unilateral or combined operations with RVNAF outside the boundary of the TAOR, provide one company, on order, for employment anywhere in the Division's areas of responsibility and maintain local defense of Chu Lai Airfield with a provisional Air Base Defense Battalion composed of two companies. On 16 August the Commanding General assigned the 2d Battalion 4th Marines and 3d Battalion, 3d Marines to operational control of the 7th Marines to conduct a search and clear operation, code name Operation Starlite, in the area enclosed by (BS 719919, BS 700920, BS 697926, BS 700940, BS 713962, BS 732952.) Commencing as a routine operation, it escalated into the largest offensive action of the Vietnamese War to date. On 24 August 1965, the Commanding General issued an oral order to CO, 4th Marines to prepare to conduct a joint operation with the Vietnamese Armed Forces in the vicinity of An Ky and Nui Batangan to the North (BS 7682). After submitting a concept of operations it was determined by the Commanding General that only 1st Battalion, 4th Marines would participate with 7th Marine units. By 27 August 1965 the 4th Marines commenced to execute Division Order 327-65 and effected a relief of the lines relinquishing the responsibility of 3d Bn, 3d Marines TAOR to the 7th Marines. As of the last day of August the final decision regarding boundaries between the two Regiments had not been received by this Headquarters.

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2. OPERATIONS. The 4th Marines continued to provide security for the critical installations in the Chu Lai tactical area of responsibility and sought to contact and destroy the guerrilla forces. Offensive operations employing units from fire team to battalion level were conducted throughout the month. Counter guerrilla operations including encirclement, hammer and anvil, sweeps, search and destroy missions and ambushes were conducted in and outside the TAOR. The Reconnaissance Company was employed to conduct ground reconnaissance and observation in support of the Regiment's operations. Use of supporting arms and particularly the combat power of the FMAW obliterated Viet Cong field fortifications, training bases and supply installations. Ordnance employed included 20mm cannon, rockets, napalm and 2000 pound bombs. Target lists were prepared utilizing intelligence reports and bombing was conducted utilizing TPQ-10. Naval gunfire continued to support Marine operations by employing preparatory fires, night illumination and flushing fires. The largest artillery group moved since Korea continued to be the most effective supporting arm for use by infantry unit commanders. Helicopter landing zones were prepped by artillery fires prior to landing. Harassing and interdiction fires are conducted nightly on suspected Viet Cong targets. Artillery units were moved forward and Howitzer batteries have been lifted by helicopter to support units operating outside the TAOR. Helicopterborne forces played a significant role in daily operations. Aerial observers have been employed more frequently than before to verify intelligence reports of enemy movement and to locate enemy installations. One of the highlights of operations was a search and destroy mission involving 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and the 51st Regiment, ARVN. Later on in the month on 18 August, the largest offensive operation of the Vietnamese War to date was conducted by 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and 2d Battalion, 4th Marines. The operation was controlled by Headquarters, 7th Marines and given the code name, Operation Starlite. A combined amphibious and helicopterborne landing force caught by surprise a Viet Cong Regiment and completely destroyed the enemy. The Viet Cong made a feeble attempt at opposing the amphibious landing but were quickly destroyed by superior Marine forces. On 19 August a DASC was established at the 4th Marines OP for control and direction of close air support and other direct air support operations. Civic Action Programs have been established by all infantry battalions for the support of the local populace. Medical aid has been rendered on a daily basis to the local Vietnamese. In addition, food and clothing is distributed to the needy as it is received. Amphibious tractors have been employed daily by the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines to conduct waterborne patrols in their TAOR. LVT detachments were in direct support of each infantry battalion and were used for daily logistical requirements. Company C, 3d Tank Battalion continued to provide harassing and interdiction fires for the infantry battalions.

3. RESULTS ACCOMPLISHED. The 4th Marines have successfully accomplished each mission assigned. The primary mission of defending the Chu Lai Airfield complex has been accomplished by aggressive combat patrolling from the MLR to beyond the TAOR. Confronted with a good defense all attempts by the Viet Cong to raid and sabotage have been thwarted. The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines participated in the largest offensive action of the Vietnamese War which took the greatest toll of VC casualties to date. The VC suffered 511 killed and twenty-eight captured during the month. 504

Vietnamese civilians were screened by the Regimental Collection Point and ninety were forwarded to Division Headquarters. Marine casualties for the month of August were forty-one KIA, five DOW, two hundred and thirty-nine WIA. Non-battle casualties reached a new low, two deaths and only one seriously wounded. Deft Marine patrols have reduced the threat of Viet Cong booby traps by locating and destroying an increasing number. An effective Civil Affairs Program continues to assist the Vietnamese and aids in a better understanding between the two nationalities. Project Handclasp has been initiated to provide the local Vietnamese with food, clothing and toys for the children. The new Life Hamlet of Chu Lai is still sponsored by the 4th Marines. Effective employment of the Reconnaissance Company has resulted in locating a Viet Cong avenue of communications outside the TAOR. Daily probes of the MLR have been decreased. An increase of harassing and interdiction fires have contained any appreciable Viet Cong build up outside the TAOR.

4. TERRAIN AND WEATHER.

(A) WEATHER. Precipitation and temperature, during the month of August was within the range expected, based on past climatological data. Total precipitation for the month was 5.36 in. falling on five different days with the 26th of Aug having the heaviest rain fall of 4.18 in. The maximum temperature recorded was 97° on the 1st, 5th, and 12th. The minimum temperature of 70° was recorded on the 27th. Mean maximum temperature for the month was 93.5° with the mean minimum being 76.0°. Cloud ceilings and visibility were within limits for all operations. The continued high temperature has caused some heat casualties but presents no undue limitations on normal operations.

(B) TERRAIN. Road improvements continue to be made within the Regimental zone of responsibility making most areas accessible by vehicle. It still remains necessary to travel either by foot or helicopters to reach the top of the hill mass to the West. An improved road runs from Route # 1 to the seaward end of the peninsula (BS BT 5212) which results in greater mobility within the central sector of the Regimental zone of responsibility. Hills 410 (BS 481999), 213 (BT 522003), and 385 (BT 496003) are the dominating terrain features in the control sector of the zone while hill 69 (BT 468068) is the dominating terrain feature in North-West portion of the zone.

5. MOVEMENTS MADE. With the arrival of the 7th Marines, 3d Battalion 3d Marines were relieved on the MLR by 1st Battalion, 7th Marines on 27 August 1965. The 3d Battalion was directed to deploy two companies around the Chu Lai Airfield for close in defense and the other two companies were placed in a tactical bivouac. 3d Battalion, 3d Marines will not move into an assigned TAOR until completion of a forth coming operation.
6. TRAINING. The training highlight of the month was a 60mm Mortar FIREX conducted by all battalions, classroom instruction preceded the FIREX. Command attention centered on safety precautions for T/O weapons and handling of hand grenades. OJT in all military subjects was accomplished during the month. Live firing exercises were conducted by most units utilizing 1st Battalion, 4th Marines range. Practical application in scouting and patrolling, helicopter operations, night movement and counter guerrilla operations persist.

7. Morale and Discipline.

A. Morale

- (1) Morale during the period has been good.
- (2) Some of the affirmative personnel services instituted or continued during the month are:
- (a) A mobile PX which visits every major company and out post position weekly.
 - (b) Exchange supplies including most necessities and many luxuries arrive once weekly.
 - (c) Daily mail service, incoming and outgoing with good consistency during most of the month.
 - (d) Movies held almost nightly in the CP area.
 - (e) Quantities of ice available is increasing thus leading to more cold beer and soft drinks.
 - (f) Large quota for M&R consisting of 16 quotas per day under the USMC program augmented by MACV quotas.
 - (g) Increase of "A" rations being served in mess halls.
 - (h) Showers and swimming available on a daily basis.
 - (i) Promotions to Cpl and LCpl.
- (3) Events or conditions which have had an adverse effect upon morale:
- (a) Shortage of tents for billeting personnel.
 - (b) A period of about four days of inconsistent mail service during latter part of the month.

B. Legal.

- (1) During August the Regimental Commander convened three Summary Courts-Martial and two Special Courts-Martial. The greatest single disciplinary problem within the regiment has been sleeping on post.
- (2) Two investigations have been ordered. An accidental discharge of a weapon, resulting in an injury and an altercation resulting in an injury.

8. CIVIL AFFAIRS

During the month of August the civic action program for the Fourth Marines continued toward its goal of winning the solid support of the local people for the government of the Republic of Viet Nam and USMC units in their local, while at the same time improving the conditions under which they live. This was accomplished by programs designed to improve their water supply, health, education, sanitation and the economic base within the Chu Lai area.

In implementation of this program, MEDCAP teams visited sixteen hamlets within the TAOR and administered medical aid to over 5300 persons. The predominant maladies found being T.B., sores, infections, malnutrition and eye diseases. In the interest of opening the way to self-aid in the field, hospital corpsmen from Company B, 3d Medical Battalion conducted a second medical training school at which twenty-four Vietnamese were taught rudimentary first-aid, sanitation and personnel hygiene. The class was comprised of persons selected by the village chiefs on the basis of their interest and future service to their native hamlets.

To assist the persons dispossessed by the purchase of the land on which the airstrip is located but not yet indemnified, goods including 1200 pounds of B. . . , several boxes of clothing and bottles of Nutri-Bio have been distributed through the Ky Ha village Chief. The assistance thus given was warmly received by the villagers and has resulted in frequent requests for more such items.

Coordination of projects in the Village of Chu Lai and distribution to the 2d Bn, 4th Marines of Project Handclasp supplies have assisted in development of the new village. During the period the construction of drainage ditches, a market place and roads has progressed well and inauguration of the village is scheduled for 7 September 1965.

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 Aug. The Infantry Battalions continue aggressive combat and reconnaissance patrolling and established ambushes throughout the TAOR. During the hours of darkness, H&I fires dissuaded the Viet Cong from penetrating the TAOR. Occasional sniper fire was reported. An observation post in the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines area reported an enemy grenade thrown at their position which resulted in three wounded Marines. All three remained on position since wounds sustained were slight.

2 Aug. Planning conferences for a joint operation with ARVN forces, code name Operation Thunderbolt, were conducted. Extensive combat patrolling continued without enemy contact. Company B, platoon sized patrol reported an enemy explosive charge detonated in the vicinity of (BT 425085). No casualties were sustained. A one day school on the PU-482 Generator was conducted at the Regimental CP for all units. Company K relieved Company M as Regimental Reserve.

3 Aug. Small enemy probes were reported throughout the day. One Marine died of wounds sustained by an enemy grenade thrown into his position on the MLR in Company B's area. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines fired two artillery missions on targets of opportunity. Rounds reported on target but surveillance not available. Company D reported that a Marine aircraft accidentally discharged a bomb that failed to explode upon impact. BOV personnel dispatched to Company D's position and disarmed bomb. Regiment distributed Operation Plan 304-65, Operation Thunderbolt.

4 Aug. Aggressive counter-guerrilla activity continues. An LVT waterborne patrol from 1st Battalion, 4th Marines apprehended thirty-two Vietnamese for violation of curfew. All the Vietnamese were turned into Regimental Collection Point for screening by a detachment from the 3d Counter-Intelligence Team. H&I fires by artillery and tanks continued throughout the night. A beach survey was made by Navy UDT personnel and 1st Force Reconnaissance personnel who were aboard the APD-123. Survey was made in the vicinity of (BS 5112).

5 Aug. Routine combat patrolling and ambushes were executed in the TAOR; however, no contact was made with the Viet Cong. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines waterborne patrol again apprehended a group of Vietnamese curfew violators in seven Vietnamese "Junks". 3d Battalion, 3d Marines preparing for Operation Thunderbolt. Co B, 3d Reconnaissance landed by helicopter at 050800H in the vicinity of (BT 421047) to commence a four day patrol outside the TAOR. The patrol sustained one WIA as a result of a booby trapped grenade. A small VC unit suffered two KIA when they encountered the patrol. Brigadier General F. J. KARCH, ADC, 3d Marine Division (FWD) displaced his CP from Da Nang to Chu Lai and located within the perimeter of the 4th Marines CP.

6 Aug. Operation Thunderbolt, a joint operation involving 3d Battalion, 51st Regiment, ARVN, 3d Marine Battalion, RVN, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and a Command Group, 4th Marines, commenced this date. The units operated in the locale south of the Song Tra Bong River in the area bounded by BS 5991, 5984, 5088, 5084. Planned use of all supporting arms was executed. Two Marines WIA were sustained. VC casualties were few. Heat casualties sustained by 3d Battalion, 3d Marines mounted to forty-one. Co B, 3d Recon continued their deep reconnaissance patrolling and sustained two WIA. During the morning Admiral JOHNSON, CINCPACFLEET, accompanied by M Gen WALT, CG, 3d Marine Division, and B Gen Mc CUTCHEN visited the 4th Marines CP and received a briefing. The 155mm gun battery (SP) landed in Vietnam today for employment with 3d Battalion, 12th Marines in general support of the 4th Marines. Co K 3d Battalion, 4th Marines arrived to perform the mission of Regimental Reserve while 3d Battalion, 3d Marines executes Operation Thunderbolt.

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7 Aug. Operation Thunderbolt continued into the second day of a search and destroy mission. ARVN units engaged a small VC element which was the only contact during the day. The operation was successfully completed by 1400H. 1st Battalion commenced an extended patrol into the western part of the TAOR. Company B, 3d Recon continued patrolling their Reconnaissance Area of Responsibility outside the TAOR. The Commandant of the Thai Marine Corps arrived for a briefing at the 4th Marines CP. Co K, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines departed Chu Lai airfield for return trip to Hue Phu Bai after completing their assigned mission as Regimental Reserve during Operation Thunderbolt.

8 Aug. Sniper fire was reduced to a single round in the Regimental TAOR. Patrolling and ambushing continues on a daily basis. The Viet Cong evaded contact. A debriefing of Operation Thunderbolt took place. At 1412H four Vietnamese children were wounded as a result of a dud they discovered in front of the MLR in 1st Battalion, 4th Marines sector. The children were evacuated to Co B, 3d Medical Battalion for treatment. Condition of all children was reported as good. Co B, 3d Recon were retracted by helicopter. One reconnaissance team was left behind to conduct further surveillance.

9 Aug. 3d platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines was moving to secure a LZ in the vicinity of (BT 452050) when a bounding type explosive charge detonated and eleven Marines sustained wounds. Company B (-), 1st Battalion, 4th Marines operating in conjunction with Co C (-) observed thirteen VC in the vicinity of (BT 421037) and called for an artillery fire mission. The fire mission was on target and the VC suffered three killed. A short time later Co B (-) encountered enemy mortar and rocket fire. One Marine wounded and the VC suffered one killed. Co C (-) again encountered a VC booby trap of pressure-release type and sustained two wounded. Shortly after, the VC were observed and taken under fire. One VC killed and two weapons captured. Company B, 3d Medical Battalion completed their move to a new location within the Force Logistical Support area. One team from 1st Force Recon was retracted by helicopter at 1810H.

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10 Aug. A relatively quiet day passed without incident in 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and 2d Battalion, 4th Marines sectors. OP #1 in 1st Battalion, 4th Marines sector encountered a small enemy probe. The highlight of the day occurred when General Westmoreland and a group of civilian dignitaries from Asian countries visited Chu Lai. A static display of a infantry rifle company and artillery weapons was provided. Major General Walt and Brigadier General Mc Cutcheon accompanied the visiting party. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines continues to employ tanks firing H&I missions during the night.

11 Aug. 1st and 2d Battalions, 4th Marines continued routine aggressive day/night combat patrolling. Co I, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines operating on the Trung Phan Peninsula engaged the enemy in several fire fights. The Company sustained three wounded as a result of small arms fire. Artillery fire silenced enemy fire, but confirmation of Viet Cong dead could not be made. At 1615H the Company CP received five rounds of 60mm mortar, no casualties were sustained. Artillery fired on suspected Viet Cong mortar position silenced the incoming mortar rounds. Viet Cong small arms fire was again received at 1845H; however, poor marksmanship prevailed and no casualties sustained. During the hours of darkness, Company D water-borne patrol, landed by LVT's reported one Marine missing, presumably drowned. Accident occurred in vicinity of (BT 476087). Search and rescue missions were conducted without retrieving body.

12 Aug. Advance party of Headquarters, 7th Marines and 1st Battalion, 7th Marines arrived at Chu Lai. Major General Walt visited 4th Marines CP in the afternoon. A search continued for the missing Marine from Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. A combat patrol conducted by a platoon from Company B located two Viet Cong hiding in a cave in the vicinity of (BT 446105) and captured both. No other enemy contact was achieved during the day.

13 Aug. Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion and Detachment, 1st Force Reconnaissance commenced Operation Camel with a helicopter-borne movement to the objective area. Seven reconnaissance teams were left in the Reconnaissance Area of Responsibility as the rest of the main body were retracted at 1600H. The body of the missing Marine from Company D was discovered by a member of the Vietnamese Popular Forces and turned over to the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. An airstrike was executed shortly after midnight in the vicinity of (BS 4598). Target information indicated it to be a Viet Cong training base. Damage assessment was not available.

14 Aug. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines commenced Operation Baron involving Companies A, B and C. Company A moved into a blocking position and Company B landed in area of operation by helicopter. Company C moved by armor convoy to dismount point, joined with Company B and commenced patrol to search and destroy. Company B discovered a booby trap consisting of a French grenade. 3d Battalion, 3d Marines landed Company M by helicopter on the Trung Phan Peninsula to search for and destroy Viet Cong forces. Company M encountered enemy sniper fire throughout the day and with effective close in artillery support killed two Viet Cong. Company M did not sustain any casualties and in addition captured the first Chinese manufactured rocket launcher in the Division. Launcher was believed to be a Chinese model of the Russian Anti-tank rocket launcher, RPG2.

15 Aug. The Regimental Commander toured the defensive positions of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines during the morning hours. Two company sized combat patrols were conducted to search for and destroy Viet Cong and guerrilla units in the Regimental TAOR. Enemy contact was not made during the patrols. Two incidents of sniper fire were reported. 2d Platoon, Company C, 3d Tank Battalion conducted H&I fires in direct support of 2d Battalion, 4th Marines. Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion continues on their mission in the

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Reconnaissance Area of Responsibility. One reconnaissance team was compromised and requested retraction. During the retraction, one of the helicopters received small arms fire without sustaining casualties. Retaliation with an airstrike silenced enemy fire.

16 Aug. Enemy sniper fire resulted in one wounded sustained by the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. Brigadier General Karch, ADC, 3d Marine Division visited with the men of 1st Battalion, 4th Marines and 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. 3d Platoon, Company C, 3d Tank Battalion fired H&I missions during the night in direct support of 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. Major General Walt visited the 4th Marines area and gave the order to CO, 7th Marines to execute a search and destroy mission with attachment of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines and 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. The operation had been given the code name Operation Starlite.

17 Aug. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines and 3d Battalion, 3d Marines completed planning for Operation Starlite. Company M departed for Trung Phan Peninsula to establish a blocking position for Operation Starlite. During the morning, approximately 100 Vietnamese rioted in protest of a bulldozer being used by the Seabees to assist in constructing Junk Fleet 15 Headquarters located in 1st Battalion, 4th Marines sector. The riot was quelled, no Marines involved. A F-10 airstrike outside the TAOR was executed in response to intelligence reports concerning Viet Cong bunkers, trenches and fortifications. Effective 1600H Co L, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, Company H, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines and Company C, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion attached to 4th Marines to defend MLR in 2d Battalion, 4th Marines area. Co B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion designated Regimental Reserve effective 18 August 1965. Co C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines attached to 1st Battalion, 4th Marines operational control effective 18 August 1965.

18 Aug. 4th Marines issued Frag Order 11-65 which set forth the defense plan while two infantry battalions, 2d Bn, 4th Marines and 3d Bn, 3d Marines were conducting a search and destroy mission, Operation Starlite. The Frag Order contained instructions for an increased defense posture during the period 18-25 August 1965, which was considered critical by the Commanding Officer. 1st Battalion, 7th Marines came under operational control 4th Marines and replaced 3d Battalion, 3d Marines on the MLR. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines and 1st Battalion, 7th Marines had nothing unusual to report. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines departed by helicopter at 0630H for Operation Starlite controlled by Headquarters, 7th Marines. 3d Battalion, 12th Marines displaced three 155 howitzers (SP) forward to support Operation Starlite. Mortar Battery heli-lifted at 0921H for Operation Starlite. Lieutenant General Krulak accompanied by Major General Walt arrived 4th Marines CP. MGen Walt gave the order to land 3d Battalion, 7th Marines in support of Operation Starlite. At the end of the 1st day the Marines sustained sixteen KIA and 113 WIA during Operation Starlite. Casualties for the Viet Cong mounted to over 100 killed but exact count not recorded due to the intensity of the battle. Commanding General, 1st Marine Air Wing, Brigadier General Mc Cutcheon arrived 4th Marines CP at 1500H for a briefing.

19 Aug. Units within the TAOR continued their increased defense posture in view of the Viet Cong threats concerning an attack on the Chu Lai Airfield during the anniversary of the overthrow of Japanese and French domination. 12th Marines expended 325 rounds in support of Operation Starlite. Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines dispatched a patrol to An Tay (1) to investigate reports of 80-100 helmeted troops located in village, search failed to discover any enemy. Units on the MLR maintained increased security and no enemy contacts were reported. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines and 3d

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Battalion, 3d Marines continue Operation Starlite under operational control of CO, 7th Marines. Company C, 3d Tanks lost one gun tank to enemy action during Operation Starlite. For the second day in a row Lieutenant General Krulak, Major General Walt and Brigadier General Mc Cutcheon visited 4th Marines CP.

20 Aug. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines and 3d Battalion, 3d Marines returned from Operation Starlite. 1st Battalion, 7th Marines reverted to operational control of their parent unit. All units conducted aggressive combat patrols and ambushes without making contact. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines continued to maintain excellent relations with local Vietnamese. The people of Ky Lien village will help the Battalion build its chapel. 12th Marines continue to support Operation Starlite, expended 112 rounds and in addition fired 200 rounds H&I fires for 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. Admiral Hooper CTF 76.5 visited at 4th Marines CP. Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion was designated Regimental Reserve.

21 Aug. Co C, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines was designated as Regimental Reserve. Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion deployed in 1st Battalion's area to bolster defensive positions. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines reported the accidental wounding of a Vietnamese female who had violated the curfew. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines did not man the MLR but were in reserve after returning from Operation Starlite. Units from the 3d Marines and 4th Marines manned the MLR. Report received from Marine Liaison Officer at Binh Son indicated two Viet Cong Companies inside southern portion of TAOR. Immediate action taken, flare plane and artillery illumination used, all units notified. Enemy was not observed and alert ceased by early morning hours. Aggressive combat patrolling continued, no enemy observed.

22 Aug. Company A, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, Company H, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines and Company L, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines were relieved and departed for their parent units. A TPQ-10 airstrike on suspected Viet Cong supply point vicinity (BT #21039) was conducted at 1100H with aircraft from FMAW. Company A, 1st AmTrac Battalion, Company C, 3d Tank Battalion and Company B, 3d Anti-Tank Battalion continued to support 7th Marines on Operation Starlite. Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion completed their assigned defensive mission at 1300H. Company L sustained one wounded as a result of enemy action in the vicinity (BT #64017).

23 Aug. Aggressive patrolling and ambushes conducted in TAOR without making enemy contact. Company I, 3d Battalion assigned mission as Regimental Reserve. A critical shortage of spare parts has resulted in Co A, 1st AmTrac Battalion's ability to provide only eleven LVT's for combat support of the Regiment. Civil Affairs program has initiated policy of providing local Vietnamese with captured Viet Cong clothing. Medical training school conducted in village of An Tan graduated class of 24 this day. Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion commenced Operation Old Gold to gather intelligence of Viet Cong movement outside the western border of the TAOR.

24 Aug. Continuous combat patrolling and ambushes has thwarted all Viet Cong attempts to penetrate the MLR. Artillery fired on Viet Cong platoon at 0812H and reported killing four VC. Harassing and interdiction fires continue to plague VC units outside the Regimental TAOR. Activity within the 4th Marines TAOR remained calm throughout the day.

25 Aug. The Regimental TAOR remained quiet but not complacent. Company C platoon size patrol received moderate sniper fire while on patrol in western part of 1st Battalion's sector. The patrol aggressively returned fire, attacked the suspected location and apprehended four VCS. Helicopters were requested to evacuate the VCS and as they were loading, came under small arms fire. The patrol was also taken under sniper fire and reacted

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by calling in artillery and an airstrike. The patrol advanced after the fire mission without receiving fire. No casualties were sustained nor were any VC bodies discovered. Division Operation Order 327-65, realignment of the TAOR and assignment of a TAOR to 7th Marines, was ordered to be executed. Co C, 3d Tank Battalion returned from Operation Starlite. One tank had been destroyed while engaged with Viet Cong and other tanks in the company sustained damages in need of repair. Operation Old Gold continued with success. Numerous VC sightings were reported. An airstrike was called upon a VC gathering of about 150 personnel. Due to the time of day and the distance from the target confirmation by body count could not be made; however, air was on target. Admiral Brown and Admiral Wellhan, Bureau of Medicine received a briefing by the 4th Marines Staff and were escorted on a tour of Medical facilities. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines conducted a 60mm mortar FIREX preparing for future tactical employment of the mortar when sufficient ammunition is available. Civil affairs officers in the Regiment were busy throughout the day with assigned tasks. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines discussed Civil Affairs matters with District Chief and liaison personnel from I Corps. A Medical Training School class graduated twenty-four students this date. Diplomas were presented by the Regimental Executive Officer. Project Handclasp supplies were received and distributed to all units.

26 Aug. Enemy probes increased throughout the day; however, no penetrations of the MLR were made. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines employed one flame tank for night mission to burn brush and act as a psychological deterrent against the VC. Operation Old Gold, Co B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion continued with more VC sightings reported. Infantry Battalions continued Civil affairs matters by distributing supplies for Project Handclasp. 3d Battalion, 3d Marines relocated its CP in preparation for the final withdrawal from the 7th Marines TAOR. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines conducted a FIREX with 60mm mortars.

27 Aug. 3d Battalion, 3d Marines were relieved on the MLR by 7th Marines and moved to a tactical bivouac behind the MLR. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines reported friendly artillery fragments that detonated in air due to heavy rains. No injuries were sustained. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines continues waterborne patrol to prevent infiltration by sea and inland water ways. Small enemy probes occurred during the hours of darkness without injury to front line Marines. Co B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion was retracted from their observation post upon completion of a successful operation, over three hundred VC were sighted in their area of reconnaissance.

28 Aug. Enemy contact was reduced to one incident during the day. Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines platoon patrol was fired upon by snipers in the vicinity of (BT 440055). A squad aggressively assaulted in the direction from which the fire came, but the enemy withdrew without a trace. At 1615H, the Marine liaison officer at Binh Son reported that an informant indicated 2000 Viet Cong had moved to (BT 4400). The area was immediately saturated by artillery fire and TPQ-10 air strikes were planned for a twelve hour period. Company H departed from 2d Battalion, 4th Marines with a platoon from Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion. Company B remained in the area the following day. Company H had nothing to report. The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines completed their relief of the lines and relinquished responsibility to 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. 3d Battalion moved into tactical bivouac awaiting assignment of a mission. The Civil Affairs Officer from 1st Battalion, 4th Marines completed a study of the educational systems in Ky Ha village. National Broadcasting Company

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newsmen were escorted throughout the Chu Lai area by the Civil Affairs Officer, 2d Battalion.

29 Aug. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines conducted aggressive squad and platoon combat patrols without locating the enemy. 3d Platoon, Company C conducted a patrol on Ky Xuan Island accompanied by a local informant and interpreter in anticipation of locating Viet Cong caves and arms caches. Company H, 2d Battalion continued its patrol for the second day without making enemy contact. 3d Battalion remains in tactical bivouac behind 1st Battalion, 7th Marines MLR. Company I and two platoons from Company L provided airfield defense. The new 3d Battalion CP was established at (BT 530022). Company G, 3d Tank Battalion continued to repair damage sustained while engaged with the enemy on Operation Starlito. 3d Battalion, 12th Marines reported killing two Viet Cong and wounding ten as a result of a fire mission. Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion reported capturing twelve VCS while seeking information concerning the movement of 2000 Viet Cong into the vicinity of (BT 4400). Civil Affairs Officer from 2d Battalion, MCB-10 and MAG-12 had lunch with the District Chief, Ly Tin, to discuss plans for Chu Lai Village. Detachment, 1st Force Reconnaissance was detached, effective this date.

30 Aug. 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, in response to an intelligence report from District Chief, Ly Tin, dispatched a platoon to the vicinity of (BT 4407). The patrol received automatic weapons fire and attacked in the direction of the fire; however, the Viet Cong had all ready eluded the attackers. Company B platoon patrol remained on Ky Hoa Island overnight and established a perimeter to safe-guard the reloading of an LST at the ramp in the vicinity of (BT 522118). 2d Battalion thwarted two attempts of probes of their lines without sustaining any casualties. Company I, 3d Battalion provided one platoon for security while unloading the LST. The Anti-Tank platoon attached to 3d Battalion reported observing a man in front of their position. The Marines illuminated and fired but did not find a body. Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Company dispatched a platoon patrol at 1800H to observe the high ground west of hill 410 (BT 408999). The MedCap programs continued to treat Vietnamese villagers. Over 200 Vietnamese were treated this date. 3d Battalion, MCB-10 and MAG-12 will cooperate to build a set of jungle bars and merry-go-round for the children of Chu Lai Village.

31 Aug. 1st Bn, 4th Marines sustained 2 KIA and 4 WIA today when a patrol from D Company ran into a suspected mine field at (BT 420084). Upon initial discovery of a booby trap, members of the patrol advanced. In so doing one of the members detonated a mine, which caused the 6 casualties. Wounded personnel were evacuated to B Med, and the remaining patrol members retracted their steps back to Highway 1 for pick up. The area of the incident was then taken under zone artillery fire in an area of 600X900 meters. No further action reported in that area. 2d Battalions area was uneventful throughout the day. Patrols established met with no enemy activity. 3d Battalion remained in defensive positions behind the MLR. One platoon remained attached to L/4 for security of the new LST ramp, during off loading. At 1905H security elements of 3/12 heard 8-10 S/A's shots at vic (BT 5103). Surveillance of the area produced nothing. Earlier in the evening at 1811H an ontos had an accidental discharge. A light section from Co B returning to their positions at Co H had the accidental discharge. 2 civilian construction workers riding in a vehicle behind the ontos were injured from the backblast and flying glass from their vehicle windshield. They were treated by corpsman from Co H, and released. At 1935H this Headquarters received

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word of a suspected VC attack of the Chu Lai Area. All units alerted. One hour later a "Flash" report was received stating that VC were located at (BT 509002) and (BT 530975) . Immediate area saturation by artillery commenced as did numerous airstrikes. Due to the onset of dark no surveillance was possible. As of 2400H, no attack materialized. Co B, 3d Recon continues with operation "Chesterfield" with no enemy contact. Civil Affairs Officers remained at Da Nang attending a Civil Affairs Conference.

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