

HEADQUARTERS

3d Battalion, 4th Marines
3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force
APO, San Francisco, 96602

3/EAG:shwh
5750
Ser: 003A17768
25 June 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code 403D)
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF
Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for May 1968

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

F. L. Bourne
F. L. BOURNE

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27 JUN 1968
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17 JUN 1968

MAY 1968

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SECTION I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation/Location

a. 3d Battalion, 4th Marines

b. Hill 689 (XD 804409, 1 - 31 May), Hill 552 (XD 822402, 1 - 4 May, 16 - 31 May), Khe Sanh Combat Base (1 - 4 May), Hill 471 (XD 848395, 31 May), Hill 881 South (XD 776438, 31 May), Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

2. Period Covered in Reports 1 - 31 May 1968.3. Billet Assignments

a. Commanding Officer	1 - 31 May 1968	LtCol F. L. BOURNE Jr.
b. Executive Officer	1 - 31 May 1968	Maj J. E. MEAD
c. S-1	1 - 31 May 1968	1stLt J. A. PARKER
d. S-2	1 - 31 May 1968	1stLt J. C. DAY
e. S-3	1 - 31 May 1968	Maj V. E. FIRNSTAHL
f. S-4	1 - 4 May 1968	Capt J. D. CARR
	5 - 19 May 1968	1stLt J. O. SINGER
	20 - 31 May 1968	1stLt W. S. SELLERS
g. CommO	1 - 31 May 1968	Capt J. B. WIALEN
h. CO H&SCo	1 - 19 May 1968	1stLt W. S. SELLERS
	20 - 31 May 1968	Capt J. B. WIALEN
i. CO Co "I"	1 - 31 May 1968	Capt M. A. SEXTON
j. CO Co "K"	1 - 31 May 1968	Capt S. E. THOMAS
k. CO Co "L"	1 - 31 May 1968	Capt J. L. MCLAUGHLIN
l. CO Co "M"	1 - 4 May 1968	1stLt E. N. FIERTZ
	5 - 13 May 1968	Capt J. D. CARR
	14 - 31 May 1968	Capt W. J. MCARDLE

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SECTION II

S-1 AND PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

1. Replacements Received

- a. USMC Enlisted 166
- b. USMC Officers 4
- c. USN Enlisted 4
- d. USN Officers 1

2. Personnel Retained

- a. USMC Enlisted 72
- b. USMC Officers 3

3. Other Personnel Losses

a. Transfer by Service Records

- (1) USMC Enlisted 26

b. Wounded in Action

- (1) USMC Enlisted 257
- (2) USMC Officers 6
- (3) USN Enlisted 6
- (4) USN Officers 1

c. Killed in Action

- (1) USMC Enlisted 30
- (2) USN Enlisted 1

d. Humanitarian Transfer

- (1) USN Enlisted 1

e. Non-battle Casualties

- (1) USMC Enlisted 9
- (2) USMC Officers 1
- (3) USN Enlisted 1

f. Intra Division/Regiment Transfers

- (1) USMC Enlisted 41
- (2) USMC Officers 2
- (3) USN Enlisted 3

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4. Number of R&R Trips - 785. Average Monthly Strength

a. USMC Enlisted	1029
b. USMC Officers	34
c. USN Enlisted	54
d. USN Officers	2

6. Personnel Shortages

a. Officers	<u>Rank</u>	<u>MOS</u>	<u>Number Needed</u>
	Capt	0302	1
	Lt	0302	7
	Lt	0301	2
b. Enlisted	<u>Rank</u>	<u>MOS</u>	<u>Number Needed</u>
	SgtMaj	9999	1
	1stSgt	9999	1
	GySgt	0369	1
	SSgt	0369	2
	Sgt	0311	6
	Sgt	0331	22

7. Personnel administration during the month of May continued to improve. The Battalion for the fourth consecutive month maintained a unit diary error percentage of less than 1.0%. This is in keeping with the Commanding General's desire. Casualty reporting continued to improve by assigning a twice-wounded Marine to the casualty receiving station at "D" Medical Company, Dong Ha. His primary duties are reporting Battalion casualties to the S-1, taking charge of weapons and 782 gear of the Battalion and assisting in unloading of med-evacs. Communications continued to be poor between the rear and forward areas, however, by making daily counter runs, it has not caused a great delay in processing administrative material. Cross-training is being conducted within the S-1 and all administrative personnel are currently qualified to do at least three jobs and all administrative personnel are qualified in casualty reporting.

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SECTION III

INTELLIGENCE

1. Terrain. The terrain in the vicinity of Hill 689 (XD 805407) consists of rolling hills and dense undergrowth. The hills are generally flat with sparse vegetation on the crests and tall elephant grass on the slopes. Valleys are generally flat with thick underbrush consisting of high elephant grass, short bushy trees and thick shrubbery. Streams offer no obstacle, being swift and narrow. They provide a good source of drinking water when hammock is used.
2. Weather. The weather for the area consists of hot days with highs in the upper 90's and moderate nights with lows in the mid 70's. Light rain can be expected at any time. The humidity averages 85 %.
3. The following is the order of battle for the Khe Sanh area for May 1968:

Headquarters, 304th Division at XD 7239
 57th Regiment, 304th Division at XD 8028
 68th Artillery Regiment, 304th Division at XD 7040
 Headquarters, 325C Division at XD 8744
 Unidentified Platoon, 325C Division at XD 8242
 Unidentified Company, 325C Division at XD 8037
 66th NVA Regiment at XD 7316
 304th NVA Regiment at XD 7237
 808th NVA Regiment at XD 6030
 68th Artillery Battalion at XD 7434
 Unidentified Battalion at XD 8645

4. The following are mortar, rocket, artillery and anti-aircraft positions affecting the 3/4 AO:

a. Mortar positions:

74540L	787392	795391
767392	788398	795393
773403	789398	809388
781382	791391	812398
785382	791393	815396
785385	793399	816397
786386		

b. Rocket positions:

746404	756304
754404	76940L

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c. Artillery positions:

Co Roc area (XD 7331, 7431, 7531, 7432, 7430), XD 712323 and XD 753283.

d. Anti-aircraft positions:

693574
777402

777412
777416

5. The NVA bunkers in the Me Sanh area are generally well constructed with thick overheads of logs, bamboo, and dirt, with occasional engineer stakes and sand bags. These bunkers will generally withstand artillery and air strikes except for direct hits. Bunkers were found by this Battalion at the following places:

785423	806401	813394	819399
789403	810407	814397	820395
801402	812404	815403	824406
805406	812408	818407	826394

6. This Battalion captured several new chicom grenades. These grenades have threads on the outside of the cylinder on the top, threads on the inside of the cylinder on the bottom and are flared at the bottom. It was discovered that the handle could be screwed out of the grenades, allowing removal of the fuze, and that the grenades could be screwed together to form a chain of grenades. It is believed that the grenades can be used in chains of two or three to provide a more damaging effect and that a chain of eight, ten or more could be used as a bangalore torpedo.

7. Prisoners. This Battalion captured six NVA during May 1968.

a. The first NVA was captured at 0620H on 19 May 1968, when he entered the Co "M" perimeter mistakenly believing it to be his own. He stated that he belonged to the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment. The POW's unit came from Hanoi approximately the middle of March 1968. His company headquarters was located at XD 815403. His company has two lieutenants left. The POW had seven chicom grenades, one Soviet AK-47 rifle with two magazines and 130 rounds.

b. Four NVA, three of them badly wounded were captured by Co "I" at XD 819402 at 1100H on 19 May 1968. One additional NVA was captured at 1145H on 19 May 1968 at XD 821401.

(1) One of the NVA captured at 1100H was PFC Phan Xuan Trung of the 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 7d Battalion, 367th Division. He was an ammunition carrier for 60mm mortars with the 15th squad, 2d platoon of the 1st Company. He stated that the 1st Company's area of operation was Hill 552 and the company's mission was to take Hill 552. He also said that the 1st Company's base was at Lao Bao (XD 7037).

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He said that morale in the 1st Company is high because they are "killing many ARVN's and Americans". The POW had trained for one month in Bac Thai Province, then came south by a road called Gia Lich through Laos, taking one and one half months. Upon arrival in early May in the Khe Sanh area, the unit was split up for replacements.

(2) The NVA captured at 1145H, was Pvt Dao Xuan Dau of the 1st Company, 7th Battalion, 3d Regiment, 304th Division. He was a mortar section leader with the 2d section, 10th squad of the 1st Company. The POW stated that the 1st Company's area of operations is Hill 552 and the company's mission is to take Hill 552. He said the morale is very bad in the 1st Company because the men are afraid of the artillery and bombing. The POW had trained for one month in Thai Nguyen Province, then came south by a road called Gio Linh (possibly Gia Lien, see above) through Laos taking three and one half months. Upon arrival in early May in the Khe Sanh area, the unit was split up for replacements.

8. The following is a list of gear captured by this Battalion during May 1968:

NVA Helmet	22
NVA Pith Helmet	8
60mm Mortar Rounds	97
60mm Mortar Fuzes	16
60mm Mortar Tube	1
82mm Mortar Rounds	108
82mm Mortar Fuzes	55
Rice	37 lbs.
Salt	2 lbs.
Grain	4 lbs.
RPG Launchers	2
Infra-red Scope for RPG Launcher	1
RPG-2 Ammunition	24 rounds
RPG-2 Boosters	13
RPG-2 Fuzes	2
Bangalore Torpedoes	5
RPD Machine Guns	4
RPD Machine Gun Drums	5
AK-47 Rifles	8
AK-47 Magazines	59
SKS Rifles	7
7.62mm Ammunition	2,927 rounds
ChiCom Grenades	136
NVA Canteens	8
NVA Canteen Pouches	3
NVA Ponchos	2
NVA Packs	19
NVA Entrenching Tools	11
NVA Rubber Stretchers	1
Lens Paper	1 case
Rice Bags	1

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82mm Recoilless Gun Ammunition w/ Case	12
NVA Trousers	2 pr.
NVA Sneakers	1 pr.
Det Cord	2 rolls
Increments and primers	2 cans
NVA Claymore Type Mines	6
ID Tags Made of C-Ration Cans	7
Trip Wire	1 roll
TNT	272 lbs.
Comm Wire	400 ft.
Ho Chi. Shoes	2 pr.
Hammocks	4
Blasting Caps	4
Medical Kits	3
Assorted Medical Gear	
Eating Utensils	
Assorted NVA Books and Documents	
Assorted NVA Clothing	
Assorted NVA 782 Gear	

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SECTION IVOPERATIONS AND TRAINING

1. The following training was conducted by 3d Battalion, 4th Marines during May 1968:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HOURS</u>
H&SCo	Mapping	10
	Compass	2
	First Aid	73
	Scouting and Patrolling	17
	Med-evac Procedures	8
	Weapons Safety	27
Co "I"	Map and Compass	10
	First Aid	3
	Weapons Safety	5
	Employment of Supporting Arms	5
	Patrolling Techniques	15
	Assault of Fortified Positions	5
	Squad Tactics	10
	Radio Procedure	3
Co "K"	Call for Fire	2
	Patrolling	15
	Weapons Safety	1
	Field First Aid	1
	Map and Compass	4
Elements of Reconnaissance	6	
Co "L"	Combat Patrols	43
	Recon Patrols	35
	Map and Compass	17
	Radio Procedures	12
	Camouflage	4
First Aid	17	
Co "M"	Scouting and Patrolling	20
	Tactical Bivouac	12
	Supporting Arms	12
	Weapons Safety	10
	Radio Procedure	4

2. In addition to the above, all individual Marines fired their weapons 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, Sergeant Major and their Company Commanders

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4. Command and Control

- On 1 May 1968: Provisional Mechanized Company was chopped from 2/1 OPCON to 3/4.
- On 4 May 1968: Provisional Mechanized Company was chopped from 3/4 OPCON to 2/1.
- On 4 May 1968: Co's "I" and "M" were chopped from 3/4 OPCON to Task Force Robbie.
- On 6 May 1968: Co "M" was chopped from Task Force Robbie OPCON to 3d Marines.
- On 6 May 1968: Co "I" was chopped from Task Force Robbie OPCON to CG, 3d MarDiv.
- On 8 May 1968: Co "I" was chopped from CG, 3d MarDiv to 9th Marines OPCON to 1/9.
- On 8 May 1968: Co "M" was chopped from 3d Marines to 9th Marines OPCON to 1/9.
- On 14 May 1968: Det, Co "A" (EOD) was chopped from 3d EngrBn OPCON to 3/4.
- On 15 May 1968: Det, Co "A" (EOD) was chopped from 3/4 OPCON to 3d EngrBn.
- On 16 May 1968: Co's "I" and "M" were chopped from 1/9 OPCON to 3/4.
- On 21 May 1968: two teams of Scout Snipers, Headquarters Company, were chopped from 1st Marines OPCON to 3/4.

These were task organized as follows:

Hill 689 CP Alpha (1-31 May)
 Det, H&SCo 3/4 (Gnd Grp)
 Co "K" (Reinf) (1-30 May)
 Co "L" (Reinf)
 Det 81mm MortPlat, H&SCo 3/4
 Det 106 RRPlat, H&SCo 3/4
 Det Flames, H&SCo 3/4
 Det Scout Sniper Plat, HqCo, 1st Marines
 Det, Co "A" (EOD), 3d EngrBn (14-15 May)
 Det, 3d Shore Party Bn (HST)

Hill 552 (1-4 May, 16-31 May)
 Det, H&SCo 3/4 (Gnd Grp) (17-27 May)
 Co "I" (Reinf) (16-31 May)
 Co "M" (Reinf) (16-30 May)
 Det 81mm MortPlat, H&SCo 3/4
 Det 106 RRPlat, H&SCo 3/4
 Det Flames, H&SCo 3/4
 Det 3d Shore Party Bn (HST)

Hill 471 (7-12 May, 31 May)
 Co "K" (Reinf) (7-12 May)
 Co "M" (Reinf) (31 May)

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Hill 471 (contd)

Det 81mm MortPlat, H&SCo 3/4

Det 106 RRPlat, H&SCo 3/4

Det 3d Shore Party Bn (HST)

Hill 881 South (31 May)

Co "K" (Reinf)

Det 81mm MortPlat, H&SCo 3/4

Det 3d Shore Party Bn (HST)

Khe Sanh Combat Base (1-4 May)

Det H&SCo 3/4 (Cmd Grp)

Co "H" (Reinf)

Co "I" (Reinf)

Det 81mm MortPlat, H&SCo 3/4

Det 3d Shore Party Bn (HST)

Provisional Mechanized Company

Dong Ha (1-31 May)

Det H&SCo

Det Co "I"

Det Co "K"

Det Co "L"

Det Co "M"

Ca Lu (20-31 May)

Det H&SCo

5. Close Combat

a. While in the Khe Sanh area, 3/4 was provided artillery support by 1/11 (Terrepin) and 3/12 (John Brown Gulf).

b. While in the Khe Sanh area, the Battalion remained in a very flexible posture. The Battalion defended Khe Sanh Combat Base for the first few days of May. The Battalion's basic concept was to maintain two companies at Hill 689 and two companies at Hill 552.

c. Continuous improvement of defensive positions was emphasized during this period. All companies ran daily patrols and established night time LP's/ambushes as directed by the CO 3/4 daily fragmentary orders. Other significant events of a non-combat nature have been included in the chronological summary for historical and record purposes.

1 May: At 0700, Co "M" prepared to move overland to Khe Sanh Combat Base to join Co "I" who had moved overland the previous day. Co's "I" and "M" assumed the defense of Khe Sanh from 2/1 who were to jump off on an operation. While Co "M" was enroute to Khe Sanh, they found a booby trap made of an 82mm mortar round with a trip wire at XD 833406. As Co "M" had no engineer capability, it was marked for future destruction.

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At 0730, five Marines at Hill 552 were burning trash, when an unknown explosive device exploded causing one dead non-battle casualty and four wounded non-battle casualties. Lt PLACE was appointed investigating officer.

2 May: Hill 552 received four rounds of 82mm mortars from XD 767392, resulting in no casualties. Artillery was called in on the enemy position with a total of 104 rounds being expended.

Day patrolling was conducted with no contacts. Co "I", while on patrol from Khe Sanh, found one RPG round at XD 857411. The surrounding area was checked with no significant results.

Co "F", while conducting a wire security check, discovered two trip flares cut, one claymore mine disarmed, and one NVA helmet. Co "K" set in an ambush on the avenue of approach to counteract any enemy sapper movement.

At 2230, Co "I" received five grenades thrown at their lines. Capt SEXTON placed his lines on 100 % alert and fired HE mixed with illumination but nothing further developed out of this enemy action.

3 May: Co "K", while on a company size patrol, found a NVA bunker complex at XD 805406. Co "K" set up a 360° defense and conducted a complete search of the area. The bunkers were 6' x 7' x 4' with an overhead of 18" consisting of bamboo and dirt. The search team found one M-16 rifle which was later turned over to 1st Marines and various NVA 782 gear.

4 May: At 0800, 2/1 returned from their operation to assume defense of Khe Sanh Combat Base. Due to the heavy enemy contact around Cua Viet, Co's "I" and "K" were chopped from 3/4 OPCON to Task Force Robbie, while Command Group "A" returned to Hill 689.

Co "L", while conducting a platoon patrol, discovered an NVA bunker complex consisting of 35 bunkers 4' x 5' x 3 1/2' with an overhead of bamboo and dirt. The bunkers were destroyed and heavy H&I's planned on the area.

5 May: Co "K", while conducting a squad recon patrol, discovered three bunkers at XD 814397. These bunkers were 6' x 4' x 5' with an overhead of bamboo and dirt 12" thick. A search of the area produced anti-aircraft shells lying around the area. All bunkers were destroyed.

At 1745, Hill 689 received ten rounds of 60mm mortars from XD 781408. 61mm mortars were fired in a counter-mortar role.

6 May: Co "K", while conducting a platoon size patrol, discovered an NVA bunker complex at XD 787406. The bunkers were well constructed and about one to two months old. While conducting a search of the area,

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the platoon found one M-16, one 3/5" rocket launcher, 782 gear and documents, all of which were turned over to S-2.

7 May: Patrols were conducted with no contacts or sightings. Hill 689 received 15 rounds of 60mm mortars from XD 785397. An artillery mission was fired and the incoming ceased.

8 May: Hill 689 received 15 rounds of 60mm mortars from XD 785397. An artillery mission was fired and the incoming ceased. Co "L", while conducting a platoon size patrol, discovered four NVA bunkers 8' x 4 1/2' x 4' which were about two months old at XD 802400. The patrol destroyed all the bunkers and continued on their mission.

At 2040, an M-33 grenade detonated in a fighting hole on the lines at Hill 689 for an unknown reason, killing two Marines. Lt GIARDINO was appointed investigating officer.

9 May: Hill 689 received two rounds of unknown caliber artillery from an unknown direction. Observation of the area was continued with no results.

A Co "L" platoon size patrol found two AP mines and 11 82mm mortar rounds at XD 810407. The gear was brought back to S-2 and a search of the area was completed with no further results. The patrol continued.

A Co "K" platoon size patrol located a small destroyed village and found two overhead bunkers with miscellaneous gear and documents at XD 847389. The bunkers were destroyed and the gear and documents turned over to S-2.

At 1650, a Co "K" Marine was burned on the hand, arm and eyes while trying to burn and RPG increment. The Marine was evacuated to D-Med and an investigating officer was appointed.

10 May: Co "L", while conducting a platoon size patrol, discovered various U.S. 782 gear and NVA ammunition at XD 805496. One article of each item found was turned over to S-2 and the rest of the gear was blown in place. The patrol continued on their mission.

11 May: Hill 689 received four 120mm mortar rounds from XD 791391. Artillery was called in and the incoming ceased.

A Co "L" platoon size patrol discovered seven overhead bunkers at XD 801402. The bunkers were two to three months old and not recently used. All were destroyed.

At 0001, the PPS-6 picked up movement of about three NVA digging in at XD 800401. Artillery was called in and the movement ceased.

12 May: Daytime patrols were conducted with no sightings or contacts.

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A Co "L" OP observed seven rounds of estimated 122mm rockets being fired from XD 769401, landing 2000 meters north of Hill 689. An Artillery mission was fired resulting in 18 secondary explosions.

13 May: Hill 689 received eight rounds of 82mm mortars from XD 785382. An artillery mission was called in and the incoming ceased.

The army unit had moved off LZ Peanuts so Co "L" conducted a company size patrol to check the area out. The company moved to LZ Peanuts and secured it and conducted a search of the area. There was a lot of 782 gear, weapons and equipment left behind. The important gear was carried back to S-2 and the rest was staged to be heli-lifted out in the future.

14 May: Hill 689 received two rounds of 82mm mortars from XD 781382. An artillery mission was called and the incoming ceased.

At 0150, Co "K" reported seeing one figure at XD 805409. An M-26 grenade was thrown and the movement ceased. Co "K" continued to observe the area with no sightings.

15 May: Hill 689 received five rounds of 82mm mortars from XD 777402. Artillery was called in and the incoming stopped.

At 0805, a Co "L" platoon patrol began receiving heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from NVA dug in at XD 792416 and XD 788418. The patrol returned fire, called in supporting arms and established a defensive perimeter. The remainder of the company was committed and link-up was effected at 0850. At 1048, Co "L" moved out toward Hill 758 after four flights of fixed wing had been run. At 1154, Co "L" overran the NVA bunkers, consolidated and began their move back towards Hill 689. During Co "L"'s withdrawal back to Hill 689, they received 120mm mortars. Suppressive fire was called in with artillery and the incoming ceased. At 1420, Co "L" returned to the Battalion position. The results of the Co "L" contact were four Marines KIA, 34 Marines WIA evac, four Marines WIA non-evac, six NVA KIA, one RPD machine gun, three M14 rifles, one SKS carbine and miscellaneous equipment captured.

16 May: A platoon patrol from Co "K" was sent out to check the area where Co "L" had made contact the previous day. At 1020, the patrol made contact with NVA dug in at XD 788419 and XD 792416, the same area of the Co "L" contact of the previous day. The platoon returned fire, called in supporting arms and Huey gunships. At 1335, the patrol started receiving heavy barrages of 82mm mortar rounds. Counter mortar and artillery was fired and the incoming ceased at 1530. At 1515, the remaining units of Co "K" had linked up with the patrol. Capt THOMAS, Company Commander of Co "K", established a 360° perimeter, consolidated his position and evacuated his casualties to Hill 689. At 2020, Co "K" returned to Hill 689. The results of the contact were one MIA, 11 WIA's evac and two WIA's non-evac.

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At 1500, Co's "I" and "M" began a tactical march from Khe Sanh Combat Base to rejoin the Battalion. At 1900, the lead elements of Co "M" came under heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire at XD 817402. The lead platoon was separated from the two rear platoons. Co "I" consolidated and set in at Hill 552.

*17 May: At 0032, Co "M" had linked up with their separated platoon and pulled back with their casualties to effect a link up with Co "I" at Hill 552. The casualties for the 16 May contact were 5 KIA's, 17 WIA's evac and three WIA's non-evac. At 0415, Co "I" observed eight NVA digging at XD 818401 and called in 81mm mortars with illumination. At 1000, Co "I" received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from XD 818401 while Co "M" at Hill 552 received 12 81mm mortar rounds from XD 809389. Co "I" called in six flights of sixed wing on the enemy who were dug in at XD 818401 in preparation for an assault on that position. Co "M" called in artillery to silence the incoming. At 1525, Co "I" began their assault meeting heavy small arms and automatic weapons. Co "I" pulled back to use 60mm and 81mm mortars. At 1700, Co "I" began to fire and maneuver up the hill. At 1910, Co "I" closed with the enemy and secured the top of the hill. At 2000, the area was swept for weapons and equipment and Co "I" returned to Hill 552 at 2100. The results of the contact were 20 WIA's and 22 NVA KIA's confirmed.

18 May: At 0030, Co "M" observed 12 NVA moving down a slope in a southerly direction at XD 818400, called in artillery mission with unknown results. At 0335, Co "M" observed seven NVA sitting on a hill at XD 819402 observing the area called in artillery mission. At 0620, Co "M" discovered and captured an injured NVA inside the perimeter. The POW was interrogated and med-evac'd to 1st Marines. The POW stated that he thought he was entering his own perimeter. During the afternoon, a two company sweep was made between Hill 689 and Hill 552. At 1315, Co "K" found eight overhauled bunkers and a 60mm mortar pit with various enemy gear at XD 812404. During the afternoon, Co "I" found 20 overhauled bunkers, two NVA bodies and assorted enemy gear at XD 815403.

19 May: Hill 689 received two 60mm mortar rounds, 14 82mm mortar rounds and two 120mm mortar rounds and Hill 552 received several 60mm mortar rounds and one 82mm mortar round. At 0230, Co "I" reported their lines were probed by 10 to 15 NVA who fired small arms, threw grenades and fired two RPG rounds. Co "I" returned fire with small arms and automatic weapons and supporting arms. At 0440, Co "I" received 60mm mortar fire and were assaulted on the east and west flanks by an estimated company sized unit. At 0455, the enemy began digging in south and west of Co "I" at Hill 552 and Co "I" was receiving heavy small arms fire. At 0845, Co "I" had repelled the attack and was preparing to move out and sweep the area in front of their position. As the company moved out, the lead elements made contact with six enemy approximately 15 meters in front of their lines. At 1103, Co "I" located one NVA in a spider hole and engaged several NVA with small arms at XD 821401. At 1510, a Co "L" recon patrol located one USMC body at XD 792416 that was identified as the MIA from Co "K"'s contact of 16 May. At 1905, a Co "K" patrol found three bunkers, 15 fighting

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holes and assorted enemy gear at XD 819399. In one bunker five bodies, possibly Chinese, were found. The results of Co "I"'s contact were five WIA's evac, four WIA's non-evac, 39 NVA KIA's confirmed and four NVA POW's.

20 May: At 0025H, Co "M" at Hill 552 heard enemy digging outside the perimeter to the north. Also heard enemy movement between Hills 689 and 552. At 1000H, Co "I" found six fresh fighting holes at XD 824406. At 1210, a Co "K" patrol spotted a parachute being used as camouflage in a bomb crater at XD 799402 with black and red comm wire running from there toward Hill 689 and one bunker at XD 811398. At 1205, a Co "M" patrol located three old bunkers and three mines in an open fighting hole at XD 812408. At 1315, a Co "M" patrol located five NVA bodies at XD 818403. Nearby, the patrol found a bunker complex with 12 L-shaped bunkers and various gear. At 1700, a Co "I" patrol located a bunker at XD 826394 and various NVA gear and mortar positions and fighting holes at XD 820395.

21 May: Hill 552 received two 82mm mortar rounds. At 1205H, a Co "K" squad recon patrol found blue comm wire at XD 797419 running on an azimuth of 210 degrees. At 1705, a Co "K" patrol at XD 792398 made contact with an unknown number of enemy at XD 792398 and were pinned down by automatic weapons. At 1840, a Co "K" platoon reaction force at XD 792398 made contact with the enemy at XD 793398, exchanging grenades and small arms and receiving four WIA's. At 2000, the Co "K" patrol was returning to the CP, while the reaction force consolidated and requested emergency med-evacs. At 2125, three to six NVA threw several chicoms and fired three AK-47's at the perimeter on Hill 552.

22 May: At 0055, a squad from Co "K" and corpsmen and stretcher bearers linked up with the Co "K" reaction platoon at XD 792398. At 0450, the Co "K" patrol returned to Hill 689. At 0707, the Co "K" reaction platoon returned to Hill 689. At 0920, a Co "M" patrol found one NVA body about four days old, killed by artillery at XD 819395. At 0930, a Co "M" patrol located an interlocking bunker complex of seven overhead bunkers at XD 818396. At 1055, a Co "M" patrol found 10 incomplete bunkers with no overheads at XD 814394. At 1138, a Co "I" patrol found three RPG rounds, one split bomb and miscellaneous NVA gear at XD 817411. At 1225, a Co "I" recon patrol observed three NVA moving north at XD 823415. At 2054, Co "I" at Hill 552 spotted possible enemy movement at XD 829397 and fired a 4.2" mortar mission.

23 May: Hill 689 received one 120mm mortar round. At 0730, a Co "K" patrol located one chicom claymore mine and one fresh footprint at XD 803407. At 1000, a Co "I" recon patrol spotted one NVA at XD 822405. At 1010, a Co "K" patrol reported receiving small arms fire from SD 794398. They returned fire and initiated an assault on the enemy position. At 1125, the Co "K" patrol reported receiving 25 60mm mortar rounds from XD 790400. At 1145, the Co "K" patrol received 20 additional 60mm mortar rounds from the same location. At 1330, Co "K"

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continued to receive small arms fire and 60mm mortar fire. The enemy strength was estimated at one reinforced squad with one mortar section. At 1430, Co "K" continued receiving 60mm mortar rounds and received two 120 mm mortar rounds resulting in two KIA's and nine WIA's. They continued the attack and found several L-shaped bunkers and one AK-47, one RPD machine gun and assorted enemy gear. At 1550, Co "K" had secured the area and was receiving 82mm mortars. One platoon moved casualties to a secure LZ. At 1800, all of Co "K" had returned to Hill 689. The results of the Co "K" contact were two KIA's, 11 WIA's evac and eight NVA KIA's confirmed.

24 May: At 0900, a Co "N" (-) patrol located one bunker overhauled with miscellaneous gear at the base of the hill at XD 822413. In the same area the patrol found a downed "Huey" gunship approximately two months old. At 2130, Co "M" while patrolling the perimeter of Hill 552 found one dead body, about 5' 6" in height and possibly Chinese, at XD 823401. Also found were four spider holes and a hole with an excellent observation of the Hill 552 LZ at XD 821402. The hole had a "Huey" rocket launcher and 15 rockets in front of it.

25 May: At 0235, Co "K" reported seeing a silhouette of one man at the wire at XD 807409. They threw one M-26 grenade and the man disappeared. At 0800, a Co "L" patrol found four bunkers with two foot overhauled constructed of 106mm canisters at XD 792416. At 1240, a Co "M" recon patrol found two mortar pits, two overhauled ammo pits, and two overhauled bunkers connected by comm wire at XD 812396. At 1320, a Co "I" recon patrol observed five fresh footprints at XD 779399.

26 May: Hill 689 received 41 60mm rounds from XD 793417, fired an artillery mission and incoming ceased. At 0045, a Co "K" LP heard movement of approximately three enemy moving in a northerly direction at XD 817403. At 0930, Co "M" received sniper fire from XD 807399. Co "M" called in 81mm mortars and artillery. At 1100, Co "M" on LZ Peanuts received sniper fire from a bunker. They withdrew and called in and artillery mission. At 1130, Co "M" at XD 811395 observed enemy in bunkers at XD 801391 with barbed wire channeling the avenues of approach. Co "M" called 81mm mortars, artillery and 106mm recoilless rifle fire on the bunkers. At 1245, Co "M" received one short 105mm round resulting in one friendly WIA. At 1400, Co "M" withdrew to XD 812398, leaving one MIA vicinity LZ Peanuts.

27 May: Hill 689 received two rounds of 75 mm pack howitzer fire. At 1050, a 3/4 VR flight of two CH-46's received .50 caliber fire from XD 781399. At 1215, Co "L" found six L-shaped bunkers, five trenches, 100 to 200 feet of comm wire and one NVA bowl and eating utensils. At 1300, Co "M" at XD 805396 received light small arms fire from a squad sized enemy force at XD 807393. Co "M" returned fire with M-60 machine guns, 3.5" rocket launchers, M-79 grenade launchers and called supporting fires behind the enemy position to prevent reinforcement. At 1350, a Co "M" platoon at XD 808397 received mortars from XD

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809391 and continued to receive small arms fire from XD 806394. At 140L, Co "M" remained in contact and fixed wing support was being run. At 1530, Co "M" began pulling back with their casualties. At 1730, Co "M" had consolidated and was preparing to evacuate casualties. At 1820, all med-evacs were completed and Co "M" began returning to Hill 552. The results of the Co "M" contact were five KIA's, 22 WIA's, two WIA's non-evac, two MIA's and 34 NVA KIA's confirmed. The one MIA from 26 May was recovered KIA.

28 May: At 1955, Co "K" while checking the wire at Hill 689 found bamboo poles under the wire to be used for raising the wire. Also, bamboo stakes were driven into the ground next to the steel stakes. One claymore was found disarmed. A noise like pounding stakes into the ground and metal clanging was heard about 600 meters out. Co "K" was put on 50% alert until 2400, then on 100% alert until 0630 on 29 May 1968.

29 May: Hill 689 received three 82mm mortar rounds and six 120mm mortar rounds. At 0725, a Co "M" recon patrol found one dead NVA with pack, helmet and two chicom grenades at XD 829404. At 0730, Co "L" found one bamboo pole approximately nine feet long outside the first strand of concertina. At 0945, Co "M" found one mortar pit, four bunkers and assorted gear at XD 819392. At 1045, a Co "M" recon patrol found mud on beaten down grass and other indications of enemy movement at XD 814396 forming a trail toward the Co "M" position.

30 May: At 0914, Hill 689 received four rounds of estimated 122mm rockets from vicinity of XD 79538L. An artillery mission was fired with unknown results. At 0915, a Co "L" squad recon patrol made initial contact with an estimated six NVA armed with .50 caliber machine guns at XD 793415. The squad recon patrol set up a 360° defense. The remaining units of the first platoon of Co "L" were sent out to link up with the patrol. Casualties were evacuated and a search for the one MIA was conducted with negative results. The platoon used supporting arms to silence the enemy fire and withdrew back to Hill 689 at 1700.

31 May: A platoon combat patrol from Co "L" commanded by Lt JOYNER searched out the area of contact from 30 May for Co "L"'s MIA with no results. Co "K" displaced to Hill 881 South and Co "M" to Hill 47L. Co "L" conducted a one day squad recon patrol, one OP and two LP's. The recon patrol discovered fresh tracks believed to be from a squad plus at XD 814402 moving to the northwest. Upon departure of Co "M" from Hill 552, Co "I" assumed complete responsibility for Hill 552. Co "K" displaced from LZ Wren at 0830 to Hill 881 South. Co "K" was reinforced by personnel from 106's and 81's to man weapons left on position by 1/1 units. Two LP's were conducted. Co "L" commenced a platoon combat patrol to the vicinity of XD 793416. Artillery and mortar preps were fired during the move. As the patrol moved across the top of the ridge line one AK-47 and miscellaneous ammunition was found. As the last objective area was swept, the platoon received 82mm mortar incoming resulting in seven WIA's. Counter mortar was fired by artillery accounting for three secondary explosions. The incoming ceased. Co "L" assumed

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defense of Hill 689 when Co "K" displaced to Hill 881 South. The lines were augmented by H&SCo personnel. One OP and two LP's were conducted. Co "M" displaced overland to Hill 471 at 0925 and assumed control of the hill from Co "H" 2/1. One OP and two LP's were conducted. A section on 106's and 81's were displaced to Hill 471 and attached to Co "M".

*On 19 May, Task Element Quail, commanded by Major MEAD (Battalion XO), was formed to conduct the defense of the Hill 552 Complex. The Command Group "A" became known as Task Element Ale under LtCol BOURNE and conducted the defense of Hill 689. With the threat of an attack on Hill 552 minimized, Task Elements Quail and Ale were disbanded on 27 May.

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SECTION VLOGISTICS1. General

a. The Battalion remained on Hills 689 and 552 during May. Co's "I" and "M" were OPSON to TFR for a short period of time. Co "K" was shifted to Hill 47L for a period of five days. At the present time we maintain Hills 881 south, 689, 552 and 47L.

b. Daily resupply of Class I, III, IV, and V items has been conducted from LZ Cameo by helicopter. Class II items have been motorized to LZ Cameo and from there by helicopter to the Battalion.

2. Supply

a. The overall supply support during this period was satisfactory.

b. Some critical shortages of supplies existed and were reported in the Logistics Summary Report:

Gas Mask, Small, Medium and Large
 Telephone, TA-1/PT
 Motor Transport, repair parts
 3.5" Rocket Launcher
 106 Recoilless Rifle
 Compressor, Reciprocating for Flamethrower

3. Transportation

a. Motor transport support from Division Motor Transport has been very poor. This lack of transportation has put a strain on the Battalion's vehicles. Somewhat of a problem does exist with the daily trash run. The trucks often do not pick up an entire load of trash.

b. The deadline rate for the M-422A1 is 23 %; of 18 vehicles, four are deadlined. All four are down for 3d echelon repairs. All four are in FLSG-B. Two M-422A1's have been dropped from the Battalion's account and two others have been placed on order.

c. There are five communications vehicles in the Battalion of which one is deadlined. One MRC-87 is in FLSG-B for work on the wiring system.

d. The Battalion has 30 M-274A2 vehicles of which 12 are deadlined. All are awaiting parts which have been put on requisition.

e. The Battalion has four M-37B1 vehicles of which one is deadlined for a new engine. Having one of these vehicles deadlined greatly increases the workload of all other vehicles in the Battalion.

f. The Battalion has one Luber and one Steam Jenny which are both deadlined for parts that are on order.

4. Maintenance

a. The deadline rate for the M-274A2 is still very high. The Battalion has been using them quite extensively and parts are still not in supply. The deadline rate for the M-422A1 has decreased a considerable amount over the last month.

b. The motor transport section has had a small portion of its vehicles at LZ Cameo. It still has maintained the greater portion of its shop at Dong Ha and has run on a highly proficient basis.

Enclosure (1) 3/4 S-4 ltr 4/JOS/jtt of 13 May 68
Enclosure (2) S-4 SOP FOR KHE SANH AREA OPERATIONS

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HEADQUARTERS

3d Battalion, 4th Marines
3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

4/JOS/jtt
13 May 1968

From: S-4
To: Sgt. O'Connor, S-4 LZ Cameo

1. Purpose. To promulgate explicitly the duties required of 3/4 personnel, et al., at LZ Cameo.

2. S-4 Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Receive resupply requisitions from Battalion position, and fill Class I, II, IV, and V requests from LSU at Cameo.
- b. Forward Class II requests to S-4 Rear.
- c. Request helicopters from 1st Marines S-4 LZ by 1800 the day prior.
- d. Stage all gear on LSA for shipment to the Battalion.
- e. Receive and fill water bladders as soon as possible and restage for shipment to the Battalion.
- f. Procure any and all supplemental gear (SP packs, fresh fruit, aircraft matting, etc.) that may be used by the Battalion.
- g. Keep Bn XO, S-4 with Bn, S-4 at KSCB, and S-4 Rear informed of all pertinent developments at least once each day and as necessary.
- h. Manifesting Equipment. All gear arriving at Cameo from Dong Ha will have a responsible NCO in charge with a manifest list. This will be checked against the gear to determine if any is missing. All gear sent from Cameo to the Battalion position will also be manifested on standard forms, whether by external load (attach sheet prominently for Battalion S-4 to find), or internally where a responsible NCO will be given the manifest and instructions to deliver it to S-4 at Battalion.

i. Manifesting Personnel

(1) Incoming personnel from Dong Ha arriving at LZ Cameo will have an NCO with a roster in charge. He will report to S-4 Cameo. S-4 Cameo will manifest on a definite roster all personnel going to the Battalion position, appoint an NCOIC, and have him deliver one copy of the roster to the S-1 representative at the Battalion. The other copy will be kept on file for two weeks.

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(2) Incoming personnel from the Khe Sanh area will have an NCOIC appointed for the return to Dong Ha. Make a duplicated copy of the roster. One copy will be kept at Cameo for two weeks and the other given to the NCOIC, who will give it to the S-4 Rear upon arrival in Dong Ha.

j. S-4 Cameo will be given the responsibility for the control and actions of all 3/4 personnel at Cameo. Transient personnel remaining overnight will sleep in the 3/4 area.

k. The duties of the personnel at LZ Cameo are as follows:

(1) Food Services

(a) Prepare hot field chow for the Battalion position as required by S-4 directives.

(b) Maintain mess unit at LZ Cameo capable of preparing food for the field part of the Battalion for delivery in vat cans at any time.

(2) Mailman

(a) Sort mail for delivery to the Battalion position.

(b) Ensure delivery of such mail to Battalion position.

(c) Receive mail from Battalion position and ensure its return to Dong Ha.

(3) Motor Transport

(a) Carry out the instructions of S-4 Cameo.

(b) Maintain proper maintenance of 3/4 vehicles.

JAMES O. SINGER
1stLt USMC

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S-4 SOP FOR KHE SANH AREA OPERATIONSCONCEPT OF OPERATION

Resupply requirements are laid on the S-4 representative with the Battalion. These, along with normal resupply items, are ordered from S-4 Stud. At Stud, the orders are broken into two groups: first, items that can be filled from the Stud LSU, are filled and sent by helicopter to the Battalion position; second, items that cannot be procured at Stud (normally Class II items), are ordered from Dong Ha S-4 Rear. These items are sent from Dong Ha to Stud by truck, then flown to the Battalion.

PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES AND DELIVERY OF GEAR

From $\frac{3}{4}$ Rear to Stud, transportation is by 9th Motors trucks which are fragged through Division Motor Transport from S-4 Rear by 1800 the previous evening. Gear going to S-4 Stud is escorted by $\frac{3}{4}$ personnel who are responsible for the gear. One man is given the overall responsibility and is given a manifest list of gear and personnel which is turned over to the S-4 Stud representative.

Helicopters from Stud to the Battalion position are fragged by $\frac{3}{4}$ Stud S-4 personnel by 1800 the night before through 1st Marines S-4. If at all possible gear is flown externally direct to the Battalion position. Passengers are manifested directly to the Battalion position and an NCO is placed in charge of the group with a manifest list which is turned over to the S-4 representative with the Battalion.

REPORTS

From S-4 Battalion position, a daily ammo count on select items is called directly to Task Force Hotel (as per 1st Marine directives). Weekly, a Comfam ammo report is called to Task Force Hotel, consisting of the number of rounds within the Battalion, number used (plus noteworthy results), and number received on resupply.

Normal Battalion and division reports are prepared and submitted from S-4 Rear.

LOCATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF S-4

$\frac{3}{4}$ S-4 Rear (Dong Ha Combat Base)
 1 S-4 Officer, 1 Logistics Chief, 1 S-4 Clerk
 Battalion Supply
 Battalion Motor Transport

Responsibilities:

Provide coordination for all S-4
 Frag vehicles from Dong Ha to Stud
 Provide household services at $\frac{3}{4}$ Rear
 Prepare and submit reports as required

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2 S-4 Reqs, 4 company supply reps, 2 Comm personnel, 4 cooks,
4 Motor Transport personnel, 1 mailman

Responsibilities:

Draw and forward Class I, III, IV, and V supplies to Battalion
position

Receive gear and personnel from S-4 rear and transport to
Battalion position

Prepare and deliver hot meals to Battalion position
Frag all supply helicopters from 1st Marines

Maintain radio communication with Battalion rear
Sort mail for delivery to Battalion position

Special Equipment

3 GP tents, PRO-47, 1 telephone, small field mess w/ranges,
burners, and vac cans, 2 PG's, 1 mite w/ trailer, 1 mule and 1 water
trailer

S-4 Khe Sanh Combat Base

1 S-4 Rep

Responsibilities

Coordination between 3/4 and 1st Marines S-4

Handle all 3/4 supplies and personnel coming into Khe Sanh
Combat Base and dispatch as necessary

Special Equipment

1 mule

S-4 Battalion

1 S-4 Sgt, 1 S-4 clerk, 1 armorer, 1 motor transport mechanic,
3 HST personnel

Responsibilities

Determine supply needs of Battalion and order accordingly

Maintain LZ, coordinate loading and unloading of helicopters

Maintain appropriate reserve levels of Class I, III, and V gear

Control and ensure proper distribution of supplies

Provide 2d echelon maintenance for weapons and vehicles

Coordinate evacuation of casualties (with supervision by H&S

Co Commander)

Keep Battalion Commander informed of logistical situation

Special Equipment

1 telephone

JAMES O. SINGER

1stLt USMC

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SECTION VICOMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS1. Radio

a. The Battalion maintained stations on the following radio nets while on field operations during May 1968:

Regt TAC #1 (FM)	Co "I" TAC Net
Regt TAC #2 (FM)	Co "K" TAC Net
Bn TAC #1 (FM)	Co "L" TAC Net
Bn TAC #2 (FM)	Co "M" TAC Net
Bn Admin (FM)	81mm Mortar conduct of fire net

b. The Battalion Rear at Dong Ha maintained a station on the Battalion administration circuit and one on the Battalion TAC #1 (HF) between 1 - 15 May, but it was found to be of no significant advantage.

c. Supporting arms circuits for air and artillery were employed utilizing FM equipment.

2. Wire

a. The Battalion Rear at Dong Ha maintains wire communications for administrative purposes and provides two trunks to the 9th Marines

b. The Battalion maintained an extensive CP wire system at Hill 689 and Hill 552 including links to each rifle company.

3. Radio Relay. An AN/TRC-27 circuit was employed between Hill 689 and the Khe Sanh Combat Base maintained by 1st Marines.

4. Power. Power for the Battalion Rear at Dong Ha is provided by the 11th Engineers.

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SECTION VII.FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION

1. During the month of May, while 3/4 was operating in the Khe Sanh area, artillery support was provided by 1/11.
2. While operating in the Khe Sanh area, forward observers in support of 3/4 called in 609 fire missions and expended 9,050 rounds. An additional 4,500 rounds were expended on 903 H&I's and 93 TOT targets.
3. The following is a summary of artillery support during the month of May:

<u>Battalion</u>	<u>Fire Missions</u>	<u>Rounds Expended</u>
1/11	609	9,050

<u>Battalion</u>	<u>H&I's</u>	<u>Rounds Expended</u>
1/11	905	4,128

<u>Battalion</u>	<u>TOT</u>	<u>Rounds Expended</u>
1/11	93	372

4. Prep fires for company operations and platoon patrols were used extensively. These prep fires were also supplemented with 81mm mortar prep fires.
 - Co "TF" - during the month of May called in a total of 18 prep fires.
 - Co "EB" - during the month of May called in a total of 12 prep fires.
 - Co "L" - during the month of May called in a total of 31 prep fires.
 - Co "M" - during the month of May called in a total of 7 prep fires.
5. Commencing at 1800 H&I fires were begun to deny the enemy free movement. These H&I's were fired within 200 to 300 meters of combat outposts. There is no way to determine if H&I's destroyed any targets. H&I's are unobserved missions. Also their purpose is not to destroy targets but to harass the enemy and to interdict his freedom on the trails and infiltration routes.

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1. During the month of May, the weather was good for all 3/4 air support.
2. Fixed wing support was requested daily. While 3/4 was located in the Khe Sanh area, the terrain and observation offered excellent opportunity for 3/4 to employ fixed wing support. Fixed wing strikes were called in support of 3/4 units in contact and in direct support of pending sweeps by units of 3/4. While flying in support of units in contact, flights of F-4's, A-4's and F-8's were used. These aircraft proved very effective in aiding 3/4 in clearing out pockets of enemy resistance and in preventing enemy reinforcement of units in contact with 3/4. Fixed wing strikes in support of 3/4 tallied many NVA confirmed, NVA probable and bunkers destroyed.
3. During the month of May, 3/4 requested 208 med-evacs, using 208 helicopters. Many times during this period of time, med-evac aircraft were requested into somewhat dangerous LZ's to pick up seriously wounded personnel. Without the assistance and devotion to duty of our helicopter pilots, many Marines might have died.
4. During May, 72 requests were submitted for AO aircraft. Through the AO, 3/4 was able to direct artillery, mortars and fixed wing strikes against the NVA. The AO's were instrumental in spotting enemy troop movements and fortifications and were able to adjust artillery and mortar fire upon them. Without the valuable aid of the many AO flights, 3/4 would not have been able to accomplish their mission without suffering heavy casualties.
5. During the month of May, 3/4 received 159 TPQ's of which 20 were emergency. These strikes were instrumental in stopping enemy resupplies and in destroying enemy positions.
6. During the month of May, 3/4 conducted four troop lifts, three involved one company and the other two companies.
7. The following is a summary of air support for the month of May:

a. Fixed wing	75	Controlled by AO/FAC
b. AO aircraft	73	Controlled fixed wing, mortars and reconned routes in support of 3/4
c. Med-evac	208	
d. Troop lifts	4	Helicopters CH-46 were used to lift a total of 708 troops.
e. TPQ's	159	TPQ's were conducted, hitting artillery positions and harboring sites.
f. Flare ships	1	On 16 May, flare ships were used.

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8. On 15 May, there were seven fixed wing air strikes run in support of Co "L" who had made contact with an estimated dug in squad vicinity XD 792416.
9. On 16 May, there were six fixed wing air strikes run in support of Co "K" who had engaged a well dug in NVA platoon vicinity XD 788419.
10. During the heavy contact on 17 and 18 May involving Co's "I" and "M", a total of 22 fixed wing air strikes were run.

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SECTION IXMEDICAL AFFAIRS

1. 3/4 maintained two medical positions in May: a forward BAS on Hill 689 and a rear BAS at Dong Ha.
2. There were approximately 500 patients to visit the forward BAS, in addition to casualties resulting from hostile action. A small epidemic of viral gastroenteritis occurred in the latter half of the month. No new cases of malaria were reported. There were only two new cases of venereal disease (both post L&E). Battalion morale was judged to be very high.
3. Med-caps were not conducted this month due to the adverse location of the forward BAS.

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SECTION X

CIVIL AFFAIRS

1. No civil affairs activities were conducted by this Battalion during May 1968.

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SECTION XI

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. When sending out IP's for night security, many tactical considerations must be taken into account: limited knowledge of the terrain due to darkness and the use of supporting arms. Once the IP has set in the 81 mortars are laid on the IP's position with north being 12 o'clock. If the supporting arms are to be used, adjustments are made by the clock system and distance (i.e. 6 o'clock, 200 meters).
2. Under combat conditions it is imperative not only to tend to the needs of the casualties but also to ensure a constant, timely and accurate check on personnel. Constant attention to accountability while on patrol is mandatory starting with the fire team and squad leaders. When casualties are incurred, the small unit leader must know which of his men are walking wounded, which have been evacuated, and effectives remaining. Accurate lists of those evacuated by helicopter must be maintained requiring designation of one person solely responsible for this function in the LZ.
4. Within the Khe Sanh area, the enemy is well dug in and uses maximum camouflage. He will let a patrol get right on top of him before initiating contact. Companies in this Battalion utilize a broad point squad approximately 100 meters in front of the main body, thus enabling the point squad to detect the enemy and initiate contact before the main unit is exposed.
4. The enemy is well dug in and while an attacking unit calls in air support, he will stay down until the planes have dropped all their load. After the planes have finished their runs, this Battalion will have the planes continue to make passes in order to keep the enemy down and allow the attacking unit to move quickly in on the enemy utilizing the deceptive runs of the planes.
5. It was found that the OP on the northwest side of Hill 689 could hear the pop of the enemy mortars prior to the round impacting. In order to utilize this warning to the advantage of all personnel on Hill 689, as soon as a pop was heard, the OP would notify the FSCC who in turn would blow a whistle thereby giving all individuals within the Combat Base approximately ten seconds before the first enemy round would impact. Casualties from incoming showed a decline since the start of the whistle warning system.
6. Flash OP's were established by 1st Marines among the different positions within the Scotland II AO utilizing Naval Gunfire FO's. As soon as there was a flash seen, an azimuth would be shot to the point of the flash and immediately called into the Regimental FSCC. With azimuths from two or more positions, the FSCC would compute an intersection, thereby

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getting an accurate fix on the enemy's position. The flash OP on Hill 689 did not work as expected due to the terrain, but the system was feasible and workable.

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3RD BN 4TH MARINES
OPERATION ORDER 5-68 (OPERATION HUNTER)

REF A. MAPS: VIETNAM 1:50,000 AMS SERIES

L 7014 SHEETS 6342 I, II, III, IV

B. OPERATIONS OVERLAY (ANNEX A)

TIME ZONE: HOTEL

I. SITUATION

A. ENEMY: SEE ANNEX B

B. FRIENDLY:

- (1) $\frac{1}{4}$ MARINES MAINTAIN OUTPOST HILLS 881, 861 AND 552 AND CONDUCTS OPS TO THE N, E, & W.
- (2) $\frac{2}{4}$ MARINES PROVIDE SECURITY FOR KSCB AND CONDUCTS OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS TO THE SOUTH OF KSCB.
- (3) $\frac{2}{3}$ MARINES PROVIDE SECURITY FOR ROUTE 9 FROM KSCB TO LZ CAMEO AND CONDUCTS OPS WITHIN ITS ASSIGNED AO.
- (4) $\frac{1}{4}$ MARINES PROVIDES ARTILLERY SUPPORT.
- (6) G BTRY DIRECT SUPPORT $\frac{3}{4}$.
- (8) SEE FIRE SUPPORT PLAN (ANNEX C).
- (5) 1ST MAW PROVIDES FIXED WING AND HELICOPTER SUPPORT. (SEE ANNEX D AIR SUPPORT PLAN)

C. ATTACHMENTS / DETACHMENTS

- (1) CO
- (2) ENGINEER PLATOON
- (3) S.P. (HST) 1 TERM / COMPANY

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TAB A. SECRET

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2. MISSION: ~~3/4~~ CONDUCT SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION TO LOCATE, CAPTURE AND DESTROY ENEMY PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND ARMS CACHES.

3. EXECUTION: a. 3/4 (-) (REIN) (3 RIFLE COMPANIES) CONDUCTS A SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION FROM ITS PRESENT POSITIONS TO THE SOUTH AND WEST TO LOCATE CAPTURE AND DESTROY ENEMY PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND ARMS CACHES.

(b) Co. "K" ATTACKS TO THE S, SEIZES OBJ. 1, ON ORDER CONTINUES THE ATTACK TO OBJ. 3/4 UPON SECURING OF OBJ. 4 SETS UP NIGHT DEFENSIVE POSITION. BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE ATTACK AT FIRST LIGHT AS DIRECTED.

(c) Co. "I" ATTACKS TO THE SW, SEIZES OBJ. 2, ON ORDER CONTINUES THE ATTACK TO OBJ. 5 & 6. SETS UP NIGHT DEFENSIVE POSITION VIC OBJ. 6. BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK AT FIRST LIGHT AS DIRECTED.

(d) Co. "M" MOVES IN TRACE OF Co. "I". BE PREPARED TO ASSUME MISSION OF EITHER Co. PREPARE NIGHT DEFENSIVE POSITION VIC OBJ. 5 UPON SECURING OF OBJ. 5/6 BY Co. "I" BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK AT FIRST LIGHT AS DIRECTED.

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2). Co. "L" ASSUME DEFENSE OF HILL 689 COMPLEX UPON DEPARTURE Co. "K" AND BN. COMMAND GROUP. KEEP CONSTANT OP'S DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS TO ASSIST IN DETECTION OF ENEMY MORTAR POSITIONS. BE PREPARED TO DISPLACE TO THE FIELD AS ORDERED BY Co. 3/4.

(A) Co. ASSUME DEFENSE HILL 552 COMPLEX.

BE PREPARED TO REINFORCE HILL 689 AS REQUIRED

(3) 81MM PLATOON: 2 SECTIONS 81MM MORTAR GENERAL SUPPORT 3/4. INITIALLY ONE SECTION MOVE WITH Co. "K" AND ONE SECTION WITH Co. "M". REMAINDER OF PLATOON ATTACHED TO Co. "L" AND PROVIDES GENERAL SUPPORT WITHIN AO.

(A) 106 RR PLATOON ATTACHED TO Co. "L"

(L) ENGINEER PLATOON: ONE SQUAD ATTACHED TO COMPANIES "I", "K" & "M".

(J) MEDICAL SECTION: GENERAL SUPPORT MOVE WITH BN CP GROUPS.

(A) FLAME SECTION: TWO TEAMS ATTACHED TO Co. "I" AND TWO TEAMS ATTACHED TO Co. "K"

X. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

(1) D-DAY 28 MAY 68

H-HOUR 0730H

(2) UNITS LEAVE MISC/EXTRA ITEMS AT

HILLS 689 OR 552 AND ASSIGN ONE INDIVIDUAL TO GUARD IT

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COORDINATING INST (CONT)

- (3) REPORT CP LOCATIONS HOURLY TO RH
- (4) REPORT LP LOCATIONS BY 1900H
- (5) CONDUCT NIGHT ACTIVITIES (LESS LP'S) AS DIRECTED BY CO 3/4.
- (6) PASSWORD/COUNTER SIGN ISSUED PRIOR TO 1900H. (SEE ANNEX B)
- (7) AO MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS: FROM 8238 SOUTH ALONG GRID LINE 82 TO 8236 THE WEST TO 8136.

4 ADMIN / LOGISTICS

- A. STAGE 3 SEPARATE COMPANY SIZE B/A AND ONE PALLET 81MM HE AT LZ CAMEO.
- B. NORMAL RESUPPLY CLASS I AND V DAILY AS DIRECTED BY CO 3/4 FOR UNITS IN THE FIELD ON D+1.
- C. CO "L" REQUEST DAILY RESUPPLY AS REQUIRED INSURE RESUPPLY HILL 552
- D. BAS REAR LOCATED HILL 679
- E. MED EVACS EVACUATED TO D MED.
- F. INSURE FLAME TANKS CAN BE FILLED AND RECHARGE AS REQUIRED.
- G. CO CMDS INSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SALT TABLETS, WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS, AND INSECT REPELLENT CARRIED BY EACH INDIVIDUAL.

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- H. MINIMUM 2 CANTEENS WATER AND 2 MEALS PER INDIVIDUAL PRIOR TO DEPARTING.
- I. ONE B/A CLASS I MINIMUM EACH INDIVIDUAL.
- J. ALL PERSONNEL CARRY NA. AND EQUIPMENT T. INCLUDE GAS MASKS, E-TOOLS, AND PONCHO.
- K. COMPANIES CARRY ALL AVAILABLE NYLON STRETCHERS.
- L. MINIMUM 1 AIR PANEL PER SQADR.
- M. 1 CLAYMORE AND 1 SANDBAG PER FTM

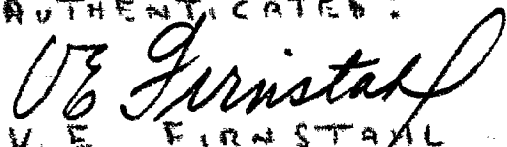
5. COMMAND / COMMUNICATIONS

- A. BN COMMAND GROUP INITIALLY MOVES WITH CO K
- B. CO "L" REMAINS HILL 689
- C. CO HILL 552

By COMMAND OF :

F. L. BOURNE

AUTHENTICATED:



V. E. FIRNSTAHL

MAJ USMC

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ANNEX B. (INTELLIGENCE.) To operation
ORDER 5-68

1. TERRAIN. The TERRAIN IN THE VIC. HILL 689 (XD 805407) CONSISTS OF ROLLING HILLS AND DENSE UNDERGROWTH. HILLS ARE GENERALLY FLAT WITH SCARCE VEGETATION ON THE CRESTS WITH TALL ELEPHANT GRASS ON THE SLOPES. VALLEYS ARE GENERALLY FLAT WITH THIER UNDERBRUSH CONSISTING OF HIGH ELEPHANT GRASS, SHORT BUSHY TREES, AND THICK SHRUBBERY. STREAMS OFFER NO OBSTACLE, THEY ARE SWIFT AND NARROW AND PROVIDE A GOOD SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER WHEN HALAZONE IS USED.
2. WEATHER. WEATHER FOR THE AREA CONSISTS OF HOT DAYS WITH HIGHS IN THE UPPER 90'S AND MODERATE NIGHTS WITH LOWS IN THE MID 70'S. LIGHT RAIN CAN BE EXPECTED AT ANY TIME. THE HUMIDITY SHOULD AVERAGE 85%.

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3. ASTRO DATA. THE ASTRO DATA FOR THE PERIOD IS AS FOLLOWS,

27 MAY - SR 0615

SS 1914

MR 0554

MS 1921

0% ILLUM

28 MAY -

SR 0615

SS 1914

MR 0639

MS 2014

1% ILLUM

29 MAY -

SR 0615

SS 1914

MR 0728

MS 2106

3% ILLUM

30 MAY

SR 0615

SS 1914

MR 0820

MS 2158

7% ILLUM

4. PASSWORDS THE PASSWORDS FOR THE PERIOD WILL BE AS FOLLOWS

261200 - 271200 P DETAIL HEED
A TRAIN CAST

271200 - 281200 P STAND SHARK
A DRESS BOOK

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281200 - 291200 P FULL HEART
A BAND VEST

5. ENEMY SITUATION. THE ENEMY IS BELIEVED TO BE OPERATING IN THE AREA IN UP TO COMPANY SIZE UNITS. AN L/2 BATTALION IS BELIEVED LOCATED IN THE VIC OF XD 815 385. A COMPANY SIZE BASE CAMP IS BELIEVED ESTABLISHED IN THE VIC OF XD 815 415. NUMEROUS MORTAR TEAMS OPERATE THROUGHOUT THE AREA WITH 60, 82, AND 120 MM MORTARS. THE ENEMY CAN BE EXPECTED TO LAY SQUAD SIZE AMBUSHES ON HILL CRESTS AND SLOPES IN WELL CAMOUFLAGED BUNKERS. THESE AMBUSHES ARE NORMALLY SUPPORTED BY MORTARS FROM POSITIONS IN THE VALLEY SURROUNDING THE HILL AMBUSH SITE.

6. KNOWN POSITIONS.

MORTAR POSITIONS

793393	788374
793388	787375
788388	799408
784386	775401

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ROCKET POSITIONS -

792416

783416

763406

765406

792397

AA POSITIONS -

778416

779412

779401

ADDITIONAL PASSWORDS

291200 - 301200 P FEED GREEN

A MOLT BLEND

301200 - 311200 P SAND FLAT

A BITS QUACK

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FOR 28 MAY TO 31 MAY

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- 1) PREP FIRES WILL BE FIRED PRIOR TO THE ATTACK OF EACH OBJECTIVE.
- 2) ON CALLS WILL BE UTILIZED BY FORWARD OBSERVERS TO SUPPORT THE ATTACK OF COMPANIES.
- 3) PLANNING FIRES WILL BE PROVIDED BY FORWARD OBSERVERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMPANIES' SCHEMES OF MANUEVERS.
- 4) COUNTER ROCKET FIRE WILL BE PROVIDED BY TARGET GROUP "GX".
- 5) "HAI" WILL BE SCHEDULED TO SUPPORT THE BATTALION SCHEME OF MANUEVERS.
- 6) 81 MM MORTARS WILL BE EMPLOYED IN A COORDINATED MANNER PLAN TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO ENEMY MORTAR FIRE.
- 7) PREP FIRES FOR OBJECTIVE ONE (A) WILL BE PROVIDED BY COMPANY FORWARD OBSERVERS.

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FIRE Support Plan PART LOF 3

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~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~
PROP FIRE

For 28 MAY To 31 MAY

on call's

Groups -

2	812 374	RJ 231 - 811 373
	808 376	RJ 232 - 805 376
	807 378	
3.	800 378	RJ 233 - 798 377
	795 378	RJ 234 - 795 384
	795 384	
4.	784 378	RJ-235 - 778 369
	782 377	RJ-236 - 778 373
	783 374	RJ-237 - 780 376
		RJ-238 - 784 373
5.	780 369	RJ-239 - 784 380
	778 371	
	779 374	
	783 374	
6	773 371	RJ-240 - 773 367
	769 368	241 - 768 368
	769 372	

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FIRE Support Plan PART 2 of 3

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BATTALION 4 MARINES

For 20 MAY To 31 MAY

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Page Five

ON CALLS

Group

7	774 388	RJ 242 - 773 385
	775 392	243 - 774 389
	777 394	244 - 776 393
	779 391	

8	786 383	RJ 245 - 787 385
	789 384	246 - 791 384
	792 384	

9	790 389	RJ-247 - 794 389
	793 391	248 - 794 391
	794 388	

10	784 390	RJ 249 - 788 394
	785 393	250 - 783 388
	788 394	

11	792 397	RJ 251 - 790 398
	796 395	252 - 795 402
	794 401	
	796 400	

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Fire Support Plan PART 3 OF 3
BATTALION & MAIN
FOR 28 MAY TO 31 MAY

SECRET
Part 3 Fire

ON CALL

Group

12	-HILL 557-	RJ 253 - 763 408
	764 408	253 - 761 412
	764 414	255 - 765 417
	768 416	
	769 412	

13	-HILL 758-	RJ 256 - 782 424
	779 425	257 - 788 426
	781 422	
	782 424	
	787 420	
	788 426	

A	(Gr. D (Gr. D 788 401)	RJ 258 - 786 405
	786 404	259 - 789 408
	787 406	
	792 406	

COUNTING ROCK

GX 001 - 75214057	GX 005 - 73904078
002 - 74174039	007 - 73354037
003 - 74394114	
004 - 74794077	

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INDEX X D

1) FLIGHT REQUESTED NIGHT OF 27th

TIC 271200H - 280000H

810 312, 170, 743 310, 010, 744 374, 020,
811 372 200, 799 330, 290, 791 378 300,
779 371, 060

2) 28th 17 1968

NO OBSTACLES FIRST LIGHT REPORT ON
STATION THROUGHOUT DAY. WIND E VMS
CNS 170 PS 801 377, 797 324 5, 791 325,
789 322

ADDITIONAL AIR SUPPORT AS REQUIRED

TIC 281200H - 290000H

777 390, 045, 785 310 000, 762 322 230,
792 329, 010, 793 397 045, 771 391, 020

3) 29th 17 1968

CNS 170 PS 794, 399, 777 327, 774 392

TIC 291200H - 300000H

768 413, 350, 752 407 300, 761 413, 000,
773 401, 000, 769 410, 030, 744 400, 100,
762 540 75, ~~300~~ 300

4) 30th 17 1968

CNS 170 PS 768 414, 771 411, 753 400

TIC 301200H - 310000H

772 421, 070, 772 422, 300, 749 411, 020,
767 412, 070, 764 415, 000, 765 326, 020,
757 387, 290, 754 389, 290, 770 379, 065

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772 381, Ø45.

5) 31 MAY, 1968

CAS PREFS 782422, 772422.

6) REQUEST FIXED WING AIRCRAFT USE
251.17) REQUEST THAT 3/4 CAN USE A DISCRETE
FREQ (PUSH) FOR THIS OPERATION.

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1848H JUNE 68

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OPERATION PLAN 6-68

1. SITUATION

A. ENEMY FORCES: SEE CURRENT INTSUMS

B. FRIENDLY FORCES:

1ST MARINES COORDINATES ACTIVITIES
WITHIN SCOTLAND II A.O.1/1 CONTINUES OPERATION IN ACCORDANCE
WITH 1ST MAR OPORD 89-682/1 CONTINUES DEFENSE KHE SANH
COMBAT BASE2/3 MAINTAINS BLOCKING FORCE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH 1ST MAR OPORD 89-682/4 CONTINUES OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
1ST MAR OPORD 89-68.

C. ATTACHMENTS/DETACHMENTS: NO CHANGE

D. ASSUMPTION THAT THE ENEMY HAS SUFFICIENT
FORCES TO PENETRATE A COMBAT BASE2 MISSION. TO ASSIGN REACTION FORCES FOR THE
PERIOD ENCOMPASSED BY 1ST MARINES OPERATION
ORDER 89-68

3. EXECUTION

A DUE TO THE UNIQUE DISPOSITION OF
THE COMPANIES WITHIN THE ASSIGNED AO
DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE 1ST MARINESSECRETSECRET
TAB B

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OPERATION ORDER 89-68, REACTION FORCES ARE ASSIGNED SO AS TO PROVIDE AN IMMEDIATE FORCE TO COUNTER-ATTACK AND DRIVE OUT ANY ENEMY FORCE THAT PENETRATES ANY COMBAT BASE DEFENSE PERIMETER. A BATTALION REACTION FORCE TO REINFORCE ANY COMPANY THAT IS ATTACKED BY ANY ENEMY FORCE IS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FORCE TO REPEL THE ENEMY FROM A PENETRATED COMBAT BASE.

B. EACH RIFLE COMPANY COMMANDER WILL DESIGNATE REACTION FORCES WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMBAT BASES TO INSURE IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE REACTION TO ANY ENEMY PENETRATION OF THEIR DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. REACTION FORCES WILL HAVE CLEAR CONCISE ORDERS IN REGARDS TO MISSION, ASSEMBLY AREA, PERSONNEL ASSIGNED AND PREDESIGNATED ROUTES FROM THE ASSEMBLY AREA TO POSSIBLE AREAS OF PENETRATION

C. BN REACTION FORCE

(1) EACH COMPANY WILL DESIGNATE TWO PLATOONS FROM THEIR COMBAT BASE FOR THE BN REACTION FORCE

(2) UNITS DESIGNATED WILL BE ON A 30 MINUTE STAND-BY WHEN DIRECTED BY

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THE COMMANDING OFFICER, 3RD BN, 4TH MARINES.

(3) WHEN A REACTION FORCE IS REQUIRED, IT WILL MOVE OVERLAND, WHEN ORDERED, TO EFFECT A LINK-UP WITH THE COMPANY FROM THE THREATENED/PENETRATED COMBAT BASE.

(4) REACTION FORCES WILL BE PREPARED TO ALSO MOVE BY HELICOPTER TO THE LZ OF THE THREATENED/PENETRATED COMBAT BASE OR TO A CLOSE SECURE LZ.

(5) THE BELOW LISTED REACTION FORCES ARE DESIGNATED FOR THE NAMED COMBAT BASE:

REACTION FORCE	COMBAT BASE
I	M Co HILL 471
L (ALT M)	I Co HILL 552
I (ALT K)	L Co HILL 689
L (ALT Co 1 ST MAR)	K Co HILL 8815

(6) THE REACTION FORCE DESIGNATED FOR HILL 8815 WILL BE DISPATCHED PRIMARILY BY HELICOPTER DUE TO DISTANCE AND TERRAIN.

(7) UPON DISPATCHING OF A REACTION FORCE, THE BN S-3 OFFICER WILL REQUEST A RIFLE COMPANY FROM THE 1ST MARINES TO PROVIDE

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SECURITY AT THE REACTION FORCES COMBAT BASE. WHEN THE RIFLE COMPANY FROM THE 1ST MARINES ASSUMES CONTROL OF THE COMBAT BASE, THE REMAINING PLATOON AND ATTACHMENTS WILL BE PREPARED TO JOIN ITS COMPANY ON ORDER.

D. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

(1) COMPANIES SUBMIT (COUNTER-ATTACK) PLANS TO COMMANDING OFFICER, 3RD BN, 4TH MARINES FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE COMBAT BASES.

(2) DESIGNATE ASSEMBLY AREAS INSIDE PERIMETER TO INCLUDE AN AREA NEAR AN LZ IF MOVE IS TO BE MADE BY HELICOPTER.

(3) ASSEMBLY AREA, LINE OF DEPARTURE, APPROACH MARCH ROUTE AND OBJECTIVE WILL BE DESIGNATED.

(4) THIS PLAN EFFECTIVE UPON RECEIPT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES AND EXECUTED ON ORDER.

4. ADMINISTRATION / LOGISTICS

A. REACTION FORCE CARRY N/A AND EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE FLAK JACKET, GAS MASK.

B. ALL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO BN REACTION FORCE WILL HAVE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE USE B/A CLASS II, 1 RATION, 2 CANTEENS WATER, SALT TABLETS, INSECT REPELLENT.

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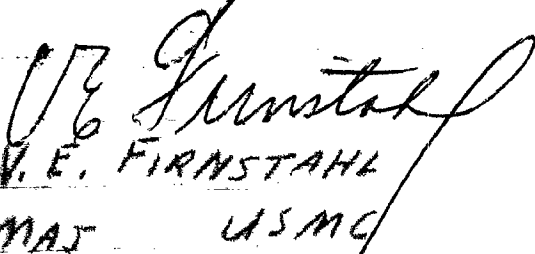
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5. COMMAND/COMMUNICATIONS
- A. BN CP: NO CHANGE
 - B. BN REACTION FORCE WILL HAVE COMPANY COMMAND GROUP.
 - C. REACTION FORCE REPORT CP LOCATION HOURLY.
 - D. COMMUNICATION CONTROL BY BATTALION TACTICAL NET

BY COMMAND OF

F.L. BORNE JR.

AUTHENTICATED


V. E. FIRNSTAHL
MAJ USMC
S-3

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3/4

ZNY SSSSS
 O P 111007Z MAY 68
 FM FIRST MARINES
 TO CG TASK FORCE HOTE.
 INFO CG 1ST MARDIV
 1ST MARINES (-) (REIN)
 1ST MARINES (REAR)
 BT

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PLANNED OPERATION, 14-19 MAY 68

A: 1ST MARINES FRAGORDER 85-68

1. 1ST MARINES PLANS TO CONDUCT SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION WITHIN SCOTLAND II AO COMMENCING 14 MAY 68.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS. AREA BOUNDED BY XD 860434, SE ALONG STREAM TO XD 910450, NORTH TO XD 910470, WEST TO XD 900470, WEST TO XD 900470, NORTH TO XD 900480, WEST TO XD 860480, AND SOUTH TO XD 860434.

3. DURATION OF OPERATION, 4 TO 5 DAYS.

4. OPERATING FORCE, ONE INFANTRY BATTALION REIN WITH PLAT ENGRS AND PLAT SHORE PARTY.

PAGE TWO RUMHVF 061 SECRET

5. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS. ON D DAY AT L HOUR ONE BATTALION (-) (REIN) CONDUCTS HELICOPTERBORNE ASSAULT INTO LZ BLUE JAY AND LZ CARDINAL, COMMENCES ATTACK TO SOUTHEAST ALONG HILL MASS 1015, 832, AND 613 TO LOCATE AND DESTROY ENEMY FORCES, POSITIONS AND SUPPLY CACHES. ONE BATTALION CONDUCTS OPERATIONS WITH ONE COMPANY EAST OF KSB TO PROVIDE SCREEN TO SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF OBJECTIVE AREA.

6. FIRE SUPPORT.

A. AO ON STATION 2 HRS DAILY DMINUS 3 TO D DAY FOR CONDUCT

OF OBSERVED AIRSTRIKES.

B. AO ON STATION DURING HOURS OF LIGHT D DAY TO TERMINATION OF OPERATION.

C. AIR SUPPORT.

(1) TPQ-10 CONTROLLED AIR STRIKES D MINUS 3 TO D DAY IN OBJECTIVE AREA. SELECTED TGTS DURING NIGHT AFTER D DAY.

(2) TWO "MINI ARGLIGHT" STRIKES ON INTELLIGENCE TGTS NIGHT OF D MINUS 1.

(3) TWO PLTS FIXED WING SMOKE ON STATION FOR HELILIFT.

(4) ONE PLT FIXED WING ON STATION AT L HOUR.

(5) FIXED WING AIRCRAFT ON STATION EVERY 30 MINUTES

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PAGE THREE RUMHVP 061'S E C R E T
 WITH BOMBS AND NAPALM, L HR TO L PLUS 5' AND DAILY
 FROM 0700H TO 1200H; ON CALL THEREAFTER.

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D. ARTY SUPPORT

(1) CONCENTRATIONS FIRED ON INTELLIGENCE TGTS D
 MINUS 3 TO D DAY

(2) H AND I FIRES IN OBJECTIVE AREA DURING HOURS OF
 DARKNESS D MINUS 3 TO TERMINATION OF OPERATION.

(3) PRE L HOUR PREP ON OBJECTIVES ONE (XD 873453) AND
 TWO (XD 874447) AND ALONG RIDGE TO NORTHEAST
 (XD 872478 TO XD 896457).

(4) PREP OF SUBSEQUENT OBJECTIVES "ON CALL" BY
 ATTACKING UNITS.

7. HELICOPTER SUPPORT.

A. TAC (A) FOR HELO ESCORT.

B. TRANSPORT HELOS FOR 120 TROOP INITIAL WAVE.

C. UH1E (SLICK) FOR BN CO VOMMAND AND CONTROL PURPOSES.

8. REQUEST OF HIGHER HEADQUARTERS. REQUEST RECONNAISSANCE
 TEAM BE INSERTED IN AREA BOUNDED BY XD 9249 TO XD 9249
 TO XD 9247 TO XD 9247 DURING PERIOD 14-17 MAY 68 TO
 PROVIDE OBSERVATION AND CALL FOR FIRES ON INFILTRATION/

PAGE FOUR RUMHVP 061 S E C R E T
 EXFILTRATION ROUTES TO NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF OBJECTIVE
 AREA. (THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN INITIATED VERBALLY TO G-2,
 TASK FORCE HOTEL FOR PLANNING PURPOSES).

GP-4

BT

SECRET

TOD: VIA TT/111230Z MAY 68/CCN:061

SECRET

00 RUMHVA

DE RUMHVA 088

ZNY 88888

O P 170015Z MAY 68

FM 1ST MARINES

TO ZEN/1ST MARINES (-) (THEIN)

ZEN/OPR, KHE SANH

INFO ZEN/CG TASK FORCE HOTEL

RUMHVA/CG 1ST MAR DIV

ZEN/4TH MARINES

RUMHVA/1ST MARINES (REAR)

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3/4

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FRAG ORDER 85-68, CHANGE ONE

A - MAP, VIETNAM 1:50,000 AMS SERIES L 7014 SHEETS 6342K I - IV

B - 1ST MARINES FRAG ORDER 85-58 (110600Z MAY 68)

1 - MAKE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO REF B.

A - ADD PARA 1 B (ULP AS FOLLOWS: FOR KHE SANH: (A) GENERAL SUPPORT. (B) ONE RECON TEAM INSERTED IN AREA BOUNDED BY AREA FROM XD 860434 ALONG STREAM TO SOUTHEAST TO XD 890427, THEN SOUTH TO XD 890410, THEN WEST ALONG 41 SW GRIDLINE TO XD 840404 AND NORTH TO XD 860434. PERIOD OF INSERTION 14 MAY-17 MAY 68.

PAGE TWO RUMHVA 088 SECRET

B - PARA 3A (4) CHANGE LYS TO BLUEJAY (YD 050455) AND PINTAIL (XD 847456).

C - PARA 3 (1) CHANGE CHOP TIME TO 1700H. CHANGE 1ST BN, 1ST MARINES TO 2D BN, 1ST MARINES.

D - PARA 3B - INSERT NEW PARA 3B (2) TO READ: " AT 1300H BN D MINUS 1 LEFT ONE COMPANY TO LZ PINTAIL TO SEIZE HIL 1015 AND PROVIDE SECURITY FOR D DAY HELD OPS."

RENUMBER SUBSEQUENT SUB PARAS TO ROAD (4) THROUGH (7).

E - PARA 3 B (4) CHANGE LZS TO BLUEJAY AND PINTAIL.

F - PARA 3 C (1) - DELETE PRESENT PARA. ADD NEW PARA 3 C (1)

AS FOLLOWS: NET 1700H D MINUS 1 CHOP ONE COMPANY TO 2D BN, 3D MARINES.

G - PARA 3D (3) - DELETE. RENUMBER REMAINING SUB PARAS (3) AND (4).

H - PARA 3 E (1) - CHANGE CHOP TIME TO 1700H.

I - PARA 3 G (5) (E) - DELETE.

J - PARA 3 G (5) (F) - RENUMBER AS (5) (4), CHANGE TIME TO READ 1700H D MINUS 1.

K - PARA 3 G (7) (8) - CHANGE LZ CARDINAL TO LZ PINTAIL (XD 847456).

PAGE THREE RUMHVA 088 SECRET

2 - CHANGE ANNEX A TO REF B. AS FOLLOWS:

A - 2D BN, 1ST MARINES EAST BOUNDARY TO RUN DIRECTLY FROM XD 860434 TO XD 860410.

B - ADD RECON BOX FOR FOR, KHE SANH AS FOLLOWS: FM XD 860434 ALONG STREAM TO XD 890427, SOUTH TO XD 890410, WEST TO XD 840410, AND NORTH TO XD 860434.

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1ST MARINES (-) (REIN)
KHE SANH, RVN
11 MAY 1968

Annex A (Operations Overlay) to Ftag O 85-68

1. Annex A (Operations Overlay) appended hereto.

By Command of Colonel HUGHES

E. T. Cook

E. T. COOK
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-5

Distributions: CG, 1st Mar Div (1)
CG, TF Hotel (1)
S-2 (1)
S-4 (1)
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3/4

E. T. Cook
E. T. COOK

E. T. COOK

29 MAY 1968

0000/PPFP

CO/PP	
YO	
S-3	
S-2	

DTG
OP 291830Z MAY 68
 FM 1ST MARINES
 TO 1ST MARINES (-) (REIN)
 2D BN, 4TH MARINES

INFO CG TASK FORCE HOTEL
 CG 1ST MARDIV
 4TH MARINES
 A TRIP, 1ST SQDN, 1ST BATTALION

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FRAG ORDER 89-68

A. MAP: VIETNAM 1:50,000, AMS SERIES L7014, SHEETS 6342

I-IV

B. 1ST MARINES FRAG O 88-68

C. 1ST MARINES OP ORDER 310-68

D. ANNEX B (INTELLIGENCE) TO FRAG ORDER 88-68

E. ANNEX A (OPERATION OVERLAY) TO FRAG ORDER 89-68

F. ANNEX B (ASSIGNED AREAS OF OPERATION) TO FRAG ORDER 89-68

TIME ZONE: HOTEL

REFERENCE B CANCELLED EXCEPT THOSE ANNEXES REFERENCED IN THIS
FRAG ORDER.

1. SITUATION.

A. ENEMY.

(1) CURRENT INTENSUMS AND PERIPHERIES.

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TAB 2

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B. FRIENDLY.

- (1) TASK FORCE HOTEL CONDUCTS OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN LANCASTER/SCOTLAND II AO.
- (2) 4TH MARINES CONDUCTS OPERATIONS TO ASSIST OF 1ST MARINES AO IN LANCASTER AO, CHOPS ONE BATTALION TO 1ST MARINES ON D-1, AND MAINTAINS ONE BATTALION (-) (3 COMPANIES) ON TWO HOUR ALERT TO REINFORCE/AUGMENT 1ST MARINES AS NECESSARY.
- (3) A TROOP, 1ST SQDN, 1ST AIRCAVDIV PROVIDES AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF TASK FORCE HOTEL.
- (4) 7TH AIR FORCE PROVIDES FIXED WING SUPPORT ON REQUEST.
- (5) 1ST MAW PROVIDES FIXED WING AND HELICOPTER SUPPORT ON REQUEST.
- (6) 12TH MARINES.
 - (A) GENERAL SUPPORT.
 - (B) 12TH MARINES WITH ONE 175MM SP BATTERY AND ONE 8" SP BATTERY DISPLACES TO KSB/LZ HAWK ON D-3 AND D-2, ESTABLISHES FIRE BASES, AND CONDUCTS ARTILLERY PAID ON CO ROC AREA (XD 741317) FOR TWO DAYS (DRUM FIRE II).
 - (C) ON COMPLETION OF FIRE ON D-DAY, 175MM SP BATTERY AND 8" SP BATTERY (-)

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DISPLACES FROM KHE SANH IN GENERAL SUPPORT
TASK FORCE HOTEL, REINFORCING 1ST MARINES.

(C) ONE BATTERY 155SP LOCATED AT KHE SANH BASE
IN DIRECT SUPPORT TASK FORCE HOTEL, REINFORCING
1ST MARINES.

(7) ONE 3D FORCE RECON, TASK FORCE HOTEL.

(A) GENERAL SUPPORT.

(B) RECON TEAMS INSERTED ON NORTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST
FLANKS OF OBJECTIVE AREA ON D-DAY.

2. MISSION. 1ST MARINES CONDUCT HELICOPTERBORNE ASSAULT
INTO SOUTHEASTERN SECTOR OF SCOTLAND II AO TO LOCATE AND
DESTROY ENEMY FORCES, SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS CACHES AND
DEFENSE POSITIONS, CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR WEB,
COMMUNICATIONS BARRIERS/CONTROL OUTPOSTS ON UTILITY ROADS 861,
861, AND 950, MAINTAIN SECURITY FOR ROUTE NINE AND BRIDGES
THEREON, CONDUCTS AND PROVIDES SECURITY FOR TASK FORCE
HOTEL DAILY LOGISTICS CONVOY TO AND FROM KHE SANH/LZ CAMBO,
MAINTAINS BALD EAGLE/SPARROW HAWK DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS IN
RESPONSE TO TASK FORCE HOTEL RECON TEAMS AND DAILY LOGISTICS
CONVOYS.

3. EXECUTION.

A. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS. ON D-DAY, 1ST MARINES CONDUCTS
THREE (3) BATTALION BLOCK AND STABP OPERATION IN SOUTH-
EASTERN SECTOR OF SCOTLAND II AO. AT H-HOUR ONE BATTALION

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ATTACKS OVERLAND FROM POSITIONS IN VICINITY OF ROUTE
 NINE TO ESTABLISH MOBILE BLOCKING POSITIONS VICINITY
 OF PHASE LINE JACK. AT H HOUR TWO BATTALIONS EXHIBIT
 WITH HELICOPTERS/ROTORCRAFT ASSEMBLE INTO DESIGNATED LZ'S
 AND ATTACK TO NORTHEAST, MAINTAINING MUTUAL SUPPORT
 CAPABILITY, TO CLOSE ON BLOCKING POSITIONS, SEIZING
 ASSIGNED OBJECTIVES ENROUTE. REMAINING BATTALIONS
 CONDUCT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN ASSIGNED AO, MAINTAIN
 COMBAT BASES/COMBAT OUTPOSTS AS ASSIGNED, AND ONE
 BATTALION, ADDITIONALLY, PROVIDES SECURITY FOR DAILY
 LOGISTIC CONVOY AND MAINTAINS BALD EAGLE/SPARROW HAWK
 DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.

4. 2D BATTALION, 3D DIVISION

(1) PROVIDES SECURITY FOR PHASE NINE AND
 BRIDGES THROUGH AREA AO. ANNEX B (ASSIGNED
 AREAS OF OPERATIONS).

(2) PROVIDES SECURITY FOR 175MM SP BATTERY AND
 AMMUNITION SUPPLIES TO BE POSITIONED VICINITY
 LZ HAWK.

(3) AT H-HOUR ON D-DAY, ATTACK FROM PRESENT POSITIONS
 TO SOUTH OF ROUTE NINE TO ESTABLISH MOBILE
 BLOCKING POSITIONS SOUTH OF PHASE LINE JACK.
 ANNEX A (OPERATIONS OVERLAY).

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C. 1ST BN 1ST MARINES

- (1) ON ORDER, ON D-MINUS ONE, WITH REMAINDER OF LINES EFFECTED BY DESIGNATED ELEMENTS OF 2D BN 1ST MARINES AND 3D BN 4TH MARINES, DISPLACE BY HELILIFT TO OCCUPY ASSEMBLY AREA VICINITY HILL 558 (XD 823448), ANNEX B (ASSIGNED AREAS OF OPERATIONS).
- (2) HLT 1600H, ON D-MINUS ONE, CHOP PLATOON IES CO PRESENTLY LOCATED ON HILL 950 (XD 843456) TO 2D BN, 1ST MARINES.
- (3) HLT 1600H, ON D-MINUS ONE, ASSUME OPCON 2D PLAT, CO A(-), 1ST ENGINEER BN FROM 2D BN 1ST MARINES (LESS HILL DELETED SCHEMEL).
- (4) AT L-HOUR ON D-DAY EXECUTE HELICOPTERBORNE ASSAULT FROM LZ FINCH TO LZ ROBIN, SEIZE LZ ROBIN AND CONTINUE ATTACK TO SEIZE OBJECTIVE ONE. ANNEX A (OPERATIONS OVERLAY).
- (5) ON ORDER CONTINUE ATTACK TO SEIZE OBJECTIVES THREE AND FIVE.
- (6) ON ORDER, CONTINUE ATTACK ACROSS PHASE LINE MARK TO SEIZE OBJECTIVES SEVEN AND NINE AND TO CLOSE ON BLOCKING POSITIONS OF 2D BN 3D MARINES.

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D. 2D BN, 4TH MARINES

- (1) ON CHOP TO 1ST MARINES, CHOC. ONE COMPANY TO 2D BN 1ST MARINES.
- (2) ON D-1 TIME 1600H, OCCUPY ASSEMBLY AREA AT LZ GAMEDO (YD 003476).
- (3) AT L PLUS THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS, EXECUTE HELICOPTERBORNE ASSAULT FROM LZ GAMEDO TO LZ LOON, SEIZE LZ LOON AND CONTINUE ATTACK TO SEIZE OBJECTIVES FOUR AND SIX.
- (4) ON ORDER CONTINUE ATTACK TO SEIZE OBJECTIVES FOUR AND SIX.
- (5) ON ORDER, EXECUTE HELICOPTERBORNE ASSAULT FROM OBJECTIVE SIX TO OBJECTIVE EIGHT, CONTINUE ATTACK TO SEIZE OBJECTIVE TEN AND TO CLOSE ON BLOCKING POSITIONS OF 2D BN 3D MARINES.

E. 3D BN 4TH MARINES

- (1) CONTINUE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS WITHIN ASSIGNED AREA OF OPERATIONS. ANNEX B (ASSIGNED AREAS OF OPERATIONS).
- (2) ON ORDER ON D-MINUS ONE EFFECT RELIEF OF LINES OF 1ST BN 1ST MARINES UNITS ON HILL 881 (XD 770438).
- (3) ON ORDER, ON D-MINUS ONE, EFFECT RELIEF OF LINES OF 2D BN 1ST MARINES UNITS ON HILL 471 (XD 848392).

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F. 2D BN 1ST MARINES.

- (1) CONTINUE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS WITHIN ASSIGNED AO.
ANNEX B (ASSIGNED AREA OF OPERATIONS).
- (2) HIT 1600H ON D-MINUS ONE, ASSUME OPCON PLAN IES
CO, 1ST BN 1ST MARINES LOCATED HILL 950.
- (3) HIT 1600H ON D-MINUS ONE, CHOP 2D PLAT, CO A(-),
1ST BTR BN TO 1ST BN 1ST MARINES, LESS MINE SWP PERS.
- (4) ON ORDER ON D-MINUS ONE, EFFECT RELIEF OF LINES
OF 1ST BN 1ST MARINES UNITS ON HILLS 861 (XD 803443)
AND 558 (XD 821451).
- (5) ON RELIEF BY UNITS OF 3D BN 4TH MARINES ON D-MINUS
ONE ON HILL 471, STAND RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITY
TO MAINTAIN COMBAT PURPOSE THAT LOCATION.
- (6) CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR KHE SANH BASE.
- (7) CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN BAYD EAGLE/SPARROW HAWK
ON 30 MINUTE NOTICE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.
- (8) PROVIDE COMPANY MEN WITH ARMY FO TEAM
AND FAC FOR DAILY LOGISTICS CONVOYS.
- (9) ON D-MINUS ONE, ASSUME OPCON ONE COMPANY 2D BN
4TH MARINES ON ARRIVAL KHE SANH BASE.

G. 1ST BN 11TH MARINES.

- (1) DIRECT SUPPORT.

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- (2) MAINTAIN CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE CS MUNITIONS TO INFANTRY BATTALIONS TO INCLUDE UNITS OPERATING IN SOUTHEASTERN SECTOR OF SCOTLAND II AO.
- (3) ENSURE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE ORGANIC DIRECT SUPPORT AND GENERAL SUPPORT ARTILLERY MINIMUM THREE KM SOUTH OF DEEPEST PENETRATION OF 2D BN 4TH MARINES AND 1ST BN 1ST MARINES.

H. CO A(-) 1ST ENGR BN.

- (1) DIRECT SUPPORT.
- (2) PROVIDE ONE PLAT DIRECT SUPPORT 1ST BN 1ST MARINES NLT 1600H D-MINUS ONE AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ONE PLAT DIRECT SUPPORT 2D BN 3D MARINES.

I. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS.

- (1) D-DAY 1 JUNE 68
 H-HOUR 0700H
 L-HOUR 0800H
- (2) DURATION OF OPERATION 5-7 DAYS.
- (3) OBJECTIVE AREA - ANNEX A (OPERATIONS OVERLAY).
- (4) FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION.
 - (A) ANNEX C (FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION) TO REFERENCE B.
 - (B) AIR/ASSTY PREP FOR LZ ROBERT L-30 TO L-HOUR LZ LION L PLUS TWO TO L PLUS THREE AND ONE HALF.
 - (C) ORIGINAL ICL, PL MARK, SILENT TO PL JACK ON ORDER.

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(5) LANDING ZONES.

LZ GAMBEO YD 003476
 LZ FINCH XD 822448
 LZ LOON XD 877334
 LZ ROBIN XD 911334
 LZ KINGFISHER (ALL LZ FOR LOON) TBA
 LZ PIPER (ALL LZ FOR ROBIN) XD 916336

(6) HELICOPTER SUPPORT.

- (A) TACTICAL LIFT TO BE EXECUTED WITH
 MINIMUM WAVE OF 144 PERSONNEL, 12 PERSONNEL
 PER CH46D.
- (B) SIX CH-46'S REQUESTED FOR D-DAY LOGISTICS
 REQUIREMENTS, EIGHT CH-46'S REQUESTED FOR
 LOGISTICS REQUIREMENTS D PLUS ONE TO
 TERMINATION OF OPERATION.
- (C) MEDEVAC PACKAGE WITH JUNGLE PENETRATOR
 REQUESTED IN SUPPORT OF 1ST MARINES DURATION
 OF OPERATION.
- (D) ONE UH1E (SLICK) REQUESTED FOR C AND C
 PURPOSES 0730-1600 D-DAY FOR USE BY 1ST
 MARINES AND BATTALION CO'S. PRIORITY TO 1ST
 BN 1ST MARINES UNTIL COMPLETION 1/4 HELILIFT
 WHEN SHIFT TO 2D BN 4TH MARINES DURING 2/4 HELILIFT.

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(7) SUMMER ADDITIONAL HELICOPTER, LANDING, AND

ARTY SUPPORT REQUESTS BY 1600 B-MINUS 2.

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(8) HELICOPTER DISPLACEMENTS BETWEEN COMBAT OUTPOSTS

AND COMBAT BASES ON D-MINUS ONE.

(A) 0900H - 3/4 UNIT FROM LZ WREN TO HILL 881 (S) 1/2.

(B) 0900H - 1/4 UNIT FROM HILL 881(S) TO LZ FINCH.

(C) 1030H - 2/1 UNIT FROM KSB (EAST END AIRFIELD)
TO HILL 861.

(D) 1030 - 1/1 UNIT FROM HILL 861 TO LZ FINCH.

(E) 1130 - 1/1 UNIT FROM LZ HAWK TO LZ FINCH.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

A. UNITS COMMENCE OPERATION WITH ONE DAY MCI AND BASIC
ALLOWANCE CLASS V.

B. EMERGENCY RESUPPLY ONLY ON D DAY.

C. STAGE D PLUS ONE RESUPPLY PRIOR TO D DAY.

D. ~~MAXIMUM UNITS EMPLOYED TO MAINTAIN DAILY RESUPPLY~~
BY 1600.

E. MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF HALOTHONE, SALT TABLETS,
MALARIA PILLS, AND INSECT REPELLENT.

F. ENGINEER UNITS COMMENCE OPERATION WITH MAXIMUM EXPLOSIVES.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS.

A. COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS

(1) NO CHANGE EXCEPT TACTICAL HELICOPTER TROOP LIFE
CONTROL NET TO BE USED DURING HELICOPTERBORNE
ASSAULTS, M-215, FREQ 44.9 MC.

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- (2) UNITS DISPLACING CND GRU ENSURE MINIMUM TWO RC 292 ANTENNAS AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES.

B. COMMAND.

- (1) BN'S SELECT COMMAND POST LOCATIONS TO ENSURE CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATIONS WITH THEIR HEADQUARTERS.
- (2) REPORT GP LOCATIONS.
- (3) 1ST MARINES. NO CHANGE

GP-4

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