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HEADQUARTERS

2d Battalion 4th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

3D MAR DIV SEC FILE
B7C 582268

3/RAT/der
5750
5 October 1968
SerNo: 003A29068

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-30 September 1968

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.1R.
(b) Map Vietnam, Quang Tri Sheet No. 6342 II and III

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

W. L. Kent
W. L. KENT
By direction

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-30 September 1968

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. 2d Battalion 4th Marines LtCol L. A. RANN

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1stLt B. V. TAYLOR
F Company	Capt E. G. MASSMAN
F Company	Capt R. J. MURPHY
G Company	Capt J. M. DWYER
H Company	Capt N. J. LADUCA

2. Location

Quang Tri Combat Base; 1-30 September 1968

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	to 16Sep Maj C. W. KNAPP
	fr 17Sep Maj W. L. KENT
S-1	CWO2 W. ZUBRISKI
S-2	to 2Sep Capt J. H. BUTLER
	fr 3Sep 1stLt J. A. WAINWRIGHT
S-3	to 13Sep Maj R. G. LEIDICH
	fr 14Sep Capt W. J. FLEMING
S-4	to 1Sep Capt L. A. GOODALE
	Fr 2Sep Capt J. H. BUTLER
Supply Officer	1stLt J. D. CLARKE
Communications Officer	1stLt P. J. MCELHINNEY
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt W. G. HODGSON
Medical Officer	Lt F. D. MURPHY
Chaplain	Lt M. F. WILLARD JR.

4. Average Monthly Strength

Period: 01 to 30 Sep 1968

- a. The average monthly strength during the period:

	USMC	USN
OFF	36.3	2
ENL	1104.2	52

- b. Critical MOS's and rank deficiencies have been closely monitored and requested.

- c. The following number of personnel were transferred during the period:

	USMC	USN
OFF	8	0
ENL	103	

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d. The following number of personnel were joined during the period:

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
OFF	5	0
ENL	274	0

e. The following casualties were incurred during the period:

KIA - 1	MIA - 0	INJURED - 13
WIA - 1	WIANE - 0	DOI - 1
DOW - 0	DISEASE - 24	OTHER - 3

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of September the Battalion remained in its positions throughout the SCOTLAND II Area of Operations. Three companies were outposted on hills around Fire Base CATES to provide security and observation. Enemy contact was light the entire month and consisted mainly in small unit probes at all defensive positions. In addition heavy rains and overcast weather pointed out the need to prepare all positions both logistically and tactically for long periods of isolation.

During the first half of the month enemy activity consisted solely in probes and spottings of very small units throughout the AO. On 02 September Company G displaced from Hill 832 to Hill 512 with three 107mm mortars. Their mission was to support 3/4 who was operating to the north of Khe Sanh CB. From 04-08 September there were very heavy rains with overcast skies. On 04 September one bunker collapsed on Hill 950 killing one man from Company F. As a result of this all units were instructed to check all bunkers at their positions and evacuate any that appeared unsafe. The Engineers also checked the bunkers and reported any they felt were unsafe. As the weather cleared and working conditions improved the major emphasis was placed on insuring that all bunkers were examined and adequate waterproofing and support were incorporated into all bunkers. In addition to the improvement of bunkers, the clearing of fields of fire was continued as the weather allowed. On 11 September Company F(-) left one platoon on Hill 950 and displaced to Hill 691. Company H(-) then was helilifted to VANDEGRIFT CB and placed OPCON to Task Force HOTEL. These moves were made in preparation for Operation SCOTLAND II/NANKING scheduled for the middle of the month. On 13 September Company H was helilifted to Hill 691 at 1500H. Company F(-)(Rein) was chopped OPCON to Company B 1/4. On 14 September the 4th Marines regimental change of command ceremonies took place at Fire Base CATES. Col Edward J. MILLER was relieved by Col Martin J. SEXTON.

In the second half of the month operations continued much the same with extensive patrolling and observation. There was continued probing of the position on Hill 950. On 17 September there was activity reported around the Khe Sanh Combat Base. Several artillery missions were fired at a possible convoy and then at the helicopter revetments however nothing could be clearly identified. On 19 September there were several sitings of anti-aircraft weapons positions made to the west of Khe Sanh at coordinates XD 841363, 756429, and 785435. All positions were extensively covered with artillery. On 27 September at 2000H several units reported hearing and seeing an unidentified aircraft in the AO. Positive identification could not be made due to heavy fog.

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The intermittent rain greatly hindered any long range patrols. Several accidents were incurred that were a result of bad footing and steep terrain. Also during the last half of the month the Battalion was constantly preparing to start Operation SCOTLAND II/WANKING. The weather resulted in several postponements.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS01 Sep 1968

During the early morning, Company F observed 2 NVA dragging away another NVA. They also spotted 4-5 more NVA around their position. A check at first light revealed a pool of blood with numerous footprints, a tripflare wire cut and one cut in their defensive wire. At 2120H Company F reported movement around their position at Hill 1015 (XD 855455). They fired 60mm mortars at suspected positions.

02 Sep 1968

At 1245H Company F received one round of 60mm mortar fire outside their position. One platoon from Company G was dispatched to Hill 512 (XD 874429) in order to prepare for the arrival of Company G at that position. By 1900H the rest of Company G with 3 107mm mortars displaced by helicopter to Hill 512 and began preparing positions.

03 Sep 1968

At 0001 Company F reported definite movement of about one NVA platoon south of their position. They fired 60mm and 81mm mortars. At 1355 Company F reported that a recon insert spotted a .50 cal. position at XD 821451. Company F observed two .50 cal. positions from their location. They conducted one air-strike on the position with fair coverage. They observed 2 secondary explosions with yellow smoke in the area of the suspected position. A second flight of fixed wing was run on the position with one secondary explosion. This strike destroyed the positions and interdicted a trail in the area.

04 Sep 1968

No enemy contact was made. Heavy rains caused one bunker to collapse on Hill 950 killing one man from Company F. All companies were ordered to check their bunkers and evacuate any that appeared unsafe. Engineers were also sent around and reported any bunkers they felt were unsafe to live in.

05 Sep 1968

At 0400H Company G reported that a short round from an artillery H&I had landed inside their perimeter resulting in one WIANE and 1 WIAE. All companies continued to work on waterproofing and shoreing up their positions during the day.

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At 0320H Company E reported heavy movement at XD 92954374. They fired 60mm mortars and threw grenades. The movement ceased. At 1910H Company G reported finding a mortar site at XD 878427. Four fuse caps and signs of recent activity in the area were discovered.

07 Sep 1968

No enemy contact was made. All companies continued to work on their bunkers during the heavy rains. Constant checks were made to insure stability of bunkers.

08 Sep 1968

At 0220H Company H reported receiving one round of 60mm mortar outside their perimeter on Hill 691 (XD 926443). They fired counter mortar fire with their 60mm mortars at XD 924437. At 0237H Company G observed lights at XD 878427 and fired 60mm mortars at the lights. The lights disappeared. At 2116H Company F reported movement outside their perimeter and fired 60mm mortars.

09 Sep 1968

Company F checked the previous night's area of movement and reported finding nothing. At 1757H Company F was advised by an aerial observer that there were camouflaged positions at XD 82174507. They fired 81mm mortars at the position and observed 4 secondary explosions approximately the size of 1 or 2 mortar rounds each.

10 Sep 1968

At 2223H Company F reported picking up movement on CID's at XD 84254496 and fired 60mm and artillery on the position. At 2255H Company G reported movement at XD 877428 and fired 60mm mortars.

11 Sep 1968

At 0815H Company H detected movement and fired 60mm at suspected location. By 1309H Company F(-) had displaced to Hill 691 (XD 926443) leaving one platoon to occupy Hill 950 (XD 844456). At 1342H Company H(-) was helilifted to VANDEGRIFT CP where it assumed OPCOM of its platoon at that position that had been rough rider security. The 107mm mortars from Hill 512 (XD 874429) were helilifted to FB CATES at 1245H. The above moves were made in preparation for Operation SCOTLAND II/NANKING.

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At 1128P Company G reported finding 20 M-16 rifles, 1 3.5" rocket launcher and 1 U.S. .50 cal. machine gun barrel at XD 877424. All the weapons had been completely destroyed by demolitions. Inspection of the shipping crates indicated that they were enroute to Khe Sanh. None of the weapons were subject to repair, they were totally destroyed.

13 Sep 1968

At 0800H the Battalion Area of Operations was returned to the original boundaries it had prior to the operation conducted by 3/4. At 1100H the unit from Company F at Hill 950 reported enemy movement around their perimeter and received 5-6 rounds of 82mm mortars from an unknown position. At 1630H Company F(-) with one platoon from Company H OPCON were helilifted to Ca Lu and chopped OPCON to Task Force HOTEL. Company H(-) was helilifted from VANDERBILT CB to Hill 691.

14 Sep 1968

At 0830H the 4th Marines regimental change of command ceremonies were held at Fire Base CATES. Col Edward J. MILLER was relieved by Col Martin J. SEXTON. At 0950H Company G reported finding a trench line and bunkers at XD 876424. They also found 1 NVA first-aid packet, 1 food tin and 1 unidentified bamboo gadget (possibly a smoking pipe). At 1000H Company H reported seeing 1 NVA in a treeline at XD 924448. They fired an artillery mission at the position and searched the area, but found nothing. At 1325H the platoon from Company F located at Hill 950 reported hearing voices of 3-4 NVA at XD 850456. They ran air strikes on the position. They discovered a trail with fresh footprints upon a search of the area and followed it until it disappeared into heavy undergrowth.

15 Sep 1968

At 0900H Company F(-)(Rein) was chopped OPCON to Company B 1/4. No enemy contact was made by any units.

16 Sep 1968

At 1800 the platoon from Company F at Hill 950 reported observing a possible enemy artillery site at XD 853418. They fired 106mm RR and artillery with good coverage of the target. At 2240H Company G reported movement at XD 871433 and fired 60mm mortars. They heard heavy movement moving away and fired a second mission with illumination. Movement ceased.

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At 0030H Company H reported that one of its LP's saw one person throw a Chicom hand grenade at them at XD 925445. They returned one grenade and saw no more. At 0220H Company G received 4 hand grenades outside their perimeter. They returned 60mm mortars and increased security to 100%. At 1140H the unit on Hill 950 reported a suspected staging area at XD 835425. Helicopters landing at Hill 950 had drawn fire from that position. At 1150H Company E spotted what looked like a truck moving in the vicinity of Khe Sanh CB. Artillery was called with good coverage of the target. At the same time the unit from Company F on Hill 950 observed some tarps on the helicopter revetments at Khe Sanh. The artillery mission also covered their target.

18 Sep 1968

At 0745 the unit from Company F on Hill 950 verified seeing the tarps during the fire mission at 171150H. They did not confirm seeing any trucks moving and there were no secondary explosions. At 1500H a gunship reported seeing an unknown number of people move into a treeline in the XD 9346 grid. Artillery was called in at XD 927464 with zone and shift. 81mm mortars fired at XD 925469 as a possible avenue of escape. The coverage of the target was excellent and Company H continued to observe the area. At 1830H a patrol from the unit on Hill 950 found several satchel charges at XD 844453 which appeared to be 2-3 days old. They consisted of 1/2 lb. of TNT and a blasting cap. All charges were returned and destroyed. At 2035H an LP at Company H spotted a moving red light at XD 929441 and received one M-79 round. They returned fire with grenades, M-79, and 60mm mortars. They were unable to determine the results.

19 Sep 1968

At 0450H the Battalion received a message from 4th Marines S-2 that there were NVA at XD 947436. Artillery and 81's were fired at these coordinates. At 0515H Company G had a trip flare sprung in front of one of their LP's. They detonated a claymore and then received small arms fire. The LP returned S/A fire and was extracted as 60mm mortars were fired at XD 878428. At 0735H Companies G and H checked the areas of contact of the previous night with negative results. At 1445H Company H reported spotting one NVA moving northeast at XD 919445. Artillery and 60mm were fired at the position. At 2025H the unit on Hill 950 reported receiving 2 rounds of 82mm mortar which landed approximately 100-150 meters outside their perimeter. They were unable to observe any possible

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location of the mortar tubes. At 2230H Companies G and H reported an AA weapon firing at XD 841363. Artillery was fired at the position and a TPQ requested. The artillery fired zone and shift but observation was limited except to note that the rounds landed in the general vicinity of the target. The AA weapon ceased firing. At 2315H Company G and the unit on Hill 950 reported another AA weapon firing at XD 765429 as determined by intersection. A TPQ was requested because the site was out of artillery range. At 2316H the unit on Hill 950 reported an AA position at XD 785435. Artillery fired a zone and shift at the location and the weapon ceased firing.

20 Sep 1968

At 0955H the unit on Hill 950 received one round of artillery fired from the west at an unknown range. At 0957H the same unit discovered fresh tire tracks at XD 823451-824446 leading to possible caves at XD 827447. At 2040H Company E reported heavy movement on the northern side of their perimeter at XD 925438. A trip flare was set off. Company E threw grenades and fired M-79 and placed all positions on 100% alert.

21 Sep 1968

At 1846H a WP rifle grenade accidentally exploded inside a bunker on Hill 950 resulting in 2 emergency and 2 routine medevacs. At 2000H the medevac helicopters reported receiving S/A weapons fire from an unknown position. The unit on Hill 950 observed the surrounding area but saw no firing. By 2156H all the medevacs were completed. At 2130H Company F's unit on Hill 950 observed lights 150 meters outside their perimeter. 81mm mortars were fired and the lights ceased. About 15 minutes later they were again observed and another mission was fired. At 2210H movement was detected 50-75 meters outside the perimeter, believed to be 2-3 NVA. 81mm mortars were fired and security was raised to 100%. The movement ceased and the area was kept under observation the rest of the night.

22 Sep 1968

During the day plans were made and lift requirements arranged for the removal of the Battalion from its present positions back to VANDEGRIFT CB prior to Operation SCOTLAND II/PAKING. At 2030H Company H reported one 60mm short round killing one Marine. All further mortar firing was suspended.

23 Sep 1968

At 1630H the unit on Hill 950 reported that a wire check had discovered 6 cuts in their defensive wire with a trail leading up to one large hole. All cuts were repaired and additional tripflares were set.

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At 0945H Company G reported finding one U.S. jet aircraft, crashed and burned at XD 871419. Wreckage was scattered over a very large area. There were no identifying numbers on the plane. It appeared to be an A-4. At 1245H Company H on Hill 691 spotted one person at XD 926454. They fired 60mm, 81mm and artillery at the position. After the fire mission the person disappeared into a treeline. They continued to observe the area with high powered glasses.

25 Sep 1968

At 0955H the unit on Hill 950 discovered a freshly used trail in the area of XD 846454. The trail was marked by 60mm fin assemblies leading through a minefield at XD 843456. At 1000H Company H reported finding sleeping holes at XD 929448. They also observed smoke and heard movement for 1/2 hour but were unable to detect positive enemy positions. At 1415H Company H observed 2 EVA crossing a bomb crater at 922453. They fired artillery with good coverage of the target. The unit from Company F on Hill 950 found 1 Chicom grenade and a light device at 1845H at XD 842458. They searched the surrounding area thoroughly but found nothing further.

26 Sep 1968

No enemy contact was made.

27 Sep 1968

At 2000H the unit on Hill 950 reported seeing and hearing a rotary type aircraft heading west to east with one red light in the tail. At 2320H personnel at Fire Base CATES also saw a aircraft heading east to west south of their position. At 2445H Company G also observed the aircraft. All units were alerted and continued to observe the area.

28 Sep 1968

At 1305H Hill 950 reported that one man, while on patrol, fell off the south slope of the hill. The man was wounded in the head and had a possible broken knee. He was medevaced at 1440H. At 2220H Company H spotted flashing lights at XD 84452. They called in artillery with good coverage of the target area and the possibility of one small secondary explosion.

29 Sep 1968

Preparations were continued for the impending operation. At 1840H Hill 950 reported picking up movement of 15-20 people on

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a SID device at XD 84364566-04414554. 60mm and 81mm mortars were fired but the observation was limited due to poor visibility. At 2105H they detected more movement of approximately 5 men at the same location. 60mm mortars were fired and grenades thrown at the location.

30 Sep 1968

While units from Hill 950 were moving out to check the area in which the SID had picked up movement on 29 Sep, the SID picked up more movement at the same coordinates. The unit fired a 60mm mission and on the second fire for effect 6 rounds were thrown off target due to the rain and loose base plates. The rounds landed near the patrol causing 3 routine and 1 emergency medevacs. Medevacs were completed at 0945H and the patrol continued on to check the area of the movement. They found enemy footprints at XD 84364568. The rest of the day was spent in making final preparations and organizing helilift requirements for the impending operation.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ TAB A	-	INTELLIGENCE
✓ TAB B	-	TRAINING
✓ TAB C	-	LOGISTICS
✓ TAB D	-	COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS
✓ TAB E	-	FIELD SUPPORT
✓ TAB F	-	MEDICAL AND DENTAL
✓ TAB G	-	CHAPLAIN SUPPORT

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INTELLIGENCE

OPERATION: SCOTLAND II (Period 1-30 September 1968)

MAP REFERENCES: (a) Vietnam, Thon Doc Kinh-6342 II, Ser L7014
 (b) Vietnam, Huong Hoa-6342 III, Ser L7014

1. Intelligence operations during the period 1-30 September 1968 were satisfactory.

2. Mission.

a. The mission of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines during September was to provide security for Fire Base CATES, to keep surveillance on the abandoned Marine Base of Khe Sanh, and to maintain constant observation and surveillance on known and suspected infiltration/exfiltration routes within the area of responsibility in the SCOTLAND II Area of Operations. During the month of September, the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines were under the operational control of the 4th Marine Regiment.

3. Enemy Contact and Activity

a. Because of the lack of enemy contact during the month of September, it is believed that the enemy had lost all desire to engage or attack Marine permanent or semi-permanent positions in the area of operations/responsibility.

(1) The only contact by fire made with the enemy during September was on the 19 at 0515 when a trip flare was detonated by the enemy outside the perimeter defense wire, the listening post countered with a claymore mine and in turn received small arms fire.

(2) During September there was a considerable increase in enemy probes of the perimeter defensive wire on Fire Base CATES and all of the positions manned by the maneuver elements. In several instances inspection of the defensive wire revealed cuts in the wire, flares stolen, and claymore mines stolen.

Friendly Disposition

a. The 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Command Post remained at Fire Base/Landing Zone CATES during the month of September. 1968

b. The maneuver elements of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines maintained positions at strategically located locations within the area of responsibility, such as Hill 950 (XD 845455), Hill 925 (XD 925443), Hill 512 (XD 875419) and Hill 1015 (XD 8455). From these positions the maneuver elements had a commanding view and maintained constant surveillance of known and suspected infiltration/exfiltration routes and likely avenues of approach to friendly positions. **DECLASSIFIED**

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5. Reconnaissance Inserts/Operations

a. Reconnaissance operations were extensively used during the month of September. Reconnaissance teams were usually assigned surveillance missions. Reconnaissance teams during September made enemy contact on several occasions. Reconnaissance teams were used during July and August with little or no contacts. Contacts with the enemy tends to confirm the belief that the enemy is operating in the area of responsibility in small groups, and not in force. As previously mentioned, the enemy has appeared to have lost his desire to take the offensive against Marine permanent or semi-permanent positions. It is probable that these small enemy groups or units are stay behind groups with the primary mission of maintaining surveillance over friendly units.

6. Artillery, Rocket and Mortar Attacks

a. For the first time in several months enemy artillery, rocket and mortar attacks on friendly positions decreased considerably. It is believed that the enemy may be experiencing difficulty in resupplying his supporting arms positions.

b. During September, a large munitions cache was discovered in the area of interest to the north outside the area of responsibility by elements of the Ninth Marines. Discovered in this cache were 18,727 artillery and rocket rounds, and it is believed that this cache was a forward munitions deposit area from which the enemy could resupply his active gun positions.

Ground Surveillance Devices

a. The use of ground surveillance devices continued during the month of September. The devices were emplaced on likely avenues of approach to friendly positions in the vicinity of Hill 950. Ground surveillance devices have been emplaced in the vicinity of the abandoned Marine base of Khe Sanh. The major disadvantage of the ground surveillance devices was its sensitiveness, it is able to register or detect artillery, airplanes flying over the area, TPQs and arc lights with little or no difference in transmission signals. When a highly trained operator will have difficulty in properly analyzing a readout. Ground surveillance devices were used out of Hill 950. From Hill 950 an excellent line of sight can be established to Khe Sanh Base, making the reading of the ground surveillance devices possible. Excellent observation and surveillance can be maintained on Khe Sanh Base and its environs from Hill 950.

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8. Scout Dog Teams

a. Scout Dog Teams were used once during the month of September. Heavy rains and the rough terrain pattern predominant in the area of responsibility/operations hindered their effectiveness to an extent, but it is believed that they can be effectively employed in the future. During the latter part of September, scout dog teams were available and were attached to "F" Company.

9. Enemy Situation

a. The enemy's behavior during September can probably be attributed to one or a combination of the following possibilities:

(1) The enemy had lost all desire to engage Marine units in ground action in the area of operations/responsibility. This possibility can be attributed to the fact that the enemy's moral is low, and he has lost his aggressiveness.

(2) The enemy may have temporarily exfiltrated to the east or southwest into Laos. He may have gone back to the DMZ or North Vietnam, leaving only small groups or stay behind units in the area of responsibility/operations. This possibility is likely if the enemy in the area of responsibility/operations became ineffective because of manpower losses, or through ineffective logistical support.

(3) The enemy may have temporarily suspended his offensive in preparation for a new offense.

(4) The enemy may be concentrating his efforts in other areas of South Vietnam. If this is the enemy's goal, any offensive in the area of responsibility/operations will be a diversionary tactic.

(5) The enemy may have experienced logistical problems.

(6) The enemy may have experienced difficulty with infiltration of men into the area of responsibility/operations.

Enemy Disposition

a. Enemy disposition and strength in the SCOTLAND II Area operations during September 1968 was as follows:

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- (1) 246 NVA Regt Hqs, 338th Division, strength 600, location (XD 6940).
- (2) 1st Bn, 246 NVA Regt, 338th Division, strength 400, location (XD 8138).
- (3) 2d Bn, 246 NVA Regt, 338th Division, strength 400, location (XD 8541).
- (4) 3rd Bn, 246 NVA Regt, 338th Division, strength 400, location (XD 8637).
- (5) 88th Sapper Regt, strength 2,350, location (XD 9229).

b. None of the above named enemy units were operating near the area of responsibility or the area of operations normally assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines.

11. Terrain

a. The terrain in the area of responsibility/operations is rugged, mountainous, highland region in the northwestern part of Quang Tri Province. The terrain for the most part is difficult to traverse because of the irregularity and configuration of the terrain pattern. Mobility in some parts is poor as the terrain severely restricts choice of direction of movement. There are few places where the terrain is relatively flat, with minimum hinderance of movement. Because of the irregularity of the terrain pattern, there are many areas or points through which infiltration/exfiltration is most likely to pass.

Cover and Concealment

a. Cover. The enemy is afforded excellent cover in the SCOTLAND II Area of Operations. The irregular pattern of the terrain provides the enemy many places where he can establish his harbor sites/base camps. It has been noted that the slopes forming gullies, ravines and draws are his favorite places on which to build his bunkers. These areas have limited avenues of approach, and these avenues can be easily and effectively protected.

b. Concealment. Concealment from both aerial and ground observation is excellent in the SCOTLAND II Area of Operations. Vegetation in the SCOTLAND II Area of Operations grows well. Forested areas grassland areas, and canopied areas all provide excellent concealment.

c. Vegetation. Most of the mountainous areas and the highlands are forested. Parts of the highlands are covered

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with thick, tall and dense elephant grass which attains a height of 12-15 feet. Clusters of trees are often found in areas where elephant grass is predominant.

(1) Forested areas are common in the higher elevations, and along the river banks and stream beds. Forested areas are also found in those gullies and draws where an intermittent stream exists.

(2) Heavy canopy areas are common in higher elevations. The area along the Vietnam/Laos border is heavy canopy area.

(3) Grassland areas are usually found in highland areas where the terrain is relatively flat or on slopes. The grassland areas consist mainly of tall, thick and dense elephant grass which grows to a height of 12-15 feet.

13. Drinking water in the SCOTLAND II Area of Operations is in abundance due to the numerous rivers, streams, and creeks located in the area. The water was considered safe to drink with the proper use of water purification tablets.

14. RESULTS:

Enemy KIA during September: None

Enemy Weapons captured During September: None

Individual: None; Crew-served: None

Total enemy KIA since 5 May 1965: 2900

Total enemy weapons captured since 5 May 1965: 851

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TRAINING

During the month of September training was conducted at all levels of the battalion. At the small unit level classes were given which included patrolling and ambushes. Map reading, compass and terrain appreciation were given in formal classes with the emphasis on the interaction of all three as they affect patrolling. Platoon corpsmen conducted classes in first aid that emphasized buddy aid and field expedient measures. Care and cleaning of all weapons with an emphasis on monsoon-proofing of weapons and ammunition were conducted at the small unit level. At the company level unit leaders received instructions in the use of demolitions. Engineers attached to the battalion demonstrated their use in clearing fields of fire and then the small unit leaders were given supervised practical application. The destruction of booby-traps and mines were included in the lectures. Company radiomen schooled all small unit radiomen in procedure, preventative maintenance with emphasis on waterproofing, and spot reports. Company FO's gave lectures on supporting arms with practical application using 81's, 4.2" 's, and 105's.

In the battalion rear, all newly joined personnel were instructed under the 3rd Marine Division COATIP program. This includes our involvement in RVN with emphasis on personal response. Each Marine, before he goes to the field from the rear, zero's his weapon and fam-fires at least two hundred rounds. This month personnel joined from the 27th Marines were given a history of 2/4 prior to joining their units.

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LOGISTICS

During the period because of the battalion's posture, on the tops of hills, resupply consisted of building a monsoon stockpile at each position.

Because of the past difficulties encountered at Hill 950 during the monsoon season, a 30 day supply of Class I and Class IV was stockpiled. At the other positions a 15 to 30 day supply was built. Difficulties encountered with resupply are threefold.

Class IV items such as sledge hammers, wire cutters, and axes are very hard to get and have been on requisition since July. These items when received are often broken during use and repair is very difficult.

In resupply of the outposts at Hills 512 and 950 difficulties in the availability of helicopters was encountered. Hill 950 is considered a "hot zone" and thereby requires the presence of "Huey" gunships during resupply. Due to the non-availability of these gunships on many occasions resupply did not get to Hill 950.

The third difficulty is in the control of helicopters. Many pallets of resupply has been placed at the wrong position which has created many problems.

This battalion has not received monsoon issue which has been badly needed. We did receive 400 rainsuits which was enough to outfit one half of the battalion.

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COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

1. Significant Events

During the month of September, elements of the communications platoon participated in the development of LZ CATES and in operations in the SCOTLAND II area of operations.

2. New Developments

One AN/PRC-77 and associated cipher equipment KY-38 was loaned to the battalion by the Fourth Marine Regiment; its use has been entirely satisfactory thus far and has greatly facilitated secure voice communications.

3. Problem Areas

a. Lack of motor transport repair parts for both AN and vehicular radio sets resulted this month in an interruption of cipher communications employing the RT-524/KY-8 communication of the AN/PRC-109. It also has delayed indefinitely the possibility of establishing a Radio Teletype (RATT) shot with the battalion rear.

b. The lack of a new motor for the battalion's generator set PE-75, the only alternating current power source available to the battalion, has also delayed the establishment of secure RATT shot to the administrative rear. Even with a PE-75 in an "in" status, having one PE-75 would be satisfactory because of the maintenance requirements of the generator.

c. Shortage of whip bases for the AN/PRC-25 continues. Theoretically deadline many of the battalion's radio sets.

d. Maintaining the battery BB-451 continues to be difficult, particularly with the nonavailability of an alternating current power source.

Status of Communication Equipment

The following equipment was deadlined or a Table of Equipment Deficiency item at the time of this report:

<u>Nomenclature</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Echelon</u>
RT 505/PRC-25	14	Combat Loss
AN.PRC-109	1	D/L 3rd Echelon
RT 505/PRC-25	4	

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<u>Nomenclature</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Echelon</u>
TA 1/PT	3	D/L 3rd Echelon
TA 1/PT	40	TE Deficiency
RT 505/PRG-25	1	D/L 3rd Echelon
PE-75	1	D/L 3rd Echelon
TA 312/PT	4	D/L 3rd Echelon
AN/GRA-39	2	C2328A Combat Loss

5. Number of Security Violations

None reported during period:

6. Number of Messages Sent and Received

Sent 52
Received 570

Personnel StatusShortages

1 Sgt 2533
3 Sgt 2511

Overages

3 Sgt 2533 (All rotate in Oct)
1 Sgt 2841
1 Sgt 2841
3 Sgt 0311 (Retrain 2542)

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FIRE SUPPORT

1. ARTILLERY	MISSIONS FIRED	ROUNDS EXPENDED
4.2" Mortar	38 Missions	47 WP 319 HE Neg HCS
105mm Howitzer	123 Missions	320 WP 1339 HE 37 HCS
155mm Howitzer	18 Missions	38 WP 219 HE
8"	Neg Missions	Neg WP Neg HE

TOTAL MISSIONS

179

405 WP
1877 HE
2282 Rounds

Artillery H&I's	735 Missions	1185 HE
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ARTILLERY CONFIRMSNeg EVA
Neg Ordnance (Listing)

<u>81mm Mortar</u>	88 Missions	206 WP 1012 HE Neg Ill
<u>160mm H&I's</u>	135 Missions	140 WP 1562 HE 8806 Rounds

MORTAR C ONFIRMS

Neg NVA

2. Close Air Support

MISSIONS	REQUESTED	RECEIVED
CAS	4	4
AO'S	12	9
TCP	60	37
HELOLIFTS	19	10
C&C OF VR	12	
FLARESHIP	1	

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Naval Gunfire - Negative Missions	24
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ENCLOSURE (1)
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MEDICAL AND DENTAL

1.	Significant Events-----	None			
2.	New Developments-----	None			
3.	Problem Areas-----	None			
4.	Average Number of Patients Seen Daily				29
5.	Total Number of Patients Seen from 1 Sep 68 thru 30 Sep 68				892
6.	Number of Referrals to NSA, USS REPOSE, 3rd Medical Bn, etc...				77
7.	Routine Complaints				19
	(a) Diarrhea				30
	(b) URI				113
	(c) Dermatitis				23
	(d) TINT				13
	(e) Venereal Disease				7
	(f) Immersion Foot				179
	(g) Others				
8.	Significant Disease Areas				1
	(a) Malaria				7
	(b) FUO				
9.	Number of Emergencies	TOTAL	EVAC	KIA	DOW
	(a) Burns	15	1	0	0
	(b) Lacerations	7	0	0	0
	(c) Heat Casualties	0	0	0	0
	(d) Shrapnel Wounds	3	2	1	0
	(e) Gunshot Wounds	0	0	0	0
	(f) Others	1	1	1	0
10.	Immunizations and Prophylactics Administered				180
	Dental Referrals				23
11.	Officers seen at Sickcall included in total count				..
	(a) Officers Sickcall				16
	(b) Evacuated with Shrapnel and Gunshot wounds				0

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	<u>Services</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Protestant	19	462
		300 Communion
Catholic	15	538
Protestant Lay Leader	2	40
LDS Lay Leader	3	22

Seven services were provided by chaplains of other units with totals included above.

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