

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Headquarters
2nd Battalion, 4th Marines
3rd Marine Division (-) (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/RLJ/dlo
5750
Ser **S3/A2275**

~~SECRET~~---Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Fourth Marines (Attn: S-3)
(2) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Attn: SC-3B)

Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 18 December 1974 to 18 April 1975

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1D
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8B

Encl: (1) (S) Battalion Landing Team 2/4 Command Chronology, 18 December 1974 -
18 April 1975

1. (U) In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. (U) Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).


G. P. SLADE

Classified by CG, Third Marine
Division. Subject to General
Declassification Schedule of
Executive Order 11652. Auto-
matically downgraded at 2 year
intervals. Declassified on 31
December 83.

PART I

Organizational Data

<u>1. Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Period</u>
BLT 2/4	LtCol G.P. SLADE	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
<u>Subordinate Units</u>		
H&S Co	Capt M. G. ROTH	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
E Co	Capt M. E. BRODERICK	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
F Co	Capt T. A. KEENE	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
G Co	Capt W.R. MELTON	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
H Co	Capt S. A. BLAND	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
<u>Attached Units</u>		
H Btry, 3rd Bn, 12th Marines	Capt D. HAUNTZ	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
2nd Plat, Co A, 1st AMTRAC Bn	1/Lt J. D. WISE	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
2nd Plat, Co C, 3rd Engr Bn	2/Lt D. VELDE	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
2nd Plat, Co B, 3rd Recon Bn	1/Lt P. O'BOYLE 1/Lt M. F. CLOUGH	18 Dec 74 - 3 Apr 75 4 Apr 75 - 18 Apr 75
2nd Plat, Co A, 3rd Tank Bn	2/Lt J. LOTITO	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75

2. Location

18 Dec 74 - 2 Jan 75: BLT embarked aboard assigned shipping with ARG "A":

USS TRIPOLI LPH 10
 USS PEORIA LST 1183
 USS THOMASTON LSD 28

24 Dec 74 - 2 Jan 75: Co G, H Btry, Amtrac Plat, Elms H&S Co embarked aboard:

USS VANCOUVER LPD-2

ENCLOSURE (1)

2 - 10 Jan 75: BLT off-loaded into Upper and Lower MAU Camps, Subic Bay, R.P.

10 Jan 75: BLT embarked aboard assigned shipping with ARG "A"

24 Jan 75: BLT units embarked aboard USS TRIPOLI LPH 10 transferred to
USS OKINAWA LPH-3

31 Jan - 1 Feb 75: USS PEORIA enroute Manila

1 - 5 Feb 75: USS PEORIA in-port Manila

3 - 6 Feb 75: USS OKINAWA and USS THOMASTON enroute Singapore
USS VANCOUVER enroute Sattahip

6 - 13 Feb 75: USS OKINAWA and USS THOMASTON in-port Singapore
USS VANCOUVER in-port Sattahip

5 - 8 Feb 75: USS PEORIA enroute Guam

8 - 10 Feb 75: USS PEORIA in-port Guam

10 Feb 75: USS PEORIA enroute Tinian

10 - 15 Feb 75: USS PEORIA in-port Tinian conducting Operation QUICK JAB II

13 - 24 Feb 75: USS OKINAWA, USS THOMASTON and USS VANCOUVER on station South
China Sea for Operation EAGLE PULL

15 - 19 Feb 75: USS PEORIA enroute Subic Bay, R. P.

19 Feb 75: USS PEORIA in-port Subic Bay, R. P.

19 - 20 Feb 75: USS PEORIA enroute station South China Sea

20 - 24 Feb 75: USS PEORIA on-station

24 - 25 Feb 75: ARG "A" Shipping enroute Subic Bay, R. P.

25 - 28 Feb 75: ARG "A" Shipping in-port Subic Bay, R. P.

1 - 3 Mar 75: USS OKINAWA, USS VANCOUVER and USS PEORIA enroute station Gulf
of Thailand

2 - 4 Mar 75: USS THOMASTON enroute station Gulf of Thailand

ENCLOSURE (1)

3 Mar 75: ARG "A" Shipping on-station Gulf of Thailand for Operation EAGLE PULL, the NEMVAC of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

4 Mar 75: USS THOMASTON joins ARG "A" Shipping on-station Gulf of Thailand

13 Apr 75: ARG "A" enroute Subic Bay, R. P. from Gulf of Thailand

17 Apr 75: ARG "A" in-port Subic Bay, R. P.

18 Apr 75: ARG "A" departs Subic Bay enroute South China Sea

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Maj T. L. YOUNGMAN	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
S-1 Adjutant	2/Lt C. FORD	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
Legal	2/Lt S. CASTLE	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
S-2	2/Lt D. E. PICKLESIMER	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
S-3	Maj D. M. GALLEGOS Maj R. R. GREEN	18 Dec 74 - 17 Feb 75 18 Feb 75 - 18 Apr 75
S-4	Capt J. A. BETTA	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
ALO	Capt K. C. CONCORAN	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
FAC	Capt W. J. P. MELBY 1/Lt T. A. SATHER 1/Lt L. BILL	18 Dec 74 - 17 Mar 75 18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75 17 Mar 75 - 18 Apr 75
Communications Officer	Capt E. C. GERSTNER	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
Embark Officer	1/Lt R. D. KIRKPATRICK	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
Supply Officer	1/Lt R. C. PATTON 2/Lt W. J. PICKING	18 Dec 74 - 8 Apr 75 9 Apr 75 - 18 Apr 75
Motor Transport Officer	1/Lt P. N. ARD	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75
BLT Chaplain	Lt E. E. PERRY	18 Dec 74 - 18 Apr 75

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Battalion Landing Team 2/4, less those units to be embarked on the USS VANCOUVER, LPD-2, embarked aboard ARG "A" ships USS TRIPOLI, LPH-10; USS PEORIA, LST-1183; and USS THOMASTON, LSD-28 on 17 December at White Beach, Okinawa and sailed for Hong Kong, arriving on 20 December to spend Christmas in port. On 24 December, the remaining BLT units in Okinawa embarked on the USS VANCOUVER and sailed for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines on the 26th. On Christmas day, the officers of the BLT embarked on the TRIPOLI hosted a tour of their ship for 50 orphans from the Norway House. On 27 December, the ARG "A" ships departed Hong Kong enroute to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Upon arrival in Subic Bay, BLT 2/4 participated in ZAMEX 4-74, in the Zambales Training Area to test the BLT's surface and helicopterborne landing plans.

On 2 January, the BLT off-loaded from ARG "A" shipping into the Upper and Lower MAU Camps. During the week 6 through 10 January, E Company sent 150 men through a 36-hour course at the Jungle Environmental Survival Training (JEST) School in Subic. Also, F Company, G Company, H Battery, the AmTrac Platoon, and the 81mm Mortar Platoon participated in live-firing exercises in the Zambales Maneuver Area during the entire week. On 3 January, the BLT was placed on a 96-hour response status for Operation EAGLE PULL, necessitating a back load of all BLT onto ARG "A" shipping by 1200 on 10 January. This was accomplished by the prescribed time; however, shipping remained in-port, Subic.

During the week 13 through 17 January, 50 men from F Company and the entire Reconnaissance Platoon attended (JEST) School. H Company spent the entire period in a live-fire exercise and a platoon patrolling competition in the Zambales Maneuver Area.

February began with all BLT units at sea aboard ARG "A" shipping under-way for various ports of call. The USS OKINAWA and USS THOMASTON were in port Singapore 6 through 13 February during the Chinese New Year celebration. On 10 February, F Company and the Communications Platoon set up a static display of weapons and equipment for 100 British and Malaysian Officers and their dependents. The USS VANCOUVER was in port Sattahip, Thailand 6 through 13 February during which time the Reconnaissance Platoon participated in RECONEX 181 with the Thai Recon Marines. See after action report contained in Part IV this chronology. The USS PEORIA was in port Manila 1 through 5 February, then enroute to Guam 5 through 8 February, in-port Guam 8 through 10 February, and arrived in port Tinian on 10 February. During 10 through 14 February, E Company, the 81mm Mortar Platoon, and the AmTrac Platoon participated in the civic action portion of Operation QUICK JAB II. On 15 February, the units participated as the landing force in the PHIBTRAEX portion of QUICK JAB II. See after action report contained in Part IV this chronology. On 13 February, the USS OKINAWA, USS VANCOUVER, and the USS THOMASTON went on station in the South China Sea for a 36-hour response time for Operation EAGLE PULL. The USS PEORIA joined the Task Group on station 19 February. On the 24th of February, the response time for the BLT was reduced to 96-hours allowing the ARG to proceed to Subic,

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arriving on 25 February and remaining in port until 28 February when the response time was again increased to 24 hours.

On 1 March, the USS VANCOUVER, USS OKINAWA, and USS PEORIA departed Subic Bay arriving on station in the Gulf of Thailand on 3 March. The USS THOMASTON departed Subic on 2 March and joined the Task Group on station on 4 March maintaining a 24-hour response time for Operation EAGLE PULL. The month of March was spent at sea training and ready to execute Operation EAGLE PULL. Several loading exercises were conducted to include the loading of troops and equipment lift-off, recovery and debarkation. On 28 March, the response time for EAGLE PULL was increased to 6 hours. Numerous alternative plans were prepared to include evacuation from Pochentong Airport and a culmination of up to five separate landing zones in Phnom Penh.

On 7 April, the response posture of the BLT was increased to 3-hour readiness daily from 0500 to 1300. During the week of 7 April, three additional courses of action were prepared to evacuate 1200, 780, or 200 evacuees from Landing Zone HOTEL in PHNOM PENH. At 1112G on 11 April the order was given by USSAG/7AF to execute Operation EAGLE PULL on 12 April 1975. 1-hour was set for 0730G. The operation was executed on time utilizing 346 BLT Marines. 262 evacuees were evacuated without incident or injury. The evacuation was completed by 1230G on 12 April 1975. See after action report contained in Part IV this Chronology. After flying the evacuees to UTAPAO, Thailand on 13 April ARG "A" set course for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. The BLT arrived in Subic for a scheduled three-week training and liberty period on 17 April. On 18 April, the BLT was back loaded aboard assigned shipping and simultaneously chopped to 9th MAB (CTG 79.1) and RLTA4 (CTU 79.1.2) for Operation FREQUENT WIND, the NEVMAC of Saigon, Republic of Vietnam.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. (U) PERSONNEL

<u>JOINED</u>				<u>TRANSFERRED</u>			
<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
8	10	1	0	5	43	1	0

2. (U) ADMINISTRATION

a. Promotions

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Meritorious</u>
Pvt - PFC	26	2
PFC - LCpl	227	21
LCpl - Cpl	34	23
Cpl - Sgt	19	1
Sgt - SSgt	11	0

b. Directives Published: 50

c. Awards

(1) Decorations: None

(2) Meritorious Masts: 26

d. Legal

SPCM: 5

SCM: 26

NJP: 47

Admin Discharges: 6

e. Emergency Leave Granted - 30f. Unauthorized Absence - 131g. Reenlistments - 123. (U) INTELLIGENCE

- a. Training. Prolonged embarkation at sea aboard Amphibious Ready Group Alpha shipping precluded practical application of S-2 scout training

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in areas of scouting and patrolling, operation of organic seismic intrusion devices and general training directed towards the primary mission of an infantry battalion scout section. Emphasis was placed on completion of MCI Courses on Scouting and Patrolling, Reconnaissance Marine, Marine NCO, Map and Aerial Photograph Reading, Fundamentals of Map Reading, Land Navigation, and Combat Intelligence leading towards cross training into the O2 MOS. With the advent of two contingencies in the Western Pacific, training for the intelligence section became actual.

- b. Enemy. All efforts were directed towards supporting NEVMAC operations for Phnom Penh and Saigon which were conducted on 12 April 1975 and 29 April 1975, respectively. The S-2 maintained an enemy situation map and a working order of battle file, correlated intelligence data provided by higher headquarters, and made dissemination by intelligence annexes and briefs to the battalion staff and company commanders.
- c. Weather. Ideal climatic conditions prevailed throughout the reporting period. Average temperature was 82 degrees. Seas were 2 to 3 feet. Skies were mostly clear with occasional light scattered rain showers.
- d. Terrain. The significance of terrain centered around a study of the built-up portions of the areas concerned in support of NEVMAC operations.
- e. Fleet Home Town News. In addition to news coverage provided by public affairs personnel of the 31st MAU, a vigorous Fleet Home Town News program was maintained by the battalion resulting in a total of 3,995 home town news releases including five master stories.

4. (C) TRAINING CONDUCTED

DECEMBER

18 Dec Shipboard drills for all embarked units
 20-27 Dec In-port Hong Kong
 29 Dec ZAMEX 4-74

JANUARY

6-10 Jan E Company attended JEST School
 F Company, G Company, Arty Btry, AmTrac Plat, and 81mm Mortar Plat - FIREX ZAMBALES
 13-17 Jan F Company and Recon Plat - JEST
 H Company - FIREX ZAMBALES
 20-26 Jan Company E - FIREX ZAMBALES

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21-23 Jan

Company H - JEST

Company G and 106RR Plat conducted a training hike from Subic Bay to the Seven Steps of Heaven to Mt Santa Rita and return.

27-29 Jan

Company F - JEST

Tank Plat - FIREX ZAMBALES

FAC Party - CASEX 1-75

30 Jan

ZAMEX 1-75 - ZAMBALES

FEBRUARY

...BLT, embarked aboard ARG "A" shipping, conducted port visits and conducted operations at sea.

...6-13 Feb

USS OKINAWA and USS THOMASTON in-port Singapore

...10 Feb

Company F and Comm Plat conducted static display of weapons and equipment for 100 British and Malaysian Officers and their dependents.

...10-15 Feb

USS PEORIA in-port TINIAN and participated in Operation QUICK JAB II.

...16-25 Feb

On-station South China Sea

25-28 Feb

In-port Subic Bay

28 Feb

ARG "A" readiness posture was moved to 24 hours in response to deteriorating conditions in Cambodia
Ref: CTG 76.4/79.4 281125Z FEB 75.

MARCH

1 Mar

USS OKINAWA, USS PEORIA and USS VANCOUVER departed Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines enroute to the Gulf of Thailand.

2 Mar

USS THOMASTON departed Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines enroute to the Gulf of Thailand.

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3 Mar ARG "A", less USS THOMASTON, achieved 24-hour response time in the Gulf of Thailand.

4 Mar USS THOMASTON joined ARG "A" on station in Gulf of Thailand.
Company F, Company H, and H&S Company participated in evacuee handling exercise aboard the USS OKINAWA to test the ship's evacuee handling procedures.

24 Mar Option II of USSAG/7AF Operation EAGLE PULL Plan revised to provide a 220 man GSF inserted by C-130 from Thailand or by ARG "A" helicopters from ARG "A" shipping into POCHENTONG Airport. Ref: USSAG/7AF 240912Z MAR 75 and BLT 2/4 OPLAN 4-75.

25 Mar Company E conducted an EAGLE PULL LOADEX aboard USS PEORIA. "H" Battery conducted LOADEX of 105mm howitzers internally in a CH-53 helicopter aboard the USS OKINAWA.

26 Mar Company G and "H" Battery conducted an EAGLE PULL helicopter LOADEX aboard the USS VANCOUVER. AmTrac Platoon conducted a simulated landing exercise off the USS VANCOUVER.

27 Mar Option III to Operation EAGLE PULL revised to include only two Marine GSF Courses of Action "CHARLIE 1" and "CHARLIE 2". Ref: USSAG/7AF/DO/NKP 270536Z MAR 75 and BLT 2/4 OPLAN 2-75.

28 Mar Readiness posture increased to a 6-hour response time for Operation EAGLE PULL. Ref: CTF 79 281225Z MAR 75 and CTG 79.4 281520Z MAR 75.

31 Mar Company F, Company H, and H&S Company conducted a night helicopter LOADEX aboard the USS OKINAWA for Operation EAGLE PULL.

APRIL

3 Apr Course of Action "CHARLIE 1.1" added to Option III EAGLE PULL. Ref: BLT 2/4 OPLAN 2-75.

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7 Apr Readiness posture increased to 3-hour response time from 0200 to 1300 daily for Operation EAGLE PULL. Course of Action 1002 added to Option III for EAGLE PULL. Ref: CTG 79.4 080922Z APR 75.

8 Apr Lt Col HOPKINS USMC from American Embassy, PHNOM PENH briefed BLT 2/4 Commander on evacuation and situation in PHNOM PENH.

10 Apr Helo Flow 200 added to Option III EAGLE PULL. Ref: USSAG/7AF 101130Z APR 75.

11 Apr Helo Flow 780 added to Option III EAGLE PULL for evacuation. Ref: USSAG/7AF 110412Z APR 75.

12 Apr Execute Operation EAGLE PULL. Ref to BLT ltr (After Action Report)

13 Apr Enroute to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

17 Apr Arrive Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

18 Apr Depart Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, BLT 2/4 chopped OPCON to RLTL-4 for Operation FREQUENT WIND.

18 (S) SPECIAL OPERATIONS

30 Dec 74 BLT participated in ZAMEX 4-74, ZAMBALES, Republic of the Philippines.

29 Jan 75 BLT participated in ZAMEX 1-75, ZAMBALES, Republic of the Philippines.

7-12 Feb 75 Recon Platoon conducted RECONEX 181, with Thailand Recon Marines at Sattahip, Chonburi, Thailand.

10-15 Feb 75 Company E, 81mm Mortar Platoon, and AmTrac Platoon participated in civic action and PHIBTRAEX portions of Operation QUICK JAB II on Tinian Island.

18 Feb 75 BLT embarked on ARG "A" shipping, placed on a 36-hour alert for Operation EAGLE PULL, on station off the coast of South Viet Nam.

24 Feb 75 BLT alert status reduced to 96-hour, ARG "A" sails for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

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25 Feb 75 BLT arrives Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

1 Mar 75 BLT alert status increased to 24-hours, ARG "A" sails for Gulf of Thailand.

3 Mar 75 ARG "A" arrives on station Gulf of Thailand.

12 Apr 75 Operation EAGLE PULL executed.

6. (C) COMMAND RELATIONS

BLT 2/4 was chopped OPCON to 31st MAU (TG 79.4) on 17 December 1974, but remained ADCON to 3rd Marine Division.

BLT 2/4 was chopped OPCON to 9th MAB(CTG 79.1) and RLT-4 (CTU 79.1.2) on 18 April 1975 for Operation FREQUENT WIND.

7. (C) EQUIPMENT

- (a) Combat Essential Equipment on Hand - 100%
- (b) Equipment Readiness 18 April 1975 - 97%
- (c) Mean Equipment Readiness - 96%

8. (C) LOGISTICS

(a) Logistics. Except for segregation and staging prescribed loads from the BA for use in Operation EAGLE PULL, all other logistic operations were in support of routine training operations. All Class V was separated, inventoried, banded, and reissued for Operation FREQUENT WIND. A minor logistic problem experienced concerned the resupply of repair parts to attachments while afloat. Due to the number of ships and their locations, it was often difficult to obtain and deliver repair parts on a timely basis.

(b) Embarkation. There were no serious problems in the execution of embarkation procedures. Major embarkation procedures were as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EMBARK/DEBARK</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
17 Dec 74	Embarked on ARG Alpha Shipping	White/Red Beach - Okinawa, Japan
30 Dec 74	Debarked from ARG Alpha Shipping	Subic Bay

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>EMBARK/DEBARK</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
7 Jan 75	Embarked on ARG Alpha Shipping	Subic Bay
23 Jan 75	Debarked from USS TRIPOLI, embarked on USS OKINAWA	Subic Bay

9. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

a. 85 men from H&S Company and Company H participated in a civic action project to paint the new Banicial School in Olongapo, Republic of the Philippines from 19 through 30 January 1975. See After Action Report.

b. Company E, 81mm Mortar Platoon, and AmTrac Platoon participated in a civic action portion of QUICK JAB II, 10-14 February 1975. See after action report.

10. (C) COMMUNICATIONSa. Incoming Messages

- (1) Unclassified Messages: 2,965
- (2) Classified Messages: 1,082
- (3) Total: 3,947

b. Outgoing Messages

- (1) Unclassified: 1,261
- (2) Classified: 47
- (3) Total: 1,308

11. (U) ACTIVATIONS/DEACTIVATIONS/REDESIGNATIONS - None

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. BLT 2/4 OPLAN 1-75
ENCL (1) ADMIN LOG PLAN 1-75
2. ZAMEX 4-74
ENCL (1) BLT 2/4 MSG 280930Z DEC 74 (C)
ENCL (2) CTG 79.4 MSG 281230Z DEC 74 (C)
ENCL (3) CTG 76.4 MSG 282156Z DEC 74 (C)
ENCL (4) BLT 2/4 AFTER ACTION REPORT
3. CIVIC ACTION PROJECT, NEW BANICIAL SCHOOL, OLONGAPO CITY, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ENCL (1) AFTER ACTION REPORT
ENCL (2) PHOTOGRAPHS
4. ZAMEX 1-75
ENCL (1) CTG 79.4 MSG 230520Z JAN 75
ENCL (2) BLT 2/4 AFTER ACTION REPORT
5. EAGLE PULL
ENCL (1) BLT 2/4 OPLAN 2-75
ENCL (2) BLT 2/4 OPLAN 4-75
ENCL (3) BLT 2/4 OPLAN 5-75
ENCL (4) AFTER ACTION REPORT
6. QUICKJAB II
ENCL (1) BLT 2/4 OPLAN 3-75
ENCL (2) JOINT AFTER ACTION REPORT
ENCL (3) COMPANY E AFTER ACTION REPORT, CIVIC ACTION
ENCL (4) COMPANY E AFTER ACTION REPORT, PHIBTRAEX
7. AFTER ACTION REPORT RECONEX 181

CLASSIFIED BY CG, THIRD MARINE
DIVISION. SUBJECT TO GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTO -
MATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEAR
INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31
DECEMBER 83.