

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

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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 March 1969

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.6  
(b) BrigO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(REIN) Command Chronology for period 1 - 31 March 1969

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*A. B. Thompson Jr.*  
A. B. THOMPSON JR.

Copy to:  
CG 3dMarDiv  
CO 12thMar, less part IV  
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5-155mm Gun Battery

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 March 1969

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Part I

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Organizational DataDesignation

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

CommandingMaj A. B. THOMPSON Jr.  
1-31 March 1969Executive OfficerCapt C. W. GIANNETTI  
7-31 March 1969Subordinate UnitsBrave Platoon (155mm Guns),  
5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(REIN)CommandingCapt J. J. MULHOLLAND  
1-31 March 1969Charlie Platoon (155mm Guns),  
5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(REIN)1stLt W. M. MILES  
1-31 March 1969Delta Platoon (175mm Guns),  
5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(REIN)1stLt W. M. MILES  
14-31 March 1969Attached Units1st Platoon, 5th 8<sup>th</sup>  
Battery (SP), (Alpha Platoon)CommanderCapt J. J. MULHOLLAND  
1-31 March 1969Location

a. Battery Headquarters

1-31 March 1969 Deng Ha West

b. A and B Platoons

1-31 March 1969 Vandegrift Combat  
Base

c. C and D Platoons

1-31 March 1969 Fire Support Base  
Elliot ( Reck Pile)MONTHLY AVERAGE STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
9	189	0	6

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## Part II

Narrative Summary

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During March 1969, the 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(REIN), commanded by Major A. B. THOMPSON Jr, remained under the operational control of the 108th Artillery Group USA and continued its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marine Regiment.

In early March, CG 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Brigadier General John E. WILLIAMS visited the battery. The General viewed the battery CP at Dong Ha West and Charlie Platoon at Fire Support Base Elliot from his helicopter. The General landed at Vandegrift Combat Base and took a walking tour of Alpha and Bravo Platoon's position. The General then continued his trip to Chu Lai.

On 14 March, the battery received two of six 175mm Guns (SP) M107. The guns have been issued for training/tactical purposes. The receipt of the other four guns is expected sometime in April and the date for the turn in of the 155mm Guns (SP) M-53 has not been determined at this time.

The 175mm Guns were test fired on 23 March from Fire Support Base Elliot. A formal ceremony, signifying the first rounds fired in support of tactical operations was held on 24 March with Major General R. G. DAVIS, CG, 3d Marine Division and Brigadier General F. G. GARRETSO, CG, Task Force Hotel firing the pieces.

At the present time, the battery possesses three different calibers for a total of nine weapon systems. There are five 155mm Guns, two 175mm Guns, and two 8" Howitzer.

Rounds expended from Vandegrift Combat Base during March was 323 rounds for Alpha Platoon and 272 rounds for Bravo Platoon. So few rounds were fired from Vandegrift due to the deadlining of one 8" Howitzer and one 155mm Gun and one 8" Howitzer being Opcon to 1st 8" Howitzer battery for approximately 10 days and the displacement of one 155mm Gun to Charlie Platoon for approximately 15 days.

Charlie Platoon expended 2183 155mm Guns rounds during March. Delta platoon expended 143 rounds for training and actual targets.

Targets fired on by the battery were unobserved intelligence/artillery/rocket suppression fires and a number of observed targets.

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The Battery's personnel status is now C-3 with 78% of essential T/O ranks and MOS's on hand. Critical MOS shortages are: 2151, 3531 and 3516's. Equipment status has risen to C-3 for the greater part of March. At this time there continues to exist one T/E deficiency in 155 Gun, 2 are deadlined for tubes and hydraulic repair. One 8" Howitzer also experienced hydraulic system problems. Deadlines were due to tube changes, breech wear, hydraulic failure and the lack of qualified 2151's readily available to move effectively employ a continuing maintenance and repair schedule.

The Battery continues to support Regimental AO's and operation Maine Crag within the 3rd Marine Division AO.

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Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 7 March 1969 - Capt C. W. GIANNETTI reported into the battery and assumed the duties of the executive officer.
- 8 March 1969 - CG 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, John E. WILLIAMS visited the battery positions.
- 14 March 1969 - Received two 175mm Guns (SP) M107 as part of the initial change over from 155mm Guns to 175mm Guns.
- 23 March 1969 - Test fired the 175mm Guns.
- 24 March 1969 - Formal ceremony signifying the first rounds fired with the 175 Guns. Major General R. G. DAVIS, CG 3d Marine Division and Brigadier F. G. GARRETSON, CG Task Force Hotel were in attendance.

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