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

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 31 January 1969

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

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

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

Willard M. Stephens
WILLARD M. STEPHENS

5th - 155mm Gun Btry (SP)

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Jan 1969

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 - 31 January 1969

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Part I
Organizational Data

1. Designation

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

Commanding

Maj W. M. STEPHENS
1-31 January 1969

Executive Officer
Capt T. W. STEELE
1-31 January 1969

Subordinate Units

Bravo Platoon (155mm Guns) 5th 155mm
Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)

Commander

1stLt M. W. NEIGHBORS
1-18 January 1969

Capt J. J. MULHOLLAND
19-31 January 1969

Charlie Platoon (155mm Guns) 5th 155mm
Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)

1stLt W. W. MILES
1-31 January 1969

Attached Units

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

Commander

1stLt M. W. NEIGHBORS
1-18 January 1969

Capt J. J. MULHOLLAND
19-31 January 1969

2. Location

a. Battery Headquarters

1-31 January 1969 Dong Ha West

b. A and B Platoons

1-24 January 1969 Ca Lu
25-31 January 1969 Vandergrift
Combat Base

c. C Platoon

1-31 January 1969 Fire Support
Base Elliott (Rock Pile)

3. Monthly Average Strength

USMC
OFF ENL
9 167

USN
OFF ENL
0 7

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Part II
Narrative Summary

During January 1969, the 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein) under the command of Major W. M. STEPHENS continued its mission of reinforcing the 12th Marine Regiment and its opcon status to the 108th Artillery Group (USA). During the first two weeks of January Alpha/Bravo Platoons and Charlie Platoon continued work on their new positions and the preparations for displacement. Four concrete gun pads were completed in each position, roads were cut, and a number of bunkers and tropical huts in each position were completed. Charlie Platoon displaced to its new position at Fire Support Base Elliott (Rock Pile) on 16 January and on 25 January Alpha/Bravo Platoons displaced from Calu to the new position at Vandergrift Combat Base. The Seabees have a commitment to build tropical huts and projectile and powder bunkers at each position. A date for the completion of these structures has not been set at this time.

The Battery was inspected twice during the month of January. The 12th Marine Regiment, upon request, gave the Battery a courtesy inspection. On 27 January, the CG 9thMAB inspection commenced. Colonel A. E. COFFEEN headed a 19 member inspection team. The Battery received a rating of satisfactory with discrepancies.

Captain J. J. MULHOLLAND relieved 1stLt M. W. NEIGHBORS as Alpha/Bravo Platoon Commander on 19 January. Alpha/Bravo Platoons fired 214 155mm Gun rounds and 630 8" Howitzer rounds for the month. Targets were mostly unobserved intelligence/artillery/rocket suppression fires and long range support of recon units. The small volume of 155mm gun fire was due the deadline of the two 155mm guns of Bravo Platoon for most of the month.

Firing from Fire Support Base Elliott totalled 1618 155mm gun rounds during the month. Targets were mostly unobserved intelligence/artillery/rocket suppression fires. The increase in rounds fired from previous months was due to an increase in targets and a period when three 155mm guns were operational.

The Battery's personnel status is C-3 with 71% of essential T/O ranks and MOSs on hand. Critical MOS shortages include: 0811, 2144, 2151, 2531, 2861 and 3531. Equipment status has fluctuated between C-2 and C-4 during January and by the month's end one 155mm gun and two 8" Howitzers were operational. The excessive deadline rate, in addition to routine tube changes, was caused by prematurely condemned cannon assemblies, shortages of breech parts, such as obturator spindles and rear split rings, and a master brake cylinder. Two Eimcos and the VTR (M51) remain on deadline.

The Battery continues to support operations SCOTLAND, HIRISE, KENTUCKY and DAWSON RIVER.

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Part III
Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 7 January 1969 - Capt T. W. STEELE attended a United States Army Support Command conference regarding the introduction of the 175mm Gun (SP) at Dong Ha.
- 7-9 January - 12th Marine Regiment Courtesy Inspection
- 16 January - Displaced Charlie Platoon (155 Guns) to its new position at Fire Support Base Elliott (Rock Pile)
- 19 January - Capt J. J. MULHOLLAND relieved 1stLt M. W. NEIGHBORS as Alpha (8")/Bravo (155mm Gun) Platoon Commander.
- 25 January - Displaced the Alpha (8")/Bravo (155mm Gun) Platoons from CaLu to the new position at Vandergrift Combat Base
- 27-29 January - CG 9thMAB Inspection. Colonel A. E. COFFEEN, the Brigade Inspector, and 18 man team aboard.
- 31 January - 1stLt J. G. BLESER relieved 1stLt R. H. ANTHONY as the Battery Supply Officer.