

HEADQUARTERS, 5TH MARINES
 1st Marine Division (Rein), Fleet Marine Force
 c/o Fleet Post Office
 San Francisco, California 96602

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 11 July 1968

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From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 Via: Commanding General, Task Force XRAY

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-30 June 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A w/ch 1
 (b) FMFPACO 5750.8
 (c) DivO 5750.2B w/ch 1

Encl: (1) Fifth Marines Command Chronology
 (2) Headquarters Co, Fifth Marines Command Chronology
 (3) First Battalion Fifth Marines Command Chronology
 (4) Second Battalion Fifth Marines Command Chronology
 (5) Third Battalion Fifth Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), (b) and (c), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted as the Command Chronology for the Fifth Marine Regiment for the period 1-30 June 1968.

Paul G. Graham
 PAUL G. GRAHAM

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 June to 30 June 1968

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5th Marine Regiment

Colonel P. G. GRAHAM

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company, 5th Marines 1stLt B. T. POLENTZ

1st Battalion, 5th Marines LtCol R. H. THOMPSON

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines LtCol H. C. CHATHAM JR.

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines LtCol D. N. RIXROAD

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. Location

Thua Thien Province, Phu Bai, RVN Regimental C.R.

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

LtCol G. C. McNAUGHTON

S-1

Capt B. J. MULHARIN

S-2

Capt P. A. DUFFY

S-3

Maj J. F. CODY

S-4

Maj S. K. MCKEE

S-5

1stLt D. L. NEWMAN

CommO

Maj E. R. PIERCE

MTO

1stLt D. G. WILKIE

SupplyO

1stLt R. L. CARLY

Regimental Chaplain

LtCdr R. P. BUCK CHC, USNR

Regimental Surgeon

Lt J. P. BROCK MC, USNR

Regimental Sergeant Major

SgtMaj E. CHASE

4. Average Monthly Strength

	USMC
OFF	ENL
106	3186

	USN
OFF	ENL
11	158

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(1) All Regimental operational activities during the Month of June were included in Operation HOUSTON (Phase III). (See PART IV Combat After Action Report for Operation HOUSTON III). Although these activities were effective in thwarting enemy attempts at interdicting Highway One, the absence of the 3rd Battalion, which was under the Operational Control of the 7th Marines for the entire month, greatly reduced the Regiment's ability to conduct far ranging operations into the outer limits of the Regimental Area of Operations where enemy activity has been consistently noticed. A general shortage of Officers, Staff NCO's and SGTs in operational field 03 also has had a diminishing effect on the operational efficiency of the command.

(2) At 1200 on 19 June 1968, the Fifth Marines assumed responsibility for the operation of a Joint Task Force X-Ray/Fifth Marines Combat Operations Center and Fire Support Coordination Center. As such the 5th Marines Combat Operations Center was relocated in the Task Force X-Ray Command Bunker.

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NAME: RVN

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel and Administration.

a. The command received an input of 16 officers and 386 enlisted personnel during the Month of June 1968.

b. A total of 3 officers and 185 enlisted personnel were medically evacuated out of RVN during the month.

c. The average chargeable strength for the Regiment was 105 Marine officer, 3051 Marine enlisted, 10 Naval officer and 158 Naval enlisted personnel.

CASUALTIES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

KIA	DOW	WIA	WILNE	NBCM	NBCNE	NBCK
39	1	196	50	42	2	0

MED-EVACS FROM RVN

USMC	USN
OFF 3	ENL 147
	OFF 0
	ENL 2

2. Intelligence

a. General. During the month of June, the S-2 Section continued collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence information in support of Operation HOUSTON. To further the understanding of intelligence, S-2 personnel are being transferred to battalions for additional duties in the field for a 30 day period.

(1) The continued liaison with intelligence collection agencies of GVN and the use of their indigenous operational personnel has produced valuable and current information concerning the organization and functioning of the enemy's clandestine logistic support apparatus throughout the Regimental AO.

(2) Continued planning with 1st Force Reconnaissance Company has permitted maximum reconnaissance and surveillance of suspected enemy areas within the mountainous and canopy sectors of the AO.

b. Cumulative enemy losses during the reporting period are as follows:

(1) 55 VC KIA/81 NVA KIA

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(2) 40 DETAINEES

- (a) NVA PW 3
- (b) VC PW 8
- (c) NVA RTNEE 0
- (d) VC RTNEE 5
- (e) CIV DEF 13
- (f) INN CIV 14

(3) WEAPONS CAPTURED

- (a) INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS 13
- (b) CREW SERVED WEAPONS 10

(4) CAG units in the 5th Marines AO received 13 Ralliers during the reporting period.

c. Significant Aspects of Enemy, Weather and Terrain

(1) Enemy

(a) The pattern of enemy movement in the AO during June was again primarily dictated by logistic considerations. A decrease was noted however in the size and movement of enemy rice resupply columns detected. This assessment is attributed to the enemy's forced redeployment of battalion size units from the coastal lowlands to the mountainous regions in the Southern sectors of the area of operation. This tactical withdrawal has prevented the enemy from regrouping his forces and extracting the rice crops from the lowlands.

(b) The enemy was reported as making an earnest effort under the circumstances to refit and replenish his forces. The enemy is credited with having an ample supply of weapons and ammunitions, although food and medical supply shortages are presenting a critical problem.

(c) The enemy has maintained his aggressive reaction to friendly reconnaissance patrols operating in the vicinity of his mountainous base areas. Marine reconnaissance patrols were forced to extract under intensive enemy pressure 14 times during June.

(d) Information derived from PW's and detainee sources tend to indicate that enemy morale is fair. According to these sources, the

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lack of food, living conditions and dissension between NVA and VC troops and especially friendly artillery fire and air strikes have had a telling effect on enemy morale.

(c) Additional information was derived from multiple sources concerning enemy fixed fortifications within the AO. These targets were subjected to artillery fires and tactical air strikes on a continual basis.

(2) Weather. Throughout the month the weather was clear to partly cloudy with occasional afternoon thunderstorms during the first two weeks. Good weather enhanced the use of air support throughout the AO.

(3) Terrain. Compilation of trail intelligence, helicopter landing zone data, bridge and river studies continues. This information was derived from both operating forces and photo intelligence.

d. Miscellaneous.

(1) An increasing number of high mode A/D readouts were recorded in the southwestern sector of the Regimontal AO.

(2) An increase was also noted in the amount of ordnance turned into friendly units by indigenous personnel during the reporting period.

3. Training.

a. During the period 1-30 June 1968, the following schools were attended by personnel of this Command.

(1)	Officers Leadership School	3
(2)	Staff NCO School	6
(3)	NCO School	6
(4)	Vietnamese Language School (Okinawa)	4
(5)	Vietnamese Language School (III MAF)	3
(6)	Embarc School (Okinawa)	6
(7)	Embarc School (III MAF)	4
(8)	Registered Publication School	1
(9)	Basic Infantry Weapons Repair	1
(10)	Movie Projectionist School	2
(11)	Career Advisory School	1
(12)	KY 28/38 Maintenance Training (Radio)	3
(13)	Disease Vector Control	5
(14)	PSYOP Orientation School	1
(15)	Division Scout Sniper School	4
(16)	Basic Organic Supply Accounting	4
(17)	Basic Ammo Tech School	2
	TOTAL	58

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b. The Regiment continued its indoctrination training for all newly assigned personnel.

4. Operations. During the month of June all operational activities of the Fifth Marines (-) were included in Operation HOUSTON (Phase III). See Part IV Combat After Action Report for Operation HOUSTON III. The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines participated in Operation ALLEN BROOK and MAMELUKE THRUST in the Danang AO. See enclosure (5).

5. Fire Support. Artillery, Air and Naval Gunfire support was as indicated in Part IV, Combat After Action Report for HOUSTON II.

6. Logistics.

a. Operation HOUSTON III continued throughout the month with no change to logistic procedures.

b. Mine laying by "B" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion around key bridges continued with completed or partially completed fields at bridges 4, 6, 7, 13 and 14. Engineers installed a water point at Troui River Bridge to provide potable water for Phu Loc area as the wells at the Rock Crusher were unable to supply sufficient water to meet requirements.

c. A laundry unit was installed at Thua Luu Bridge by Utilities Platoon, FLSG-ALPHA to support the 2nd Battalion and other units in that area.

d. In a letter received on 28 June 1968, the Division G-4 directed 5th Marines to return the seven .50 cal. machine guns on temporary loan from 11th Motor Transport Battalion.

e. Extensive bulldozer work preparing a large defensive position in the vicinity of Lang Co Bridge was performed by "B" Co, Ninth Engineers. Their EIMCC tractor was the only machine capable of doing the job.

f. Replacement troops and equipment for the 3rd Battalion were flown or trucked to the Danang AO almost daily. Truck runs were also made periodically to effect pick-up of med-evacuated weapons and equipment. The 3rd Battalion Rear remains at Phu Bai.

g. To facilitate resupply for U. S. Army twin 40mm AAA vehicles in support of the 2nd Bn, FLSG-ALPHA arranged to stock 40mm ammo at the Cao Doi LSA.

7. Communications. There was no change to the previously established communications in the 5th Marines Area of Operations. The significant event of this period was the displacement on 21 June 1968 of Command and Control Communications from the 5th Marines COC bunker to that previously occupied and operated by Task Force XRAY to establish a combined COC/FSCC.

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a. During the Month of June a total of 173 patients were treated at the Regimental Aid Station of which 134 were referrals from battalions or other units located at Phu Bai. A total of 459 inoculations were administered during the month.

b. On 7 June representatives from the Division surgeon's office conducted an administrative inspection of the Regimental Aid Station with satisfactory results.

c. On 25 and 26 June the regimental surgeon attended the preventive medical school at Division Headquarters.

9. Dental. Dental coverage for the 5th Marine Regiment continued to be accomplished in a satisfactory manner by the 1st Dental Company.

10. Civil Affairs.

a. In continuing assistance rendered to the widow of a popular Force soldier decorated with the U. S. Silver Star Award, the Fifth Marines delivered 400 pounds of cement and one truck load of sand to be used in the construction of her home.

b. Transportation was provided to transfer 40,000 pounds of rice from Hue City to Phu Loc District Headquarters. The rice was distributed to refugees in Phu Loc District. Assistance was given the refugees of Ban Tho Ha Hamlet which was destroyed by artillery and air strikes during the engagement of 29 May 1968. 2000 pounds of rice, bulger wheat, rolled oats and cornmeal plus 114 pounds of soap, 20 pounds of clothing and 68 blankets were delivered to the hamlet and a joint Med Cap/Dent Cap was held.

11. Psychological Operations.

a. During the Month of June 1968, numerous leaflet drops and broadcasts were used in support of operations. In addition, the armed propaganda team and ground broadcast team was used extensively.

b. 200 Chieu Hoi Balls and 200 Health and Sanitation leaflets were distributed.

12. Chaplain. The Regimental Chaplain continued to provide coverage of combined action platoons as well as the Regimental units participating in Operation HOUSTON.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Combat After Action Report for Operation HOUSTON III. *Priority*

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