

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS

3d Battalion, 4th Marines
3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force
c/o FPO, San Francisco, 96602 **463667**

3/IRB/and
5750

9050-67

SEP 22 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 9th Marine Regiment
(2) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF
(3) Commanding General, III MAF
(4) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MGO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.3
(c) DivO 5750.1
(d) RegtO 3120.3

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, August 1967

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

Lee R. Bendell
LEE R. BENDELL

SSC FILES

HEADQUARTERS

3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Rein)

670335

SEP 22 1967

Copy 1 of 27 Copies

Downgraded at 3 year intervals.
Declassified after 12 years.

UNCLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

3rd Div/4th MAF

Encl shown

Aug 1967

~~SECRET~~

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION

I	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
II	S-1 & PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION
III	INTELLIGENCE
IV	OPERATIONS AND TRAINING
V	LOGISTICS
VI	COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS
VII	FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION
VIII	AIR SUPPORT
IX	MEDICAL AFFAIRS
X	CIVIL AFFAIRS
XI	PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED LESSONS LEARNED
XII	DOCUMENTATION (1 copy only)

- Missing*
1. CG 3/4 ltr to CG 9th Marines of 6Aug67
Subj: Defense of Con Thien
 2. 3/4 OpOrder 1-67 of 16Aug67 (Defense of Con Thien)
 3. CG 3/4 ltr to CG, 3d MarDiv of 30Aug67
Subj: Fire Support Coordination against enemy
artillery positions in and north of the
DMZ
 4. 3/4 TAOR at Con Thien

DECLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designations/Locations

- a. 3d Battalion (Rein), 4th Marines
 - b. Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, Republic of South Vietnam,
- YD 115702

2. Period Covered by Report. 1-31 August 1967.

3. Billet Assignments

a. Commanding Officer	1-31 August 1967 LtCol LEE R. BENDELL
b. Executive Officer	1-31 August 1967 Maj C. A. BIRSTOW
c. S-1	1-31 August 1967 2dLt L. R. THOMPSON
d. S-2	1-31 August 1967 2dLt C. J. WEST III
e. S-3	1-31 August 1967 Maj J. M. LILLA
f. S-4	1-31 August 1967 Capt E. O. LEROY
g. Comm. Co.	1-31 August 1967 Capt A. A. JANSSEN
h. CO, HSSCo	1-4 August 1967 1stLt C. V. LORD
	5-31 August 1967 Capt A. A. JANSSEN
i. CO, Co "I"	1-31 August 1967 Capt R. K. YOUNG
j. CO, Co "K"	1-31 August 1967 Capt J. H. FLATHMAN
k. CO, Co "L"	1-31 August 1967 Capt D. J. RYAN
	3-31 August 1967 Capt J. D. CLARR
l. CO, Co "M"	1-31 August 1967 Capt C. G. HOILMAN

SECTION I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designations/Locations

- a. 3d Battalion (Rein), 4th Marines
- b. Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, Republic of South Vietnam,

2. Period Covered by Report. 1-31 August 1967.

3. Billet Assignments

1-31 August 1967 LtCol L. R. BENDELL
1-31 August 1967 Maj C. A. BIRSTOW
1-31 August 1967 2dLt L. R. THOMPSON
1-31 August 1967 2dLt C. J. WEST III
1-31 August 1967 Maj J. M. LILLA
1-31 August 1967 Capt E. O. LEROY
1-31 August 1967 Capt A. A. JANSSEN
1-4 August 1967 1stLt C. V. LORD
5-31 August 1967 Capt A. A. JANSSEN
1-31 August 1967 Capt R. K. YOUNG
1-31 August 1967 Capt J. H. FLATHMAN
1-31 August 1967 Capt D. J. RYAN
3-31 August 1967 Capt J. D. CLARR
1-31 August 1967 Capt C. G. HOILMAN

ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION IIS-1 and Personnel Administration1. Replacements Received

- a. USMC Enlisted - 126
- b. USMC Officers - 2
- c. USN Enlisted - 5
- d. USN Officers - 0

2. Personnel Rotated

- a. USMC Enlisted - 114
- b. USMC Officers - 2

3. Other Personnel Losses

- a. Transfer by Service Records
 - (1) USMC Enlisted - 11
 - (2) USN Enlisted - 1
- b. Wounded in Action
 - (1) USMC Enlisted - 38
 - (2) USMC Officers - 2
 - (3) USN Enlisted - 1
- c. Killed in Action. Two USMC Enlisted
- d. Humanitarian Transfer. One USMC Enlisted
- e. Non-battle Casualties. Three USMC Enlisted
- f. Intra Division/Regimental Transfers.
 - (1) USMC Enlisted - 17
 - (2) USMC Officers - 1
 - (3) USN Enlisted - 2

4. Rest and Relaxation. Ninety-four R&R quotas were received and filled. Although this is adequate, six more Okinawa quotas could be utilized monthly.

5. Average Monthly Strength During Period

- a. USMC Enlisted - 1056
- b. USMC Officers - 34
- c. USN Enlisted - 52
- d. USN Officers - 2

1164

6. Personnel Shortages

- a. Officers
 - (1) Captain 0202 - 1
 - (2) Captain 0302 - 1
 - (3) Captain 0402 - 1
 - (4) Lt. 0302 - 9

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

b. Enlisted

(1) Sgt	- 0121 - 1	(11) PFC	- 2531 - 3
(2) Sgt	- 0141 - 1	(12) PFC	- 2533 - 3
(3) Sgt	- 0239 - 1	(13) Cpl	- 2811 - 1
(4) Pvt/PFC	- 0311 - 85	(14) Cpl	- 2822 - 1
(5) PFC	- 0341 - 1	(15) Cpl	- 2861 - 1
(6) PFC	- 0331 - 20	(16) Sgt	- 2867 - 1
(7) GySgt	- 0848 - 1	(17) PFC	- 3371 - 1
(8) ICpl	- 2511 - 1	(18) PFC	- 5591 - 1
(9) PFC	- 2511 - 3	(19) 1stSgt	- 9999 - 1
(10) MSgt	- 2529 - 1		

7. Administration

a. Personnel administration was carried out with some time delay due to the difficulty in maintaining land line communication with the battalion rear at Dong Ha and the time required to transit the route from Dong Ha to Con Thien. Further, since the companies located outside the perimeter at Con Thien were actively committed to combat operations, minimum time was available for accomplishing routine company and battalion administration.

b. After two months of unit diary errors in excess of the acceptable Division error percentage, the percentage was decreased to .2% during the period.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

II-2

~~SECRET~~ (1)

~~SECRET~~SECTION IIIINTELLIGENCE1. Enemy Situation During the Period

a. Enemy activity increased considerably during the period. This was evidenced by increased ground activity and more frequent artillery and mortar employment.

b. Sporadic enemy artillery fire during the first half of the period increased in intensity as the month drew to a close. A total of 156 rounds were fired at the Con Thien perimeter on 28 August.

c. Enemy ground activity has been limited to the employment of small three to five man reconnaissance teams around Con Thien, apparently deployed in a counter reconnaissance screen against friendly units. Intelligence information from higher echelon indicates the presence of large enemy forces in the area with the capability to react within 24 hours.

d. There were three mine incidents during the month which involved an amphibious tractor, a tank, and a bulldozer. Additionally, mine sweep teams uncovered several mines along route 561.

e. One NVN soldier rallied to friendly forces on 3 August. This was the second occurrence in recent weeks.

2. Total Enemy Lossesa. Casualties

- (1) NVN KIA (conf) - 1
- (2) Detainees - 1
- (3) Chicu Hoi - 1

b. Equipment

- (1) AK-47 assault rifle - 1
- (2) Chi Con grenades (destroyed) - 10
- (3) Chi Con Di-10 Directional Claymore (destroyed) - 1
- (4) TNT w/ blasting caps - 3 4lb blocks
- (5) K-50 (PPSN) Drum Magazine - 1
- (6) Syringe and case - 1
- (7) Assorted ampoules - 22
- (8) Plastic gauze gas masks (destroyed) - 2
- (9) Assorted sized bunkers (destroyed) - 198

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~SECTION IVOPERATION AND TRAINING

1. The following training was conducted by 3d Battalion, 4th Marines during the period 1-31 August 1967. Throughout this period the Battalion was engaged in constant patrolling.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HOURS</u>
H&SCo	FAM firing of M-16	17
	Care and cleaning of M-16	9
	First Aid and personal sanitation and hygiene	4
	EDC procedures	4
	81's gun drill	15
	106's gun drill	30
Co "J"	FAM firing of M-16	15
	Care and cleaning of M-16	10
	First Aid and personal sanitation and hygiene	4
Co "K"	FAM firing all organic weapons	5
	FO procedures	30
Co "I"	FAM firing individual weapons	4
	Starlight Scope	1
	Infrared scope	1
	Tactical training tips	1
Co "M"	Functioning and maintenance of M-16	4
	Care and cleaning of M-16	30
	Protective mask	1
	Sanitation & Hygiene	4
	First Aid	4
	Scouting and patrolling	2
	Am bush techniques	2
	Techniques of rifle fire	3
	Employment of M-79 in defense	1

2. In addition to the above, all individual Marines fired their weapon for "zero", prior to assignment to a unit in the field.

3. All replacements were given indoctrination lectures prior to joining their units by the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Sergeant Major and Chaplain.

4. Command and Control

- a. On 12 August 1967, Co "K" 3/9 chopped to 3/4
Co "L" 2/4 chopped from 3/4 to 3/9

XV-1

~~SECRET~~ (1)

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

- b. On 14 August 1967, Co "L" 3/4 chopped from 3/9 to 3/4
Co "I" 3/4 chopped from 3/4 to 3/9
- c. On 16 August 1967, Co "I" 3/4 chopped from 3/9 to 3/4
Co "K" 3/4 chopped from 3/4 to 3/9
- d. On 18 August 1967, Co "K" 3/4 chopped from 3/9 to 3/4
Co "M" 3/4 chopped from 3/4 to 3/9
- e. On 18 August 1967, Co "M" 3/4 chopped from 3/9 to 3/4
Co "K" 3/9 chopped from 3/4 to 3/9

5. Close Combat. During the month of August 3d Battalion, 4th Marines was headquartered at Con Thien. The perimeter was defended by one heavily reinforced rifle company. Reinforcing units were one platoon of tanks from 3d Tank Bn, one platoon of Ontos from 3d AT Bn, two M-42 twin 40mm from 1/44th Ltry (US Army), and three quad .50 cal machine guns from 1/65th Ltry (US Army). Battery "D" 2/12 and Mortar Battery 2/12 provided artillery support along with 2d Bn, 9th Ltry (US Army) from Camp Carroll and 1st Bn How Btry from Cam Lo who provided long range counter battery fires. The remaining companies conducted extensive search and destroy operations throughout the TAO. (See 3/4 TAO overlay). A road sweep of route 561 south to link up with the Cam Lo sweeps coming north was conducted daily. Three amphibian tractors, provided by 1st AirTrac Battalion, provided an invaluable asset for transporting resupply to the outlying companies and providing a capability for rapid reinforcement. A complete defense order including defensive fire plan and counter attack plan was published. (See supporting documents). Continuous improvement of the defensive position was emphasized and with the introduction of the dyomarker project, considerable progress was achieved.

1 Aug. Co "M" "L" and "I" conducted search and destroy operations in grid squares 0969, 0970 and 1070 with negative contact. At 0915H coordinates 130657 the road sweep was fired upon by a recoilless rifle from 127657. Third Platoon Co "K" and the tanks returned fire. Two air strikes were run on above coordinates. No further enemy activity was observed. At 1100H while returning to Con Thien the road sweep, at 130657, was fired upon with 82mm mortars. The rounds fell approximately 400 meters to the southeast. MO on station was unable to locate the enemy. All companies conducted night ambushes. Negative contact.

2 Aug. All companies continued search and destroy operations in above grid squares. CO 3/4, with a small tactical command group joined Co "L" at 1328H at coordinates 093703. A three company sweep of grid squares 1171, 1172, 1271, and 1272 was planned for the following day but at 2230H a message was received from CO 9th Marines setting forth the following limitations. "Advance no further north than 105717. Advance along the road may go as far as 114712. Units must then return to their present positions."

3 Aug. Curtailed operations consisted of Co "M" and Bn Command group sweeping to 168719 across north front of Con Thien. Negative contact. At 0930H at coordinates 096708 Co "I" received 4 rounds of 81mm mortar fire and 2 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Result: 1 KIA, 1 SMC, 17 UIC WIA (1 medovac). Fire appeared to come from vicinity 096712. Enemy

~~SECRET~~

mission was fired on this grid. At 1010H Co "L", at 112706, received 7 rounds of friendly 81mm mortar fire. Results: 1 USMC WIA (non-evac). At 1325H, units established defensive positions as follows; Co "I" 094705, Co "L" 095700, and Co "M" with Bn. command group at 101706. At 1400H, K-3 at coordinates 126655, found four NVN bodies in a grave. NVN dead approximately 1 month. At 1450H an NVN surrendered at the northern sector of the perimeter. An interpreter and PsyOps team was requested from 9th Marines. At 1510H Co "M" found and destroyed 1 enemy harboring bunker. At 1540H, Co "L" at coordinates 101706 found 3 harboring bunkers which they destroyed. At 1700H, FCW informed the S-2 Chief that there was a mortar position on hill 48 at 113733. An arty mission was fired on this grid. All companies conducted night ambushes with negative contact.

4Aug. At 0945H, K-2 at coordinates 129886, found 1 NVN body in grave. NVN dead approximately 1 month. At 1015H, Co "L" commenced a sweep from 118714 to 108706. Negative contact. At 1058H M-2 at coordinates 102692, found and destroyed 1 harboring bunker. At 1130H M-2 sighted 3 NVN grid 6850. Arty mission called, rounds on target. Three NVN KIA (prob). At 1135H the Bn. Cmd group returned to Con Thien and companies established defensive positions as follows: Co "I" 092714, Co "L" 118714, and Co "M" 093699. At 1202H M-2 found harboring bunkers at 097691 and 096683. Bunkers destroyed. At 1230H M-2 at coordinates 098673 found and destroyed 3 harboring bunkers. At coordinates 099711, I-3, found a grave with 1 NVN body, dead several days. At 1250H, I-3, at coordinates 095710 found and destroyed 1 harboring bunker. At 1450H Co "I" commenced sweep of grid squares 0970 and 1070 as directed by CO 9th Marines. Indications were that an NVN radio was operating in that area. Negative results.

5Aug. At 0725H, K-1, departed on a road sweep. At 0745H, Con Thien received 18 rounds of 85mm arty from 104775. Results: 1 USMC WIA. At 0751H Co "L" conducted a sweep from 104706. At 0812H Con Thien received 8 more rounds of 85mm arty from 105798. Returned fire with 105mm artillery. Results unknown. At 0830H, received 8 more rounds 85mm artillery. Returned fire with fixed wing with unknown results. At 1003H, K-1 returned from the road sweep to 116697. Co "L" continued its sweep. At 1200H engineers blew a 4.2HE point detonating round. At 1500H, Co "M", while on sweep at 107686, discovered a Russian type grenade booby-trapped in trail. Destroyed by engineers. At 1510H, Co "M" discovered another booby-trapped Russian type grenade which was also blown in place. The remainder of the day, companies "I", "L" and "M" continued to conduct day time sweeps with negative contact, while Co "K" remained in the perimeter defense. At 2100H, I-3b, while on listening post at 094702 sighted 3 to 4 figures 50-75 meters southeast of listening post. Fired 15 rounds of small arms. Results Unknown.

6Aug. At 0530H Co M -2D, while in a night time position at 117688, heard four people walking toward their position. M-2D waited until people were within 25 meters and opened fire with small arms and grenades and withdrew from the area after conducting a sweep with negative results. At 0610H Co's "L", "M", and "I" began sweeps from night time positions. At 1013H, Co "M" located a shelter constructed of logs, boards and dirt. It was located within a burned village. The shelter was blown with C-4. At 1245H, Co "M" found five bunkers approximately 4'x4'x5' at YD 116685. Bunkers had not been used recently. All bunkers were destroyed with C-4. Co "I" began

UNCLASSIFIED

IV-3

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

sweeping to 093083. Co "L" began a sweep to 110688 and Co "M" began a sweep to 121689. No contact was made. At 1700H, all units had completed day time activities. All units established night time ambush with negative contact.

7Aug. At 0349H, Con Thien received 2 rounds of incoming 85mm arty from an unknown position. OP's were alerted. Between 0600H and 0630H, Co's "I", "L" and "M" departed for day time sweeps. At 0850H, K-2 on road sweep spotted bunker at YD 125552. K-2 fired three rounds of 40mm into the bunker. At 0923H Co "M" located five 12'x12' huts constructed of straw and dirt. All huts were destroyed. At 0925H, L-3 located one bunker 4'x4'x4' at YD 106675. The bunker was destroyed. At 1000H, Co L-3 found an M1A1 antitank mine, U.S. made, at YD 113675. The mine was disarmed and brought to the rear. At 1100H Co "M" found five bunkers at 125696, two were 4'x4'x5', two were 2'x2'x3', and one was 4'x7'x10'. All bunkers were destroyed. At 1120H, L-2 spotted one NVA with a pack and carbine at 115774. L-2 opened up with small arms. The NVA did not return fire. L-2 swept area with negative results. At 1950H, Co's "I", "L", & "M" were ordered to conduct security patrols and night time ambushes. At 2035H, L-3, while in a night time ambush site at 107686, observed movement to their front. Small arms fire was placed on the movement and the area swept at first light with negative results. At 2100H, Co "L", while in night time ambush site, at 094686 was taken under fire by small arms. Arty mission was called in with good coverage. Results from small arms was one USMC KIA and one USMC WIA. Enemy casualties were unknown. All units returned to their OP's to conduct night time activities. At 2045H, L-3 at 130690, heard movement to their front. When a trip flare was set off, a frag grenade was thrown. Results were unknown. At 2115H, L-1 reported hearing noises 10 to 20 meters in front of their position and fired 20 rounds of small arms fire with negative results. Units continued night time activities with negative contact.

8Aug. All units to remain in present position and conduct local security patrols with heavy H&I firing in northern sector of TAOR. At 0930H, Co "M" found one 12'x6'x6' storage hut and tools at 129688. Hut and tools were destroyed. At 1720H, Co "M" established a defensive position at 139690, Co "L" established a defensive position at 130690, and Co "I" established a defensive position at 122689. Co "K" continued present mission. Co's "I", "L" & "M" conducted local security patrols. At 2020H, L-1 at 111688, observed movement to their front and fired approximately 20 rounds small arms with negative results. At 2300H, all units established night ambushes. At 2350H, K-2 LP spotted two figures west of their position at 122699, fired 9 rounds small arms and 3 rounds 81mm HE. Results unknown.

9Aug. At 0500H, units directed to conduct night time activities and day time patrols. At 0940H Con Thien received six rounds of incoming 122mm from 103807. Called arty and fixed wing. At 1305H, Co "I" departed for their night time position 106683 and at 1330H, Co "L" departed for their night time position 130690. At 1810H, L-3 OP observed one figure armed and in black pajamas at 106683. L-3 opened fire with small arms. Individual started running north. L-3 searched area with negative results. At 2110H, L-3 LP heard movement to their north and fired small arms. Results unknown. All units continued night time activities with negative contact.

UNCLASSIFIED

IV-4

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~ At 0710 Co "M" located 5 village huts 143693, one skeleton, appeared to be 7-8 months old. All huts were destroyed. At 0815H Co "I" located seven sand bags at 130690 containing 175 pounds of rice. Also located a uniform of black pajamas. At 1155H, Co "I" and Co "L" began conducting sweeps. Co "I"'s position 137692 and Co "L"'s position 142692. Co "I" set in blocking position 142696. At 1325H, the BC scope spotted four individuals in a rice paddy at 184706. Two spotter rounds were fired prior to an AO report that persons may be friendly civilians. At 1420H, Co's "I", "L" & "M" were all moving on sweeps from 142692. At 1400H, Co "M" located four huts 10'x10'x8' constructed of bamboo and straw; not recently used. Huts were destroyed. At 1600H, Co "I", while on a sweep, located four houses, one bunker and three documents at grid 1270. Houses and bunkers were destroyed and documents were sent to the rear. Also at 1600H, Co "L" located seven large huts and nine small huts. These huts had been partially torn down. All huts were destroyed. By 2030H, all units were in their night time positions. Night time activities resulted in negative contact.

11Aug. All units began sweeps/security activities prior to 0800H. At 1330H, Co "M" found four heavily reinforced bunkers approximately 3'x6' at 093692, none of which had been used recently. At 1755H, Co's "L", "M", & "K" had completed day time activities and began moving to night time positions. Each of these units set in night ambushes. Heavy H&I's were fired throughout the night. At 2050H, while moving to a night time position, M-1B received small arms fire. Fire was returned with small arms, M-79, 81mm and arty mission. Results unknown. One squad of Co "M" received small arms, at 2050H, while on patrol in vicinity of 107685. Con Thien received 10 rounds of 85mm artillery at 2322H. Artillery fire was returned.

12Aug. Upon return of their night time ambushes, Co's "I" & "M" began conducting local day time security patrols. Co "I"'s CP 118690 and Co "M"'s CP 112688. Con Thien received one round of artillery at 1245H. Unable to determine origin. Co "L" moved to Dong Ha and then to Cam Lo for rest and an opportunity to obtain personal gear. Co "K"-3/9 arrived Con Thien to remain until all companies rotation completed. 3/4 companies at Cam Lo under OpCon 3/9 during rotation. At 2000H, Con Thien received thirty-seven rounds of 85mm arty. Returned fire by arty. At 2150H, a figure moving east to west was sighted by searchlight. Called for 81mm mortar fire. Results unknown. Sweep to begin at first light. At 2215H, K-2 observed a figure moving outside the perimeter. Co "K" fired an M-79 and an 81mm mortar concentration. Results unknown. Sweep to begin at first light. At 2255H a prober tried to enter the lines and set off a trip flare. He was brought under fire with M-79's and small arms. First light search resulted in a negative report.

13Aug. At 0800H, Co's "M"-3/4 & "K"-3/2 swept area of previous nights contacts with negative results. At 0852H, K-2-3/9 discovered one 60mm base plate. At 1020H, Con Thien received five rounds of 85mm arty from 096774. All rounds landed east of perimeter. Returned fire with arty mission. Co "M" found and destroyed three bunkers at 097687 at 0900H. Con Thien received four incoming 85mm rounds at 1050H. All rounds landed outside perimeter. Returned fire with arty mission. At 1430H Co "K"-3/9 located and destroyed booby trapped illumination cannister at coordinates 120690. At 2025H, while setting into night time position, Co "I" received small arms fire. Returned small arms fire and one individual was observed to fall. Co "I" called in 60mm mortar and an arty mission. Results unknown. At 2055H, while in a night time position, Co "I" observed four NVA walking north from the

IV-5

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

position of activity, at 2025H. Small arms, claymores, and arty were fired. Results unknown. At 2230H, Co "I" received small arms fire. Returned small arms fire along with 60mm mortars and arty mission. At 2244H, Co "I" received small arms fire and what appeared to be M-79 fire at coordinates from 101716 to 102715. Fired 60mm and 81mm mortars. Results unknown. At 2310H, Co "K" called for 81mm mortar concentration on two figures sighted in front of lines. Results unknown. A sweep was planned for first light of the area where contact was made. Other night time activities resulted in negative contact.

14 Aug. At 0454H, a trip flare was ignited in Co "M"'s position. Co "M" opened fire with small arms and an M-79. Results unknown. At first light a sweep was conducted of the area where contact was made during the night with negative results. The sweep covered from 101716 to 102715. At 1000H, Co "M" set up a blocking force at 094709 with the main force at 087700. Co "I" was in their day time position at 119690. At 1025H, Co "M" destroyed a 500lb dud, in place, at 097703. Co "M" swept from 094709 and Co "I" swept grid 1168. Co "L" returned from Cam Lo; Co "I" to Cam Lo. At 1700H all units had completed day time activities with negative contact and were preparing for night time activities. Night time activities had negative contact.

15 Aug. Scheduled day time activities included a Co "K"-3/9 sweep from 091689 to 130690 and a Co "M" sweep to 110690. At 0900H, Co "L" located six freshly dug graves, grass huts, two bunkers 4'x10'x4' and one NVL body which appeared to have been killed by an explosion, at 117682. At 1120H, Con Thien received incoming 85mm mortar fire, and returned fire with arty. At 1325H, Con Thien received two rounds 85mm arty which resulted in one WL (non-ovae) and one disabled amphibian tractor. At 1657H, Con Thien received two more rounds 85mm artillery. General support arty was called. At 1850H, a mine was detonated while sweeping a mine field within the perimeter resulting in one KIA and one WL (ovae) engineer personnel. At 1900H, Co's "M" & "K"-3/9 established night time defensive positions and Co "L" began night time patrols. Night time activities resulted in negative contact.

16 Aug. The day's activities included a sweep by Co "M" and a relief of Co "K" by Co "L" on the Con Thien perimeter. Co "I" returned from Cam Lo; Co "K" to Cam Lo. Co "M" received 10 rounds of 155mm arty at 092679 from an unknown source. Co "M" took cover, and called for a check fire. One non-hostile casualty occurred. At 1302H, 4-6 people were spotted from 092685 to 091675, armed with automatic weapons. Arty and 60mm mortars were fired in this area with negative results. At 1520H, Co "M" found and destroyed 12 bunkers approximately 4'x4'x4' at 101678. Seven of these had been occupied recently. Co "I" at 112691, and Co "M" at 116609. Night time assaults from these positions resulted in negative contact.

17 Aug. At 0935H, Co "I" located and destroyed a bunker with two overhead huts containing assorted clothing. Co "I" also located two bunkers with assorted trousers, seven cooking pots, one U.S. E-tool, and one U.S. helmet. All bunkers were located in vicinity 125693. At 1231H, Con Thien received four rounds incoming arty resulting in two WL (mod-ovae). Returned fire with arty. At 1615H, Con Thien was visited by Colonel DAVIS, G-2 3d Mar Div, and Colonel JERUE, CO, 9th Marine Regiment. At 1700H, Co "I" at 129688 and Co "M" at 129689, were preparing night time positions. At 1815H six NVL were spotted in vicinity 135785, and 15 NVL spotted in 144843 by G/S. G/S artillery (175mm) was fired on 144843 and 105mm arty fired on 135785. Rounds on target. Results unknown. Night time activities resulted in negative contact.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE (4)

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

18Aug. Prior to 0830H, units sent out small unit swoops/patrols. At 0830H, OP #1 Con Thien observed four vehicles moving at 109758. Arty was called in with negative results. At 0910H, K-3-3/9 located a fresh set of wagon tracks and a fresh grave containing one male body at 138698. At 0945H, 3d Engineer Bn, detonated a mine while clearing a Con Thien mine field, resulting in one KIA and three WIA's. At 1010H I-3 located and destroyed a bunker 3'x5'x6' at 125694. At 1115H K-2&3-3/9 discovered and destroyed three bunkers 3'x6'x5' at 144698. At 1200H, Co "K"-3/4 returned to Con Thien; Co "M" to Cam Lo. At 1530H, all units occupied night time positions. Night time activities resulted in negative contact.

19Aug. At 0800H, Co "K"-3/4 began conducting a sweep to 094684. Co "I" began a sweep to 100693. At 1030H K-1 located a 6'x6'x3' bunker at 100691 and destroyed it with C-4. At 1040H Con Thien received six rounds of incoming arty. The AO on station called an arty mission on the enemy. At 1050H K-3-3/9 located a 5'x5'x4' bunker at 099694 and destroyed it with C-4. At 1735H and again at 1835H, arty hit approximately 200 meters north of Con Thien. At 1900H, units were preparing night time positions. Night activities resulted in negative contact.

20Aug. By 0645H, all night time activities had returned to their CP's. By 1115H, units were located as follows; Co "I"-3/4 119690, Co "K"-3/4 090675, Co "K"-3/9 115693, Co "L"-3/4 remained in the Con Thien defensive position. At 1120H, Co "I" established a blocking position protecting the convoy position at Con Thien. At 1120H, Co "M"-3/4 returned chopped to Con Thien completing the rotation cycle as Co "K"-3/9 returned to its parent organization at Cam Lo. At 1155H, Co "K" discovered a booby-trapped chinese communist grenade and a booby-trapped 105mm round. Both were destroyed in place. By 1600H, all units were in their night time positions. Night time activities resulted in negative contact.

21Aug. Co's "K" & "M" were directed to sweep south and cross LOD (117676 to 116685) at 0900H sweeping west; detect and mark all fortifications and shelters. Co "I" (-) (rein) with command group to move on order in trace of Co's "K" & "M" and destroy all enemy fortifications and shelters. At 0900H, Co's "K" & "M" moved out on line from LOD. At 0945H, Co "M" located five graves with badly decayed bodies. Graves were marked for further inspection. At 1000H, Co "K" located four ChiCom grenades not booby-trapped. Grenades were marked and left in place. At 1025H, Co "K" located five NVA bodies in a trench. Bodies appeared to be about 1 1/2 months old. At 1045H, an AmTrac detonated an AT mine resulting in 17 WIA(mod-ovac). Bunker destruction was continued. At 2000H, all units were in night time positions with instructions to be prepared to support 2/9 if necessary. Units reported locating and destroying a total of 39 bunkers during the day's sweep. All units conducted night time activities with negative contact.

22Aug. At 0800H, Co "K" moved from 109687 and Co "M" moved from 111682 to sweep westward within assigned area. Co "I" remained in its night time position. At 1245H, Co "M" spotted three NVA about 100 meters to their right front at coordinates 101683. The enemy were taken under fire with small arms and M-79 fire. Results negative. Also at 1245H, Co "M" fired on three NVA fleeing westward, with negative results. At 1510H, Co "M" moved into their night time position at 093685. They reported that they had discovered and searched a total of 37 bunkers during their sweep.

SECRET ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

Most of these bunkers showed no sign of recent use. Also discovered were twelve 81mm duds, a 105mm dud and a LAAW dud. All bunkers and duds were destroyed with C-4. At 1945H, Co "K" took 2 NVA under fire with small arms. Results negative. At 2030H, OP-2 observed considerable enemy movement in grid 0669. Arty was called throughout the night. All units conducted night time activities with negative results.

23Aug. Co "K" directed to conduct a sweep and occupy a blocking position southwest of Con Thien, as Co "I" conducted a sweep completing destruction of bunkers discovered the previous day. Co "I" to conduct platoon size patrols. All units moved out by 0800H. At 0840H, Co "I" discovered one woman age 23 to 30, possibly suffering from malnutrition. Co "I" called for an interpreter for interrogation of the woman. (Woman later evacuated to Can Lo.) At 0930H, Co "K" observed two personnel at 120584 moving south-east on ridgeline and called in arty with good coverage. At 1045H, Co "K" discovered three Vietnamese huts with tunneled bunkers. Bunkers were searched with negative results. During morning sweep, Co "M" located and destroyed twelve bunkers, one 81mm dud and one 250lb bomb dud. At 1315H, all units had completed day time sweeps/patrols and were occupying night time positions as follows: Co "K" 118690, Co "I" 118690, and Co "I" 118639. At 1620H Con Thien received seven rounds of 85mm arty and returned fire with tanks and arty. At 1720H, Con Thien received five more rounds incoming 85mm and returned fire with tanks and arty. Battery "D", 2/12, returned 90 rounds of fire. Night time activities resulted in negative contact.

24Aug. Frag Order for 24Aug67 directed Co "M" to maintain its present position by 1600H, and Co "I" to conduct proscribed platoon size patrols and return to position by 1600H. At 0745H, Engineers on road sweep discovered and destroyed in place, a 20 lb antitank mine at 127698. At 0910H, Co "K" located and destroyed two 250lb bombs at 110680. Again at 1100H, Co "K" located and destroyed three 81mm mortar rounds at 094682. At 1220H, Co "I" located one bunker 6'x3'x3'. Destroyed by EOD team. Co "K" discovered 14 more bunkers at 105685 with average dimensions of 8'x5'x3' and destroyed all overheads. At 1500H, Co "I" discovered and destroyed six bunkers 6'x8'x4' at 111684. The Frag Order for 25, 26, and 27Aug provided for day time sweeps of the entire THOR (a360° circle of Con Thien) with two-company perimeter defenses at night. Maximum use of mortar and arty for preparation and recon by fire was encouraged. Night time activities resulted in negative contact.

25Aug. At 0800H, Co's "I" & "K" had moved out in accordance with CO's 25Aug67 Frag Order, behind prep fires. At 0915H, Co "I" located and destroyed a bunker at 093688. At 1026H, CO 3/4 modified frag order recalling Co's "I" & "K" to previous night time positions and holding activities for 26 and 27Aug67 in abeyance at request of CO 9th Marine Regiment. At 1045H, Co "I" located and destroyed one large 20'x8'x8' bunker at 095695. At 1132H, Regiment notified 3/4 to ensure troops were west of grid line 10 from 260300H Aug67 to 260900H Aug67. At 1130H, Co "K" fired on two NVA in a three line at 096706 and saw one man fall. Arty was called. Again at 1150H, 2 NVA were taken under fire by Co "K" and tank and arty fire was called. Sweeps of the area disclosed negative results. At 1500H, 132 rounds of 105mm arty were fired on known enemy rocket positions of 135785. Two secondary explosions were observed. By 1627H, all units were in their night time positions. All units conducted night time activities. At 2310H, Co "K" observed two figures hit the ground when area was illuminated. Small arms fire with negative results.

IV-8

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

26Aug. At 0750H, Engineers located and destroyed one M-19 AT mine at 126586. At 0800H, Co "I" began platoon size patrols and Co "K" a company patrol as directed in 26Aug67 Frag Order. At 1100H, Co "K" discovered a tunnel 6' long 2' wide and 6' deep, running to a well-concealed 2'x2'x4' spider trap and a trench 20' long 2' wide and 3' deep running into a 5'x4'x3' bunker. Entire system was destroyed. At 1145H, Co "K" discovered an observation platform in a tree approximately 35' above ground. Wire was leading to platform. Platform offered excellent observation of Con Thien. Platform was destroyed. At 1445H, OP #1 observed three individuals with a recoilless rifle at 068700. Target was fired on with twin 40's, tanks and arty. No further movement was observed. At 1735H, 9th Marine Regiment approved 3/4 execution of 360 sweep around Con Thien commencing 27Aug67. At 1800H, an AO observed three NVL in a trench at 068689 and ran an air strike destroying three bunkers and two rocket positions with two KBs. At 1920H, Co "L" observed three NVL in the open at 068700 and called in a 105 fire mission. An FO reported that rounds hit where NVL were standing. At 2030H, Co "K" reported two NVL running into treeline at 123700 and called in 81mm fire mission. Results unknown. All units carried out night time activities with negative further contact.

27Aug. All sweeping units had moved out of night time positions by 0807H. At 1002H, Con Thien received four rounds incoming 85mm. G/S arty (195's) was called. At 1030H, Con Thien received two more 85mm rounds. Tanks returned fire immediately with 175mm fire mission called. Incoming resulted in one WIA (medevac). At 1545H, all units had completed their sweeps with positions as follows; Co "K" 096704, Co "I" 095704, and Co "M" 118688. At 1812H, Con Thien received two rounds incoming 85mm. Returned fire with tanks and arty mission. At 1850H, during a resupply to outlying companies which the Battalion Command Group had accompanied, a tank detonated an AT mine resulting in 10 WIA's. Med Evac was called and accomplished. At 1906H, Con Thien received three rounds 85mm. Tanks, 105's and 175's returned fire. Incoming resulted in one WIA (medevac). At 2200H, all units were in night time positions, with ambushes in place. Night time activities resulted in negative contact.

28Aug. Co's "I" & "K" with Command Group continued sweep across north front of Con Thien. At 0950H, Co "K" located one dead NVL in gully at 112 709. The body, approximately 2 1/2 months old, was dressed in a khaki uniform. At 1030H, Con Thien received 104 rounds incoming 85mm. Air was on station and arty was called. At 1145H, Con Thien received 10 rounds 85mm. Air and arty returned fire. Nine more 85mm rounds were received at 1205H. D/S arty returned fire and air was on station. At 1412, Con Thien received seven more rounds of 120mm or heavy caliber high angle incoming rounds. An AO was not able to locate source of the fire. At 1833H, Con Thien received nine rounds 85mm. Air strike and arty called. Unit sweeps which included crossing the trace from north to south resulted in negative contact. Command group returned to Con Thien. All units reported in night time positions at 138696 by 2020H. All units conducted night time activities with negative contact.

29Aug. Units moved commencing at 0910H from night time position to 118 688 with negative contact. At 1526H, all units were resupplied and in night time positions. Night time activities prior to 2400 resulted in negative contact.

UNCLASSIFIED

IV-9

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

30Aug. At 0035H, Co "M" spotted movement of two personnel moving in direction of Con Thien. An M-79 was fired. A search party recovered one NVA body with one ChiCom grenade. At 0730H, Con Thien received six rounds 85mm incoming. Tanks returned fire. Arty mission called. At 1045H, Engineers discovered two NVA bodies, one buried, one on the ground; both wearing khaki uniforms and approximately 2 to 3 months old. Bodies were buried. The following items were removed from bodies: 3 1/2 lb blocks ChiCom TNT, 3 mechanical blasting caps, one plastic poncho and one make shift gas mask. At 1505H, Con Thien received five rounds 85mm arty. Returned fire with 175mm arty. During day, companies remained in place with Co "K" assuming reserve mission vice Co "M". At 1525H, Co "M" at 119689, Co "K" at 119690, Co "I" at 119687 all conducted local security. All units carried out night time activities with negative contact.

31Aug. At 0843H, all units had initiated day time activities. Co "M" conducted local security patrols within 500 meters to east and south; Co "I" conducted similar patrols to south and west. At 1338H, Con Thien received four rounds of incoming 85mm. Tanks fired mission at 106816 and enemy fire ceased. Tanks and arty again suppressed enemy fire. At 2145H, four to six NVA were detected southwest of the perimeter. Small arms and mortars were fired. Movement in front of lines ceased. Search party results negative. All units conducted night time activities with negative contact.

UNCLASSIFIED

IV-10

~~SECRET~~ ENCLOSURE (7)

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION VLOGISTICS1. General

a. There were no major logistical problems encountered during this reporting period. Due to the utilization of mechanized supply trains to outlying companies, there was no need for helicopter resupply. The Helicopter Support Team was therefore returned to Co "C", 3d Shore Party Battalion.

b. Daily resupplies were delivered over the MSR to Con Thien with no difficulty. Convoys were controlled by 9th Motors from Dong Ha to Cam Lo, by the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines from Cam Lo to C-2, and by the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines from C-2 to the Con Thien perimeter. Truck support received from 9th Motors was excellent. Companies were supplied from ~~the perimeter~~ by LVT, Tanks, and vehicles organic to the Battalion. Units within the perimeter received their supplies by Mechanical Haul.

c. On 12 August, the Command began rotating company-sized units to the rear for rehabilitation. One company from 3d Battalion, 9th Marines was moved up to Con Thien as a replacement force. Seabags were made available for each unit and, on return, stored at Dong Ha in a Butler building. The rotation was completed on 20 August. No serious problems arose during this evolution.

d. On two occasions during August, ice cream was delivered to the field by helicopter. The resupply phase went very smoothly and the ice cream was still in a solid state when delivered to the men. However, an insufficient quantity was available for every man to get a share. Action has been initiated to increase the amount, and to increase the number of shipments.

2. Supply

a. Overall supply support during this period was considered excellent. Some shortages were experienced and still exist in the following items:

Handset H-138 f/PRC-25
Sand bags
Communication wire
Light weight utilities
Socks

A critical shortage exists for M-16 magazines. At the present time personnel are being issued four magazines in lieu of the authorized initial issue of six per man. These items are on priority O2 requisition.

3. Transportation

a. Motor Transport support from 9th Motors has been excellent. One additional M-37B1 has been received bringing us up to our authorized level of four.

UNCLASSIFIED

V-1

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

b. The deadline rate for the Truck M-4224.1 has increased during the reporting period. At the present time eleven of twenty of these vehicles are on deadline. Of these, eight are on "unit hold" from FISU-1. The remaining three are awaiting parts at the Second Echelon level. Those parts are all on order.

c. The Trucks M-2744.1 are being prepared for turn in when the replacement trucks M2744.2 are ready for issue.

4. Miscellaneous

None.

UNCLASSIFIED

V-2

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

SECTION VI

COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS

1. Radio

- a. The Battalion established and maintained the following radio nets.

Regimental TAC #1 (FM) (RC-292)
Battalion TAC #2 (FM) (RC-292)
Perimeter Def. (FM)
Regimental EICP (FM) (RC-292)

b. Supporting Arms

(1) TACP/TAC established and maintained one FM and one UHF net to fulfill their requirements.

(2) Artillery attachments established and maintained one FM net to meet their requirements.

(3) HST provided their own FM net while supporting operations.

c. A station on the Battalion TAC #2 was maintained at the Battalion rear in Dong Ha. An RC-292 was employed to insure reliable communications.

2. Wire

a. The Battalion rear at Dong Ha maintained wire communications within the CP and Trunk Lines to 9th Marine Regiment.

b. Constant repair and replacement of wire lines at Con Thien was required due to the frequent shollings.

c. Three SB-22 switchboards were employed at Con Thien and two SB-22 switchboards were employed within the Battalion rear CP at Dong Ha.

3. Radio Relay. Ninth Marine Regiment provided Radio Relay at Con Thien during the period. The system was totally unreliable due to constant equipment failures. With the loss of Telecom between the forward and rear CP's, the TAC net handled an abundance of administrative traffic.

4. Power

a. The 11th Engineer Battalion provided Camp power at both CP's during the month.

~~SECRET~~

VI-1
ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION VIIFIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION

1. During the month of August, the artillery fire support for the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines was outstanding. Time and time again their support was requested to provide counter battery and suppressing fires against breaching enemy artillery and for H&I fires against enemy movement.

2. During the month an efficient fire support coordination system was evolved whereby the fire support coordinator was able to control local air and artillery and decrease significantly, the time lag between time of request and time of delivery of fire. Further, artillery was often ready to fire as soon as air cleared the target area. (Also see: "Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned - Section XI") Also see documents.

3. Summary of supporting fires for 1-31 August:

<u>Battery</u>	<u>H&I</u>	<u>Rounds Expended</u>
Btry "D" 2/12	1,312	6,489
Btry "E" 2/12	116	595
Mortar Btry 2/12	273	501
1st 8" HowBtry	31	24
	<u>1,732</u>	<u>7,679</u>

FIRE MISSIONS

<u>Battery</u>	<u>H&I</u>	<u>Rounds Expended</u>
Btry "D" 2/12	104	3,002
Btry "E" 2/12	6	134
Mortar Btry 2/12	20	647
1st 8" HowBtry	4	104
175's	25	547
	<u>159</u>	<u>4,504</u>

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~SECTION VIIIAIR SUPPORT

1. During the month of August, the weather remained favorable for all aspects of air support. Due to this Battalion's particular mission, the aerial observer aircraft have been used extensively to detect enemy movement or build-ups. Fixed wing was used quite often by the AO's against targets observed on these flights. It has been general procedure during the month to have an AO on station shortly after first light and also during the last hours of day light. It is felt that this lessens the probability of incoming enemy artillery.

All requests for air that were made were fulfilled without appreciable delay. MedEvac requests continued to be completed daily. Helicopter recon over-flights for 3/4 were constructive and carried out on time.

AO air craft presented slight problems in that they sometimes failed to monitor the FM frequency and occasionally failed to inform the battalion that they were departing the area. This sometimes delayed artillery fire that had been checked.

2. The following is a summary of air support for the period 1-31 August:

- a. Fixed Wing - 42 Sorties
- b. AO Aircraft - 97 Sorties
- c. Resupply - 6 UH 34's
- d. MedEvacs - 16 UH 34's
- e. Troop lifts - None
- f. TPQ's - 607 requested

UNCLASSIFIED

VIII-1

~~SECRET~~
ENCLOSURE (1)
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION IXMEDICAL AFFAIRS

1. The overall medical situation for the month of August was good. Two Battalion Aid Stations were established. One in Con Thien and one in Dong Ha. The forward BAS at Con Thien handled all the casualties in the area. Jungle Rot and Fungus infections were prevalent in the rifle companies due to prolonged deployment in the field. Sanitation in the rear has been good. Problems with rodents and contaminated water were significant at Con Thien. Man hours have been saved by the Medical Officer checking "No-duty" and "Light-duty" personnel on a daily basis at the forward BAS.
2. The village of Hoa Duc was Red-Capped on 23 August. Ninety-three civilians were seen and treated.

IX-1

~~SECRET~~
ENCLOSURE (1)
~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION X

CIVIL AFFAIRS

1. No civil affairs operations were conducted during this period.
2. All civilians have been evacuated from 3/4 area of operation.

X-1

UNCLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~SECTION XIPROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND LESSONS LEARNED

Some of the following fire support techniques are possible only due to the unique features of Con Thien; namely, the fact that all civilians have been evacuated from the area, the positions of all friendly units are known, most counter artillery fires are into enemy territory, and all contacts may be presumed to be enemy. However, these techniques are presented for possible use or modification in comparative situations.

There is nothing that replaces comprehensive fire support planning in a defensive situation. Planned and registered long range, close defensive, and final protective fires not only speed up fire support requests, and ensure accurate fire on target, but also greatly facilitate the transfer of responsibility from one unit to another when incorporated into a defensive order and overlay annex.

A part of the long range defensive fire plan is the manner of engagement of enemy artillery or mortars from which incoming fires are being received. The August Gazette had a fine plan for counter mortar fire. For counter artillery fire, a comparative plan is possible. Goals in order of priority are (1) immediate response, (2) suppression of incoming artillery, (3) utilization of the best observation and control agency, (4) employment of the weapons that possess both the range and the desired destructive capability, and (5) coordination of the several weapons available to ensure continuous engagement of the target.

When fire is received from approximately the same location on repeated occasions, preplanned targets are worthwhile. Use of the 90mm gun tank properly layed in on a preplanned target based on data computed by the artillery battery FDC provides a means of immediately available suppressive fires. In the Con Thien situation, clearance that air is not in the area is all that is required for fires to the north. This can be done visually by the forward battalion -- the tank can fire on the preplanned target as soon as incoming is received and the Battalion FSCC has cleared the tank to fire. By also maintaining communication from air or ground observers through FSCC to the artillery battery and back to the firing tank, those initial fires can be adjusted as the actual target is detected. Experience has frequently shown that incoming artillery sources are out of range of on position D/S artillery support. The range capability of the tank permits engagement of the target while obtaining G/S artillery or air support. For closer in targets while awaiting mortars, artillery or air, the Ontos can also engage the target effectively, either on preplanned or observed targets. Note that this technique of tank or Ontos fire also affords armor protection from the shrapnel of incoming rounds, that mortar and artillery personnel would not enjoy in open pits. As specific targets are acquired, the appropriate artillery would of course engage the target.

For close in fires in and around the defensive perimeter another practice has proven profitable. The tendency of perimeter personnel hearing or detecting movement at night was to fire pom-poms or request illumination rounds don't inflict enemy casualties; therefore a combination of HE with illumination has been developed.

~~SECRET~~

If men in the perimeter desire to fire a pom-pom, they first fire an M-79 grenade in the direction of the noise. The pom-pom illumination, properly timed, lights up the desired area just as the grenade hits. All perimeter personnel are also familiar with the fire plan for their immediate sector. They may request 81mm mortar fire by target number rather than grid, for which gun data has also previously been recorded. The 81mm mortars have been able to perfect a system so that 81mm HE explodes just as illumination breaks slightly to the outside of the target. Adjustment from these HE fires is also simplified if the target is in sight. Automatic weapons are thus held in abeyance preventing disclosure of their positions until they have a distinct target to fire upon.

Aerial observers are normally the desired control agency, if they have acquired the target. Again the battalion FSCC should determine who has the best target acquisition -- and let them control the fire mission. A constant interchange of information between the AO and the Air Officer in battalion FSCC as well as between the battalion Artillery Liaison Officer and his ground observers with the "battalion 14 and the 22 working in each others hip pockets" ensures a rapid transition from artillery to air and back to artillery.

If at least some of the G/S artillery is laid in at all times on the prospective target area, time delay will also be minimized. Again, during check fires for air, the exchange of current target information and the ability of artillery to have guns on target, minimizes delay of artillery fires following an air strike.

Finally, in the unique situation of firing into enemy territory where air clearance is all that is required an idea is proposed. Based on a relatively small target area from which incoming fires have originated and a minimum of artillery positions (G/S or D/S) that would normally engage the targets, a restrictive air space plan could be developed along the gun target line. This plan could be published for a sustained period and air craft would have to request permission to violate the air space. In effect, continuous artillery clearance to fire on the targets from which incoming was expected would exist.

In the area of communication, a conference call system between the OP's, Perimeter Company CP, COC, FSCC, and SL FDC during incoming or perimeter contact, expedited fire support while permitting casualty reporting. The perimeter CP was in contact with tanks, outc, and other units in position on the perimeter.

Finally, in the complex development of a position into a tactically and logistically sound installation, the senior tactical commander must coordinate, and influence the many tasks being performed within his perimeter. He must exert a responsibility for the security of all personnel, whether or not attached. He must ensure that construction not only meets planning standards, but is habitable by troops (e.g. attention to bunker drainage and water proofing). He thus must work with unit commanders of all units on an occasional basis. The results of such coordination will frequently be seen in the techniques of accomplishing the tasks -- through gaining the additional perspective of the tactical commander. The entire effort will also improve in efficiency through the unity of effort which the person assumes an unassigned but vested interest in the task.