

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

3/ODS/sjt
005750
4 Dec 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-30 November 1968

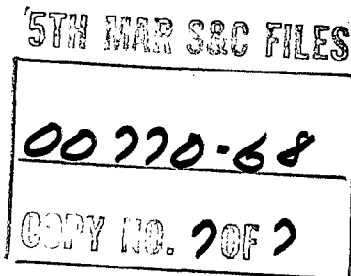
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMF PacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: ✓(1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c),
Enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

R. F. Daley
R. F. DALEY
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DR 5200.10



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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 November 1968 to 30 November 1968

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(1)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein)

Lt. Col. R. F. DALEY
1-30 November 1968

H&S Company

1st Lt. S. A. NELSON
1-30 November 1968

Company A

Capt. G. C. CODY
1-9 November 1968
1st Lt. R. E. PRUIETT
10-30 November 1968

Company B

Capt. G. C. LAWTY
1-30 November 1968

Company C

Capt. J. P. CAYNAK
1-3 November 1968
2nd Lt. D. R. ARCHAMBAULT
4-7 November 1968
Capt. R. J. WILSON
8-30 November 1968

Company D

Capt. G. N. ADAMS
1-2 November 1968
2nd Lt. J. N. BYERS
3-30 November 19682. Locations

1-30 November 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continued to participate in Operation "HENDERSON HILL" in the eastern part of Duc Duc and the Duy Xuyen Districts in the Quang Nam Province of RVN.

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Maj. E. E. GERDING
1-30 November 1968

S-1 Officer/Adjutant

1st Lt. T. E. HOWARD
1-30 November 1968

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S-2 Officer

1st Lt. M. O. V. GREEN
1-30 November 1968

S-3 Officer

Maj. M. L. BRANDTNER
1-30 November 1968

S-4 Officer

1st Lt. R. L. LOWDER
1-26 November 1968
1st Lt. T. J. ANDERSON
27-30 November 1968

S-5 Officer

1st Lt. M. O. V. GREEN
1-30 November 1968

Medical Officer

Lt. C. E. CREACH (USN)
1-30 November 1968

Supply Officer

2nd Lt. E. R. MIDGETT
1-30 November 1968

Motor Transport Officer

2nd Lt. R. M. MCDOWELL
1-30 November 1968

Assistant Adj/Legal Officer

1st Lt. R. N. WARR
1-30 November 1968

Chaplain

Lt. M. H. ROBERTS (USN)
1-30 November 1968

Air Liaison Officer

Capt. E. KUNN
1-5 November 1968
Capt. J. E. STOLL
6-30 November 19684. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHUSMCUSNOFFICERSENLISTEDOFFICERSENLISTED

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1st Battalion, 5th Marines participated in Operation "HENDERSON HILL" 1 November through 30 November 1968 and continues into the month of December. The operation was conducted in the eastern part of Duc Duc and Duy Xuyen Districts of the Quang Nam Province in RVN.

The Battalion conducted aggressive offensive operations to seek and destroy or capture enemy forces, weapons, material, and positions; secured and protected routes of ingress and egress for movement of friendly logistical support and supported and protected US and RVN installations and convoys. All the missions during this period were accomplished.

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSA. TOPICS1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Strength. The Battalion's strength at the beginning of the month was 29 officers and 1157 enlisted. On 15 November, the strength had changed to 28 officers and 1118 enlisted. By the end of November, the strength was 25 officers and 1118 enlisted. At this time, there are no officers and 66 enlisted hospitalized. Joinings during the month were 3 officers and 141 enlisted.

b. Discipline, Law and Legal. 4 Summary Courts-Martial and 3 Special Courts-Martial were convened during November. There is one Summary Court-Martial and 9 Special Courts-Martial still to be processed. During November, 7 informal investigations and 2 CID investigations were completed. There are 2 informal investigations and 1 CID investigation pending.

c. POW/Detainees. There were 20 detainees processed during the month.

d. Morale. Morale and fighting spirit continued to be excellent. Personnel who captured POW's received incountry R&R.

e. Postal. Postal service continued at the same degree of excellence.

f. Awards. During November, there were numerous Navy Commendation and Navy Achievement Medals forwarded to members of this Command. Also during the month, there were 63 Navy Achievement, 8 Navy Commendation, 17 Bronze Star, 1 Silver Star and 1 Navy Cross Medals submitted for heroism and meritorious service.

g. Interior Management. Administrative procedures and proficiency continued to be excellent.

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2. ENEMY, WEATHER AND TERRAIN

a. Enemy. The enemy continued to utilize mine and booby traps in quantity, with emphasis being placed along the road in the vicinity of the Marine Outpost. The M-26 grenade is the most frequently trap set, utilizing trip wires and sometimes rigged to set off other ordnance such as 105mm and 155mm duds. The enemy continued his sniping and probing actions to attempt to disrupt our efforts to keep the MSR open. On three occasions, the enemy attacked with company sized strength. In each of these attacks, the enemy was defeated.

b. Weather. During this period, the weather was warm to hot during the daylight hours and mild to cool at night. Air operations were not affected during this period by weather conditions.

c. Terrain. No change.

3. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

a. Organization. The organization of the Battalion remained substantially the same throughout the month of November, except during the following periods: During the period of 1-3 November, Company B was under the operational control of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. During the period of 5-8 November, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was under the operational control of the 1st Battalion. During the period of 18-30 November, Company B was under the operational control of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. During the period of 21-22 November, one company of RVN Regional Forces was under the operational control of the 1st Battalion.

b. Operations. The Battalion continued to participate in Operation "HENDERSON HILL" (Search and Destroy Operation) in the eastern part of Duc Duc District and the Duy Xuyen District in the Quang Nam Province of RVN. The Operation continues into the month of December.

During the period of 21 and 22 November, one company of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and one company of RVN Regional Forces conducted a cordon and search operation in the eastern part of Duc Duc District with excellent results.

c. Supporting Arms

(1) Air. Excellent support was given by 1st MAF in providing fixed wing and helicopter support. During this period, 83 fixed wing missions were flown by Marine TACA/AO Teams, several USAF and VNAF flights also rendered close and direct support. Additionally, 9 flights of A-6

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Radar Beacon strikes were flown under FAC control. Night support consisted of 16 "Spooky" gunships and 6 flareships. Rotary wing support, besides normal resupply, troop lifts and VR missions, consisted of 53 Med-Evacs and 3 flights of "Huey Gunships" used for close air support.

(2) Artillery. During the period 1 November through 30 November, Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Batteries in a reinforcing status for this period included: one 155mm Howitzer battery; one 4.2" mortar battery, and one 8" Howitzer platoon, all of which were under the operational control of 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.

A total of 434 missions were fired by Delta Battery, 363 of which were contact missions in direct support of units of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and 71 of which were S-2 missions. Approximately 40 H&I fires were delivered daily on enemy targets.

(3) Engineers. Engineer support was provided by Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion. Engineers were employed principally to destroy duds, booby traps, captured enemy ammunition, enemy bunkers/fortifications and to conduct daily mine sweeps of the road networks in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines AO.

(4) Shore Party (HST). HST's were provided by Company B, 1st Shore Party Battalion. These teams provided satisfactory support in coordinating and effecting helicopter resupply and Med-Evacs.

(5) Amtrac. A light section of the 4th Platoon, Company A, 3rd Amtrac Battalion was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. The LVT's provided satisfactory support in transporting troops.

(6) Tanks. A light section of the 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Tank Battalion was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Excellent results were achieved by using tanks to support infantry assaults.

4. TRAINING

a. The following training was conducted during the month:

- (1) Weapons Safety
- (2) Weapons Inspection, Care and Cleaning
- (3) LAAW (M-72) - Claymore Mine
- (4) PRC 25 Radio
- (5) M-16 Rifle
- (6) Grenade Launcher (M-79)
- (7) Hand grenades

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- (8) Vehicle Safety & Drivers Maintenance of the M274A2 (Mile)
- (9) Message Drafting

b. All companies during this period on bridge defense fan fired crew served weapons, individual weapons, claymore mines, LAAW (M72), and M79 grenade launcher.

c. Replacement personnel received four (4) days training at 5th Marines Headquarters prior to being committed to the field.

d. The Battalion continued to utilize schools provided by higher headquarters. During the month, 26 members of the Battalion attended schools in the DaNang area and Okinawa.

5. LOGISTICS. No serious problems occurred during this period to impair the logistical support of the Battalion.

6. CIVIL AFFAIRS. During this reporting period, the Battalion continued to work with the people of Phu Da II in the Duc Duc District. To assist the people in reconstructing and waterproofing their homes, the following material was provided to the people of Phu Da II: 126 sheets of plastic; 199 sheets of plywood (4x8); 39 sheets of roofing tin; 37 ammunition boxes; 4 masonry kits and 4 carpenter kits.

To assist the people in some of their basic needs, the following items were delivered to Phu Da II: 12 trailer loads of scrap lumber, to be used for firewood; 10 blankets to needy families; 18 garden kits; 2 resettlement kits; 3 lbs of watermelon seeds; 1 lb of onion seeds; 1 lb of bean seeds; 120 school kits to two schools; 4 sewing kits; one sewing machine; 69 packs of "roll your own" tobacco to the village elders and 75 stuffed animals and 15 lbs of candy for the children.

The attitude of the people of Phu Da II towards this Battalion continues to be excellent.

7. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS. The primary Psychological Operations during this period was conducted on a Regimental level by the 5th Marines.

The following items were turned in by the village people: 25 Bouncing Betty type mines; 10 ChiCom grenades; 6 sticks of dynamite ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb each); 1 M-33 grenade; 2 AK-47 magazines (full); 3 detonator caps; 1 gas mask; 1 first aid packet and 1 cartridge belt.

A total of 20,200 \$VN was paid from the VIP Fund. In some instances, the people did not want to be paid for items turned in.

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8. COMMUNICATIONS. During the month of November, tactical radio nets operated satisfactorily and without significant interference or down time. Existing facilities were expanded particularly in the forward CP where wire was installed for the perimeter defense.

A 60 WPM HDUX teletype circuit was installed between the forward CP and the Battalion rear at An Hoa. The circuit was marginally satisfactory due to power problems and a back up gear shortage, but the circuit proved valuable for training communication personnel.

At the Battalion rear, the wire system was completely revised to significantly reduce circuit outage time. In addition, several classes were held for all Battalion personnel to emphasize voice radio security, procedure, and radio operation and maintenance, and teletype message writing.

9. SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES INFLICTED OR SUSTAINED; VC/NVA CAPTURED:

a. Friendly Casualties

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
KIA	14	0
WIAE	91	2
WIANE	18	1
DOW	1	0
NBC	12	0

b. Enemy Casualties:

KIA	71 NVA, 26 VC
POW	2 NVA, 2 VC
Detainees	20

10. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY ORDNANCE CAPTURED DURING THE MONTH:

10 AK-47 Rifles	2 .45 Cal. Pistols
1 SKS Rifle	1 Flare Gun
2 M-16 Rifles	1 Homemade Mortar Tube

11. SIGNIFICANT MUNITIONS CAPTURED/FOUND AND DESTROYED DURING THE MONTH:

38 ChiCom Grenades	4 B-40 Rounds
2 M-26 Grenades	1 LAAW (M-72)
1 M-33 Grenade	648 S/A Rounds

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12. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY EQUIPMENT/FOOD STORES CAPTURED DURING THE MONTH:

Rice: 107 Tons

13. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY CAVES, TUNNELS, BUILDINGS AND FORTIFICATIONS DESTROYED DURING THE MONTH: Numerous individual fighting positions; small bunkers (2-5 men size) and small trench lines were destroyed whenever the tactical situation permitted.

B. ENTRIES: See Tab "A" to enclosure (1) (Staff Journal for period of 010001H through 302400H November 1968).

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ Tab "A" Staff Journal for period of 010001H through 302400H November 1968.

✓ Tab "B" Combat After Action Report (Operation Homecoming Thrust) - 29 July - 23 Oct 1968

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[REDACTED]

JOURNAL FORM

HENDERSON HILL

UNIT OR SECTION

S-3, 1st Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div

PLACE

An Hoa, RVN

FROM

010001H

TO

012400H Nov 68

[illegible]

TAB A to ENCLOSURE (1)



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JOURNAL FORM

UNIT OR SECTION

S-3, 1st Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div

PLACE

HENDERSON HILL

An Hoa, RVN

FROM

TO

120001H

122400H Nov 1968

[illegible]

Q

[illegible]

JOURNAL FORM			UNIT OR SECTION		
HENDERSON HIDL			S-3, 1st Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div		
			PLACE		
			An Hoa, RVN		
			FROM TO		
			170001H 172400H Nov 68		
TIME		SER NR	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN
IN	OUT				
0201		1	1702010	Co B (CP) at (AT 925538) received 2 rds 105mmHE from friendly artillery battery located at Hill 55. Results: 1 USMC KIA and 8 USMC WIAE.	S-F
0313		2	170313	Co C (CP) at (AT 910512) received 100 rds S/A from enemy at (AT 909513). Fired 8x81mmHE and 200x5.56. While searching area, observed 15 enemy at (AT 909515). Fired 100x105mmHE; 20x 60mmHE; 15xM-79; 200x5.56 and 300x 7.62. Enemy fled north. Results: 2 USMC KIA; 3 USMC WIAE; 5 NVA KIA; 1 AK-47 rifle ser. 10081362; 8 AK-47 magazines; 9 ChiCom grenades; 2 M-26 grenades; 1 M-33 grenade; 2 NVA cartridge belts; 2 NVA uniforms; 1 NVA mess kit; 1 NVA canteen and 2 first aid kits; 1 wallet and 2 hammocks captured.	S-F
0330		3	170330	Co D Plat (AMB) at (AT 949506) received 4x B-40 rockets from enemy at (AT 949507). Fired 20xM-79; 31x81mmHE and 300x7.62. While searching contact area, found enemy rice cache at (AT 949509). Results: 2 USMC WIAE and 2000 lbs rice captured.	
1505		4	171505	Co A (S&D) at (AT 941515) found 1 Vietnamese female approx 18 years old. Surroundings revealed bloody clothing and bandages which indicated that woman may be enemy nurse. Female sent to rear for interrogation. Results: 1 detainee captured.	S-F
2100		5	172100	Co A Squad (AMB) at (AT 945524) received 50 rds S/A from enemy at (AT 947526). Fired 150x5.56; 10xM-79 and 13x81mmHE. Results: 1 USMC WIAE and 1 VC KIA.	S-F

JOURNAL FORM			UNIT OR SECTION		
HENDERSON HILL			S-3, 1st Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div		
			PLACE		
			An Hoa, RVN		
			FROM	TO	
			180001H	182400H Nov 68	
TIME		SER	DATE	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
IN	OUT	NR	TIME GROUP		TAKEN
1100		1	181100	Co A Plat (S&D) at (AT 933519) had 1 USMC WIA by booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Results: 1 USMC WIAE.	S-F
1200		2	181200	Co B OpCon to 3rd Bn, 5th Mar	S-F-T
1500		3	181500	Co C (S&D) at (AT 901508) found enemy equipment in foxhole. As unit searched area had 1 USMC WIA by enemy sniper from (AT 902508). Fired 30x5.56 and 3x M-79. Results: 1 USMC WIAE; 1 AK-47 rifle ser.# 10065008; 6 AK-47 magazines; 1 ChiCom grenade and assorted medical items captured. Sniper fled through treeline.	S-F
1800		4	181800	Co D (S&D) at (AT 926505) had 1 USMC WIA by booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Results: 1 USMC WIAE.	S-F

JOURNAL FORM		UNIT OR SECTION	
HENDERSON HILL		S-3, 1st Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div	
		PLACE	
		An Hoa, RVN	
		FROM	TO
		190001H	192400H Nov 68
TIME	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESS.GES, ORDERS
IN	OUT	NR	GROUP
0350		1	190350
			Co C (CP) at (AT 910516) detected 15 enemy moving north. Fired 3 Claymore mines; 350x5.56; 1000x7.62; 20x60mmHE; 30x81mmHE; 90x105mmHE and Spooky gunships. Results: 1 USMC KIA; 6 USMC WIAE; 8 NVA KIA; 5 AK-47 rifles; 1 38 cal. pistol w/holster; 10 ChiCom grenades; various maps and documents; 10 AK-47 magazines; 2 cartridge belts; 5 ponchos; 1 hammock and medical items captured.
0630		2	190630
			Co D Plat (AMB) at (AT 926503) had 1 USMC WIA by booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Results: 1 USMC WIAE.
1045		3	191045
			H&S Co (CP) at (AT 925527) had 1 USMC NBC by accidental discharge of .45 cal pistol. Results: 1 USMC NBC.
1315		4	191315
			Co C Plat (S&D) at (AT 902508) had 1 USMC WIA by booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Results: 1 USMC WIAE.
1330		5	191330
			Co C Squad (OP) at (AT 927523) had 1 USMC WIA by booby trapped concussion grenade with trip wire. Results: 1 USMC WIAE.

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/MLB/sjt
003480.1A
31 October 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines.

Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation Mameluke Thrust)

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A
(b) 5th Marines Frag Order 72-68
(c) 5th Marines Frag Order 73-68
(d) 5th Marines Frag Order 76-68
(e) 5th Marines Frag Order 77-68
(f) 5th Marines Frag Order 85-68
(g) 5th Marines Frag Order 89-68
(h) 5th Marines Frag Order 90-68
(i) 5th Marines Frag Order 91-68
(j) 5th Marines Frag Order 92-68
(k) 5th Marines Frag Order 93-68
(l) 5th Marines Frag Order 94-68
(m) 5th Marines Frag Order 95-68
(n) 5th Marines Operation Order 301A-68
(o) 5th Marines Frag Order 96-68
(p) 5th Marines Frag Order 97-68
(q) 5th Marines Frag Order 98-68
(r) 5th Marines Frag Order 99-68

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1. Name or Identity and/or Type Operation. Operation "MAMELUKE THRUST" (Search and Destroy).
2. Dates of Operation. From 291300H July 1968 to 231200H October 1968.
3. Location. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines participated in Operation "OPERATION MAMELUKE THRUST" in the central and southern parts of Dai Loc; central and northern parts of Duc Duc and northwestern part of Duy Xuyen Districts in the Quang Nam Province.

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TAB B

4. Control or Command Headquarters

5th Mar (-) (Rein) 1st Mar Div (Rein) Colonel P. G. GRAHAM
29 July - 13 Oct 1968
Colonel J. B. ORD
14 Oct - 23 Oct 1968

5. Reporting Officer

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) Lt. Col. R. F. DALEY

6. Task Organization

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) Lt. Col. R. H. THOMPSON
29 July - 4 Aug 1968

Maj. L. A. UNDERLICH

5 Aug 1968

Lt. Col. R. F. DALEY

6 Aug - 23 Oct 1968

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rear)

Maj. L. A. UNDERLICH

H&S Company (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

29 July - 8 Sept 1968

Company A (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Maj. E. E. GORDING

Company B (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

9 Sept - 23 Oct 1968

Company C (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Company D (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

H&S Company (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

1st Lt. R. W. WARR

81mm Mortar Plat (-)

29 July - 18 Oct 1968

Comm Plat (-)

1st Lt. D. V. SHERIN

106mm RE Plat

19 - 23 Oct 1968

Flame Section

TACP

Det, Med Plat

S-2 Scout

Kit Carson Tm

Company A (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

1st Lt. S. A. NELSON

Det, H&S Company

29 July - 22 Sept 1968

Det, 81mm Mortar Plat

Capt. R. L. CODY

Det, Med Plat

23 Sept - 23 Oct 1968

Det, Comm Plat

S-2 Scout

Kit Carson Tm

SECRET

Company B (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Det, H&S Company

Det, 81mm Mortar Plat

Det, Med Plat

FAC Tm

S-2 Scout

Kit Carson Tm

1st Lt. J. S. PIPKIN

29 July - 8 Aug 1968

Capt G. C. LAMTY

9 Aug - 23 Oct 1968

Company C (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Det, H&S Company

Det, 81mm Mortar Plat

Det, Med Plat

FAC Tm

S-2 Scout

Kit Carson Tm

Capt, J. P. CAYNAK

Company D (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Det, H&S Company

Det, 81mm Mortar Plat

Det, Med Plat

FAC Tm

S-2 Scout

Kit Carson

Capt H. L. BRANDTNER

29 Jul - 18 Sept 1968

Capt. C. N. ADAMS

19 Sept - 23 Oct 1968

The following units were OPCON to the Battalion during Operation "MAMELUKE THRUST".

(1) Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines from 231400H September 1968 through 231200H October 1968.

(2) Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines from 251000H September 1968 through 231200H October 1968.

Units from the Battalion were OPCON to the following organizations during Operation "MAMELUKE THRUST".

(1) Company A, OPCON to 5th Marines from 090300H through 121300H September 1968.

(2) Company D, OPCON to 5th Marines from 211400H September 1968 through 131500H October 1968.

(3) Company A, OPCON to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines from 010615H through 191800H October 1968.

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7. Supporting Arms

a. Air. Outstanding support was given by 1st MAW in providing fixed wing and helicopter support. During this period, 276 missions were flown by Marine TACA/AO Teams for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, controlling 419 flights of fixed wing and providing valuable aerial observation and individual close support actions in support of the Battalion's mission of search and destroy, patrolling, rice and road security and special operations. Other missions flown included: 258 Med Evac missions, 26 flareships, 19 Spooky's, 9 flights of UH-1E Gunships and 18 visual reconnaissance missions.

b. Artillery

(1) Commencing with Operation "MAMELUKE THRUST", Foxtrot Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines; with Echo Battery and Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines in a reinforcing status. The operating status (Direct, General Support) varied within the time interval of this report. A platoon of 155mm guns, 1st Gun Battery, 11th Marines, a battery of 155mm Howitzer, and a platoon of 8" howitzers also provided support.

(a) Foxtrot Battery fired approximately 400 missions in support of the maneuvering elements.

(b) Delta Battery fired a total of 275 missions in support of the maneuvering elements.

(c) Echo Battery fired a total of 45 missions for the support of the maneuvering elements.

(2) Artillery support for the three month period was primarily observed missions, blocking fires and unobserved missions such as S-2 targets and harrassing and interdiction fires.

(3) An average of 45 H&I fires were delivered daily on enemy targets.

c. Engineers. Engineer support was provided by Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion. Engineers were employed principally to destroy duds, booby traps, captured enemy ammunition, enemy bunkers/fortifications and to conduct daily mine sweeps of the road networks in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines AO.

d. Shore Party (HST). HST's were provided by Company B, 1st Shore Party Battalion. These attachments provided satisfactory support in coordinating and effecting helicopter resupply and Med-Evacs.

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e. Amtrac. A light section of the 4th Platoon, Company A, 3rd Amtrac Battalion was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during 23 Sept to 23 October 1968. The LVT's provided considerable support in transporting supplies and troops, and were used as night-time unit command posts.

f. Tanks. A light section of the 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Tank Battalion was employed in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during 23 September to 23 October 1968. Although the movement of the tanks was restricted to the road, they were able to move to prescribed objectives. Excellent results were achieved by using tanks to support infantry assaults.

g. Scout Snipers. Detachment Scout Sniper Platoon, Headquarters Company, 5th Marines provided outstanding sniper fire for the Battalion which resulted in 13 enemy kills during the operation.

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8. Intelligence

a. Estimate of NVA/VC strength, location and disposition in the objective area

(1) See Annex B (Intelligence) to Hq 5th Mar Operation Order 301A-68 (S).

b. Enemy strength and disposition actually determined during operation:

Arizona Sector. Based on information derived from POW, enemy documents recovered, and the nature of enemy contacts encountered, the enemy strength was estimated to be elements of 1 NVA regiment with separate Main Force and Local Force NVA/VC units deployed or moving within and around the Battalion TAOR.

An Hoa/Liberty Bridge Sector. Since the deployment on 23Sep68, based on enemy contacts and intelligence received from higher headquarters, enemy strength is estimated at two battalions with local force VC units deployed within the Battalion TAOR.

c. NVA/VC Units Identified

Interrogation of enemy POW/CHIEU HOI/DETAINÉES revealed the following enemy units identified:

- (1) Capitol Ranger Company (Separate Unit)
- (2) 1st Battalion, 36th Regiment, 308 NVA Division
- (3) 16th Company, 141st Regiment, 312 NVA Division
- (4) Elements of 21st NVA Regiment, 2nd NVA Division

d. Significant Intelligence Gained

Arizona TAOR. The nature of contacts and intelligence received through Detainees/POW/documents indicated that the entire Arizona TAOR is utilized by NVA/VC forces as:

- (1) A major route of approach toward Da Nang and An Hoa
- (2) A major food storage area and market for resupplying units in Base area 112/115 and Charlie Ridge, plus local forces operating within the Regimental TAOR. The local populace is utilized as a labor force for construction and maintenance of fortifications and as rice bearer and medical clearing operations. Since there is no GVN control

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in the area the VC/NVA maintain control over the populace except when a major force is deployed within the Arizona area.

Enemy Tactics. Due to the terrain, the enemy employed sniping/ delaying action with a major attack only to delay forces until his location and headquarters, material, and key personnel could be withdrawn.

An Hoa/Liberty Bridge TAOR. Through intelligence gained, the number of mine/booby traps employed against friendly forces, and firing at friendly aircraft indicate that the VC hamlet/guerrilla is still active and is contesting control over a large segment of the populace.

Enemy Tactics. Mine/Booby traps, firing at aircraft, and small probing actions are utilized by enemy forces in their sector to disrupt efforts to keep roads open and maintain some degree of control over the populace.

e. Terrain. See Annex (B) Intelligence to Operation Order 30LA-68 paragraph D.

f. Weather. During the operation, the weather was warm to hot during the daylight hours and mild to cool at night. During 14 Oct to 19 Oct, a tropical storm hampered movement and operations had to cease, because of air unable to resupply and high water hampered movement.

9. Mission. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted in assigned AO's aggressive offensive operations to seek and destroy or capture enemy forces, weapons, material and positions. Secure and protect routes of ingress and egress for movement of friendly logistical support; support and protect US and RVN installations, units and convoys.

10. Concept. During the period 29 July through 23 September 1968, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted Search and Destroy operations with four companies, each being assigned an AO within the Battalion AO, to search for and destroy enemy forces, equipment and material.

During the period 24 September through 23 October 1968, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines with one company and Battalion Command Group established a holding position at Liberty Bridge ferry landings to protect that installation and provide security for daily mine sweep operations to clear Liberty Road from An Hoa Combat Base to Liberty Bridge. One company to keep Liberty Road open and to protect friendly convoys by constant surveillance and interdiction of enemy threat to the road by daily OP's and night ambushes and patrols along the axis of the road. Two companies conducted aggressive offensive operations in the An Hoa area to destroy enemy forces, and were prepared to provide reaction forces to assist the An Hoa Combat Base and local US and RVN installations and units, and were prepared to deploy to any portion of the Regimental AO to conduct offensive operations.

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11. Execution

D-Day 29 July 1968.

291300H - 5th Marines Frag Order 72-68 received.
See reference (b).

291330H - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 90-68 promulgated.

291500H - Assumed OPCOM of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and H&S Company(-), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.

291620H - Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines platoon at (AT 852503) landed in LZ ONE at same coord. Observed several NVA at (AT 854502) wearing utility jackets, black shorts, and packs, firing at choppers in LZ. Fired 50x5.56mm; 12M-79. Results: 3 NVA KIA; and 1 AK-47; 2 Chi-Com Grenades; 2 packs captured.

291800H - Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines at (AT 854507) captured approximately 15 bunkers. 1 bunker contained NVA pack, bank book, poncho, stamps, and documents. All destroyed except documents.

D+1 30 July 1968.

300715H - Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines platoon at (AT 842947) received approximately 10 rounds small arms from enemy snipers at (AT 835498). Fired 60x5.56mm; 75x7.62mm. Searched area with negative results. Results: 1 USMC KIA.

300800H - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 91-68 promulgated.

300940H - Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines platoon at (AT 832943) received 7 rounds small arms fire from 1 VC at (AT 826948). Fired 40x5.56; 19x105mm HE; 1x105mm WP. Searched area with negative results. Results: 1 USMC KIA.

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