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5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

015362

1268
WMS/kee
2 Jan 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FPO San
Francisco, California 96602

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December to 31 December 1968

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8
(b) BRIGO 5750.1C

Encl: ✓(1) 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(Rein) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b) enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. When enclosure (1) is removed, this letter is unclassified.

Willard M. Stephens
WILLARD M. STEPHENS

5th-155 mm Gun Btry

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Dec 1968

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5th 155mm Gun. Battery (SP)(Rein)
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December to 31 December 1968

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation.

5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

CommandingMajor W. M. STEPHENS.
1-31 December 1968Executive OfficerCaptain T. W. STEELE
1-31 December 1968Subordinate UnitsCommander

1st Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

1stLt J. T. CANNING
1-4 December 19681stLt L. M. PALM
5-17 December 19681stLt M. W. NEIGHBORS
18-31 December 1968

3rd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

1stLt W. W. MILES

Attached UnitsCommander

1st Platoon, 5th 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)

1stLt J. T. CANNING
1-4 December 19681stLt L. M. PALM
5-17 December 19681stLt M. W. NEIGHBORS
18-31 December 19682. Location.

a. Battery Headquarters

1-5 December 1968 Camp Carroll
6-31 December 1968 Dong Ha West

b. 1st Platoon

1-31 December 1968 Ca. Lu

c. 2nd Platoon

1-5 December 1968 Camp Carroll
6-31 December 1968 Rock Pile

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d. 3rd Platoon

e. 8" Platoon

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3. MONTHLY AVERAGE STRENGTH

USMC	
OFF	ENL
9	170

USN	
OFF	ENL
0	6

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During December 1968 the mission of the 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein) remained the same reinforcing the 12th Marines. The opcon commander is the 108th Artillery Group (USA). On 1 December the battery came under the direct administrative command of the Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (CG 9thMAB 190744Z DEC68). By 5 December the battery command post had been displaced from Camp Carroll to Dong Ha West. (YD 20705957). Firing positions were maintained at Fire Support Base Elliott (Rockpile) and Ca Lu. Fire direction remains centralized from the FDC at Dong Ha West. On 26 December the battery instituted a complete secondary check of all fire direction data from a separate check/alternate FDC at Ca Lu. Maximum use of directional antennas (AS-2236) insures reliable communications the 15 miles between positions. By 14 December the equipment readiness of the battery had deteriorated to C-4 with only one gun operational. The status improved slightly, from 15-26 December, but by the month's end the equipment status was again C-4 with one 8" howitzer and one 155 gun operational.

From Fire Support Base Elliott (Rockpile) a total of 1178 rounds of 155 gun ammunition were fired on numerous unobserved TOT/artillery/rocket suppression fires. Construction of tropical huts and incoming bunkers was begun in a new 4 gun position 500 meters from the present 2 gun position. By 26 December the Seabees had completed the construction of 4 heavy gun pads.

Firing from the Ca Lu position totaled 745 155 gun rounds and 692 8" Howitzer rounds. Targets were mostly unobserved TOT/artillery/rocket suppression fires and long range support of recon units. Construction of a new 4 gun position at Vandegrift Combat Base was begun to include tropical huts, an FDC and personnel bunkers. The Seabees by the month's end had completed one of four gun pads.

The high weapons deadline rate was caused by engine, transmission, sight mount, elevating mechanism repairs; several tube changes; and the non-availability of needed repair parts (ie. oil cooler fan). During most of the month only 2 155 guns and 1 8" howitzer were operational. One 8" howitzer is deadlined for a M115 sight (M21257-8334-0032); one 155 T/E deficiency exists (M21257-8332-0016). The VTR (M51) remains on deadline since 1 October 1968 for a transmission. Personnel readiness continues C-2 with 88% of essential ranks and MOS on hand.

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On 10 December a training program on the 175 guns was initiated in conjunction with A battery, 2nd Battalion, 94th Arty. Training includes firing battery, fire direction procedures and maintenance classes followed by periods of OJT.

The battery continues to support Operations SCOTLAND, HIRISE, KENTUCKY and the newly initiated operation DAWSON RIVER (281200 NOV68)

PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 4 December 1968 - 1stLt L. M. PALM relieved 1stLt J. T. CANNING as 1stPlt/8" PltCmdr. 1stLt J. T. CANNING assumed duties as battery FDO.
- 5 December 1968 - Completed displacement of battery headquarters to Dong Ha West (YD 20705957).
- 6 December 1968 - Seabees commenced construction of 4 heavy gun pads at Rockpile.
- 9 December 1968 - Battery Executive Officer, Maintenance Chief, Gunnery Sergeant held maintenance inspection of weapons.
- 10 December 1968 - Commenced 175 gun training with A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 94th Arty at Dong Ha West.
- 15 December 1968 - Commenced construction on new 4 gun position at Vandegrift Combat Base.
- 17 December 1968 - 1stLt M. W. NEIGHBORS relieved 1stLt L. M. PALM at 1stPlt/8"PltCmdr.
- 28 December 1968 - Major W. M. STEPHENS and 1stSgt J. J. FISHER III attend memorial closing ceremony of Camp J. J. Carroll.
- 29 December 1968 - Direct message release authority to CG, 9thMAB granted by 3rd MARDIV.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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TOP SECRET 1215 / NR10 / 12 MAR / WJR

TZA

SHOYA RUABOL
 E RUHVP 0597D 0060730
 BY CCCCC

R 060730Z JAN 69
 FM FIFTH ONE FIVE FIVE GUN BTRY (SP)
 TO RUABOL/CG NINTH MAB
 INFO ZEN/TWELFTH MARINES

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

015 THIS IS A CORRECTION ON MY 290127Z DEC 68, WESTPAC MONTHLY
 STRENGTH RPT. LINE A SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:
 A. TOTAL ON BOARD 8 OFFICERS, 172 ENLISTED.

GP-4

0597D

Relay

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