

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

3/LCG/dan
5750
31 May 1968

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

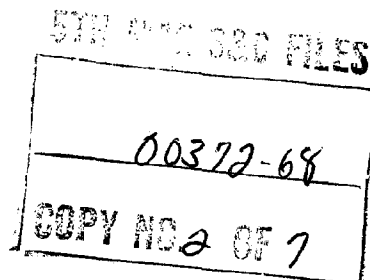
Subj: Command Chronology for period 010001H to 312400H May 1968.

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 II

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

G. W. Bowers
G. W. BOVERS
By direction



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3/5 SAC
00142-68

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MAY 1968

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HEADQUARTERS
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1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Command Chronology
010001H to 312000H May 1968

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Part I -Organizational Data
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May 1968

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation Commander Period Covered
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines LtCol D. W. HENROD

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	1stLt E. P. BARRON to 17 May 68 1stLt G. C. BACON fr 18 May 68
Co I	Capt E. HOLAKOWSKI Jr
Co K	1stLt F. W. SMITH
Co L	Capt J. D. NIOTIS
Co M	Capt F. D. PACIULO

2. Location. Thua 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	Major 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
30	1070	3	50

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May 1968

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The Battalion's shortages are two 0302 Captains, six 0302 Lts, one 0202 Captain, one 0130 Lt, one 0402 Captain, one 2502 Captain. There is a need for one Sgt Maj, two 0369 GySgt, eight 0369 SSgt's and forty-one 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 69% of its M/L strength in Staff WO's 0369, and only 43% of M/L strength in 03 Sgts.
2. Battalion Intelligence efforts during the first half of the month were primarily directed toward enemy activity in the Battalion's TACN in the vicinity of Hai Van Pass. The enemy kept up his harrassing activities concentrating on small group movements. During the last half of the month the Battalion operated in the Go Noi Island area South of Da Nang.
3. The Battalion was engaged in Phase II of Operation HOUSTON throughout the first half of the month. Intensive patrolling along Highway #1 continued along with bridge security. During the last half of the month the Battalion was on Operation ALLEN BROOK South of Da Nang.
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 first part of the month encompassing communications field expedients and instruction in the use of the An/PPS-6.

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SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) The battalion began the month of May with an on board strength of 30 Marine Officers, 1065 Marine Enlisted, 2 Navy Officers, and 53 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 31 Marine Officers, and 1039 Marine Enlisted, 4 Navy Officers, and 53 Navy Enlisted.

(2) The current effective strength of the Battalion is 24 Marine Officers, and 874 Marine Enlisted.

(3) Sixty-two Marine Enlisted plus 2 Marine Officers are scheduled for rotation during June 1968.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
0250	1
0302	3
0311	2
0311	19
0331	1
0341	21
0351	6
0369	2
2511	1
2533	1
3371	1
3051	2
3516	1
3531	2
5931	1
9999	2

(4) Critical MOS shortages are shown below:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>ML</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>SHORTAGES</u>
0302	32	24	2 Capt, 6 Lts
0202	1	0	1 Capt
0402	1	0	1 Capt
0130	2	1	1 Lt
0141	20	15	1 Sgt, 1 Cpl, 2 LCpl, 1 PFC
0331	110	93	9 Sgt, 8 Cpl
0369	33	23	8 SSgt
0441	2	1	1 Spgt
2591	1	0	1 MSgt
3041	8	5	2 Cpl, 1 PFC
9999	6	5	1 Sgt Maj

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~~UNCLASSIFIED~~(5) Casualties

KIA	2
DOV	2
WIA	117
WIAF	52
NON HOSTILE	55
MIA	0
DAI	1

b. Intelligence(1) Personnel

(a) During the month of May 1968 the Battalion Intelligence Section lost one Draftsman, Sp4. 1441, and one Interrogator/Translator, Sgt. 0251.

(b) During the reporting period Scout Dog Teams were unavailable, however, Armed Propaganda Teams and Scout/Sniper Teams were effectively employed. The Battalion's current attachments include five Scout/Sniper Teams.

(2) Collection. The main collection efforts during Operation HOUSTON II, and Operation ALLEN BROOK have been as follows:

- (a) Map corrections
- (b) Trail and water point locations
- (c) Enemy order of battle
- (d) Enemy infrastructure

(3) Reporting. The Battalion S-2 Section has conducted daily Commander and Staff intelligence briefings during May 1968.

(4) Enemy Activity.

(a) Synopsis 1. Operation HOUSTON II. Enemy activity decreased during the reporting period. For the most part, enemy activity in the Battalion AO took the form of limited attacks by fire, harassment by fire, and mining incidents, spread widely throughout the AO. Enemy interdiction attempts continued along Highway #1, concentrated in the Hai Van/Phu Loc areas. The enemy's primary effort has been concerned with the collection of food stuffs. The enemy has been moving in small units and has been trying to avoid contact with the Allied Forces.

2. The enemy has been using command detonated mines and booby-trapped M/26 grenades extensively throughout the Hai Van Pass area.

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3. The enemy is keeping his units as mobile as possible in order to evade Allied Forces operating in the area.

4. Operation ALLEN BROOK. The enemy unsuccessfully attempted to resist friendly incursion into his safehaven on Go Noi Island, and has been prevented from taking significant initiative against key Allied installations in the Da Nang area. Indications are that the enemy continues to attempt to hold the territory he occupies, while replenishing, recruiting and regrouping his forces.

5. Although agent reports and PW interrogations have contained indications of an enemy offensive, aimed at achieving a propaganda victory, victory for the peace talks, and to build morale, the disposition of enemy forces does not lend itself to the immediate accomplishment of widespread successes against major friendly positions.

(b) Capabilities: Continued harassing actions to include;

- a Sniper
- b Small scale attacks and ambushes
- c Use of mines and booby-traps
- d Propaganda
- e Terrorism
- f Attacks by fire
- g Mortar attacks

(5) Vietnamese Attachments

(a) Interpreters. The Battalion continues to employ at least five ARVN interpreters. Efforts are continually being made to insure that the rifle companies and the S-5 have at least one qualified ARVN interpreter each.

(b) Kit Carson Scouts. The Battalion continues to await assignment of Kit Carson Scouts.

(6) Enemy Losses. The enemy has suffered the following casualties as a result of the Battalion's action during May 68.

Operation HOUSTON II		Operation ALLEN BROOK		Total
KIA:	22	KIA:	60	KIA: 82
POW:	0	POW:	1	POW: 1
DET:	29	DET:	8	DET: 37
CHIEU HOI:	0	CHIEU HOI:	1	CHIEU HOI: 1

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~~UNCLASSIFIED~~(7) Weather.

- (a) Rainfall: 1"
- (b) Temperature:
 - 1. Avg. High 89
 - 2. Avg. Low 72
- (c) Light:
 - 1. Avg. Sunrise 0620
 - 2. Avg. Sunset 1917

(8) Terrain.

Operation HOUSTON II; See March 1968 Command Chronology.

Operation ALLEN BROOK; Thick vegetation, hedgerows, small rice paddies, and large villages.

(9) Captured Equipment. The following is the total of weapons and equipment captured by the Battalion during May 1968;

1 Operation HOUSTON II

- (a) Weapons. 3 B/40 rockets, 2 flare pistols, 1 French MAS 36 rifle, 1 Mossin Nagant Russian rifle.
- (b) Ordnance. 24 Chi-Com grenades, 1 concussion grenade, 1000 AK-47 rounds, 90 M/60 fuze lighters, 49 non-electrical blasting caps, 4 B/40 rocket rounds, 1 Russian mine.
- (c) 782 Gear. 6 pounds
- (d) Documents. 2 pounds

2 Operation ALLEN BROOK

- (a) Weapons. 6 B/40 rockets, 1 anti-aircraft machine gun, 2 AK-47 rifles, 1 AK-44 rifle.
- (b) Ordnance. 2 62mm mortar rounds, 4 60mm mortar rounds, 31 grenades, nine mines, 5 flares, 2 RPG rockets, 16 B/40 rocket rounds, 550 AK-47 rounds, 500 lbs. rice, 50 lbs. corn, 1 rifle grenade sight, 1 rifle grenade launcher adapter, 500 Russian machine gun rounds, 10 60mm mortar ignition cartridges, 7 blasting caps.
- (c) 782 Gear. 400 pounds
- (d) Documents. 33 pounds

c. Training

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

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- (a) Weapons safety
- (b) Radio procedures
- (c) Spot reports
- (d) FO & FAC procedures
- (e) Field communications expedients

(2) Nine 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.

(3) Personnel attended the following schools.

- (a) Officer Leadership School -2
- (b) Staff NCO Leadership School -2
- (c) NCO Leadership School -4
- (d) Embarkation -1
- (e) Vietnamese Language -1
- (f) Basic Organic Supply Accounting -1

d. Operations

- (1) 010001H May Operation HOUSTON II commenced.
- (2) 061400H May 68 Assumed OPCON of Company M from 1/5.
- (3) 111400H May 68 chopped Company M to 2/5.
- (4) 160930H May 68 assumed OPCON of Company M from 2/5.
- (5) 171330H May 68 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 7th Marines. Participation in Operation HOUSTON II terminated for this organization.
- (6) 180600H May 68 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 27th Marines. Operation ALLEN BROOK commenced.
- (7) 312400H May 68 Operation ALLEN BROOK continues.

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~~UNCLASSIFIED~~e. Artillery Support

(1) During the month of May Battery F, 11th Marines, was in direct support of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Batteries M, and Whiskey Battery were in general support. US Navy patrol boats gave off shore support during Operation HOUSTON II. Battery F, displaced to the Da Nang TAOR during the last half of May to support 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines on Operation ALLEN BROOK.

(2) Battery F FO's gave 23 hours of training in FO procedures to CAP 7 and CAP 9. About 15 hours of instruction concerning defensive fires was also given to these units. The FO's also gave 26 hours of instruction to infantry units.

(3) Battery F fired a total of 3808 rounds in support of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines during May. Of these rounds 3384 were fired with HE fuze quick, 303 with fuze VT, 40 WP, 3 HC smoke, 50 fuze timed, 10 fuze delay and 18 illumination. Battery M fired 863 rounds, and Whiskey Battery fired 639 rounds in support of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(4) Batteries F, M, and Whiskey fired a total of 4963 rounds during the month of May.

(5) Batteries F, M, and Whiskey fired a total of 1159 rounds in support of unobserved missions during the month.

(6) Batteries F, M, and Whiskey fired a total of 3575 rounds of H&I fires during the month. Navy patrol boats fired 33 rounds of 81mm mortar.

(7) Batteries F, M, and Whiskey fired 54 observed missions during the month. The Batteries fired 635 rounds in support of these missions.

f. Air Support. Air Support of the Battalion has been commensurate with Battalion needs.

(1) Tactical Fixed Wing Support: There were 46 fixed wing airstrikes during the month of May in support of Operation HOUSTON II and ALLEN BROOK.

(2) Helicopter Support

- (a) 8 Huey gunship strikes
- (b) 20 medevacs, including 6 Emergency medevacs.
- (c) 23 resupply missions to troops in the field.

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

g. Communications

(1) The Battalion was supported primarily with F.M. communications during the month of May.

(2) A manual relay, followed by an automatic relay station was set up to maintain communications with Co. M during the period 10 May to 16 May.

(3) AN/PPS-6 school was held by the Comm Chief with personnel newly joined by the Battalion. The following observations were made.

a Set up in a pre-plotted with (FDC or FSCC) position or send in the location after setting up. Polar Plots may then be used by the supporting arms.

b Each operator must plot returns as they occur.

c When first assuming watch the operator must check out all plotted returns from the previous watch.

d The operator must operate the set, checking out all returns as to azimuth distance and direction of movement. Mere setting a range and sweeping; sitting down and waiting for something to happen is insufficient and most targets would not be detected due to disinterest.

(4) Teletype (covered) via Radio Relay (AN/MRC-62) was maintained with the Fifth Marine Regiment until 16 May 68. This was a semipermanent position and the previously reported bulkiness of the TT-4's, which this Battalion uses was more than offset by the dependability of their operation in this type location.

(5) The importance of Not med-ovading radios with wounded operators or placing them on resupply helicopters without an escort cannot be overemphaized. Since 18 May 68 this Battalion has had 4 radios lost to friendly troops after placed on helicopters for return to the L.S.A. They were not dropped off at the L.S.A. as Bn. personnel there did not receive them. An additional 6 radios were dropped at destinations other than those designated when placed aboard the helicopter.

(6) Support by and liasion with the communications platoon of the 27th Marine Regiment has been outstanding thus far during Operation ALLEN BROOK.

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~~SECRET~~h. Logistics

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

(2) Supply.

(a) During the first part of May, Battalion Supply prepared diligently for its inspection by the Material Management Team, scheduled for 22 May 1968. However, this was cancelled on 20 May to be rescheduled at a later date.

(b) Also, during the month they initiated action to effect the exchange of the chrome chambered M-16 rifles. To date, Battalion Supply has exchanged 802 rifles, with only stragglers remaining.

(c) On 15 May, the Supply Officer and Supply Chief attended the second Supply Officer/Chief conference in Da Nang.

(d) On 18 May, Battalion Supply sent an armorer and supply man to the field to work as ordinance and supply liaison during Operation ALLEN BROOK.

(e) On 22 May, Battalion Supply turned in 634 blankets and 307 field jackets to FLSC-A for further shipment to FLC in order to be cleaned.

(f) A vehicle is utilized daily for the purpose of picking up necessary classes of supply and ensuring that all RUC gear is removed from the Shipping and Receiving area at FLSC-A on a timely basis.

(3) Motor Transport.

(a) On 17 May Motor Transport received twenty new M-151 vehicles replacing the M-422A1's which are scheduled to be turned in on 1 June 1968.

(b) The problem of obtaining parts for the M-274A2 still exists, however it has been somewhat alleviated with the procurement of thirteen new starter assemblies, a carburator, and magneto repair kits. Three items for the M-274A2 are presently on order through the Red Ball System.

(c) The Motor Transport Chief will be leaving in July, and many of the key personnel in the section are leaving within the next sixty days.

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i. Civic Action

(1) Medcaps. 1,063 people were treated in Medcaps that were held this month. Most of the Medcaps were held in the refugee camp at Phu Luong (862-158).

(2) PsyOps. 4,500 leaflets were distributed in our TAOR. A total of 14 leaflet drops were requested. Nine of these were in support of an operation by Company M. 400 Chieu Hoi balls and 1,060 Chieu Hoi Pens were also distributed.

(3) Civil Affairs Assistance: A number of bath tubs were made by the section and used in conjunction with the Medcaps. The people were taught how to bathe properly and they began to use the tubs after being given instructions. We have also made a couple of small hospital beds that will be used to provide more sanitary conditions for children. A few see-saws are also in the planning stage, and they will be given out to the refugee camp at Phu Luong (862-158).

(4) Problems: None

(5) Serious Incident Reports: There were no Serious Incidents the month of May.

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2. Chronology of Events

a. 171330H May 68

Participation in Operation HOUSTON II terminated.

b. 18 May

1st Lt. C. G. BACON assumed command of H&S Co.

c. 18 May

Operation ALLEN BROOK commenced.

d. 31 May

Operation ALLEN BROOK continues.

e. 31 May

1st Lt J. D. ANDERSON joined the Battalion as Motor Transport Officer.

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

3/LCG/dan
3121
3 June 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines
Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

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

Encl: ✓(1) Overlay of Area of Operation

1. Name of Operation: Operation HOUSTON Phase II - Search and Clear Operation.
2. Dates of Operation: 010001H May 1968 to 171330H May 1968.
3. Location: Along Highway #1 South of Phu Bai Combat Base in Thua Thien Province.
4. Control or Command Headquarters: 5th Marines
5. Reporting Officer: Lt.Col. D. N. REXROAD, Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
6. Task Organization: 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein)
LtCol. D. N. REXROAD
H&S Co (-) 1stLt. B. P. BARRON
Det, Btry F,, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines

ENCLOSURE (2)

7. Supporting Forces.

(1) From Commencement of Phase II of Operation HOUSTON until its termination for this organization on 171330H May 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.

b. Air

(2) A total of 25 fixed wing missions were flown in support of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, during Phase II of Operation HOUSTON. Twenty one of these strikes were TAC(A) controlled, and four were FAC controlled.

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8. Intelligence

a. The enemy forces anticipated on Operation HOUSTON II, were not expected to exceed two VCMF Battalions, seven NVA Battalions, one Regimental Headquarters, and several 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.

K4 Bn.
K4C Bn.
K4B Bn.
K5 Bn.
K10 Bn.
T87th Bn.
802nd Bn.
4th Regt. Hdq.

c. Collection and dissemination

(1) During Operation HOUSTON II, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines IIT Team interrogated 20 Vietnamese nationals. These interrogations resulted in all being classified as innocent civilians and released.

(2) Captured documents include several personal letters, and one diary.

(3) Captured weapons include three B/40 rocket launchers, two flare pistols and two French sniper rifles.

(4) Other captured gear includes twenty Chi-Com grenades, 19 non-electrical blasting caps, four B/40 rocket rounds, six pounds of 762 gear.

(5) Total enemy losses were 22 KIA (confirmed).

9. Mission

During the conduct of Operation HOUSTON II, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was assigned the mission of keeping Highway #1 open through the Hai Van Pass Area. Intensive patrolling and bridge security were included in the mission.

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10. Concept of Operations

At 010001H May 1968, Phase II of Operation HOUSTON commenced with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines continuing their mission of keeping Highway #1 open. Since the Battalion occupied the same position when Operation HOUSTON II commenced as it did when Operation HOUSTON I terminated, there was no significant change in the concept of operations.

11. Execution:

a. 1 May 1968

(1) At 010825H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 809016 Road scrapper detonated pressure type mine with right rear wheel. Blew right rear tire with slight damage to wheel rim. Mine left 2' x 4' crater in the road. Road still passable.

(2) At 011100H Kilo Bridge Security At coord. 886954. Two farmers while tilling soil detonated a dud M-79 round. Both farmers were wounded. Corpman gave first aid and med-evac was called.

b. 2 May 1968

(1) At 021900H India Ft. ambush at coord. 202998. While patrol was moving to ambush site they made small arms contact with unknown number of VC. The enemy fired 40-50 rounds. Patrol returned 150 rounds 5.56. Enemy broke contact. 2 USMC WIA 1 emergency and 1 priority.

(2) At 022050H Kilo Ft. ambush at coord. 883955. Ambush heard loud movement to their front. Ambush called in artillery illum. and observed 4 enemy troops in light colored uniforms, with packs, helmets, and rifles. Patrol fired approx. 250 5.56 rounds, 25 7.62 rounds, and 8 M-79 rounds. Enemy returned 40-50 rounds, and tried to envelope the ambush. Patrol threw 8 M-33 grenades and movement ceased. Called artillery mission and searched area. Found 3 NVA KIA's.

c. 3 May 1968

(1) At 030700H Kilo at coord 882955 while searching area of contact as reported in spot rep. 022050. Found one NVA KIA and equipment. Also found blood trails in brush and paddie area. Found 1 AK-47 rifle with ammo and two chi-Com grenades, hammock, and extra uniform.

(2) 031100H Lima Co. at coord. 936917. Found one dead VC. body looks to be about a month old. Two chicom grenades were found by body.

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(3) At 031600 3/5 CP at 936917. Army truck ran off road. Army officer requested 3/5 eng. to blow truck. Marines salvaged all usable gear and blew truck with 120 pounds of C-4.

(4) At 031700 H Lima Co. At coord. 937886. Army vehicle ran off road while heading South. Vehicle went about 30 meters off road, turned over on its top, and burst into flames. Exploding ordnance prevented quick extinguishment of the fire. Army personnel claimed bodies and uncharred equipment.

d. 4 May 1968

(1) At 041025H 35th Eng. (USA) 5 ton tractor-trailer detonated pressure type mine. Slight damage to low bed.

e. 5 May 1968

(1) At 052230H India Bridge Security received 6 HE mortar rounds of unknown size. Fired illum., but neg. counter battery fire.

(2) At 050100H 3/5 CP at Hai Van Pass heard small arms fire along road. Checked area and found crater in the road. Road still passable. Will check thoroughly at first light.

(3) At 050130 India at coord. 195014. CAP 7 unit set in ambush at above coord. Five NVA came into area. Ambush opened fire killing one NVA. NVA had an overlay of CAP 7 and Bridge 11 on him. Captured 1 AK-47 and cartridge belt.

(4) At 050730H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 929921. Two culverts blown. Collapsed culverts and filled them in.

(5) At 050800H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 929922. Bulldozer hit road mine. No casualties. Left track being repaired.

(6) 051005 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 906955. Five ton dump truck hit mine. Damage to right front wheel. Reswept area with neg. results.

(7) At 051120 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 906951. Found 4 pound block of TNT rigged with comm. wire. Disarmed mine.

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(8) At 051100H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 936918. Found undetermined amount of explosive in culvert. Removed explosive.

(9) At 051105H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 936918. Found one anti tank mine off shoulder of road. Mine disarmed.

(10) At 051140H Kilo at coord. 903954. Eng. security found one Soviet anti personnel mine, blew mine in place.

(11) At 051410H 3/5 CP at coord. 193891. U.S. Army dump truck was hit by claymore mine probably command detonated. Marines swept hillside by fire. Searched area with neg. results. 3 USA evacs.

f. 6 May 1968

(1) At 060005H 3/5 CP at coord. 874988, 833998, 860092, 815993. 35th Eng. (USA), Foxtrot 2/11, and India 3/5 all had incoming 82mm mortar rounds, at approx. the same time. Returned fire with 81mm mortars and artillery mission. 4 USMC Med-evacs.

(2) At 060946H India squad patrol at coord. 860009 Swept confirmed enemy mortar site. Found two 5'x9' mortar pits also 10 misfired 82mm mortar rounds, 1 VC entrenching tool, and one pair of green tennis shoes.

(3) At 061430H 3/5 CP at coord. 936902. Engineer unit repairing road received two sniper rounds from est. one VC. Returned fire and checked area with neg. results.

(4) At 061645H Lima squad OP at coord. 936902. OP received 3 sniper rounds from an est. 2 VC. OP returned 20 rounds 5.56 and checked area with neg. results.

(5) At 061820H 3/5 CP at coord. 933920. Black powder claymore mine exploded on Highway #1 just behind a Vietnamese civilian truck. No damage or injuries.

(6) At 062115H India at coord. 207006. Ambush spotted at least 5 boats coming to shore at coord. 187062. Ambush also saw signal light for boats. Called arty. mission on boats and light. Checked area at first light with neg. results.

(7) At 062250 3/5 CP at coord. 913944. Culvert was blown on Highway #1, but road is still passable. Checked area and found B-40 rocket round dud on road, blew in place.

ENCLOSURE (2)

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g. 7 May 1968

(1) At 071810H Kilo found aircraft at 929922. Wing number on plane was XV-NIT. Appears to have been crashed about two months ago.

(2) 072030H India squad ambush at 807018. While patrol was moving to night ambush site point man tripped a booby trap. After the explosion approx. 6-7 VC opened up on patrol. Patrol returned heavy volume of fire. Enemy broke contact. Checked area with neg. results.

(3) 072100H Lima at 093895 spotted 1 VC approx. 100 meters from position. Opened fire. VC fled area.

(4) At 072100H India at coord. 198009 encountered approx. 7-8 enemy personnel at coord. 198007. Enemy opened fire. India returned fire, and pulled back to Highway #1 with medevac. Searched area with neg. results.

h. 8 May 1968

(1) At 080745H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 90654. Mine sweep tripped one anti-personnel mine. Called medevac helicopter. Upon landing, helicopter received 2 B-40 rocket rounds and small arms fire. Squad from Kilo checked area with neg. results.

(2) At 080900H 35th Eng. (USA), at coord. 925925. Mine sweep unit found booby trapped anti-personnel mine. Blew in place.

(3) At 080945 35th Eng. (USA) Mine sweep found box mine, est. to be 25 to 40 pounds. Blew in place.

(4) At 081000H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 925925. 3/4 ton truck hit anti-tank mine. 1 Viet Civilian wounded. Medevaced by Marine helicopter.

(5) At 082130 Lima at coord. 937979. Ambush sighted 10-12 VC who appeared to be digging a mortar pit. Army unit sent patrol to investigate.

(6) At 081015H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 925925. Mine sweep found 2 anti-personnel mines. Blew them in place.

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(7) At 080805H 35th Eng. (USA) at coord. 808009. Mine sweep unit found two blown culverts. Culverts were filled in.

(8) At 081005H Kilo at coord. 897957. One Viet Civilian had shrapnel wound in head. Civilian had been wounded when VC took Army Eng. under fire with small arms and B-40 rockets the day before.

(9) At 081710H Mike Plt. Patrol at coord. 875896. Patrol received approx. 100 rounds of automatic weapons fire. Checked area with neg. results.

(10) At 081530H Lima at coord. 933918. Command detonated mine wounded 2 USA Eng. Medevac. Vehicle was hit by 2nd command detonated mine. Searched area revealed several hundred feet of comm. wire. 2 USA medevac, 2 civilian medevac and 1 ARVN medevac.

(11) At 081900H Mike at coord. 875895. Mike Co. continued search of area where contact was made. Received sporadic small arms and grenades. Mike found 2 NVA KIA and assorted 782 gear.

(12) At 081930H India at coord. 808009. USA had broken down vehicle, and needed security for the night. Sent out fire team security.

(13) At 082100H 3/5 CP at coord. 082030. ARVN unit picked up VC transmission on radio. VC talking to 3 units and warning them of approaching Marine force. Info. passed to all units.

(14) At 081600H Mike Co. at coord. 865895. While Co. was moving down to low ground rear element was hit by est. 4 NVA. Received S/A fires and grenades. Mike encountered approx. a squad of NVA in base camp and encountered heavy resistance. 1 USMC KIA.

1. 9 May 1968

(1) At 090015 India squad ambush at coord. 825011. Ambush captured two Viet, male Civilians. Captured based on males being out after dark. Returned detainees to India Co.

(2) 091100H Mike at coord. 869907. NVA staged a dawn attack with automatic weapons fire and B-40 rockets. Mike returned heavy volume of automatic weapons fire, M-79 rounds and M-33 grenades. Called air strike on suspected enemy pos. captured assorted documents and 782 gear.

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(3) At 091240H Lima at coord. 993918. Patrol spotted movement and fired 106 RR Bee Hive round. Checked area with neg. results.

(4) At 091315 Lima at coord. 932919. to 924923. Patrol moved to check area of suspected enemy activity. . . Found numerous foot prints and small base camp.

(5) At 091600H Mike at coord. 186990. After consolidating positions Mike maneuvered to gain control of high ground. Encountered est. enemy platoon and heavy resistance. Mike secured high ground and consolidated company perimeter. Called artillery and air strikes on all sides of positions.

(6) At 091610H India at coord. 205015. Point man of patrol tripped M-26 grenade while moving to ambush site. 1 USMC medevac.

(7) At 091800H Mike at coord. 869906. Mike received air resupply. Supplies dropped outside perimeter. Patrol sent to get supplies, encountered heavy resistance. Supplies in enemy hands.

(8) At 091930H Mike at coord. 869908. Mike consolidated positions for night security. Oriented ambushes to South where contact has been heaviest. New resupply drop scheduled for 100800H May.

(9) At 092000 India At coord. 856005. While on patrol with India squad, USMC sniper spotted 1 VC wearing black P.J.'s. VC was carrying weapon. Sniper fired 3 rounds. Observed VC fall. Searched area found 1 VC KIA.

(10) At 092100H Lima at coord. 929882. Patrol spotted figures running along trail. Opened fire on enemy. Enemy fled east down the ridge line. Checked area with neg. results.

j. 10 May 1968

(1) At 100800H Mike Plt. patrol at coord 869906, moving to regain contact with enemy, received S/A fire from enemy Plt. Returned S/A and M-79 fire, and remained in contact to adjust artillery. Removed wounded to Co. perimeter.

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(2) At 101300H Mike Co. perimeter at coord. 868907, received air drop resupply. Attempted med-evac unsuccessful due to poor weather and enemy fire. Continuing to use artillery and fixed wing air to suppress enemy fire.

(3) At 101500H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord. 931921 dozer hit pressure mine on road shoulder. Both tracks blown off. Road being reswept.

(4) At 101525H Mike Co. perimeter at coord. 868907 received sniper fire from four NVA in tree tops on high ground to west. Returned fire, one enemy shot from tree, fire silenced. 1 NVA confirmed, 1 USMC WIA.

(5) At 102030H Mike Co. perimeter at coord. 868907 after firing close in H&I artillery fire to east, heard heavy movement, screams, and dragging sounds. Called in additional artillery and fired S/A and 60mm mortars in direction of sounds.

(6) At 102145H 3/5 CP at coord. 922928 heard explosion. Kilo patrol moved to area vicinity 922930 and saw two enemy climbing mountain to south. Pursued physically and with fire, with neg. results. One culvert partially destroyed with crater 6'x'4', road still passable.

k. 11 May 1968

(1) At 110011H Kilo squad patrol at coord. 913945 observed 2 enemy on road 200 meters south. Fired S/A and and M-79 and pursued enemy with neg. results. Found 20' comm wire and hole dug in road in preparation to blow culvert.

(2) At 110930H Mike Co. perimeter at coord. 869907 called close in air strikes, causing extensive disturbance among enemy who seemed to be fleeing east to avoid air strike.

(3) At 111300H Mike Co. perimeter at coord. 868907 received helicopter resupply drop, 50% of which fell in enemy lines. Helicopters received 1000 rounds enemy S/A and automatic weapons fire. Med-evac was attempted but helicopter received numerous S/A hits and mission was aborted. Continued to employ extensive close in artillery support. Unknown number of wounded helicopter personnel.

(4) At 111400H Mike Co. at coord. 868907 effected link up with elements of 2/5, and chopped OPCON 2/5.

ENCLOSURE (2)

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(5) At 110840H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 809009.
Mine sweep 5 ton truck struck large mine in road. Right forward dual wheels blown off, 5 USA WIA.

(6) At 110904H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 809015.
Mine sweep discovered U.S. MIAI mine in road. Blown in place.

(7) At 111330H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 912857.
Road scraper struck mine. Right front wheel blown off. Area being reswept.

(8) At 111330H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 924926.
Found and disarmed US MIAI mine.

(9) At 111405H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 924926.
5 ton truck hit mine. Right front tire blown off.

(10) At 112130H Kilo squad ambush, at coord 907950.
Heard explosions on road at coord 906951 and 903953. Two culverts partially destroyed.

1. 12 May 1968

(1) At 120240H India bridge security at coord 097010.
Received 3 incoming 60mm mortar rds. Resulting in 2 USMC WIA non evac. Did not return fire due to uncertain enemy location near friendly village.

(2) At 120810H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 903953.
Mine sweep 5 ton truck hit large road mine, and was blown from the road and extensively damaged. Mine crater 6' diameter, 4' deep. Sweep continued.

(3) At 120840H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 904952.
Mine sweep found and destroyed one U.S. MIAI mine.

(4) At 121345H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 906951.
Mine sweep found one large mine consisting of 26 pounds C-4 and one ChiCom claymore mine, rigged for command detonation. Mines blown in place.

(5) At 122000H Kilo F.T. ambush, at coord 912947.
Heard explosion at 913943, and moved to investigate. Received incoming grenade and SA fire. Returned fire, advanced, and searched area. Culvert damaged, road not passable.

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(6) At 122015H Kilo F.T. ambush, at coord 918929. Explosion occurred 50 meters away. Culvert slightly damaged, road passable. Searched area with negative results.

(7) At 122020H Kilo F.T. ambush, at coord 912947. Observed 7 VC. crossing road, east to west, about 100 meters north. Fired SA and M79 rds and observed 2 enemy fall. Pursued enemy, checked area with negative results.

m. 13 May 1968

(1) At 130745H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 914858. Mine sweep found one ChiCom claymore near side of road, wrapped in plastic sheet, not rigged for detonation. Blew in place.

(2) At 130803H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 899958. Mine sweep found and destroyed unknown type mine in road.

(3) At 131345H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 923927. V.N. civilian road worker tripped M-26 booby trap near culvert. 1 USA, 6 V.N. civilian WIA evaced. Searched area with negative results.

(4) At 131700H Lima Co. CP, at coord 940915. Observed 2 VC moving in vicinity 949897. Fired 6 106mm beehive rds. 600 rds. 7.62, and 15 rds. 60mm mortar.

(5) At 131730H Lima Co. CP, at coord 940915. While firing 60mm Mortar mission, tube jumped from base plate, causing 2 USMC NBC minor.

(6) At 131945H India Plt. bridge security, at coord 197010. Received incoming SA and 8 60mm mortar rds, from enemy location to north. Returned 6 106mm HE, and 400 7.62mm linked 4 USMC, 3 P.F. WIA.

m. 14 May 1968

(1) At 140810H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 807015. Mine sweep found and destroyed one ChiCom claymore.

(2) At 141500H India Plt. patrol, at coord. 185055 in response to A.O. sighting of possible new fortifications. searched area with neg. results.

(3) At 141905H, Kilo Ft. ambush, at coord. 912947, while moving to ambush site, received 40 rounds carbine fire from estimated 3 VC vicinity 907947. Returned fire and pursued enemy with neg. results.

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(4) At 142345H, Lima squad ambush, at coord. 960895, observed two Vietnamese boats near shore in restricted area. Opened fire with S/A and M-79. One boat sank, one boat fled to sea. Captured 1 Vietnamese male VCS.

(5) At 142345H, India Ft. ambush, at coord. 193007, received 6 60mm mortar rounds from coord. 187994 and heavy small arms from estimated 30 VC 50 meters from their position. Returned S/A M-79, M-33 grenades, and 3 LAAWS. Enemy broke contact. Reaction force from Bridge 11 linked up and withdrew casualties. Called artillery mission on enemy withdrawal routes. 2 USMC KIA, 4 USMC WIA evaced. Enemy casualties unknown.

a. 15 May 1968

(1) At 150940H, 35th Eng. Bn. (USA), at coord. 923927, mine sweep found, disarmed, and recovered 2 ChiCom claymore on shoulder of road.

(2) At 150945H, 35th Eng. Bn. (USA), at coord. 912944, 6x6 truck following mine sweep was hit by command detonated ChiCom claymore. 1 USA, 1 USMC WIA evaced. Kilo squad patrol fired 81 mortar mission and searched area with neg. results.

(3) At 151015H, Kilo Ft. patrol, at coord. 911942, heard explosion vicinity 914945. Investigated and found 1 USA and 1 USMC WIA from command detonated ChiCom claymore. Followed wires, searched area with neg. results. Received 40 rounds carbine fire from vicinity 907946. Called 81 mortar fire mission.

(4) At 151300H, Kilo squad patrol, at coord. 902947, searching area of earlier contact, struck a daisy chain of several M-16 bouncing betty mines on trail. Additional forces dispatched to aid the squad. Medovac called in. 1 USMC KIA, 7 USMC WIA.

(5) At 152100H, DaNang Harbor Patrol Boat, at coord. 970870, observed moving lights vicinity 960888, in restricted area. Called fire mission through 3/5. Fired 20 81mm H.E., and 6 155mm H.E.. No further enemy activity. Searched area at first light with neg. results.

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p. 16 May 1968

(1) At 161700H, Mike Co. CP, at coord. 885954, man cleaning dismantled 3.5" Rocket Launcher with round still in rear segment of launcher, had accidental discharge. Round went through and through right side of chest. 1 USMC NBC emergency evac.

(2) At 161715H, Kilo Ft. OP, at coord. 912947, received 20 long range carbine rounds from west. Called 81mm Mortar mission. Enemy fire silenced.

(3) At 162150H, India Squad ambush, at coord. 817009, while moving into ambush, received automatic burst from 100 meters to north. Returned 1 incoming frag grenade. Returned fire and continued search with neg. results. 3 USMC WIA non-evac.

p. 17 May 1968

(1) At 170740H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 815008. Mine sweep found one pressure mine. Blew mine in place.

(2) At 170745H 35th Eng. Bn. (USA) at coord 815008. Mine sweep found booby trap device pressure type. Blew in place.

(3) At 172150H India at coord 817009. Point element hit by automatic burst from 1 VC. Also received 1 incoming grenade. Returned fire searched area with neg. results.

12. Results

a. Enemy

(1) Personnel: 22 VC/NVA KIA

(2) Materials

(a) Rifles-	2
(b) Flare Pistols-	2
(c) Grenades-	20 ChiCom
(d) Rockets-	3 B-40 Rocketa
(e) Ammo-	1000 AK-47 rds.
	4 B-40 rounds
(f) Other-	90 M/60 electric
	blasting caps. 6
	pounds of assorted
	782 gear.

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b. Friendly

(1)	KIA	-17
(2)	DOW	-00
(3)	WIAE	-44
(4)	WIANE	-41
(5)	NBC	- 5

13. Administrative Mattersa. Resupply

(1) Almost all resupply during Phase II of Operation HOUSTON was accomplished by vehicle.

(2) There were 10 helicopter resupply mission during the operation.

b. Maintenance. Difficulty in getting parts for several of the vehicles effected some inconvenience.

c. Treatment of Casualties, Evacuation, and Hospitalization.

(1) Casualty treatment was handled very capably by the Battalion Surgeon and his corpsman in the field.

(2) Evacuation of casualties were effected with minimum loss of time.

d. Transportation. The unavailability of transportation from the Battalion rear at Phu Bai to Hai Van Pass was slowed down due to the unavailability of parts for some vehicles. The lack of parts did not cause any major problems for the Battalion rear or Battalion forward during Phase two of the operation.

e. Communications.

(1) Continued to support the battalion utilizing primarily F.M. communications. Covered TTY was also used secondarily between regiment and the Battalion.

(2) A manual relay followed by an automatic relay station set up by division, was required to effectively maintain communication with Mike Co. during the period 10 May to 16 May. This was caused by direct terrain masking of the line of communications to Mike Co.

(3) AN/PPS-6's were used to assist with the guarding of two bridges. It is important to note in the

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PPS-6 and plot the location with the supported units arty and mortar F.O's. This enables Polar Coordinates to be used in requesting supporting fires. Immediately upon setting in, approx. 10 to 15 minutes should be spent plotting returns as to distance and size from fixed target returns. This enables there operators to be briefed prior to assuming their respective watch. It must be emphasized that the man on watch must "operate the set. Checking all returns he detects. Mere sitting in setting range and searching is insufficient.

(4) The advantage of having enlisted FAC teams with each company was emphasized by contact action of Mike Co. . 10 to 16 May. Handling of med-evac in extremely difficult terrain and the running of air strikes in the same circumstances was enhanced by trained and experienced enlisted personnel assigned to the company on a permanent basis. Their continuing supervision of all communications in the company also assisted in leaving the commander free to concentrate on the tactical situation.

f. Medical Evacuation

(1) Total No. of medovacs	- 66
(2) Killed in Action	- 17
(3) Wounded in Action	- 44
(4) Wounded in Action, Non Evac	- 41
(5) Non Battle Casualties Evac	- 5

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14. Special Equipment and Techniques. It was noted that the two gallon plastic water bottle fits securely inside the standard 20 pound demolitions bag. This protects the water bottle from puncture and provides an easy means of carrying the bottle slung over the shoulder.

15. Commander's Analysis.

(a) Phase 2 of operation Houston was no different from the final portion of phase 1 which was previously discussed. This search and clear operation was designed to keep highway one open between Danang and Phu Bai. Although several enemy mining incidents caused temporary halts in the flow of traffic there was no significant cessation during the period covered by the report. The operation was characterized by increased small unit contacts and incidents of mines and booby traps.

(b) Company Mike's combat patrol inadvertently happened upon an NVA base camp and was heavily engaged in extremely tortuous terrain. This action eventually required an additional company and a command group from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and was highly productive in the collection of information of intelligence value.

16. Recommendations: None.

16

G. W. Bowers

G. W. Bowers
By direction

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