

HEADQUARTERS  
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
San Francisco, California 96602

3/LCG/dan  
5750  
3 May 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 010001H to 302400H April 1968.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMF PacO 5750.B  
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) Command Chronology Report  
(2) After Action Report for Operation Houston, Phase I

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), the Command Chronology for the month of April 1968 is hereby submitted.

5TH MAR S&amp;C FILES

00310-68  
COPY NO. 5 OF 8

*R. C. Wise*  
R. C. WISE  
By direction

3/5 SAC  
0096-68

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 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines  
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Command Chronology  
 010001H to 302400H April 1968

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Part I - Organizational Data  
 Part II - Narrative Data  
 Part III - Sequential Listings of Significant Events

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ENCLOSURE (1)

Apr 1968

PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation Commander Period Covered  
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Lt Col D. N. REXROAD

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co Capt R.J. MARNELL to 14 Apr 68  
1stLt B.P. BARRON From 15 Apr 68

Co I Capt H. KOLAKOWSKI Jr

Co K 1stLt F. W. SMITH

Co L Capt J. D. NIOTIS

Co M Capt F. D. PACELLO

2. Location. Thau Thien Province, RVN.

3. Staff Officers

XO Major R. C. WISE

S-1 WO J. S. BISESI

S-2 WO J. W. BEVIER

S-3 Capt G. W. BOWERS

S-4 1stLt G. C. BACON

S-5 2ndLt W. H. DODSON

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
31	1061	2	58

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PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The Battalion's shortages are two 0302 Captains, eight 0302 Lts, one 0202 Captain, one 0130 Lt, one 0402 Captain, one 2502 Captain, one 3502 Lt, and one 2100 Lt, USN. There is a need for one 0369 GySgt, ten 0369 SSgt, and 61, 03 Sgts. The major shortage exists in platoon leadership billets in the 03 field. This shortage is made more evident by the fact that the Battalion has only 66% of its M/L strength in staff NCO's 0369, and only 33% of M/L strength in 03 Sgts.
2. Battalion intelligence efforts were primarily directed toward enemy activity in the Battalion's TAOR in the vicinity of Hai Van Pass. During the month the enemy moved in small groups, with emphasis on harrassing sniper fire, and ambushes. The number of mines and booby traps encountered decreased considerably in the present TAOR.
3. The Battalion continued phase I of Operation HOUSTON throughout the month. Intensive patrolling of Highway #1 and the surrounding area continued along with bridge security.
4. The Battalion held no indoctrination school of it's own. All New Personnel attended a Regimental Indoctrination school. Special schools were conducted by the Battalion during the month encompassing communications field expadients, and instruction in the use of the An/PPS-6 radar set.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) The Battalion began the month of April with an on board strength of 34 Marine Officers, 1073 Marine Enlisted, 2 Navy Officers, and 57 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 30 Marine Officers, 1051 Marine Enlisted, 2 Navy Officers, and 59 Navy Enlisted.

(2) The current effective strength of the Battalion is 25 Marine Officers, and 942 Marine Enlisted, less Company M which is OPCON to the 1st Bn, 5th Marines.

(3) Twenty-eight Marine Enlisted plus 1 Marine Officer are scheduled for rotation during May 1968 as shown below.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
0141	2
0311	11
0331	1
0341	2
0351	2
0369	1
2531	5
2542	1
3051	1
3513	1
3537	1
0302	1 Lt

(4) Critical MOS shortages are shown below:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>ML</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>SHORTAGES</u>
0302	33	23	2 Capt, 8 Lt
0202	1	0	1 Capt
0402	1	0	1 Capt
0130	2	1	1 Lt
3502	1	0	1 Lt
0141	20	13	1 Cpl, 5 L/Cpl, 1 PFC
0331	110	89	7 Sgt, 11 Cpl
0369	34	24	10 SSgt
0141	2	1	1 Cysgt
2549	1	0	1 SSgt
2591	1	0	1 MGSgt
2867	1	0	1 SSgt
3041	8	4	1 Sgt, 1 Cpl, 2 PFC

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(5) Casualties

KIA	1
DOW	2
WIAE	12
WIANE	3
NON HOSTILE	12
MIA	0
DAI	1

b. Intelligence(1) Personnel

(a) During the month of April the Battalion Intelligence Section lost one Intelligence Chief, SSgt. 0239, one Chief Scout, Sgt. 0311, one Battalion, Cpl 0311 and joined three Scout Trainees, one Cpl 0311 and two L/Cpl's both 0311's.

(b) The two Scout Dog Teams assigned to this Battalion have been dropped due to the difficult terrain in the Battalion AO. The ITT Team attached to this Battalion has been withdrawn. The Battalion's remaining attachments include four Scout/Sniper Teams and one IT Sgt. (0251). The Battalion has utilized the services of an Armed Propaganda Team, which has been excellent and it is intended that this Battalion make further use of their services in the future.

(2) Collection. The main collection efforts for Operation Houston during the month of April 1968 were as follows;

- (a) Map Corrections
- (b) Trails and water points
- (c) Enemy Order of Battle
- (d) Enemy infrastructure

(3) Reporting. The Battalion S-2 Section conducted at least two Commander's and Staff intelligence briefings during April 1968.

(4) Enemy Activity.

(a) Synopsis X. The enemy activity in the Battalion AO for the month of April has been little to none. The enemy has moved only in small units and cells and has avoided contact with the Allied Forces in the Battalion's AO.

2. In the northern sector of our AO the enemy is reported to have two platoons of mixed NVA/VC troops. Combined with this unit are local force guerrillas giving the enemy the capability of fielding a company-sized force. Only elements of this force have been sighted which would tend to negate the threat of this unit combining together to act as a single unit.

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3. The enemy has used the M-16 mine extensively throughout the Hai Van Pass area. The search of these areas have led to the discovery of wires leading away from the place of emplacement to a point several hundred meters away. Due to these finding it is believed that these mines are command detonated. The enemy has also used the M-26 grenade to a great extent for booby traps.

4. Normally the enemy comes out of the mountains at night to collect rice and information and moves back to the protection of the daylight hours.

5. The enemy tries to keep his units as mobile as he can. He has no fixed Base Camps in the Battalion AO but instead is on the move constantly trying to avoid the Allied Forces operating in the area.

(b) Capabilities: 1 Continued harrassing actions to include;

- a Sniping
- b Small scale attacks and ambushes
- c Use of mines and booby traps
- d Terrorism

2 Attack of selected friendly installations with 60mm/82mm mortars.

(5) Vietnamese Attachments

(a) Interpreters. Currently the Battalion has five ARVN interpreters. An effort has been made to insure that each of the rifle companies and the S-5 Civil Affairs Section has a qualified ARVN interpreter.

(b) Kit Carson Scouts. Presently the Battalion employs one Kit Carson Scout.

(6) Enemy Losses. The enemy suffered the following casualties as a result of 3rd Bn, 5th Marines actions during April 1968:

KIA: 2  
POW: 0  
DET: 12

Chieu Hoi: 0

Chieu Hoi: 0

- a Sniping
- b Small scale attacks and ambushes
- c Use of mines and booby traps
- d Terrorism

6

2 Attack of selected friendly installations with 60mm/82mm mortars.

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(7) Weather.

- (a) Rainfall:  $1\frac{1}{2}$ "
- (b) Temperature:
  - 1. Avg. high 82
  - 2. Avg. low 65
- (c) Light:
  - 1. Avg. Sunrise; 0654
  - 2. Avg. Sunset; 1902
- (d) Winds: Avg. 10 knots

(8) Terrain. See March 1968 Command Chronology.

(9) Captured Equipment. The following are the totals of weapons and equipment captured by the Battalion during April 1968:

- (a) Weapons; None
- (b) Ordnance;
  - 1. 2 ChiCom-Claymore mines
  - 2. 1 Home made bomb
  - 3. 3 M-26 Grenades
- (c) 782 Gear; 9 :bs
- (d) Documents;  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lbs

c. Training

(1) Training included lectures, demonstrations, and/or application in the following subjects:

- (a) Weapons safety
- (b) Radio procedures
- (c) Spot Reports
- (d) FO & FAC procedures
- (f) Field communications expedients.

(2) Eight indoctrination schools were conducted by 5th Marines. Classes on FO/FAC procedures, and on care, and cleaning of the M-16 rifle are included in the school syllabus.

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## (3) Personnel attended the following schools:

- (a) Embarkation - 2
- (b) Officers Leadership School - 3
- (c) SNCO Leadership School - 1
- (d) NCO Leadership School - 8
- (e) Vietnamese Language - 2
- (f) Projectionest School - 2

d. Operations

- (1) 010001H April Operation Houston continues.
- (2) Chopped Company M to 1/5 211200H April 1968.
- (3) 302400H April phase 1 of Operation Houston terminated.

e. Artillery Support

(1) During the month of April Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, was in direct support of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Batteries M, and L 4th Bn., 11th Marines were in general support of 3rd Bn., 5th Marines.

(2) Registrations for defensive fires were completed for Bridge 11, Bridge 12, CAP 7, CAP 9, and 35th Engineers (AT 932289 and AT891953). Battery F FO's are helping CAP 7 and CAP 9 with their defensive plans. VT registrations and on calls have been completed on or around all culverts and small bridges.

(3) Battery F FO's are starting a program of training for the CAP units which will include FO procedures, map reading, compass work, and Range Estimation. The FO's are also holding classes in FO procedures with 3/5 fire teams and squad sized units.

(4) Battery F fired 46 observed missions in support of 3rd Bn, 5th Marines during the month of April. 327 high explosive, 57 WP, 44 Illumination, and 17 HC smoke were fired during those missions. Of the high explosive rounds, 279 were with fuze quick, 9 with fuze delay, 4 with fuze time, 25 with fuze VT, and 10 were COFRAM rounds.

(5) Batteries F, L, and M fired a total of 3,303 rounds of M41's during the month.

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(6) Total rounds fired on TOT's were 1, 041. Battery F fired 718 rounds, M 80 rounds, and L 243 rounds.

(7) Battery F fired 48 unobserved missions with a total of 400 rounds.

(8) On 18 April 68 Battery F moved to a position vacated by Battery L 4/11. On 15 April 68 two 155 howitzers were chopped to L 4/11 and were in direct support of 3/5. On 19 April 68 these two 155's were chopped to 4/11.

(9) Enfield Cobra Delta Mike, Navy patrol boat, fired 125 81 mortar rounds and 1500 50 Cal. rounds as H&I for 3/5.

f. Air Support Air support of the Battalion has been commensurate with Battalion requirements.

(1) Tactical Fixed Wing Support: None

(2) Helicopter Support

(a) 5 Medevacs, including 3 emergency medevacs.

(b) 5 resupplies to troops in the field.

(3) There are two ALO/FAC officers assigned to this Battalion. Sufficient trained personnel were available to provide radio teams at company and Battalion levels.

#### g. Communications

(1) The Communication Platoon supported Bn Operations for operation HUSTON with no pronounced communication difficulties.

(2) Training and operation of the PPS-6 Radar Set at the rifle company level continued under the supervision of assigned Supervisors.

(3) Daily status reports from Rifle Company communication Supervisors required Prevention Maintenance Records with over a 95% accuracy on condition of equipment and P.M. performed and 100% for gear.

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#### h. Logistics

(1) General. The overall logistical status of the battalion is satisfactory.

(2) Supply.

(a) On 1 April, battalion supply had completed the move into the Phu Bai area. Reorganization and a complete inventory was accomplished with operating levels and requisitioning objectives being maintained on the majority of items. Those items in a deficient status are on requisition.

(b) Action is presently being taken to dispose of all excess and unserviceable material and supplies in a timely matter. One hundred M14 rifles, were turned in as excess.

(c) On 23 April, battalion supply received a replacement for the supply chief who rotated in March.

(3) Motor Transport.

(a) Motor transport completed the relocation within the Phu Bai area during the latter part of the month. The new area affords a considerably larger working and parking area than was available in the previous area. Construction of a motor transport office, dispatch office, wash rack, and a grease rack were accomplished, with plans now being made to enlarge the present shop stalls.

(b) The shortage of school trained 3516's has been alleviated with the assignment of two new personnel in this MOS. The section is still without the benefit of a motor transport officer. This situation has existed since 1 February 1968.

(c) Many of the supply and parts problems have been alleviated, although the shortage of many parts requested for the M234A1 and the M422A1 still exists. The NORS and RED-BALL systems are being utilized by the section, however parts requisitioned under these systems have not been received to date.

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i. Civic Action

(1) Modcaps. 583 local area Vietnamese were treated by the Battalion MEDCAP Team.

(2) PsyOps. Approximately 5,000 PsyOps leaflets were distributed by Marines of this section. There were no aerial drops scheduled for the month of April.

(3) Civil Affairs Assistance. A number of self-help type of projects are being developed at this time. The feasibility of communal baths for hamlet children is being considered. Prototype tubs for bathing are presently being fabricated from discarded oil drums. Classes are being conducted for villagers to demonstrate how corn meal may be cooked as a palatable bread substitute. Past experience has indicated that villagers, because they are unfamiliar with corn meal, are reluctant to use it in cooking. Similar classes are being planned for the use of oat meal. Members of this section are also going to investigate the possibility of teaching refugee villagers how to make items from discarded ammunition crates which can in turn be sold. Items being considered are small trunks or clothing lockers. Many of the Montagnard refugees are fairly skilled wood workers, and with minimal assistance, should be able to become self-employed. Crossbows are a traditional mountain weapon of Indochina, and small crossbows could possibly be sold as curios to military personnel leaving Vietnam. With the assistance of GVN personnel, interviews are being conducted to determine what skills, other than farming, are within the capability of the refugee families. Bamboo is a native material which is readily available, and perhaps bamboo mugs or pitchers would have value as a curio item. During the month of May this section hopes to obtain a representative collection of native-made items which we in turn could show to some retail outlets such as the concession stands in the Phu Bai area.

(4) Problems. None

(5) Serious Incidents. There were four serious incidents during the month of April. One of which resulted four civilian deaths. There were two injured persons during the month of April, two property damage claims submitted. All of the above claims are pending final investigation.

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2. Chronology of Events

- a. 1-30 April Participated in Operation HOUSTON.
- b. 4 April 1968 Joined Capt. J.C. LILLE as Air Liason Officer.
- c. 9 April 1968 Joined 1st Lt. KOBIASHVILI as communications officer
- d. 15 April 1968 1st Lt. B.P. BARRON assumed command of H&S Co.
- e. 21 April 1968 Joined 1st Lt. T.T. MACY as FAC Officer.
- f. 302400H April 1968 phase I of Operation HOUSTON terminated.

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## HEADQUARTERS

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/LCG/gwa  
3121  
7 May 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines  
Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) Division Order 3480.1A  
(b) 5th Mar OpO 4-68  
(c) 5th Mar OpO 301-68 (Revised)  
(d) 5th Mar AAO 301-68 (Revised)  
(e) 5th Mar FragO 15-68

Encl: ✓(1) 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines FragO #9  
✓(2) 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines FragO #10  
✓(3) First AO Operation HOUSTON Phase I  
✓(4) Second AO Operation HOUSTON Phase I  
✓(5) Third AO Operation HOUSTON Phase I  
✓(6) Fourth AO Operation HOUSTON Phase I  
✓(7) Fifth AO Operation HOUSTON Phase I

1. Name of Operation. Operation HOUSTON Phase I Search and Clear Operation.
2. Dates of Operation. 261000 H FEB 68 to 302400 H APR 68
3. Location. Along Highway #1 South of Phu Bai Combat Base in Thua Thien Province.
4. Control or Command Headquarters. See Task Organization.
5. Reporting Officer. LtCol W.K. ROCKEY 26 FEB 68 to 27 MAR 68  
LtCol D.N. REXROAD 28 MAR 68 to 30 APR 68
6. Task Organization. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein)  
LtCol W.K. ROCKEY to 27 MAR 68  
LtCol D.N. REXROAD from 28 MAR 68  
H&S Co (-) Capt R.J. MARNELL to 14 APR 68  
1stLt B.P. BARRON from 15 APR 68  
Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn, 11th Marines

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Co I	Capt H. KOLAKOWSKI JR.
Co I (Rein)	
Det, H&S Co, 3/5	
Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn, 11th Marines	
Co K	1stLt F.W. SMITH
Co K (Rein)	
Det, H&S Co, 3/5	
Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn, 11th Marines	
Co L	Capt J.D. NIOTIS
Co L (Rein)	
Det, H&S Co, 3/5	
Co M	Capt J.E. MITCHELL to 11 MAR 68
Co M (Rein)	Capt F.D. FACELLO 12 MAR 68
Det, H&S Co, 3/5	

## 7. Supporting Forces.

### a. Artillery

(1) From Commencement of Phase I of Operation HOUSTON at 261000 H FEB 1968 until completion at 302400 H APR 1968, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines received direct artillery support from Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines. At no time during the operation was the Battalion without artillery support. A total of 8,656 rounds were fired in Direct and General Support of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines during Operation HOUSTON. These were observed, unobserved, and harassing and interdiction fires.

(2) Two batteries provided General Support to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines throughout the Operation. They were Battery L, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, and Battery M, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.

### b. Air

(1) During Operation HOUSTON, weather sporadically affected the utilization of Air Support; mainly, Medevac missions.

(2) A total of 20 fixed wing missions were flown in support of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines during Operation HOUSTON. Eighteen of these strikes were TAC(A) Controlled, and two were FAC CONTROLLED.

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(3) Helicopters were utilized extensively throughout the Operation. Helicopter Support was used for 41 Med-evacs, including 15 Emergencies, 7 Visual Reconnaissance flights, 21 Resupply missions, and 2 Huey gunship strikes.

(4) There were 20 Air Observer missions during the Operation.

## 7. Intelligence

a. The enemy forces, anticipated on Operation HOUSTON, were not expected to exceed two VCMF Battalions, one local force guerrilla company and selected hamlet/village defense squads. This intelligence was passed to the Battalion Commander, staff and unit commanders in estimate, briefing and overlay form.

b. The following enemy units were identified as being disposed in the area from Phu Bai south to Hai Van Pass:

K4B Bn  
K10 Bn  
802 Bn  
4th Regt. Hdq.

## c. Collection and Dissemination

(1) During Operation HOUSTON, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines IFF Team interrogated over 90 Vietnamese nationals. These interrogations resulted in 8 POW's, 32 Detainees and 13 Chieu Hois'.

(2) Captured documents included one tax log book and several personal letters.

(3) Captured weapons were two .45 caliber submachine guns, one M-16 rifle, and one M-1 carbine.

(4) Other captured gear included four ChiCom mines, one homemade bomb, sixteen M-26 grenades, twelve 82mm mortar rounds, four 75mm LR rounds, thirty 60mm mortar rounds, two B-40 rocket rounds, four-hundred 7.62 rounds, eight-hundred 5.56 rounds, three cannisters of explosives, one block of TNT, four fuses, one box mine, one Bouncing Betty mine, and one M-16 mine.

(5) Total enemy losses were 5 VC KIA (confirmed).

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9. Mission

During the conduct of Operation HOUSTON, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was assigned the mission of Reopening Highway #1, and providing security for the engineers as they repaired the road.

10. Concept of Operations

At H-Hour on D-Day the Battalion Command Group and Companies I and M were helilifted from LZ412 AT at 015627 to LZ Hawk at ZC 024025. The Battalion moved to the vicinity of Phu Loc and Started conducting small unit operations to secure the area bordering Highway #1 on both sides. Small operations continued throughout Phase I in the same manner. The Battalion CP changed locations approximately every two days and the companies operated independently.

11. Executiona. 23 FEB 1968

(1) At 230125H the Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, received the 5th Marines Operation Order for Operation HOUSTON.

b. 26 FEB 1968

(1) At 260820H Company I received 15 to 25 sniper rounds. Returned 5 mortar rounds and 1 illumination.

c. 27 FEB 1968

(1) At 270930H 2nd Platoon, Company K received 100 rounds of automatic weapons fire and one B-40 rocket from ville at ZD 208011. Estimated 5 or 6 VC. Returned mixed small arms fire, 19 M-79's and 15 rounds 60mm mortar, forcing enemy to withdraw. Searched area and found several documents, one notebook with detailed diagrams of infantry weapons in French. Destroyed one package of AK47 rounds.

d. 28 FEB 1968

(1) At 281020H Company I entering ville at 801050 hit mine believed to be artillery round. Three Emergency Medevacs, one non evac.

(2) At 281115H Company M received 60mm mortar rounds from 160099 and 160994 aimed at bridge. Called in artillery fire, 3 WP's, 18 rounds HE.

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(3) At 281730H Company K, 3rd Platoon, walking along hill top set off 3 explosions believed to be a Daisy Chain. Three USMC KIA, four USMC WIA.

(4) At 282345H Company M requested to fire 60mm mortars at onomy at 208010 after receiving 5 incoming sniper rounds. Request denied for reason of friendly activity. Fired one LAAW, then received two incoming grenades and 5 sniper rounds. Second LAAW silenced sniper.

o. 29 FEB 1968

(1) At 290900H Company I received 6 semi-automatic sniper rounds from 830060. Returned mixed small arms fire. Negative results.

(2) At 290930H Company M Recon patrol spotted man running across field at 208010 toward a hill to the north. Fired a warning shot. Suspect hid in bushes and was captured by patrol and returned to patrol base. Confirmed VC. Suspect had one bag of rice and ID card Ser. No. 054695.

(3) At 291130H Company I spotted three VC at 832065. Fired three 60mm mortar rounds, three WP and and 12 HE artillery rounds. Searched position with negative results.

(4) At 291135H Company M reported that engineers were filling in area of bridge at 198009. An Army truck detonated a mine believed to be an ARVN type mine. Engineers swept area. Negative results. Two Army received slight shrapnel wounds and concussion.

(5) At 291200H Company M Sqd patrols searching houses found 20 fuses mines M-605, 19 AP mines M16 in burlap sacks. Turned same over to the CB's for disposition.

(6) At 291445H 2nd Platoon I Company sweeping hill top at 830060 hit one booby trap, M16 AP mine. Results were one USMC Medovac.

(7) At 291450 2nd Platoon I Company tripped another M16 AP mine which did not detonate. Commenced shooting M-60 rounds to clear a path through mine field.

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ENCLOSURE (2)

f. 1 MAR 1968

(1) At 011600H From Thin Man, spotted 6 VC moving east wearing white and black P.J.'s and coolie hats and packs called in good coverage, unable to observe results. Continued patrol and ambushes.

(2) At 011830H Company K 3rd Platoon fired M-60 at VC crossing river carrying weapon. Observed VC fall in river at coordinates 826041.

(3) At 012105H Company M received one incoming explosive device believed to be grenade. No enemy sighted, no small arms incoming. Returned fire, searched area with negative results. Nine USMC WIAE.

(4) At 012130H CP L.P. spotted 3 VC moving toward CP. L.P. challenged VC with negative results and opened fire. One VC escaped. One female age 20 KIA. One female WIA age 18. Captured one VC flag 2'by2½', one application for ID card, 2000 piasters.

(5) At 012340H Company M CP lines spotted movement in bushes. Fired one round M-79 and one M26 frag grenade. Movement ceased. Checked area with negative results.

g. 2 MAR 1968

(1) At 020500H Company M CP lines saw movement in tree line. Fired 10 rounds M-14, 1 M26 frag grenade. Checked area with negative results.

(2) At 021104H Company I 3rd Platoon while searching out trail, found 1 M-26 trip wire booby trap at coordinates 073828 and 1 Bouncing Betty at same location. Also found 2 red float type cannisters, 2 81mm cannisters, 1 NVA canteen, 1 NVA poncho, 1 tea pot, 1 radio tube, 1 sign warning of booby trap. Also found what looked like a possible VC base camp. Blow booby traps in place.

h. 3 MAR 1968 Negative Contact.i. 4 MAR 1968

(1) At 041155H Company M heard explosion in vicinity of bridge. Checked area, talked to 2 ARVN's by bridge. Discovered 1 explosion hole in road. ARVN said it was VC mine M-6, believes mine placed long ago and set off by faulty firing device. Area had been swept by Army.

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ENCLOSURE (2)

(1) At 051112H Company K 1st Platoon point element walking around base of mountain detonated large enemy mine. It had to have been Bouncing Betty. Point man had spotted 1 very old Vietnamese woman in vicinity. Point man fired 1 warning shot but woman fled. Searched area and found base of 1 Bouncing Betty mine.

(2) At 051130H Company M 2nd Platoon found VC explosive device at coordinates 152010 in river by railroad trestle, three 4lb. blocks TNT wrapped together with bamboo unarmored, but had three holes in it for blasting caps. Will give to engineers to blow.

(3) At 051600H CP picked up 3 men in villo. Questioned by interrogator. Stories did not go together. Released older Vietnamese. Forwarded 2 Vietnamese to INT Team. Men were at coordinates AU 806049.

(4) At 051700H Company M 1st and 2nd Platoons received 10 rounds 82mm mortars from coordinates 159042. M 6 called arty counter battery fire. Mortar fire stopped.

k. 6 MAR 1968

(1) At 062100H Company I 1st Platoon had just set in in ambush site. They observed 2 figures at coordinates 187052 with packs, helmets, and rifles, trailing them. India challenged men thinking they might be another element of India. Men fled in westerly direction. India fired 30 rounds 5.56. Figures were no longer visible. Searched area with negative results.

l. 7 MAR 1968

(1) At 070710H Squad Combat Patrol from Company M tripped a homemade booby trap of unknown size, at AT 196008. Continued mission.

(2) At 070730H a Squad Combat Patrol from Company M located 1 dud 155mm round and blew it in place.

(3) At 071625H 1st Platoon Company K found 1 M16 AP mine on the shoulder of Highway #1. Mine had been run over by vehicle, but had not exploded. Blew mine in place.

m. 8 MAR 1968

(1) At 080900H Company M squad patrol, returning from night activities, tripped 1 M-26 grenade rigged as booby trap in a rice paddy. One USMC Medevac.

ENCLOSURE (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

(2) At 080950H Company I, while moving to new CP found Punji pit along trail. Pit contained stakes of barbed steel, and were covered with bamboo mats. Destroyed pit.

(3) At 081040H Company I squad ambush patrol found 1 M-26 booby trap. Blew M-26 in place.

n. 9 MAR 1968

(1) At 090745H Company I platoon patrol spotted large sam-pan craft firing 2 60mm mortar rounds near their position at AF 186056. Craft was taken under fire with mortars and automatic weapons. Craft returned fire and fled to the northwest.

(2) At 091000H Company I 3rd Platoon while searching found a cave approximately 100 feet long and 40 feet wide. Cave had not been dug, but was divided into rooms. Found assorted 782 gear and 400 pounds of rice.

(3) At 091315H Company I 3rd Platoon learned from a villager at 192015 that on 24 FEB, about 15 VC came into the village and took rice, money, and all young men 14 years of age and older. On 7 MAR they returned again and took money. VC were seen to be moving back into the mountains.

(4) At 091515H Company M squad combat patrol received short burst of small arms fire from an unknown number of enemy. Called in 81mm mortar sission and checked area with negative results. One USMC non-ovac.

(5) At 091615H Company I, 3rd Platoon combat patrol found bunker at 183057 approximately 3 by 3 by 4. In bunker was 45 rounds of 7.62 ammo, 836 5.56 rounds, and 34 .45 caliber rounds. Ammo returned to Company I CP. Cave destroyed.

o. 10 MAR 1968

(1) At 101630H Company I, 1st Platoon combat patrol saw 2 VC run up a trail. VC tried to hide. Platoon swept area and found VC hiding in a hole. VC had a new M-16 rifle and one magazine, also NVA cartridge belt. There was no exchange of fire. VC had no ID cards. Returned VC to Company I CP for transportation to Bn S-2.

(2) At 101700H Company M, platoon combat patrol received heavy but inaccurate automatic weapons fire from high ground at 183992. Called in 81mm mortar mission. Enemy broke contact and fled south.

p. 11 MAR 1968

(1) At 111140H Company I 1st Platoon received 2 incoming 60mm rounds from coordinates 155045. Spotted 3 VC with tube. Called in arty, sent in fire team to search area, saw two VC with tube. Called in arty again. Area was not searched. 8 ENCLOSURE (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

q. 12 MAR 1968

(1) At 120845H Company I 2nd Platoon was moving up trail, point man stepped on 60mm round booby trap. Had 2 Emergency, 2 Priority Medevacs. Medevacs completed. Searched area with negative results at coordinates 159837.

(2) At 121045H Company I 3rd Platoon saw boat crossing river toward eastern side at coordinates 186046. Sent out fire team to investigate. They received 3 incoming rounds from boat. Returned fire with 130 rounds 5.56 and 8 M-79 rounds. Results were sinking of boat and 3 confirmed enemy KIA's, 1 enemy WIA. Ages of KIA's were 17 and 15 years old. WIA age 10. Called in Medevac for WIA.

r. 13 MAR 1968

(1) At 130640H Company M 2nd Platoon saw movement and fired 10 rounds 5.56, 1 LAAM into point of movement at coordinates 817006. No number of enemy could be determined. No return fire. Searched area with negative results.

(2) At 131200H Company L 2nd Platoon while on Recon mission found possible enemy position with one cannister for 82mm round, 2 cannisters for 57mmRR at coordinates 818983. Gear was of no value. Destroyed. Searched area with negative results.

(3) At 131230H Company I 2nd Platoon while patrolling up mountain found trail heading to left. Followed trail up 15 meters. Saw 1 VC with rifle. Fired 1 shot at VC and VC ran. Searched area with negative results.

(4) At 131945H Company M observed 3 military vehicles come under sniper fire. Spotted muzzle flash of sniper fire. Fired 1 round 60mm HE, 1 round Illum, and called in VT mission from arty into sniper position. Searched area with negative results.

s. 14 MAR 1968

(1) At 140330H Company I 3rd Platoon found 1 M-26 type booby trap, along trail. Blew in place. Searched area with negative results.

(2) At 141055H Company I 3rd Platoon saw 2 VC dressed in utilities. Called in 81mm mortars, 2 WP rounds, 12 HE rounds. Searched area with negative results.

(3) At 141235H Company I 1st Platoon found on patrol a base plate impression for 60mm mortar tube, five fuze caps, and 10 60mm cannister plugs. Will send items to CP.

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(4) At 142015H Company L fire team patrol received approximately 7 60mm rounds from coordinates 160960. Returned fire with 24 rounds arty. Searched area with negative results.

t. 15 MAR 1968

(1) At 150940H Company L 1st Platoon received 1 incoming grenade from coordinates 157973. Saw bushes move. Fired 12 rounds 5.56. Searched area with negative results. Had three USMC WIA, 2 Routine Medevacs, 1 WIANE.

(2) At 151115H Company I found 1 enemy Claymore booby trap hooked up with trip wire in the trail. Claymore is U.S. metal type. Date on it is 1944. Engineers defused it.

(3) At 151200H Company L 1st Platoon received 18-20 rounds 60mm mortar. Returned fire with 20 M-79 rounds, 14 60mm rounds, 2 CS gas grenades, 1 rifle grenade, 300 rounds M-60, 200 rounds 5.56. Had 4 WIA's, Routine Medevacs. Searched area with negative results.

(4) At 152215H Company M Fire team ambush received 1 round small arms fire from unknown direction. Returned 1 round in direction believed to be enemy's position. Searched area with negative results.

u. 16 MAR 1968

(1) Company A-1/5 Platoon received incoming 60mm mortar round from coordinates 162048. Called in 81 mission.

v. 17 MAR 1968

(1) At 170945H Company L received 1 incoming hand grenade and approximately 50 to 100 rounds small arms fire from 15 to 20 VC, from coordinates 177976. Returned fire with 150 rounds 5.56. Pulled back because of shortage of mon. Had 2 Emergency Medevacs, 3 Priority. Medevacs completed.

(2) At 171145H Company L Benchmark 25 spotted VC O.P. Called in 1 fixed wing strike on target. Results 1 secondary explosion at coordinates 198973.

(3) At 171700H Company L spotted enemy movement which looked like setting up of a mortar. Took them under fire with 50 rounds 5.56, 8 M-79 rounds, 3 M-26 frag grenades. Called in 30 rounds arty. Saw 1 VC fall. Searched area with negative results.

ENCLOSURE (2)

10

UNCLASSIFIED

(4) At 171800H Company M 2nd Platoon. Children came to CP and told Kit Carson where a VC was and that he wanted to surrender, and that he was in a Catholic church at coordinates 193008. Sent out squad. Squad returned with 1 VC with weapon, 2 AP mines. Mines found in search of area. VC was turned over to ITT.

w. 18 MAR 1968 Negative contact

x. 19 MAR 1968

(1) At 191630H Company K Squad patrol found 1 tomato can M/16 mine hidden in bush with trip wire broken. Trip wire was across trail at coordinates 115013. Engineers disarmed mine and brought back to CP

(2) At 192145H Company I Squad ambush patrol stepped on M-26 booby trap. One Emergency Medovac. Searched area with negative results.

y. 20 MAR 1968

(1) At 201130H Company I 3rd Platoon at coordinates 198001 heard explosion, went to investigate. Found a civilian who tripped a booby trap believed to be ChiCom. India 3 thinks he is a VC suspect because he is a young man and because his wounds are from leaning over ChiCom when it went off. Called in Medovac.

(2) At 201200H Company L 2nd Platoon found enemy ordnance at coordinates 808980 while on patrol. Found 4 82mm mortar rounds, 2 B-40 rocket rounds, 30 60mm rounds, 6 shot gun shells, 3 cannisters mortar charges, and 1 cannister of demolition charges. Blew in place.

(3) At 201515H Company I 3rd Platoon at coordinates 192001 found 1 Army helmet, 1 utility jacket, 1 utility cover with oar flaps, 2 WP cannisters, 1 poncho, 1 pair of socks, 1 section RPG rocket tail, 1 web belt with silver buckle, and 1 green towel. Have 2 VC suspects. Neither have ID cards. One old man and 1 16 year old boy who was with the gear in a hut. Turned gear and VC suspects over to ITT.

z. 21 MAR 1968

(1) At 211100H Company L conducted search of village in spot report 20100. Village base camp could support 100 to 200 VC. Stream runs through camp is large enough to run year round. Found 13 huts 8 by 8 by 10, constructed of tree limbs with interwoven sides, some with only roofs. Three huts on south side of stream, 10 on north side, about 25 meters apart. Huts are only a few months old. Also found 11 lbs. TNT, 1 AK47 round, 1 gallon water can, Miscellaneous food tins and eating utensils.

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(2) At 212145H Armed Propaganda Team at end of column encountered unknown type of explosive device while returning from broadcast position. Four USMC WIANE at coordinates 193006.

aa. 22 MAR 1968

(1) At 221750H Company I Fire team while sitting in dry gulch received 20 semi-automatic rounds. Returned fire, checked area. Found fresh blood trail. Followed blood trail with negative results.

bb. 23 MAR 1968 Negative contact

cc. 24 MAR 1968

(1) At 241013H Company L 3rd Platoon found under a large rock at coordinates 196977 a camping area which could hold 6 to 12 men. Found 2 Vietnamese hats, 1 pair Pajama trousers covered with old, dry blood. 2c

(2) At 241815H Company M detonated booby trap M-26 grenade which was buried in 6" sand with low trip wire in open area near stream. Checked area with negative results. At coordinates 153003, 2 USMC WIA's.

(3) At 242015H Company I tripped 2 unknown type explosive devices believed to be command detonated, as voices were heard just prior to first explosion. 2 to 3 minutes delay before second explosion. Searched area. Found no craters or black powder smell. Mines probably Claymore. 1 Emergency Medovac, 8 Priority.

dd. 25 MAR 1968

(1) At 250630H Company M while setting in blocking force observed unknown number of enemy fleeing Northeast. Pursued, employed arty and mortars. Swept area, apprehending 11 suspects, 1 positively identified as VC by ARVN.

(2) At 250900H Company M set off Bouncing Betty type mine. Had 2 non-evacs, 4 Priority Medevacs. Mine was pressure type, at coordinates 820070. Searched area with negative results.

(3) At 250940H Company M 2nd Platoon detonated M-26 grenade booby trap with trip wire. While checking area, tripped another M-26. Searched area with negative results. 2 WIA.

(4) At 251040H Company M moving down trail hit M-26 grenade with trip wire. Searched area with negative results at coordinates 830051. 3 USMC WIA.

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(5) At 251145H Company M 2nd Platoon found under a large rock at coordinates 196977 a camping area which could hold 6 to 12 men. Found 2 Vietnamese hats, 1 pair Pajama trousers covered with old, dry blood. 2c

(5) At 251300H Company M 1st Platoon located 1 M-26 booby trap with trip wire. Blow in place. Searched area with negative results.

(6) At 251345H Company M searching village and apprehended VC suspect on trail. Tried to evade capture. Stopped when fired upon.

(7) At 251410H Company M 1st Platoon tripped M-26 booby trap (2 M-26 grenades together) 1 USMC WIA.

(8) At 251720H OP Team received 1 Chieu Hoi at coordinates 816047. Pointed out VC village chief. Will take the Chieu Hoi to transportation position.

(9) At 251900H Company M 2nd Platoon tripped booby trap with trip wire at coordinates 820042. Booby trap was M-26 grenade. 1 USMC WIA. Searched area with negative results.

cc. 26 MAR 1968

(1) At 260600H Company M 1st Platoon tripped an M-26 grenade booby trap at coordinates 802052. 2 USMC WIA's. Searched area with negative results.

(2) At 262330H Company I Squad patrol heard noises in culvert approximately 200 meters forward of their position. Moved up to search area observed 3 VC moving northwest. Took them under fire searched area, negative results.

ff. 27 MAR 1968

At 270125H Company I spotted 3 flash lights about 2 clicks away from their position. Could not call in arty because of friendly village.

gg. 28 MAR 1968

(1) At 280100H Company K while in valley received fire from sniper. Returned fire at coordinates 124019. Searched area with negative results.

(2) At 280600H Company C 1/5 Squad ambush received 4 grenades near position. Saw 4 VC running to southwest. Took them under fire. Searched area with negative results.

(3) At 280625H Company M 2nd Platoon while in blocking force sweeping village estimated 5 VC ran through position and fled north. Took them under fire. 1 USMC WIA. 2 USMC WIA's. Searched area with negative results.

(4) At 280930H Engineer team with Company M discovered two explosive devices. Engineers blow them in place. Searched area with negative results.

ENCLOSURE (2)

hh. 29 MAR 1968

(1) At 290925H Company M 2nd Platoon detonated M-26 rigged mine on platoon sweep. Searched area at coordinates 823063. Found ARVN utility jacket with blood stains. Had 1 USMC WIANE.

(2) At 291000H Company M 1st Platoon discovered enemy rice, 50 lbs. rigged to a back pack. Destroyed rice. Continued on search of area.

(3) At 291015H Company M 2nd Platoon found 250 lb. bomb. Engineers say bomb was tampered with. VC tried to get powder. Blew in place.

(4) At 291030H Company K 5K6 Squad patrol observed water buffalo trip booby trap from the extensive wounds on buffalo, booby trap believed to be Bouncing Betty.

(5) At 291100H AO 22 spotted 2 cave entrances heavily camouflaged and flanked by fighting holes. Call for Huey gunships. Fired 36 rockets.

(6) At 291130H Company M 1st Platoon found two 250 lb. bombs. Blew in place.

ii. 30 MAR 1968

(1) At 302100H Company L noticed large number of young male personnel with Vietnamese vehicles parked in vicinity of this position coordinates 937914. Checked for ID cards and vehicles, 5 ID's did not reflect accurate age and personnel lied to Civilian police. Holding for ITT.

jj. 31 MAR 1968

(1) At 310345H Company L Squad patrol had suspected enemy movement on road. Took them under fire. Searched area, finding fresh blood trails.

kk. 1 APR 1968 Negative contact

ll. 2 APR 1968

(1) At 021945H CP reported receiving 4 60mm rounds outside of wire at compound from coordinates 198023. Patrol in vicinity of enemy mortar positions unable to investigate due to water barrier.

mm. 3 APR 1968

(1) At 030730H Company M patrol discovered a culvert had been blown. Suspected it to be H&I fire. Upon arriving found it to be a crater approximately 10 ft. deep. Suspected it blown by satchel charge. Searched area with negative results.

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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(2) At 031010H 3rd Platoon Company K sighted 5 VC attired in green and brown uniforms, 2 wearing NVA pyth helmets. Called in artillery. Moved through heavy brush to swoop area. Negative results.

(3) At 031130H 1st Platoon Company M on combat patrol tripped explosive device, suspected to be grenade. Searched area with negative results. 1 USMC WIA, 1 WIANE.

mm. 4 APR 1968

(1) At 040900H Waxen Mercy 2C convoy while rounding a bend at 912944 a Waxen Mercy 3/4 ton truck was hit by what was believed to be a ChiCom command detonated Claymore mine, which was approximately 10 ft. back. Seaside Mike in vicinity gave immediate aid to wounded. Mike 14 called in Medevacs and searched the area with negative results. 1 USA KIA, 2 USA WIA.

oo. 5 APR 1968

(1) At 051010H Company I received report from security police in village that 20 VC were at 201955. Called in artillery. Searched with negative results.

(2) At 051500H 2nd Platoon Company K while on convoy was hit by 4 Command detonated Claymore mines. Army unit turned over Vietnamese who was caught leaving area at 858000. Suspect transferred to Seaside CP. Checked area with negative results. 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA's.

(3) At 052040H Company I reported enemy movement at 837002. Fired 81mm illumination, 50 small arms, 1 M-79. Searched area at first light. Negative results.

pp. 6 APR 1968

(1) At 061200H Company L at 934919 had two Claymores, Chi-Com type set off by enemy. Enemy fled over ridge line. Claymore has following markings: MOH-10, AT NAY HUONG. Approximately 25 to 30 lbs.

(2) At 062000H Company I Squad ambush hit a trip type M-26. 4 USMC WIA, 2 Emergency, 2 Priority Medevacs.

(3) At 062110H Company I Squad ambush received small arms fire from VIC 194007 and 196015. Returned fire with negative results.

qq. 7 APR 1968

(1) At 070640H Waxen Mercy found homemade mine approximately 20 lbs. Had electrical and pressure firing devices. Disarmed and removed.

ENCLOSURE (2)

(2) At 071700H Company I Squad ambush while in dry gulch at 189995 had 5 VC walk in their dry gulch. 1 VC KIA, 1 VC captured. Rest fled to VIC 189915.

(3) At 072019H Company L Squad ambush spotted enemy activity at coordinates 929894. Opened fire at enemy. Enemy returned fire with intense automatic fire. Called in artillery. Searched area. Negative results.

(4) At 072025H Company I Squad ambush moving to position received small arms fire. Returned fire. VC fled south to hills and north to Hill 88. Searched area, found 2 bamboo poles 5 ft. long tied with plant fiber.

rr. 8 APR 1968

(1) At 081330H Company I Fire team found 4 M-16 mines and 2 pair of boots (stateside) with remainder of a foot in one boot. Mines were detonated in place. Foot was buried. Approximately 2 weeks old, and approximately size 9R American.

(2) At 081100H Company M reported ARVN convey was proceeding north. Hit by 2 Claymore mines at coordinates 915940, then proceeded north 913943. At coordinates 081155 received 1 Claymore and small arms results 10 ARVN WIA.

ss. 9 APR 1968

(1) At 090840H Company I Squad Patrol had 1 man brush against the bush off the trail causing a rocket round to detonate approximately 15 meters away. Rocket round appeared to be smaller than a 3.5. Results: 1 USMC WIA EVACED TO BAS.

tt. 10 APR 1968

(1) At 100350 Company M received grenade at coordinates 915935 from enemy. Returned fire. 1 USMC WIA NE.

(2) At 101100H Company I Squad combat patrol at coordinates 805008 found 2 M-16 AP mines. Blow them in place.

uu. 11 APR 1968

(1) At 110925H Company M Squad ambush saw 3 VC approximately 50 meters away. Opened with small arms fire. Received 1 incoming grenade. 1 USMC WIA NE.

(2) At 111400H Company I Squad combat patrol I 3 A discovered homemade mine covered with cement. Blow it in place with M-26 grenade.

ENCLOSURE (2)

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(3) At 111930H Company M Squad ambush accidentally tripped a flare. Men throw flak jacket on it to hide light. Flak jacket had 2 M-26 grenades which detonated from heat. Results: 1 USMC KIA, 4 USMC WIA.

vv. 12 APR 1968

(1) At 121450H Company K Squad combat patrol discovered fighting holes approximately 200, sleeping racks underneath rock formations, small bags of rice, 4 lb. TNT, and 1 Claymore mine of unknown origin. Claymore mine and TNT to Seaside position.

(2) At 121845H Company I Fire team combat patrol discovered mine buried in trail. 6 inches diameter. Blow mine in place.

ww. 13 APR 1968

(1) At 131000H Company M patrol found a prepared 57mm RR with 2 fighting hole and 16 cannisters with Chinese writing. Brought 1 cannister back to CP. Artillery fire registered on position.

xx. 14 APR 1968

(1) At 141450H Company M found cave entrance at coordinates 895958. Army engineers blow up cave entrance.

(2) At 142100H Company K Squad ambush observed 5 VC moving west from coordinates 879957. Fired upon enemy. Enemy returned fire and retreated to east. Pursued enemy. Swept area and found large pools of blood.

yy. 15 APR 1968

(1) At 150715H Company I Squad ambush upon returning from patrol received small arms fire. Returned fire. Enemy fled to coordinates 800018.

zz. 16 APR 1968

(1) At 160700H Waxon Morcy found 1 pressure type detonated mine, M1A1 homemade mine marked with 4 stones. Removed mine.

(2) At 161105H Waxon Morcy 2 C found a M-72 LAAW rigged with trip wire in village. LAAW was rigged in doorway to Buddhist temple. LAAW blown in place.

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aaa. 17 APR 1968

(1) At 171030H Company I spotted sampan loading people. Fired 81mm to bring sampan ashore. Dispatched 1 squad to sampan. 1 male civilian with shrapnel, Medovaced. Passengers were identified by villagers as friendly.

bbb. 18 APR 1968

(1) At 180850H Company I reported an unidentified explosive device exploded near a Vietnamese truck, followed by small arms bursts of semi-automatic fire coming from coor. 829012. 3 VC were seen fleeing area. I 1A and I 1C sent to scene. Swoop of area resulted in capture of 1 8 year old boy and 1 teenage girl. Both held for questioning.

ccc. 19 APR 1968 Negative contact

ddd. 20 APR 1968

(1) At 201730H Company M Squad combat patrol tripped frag grenade resulting in 3 USMC WIA, 2 Priority, 1 Routine Medovac.

ooo. 21 APR 1968

(1) At 211834H Company M Squad combat patrol received intelligence report from ARVN Lt. at Santo Fo L1.3 D2.0 1 squad of VC at coordinates 806017. Called in arty mission.

fff. 22 APR 1968

(1) At 220602H Company K 2 A Squad ambush heard voices. Images seen by starlight scope. Fired small arms fire. Negative results.

(2) At 222110H Company I Squad ambush reported hearing movement in front of their position at coordinates 822009. Throw grenades. Search of area revealed negative results.

fff. 23 APR 1968

(1) At 230300H Company I Squad ambush reported they heard movement to the rear of their ambush. Throw 5 M-33 grenades. Searched area with negative results.

(2) At 230830H Company L Squad patrol found grave 2 to 3 weeks old. Dug up and found a body that presumably was tortured. Body had gaping hole in right thigh, missing testicles and both ears. Body was wearing NVA uniform. Reburied body. L NVA confirmed.

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hhh. 24 APR 1968

(1) At 242100H Company I Squad ambush patrol received fire from coordinates 203013. Returned fire. Checked area with negative results.

(2) At 242130H Company I Squad ambush patrol observed movement of small group of VC to their north. Called in arty. Will search area at first light.

iii. 25 APR 1968

(1) At 250700H Company I 2nd Platoon while sweeping area of suspected enemy movement found 2 freshly dug fox holes with empty AK47 cartridges in them. Remainder of sweep produced negative results.

(2) At 250930H Company I Squad patrol found one hut with roof and one wall destroyed by fire. Was set on fire by 60mm illumination round. Fired last night by I 1 for support of I 2A and I 2B1 when they were in contact with the enemy. No civilians hurt, but will notify S-5 to handle payment for burnt hut.

(3) At 250930H Company L Squad patrol discovered 2 temporary shelters approximately 2 months old. Burned shelters.

jjj. 26 APR 1968

(1) At 260810H Waxon Morey found 1 civilian WIA from mine detonation located 8 meters east of road, approximately 20 lbs. with trip wire at coordinates AU 849002. Called in Medevac for civilian.

(2) At 261125H 35th Eng Bn(USA) crane was repairing east abutment when it picked up some type of mine. Operator tried to discharge load and mine detonated. Mine was yellow and was buried approximately 3 ft. Damage to crane: flat rear tire, 1 USMC WIANE.

kkk. 27 APR 1968

(1) At 272020H Company I bridge security at coordinates 197011 received fire from coordinates 196013. Called in artillery. Did not return fire.

lll. 28 APR 1968

At 282030H Seaside CP ARVNs at Fort from Boar L 2.3 U 0.7 reported 15 VC at coordinates 924935. Called in 81's. Good coverage. Will search at first light.

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mmmm. 29 APR 1968

(1) At 292000H Company I Squad ambush while moving to ambush site, point man tripped a booby trap along trail. Booby trap was M-26 with trip wire, at coordinates 854005. Had 3 USMC WIAs, 1 Priority, 2 Routine.

mmn. 30 APR 1968

(1) At 302200H USN Patrol boat observed lights on shore and approached to investigate. Boat received rounds from boat. Called for illumination. Sighted 3 VC. Called in artillery. Will search at first light.

(2) At 302350H Company I CP after hearing noises in the outer wire saw 2 figures with star light scope. Took them under fire with M-33 grenade. Will search at first light.

## 12. Results.

### a. Enemy

(1) Personnel: 5 VC/NVA KIA (confirmed)

### (2) Material

(a) Rifles -	2
(b) Submachine guns -	2
(c) Grenades -	16 M-26 grenades
(d) Rockets -	2 B-40 rockets
(e) Ammo -	400 rds 7.62
	800 rds 5.56
	12 82mm mortar rds
	4 75mm RR rds
	30 60mm mortar rds
(f) Mines -	4 ChiCom Claymores
	1 Box mine
	1 Bouncing Betty
	1 M-16 AP mine
(g) Other -	3 Cannisters of explosives
	4 Fuses
	1 Block TNT

### b. Friendly

(1) KIA - 24  
 (2) DOW - 3  
 (3) WIAE- 106  
 (4) WIANE- 23

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ENCLOSURE (2)

13. Administrative Mattersa. Resupply.

(1) Almost all resupply was effected by vehicle.

(2) Helicopters were utilized for 21 resupply runs during Phase I of the Operation.

b. Maintenance. Some difficulty was incurred when parts for some of the vehicles were not available.

c. Treatment of Casualties, Evacuation, and Hospitalization.

(1) Treatment of casualties was performed in excellent manner by the corpsmen in the field.

(2) Evacuation of casualties was effected with a minimum loss of time. Several times during the Operation, bad weather forced evacuation time to increase somewhat.

d. Transportation. The availability of transportation was slowed down somewhat due to the unavailability of parts for some vehicles, such as the M 422 A1. Vehicles were readily available for resupply.

e. Communications.

(1) PRC-25's were satisfactory for communications; however, during the Operation the Battalion was assigned five different TAOR's. In each TAOR the terrain placed a strain on the capabilities of P.M. On several occasions relay points were required to maintain communications. The requirement of Company and Battalion CP's to be positioned for adequate communications was stressed to avoid breakdowns.

(2) During operations in the Hai Van Pass TAOR, Radio Relay (AN/MRC-62) was installed between the Battalion and Regimental CP. Again proper siting was the important factor in the reliability of the Radio Relay shot.

(3) Operations have also included Radio Relay with Covered Teletype.

(4) Two problem areas existed:

(a) T.E. shortage of a PU 348 Tactical Generator.

(b) T.E. shortage of AN/TGC-14A/V teletypes. Current substitute items for these two shortages are entirely too bulky and heavy for practical combat mobility.

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ENCLOSURE (2)

(5) Ruggedness of terrain and overgrowth has caused an excessive breakdown of both the whip and tape antenna components of the AN/PRC-25. Replacements were not always available.

(6) Use of the PPS-6 Radar was minimal due to unfavorable terrain.

f. Medical Evacuation.

(1) Total number of Medovacs -	136
(2) Killed in Action -	24
(3) Wounded in Action -	106
(4) Wounded in Action, Non Evac -	23
(5) Non Combat Deaths -	1
(6) Non Combat Injuries Evac -	6
(7) Non Combat Injuries, Non Evac -	29
(8) Died of Wounds -	3

14. Special Equipment and Techniques. There were no techniques that could be considered new or special. No special equipment was required or utilized.

15. Commander's Analysis.

a. Phase I of Operation HOUSTON required the opening of Highway One. Once opened, security of the route was maintained through a series of strong points at vital bridges and extensive patrolling and ambushing designed to deny the enemy access to the highway.

b. During the search and clear portion of the operation numerous booby traps were encountered which resulted in the bulk of the casualties suffered by the Battalion. This is extremely frustrating for the individual Marine who can find no enemy to fight and must, instead, try to find a hidden wire or pressure device before it finds him. During the latter portion of the Operation, booby trap incidents were considerably less.

c. No new lessons were learned during the operations but many old ones were stressed. Included among them were scouting and patrolling, ambushing, demolitions and booby traps, night and noise discipline, and dispersion.

d. During the early portion of the operation the Battalion CP displaced every other day to a different village. Medcaps were held in each location and considerable good will was built and maintained with the civilian population. This was not possible during the latter portion of the operation due to a TAOR shift. For overlays of TAOR shifts see Enclosures 3 through 7.

16. Recommendations: None.

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R. C. WISE

By direction

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3rd Battalion, 5th Marines  
Thua Thien Province  
120900H March 1968

Frag Order #9: Operation HOUSTON

Ref: (a) Map Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series L7014 Sheet 6541 I  
(b) 5th Marines OpOrder 301-68

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy. See Annex A (Intelligence) and Current  
INTSUMS and PERINTREPS.

b. Friendly

- (1) Foxtrot 2/11 in direct support
- (2) RVN armored junks patrol coast off AO and provide transportation as requested.
- (3) US Navy Swift boats patrol coast off AO.
- (4) Rotary and fixed wing aircraft as requested.

2. MISSION. To discover and destroy enemy personnel, base camps, and equipment within AO, which encompasses Regimental objectives 51 through 59.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept. To block with one company, land by junk fleet with one company, and swoop up and over high ground toward blocking position. See Annex B (Operations Overlay)

b. Terravin India

- (1) Establish blocking positions in accordance with the Operations Overlay, to be in position by H-hour on D-day.
- (2) Prevent egress from AO.
- (3) Capture or destroy enemy personnel and equipment.
- (4) Be prepared to continue the attack on order.

c. Nailbrush Alpha

- (1) Board sampans of the junk fleet at a position and time to be announced.

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(2) Land over Red Beach at H-hour on D-day.

(3) Attack inland, as indicated in the Operations Overlay, working up and over the high ground, toward the blocking force. Move through Objectives A, B, and C.

(4) Carefully and thoroughly search for and destroy or capture enemy personnel, equipment, and base camps.

(5) Be prepared to continue the attack on order.

d. Terrapin Kilo

(1) Establish blocking force of reinforced squad in accordance with the Operations Overlay, to be in position by H-hour on D-day.

(2) Prevent egress from A0.

(3) Capture or destroy enemy equipment and personnel.

(4) Be prepared to provide one reinforced rifle platoon on order.

(5) Continue present mission within assigned TAOR.

e. Terrapin Lima

(1) Be prepared to provide one reinforced platoon on order.

(2) Continue present mission within assigned TAOR.

f. Terrapin Mike

(1) Be prepared to provide one reinforced platoon on order.

(2) Continue present mission within assigned TAOR.

g. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) All requests for fire support will be cleared through Terrapin 2.2 (3/5 FSCC).

(2) Fires within occupied villages will be restricted to that which is absolutely necessary for the accomplishment of the mission.

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(3) Report all enemy contacts immediately, followed when possible by Spot Report.

(4) Request permission from Terrapin 3 prior to employment of CS.

#### 4. ADMIN and LOGISTICS

##### a. Resupply

(1) Requests will be submitted by 1100 the day prior to resupply.

(2) Resupply will be by helicopter.

b. All reports will be submitted to this Headquarters.

c. All requests for medical evacuation will be submitted to this Headquarters.

##### d. Prescribed Minimum Load

3 days MCI (2 per day)  
 M17 protective mask, per individual  
 12 Machettes per Company  
 2 Claymores per squad  
 2 Trip Flares per squad  
 2 Green Star Clusters per squad  
 2 Yellow Smoke Grenades per squad  
 3 Disposable water containers, plastic, per squad  
 200 ft.  $\frac{1}{2}$ " line per squad  
 4 LAAWs or 3.5" rds per squad  
 2 M-26 Frag Grenades per individual  
 1 CS Grenade per individual  
 140 rds 5.56mm per M16  
 1000 rds 7.62mm linked per M60  
 30 rds 40mm per M79  
 20 rds 60mm per tube  
 1 collapsable stretcher per Corpsman

#### 5. COMMAND, COMM and ELECT

a. Battalion CP will be located near Route #1 South of the AO.

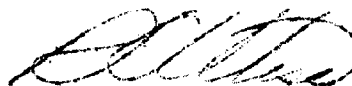
b. Communications procedures will be in accordance with Annex F (Communications-Electronics) to Ref (b).

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- (1) 3rd Bn, 5th Marines Terrapin 63.90 M56
- (2) 1st Bn, 5th Marines Nailbrush 67.55 M174
- (3) Battery F, 2nd Bn, 11th Marines Headcold  
Foxtrot 45.85 M549
- (4) 3/5 81mm mortar C.O.F. Terrapin Whiskey 58.45 M05
- (5) Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Marines Nailbrush Alpha  
66.85 M573.
- (6) Co I, 3rd Bn, 5th Marines Terrapin India 35.95 M119
- (7) CAC Common Frequency Reappoint 51.60 M89
- (8) Navy Patrol Boats Enfield Cobra 37.50 M179
- (9) AEWN Patrol Boats Echo Quebec 46.70 M206

By Command of LtCol ROCKEY



R. C. WISE  
Maj USMC  
Executive Officer

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3rd Battalion, 5th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) I  
Republic of Vietnam  
120900H March 1968

ANNEX A (Intelligence) to Operation HOUSTON Frag Order #9.

Ref: (a) Map Vietnam 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I  
(b) Operation Order 301-68

Time Zone: H

1. Summary of enemy situation

a. See Reference (b) Annex B (Intelligence) to Operation Order 301-68.

b. Several POW, Hoi Chanh and Vietnamese civilians' statements indicate that the C-118 Company and possibly elements of two NVA Companies are in the area of operations.

2. Essential elements of information are as set forth in reference (b).

By Command of LtCol ROCKEY

R. C. WISE  
Maj USMC  
Executive Officer

Appendices

1. Intelligence information gathered in addition to Ref (b).
2. Trails, LZ, water and streams overlay.
3. Enemy situation overlay.

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ENCLOSURE (1)



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## APPENDIX 1

1. The enemy has been ordered to evade friendly operating forces. The VC have up to thirty kidnapped Vietnamese males, who are being forced to operate as VC by the hard core. The enemy will use mines and booby traps to delay the advance to friendly troops, mainly along avenues of approach (trails and paths) which lead to his positions.
2. There have been many reports of two NVA Companies moving with Local Force VC from the highway northward to the mountains.
3. There are reports that the local VC are suffering from a shortage of ammunition.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines  
 Thua Thien Province  
 141600H March 1968

Frag Order #10 for Vehicular Patrol: Operation HOUSTON

Ref: (a) Map Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series L7014 Sheet 6541 I  
 (b) 5th Marines OpOrder 301-68

### BACKGROUND

Since the beginning of Operation HOUSTON the Fifth Marines have secured Highway One from all interdiction allowing traffic to flow freely during daylight hours. Valuable time is lost every morning waiting for completion of the engineers' mine sweep. In order to obviate the morning mine sweep in this sector of the road, 3rd Bn, 5th Marines will institute a roving vehicular patrol which will cover the entire sector of highway within our AO continually during hours of darkness.

### 1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Capabilities. The enemy has proven himself capable of firing small arms and mortars at Highway One effectively. He can also mine and booby trap the road surface. These capabilities are heightened during hours of darkness.

b. Friendly. Two Companies of 3rd Bn, 5th Marines have primary responsibilities of keeping Highway One clear of enemy mines and fire from close in ambush. Two Companies search constantly for mortar positions. The road companies can reasonably be expected to muster a squad at any designated point along the highway on a fifteen minute notice; a platoon on forty minute notice.

2. MISSION. The 3rd Bn, 5th Marines Vehicular Patrol will drive over the entire length of road assigned to this Battalion nightly to add to security of the highway by supplementing company ambushes and to replace the morning mine sweep with positive clearance proof daily.

### 3. EXECUTION

a. Concept. With two vehicles each, the companies assigned road patrol responsibilities will cover their respective sectors of Highway One a minimum of nine complete trips nightly to include one later than 0500 daily.

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The vehicles will stop only at pre-selected parking sites along the highway at irregular intervals each night. Breaks should not account for total of more than ten minutes per driving hour. The two vehicles in each sector will travel as a pair, at all times, but will be separated by 300-700 meters.

b. Road Companies

(1) Provide a minimum of four men for road patrol each night who are proficient in the use of proscribed weapons and communications equipment.

(2) Provide security for parking zones as they are utilized by patrol.

(3) Train all personnel who will participate in the road patrol.

(4) Submit road patrol schedules to this Headquarters along with daily activity submissions. These schedules will include:

(a) Call signs of vehicle patrol;

(b) Parking places to be utilized by patrols;

(c) Time of arrival and departure of each vehicle at each parking site and direction of departure;

(d) Location from which patrol will originate i.e. to which vehicles should report for personnel augmentation.

(5) Be responsible for maintenance of assigned road patrol weapons.

(6) Harden vehicles as desired on a daily basis and submit frequent suggestions for patrol technique or material improvements.

c. M&S Company

(1) Provide required M60 machineguns with pintle to road companies.

(2) Provide two vehicles per company per night to report with driver and M60 stand to the sites requested by companies, at least fifteen minutes prior to darkness.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~d. Artillery Liaison Officer

(1) Plot 81mm mortar and Artillery permanent on call fires to support vehicular patrols. (See Appendix B)

(2) Insure that artillery and 81mm mortar on call fires are checked daily with firing units.

o. S-3

(1) Assign checkpoint/parking site designations.

(2) Furnish vehicle patrol with list and location of other night activities.

4. ADMIN and LOGISTICS

Proscribed minimum weaponry and equipment.

- a. Minimum of one mounted M60 per two vehicle patrol.
- b. Minimum of one M79 per two vehicle patrol.
- c. Minimum of one gas grenade per individual.
- d. Helmets and flak gear will be worn by all vehicle mounted personnel. Gas masks will be carried.

5. COMMAND, COMI and ELECT

a. Each two vehicle patrol will carry one radio provided by H&S Company with the vehicle. The radio will be utilized on the company frequency of the company to which assigned.

b. The companies will be in complete control of vehicular patrols in their respective AO's unless otherwise directed by this Headquarters for tactical reasons.

By Command of LtCol ROCKEY

*[Signature]*  
R. C. WISE  
Maj USMC  
Executive Officer

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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