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HEADQUARTERS

1st Battalion 4th Marines

00250-69

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HEADQUARTERS

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

3/JCC/mtb

5750

1 October 1969

0010-69

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (-)(Rein), FMF (Attn: G-3)  
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force (Attn: G-3)  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (Attn: G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 September to 30 September 1969

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.1

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

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

2. This letter of transmittal is declassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*R. J. HARRIS*  
R. J. HARRIS  
By direction

Copy to:  
4th Marines

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*Command Chronology*

*Sept 69*

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## COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September to 30 September 1969

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UNCLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE (1)

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## PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Date</u>
1st Battalion, 4th Marines	LtCol J. A. MAC INNIS	1-30 September

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Company H&S	2ndLt. G. H. CONVERSE	1-6 September
Company H&S	Capt. H. M. FISCHER	7-30 September
Company A	1stLt. R. M. JESSIE JR	1-30 September
Company B	Capt. E. P. CRAFT	1-30 September
Company C	1stLt. L. C. IVERSON	1-18 September
Company C	Capt. R. J. SEXTON II	19-30 September
Company D	Capt. A. P. TOKARZ	1-30 September

ATTACHED UNITS

Det, Kit Carson Scout Center, Quang Tri  
 Det, HqCo, 4th Marines (Scout Sniper)  
 Det, A Co, 3rd Engr Bn  
 Det, G BTRY, 3d Bn 12th Mar  
 Det, 3d SP BN, (HST)  
 Det, 9th IT, 3d MarDiv  
 Det, HqCo, Hq I Corps, ARVN (Interpreters)  
 Det, 3d MP Bn (Scout Dogs)  
 Det, VMFA 232, Mag 13  
 Det, HMM 262, Mag 39

Location

Battalion CP 1-21 September 1969 FSB Cates XD936443  
 Battalion CP 21-30 September 1969 Vandegrift Combat Base

Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Major J. R. GREEN	1-5 September
Executive Officer	Major R. T. CARNEY	6-30 September
S-1/Adjutant	2ndLt. M. E. MACKIE JR	1-30 September
Personnel Officer	1stLt. M. T. OWENS JR	1-17 September
Personnel Officer	1stLt. G. F. ST JOHN III	18-30 September
S-2	GySgt. G. A. AMYOTTE	1-30 September
S-3	Major C. W. COBB JR	1-16 September
S-3	Major J. C. CHAMPLIN	17-30 September

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S-3A  
S-3 ALO  
S-3 FAC  
Artillery Officer  
Artillery Officer  
S-4  
Comm Officer  
MT Officer  
Supply Officer  
Chaplain  
Bn Surgeon

Capt. M. D. ATKINSON  
Capt. R. W. CLIFTON  
Capt. J. C. STOKES  
1stLt. K. A. SHELLY JR  
1stLt. D. W. KEEFE  
1stLt. H. H. DUBOSE  
1stLt. Q. D. WORTHAM  
1stLt. H. R. HEADAPHOHL  
2ndLt. W. B. WEMPLE  
Lt. P. W. MCCLURE, USNR  
Lt. H. R. WAGNER JR USNR

1-25 September  
1-30 September  
1-30 September  
1-15 September  
16-30 September  
1-30 September  
1-30 September  
1-30 September  
1-30 September  
1-30 September  
1-30 September

AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
53	1133	2	52

ENCLOSURE (1)

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## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. General overview of all activities. As the month of September commenced, the battalion was employed with one company (-) defending Fire Support Base (FSB) Cates with the remaining platoon defending Hill 950. Operations within the battalion were generally two companies sweeping through Rocket Valley west of Vandegrift, with the fourth company being OPCON to the unit having responsibility for Vandegrift Combat Base (VCB) Area of Operations (AO). Companies were relieved in the field on an average of six days, spending one to four days at VCB, then relieving the company on the fire support bases.

On 20 September, an AO change was effected giving this battalion responsibility for the entire Georgia Ter AO including VCB, Signal Hill, FSB Cates, Hill 950, security for Mobile Construction Battalion (MCB) from VCB North to the 53 east-west grid line, and security for engineer teams sweeping Route 9 south to Ca Lu and north to Elliott Combat Base (ECB) from VCB. With the change in AO, the battalion assumed OPCON of Companies, E and H, 2/4, I and K, 3/4. During the last week of September the battalion was assigned the missions of destruction and closing Hill 950, FSB Shepherd, and FSB Cates, missions assigned on 20 September, and preparation to evacuate Signal Hill and VCB in the near future.

2. Command Relations. The Battalion remained under the operational control of the 4th Marine Regiment throughout the month. There were several different companies OPCON to the battalion during the month, while organic companies were periodically chopped OPCON to other organizations. Specific units, dates and times are delineated in the Sequential Listing of Significant Events portion of this chronology.

3. Missions Assigned. For most of the month, the mission of the Battalion was to defend FSB Cates, Hill 950, and to "continue reconnaissance in force operations" in the Rocket Belt and along Route 9 south and west of VCB, to provide a reserve force for the 2nd Marines operation south of DMZ, to provide security for MCB workers who are improving the road between ECB and VCB. During the last ten days of the month, the Battalion assumed responsibilities for the entire Georgia Ter AO, and the Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle reaction force. The special mission of evacuating, destroying, and closing FSB Cates, FSB Shepherd and Hill 950 was assigned late in the month. Preparations are underway to evacuate, destroy and close Signal Hill, and Vandegrift Combat Base in the near future. When this mission is completed the Battalion will retrograde to an area within Quang Tri Combat Base (QTGB).

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4. Intelligence

a. The battalion was assigned to sweep the AO of Georgia Tar and the destruction of FSB Cates and Hill 950. On 21 September, 1st Battalion 4th Marines resumed the defense of VCB. During the month, ground surveillance equipment was utilized to its maximum capability during periods of darkness. Twenty power telescopes were used during day light hours for surveillance. S-2 and Kit Carson scouts were assigned to all companies during operation "Georgia Tar" for scouting by day and operating surveillance equipment at night. During the Battalion's mission as the VCB defense Battalion the S-2 scouts having Vietnamese Language capability were posted at the north and south gates to facilitate the control of indigenous personnel entering and leaving VCB. Two teams of scouts deployed surveillance equipment for night defense.

b. Weather. The weather primarily consisted of very hot, humid days with heavy ground fog in the early morning. Typhoon DORIS caused three days of heavy wind and rains, resulting in many impassable streams that restricted the movements of operating units to the high ground for the duration of the storm.

c. Terrain. During Operation "Georgia Tar", gentle rolling hills with four to five feet high elephant grass, and steep mountains and ravines having dense jungle vegetation were encountered. Good cover and concealment was afforded both friendly and enemy troops.

5. Operations. The activities of the Battalion for the most of the month were part of the Fourth Marines operation "Georgia Tar". Operation "Georgia Tar" was terminated at 250600H September 1969. The Fourth Marines assumed the "IDAHO CANYON" AO, within which this Battalion participated in the defense of VCB, Signal Hill, and the security of Route 9 from VCB North to the 53 grid line.

6. Results of Operations.a. Enemy Equipment Captured or Destroyed(1) Mines, Ammunition, Demolition and Explosives

82mm Mortar Rounds 174  
 82mm Mortar Fuses 130 plus two boxes  
 82mm Mortar Increments 7

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60mm Mortar Rounds -----	67
60mm Mortar Increments -----	5 Cans
50 Caliber Rounds -----	550
7.62mm Rounds -----	20
AP Mine ( Claymore) -----	2
Gas Grenades (NVA) -----	1
WP Grenades (U. S.) -----	1
Plastic Explosives (1/4 pound blocks) -----	201

(2) Miscellaneous

Bunkers -----	68
Fighting Holes -----	7
Caves -----	1
Rocket Sites -----	1
Mortar Positions -----	2
.50 Cal. positions -----	3
Poncho -----	1
Helmets -----	5
Stove -----	2
Shoes -----	4
Water Tank -----	1
Cartridge Belts -----	2

7. Supporting Arms

a. Air Support. During the month of September, tactical air support for the battalion was divided among TPQ-10 bombing, Beacon bombing, Night owls and gun ships. Eleven TPQ's were hit expending 170 MK82, 250 pound bombs. Eight Beacons were hit expending 87 MK82 and 12 MK83, 1000 pound bombs. One A-6 beacon hop was aborted due to a faulty system in the aircraft. This strike was run as a visual dive bomber, delivering 22 MK82 bombs. Five sections of night owl dive bombers were run, expending Napalm and MK117, 750 pound bombs.

Bomb Damage Assessment (BDA) for most of these missions were unavailable due to the terrain. One beacon hop recieved a BDA of five secondary explosions.

One section of HU 1E helicopters expended ordnance in the battalion AO on a training mission for the aircrewmn.

In support of the battalion operations, 54 OV10-A's were employed. Two visual recon's were conducted for the Officers of the battalion.

Five helicopter lifts transported 1281 passengers and 600 pounds of cargo.

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Medevacs were flown with the following totals: 33 routine, 17 priority, eight emergency, and two tactical priority.

b. Artillery Support. The majority of the artillery support was provided by G Battery, 3/12 located at FSB Cates, and I Battery 3/12 after relieving G Battery at FSB Cates, and 155mm Guns and 8" guns located at VCB. A total of 133 missions were fired by our forward observers. Night defensive fires represented 100 of the total targets fired. The following is a comprehensive list of targets, rounds fired and weapons used for artillery support for the month of September.

	Weapons	Targets	rounds
Harassing and Interdiction	105mm	216	1008
	155mm	82	644
Reinforcing Fires	175mm	10	55
Prep Fires	105mm	5	30

## 8. Logistics

### a. Supply

(1) Class I. All Class I was drawn at VCB in support of field operations. The Battalion Messhall served "A" rations daily at VCB. Hot food was delivered to the companies in the field, a platoon on Signal Hill and Hill 950, and companies manning the perimeters at FSB Cates and the lines at VCB. In support of field operation, 1,602 cases of MCI and 36,840 gallons of water were delivered on Operation "Georgia Tar", and the defense of VCB.

(2) Class II. Shortage of the following items were experienced during this period.

Nozzle, Cover (Water Buffalo M107A1)  
Trousers, Utility (all sizes)  
Magazines, Cal. .45

The above items have been placed on requisition; however, quantities received to date have been insufficient to alleviate shortages.

(3) Class III. Class III was drawn at VCB and was sufficient to support operations. A total of 28 barrels of DIESEL, 15 barrels of MOGAS, and two barrels of 30W OIL were delivered to the field.

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(4) Class IV. Class IV was drawn at VCB and was adequate. The following amounts were delivered to the field.

Sandbags	6,500
Concertina	1 Sleeve
Drive Stakes	11 Bundles

(5) Class V. All Class V was drawn at VCB. The following ordnance was delivered to units in the field in support of operations:

81mm Mortar	7,777 Rounds
60mm Mortar	2,230 Rounds
5.56	24,590 Rounds
7.62	10,400 Rounds
C-4 Demo Kits	75 Kits
Smoke Grenades	29 Cases

(6) Class VI. Class VI was delivered to troops in the field in the following amounts:

Beer	184 Cases
Soda	184 Cases
SP's	52 Cases
Assorted Juices	62 Cases

(7) Class VII. Organic Motor Vehicles were used for administrative and logistics runs at VCB and was considered satisfactory. Usage data for the month is as indicated below.

20 ML51A1	10,449 Miles
4 M37H1	10,196 Miles
30 MULES	253 Hours

FLSG-B was used as the source of maintenance and was considered adequate.

(8) Class VIII. A Battalion Aid Station was maintained at VCB. Medical supplies were available in sufficient quantities during this period of time.

(9) Class IX. Repair parts were received through normal channels; however, sufficient repair parts were not received to keep all items of equipment operational.

b. Support. Division Motor Transport furnished transportation for delivery of Class II and Class VI from the Reporting Unit Code (RUC) line at Quang Tri Combat Base and Dong Ha Combat Base to VCB.

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Additionally 5-Ton Trucks with dollies have been used to retrograde palletized supplies and equipment to storage areas at Dong Ha Combat Base

10 6x6	Class II and Class VI
8 Flat Beds	Class II and Class VI
9 5-Ton with Dollies	Class II, Class VII, Class VIII and Class IX

3x6's were furnished for household and logistic runs at VCB.

c. Services. Laundry facilities were at Dong Ha. Approximately 2,550 sets of utilities were turned in for washing. It is estimated 280 sets were lost or returned in unserviceable condition. The laundry is very slow in returning rewash and the date of return can never be predicted.

#### 9. Communication - Electronics.

a. Message Center. All message center traffic continued to be transmitted, received, and reproduced by the Fourth Marine Regiment Communication Center. There was no change in the pick-up and delivery schedule. Authentication tables were distributed and used as required. During this period the battalion operated in a split command group, to more adequately control Operation Georgia Tar. One group was located at Fire Support Base Cates, and the other at Vandegrift Combat Base. Daily courier flights were made to Cates to insure that the various staff members had access to the daily message read board.

b. Radio. A new Communication Operation Instructions (COI) was prepared and issued to all unit commanders. This COI contained all of the new call signs, frequencies, and "M" designators required for use by the units within the battalion.

Voice radio provided the primary means of communication for both command groups and all companies in the field. The primary command elements of each section were located at FSB Cates, and their secondary counterparts were at Vandegrift. A switchboard (SB-22) was established at FSB Cates which enabled the battalion to communicate with all elements at the base via land line.

The company tasked with providing perimeter defense for FSB Cates used the AN/PRC-88 to communicate with each of its subordinate units in the perimeter.

The KAC QAL 512 and KAC FZ-4 were used extensively during the month to pass classified information over the battalion tactical nets.

A radio relay site was established on Signal Hill to assist

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in communication with the companies in the field when they moved into an area which prevented direct FM communications with the Alpha Command Group.

c. Covered Circuits. When the command of the battalion went to FSB Cates the AN/PRC-77 and KY-38 provided the Alpha Command Group with a cipher capability to the Regimental Headquarters.

d. Wire: A switchboard (SB-22) was installed on FSB Cates to provide telephone communication with the artillery batteries located on the hill, and all of the subordinate units of the battalion. The wire operation at VCB remained unchanged and continued to be operated as it did last month.

e. Maintenance: The communication technical repair section continued to provide the battalion with a second echelon repair capability. A torque wrench (FSN 512-585-8434) was added to the calibration equipment.

f. Equipment Repaired. The total combat essential equipment deadlined and repaired is as listed below:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>D/L</u>	<u>OFF D/L</u>
AN/PRC-25	42	30
AN/PRC-88	13	13
AN/PRC-41	2	0
AN/PRC-47	00	3
AN/GRA-39	0	11
TA-312 PT	12	5
TA-1/PT	20	13
EE-8	12	6
AN/PPS-6	4	3

Critical repair parts for this period were A10 FSN 5820-973-3588 and A16 FSN 5820-973-3599.

#### 10. Personnel and Administration

##### a. Losses and Gains

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Losses	5	227		0		4
Battle	0	1		0		0
Non-battle	0	45		0		0
Administrative	5	151		0		4
Gains	5	199		0		1

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b. Awards. During the reporting period, one Bronze Star, 13 Purple Hearts, one Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry were presented. The following type of awards were processed recommending approval.

Silver Star	1
Legion of Merit	1
Bronze Star	8
Navy Commendation	9
Navy Achievement	13

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

Courts-Martials/Administrative Discharges Pending/Completed

Special Courts-Martial	7 Pending
Special Courts-Martial	1 Completed
Summary Courts-Martial	2 Pending
Summary Courts-Martial	2 Completed
Administrative Discharges	1 Recommended
Administrative Discharges	0 Completed

Non-Judicial Punishment

Battalion Commanders	7
Company Commanders	7

d. R&R The Battalion used the following out of country R&R Quotas for the month of September 1969:

Bangkok	14	Singapore	1	Manila	3
Hawaii	24	Okinawa	6		
Hong Kong	11	Sydney	16		
Taipei	9	Tokyo	8		

e. Promotions. The following promotions were effected during the month of September 1969.

To	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Meritorious</u>
PFC	9	0
LCpl	267	19
Cpl	0	11
Sgt	12	2
1stLt	6	0

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f. Religious Activities.

(1) Thirteen protestant services were conducted for the battalion during the month of September. The total attendance was 233. The number receiving communion was 133.

(2) Nine protestant services were conducted by the Chaplain for other units. The total attendance was 123. The number receiving communion was 87.

(3) Seven Catholic Masses were conducted for the battalion. The total attendance was 116.

(4) Morning prayers were held for Company C at 0700, 15 September.

(5) Thirty-one men were visited aboard the hospital ships and ten at third Med Bn. A visit was made to the III MAF brig by the Chaplain.

(6) Two troop indoctrinations were given with an attendance of 27.

11. Training.

a. General Military Subject and MOS training for the month depreciated due to extensive deployment of the battalion on field operations. A copy of the training accomplished report is attached as a supporting document.

b. All replacements received indoctrination training in accordance with the Battalion's SOP for indoctrination training. Each Marine joining the Battalion during the month fired the M-16 for familiarization prior to being assigned to a unit in the field.

c. Officer and Staff Noncommissioned Officers formal training was limited to informal discussions, and Embarkation training, due to extensive deployment of units on field operations.

12. Psychological Operations. In addition to the operations conducted by higher headquarters within the Battalion's AO, an operation was carried out by the 2nd ARVN Regt., to displace the local citizens from the villages of Ba Thanh 1, Ba Thanh 2, Ba Thanh 3, south of VCB in the Ba Long Valley. This Battalion furnished liaison support to assist in the displacement of these villagers to the Valley of Gue.

13. Medical and Dental Affairs

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a. The total number of visits to the Battalion Aid Station during the month of September was 548.

b. Prevalent medical entities encountered were:

Gonorrhea	2	Rat Bites	17
Diarrhea	60	FUO	94*
Malaria	16	Dermatological	
URI	10	Conditions	96
NP Disorders	1	Heat Casualties	9

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

d. A total of 43 patients were referred to 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF. Of those referred, the following were consults:

NP	1	Internal Medicine	36
Dermatology	1	Orthopedics	5

(1) Following referrals were made to: USS Repose 1

(2) Total number of patients referred to dental for treatment: 23.

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

KIA	0	NHD	0
WIA	1	DOW	0
MIA	0	NBC	99

f. Weekly malaria prophylaxis was continued with the use of Chloroquine-Primaquine tablets in the Battalion area. In conjunction with the weekly malaria prophylaxis, daily malaria prophylaxis was continued also.

g. Sanitation inspections of the Battalion were held daily and weekly in accordance with DivO P6000.4D. Few discrepancies were noted. Steps are being taken to correct all discrepancies. Particularly noteworthy areas included the messhall, company showers, and the transient area.

h. During the month of September one Battalion Aid Station was maintained with a Battalion Surgeon and twenty-nine Hospital Corpsmen. Several corpsmen were received from the Third Marines. Incoming corpsmen were processed and outfitted at VCB. All injuries, malaria

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encounter and other casualties were treated by line company corpsmen. When necessary, casualties were promptly evacuated for further treatment. No serious delays were encountered in resupply or evacuation during this time.

i. Lectures were given regularly at the BAS and by the line company corpsmen.

j. With cooperation of the dental units, a total of twenty-three patients were referred for treatment. All arrivals into the battalion were screened and those presenting a class III or IV dental profile were referred to the dental unit before going to the field.

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat Operations

- 01 Sep As the month of September commenced, the Battalion was engaged in operation Georgia Tar with the ALPHA Command Group at Fire Support Base (FSB) Cates. Co D was at FSB Cates, Companies A and B were working to the North-west, "in Rocket Valley." Co C was chopped OPCON to 3/4. At 0805, the lift of Co C and the "Jump CP" to VCB was completed. At 1430, LtCol MAC INNIS joined the Alpha Command at FSB Cates.
- 07 Sep At 1200, Co A completed a helo lift to FSB Cates to relieve Co D who moved off to the North on a sweep towards the "rocket belt."
- 08 Sep At 0830, Col HERSHEY, CO 4th Marines, visited FSB Cates to initiate a limited truce from 080100H to 110100H during mourning period of Ho Chi Minh's death. All units were restricted from offensive movements or shifts to the north. Truce caused slippage of operations by two days.
- 09 Sep At 0830, Col HERSHEY visited FSB Cates to discuss future operations with LtCol MAC INNIS. At 2300, received further restriction on fires from Regiment. No night defensive fires to be conducted during truce - to include company organic weapons. Only contact and illumination mission are to be fired.
- 10 Sep At 1415, Co B spotted four people to the south but could not be identified. (See Spot Report #85). At 1515, Co A fired the F.P.F. at FSB Cates integrating the artillery batteries machine guns. One man received a minor shrapnel wound. At 2100, Co A had movement to the west - fired 60's and 81's. At 2400, the limited truce expired and fire restrictions were lifted. G-2 cautioned all units against increased possibility of enemy offensive action at conclusion of truce.
- 12 Sep At 0745, Co B was lifted from the field into VCB. At 1000, Co A checked area of movement with negative results. At 1200, the reinforcement of FSB Cates by 106mm platoon personnel with 2,3.5" Rocket Launchers, ground surveillance team and scout snipers was completed. Two flame teams are being held as part of the reaction force and on standby

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for companies in the field.

At 1150, received confirmation of Northern, Western and Southwestern boundary. The Northern boundary was reduced to the 52 grid line and several bulges were chopped off to the west and south.

2205, a request for temporary boundary extension to the southwest was denied.

- 13 Sep Co C was lifted into XD910400 to an LZ secured by Recon Team Armor Plate. Lift was completed at 1050.
- 14 Sep Co C monitored enemy net and learned of an impending attack by one company of NVA reinforced by a vehicle with dual heavy machine guns and a 75mm howitzer.
- 15 Sep At 0900, further monitoring by Co C revealed that H&I fires hit the enemy attack force and forced them to withdraw.
- 16 Sep At 1115, Co C spotted one NVA in the open at XD891419. 81's were fired and were on target. Co C unable to check area at this time.  
At 1200, Co D found 142 82mm rounds, 10 60mm rounds, fuzees and increments in bunkers at XD887497. All ammo was blown.  
At 1810, one man was seriously wounded from 1st Platoon Co A on Hill 950 when he stepped on a mine outside the perimeter wire.
- 17 Sep Co C was in a hold as a possible reserve for the 3rd Marines who were in contact N.E. of the Rockpile.
- 18 Sep At 1200, Co C was chopped OPCON to 2/4 and commenced a helo lift to VCB, lift was completed at 1230H.
- 20 Sep At 1500, the Battalion assumed responsibility for defense of VCB and assumed OPCON of 3rd Platoon Co E 2/4, Co I 3/4 and H, 2/4 and Co K 3/4. Hill 950 was closed and the 1st Platoon Co A returned to VCB at 1530. Co C(-) relieved Co E(-) as road security on Route #9 from VCB to ECB at 1600. The Alpha Command group moved from FSB Cates to VCB and assumed operational control of the AO and communications net control. Co D was helilifted to VCB from Rocket Valley, lift completed at 1625, Co D was assigned Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle mission. At 1640, OPCON of Co H was assumed by their parent unit.  
At 1800H, Co K 3/4 was chopped OPCON to their parent unit. Preparations and liaison are under way to commence work to close FSB Shepherd and FSB Cates.

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21 Sep

Co B relieved Co I on the VCB perimeter in defense, and retains Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle assignment, Co I 3/4 and Co K 2/4 were chopped OPCON to their parent units. Co A provided security for engineer units on FSB Shepherd and FSB Gates for destruction and closing.

- 22 Sep At 0600, work was continued to close FSB Cates and FSB Shepherd. A provisional platoon was formed from H&S Co to provide working party and security at FSB Shepherd. An ARVN operation commenced South of VCB.
- 23 Sep At 0800, work was continued to close FSB Cates and FSB Shepherd, Co A returned to VCB to spend the night. At 1100, the 3rd Platoon Co E was ordered to commence preparations to close Signal Hill. 1700, Recon Teams were inserted on FSB Cates and FSB Shepherd for security.
- 24 Sep At 0900, the 1st Platoon Co A relieved the 1st Platoon of Co E in defense of Signal Hill; the platoon was returned OPCON to their parent unit. Tenant units commenced to retrograde organic gear from their position in preparation for closing Signal Hill. Co A relieved Co G (-) as Road Security and assumed portions of VCB defense responsibility. Tenant units commenced to evacuate VCB.
- 25 Sep At 0600, Operation "Georgia Tar" was terminated. The 4th Marines assumed responsibility for the "IDAHO CANYON" AO. This Battalion was assigned responsibility for VCB, Signal Hill, and Route #9 security to grid line 53. Battalion units continued missions assigned with no sighting or contacts with the enemy. Capt. STOKES and Lt. CONVERSE performed liaison duties with the 2nd ARVN Regiment conducting a resettlement operation from Ba Thanh 1, Ba Thanh 2, Ba Thanh 3 south of Ca Lu to the Valley of Cua east of the Rockpile.
- 26 Sep Battalion units continued assigned missions with no enemy sightings or contacts. 1st MAW reported two dud bombs were dropped on FSB Cates.
- 27 Sep An aerial recon of FSB Cates failed to locate dud ordnance; and engineer teams with a security unit from Co A were dispatched to Cates. One bomb was located, buried several feet in the ground and was blown in place. The other bomb appears to have been lost on the southeast side of the FSB in rugged terrain.

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At 2100, Co B fired final protective fires of machine guns only. Supporting fires were limited to the south and east of VCB due to the 2nd ARVN working near the northern and western edge of their AO.

- 29 Sep At 1810, weather depreciated and FSB Cates was fogged in, to the extent the working detail could not be extracted and were required to remain overnight.
- 30 Sep At 2330H, Co B reported suspected enemy movement at grid XD990487, fired illumination and 81mm Mortar HE mission, area will be checked on 1 October 1969.

2. Significant events not related to combat operations

- 02 Sep Tropical Storm "DORIS" struck the Operational Area causing Co's A and B to slip their objectives one day. Storm damage was light at FSB Cates but several bunkers at Hill 950 collapsed. The 1/4 area at VCB suffered blown down tents and collapsed bunker walls.
- 03 Sep At 0945, Major General JONES, CG, 3rd MarDiv, visited FSB Cates to inspect storm damage. Co B found 10 discarded 122mm rocket canisters.
- 04 Sep At 1345, Regimental CO., Col HERSHEY visited FSB Cates to confer with Battalion CO.  
At 1420, ADC 3rd MarDiv, BGen FULLER visited FSB Cates bringing ice cream, soda and beer for the troops.
- 06 Sep At 1130, BGen's SPANGER and JOHNSON of the 1st MAW visited FSB Cates.
- 10 Sep At 0840, BGen FULLER arrived at FSB Cates with a portable grill and provided ham, bacon, fresh eggs and pancakes for all hands. The 1st Platoon of Co A was ferried down from Hill 950 for chow. At 1330, three Navy Chaplains visited FSB Cates.  
At 1500, Four F-4 pilots and 2-3rd MarDiv Liaison Officers visited FSB Cates as part of the air/ground exchange program.
- 12 Sep At 0845, Co B was chopped OPCON to 2nd Bn, 4th Marines.  
At 0930, Col HERSHEY visited FSB Cates in order to coordinate future operations with the Bn Commander.

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At 1500, BGen FULLER flew into Hill 950 with his portable Mess Hall.

- 17 Sep Major General JONES, CG, 3rd MarDiv, visited FSB Cates to award two Bronze Stars to personnel of 155 1st Prov. Battery. Major CHAMPLIN, the new S-3 could not return to Cates from VCB due to weather.
- 19 Sep CO and S-3 still unable to return to FSB Cates due to weather.
- 20 Sep At 1100, the 3rd MarDiv G-3 visited FSB Cates.
- 27 Sep At 0930, the 3rd MarDiv G-3 visited FSB Cates.
- 28 Sep At 0800, a contingent of 200 Marines from this Battalion returned to FSB Cates for continued work to close this FSB and returned at 1805.
- 29 Sep At 0800, a contingent of 200 Marines were dispatched to FSB Cates to continue destruction of that position. At 0915, Major General JONES visited the Battalion area.
- 30 Sep At 0800, work continued to destroy FSB Cates.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓1. S-2, S-3 Journal; 1 September through 30 September 1969 *Filed Sep*
- ✓2. Monthly Training Report; for September 1969
- ✓3. Operation Order 3-69; 251200H August 1969 ( Previously Submitted)
- ✓4. Communication Operation Instructions (COI) effective 050800H  
September 1969
- ✓5. Vietnam Map Sheets 6342II; 6342III ( Previously Submitted)

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