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HEADQUARTERS

3d Battalion, 4th Marines (-) (Rein)
3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force
c/o FPO, San Francisco, 96602

3/WNV/abg

5750

APR 04 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, March 1967

1. In accordance with reference (a), Enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

W. N. VEST

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SECTION II

A. Organization Data:

3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment (-) (Rein)
3d Marine Division, FME

1. Command Post Locations:

1-7 March YD 242598
8 March YD 275674
9 March YD 166637
10 March YD 145665
11 March YD 162680
12 March YD 162680
13 March YD 155695
14 March YD 178700
15-30 March YD 242598
30 March YD 161652
31 March YD 119667

Map: Vietnam; Series L7014: 1:50,000 CON THIEN, DONG HA and QUANG TRI, Sheet numbers 6342 I, 6344 II, 6442 IV, and 6442 III.

2. Period Covered 13-31 March 1967

3. Command and Staff:

a. Commanding Officer	1-3 Mar	1stLt W. J. MASTERPOOL
	4-31 Mar	1stLt W. N. VEST
Executive Officer		Major H. J. FIELD, Jr.
S-1		2ndLt L. R. THOMPSON
S-2		MSgt J. CHAPMAN
S-3		Major E. J. FAIRBANKS
S-4	1-20 Mar	Capt D. J. RYAN
	20-31 Mar	1stLt D. A. RICHWINE
Comm Officer		Capt F. J. BASSO, Jr.
H&S Company		2ndLt J. H. HATCHELL
"I" Company		Capt J. D. HARRILL
"K" Company		Capt J. M. MAHONEY
"L" Company	1-20 Mar	Capt A. H. HARTNEY
	20-31 Mar	Capt D. J. RYAN
"M" Company		Capt R. D. JACKSON

4. Average Monthly Strength: USMC USN

a. Officer	37	37	2
b. Enlisted	1100	52	

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SECTION III

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

a. Number of replacements received

USMC OFF	2
USMC ENL	70
USN OFF	1
USN ENL	5

b. Number of personnel rotated

USMC OFF	3
USMC ENL	130
USN OFF	0
USN ENL	3

c. Breakdown of personnel lost other than rotation

(1) Transferred by Service Records

USMC OFF	0
USMC ENL	66
USN ENL	0

(2) Deaths Non-battle: 0

(3) WIA: 2 Off
141 Enl

(4) KIA: 22 Enl DOW: 1

(5) Humanitarian transfer: 0

(6) Non-battle injuries: 9

(7) IntraDiv/Regt transfers: 5 Off
81 Enl
7 USN Enl

d. R&R trips: 59

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Enclosure (1)

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SECTION III

INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Situation at the Beginning of the Period.

During this reporting period of Operation PRAIRIE III the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines area of operation were the Cam Lo Area, the Delta area of the Cua Viet River and Dong Ha Combat Base.

a. Cua Viet River Area.

The Cua Viet River Delta has had increasing enemy activity involving up to Battalion-sized units. The 808th Bn (IF) was reported to be operating the coastal area. On one occasion a Marine Platoon was hit by an estimated 15 VC, armed with machine guns and automatic weapons. The VC, well dug in with some positions camouflaged with haystacks inflicted heavy casualties on the Marine platoon.

b. Cam Lo Area.

North from Cam Lo to the DMZ, there has been a constant increase in enemy contact and movements, as seen in Operation Bonchon Hill. Heavy armament including B-40 Rocket Launchers, 81/82mm, 120mm Mortars and 140mm Rockets have been used extensively against friendly positions. Mortar attacks usually included as much as 100 to 250 rounds. Enemy units believed to be of company to estimated regimental size have been operating in this area.

c. Dong Ha Combat Base.

With the exception of scattered incidents of harassing sniper fire, Dong Ha has been free of enemy activity.

2. Enemy incidents during period.

See Section IV.

3. Total Enemy Losses for Period.

a. Casualties: 44 VC/NVA (CONF)
12 VC/NVA (PROB)
1 VC POW
1 NVA POW
45 Detainees

• Summary of Losses

• Summary of Losses

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ENCLOSURE (1)

• Summary of Losses

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b. Individual Weapons.

2 M-1 Carbines
 92 AK-47's
 2 SKS
 1 Thompson SMG
 1 K50
 2 MAT 49
 1 M-1 Rifle

c. Equipment.

1 K-50 MAG	7 Canteens & Covers
2 Thompson SMG MAG	4 NVA Cartridge Belts
23 AK-47 MAG & Pouches	1 USA M-14 Pouch
7 MAT-49 MAG & Pouches	1 Pair US Jungle Boots
26 CC Stick Grenades	4 Pair Tennis Shoes
2 M-26 Grenades	4 Pith Helmets
3 Soviet Offensive Grenades	6 E-tools (VC)
26 82mm Rds	20 Ponchos (VC)
25 81mm Rds	29 Hammocks
7 60mm Rds	10 Lbs Uniforms and Clothing
16 82mm fuses	7 Yds Bl Cloth
12 Cans 82mm increments	10 Lbs Medical gear
3 M-79 Rds	1 Roll Copper Wire
1 Claymore Mine (US)	1 Radio Tube
700 Asst S/A Ammo	500 Lbs Rice
4 Lbs Documents & wallet w/ 18Bn, 812Regt, 324B	20 Med Supplies
21 Maps (VN, Korea, Cambodia)	3 Signs (Wood)
8 VC Packs	

4. Significant Trends During Period.

Significant trends are the increase of enemy units working the coastal area and then working NW to the DMZ.

5. Enemy Situation at the End of the Period.

Situation remains the same as at the beginning of the period.

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Enclosure (1)

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

1. During the period 1 March to 31 March 1967, the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines conducted two Battalion (-) size search and destroy operations. From 8 to 15 March north of Long Ha and 30-31 March north of Cam Lo. Through the remainder of this period the Battalion was engaged in heavy and constant patrolling.
2. The following training was conducted by the Battalion during the period to 31 March 1967.

Unit	Subject	Number of Hours
H&S Co	Weapons Safety	15
	First Aid	5
	Mines and Boobytraps	5
	Scouting and Patrolling	8
	Care and Cleaning 81mm Mortar	15
	81mm Mortar Drill	10
	Weapons Safety	17
"I" Co	First Aid	8
	Mines and Boobytraps	9
	Map and Compass	6
	Scouting and Patrolling	5
	60mm Mortar Drill	11
	M-60 Machine Gun	5
	Weapons Safety	17
"K" Co	First Aid	8
	Mines and Boobytraps	9
	Map and Compass	6
	Scouting and Patrolling	5
	60mm Mortar Drill	11
	M-60 Machine Gun	5
	Weapons Safety	17
"L" Co	First Aid	8
	Mines and Boobytraps	9
	Map and Compass	6
	Scouting and Patrolling	5
	60mm Mortar Drill	11
	M-60 Machine Gun	5
	Weapons Safety	17
"M" Co	First Aid	8
	Mines and Boobytraps	9
	Map and Compass	6
	Scouting and Patrolling	5
	60mm Mortar Drill	11
	M-60 Machine Gun	5
	Weapons Safety	17

3. Command and Control.

- a. On 1 March Company F, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines CHOP to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines.
- b. On 2 March Company F, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines CHOP to 3d Marine Division (FWD), Company L, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines CHOP to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines and Company H, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines CHOP to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines.

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4th Marines

- c. On 3 March Company H, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines CHOP to 2d Battalion, 3d Marines.
- d. On 5 March the 1st platoon, Company I, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines CHOP to 2d Battalion, 3d Marines and returned same day.
- e. On 6 March Company M(-), 3d Battalion, 4th Marines CHOP to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines.
- f. On 7 March Company K, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines CHOP to 3d Marine Regiment.
- g. On 9 March Company K, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines CHOP to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines.
- h. On 11 March 3d Battalion, 4th Marines CHOP to 3d Marine Regiment.
- i. On 14 March 3d Battalion, 4th Marines CHOP to 3d Marine Division (Fwd)
- j. On 17 March Company I, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines CHOP to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines and CHOP to 3d Marine Division (Fwd) on same day.
- k. On 18 March the 2d platoon, Company M, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines CHOP to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines and returned OPCON 3d Battalion 9th Marines the same day.
- l. On 31 March BMT 3/4 was activated IAW 3d Marine Division message 240837Z Feb67.

4. Close Combata. 2 March 1967

- 1. At 0600H an unknown explosive device was detonated in vicinity of YD 238598. Results: (3) USMC WIA
- 2. At 0945H Company K received (4) rounds sniper fire from YD 253602.
- 3. At 2040H Company K at YD 258574 took man under fire. Neg Results.

b. 4 March 1967

- 1. At 1100H Company M apprehended (1) PW/VC at YD 372655.
- 2. At 1220H PW/VC led Company M to YD 275655 where Company M found (2) detainees.
- 3. At 1430H Company M at YD 361667 apprehended (1) detainee.

c. 5 March 1967

- 1. At 1415H 1/44th Arty apprehended (2) detainees at YD 201595.

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d. 11 March 1967

1. At 1515H Company L at YD 159685 spotted (4) VC armed in civilian clothing. Point took VC under fire. Neg results.

e. 12 March 1967

1. At 0513H Company K at YD 165684 observed (3) figures moving down trail. Men opened fire on figures. Results: Unknown.
2. At 0700H Company K, while sweeping area of sprung ambush found one body. Company K was taken under fire by 3-5 NVA. Company K returned fire and assaulted. Results: (1) USMC KIA, (1) USMC WIA, (5) NVA KIA CONF (1) NVA KIA PROB, (3) AK-47 w/7 loaded magazines.

f. 13 March 1967

1. At 1130H Company K found wounded NVA at YD 164686, appeared NVA was wounded in yesterday's action. Results: (1) NVA/PW, (1) AK-47
2. At 1620H Company K at YD 157701 came upon (4) moving away from them on trail. Point opened fire. Results: (1) NVA KIA CONF.

g. 14 March 1967

1. At 1030H Company K rear security at YD 170647 spotted (1) men jump out of bushes, then jump back into bushes. Rear opened fire into bushes with negative results.

h. 15 March 1967

1. At 1215H CAC 2B at YD 277552 received 150 rounds of AW fire from YD 275555.
2. At 1610H Company K received 25 rounds of sniper fire from YD 285556.

i. 16 March 1967

1. At 0455H 3/3/M/3/4 fired at (2) VC 25 meters in front of their position at YD 329705. Results: (1) VC KIA PROB
2. At 0940H Company K rec'd 15-20 rounds of S/A fire from YD 276541.
3. At 1130H Company K at YD 274541 rec'd 10 rounds S/A fire from YD 276541.
4. At 1255H Company K rec'd 25 rounds S/A fire from YD 271541.
5. At 1500H Company K rec'd 35-50 rounds S/A fire from YD 302548.
6. At 2025H 3d Recon Bn received one incoming grenade at YD 242597. Results: (1) USMC WIA
7. At 2030H 2/3/M/3/4 at YD 325714 made contact with 10-12 NVA, while enroute to NTP. Both opened fire with AW, S/A and grenades.

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2/3/M/3/4 requested reinforcements, flareship and gunships.
Results: (1) USMC KIA, (5) USMC WIA, (5) NVA KIA CONF, (2) NVA KIA
PROB, (2) 7.62 SES, (2) AK-47.

j. 17 March 1967

1. At 0800H Company M while searching area of contact found (2) more bodies. Results: (2) NVA KIA CONF, (1) AK-47
2. At 1215H Company K at YD 252567 rec'd 30 rounds AW fire from YD 254567. Results: (1) USMC WIA
3. At 1535H 1/L/3/4 (Sparrow Hawk) rec'd S/A fire from 3-5 VC at YD 275635.
4. At 1540H 1/L/3/4 in contact with estimated reinforced VC Company.
5. At 1610H Company K(-) was halo-lifted out to reinforce 1/L/3/4.
6. At 1930H K(-)/3/4 and elements of 1/L/3/4 linked up at YD 273627.
7. At 2100H K(-)/3/4 and 1/L/3/4 linked up and defended LZ at YD 273627. Results of contact: (8) USMC KIA, (27) USMC WIA, (6) VC KIA CONF, (1) AK-47, (1) M-1 carbine

k. 18 March 1967

1. At 1000H CAG 2B spotted 20 VC at YD 276551 and called arty mission.
2. At 1030H CAG 2B at YD 275553 had man trip boobytrap. Results: (3) USMC WIA.
3. At 1445H K(-)/3/4 and 1/L/3/4 completed sweep of village of yesterday's contact. Results: (6) VC KIA CONF, (1) AK-47, (1) Russian Rifle.

l. 21 March 1967

1. At 1056H Company K rec'd 4 rounds sniper fire from YD 240550.
2. At 1230H Company K rec'd 15 rounds sniper fire from YD 246545.
3. At 1420H Company K rec'd 15-20 rounds S/a and AW fire from YD 272-552.

m. 22 March 1967

1. At 1125H Company K received 8-10 sniper rounds from YD 213591.
2. At 1423H Company M apprehended (1) detainee at YD 428613.
3. At 1513H Company M apprehended (1) detainee at YD 433612.

n. 23 March 1967

1. At 1050H Company K rec'd 30-40 rounds of AW fire from YD 240540.

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2. At 1215H CAC 2B called arty mission in on squad of VC at YD 276551. Results: (2) VC KIA PROB.
3. At 1500H Company K rec'd AW and S/A fire from numerous locations in the vicinity of YD 295543. Results: (1) USMC KIA, (6) USMC WIA, (2) VC KIA, CO. F, (3) VC KIA PROB, (5) Detainees
4. At 2030H Company L heard movement to their front at YD 213568. They opened fire at noise and saw squad sized unit and 10-15 water buffalo. Received 3-4 60mm rounds as ambush was withdrawing. Results: (2) USMC WIA, (6) EN KIA PROB.

o. 24 March 1967

1. At 0845H 1/44th Arty apprehended (1) detainee at YD 240570.
2. At 1025H CAC 2B rec'd approx 60 rounds S/A fire from YD 275551.
3. At 1025H CAC 2B apprehended 20 detainees at YD 271556.
4. At 1115H Company A, 11th Engineer Bn rec'd 3-4 mortar rounds on Highway #9 from YD 164597.
5. At 1120H Company B, 11th Engineer Bn, rec'd 5-6 mortar rounds from YD 154586.
6. At 1125H CAC 2B rec'd 25 rounds of AW and S/A fire from YD 287557.

p. 25 March 1967

1. At 0200H 3/1/M/3/4 at YD 318700 opened fire on 6 NVA as NVA moved through ambush site. Results: (1) USMC KIA, (2) USMC WIA, (6) NVA KIA CONF, (2) French 9mm machine gun, (1) AR-47.
2. At 0515H Company M opened fire on sampans moving down river. VCS in sampans fled area. Company M pursued. Results: (8) detainees
3. At 1000H vehicle from 12th Marines detonated mine at YD 222650.
4. At 1028H 3/M/3/4 received 4 sniper rounds from YD 311720.

q. 26 March 1967

1. At 0130H CAC 3A sprung ambush on 3 VC. Results: (1) VC KIA CONF (1) M-1 carbine

r. 27 March 1967

1. At 1010H Company M found (1) VC in spider hole. Throw in grenade Results: (1) VC KIA CONF, (1) M-1 rifle
2. At 1115H Company M found boobytrapped punji pits, one was detonated. Results: (1) USMC WIA.

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3. At 1330H Company M found ~~150 lb bag~~ of rice at YD 447595.

4. At 2245H Company M CP rec'd 15-20 rounds of incoming sniper fire.

20 March 1967

1. At 1225H Company M located (1) spider trap at YD 451509. (1) VC in trap threw out grenade. Company M returned fire with grenade.
Results: (1) VC KIA CONF, (1) M-1 rifle

SECTION V

LOGISTICS

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1. General.

a. There were no major logistical problems encountered during this reporting period. Two battalion (-) sized operations were conducted and resupply was accomplished by aerial resupply helicopter through the LSA.

b. The company at Cua Viet received its resupply via LCU boats, while the reinforced platoon at the Cam Lo Bridge was resupplied entirely by motor convoy.

2. Supply.

a. Supply support during the month continued to improve with only a few items remaining critical. Support for 2nd echelon maintenance was satisfactory, however, due to preparation for rotation of the battalion to Okinawa, all requisitions held in country were cancelled and all equipment in for 3d echelon maintenance was withdrawn at the end of the month. Requisitions and TERO's have been forwarded to 3d PSR on Okinawa to prepare for the battalion's arrival there.

b. Items that remain critical are:

Handsets for Radio AN/PRC - 25
Battery (BA-386) for AN/PRC - 25

3. TRANSPORTATION

a. Organic transportation is in an unsatisfactory state of repair. At the end of the month 28 items require 3d echelon maintenance and 11 trouble results from mechanical failure which, in turn, has been contributed to by continuous wear of all vehicles.

1. Seventeen (17) M422A1 (mites) vehicles require 3d echelon maintenance and 13 of these remain in use due to operational commitments and a lack of transportation from supporting units.

2. Eleven (11) M274A1 vehicles require 3d echelon maintenance and 9 of these remain operational because of this unit's commitments.

b. The major maintenance problem encountered has been the support received from FLSU. Five (5) vehicles were returned during this month from FLSU with no maintenance at all performed on them for lack of parts. Three (3) of these same (5) vehicles had been deadlined since December 1966.

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SECTION IV

COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS TOWNS

1. Radio

a. The Battalion continued operating the following radio nets:

Area Defense - (FM)
 1st Command (Covered circuit on request only) - (FM)
 Battalion TAG # 2 - (FM)

b. Supporting arms:

- (1) TACP maintained (1) FM and (1) UHF net to fulfill their requirements.
- (2) Artillery attachments provided two FM nets to satisfy their requirements.
- (3) H&A provided their own FM net while supporting the battalion (-) operations.
- (4) CAC # 2 operating under our operational control was supplied by the battalion with (1) AN/PRC-25 radio w/accessories, and entered the battalion TAC # 2.

c. Periodically when the battalion (-) was included in operations away from the Dong Ha Command Post a special TAC net utilizing our Battalion TAC # 2 secondary frequency was established. Elements operating in the Cam Lo, mouth of the Qua Viet, and the Dong Ha Combat Base areas which was not actually involved in the battalion (-) operations utilized this net in order to eliminate the possibility of an overload on Battalion TAC # 2.

d. Interference was experienced during this period on the TACP FM net on two occasions. Battalion attempt was made to identify the unknown station with negative results. The interference was that of a woman speaking in an oriental language, and lasted for only a short period of time. Neither occurrence created any critical difficulties.

2. Wire

a. No requirement existed for the employment of radio relay equipment during the month of March. However, 4th Marine Regiment is providing this Battalion with (1) AN/TRC - 27 and three radio relay personnel upon activation of BMT 3/4.

3. Power

a. The 3d Engineer Battalion continued to provide this Headquarters with 24 hour power during the month of March.

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SECTION VIIFIRE SUPPORT AND COORDINATION1. Significant Events.

a. From 8 to 15 March an operation was conducted over a wide area, north of Dong Ha. Marking Rounds and preparation fires constituted the bulk of the support. Preparations were timely since clearance was obtained well in advance.

b. From 30-31 March another operation was conducted in the Cam Lo Area. Large volumes of fire were delivered in preparations and missions upon suspected withdrawal routes and assembly areas.

2. Artillery Batteries in Support.

Alpha	LVTH-6	105mm	Direct support
Bravo	1/40	105mm	General support
Alpha	2/94	175mm	General support, Reinforcing
Bravo	2/94	175mm	General support, Reinforcing
Kilo	4/12	155mm	General support
Foxtrot	1/12	105mm	General support

3. Naval Gunfire (ships).

None

4. Missions Fired and Rounds Expended.a. Missions Fired:

1. Observed 65
2. Unobserved 30

b. H&I Rounds Fired: 3578c. Type and Number of Rounds Fired:

HE	-	3579
IP	-	35
ILL	-	167
HC-SMOKE	-	7

3,788

d. A total of 3,788 rounds were fired in support of 3d Battalion, 4th Marines during the month of March 1967.

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SECTION VIII

AIR SUPPORT DETACHMENT

1. During this period air was used extensively in five different categories. With a break in the weather and increased enemy contact, air played a vital part in all operations. The only shortcoming air had was the insufficient number of helicopters available for the many different operations.
2. Recon flights during this month were used to reconnoiter areas for proposed operations when ever sufficient time allowed. In some cases recon flights were not possible because of little notice given prior to mount out due to the rapidly changing enemy situation.
3. Troop and resupply lifts were of significant importance with the increased enemy activity. Helicopters were able to lift platoon and company size units to the aid of troops in contact within a short period of time. The need for water and the practicality of lighter packs for the troops.
4. Medical evacuations were completed with efficiency in respect to time, except in a few cases where the landing zone was under fire. In some cases the decision on weather to attempt an emergency med evac was made by the Regimental and wing staff rather than leaving the decision up to the pilot and the forward air controller.
5. Aerial observer planes were used to recon areas, assist in navigation in rough terrain, and to control air strikes. They also assisted in adjusting and calling in of artillery on the enemy.
6. Tactical air strikes consisted of fixed wing and helicopter gun ship, close air support missions and also TPQ's. Gun ships were used with excellent results to suppress fire in order to complete med evacs.
7. Statistics:
 - a. Recon flights: 7 Sorties
 - b. Troop Lifts: 14 Sorties and 460 personnel
 - c. Med-Evacs: 24 Sorties and 88 personnel
 - d. Aerial Observer Flights: 36 Sorties
 - e. Tactical Air Strikes: 28 Sorties

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SECTION IX

MEDICAL AFFAIRS

1. Medical problems for the period covered were minimal.
2. Imperson foot and heat exhaustion created no serious problems.
3. Medical resupply in the field was adequate and without problems.
4. Evacuation of the wounded was in a prompt manner and they arrived at medical facilities promptly.
5. The sanitation aspect has been and will continue to create problems with the coming warm weather due to fly and mosquito infestation.
6. The treatment of casualties at BAS has insured that those Marines with minor wounds were fit for duty in the shortest period of time.
7. Medcap was effective until 20 March in the Cam Lo Area, at which time the Medcap tent and supplies were returned to BAS to prepare for movement. All available remaining Medcap supplies were turned over to PMS for utilization in the Dong Ha Area.

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Civil Affairs

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1. Med Cap was conducted at Cam Lo area (148604) from 1 March 1967-20 March 1967. Supplies were turned into P.M.S. Because of planned Embarkation of 3d Battalion, 4th Marines. P.M.S. will continue Med Cap.
2. Self Help program was halted at Cam Lo area (147613) because of same planned Embarkation.

SECRET X

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SECTION XI

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND LESSONS LEARNED

None

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