

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 4th Marines
3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

UNCLASSIFIED

5750
1 May 1969

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Attn: G-3)
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific (Attn: G-3)
Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force (Attn: G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 April to 30 April 1969.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8A
(c) DivO 5750.1B

Encl: ✓ (1) 1st Battalion, 4th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c) enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter of transmittal is declassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

C. E. Willcox
C. E. WILLCOX

Copy to: 4th Marines

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion 4th Marines

3D MARDIV S&C FILE
BT# 1613 69

copy 1 of 10 copies

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 4th Marines
3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPC San Francisco 36602

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

UNCLASSIFIED

1 April to 30 April 1969

INDEX

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

DOWNGRADED AT THREE YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER TWELVE YEARS

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

PART V

INFO FORWARDED

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

DESIGNATION	COMMANDER	DATE
1st Bn, 4th Marines	LtCol C. E. WILCOX	1-30 Apr

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Company "H&S"	Capt J. GYPIN Jr.	1-30 Apr
Company "A"	Capt H. W. BUSE III	1-30 Apr
Company "B"	Capt G. A. FRY	1-30 Apr
Company "C"	1stLt G. H. BROUILLETTE	1-30 Apr
Company "D"	1stLt T. J. RABBITT	1-30 Apr

ATTACHED UNITS

Det. Co "H&S" 3rd MP BN (Scout Dogs)
 Det, Co "B" 3rd SP BN (HST Teams)
 Det, Co "A" 3rd Engr BN
 Det, Btry "G" 3/12 FO Teams
 Det, 3rd Mar Div, Kit Carson School (KC Scouts)

LOCATION

Battalion CP 1-3 April Fire Support Base Argonne
 Battalion CP 3-29 April Fire Support Base Greene
 Battalion CP 29-30 April Vandegrift Combat Base

STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major J. R. GREEN	1-30 Apr
S-1 Adjutant	1stLt J. M. ALLEN	1-17 Apr
S-1 Adjutant	1stLt R. J. LLOYD	18-30 Apr
Personnel Officer	1stLt R. J. LLOYD	1-17 Apr
Personnel Officer	1stLt K. A. MARLANTES	17-30 Apr
S-2	SSgt P. STARRETT	1-11 Apr
S-2	Capt J. B. GREEN	12-30 Apr
S-3	Major H. E. PIERPAN	1-30 Apr
S-3 Assist	Capt J. B. GREEN	1-30 Apr
S-3 Assist ALO	Capt D. B. PAGE	1-30 Apr
S-3 Assist FAC	Capt S. J. WUTKIEWIEZ	1-10 Apr
S-3 Assist FAC	1stLt A. BELL	6-30 Apr
Artillery Officer	1stLt A. O'SULLIVAN	1-30 Apr

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

S-4 Officer	1stLt H. R. MORRIS	1-30 Apr
S-4 Officer "A"	2ndLt H. F. SMITH III	1-30 Apr
S-4 Officer "B"	2ndLt H. R. HEADPOHL	1-30 Apr
Comm Officer	1stLt C. S. GILMORE	1-30 Apr
MT Officer	1stLt J. E. BAUMAN	1-30 Apr
Supply Officer	1stLt R. A. STOTZ	1-30 Apr
Chaplain	LtCmdr L. E. ALLRED, USNR	1-30 Apr
Bn Surgeon	Lt. J. F. SCHEUFLER, USNR	1-15 Apr
Bn Surgeon	Lt. W. B. MOORE, USNR	15-30 Apr

AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
35.5	1151	2	52

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
~~PART III~~

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

April began with the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines heavily engaged with a stubborn NVA force in the area surrounding Fire Support Base Argonne in the Purple Martin AO. One Company continued clearing for and construction of Fire Support Base Greene at Grid XD 758610. Company "D" was assigned security for Fire Support Base Argonne while Companies "A" and "C" searched the surrounding area for NVA and hostile mortar positions. On the first of April Fire Support Base Argonne received enemy 82MM mortar fire on four different occasions. Company "A" moved immediately to surround the suspected area of the origin of the mortar fire in the vicinity of Grid XD 662-578. On 2 April a Platoon size patrol from Company "A" made contact with an NVA force in a bunker complex vicinity Grid XD 666569 resulting in one NVA KIA. Early in the afternoon the Alpha Command Group on Fire Support Base Argonne received thirty rounds of enemy 82MM mortar fire. That same day a Platoon patrol from Company "B" in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Greene spotted three NVA in the open. Artillery fire was called with unknown results. On 3 April the Alpha Command Group and Company "C" commenced a helilift from Fire Support Base Argonne to Fire Support Base Greene under constant harassment from enemy 82MM mortar rounds. The lift was completed with negative casualties and officially Fire Support Base Argonne was closed although Company "D" remained overnight and moved off at first light on 4 April. The fourth, found Company "D" moving off of Fire Support Base Argonne in a Northcasterly direction and Company "A" continuing its movement to the South sweeping the valley leading East to Fire Support Base Alpine. Company "B" continued the improvement of Fire Support Base Greene in preparation for the arrival of the artillery pieces. During the next few days cold, damp, foggy weather considerably hampered movement, resupply, and routine medevac flights. Companies "A" and "D" continued their movements to the East and Northeast respectively. Company "B" patrolled the area surrounding Fire Support Base Greene and concurrently continued preparation and improvement of this base. Company "C" after landing on Fire Support Base Greene on the 3rd had moved Northwest to the area of Grid XD 734615. Upon arriving on 6 April Company "C" commenced preparation of a landing zone capable of receiving internal loads. The mission of the battalion at this time was to continue search and destroy operations to the North, Northwest, and Northeast of Fire Support Base Greene and clear "internal" landing zones for future employment in the area. On 7 April Company "A" sweeping East toward Fire Support Base Alpine found thirteen NVA caves.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~~~DECLASSIFIED~~

~~SECRET~~~~DECLASSIFIED~~

Each cave was capable of housing two men. A 60MM mortar bipod and two rounds were found. Later the same day Company "A" found twelve more caves with twelve 82MM mortar rounds. All caves and the gear found were blown in place. That same evening Company "D" at Grid XD 630615 observed a secondary explosion while registering night defensive fire. On 8 March Company "D" in the vicinity of Grid XD 703608 found a two story dwelling. The immediate surrounding area consisted of approximately two and one half acres of cleared land which was enclosed by a fence.

Company "A" on 9 April completed its overland sweep from Fire Support Base Argonne to Fire Support Base Alpine and then North to Fire Support Base Greene. Company "A" relieved Company "B" of the security and construction responsibility for Fire Support Base Greene. Company "B" moved to the Northwest and commenced search and clear operations.

A patrol from Company "C" on 11 April triggered an NVA booby trap resulting in two emergency medevacs. On the same day Company "M" of the 3rd Bn, 3rd Marines was dropped OPCON from 1st Bn, 4th Marines. First Bn, 4th Marines assumed OPCON of Company "L" 3rd Bn, 9th Marines which assumed the defense of Fire Support Base Alpine. A patrol from Company "C" on 12 April was ambushed by an estimated squad of NVA resulting in two friendly KIA and an unknown number of NVA casualties. Company "B" the same day found assorted NVA 782 gear and many badly deteriorated bunkers.

Company "C" on 13 April spotted two NVA walking along a trail. Company "C"'s lead elements killed one NVA and wounded the other. Numerous items of 782 gear and one AK-47 rifle were captured. The following day Company "C" again observed four NVA in the same general vicinity, wounding one and capturing his weapon and pack. The pack contained numerous U. S. Government issue items. Throughout the remainder of the month the Companies continued to find enemy cache sites. Construction of "internal" landing zones sites along the DMZ in zone was continued.

On 26 April Fire Support Base Alpine was closed and Company "L" 3rd Bn, 9th Marines was dropped from 1st Bn, 4th Marines. Upon deactivation of Fire Support Base Alpine supplies began being retrograded again. Fire Support Base Greene preparatory to its closing on 29 April. On 27 April Company "B" was helilifted from the field to Vandegrift Combat Base. Company "B" was followed on 28 April by Companies "C" and "D." On the same date Companies "B," "C" and the Bravo Command Group were trucked to the Dong Ha boat ramp for further transportation to Sua Viet area via landing craft. These two Companies were dropped OPCON to the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) on 281420H.

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

DECLASSIFIED

REF ID: A65140000

On 29 April Company "B"(-) assumed defense of C-4 and the 2nd Platoon Co "B" the defense of Oceanview. Company "C" assumed the defense for MyLoc area. Fire Support Base Greene was closed at 291205H and Company "A" and the Alpha Command Group were helilifted to Vandegrift Combat Base. On 30 April Companies "A", "D", H&S(-) and the Alpha Command Group awaited movement to Cua Viet Recreation Center on 1 May 1969.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

- a. Continue Operation Purple Martin
 - (1) Close Fire Support Base Argonne
 - (2) Close Fire Support Base Alpine
 - (3) Continue improvements to Fire Support Base Greene
 - (4) Close Fire Support Base Greene.
- b. Conduct Search and Clear operations in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Argonne, Fire Support Base Alpine, and Fire Support Base Greene.
- c. Select sites for internal landing zones in vicinity of the Demilitarized Zone.
- d. Provide security for Fire Support Base Argonne, Fire Support Base Alpine and Fire Support Base Greene.
- e. Provide security for Oceanview, Grid YD 292751; C-4, Grid YD 312722; and MyLoc, Grid YD 306682.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIED

2. OPERATIONS

01 Apr At 1400H Company "D" received two rounds 82MM incoming at Grid XD 674573 from vicinity of Grid XD 657575.
At 1818H Alpha Command Group received five rounds incoming at Grid XD 674573 from vicinity of Grid XD 658577.
At 1835H Alpha Command Group received thirteen rounds incoming at Grid XD 675573 from vicinity of Grid XD 658577.
At 1900H The Alpha Command Group received ten rounds incoming at Grid XD 675573 from vicinity of Grid XD 663571.

02 Apr At 1115H Company "A" Platoon size patrol made contact with NVA in bunker: fired small arms; one NVA KIA confirmed.
At 1330H The Alpha Command Group received thirty rounds 82MM incoming from vicinity of Grid XD 663579.
At 1630H Company "B-1" OP at Grid XD 772598 spotted three NVA in open at Grid XD 773596. Two Squads searched area with negative results.

03 Apr At 0200H Company "D" Squad ambush at Grid XD 673572 heard movement and saw one figure crawling which triggered ambush. Called in 60MM mortar mission. Results unknown.
At 1220H The Alpha Command Group received four rounds 82MM mortar incoming at Grid XD 674573 from Grid XD 656574 while helicopter was lifting external load from lower LZ.
At 1830H Company "B" at Grid XD 779611 found twelve bunkers four feet by six feet by four feet. One kitchen area, one latrine, one 60MM mortar pit, food cans, one empty vitamin bottle, one Marine helmet, one M-16 destroyed, one marijuana stick. A well used trail North to South. This site is approximately three days old.

04 Apr At 0910H Alpha Command Group reported that at Grid XD 274573 received three rounds 82MM incoming while conducting troop lift.

05 Apr No Entry

06 Apr At 1215H Company "D" at 1030H at Grid XD 773604 found fifteen bunkers five feet by five feet, ten fighting holes and two trails running East and West and North and South. Position two to three months old.
At 1900H Company "B-1" at Grid XD 769610 found twelve bunkers six feet by ten feet by four feet, believed to be two to three weeks old. Also numerous trails running North to South.

ENCLOSURE
SEC 1
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

07 Apr At 1130H Company "C" at Grid XD 739607 patrol found heavily used trail running in Southwest to Northeast direction. Trail is two feet wide to three feet wide in some places. Trail was well cleaned and has been recently traveled by small groups. Patrol found fresh cut marks on trees and bushes. Trail has steps cut in logs for good footing. It is believed trail has been used to move heavy equipment. Patrol searched out area with negative results.

At 1530H Company "A" at Grid XD 772573 found thirteen NVA caves. Each cave was capable of housing two men, at Grid XD 772567 they found a 60MM mortar bipod, two 60MM mortar rounds. At Grid XD 772573 Company "A" found twelve caves with ten pounds of rice and twelve 82MM rounds, mortar rounds were old and rusted and Company "A" had no C-4 so left in place, Brought 60MM bipod with them.

At 2100H Company "D" at Grid XD 691611 while firing Night Defensive Fire observed secondary explosion at Grid XD 680615. Called for another fire for effect.

08 Apr At 1400H Company "D" at Grid XD 703608 found one civilian type two story house practically completed. Rooms were ten foot by twenty feet and eighteen to twenty feet high. One fire place, two "D" size batteries, one pick, one hoc, all gear very old. House and surroundings consisting of two to two and one half acres of cleared land was enclosed by a fence. Discovered trails running Southeast and Southwest.

09 Apr At 0815H Company "A" relieved Company "B" on Fire Support Base Greene.

10 Apr At 1730H Company "C" at Grid XD 718623 lead elements found eight "A" frame bunkers and living huts at Grid XD 719619. Huts were ten feet by ten feet and four feet deep. Bunkers were built connecting to huts. Complex was partially destroyed by natural causes and was approximately four months old. Also found at same position a piece of paper ten inches by ten inches tied to a tree on trail. Paper had Vietnamese writing on one complete side. Also found NVA way station at Grid XD 724615. No bunkers were found, sleeping quarters were made under boulders and rocks. Position is thought to be eight or nine months old. Also found numerous trails throughout area.

11 Apr At 0940H a member of Company "C" at Grid XD 724623 while on patrol activated an NVA booby trap. Booby trap consisted of a hole eight inches by six inches by six inches deep, covered by branches dirt and leaves. There was also a wire lead to a Chi Com. When man stepped in hole, wire snapped and detonated booby trap. Results were two emergency medevacs.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

11 Apr At 1150H Company "B" found five bunkers two to three months old with fresh chow cans and two chopsticks. Two trails running in North to South direction with recent activity. Destroyed bunkers.
At 1700H Company "L" 3rd Bn, 9th Marines chopped OPCON to 1st Bn, 4th Marines.
At 1330H Company "B" at Grid XD 731641 found trail complex with steps and hand rails leading to hut and bunker complex. Three huts and three bunkers all were rotted and collapsed.
12 Apr At 0930H Company "B" at Grid XD 747636 found eight bunkers three to four months old several items NVA 782 gear.
At 1115H Company "C" at Grid XD 725625 a patrol was searching out area an estimated NVA Squad size unit ambushed the point elements. NVA opened up with automatic weapons and Chi Com grenades. Patrol returned fire on NVA with negative results. Two friendly KIA and one friendly WIA.
At 1730H Company "B" at Grid XD 737641 found three bunkers three feet by three feet by six feet, one cooking area four months old, one latrine all rotted out, four months old.
At 2100H Company "C" night listening post at Grid XD 718623 observed three NVA moving North about twenty meters to their right flank. Listening post threw M-26 grenade and came in.
13 Apr At 1000H Company "B" at Grid XD 728643 found 17 old destroyed huts, five months old and one animal pit.
At 1155H Company "B" at Grid XD 722643 found eight Montegnard huts four feet by twelve feet on facing of cave complex three months old.
At 1600H Company "C" at Grid XD 726637 lead element spotted two NVA. Fired and killed one NVA. Captured one AK-47 four Chi Com grenades, one poncho, one red wallet with FP and written documents.
At 1958H Company "C" at Grid XD 719623 at conclusion of ambush setting in, they received AK-47 fire and Chi Coms from Grid XD 720622 from an estimated five to ten NVA. Returned fire and returned to perimeter. Called artillery and fired 81MM mortars. Had two friendly WIA.
14 Apr At 1130H Company "C" at Grid XD 710621 observed four NVA fifty meters away. NVA moved closer and apparently observed patrol. Patrol fired on NVA wounding one NVA. Fire fight lasted about three minutes. One fire team set up security while other two went in pursuit of NVA. Air and artillery were called. Patrol found caves on the hill and carefully searched area with negative results. Caves were six feet by ten feet.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

14 Apr One probable NVA KIA in this action. Captured one AK-47 with folding stock, one army cartridge belt, one canteen, two canteen pouches soaked with blood, one grenade pouch with three M-26, one first aid pouch with chow and cloths, one army K-Bar, one flashlight, one key chain with assorted items, one American cigarette lighter, one pouch of American pipe tobacco, and one NVA whistle.

15 Apr At 1505H Company "B" at Grid XD 758646 found a cave with living quarters for three people approximately two weeks old. Also found Montegnard cornfield enclosed by fence. At 1515H Company "L" 3rd Bn, Ninth Marines at Grid XD 743546 found seven bunkers approximately four feet by six feet by three feet believed to have been used on 14 April, several U. S. C-ration cans freshly used probably one day old. Also one bamboo hut, destroyed about one day. At 1650H Company "L" 3rd Bn, Ninth Marines at Grid XD 741544 found one dead NVA, very old wearing green utilities with canteens and belt. NVA had been killed by artillery.

16 Apr At 1030H Company "B" at Grid XD 744646 found underground cavern complex with numerous passageways of varying sizes. Estimated sufficiently large to billet a Company size or larger unit. Also remains of fire one month old and foot prints of five people.

17 Apr At 1500H Company "B" at Grid XD 765650 found six huts and one five pound bag of cornmeal, one five pound bag dried roots, 25 pounds salt, several pounds of seasoning, one basket hot peppers, one leather pack, NVA cleaning gear, misc pottery, one machette, numerous baskets, two chisels, two pieces of Montegnard clothing, four NVA E-tools, one U.S. E-tool, two AK pouches, NVA medical gear (sulpha drugs, one bottle vitamins, ampuls of unknown substance, tourniquets, guaze, ointments, one empty Novocain ampul) one NVA canteen and two NVA diaries. All medical gear, diaries, pack kept. Remaining items destroyed. At 0840H Company "C" at Grid XD 718618 found six large bunkers, one mess hall, one cooking hut, 67-82MM mortar rounds and fuzes eight to ten months old. At 0845H Company "C" at Grid XD 718618 discovered 14 large bunkers, 101- 82MM mortar rounds, 25 fuzes, seven primers, three kitchens, one mess hall, one elephant skeleton and skin, bush cut short, one thatched hut all eight to ten months old. All destroyed.

At 1005H Company "D" at Grid XD 699624 lead elements observed one NVA moving through old night position. Rear elements set up hasty ambush and fired. One NVA was hit and rolled down side of hill. Ordered one Squad up hill and one Squad up stream bed. Squad found NVA body and searched area finding one AK-47 well lubricated, one pair of NVA boots good condition.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

17 Apr Also found utilities, trousers and jacket in good condition, two AK-47 magazines, 60 rounds AK-47 ammo, one cartridge belt, one first aid packet, one pound rice and assorted papers. Dead NVA measured about five feet four inches and weighed 130 pounds with fresh haircut. Holding papers and gear for pickup.
 At 1100H Company "C" at Grid XD 711611 found thirteen thatched huts, one SKS-44, seven entrenching tools, twenty M-16 magazines, three trip flares, 400 20 cal. machine gun rounds, 500 M-16 rounds, two Chi Com grenades, one personnel mine without fuze, 1/4 mile Comm wire, two helmets, two saws, twelve piglets, eight bunkers for living and cooking, one 82MM mortar round, three fuzes, two pineapple type grenades, assorted medical pills (Paregoric and Quinine), assorted tools (saw and hammer), four bundles pungi stakes, fifty assorted woven baskets. Activity within past ten days. NVA drove out Montegnards. All bunkers and huts destroyed; pigs killed, M-16 magazines and E-tools retrieved; other gear destroyed.

18 Apr At 1100H Company "C" found approximately five acres of corn at Grid XD 709615. Also found tapped water spring with metal piping on small sink, one small grave, and one Montegnard grave. Water system destroyed; grave left intact. At 1430H Company "B" at Grid XD 755 650 found 300 pounds of assorted grain (rough), one corpsman's basic unit with misc. drugs of unknown type, diaries believed to have belonged to corpsman, one Montegnard cooking utensils, one model 93 Mauser, one French 7.5MM rifle model 1936. Itemd were found in one cave complex with entrance six feet by three feet, depth unknown. Retained all medical gear and diary for delivery to S-2. Diaries retained by finders; grain retained for pickup.

At 1450H Company "L" 3rd Bn, Ninth Marines at Grid XD 772552 observed three people herding three water buffalo at Grid XD 777557 moving in Northeast direction through tall elephant grass. Fixed wing and gunships were called with negative results.

At 1500H Company "C" at Grid XD 689622 found a cave four feet by four feet by six feet containing two cycles, two hoes, two melons, and some corn cobs. Company "C" at Grid XD 689619 found fences and ladder. Company "C" at Grid XD 689619 found two caves and one thatched hut. One cave contained one hoe, one NVA tennis shoe, one rice bag and two beds. Company "C" at Grid XD 681618 saw old grass noose about 50 feet from the cliff base and several broken tools.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

20 Apr At 1300H Company "C" at Grid XD 690623 found a cave complex and six grass huts, six caves 100 feet deep with ten feet by eight feet opening. Also a ladder to the center of the hut complex. There were smaller man-made tunnels connecting the larger caves. The smaller caves were not connected. Also found pack goods, rusted AK-47 magazines, helmets, officers ID card, three month old NVA newspaper, and 100 pounds of rice.

21 Apr At 0930H Company "C" at Grid XD 699621 found one NVA body eight days old badly decomposed, one NVA radio with #63-661356-251.A on the name plate, radio head set with a wire antenna, battery D-63, pack and cartridge belt, poncho, sleeping bag, one Chi Com, 5 days rations, one pith helmet and sulpha powder. At 1350H Company "L" at Grid XD 729552 found three grass huts five feet off the ground, two complete, one just frame, two months old. Also found one pair trousers, two shirts, one belt, fish netting and baskets.

22 Apr At 1655H Company "L" 3rd Bn, 9th Marines at Grid XD 742546 uncovered 14 NVA 60MM rounds two months old. No fuzes or increments were found.

23 Apr At 1230H Company "B" at Grid XD 729648 sighted one NVA with pack. Fired 60MM and artillery but unable to confirm kill. Flushed one black leopard 400 meters from base of hill. Leopard was approximately 300 pounds and six feet long.

24 Apr At 0940H Company "L" 3rd Bn, 9th Marines at Grid XD 738534 found one 82MM mortar pit one month old, inside pit found six empty increment cans, eight empty 82MM war head cans, one trail two feet wide North to South direction. On trail found five bunkers and one observation tower.

25 Apr At 1000H Company "L" 3rd Bn, 9th Marines at Grid XD 721531 while on patrol came upon one tunnel ten to twelve feet deep. Point man fell in and had to be medevaced. Tactical smoke placed in tunnel to check it. Squad sent two men to check it out and came under gases from smoke and were asphyxiated.

26 Apr At 1130H Company "B" at Grid XD 718643 found four AK-47 rifles, one RPG-7 burned and destroyed by fire. Found Belgian medical supplies, personal effects and 782 gear belonging to C-5711 R..D. Jr.. Medicine destroyed. At 1530H Fire Support Base Alpine closed. Company "L" 3rd Bn, 9th Marines dropped OPCON to parent regiment.

27 Apr No Entry

28 Apr At 0340H the Commanding Officer of Company "B" at Vandegrift Combat Base heard a shot apparently coming from the 1st Bn, 4th Marines transient area. Bravo-6 and Bravo-26 were awakened and proceeded immediately to the transient area. Enroute they heard a second shot. On arrival, they noted that

ENCLOSURE (1)

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

REF ID: A65114
REF ID: A65114

~~SECRET~~

28 Apr T-4338 was attempting to commit suicide. T-4338 had an M-16 against lower right jaw. During the attempt to disarm him the rifle discharged killing T-4338. SIR report submitted. Company "D" assumed Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle.
At 1200H Company "C" lift to Vandegrift Combat Base commenced.
At 1315H Company "C" lift to Vandegrift Combat Base completed.
At 1330H Company "D" lift commenced.
At 1420H Company "B" lift for Cua Viet.
At 1420H Company "C" lift for Cua Viet.
At 1455H Company "D" lift completed.
At 1530H Companies "C" and "D" arrived at Cua Viet.
29 Apr At 1000H 1st on, 4th Marines assumed TAIR of the Cua Viet RR, C-4, Oceanview, and MyLoc.
30 Apr At 1800H Company "B" relieved of Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle.

3. CASTALIES INFILCTED ON THE ENEMY

NVA/KIA	4
NVA/WW	0
VC/KIA	0
VC/POW	0

4. FRIENDLY CASALTIES SUSTAINED

KIA	1
WIA	19
DNW	0
Non Hostile Deaths	1
NGC	90
MLA	0
DAI	0

5. TRAINING

- a. General Military subjects and ACS training for the month of April for Squad, Platoon, and Company size units was limited because the Battalion was deployed in the field conducting operations throughout the Northwestern I Corps area.
- b. All replacements received comprehensive indoctrination briefings in accordance with the Battalion SOP for Replacement Training. Each replacement fired his T/0 weapon for familiarization.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~ DECLASSIFIED

REF ID: A6514001

c. UNIT TRAINING

FAM firing of Organic Weapons	18 Hours
Radio AN/PRC-25 and Communications Procedure	9 Hours
Preventive Maintenance, Communications Equipment	3 Hours
81MM Mortar Gun Drill	35 Hours
Night Firing 81MM Mortar	15 Hours

d. Officer and Staff Noncommissioned Officers Training was not conducted during the month of April, due to the tactical situation.

e. Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare training was not conducted during the month of April due to the tactical situation.

6. FIRE SUPPORT

During the month of April the Battalion operated in the Purple Martin Area of Operation.

Communication was a significant problem because of terrain configuration and was overcome by the use of a directional antenna. Relays were put on Fire Support Base Russell and Fire Support Base Neville to enhance communication with the fire direction center at Vandegrift Combat Base.

When this Battalion moved from the vicinity of Fire Support Base Argonna the Save-A-Plane clearances were returned to Regimental control.

ENCLOSURE (1)

S-1 T

~~SECRET~~
~~DISCLOSED~~7. AIR SUPPORTa. Fixed Wing

- (1) Close Air Support. Twenty seven flights were run in the Battalion area of operations this month.
- (2) Aerial Observers. Aerial Observers were used 19 times on Aerial Surveillance missions.
- (3) TPQ's. Fifty eight TPQ's were requested this month and twenty six were hit.
- (4) Illumination. Illumination was not used during the month of April.

b. HELICOPTER SUPPORT

- (1) Troop Lifts
 - (a) Company size lifts 9
 - (b) Platoon size lifts 14
- (2) Med Evacs
 - (a) Emergency Medevacs 7
 - (b) Priority Medevacs 5
 - (c) Routine Medevacs 17
- (3) Time Lapse for Medevacs
 - (a) Emergency $\frac{1}{2}$ Hour
 - (b) Priority 1 Hour
 - (c) Routine 2 Hours
- (4) C and C Flights

Three helicopter flights were used for Command and Liaison and Reconnaissance missions during the month of April.

8. INTELLIGENCEa. Enemy

During the month of April the 1st Bn, 4th Marines participated in operations against the enemy from Fire Support Base Argonne and Fire Support Base Greene. During the first part of the month the Battalion was engaged with the enemy in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Argonne. Fire Support Base Argonne received moderate hostile 82MM mortar fire. Ground contact occurred in the vicinity of Hill 1154 Grid XD 663578. During the construction and activation of Fire Support Base Greene there were no contacts. During the latter part of the month companies operating in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Greene made light and sporadic contact with small two to four man groups of the enemy. The enemy also used one booby trap against the Battalion. There were numerous finds of old and unused bunkers with no evidence of recent activity.

ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Total enemy KIA confirmed for the month of April was four.

b. Weather

The weather consisted generally of hot and humid days and moderately cool nights with temperatures ranging from 109 degrees during the day to 60 degrees at night. During the first few days in April there were a few cool nights with light rain occurring during the day. Throughout April there were several short periods of intense heavy rain fall of short duration.

c. Terrain

The terrain consists of steep sharply rising mountains with topographical crests ranging from 700 meters to 1550 meters. Dense underbrush and thick vegetation was encountered throughout the AO. with Savannah grass in low areas ranged from four feet to fifteen foot high. There are numerous small feeder streams running in all directions which provide potable water.

d. Enemy Equipment Captured and Destroyed

(1) Small Arms Ammo

50 Cal	400 rounds
AK-47	60 rounds
5.56	500 rounds

(2) Mortar Rounds

82MM	181
60MM	16

(3) Weapons

60MM Mortar Bipod	1
AK-47 Rifles	7
7.62 Mauser Model 98	1
7.5 French Model 1936	1
U.S. M-16	1

(4) Mines, Demolitions, Explosives

Chi Com Grenades	9
U.S. M-26 Grenades	3
Anti Personnel Mine	1

(5) Medical Supplies

Miscellaneous small amounts

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

9. PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

All psychological warfare operations were conducted by a higher echelon.

10. CIVIL AFFAIRS

Due to the tactical situation and the lack of civilian population in the area of operations there were no opportunities to conduct civil affairs operations this month. This Battalion maintains a plan for conducting civil affairs assistance. This plan will be implemented where appropriate and activated when the tactical situation permits.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~11. COMMUNICATIONS

During the month of April the Communications Platoon continued to provide minimum essential communication services to the administrative sections of the rear elements encamped at Vandegrift Combat Base and Quang Tri, while tactical communications were provided for the Alpha and Bravo Command Groups during the Operation Purple Martin. Operations in mountainous terrain has reaffirmed the requirement for thorough prior planning and close liaison within the Battalion. Line of sight propagation characteristics of VHF equipment employed has necessitated the attachment of personnel to other Fire Support Bases to act as relay stations. Reaction time and accuracy are slightly degraded when using this technique.

a. MESSAGE CENTER

The Battalion Message Center still maintains a forward shop that assures prompt distribution of message traffic to the staff sections. They also provide shackle sheets and brevity codes for the radio operators.

b. RADIO

The Radio Section continues its mission of maintaining communications with all elements through the use of radio relay at Hill 950 and Fire Support Base Neville. Twenty four nets are also maintained at Vandegrift Combat Base and in the rear at Quang Tri.

The PRC-88 was introduced into field use this month. It is still being tested and has not been phased in for permanent use.

c. COVERED CIRCUIT

The KY-38 and PRC-77 are being extensively used by this Command. Many limitations are caused by our holding only one PRC-77 at this time.

d. WIRE

The wire section is maintaining only one switchboard, in the Battalion forward area. This section also is responsible for the electrical lines that are now in our area.

e. ELECTRONICS REPAIR

The Electronics section continues to provide second echelon maintenance in the support of the Command and its attachments. A technician is with the forward elements of the command at all times to provide immediate repair when capable.

f. CRITICAL SHORTAGES

The following critical shortages of electronics repair parts is noted: A-9, A-10, and A-1 for the PRC-45. The UG-255's for the RC-292's are also critical.

ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

g. EQUIPMENT DEADLINED AND REPAIRED

ITEM	AMT
PRC-25	16
TA-312	5
TA-1	8
SE-8	7
RC-1	1
..-189	19

12. LOGISTICSa. SUPPLY

- (1) Class I. All Class I was drawn at Vandegrift Combat Base in support of operations. The Battalion Mess Hall, served "R" rations three times daily at Vandegrift Combat Base.
- (2) Class II. Battalion Supply operated at Quang Tri with FLSG-B as the contact for service and supply. Class II organic issue points remain at Vandegrift to cut time in transfer of cargo from Quang Tri to Vandegrift. Shortages in the following items were experienced during this period.
 - Nozzles, covers (water buffalo)
 - Flak jackets
 - M-16 magazines
 - M-16 cleaning rods
 - Coat, utility
- (3) Class III. Class III was adequate at Vandegrift.
- (4) Class IV. Class IV was adequate at Vandegrift.
- (5) Class V. Class V was adequate at Vandegrift.

b. Transportation

- (1) Organic. During this month the M-151A1, M-274A1, and the M-37B1 were used for resupply and administrative runs at Vandegrift and Quang Tri Combat Bases.
- (2) Support. Division Motor Transport furnished transportation for delivery of Class II supplies and personnel from Quang Tri to Vandegrift. Third Motor Transport Battalion supported the Battalion on a daily basis.

c. Engineer Support Teams provided the Battalion with demolition capabilities.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~REF ID: A6510~~13. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIONAverage Monthly Strength

USMC	USN
OFF	ENL
35.5	1151
	2
	52

Casualties by Category

KIA	1
WIA	19
Non-Hostile Deaths	1
DOW	0
NBC	90
MIA	0
DAI	0

Awards During the reporting period 1 Bronze Star, 1 Navy Achievement Medal, 10 Purple Hearts and 7 Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry were presented. The following type awards were processed recommending approval:

Navy Cross	1
Silver Star	4
Bronze Star	11
Navy Commendation Medal	11
Navy Achievement Medal	60
Purple Heart	19
VCG	22

Discipline The number of disciplinary cases acted upon or pending action is as follows:

Court-Martial/Admin Discharges/Investigations

Art 32 - Pending	4
Art 32 - Completed	1
Special Courts-Martial	0 Pending

ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Special Courts-Martial	3 Completed
Summary Courts-Martial	0 Pending
Summary Courts-Martial	2 Completed
Admin Discharges	0

Non-Judicial Punishments

Battalion Commander	1
Company Commanders	4

Morale Continued to Be High

The Battalion utilized the following out of country R&R Quotas for the month of April:

Bangkok	16	Penang	0
Hawaii	21	Singapore	5
Hong Kong	12	Okinawa	3
Kuala Lumpar	2	Sydney	15
Taipei	8	Tokyo	6
Manila	2		

During the month the following promotions were effected:

Private to Private First Class	4
Private First Class to Lance Corporal	30
Corporal to Sergeant	6
Sergeant to Staff Sergeant	3
Staff Sergeant to Gunnery Sergeant	4

During the month the following promotions were effected meritoriously:

Lance Corporal to Corporal 5

14. RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

- a. Spiritual coverage was given to the Battalion during the month of April in the field and at our rear areas.
- b. A total of thirteen Protestant Services were conducted with an attendance of 474 and 322 receiving Communion.
- c. A total of seven Roman Catholic Masses were conducted with an attendance of 213.
- d. Four Protestant Services were conducted for other Units with an attendance of 43 and 40 receiving Communion.
- e. Visits were made to the 3rd Medical Battalion, and USS REPOSE.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~~~REFUGGED~~15. MEDICAL AND DENTAL AFFAIRS

a. The total number of visits to the Battalion Aid Station during the month of April was 1334.

b. Prevalent medical entities encountered were:

Gonorrhea	5	Rat Bites	2
Diarrhea	44	FUO	20
Malaria	5	Dermatological	323
URI	76	conditions	
NP Disorders	10	Heat Casualties	30
Hepatitis	0	NSU	1

c. All suspected and confirmed cases of Venereal Disease were given an STS in accordance with MANMED 22-18 and the results entered in the individuals' health record.

d. A total of 195 patients were referred to 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF. Of these referred, the following were consults:

ENT	1	Internal Medicine	1
Urology	1	Dermatology	6
Surgical	6	Orthopedics	40
NP	7		

(1) Following referrals were made to:

NSA DaNang	1
USS SANCTUARY	10
USS REPOSE	9

(2) Total patients referred for dental treatment: 139

e. The following is a breakdown of casualties encountered for the month:

KIA	1	NHD	1
WIA	19	DOW	0
MIA	0	NBC	90

f. Weekly malaria prophylaxis was continued with the use of Chloroquine-Primaquine tablets in the Battalion rear area. Daily malaria prophylaxis was continued with use of Dapsone in conjunction with weekly use of Chloroquine-Primaquine in Battalion forward area.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- g. Sanitation Inspection was held daily, and weekly in accordance with Art. P6000.4D in the Battalion area (Vandegrift Combat Base and Quang Tri). Sanitary facilities, at present are considered highly satisfactory.
- h. Two Battalion Aid Stations were maintained during the month of April. At forward BAS consisting of a Battalion Surgeon and eleven Hospital Corpsmen located a Vandegrift Combat Base and a secondary BAS located at Quang Tri, consisting of ten Hospital Corpsmen. All injuries and Malaria encounters were treated by the line company Corpsman; and when required, casualties were transferred for further treatment. No serious delays were encountered in resupply or evacuation during this period.
- i. Lectures are given regularly at both Battalion Aid Stations.
- j. With cooperation of the Battalion Rear Dental Unit and the 4th and 9th Marine Dental Unit, a total of 139 patients were referred. All arrivals into the Battalion are screened and those presenting a class three of four dental profile are referred to either unit prior to going to the forward area.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. JOURNAL SHEETS 1 THROUGH 30 APRIL 1969 *Filed Sep*

2. AO CHANGE EFFECTIVE 071600H APRIL 1969

3. FRAG ORDERS SUBMITTED BY 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES

4. SITUATION REPORTS SUBMITTED BY 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES

5. SPOT REPORTS SUBMITTED BY 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES

6. BUSHMATER, DAY AND NIGHT ACTS AS SUBMITTED BY 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES
~~SITUATION REPORTS SUBMITTED BY 4TH MARINES "OPERATION PURPLE MARTIN"~~

7. MAPS VIETNAM 6342 I, 6342 II, 6342 III, 6342 IV (PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED).

*Filed
Sep*

ENCLOSURE (1)
SECRET