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HEADQUARTERS

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

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S-2000

3/RCR/rat
5750
16 Aug 1968

3RD BATTALION MAR

CMD CHRON

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

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 010001H to 312400H July 1968

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

Encl: (1) Command Chronology Report

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

E. F. Hertling Jr.

E. F. HERTLING Jr.
By direction

3/3-SAC
00205-68

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5TH MAR S&C FILES

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| 00501-68 |
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July 1968

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

Command Chronology
010001H to 312400H July 1968

Index

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

PART IV - Supporting Documents
TAB A - Combat After Action Reports
(Opn Houston IV) 5-25 July 1968

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Enclosure (1)

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July 1968

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

| 1. Designation | Commander | <u>Period Covered</u> |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines | LtCol D. N. PEKROAD LtCol R. A. SEYMORE | To 18Jul68 Fr 19Jul68 |

SUBORDINATE UNITS

| | | |
|--------|--|--------------------------|
| A&S Co | 1stLt G. C. BACON 1stLt Z. KOBIASHVILLE | To 16Jul68 Fr 17Jul68 |
| Co "N" | Capt J. E. MITCHEL | |
| Co "P" | 1stLt F. W. SMITH Capt D. W. PIERS | To 19Jul68 Fr 20Jul68 |
| Co "L" | 1stLt A. M. CLEMENTS Capt R. G. SNOWDEN | To 7Jul68 Fr 8Jul68 |
| Co "M" | Capt F. D. PACELLO | |

2. Location. Quang Nam Province, RVN.3. Staff Officers

| | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| XO | Major G. W. BOWERS | To 16Jul68 |
| S-1 | CWO-2 J. S. BISESI | |
| S-2 | WO J. W. BEVIER 1stLt A. M. CLEMENTS | To 1Jul68 Fr 8Jul68 |
| S-3 | Major R. C. RICHARD | To 17Jul68 Fr 18Jul68 |
| S-4 | 1stLt G. C. BACON 1stLt B. P. BARRON Capt J. C. BROWN | To 16Jul68 Fr 17Jul68 |
| S-5 | 1stLt W. H. DODSON | To 17Jul68 Fr 18Jul68 |

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC
OFF 29 ENL 969

USN
OFF 2 ENL 53

1stLt A. M. CLEMENTS
Capt R. G. SNOWDEN

Capt J. E. MITCHEL

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ENCLOSURE (1)

2. Organization and Function, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines

July 1968

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The Battalion's officer shortages are one (1) Lt 0130, one (1) Lt 0202, one (1) Major and eight (8) Lts 0302, one (1) Capt 0402, and one (1) Capt 2502. The Battalion enlisted shortages are five (5) 3Sgt's 0369, one (1) GySgt 3516, and thirty-nine (39) Sgts 03's. The Battalion has 71% of its M/L strength of Lts 03, 85% of its M/L strength in Staff NCO's 0369, and 45% of its M/L strength of Sgts 03's.

2. All newly joined personnel attended a Regimental Indoctrination School. Training was conducted in the following subjects: Weapons Safety, Radio Procedures, Spot Reports, FO and FAC Procedures, Field Communication Expedients, and Fam firing of all individual and crew served weapons.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) The Battalion began the month of July with an on board strength of 50 Marine Officer, 995 Marine Enlisted, 4 Navy Officers, and 50 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 29 Marine Officer, 1011 Marine Enlisted, 2 Navy Officer, and 52 Navy enlisted.

(2) The current effective strength of the Battalion is 24 Marine Officer, and 862 Marine Enlisted.

(3) 2 Marine Officers, and 12 Marine enlisted are scheduled for rotation during August 1968.

| <u>MOS</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> |
|------------|---------------|
| 0302 | 2 |
| 0141 | 1 |
| 1441 | 1 |
| 0311 | 4 |
| 0331 | 2 |
| 0341 | 1 |
| 0351 | 1 |
| 0511 | 2 |

(4) Critical MOS shortages are shown below:

| <u>MOS</u> | <u>ML</u> | <u>OH</u> | <u>SHORTAGES</u> |
|------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 0130 | 2 | 1 | 1 Lt |
| 0202 | 1 | 0 | 1 Lt |
| 0302 | 32 | 23 | 1 Maj, 8 Lts |
| 0402 | 1 | 0 | 1 Capt |
| 0311 | 577 | 488 | 27 Sgts, 16 Cpl, 46 PFC/Pvts |
| 0331 | 110 | 95 | 7 Sgts, 8 Cpl |
| 0351 | 146 | 127 | 4 Sgts, 13 Cpl, 2 LCpl |
| 0369 | 33 | 28 | 5 SSgts |
| 3041 | 7 | 3 | 2 Cpl, 1 LCpl, 1 PFC/Pvt |
| 3516 | 6 | 3 | 1 GySgt, 1 Sgt, 1 PFC/Pvt |
| 3531 | 13 | 9 | 1 Sgt, 3 PFC/Pvts |
| 9999 | 6 | 5 | 1 1st Sgt |

(5) Casualties

| | |
|-------------|----|
| KIA | 2 |
| DOW | 0 |
| WIA | 11 |
| WIAME | 6 |
| NON HOSTILE | 11 |
| MIA | 0 |
| DIA | 0 |

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1. Intelligence.

(1) Personnel.

(a) During the month of July 1968 the Battalion Intelligence Section gained and lost one Intelligence Officer and had one Corporal, 0311 go on special leave.

(b) During the reporting period Scout Dog Teams and Armed Propaganda Teams were used, however, Scout Sniper Teams were effectively employed. The Battalion's current attachments include five (5) Scout Sniper Teams.

(2) Collection. During the reporting period, the main collection efforts have been as follows:

- (a) Map Corrections
- (b) Craft and water point locations
- (c) Enemy order of battle
- (d) Enemy Infrastructure
- (e) New landing zones

(3) Enemy Activity.

(a) Synopsis. During the reporting period enemy activity was concentrated mostly around gathering food-stuffs and limited movements. Sporadic booby-trap incidents were notably spread widely throughout the Battalion A.R.

(b) Capabilities. Continued harassing actions to include;

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

(4) Vietnamese Attachments.

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

(b) Kit Carson Scouts. For a portion of the reporting period the Battalion employed five Kit Carson Scouts. Upon leaving a specific area, the Kit Carson Scouts were transferred to the relieving unit.

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(6) Enemy Losses

| | |
|------------|---|
| KIA: | 9 |
| POW: | 0 |
| DET: | 6 |
| CHIEU HOI: | 0 |

(7) Weather

- (a) Rainfall: $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- (b) Temperature: 85
 - 1. Avg high; 85
 - 2. Avg low; 60
- (c) Light:
 - 1. Avg sunrise; 0615
 - 2. Avg sunset; 1930

(8) Terrain. See March 1968 Command Chronology

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

- (a) Weapons. 2 AK-47, 2 SKS, 3 B-40 rocket rds, 4 Chi-Com grenade, and 3 82mm mortar rds
- (b) Equipment. 1 gas mask case, 2 hammocks, 400 lbs Rice/Fish/Salt/Sugar
- (c) 782 Gear. 15 lbs
- (d) Documents. 2 pounds

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c. Training

(1) Training included lectures, demonstrations, and/or practical applications in the following subjects.

- (a) Weapons safety
- (b) Radio procedures
- (c) FO procedures
- (d) Field communications expedients

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

(3) Personnel attended the following schools

| | |
|--|------------|
| (a) NCO Leadership school | -7 |
| (b) Officer's Leadership school | -6 |
| (c) Embarkation school | -2 |
| (d) PSYOPS school | -1 |
| (e) Land Mine Warfare, demolitions and booby trap school | -20 |
| (f) Staff NCO Leadership school | -2 |
| (g) Military Justice school (Officer) | -2 |
| (h) Vietnamese Language school | -1 |
| (i) 1st MarDiv Mobile Training team school | (Off) -5 |
| | (Enl) -253 |

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d. Operations

(1) 01001H July 68 3rdBn 5thMarines participated in Operation MAMELUKE THRUST.

(2) 040945H July 68 3rdBn 5thMarines chopped back to 5th Marines. MAMELUKE THRUST terminated for this Battalion

(3) 041630H July 68 Alpha Co 1stBn 7th Marines chopped to parent organization.

(4) 051800H July 68 3rdBn 5th Marines participated in Operations HOUSTON Phase IV (Northern Phase)

(5) 080400H July 68 3rdBn 5th Marines assumed OPCON of Lima Co. 3rdBn 5th Marines.

(6) 251200H July 68 India Co chopped from 3rdBn 5th Marines Operation HOUSTON Phase IV (Northern Phase) terminated. Kilo Co chopped from 3rdBn 5th Marines to OPCON TASK FORCE X-RAY.

(7) 261200H July 68 India Co chopped from 3rdBn 5th Marines to First Marines.

(8) 261800H July 68 3rdBn 5th Marines Kilo and India chopped OPCON to 7th Marines and commenced Operation MAMELUKE THRUST.

e. Artillery Support

(1) During July, direct support artillery was provided for 3/5 by F Battery 2ndBn 11th Marines.

(2) There was no general support artillery used by 3/5.

(3) A total of 5436 rounds were fired, 5370 HE, 53 illumination and 23 white phosphorous.

(4) 43 unobserved and 23 observed fire missions were called for a total of 66 live missions.

(5) A total of 560 rounds were fired in live missions.

(6) The four forward observer teams gave a total of 30 hours instruction in artillery FO and communications procedures.

(7) The biggest problem concerning the artillery liaison was the cumbersome clearance procedures necessary to protect the large civilian population of the area.

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f. Air Support

(1) Tactical Fixed Wing Support

- (a) 82 TAC (A) controlled
- (b) 10 FAC controlled

(2) Helicopter Support

- (a) 50 medevac missions
- (b) 8 Huey gunship strikes

(3) Miscellaneous

- (a) 8 Spooky gunship missions
- (b) 70 AO missions

g. Communications

(1) Primary means of communications by means of FM radio with a covered teletype shot to 5th Marines via AN/TRC-27 Radio Relay.

(2) A wireman was attached to the Comm/TACP Supervisor team with each company and supervised the laying and maintenance of all wire within each company defensive positions.

(3) PPS-6's were utilized by India and Lima company, accompanied by radar technicians who have been trained by the battalion in tactical employment of the PPS-6's. Five 81 mm mortar fire missions were called as a result of unaccounted for activity in the radar search areas.

(4) H.F. Sideband (PRC-47's, MRC-83's) was used to maintain contact between the forward Admin. C.P. and the Rear Bn, C.P. during MAMELUKE THRUST Operations at the beginning and end of the month.

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UNCLASSIFIEDh. ~~Logistics~~

(1) General. The overall logistic status of the battalion is satisfactory. Battalion S-4 has supported the battalion with transportation and resupplies by utilizing helicopters and trucks.

(a) Helicopter support was requested on a three day scheduled basis, for resupplies Hills #494 and #230.

(2) Supply Sistuation. Battalion Supply is in the process of moving all non-critical supplies to a warehouse in Danang in preparation for the scheduled move of the 5th Marines in the first part of August. Battalion Supply is in the process of effecting the transfer of certain items.

(a) On July 5th, the Supply Officer attended the third periodic Supply Officer/Chief conference in Danang.

(b) 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 FLSG-1 on a timely basis.

(3) Motor Transport. Problems with the new M151A1's are being experienced with the replacement of regulators and carburetors. The contact points on the regulators are burning out the contact surface and as a result are welding themselves together. The carburetor wall is being ruptured or enlarged by the brass low speed adjustment screw. This is due to the hard brass and soft aluminum. The second problem in the carburetor, is a faulty acceleration pump. This seems to be due to faulty manufacture. It is suggested that Holly carburetors be substituted for the present Zenith carburetors.

Parts for the M274A2's are still in insufficient supply. We have received eleven (11) starters to this date, leaving eleven (11) outstanding.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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i. Civic Action

(1) MediOps. There were 486 civilians treated by the Battalion Medevac Team in our TAOR.

(2) PsyOps. 200 Leaflets and 300 Chieu Hoi pens were sidtributed in our TAOR.

(3) Civic Action Assistance. Cement and building materials were used in reconstruction of buildings burned during enemy conflict.

(4) Problems. None

(5) Serious Incident Reports. Wounding of 3 and 1 death as a result of 60mm mission from Mike Company CP at Bridge 2. Home was burned down and assistance was given by S-5 personnel. Project was terminated due to our move. Liaison was made with 1/26 Marines (S-5).

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2. MANUFACTURE OF MESSING

a. 1-3 July 68 Operation MAMELUKE THRUST

b. 5-25 July 68 Operation HOUSTON Phase IV (Northern Phase)

c. 19 July 68 LtCol R. A. SEYMOUR assumed duties as Battalion CO

d. 20 July 68 Capt D. W. MYERS assumed duties as Kilo Company CO

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

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3/RCR/dan
 3121
 4 Aug 1968

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

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A
 (b) 5th Mar. Op. 0 4-68
 (c) 3rd Battalion 5th Marines Opo 1-69
 (d) 3rd Battalion 5th Marines Opo Plan 1-69

Encl: (1) Area of Operations

5TH MAR S&C FILES

02417-69

COPY NO. 1 OF 14

1. Name of Operation: Operation HOUSTON Phase IV
2. Dates of Operation: 051800H July 1968 to 251200H July 1968
3. Location: Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam
4. Control or Command Headquarters: 5th Marine Regiment
5. Reporting Officer: Lt. Col. D. N. REXROAD, 051800H July 1968 to 191200H July 1968. Lt. Col. R. A. SEYMOUR, 191200H July 68
6. Task Organization: 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein) Lt. Col D. N. REXROAD to 191200H, Lt. Col R. A. SEYMOUR 191200H July 1968.

H&S Co (-)

Lt. G. C. BACON to 15 July 1968.
 Lt. Z. KOBIASHVILI En. 15 July 1968.

Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn, 11th Marines
 Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
 Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

Co I

Capt. J. E. MITCHELL

Det, H&S Co 3/5
 Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
 Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
 Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

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1st Lt. F. W. SMITH to 15 July
 1968. Capt. D. W. MYERS 15
 July 1968.

Det, H&S Co 3/5
 Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
 Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
 Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

Co L Capt. R. J. SNOWDEN
 Det, H&S Co 3/5
 Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
 Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
 Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

Co M Capt. F. D. PACELLO
 Det, H&S Co 3/5
 Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
 Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
 Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

7. Supporting Forces

a. Artillery

(1) Foxtrot 2/11 provided direct support artillery for 3/5 during Operation HOUSTON Phase IV.

(2) General support artillery was not used by 3/5 during HOUSTON IV.

(3) Cumbersome clearance procedures, necessary in the TAOR because of the heavy civilian population, hindered the employment of artillery in the area.

(4) During Operation HOUSTON IV the 11th Marines fired (3828) rounds at a total of (957) H&I targets.

(5) There were a total of (66) fire missions, (47) night defensive fire registrations and (11) unobserved missions.

(6) A total of (336) rounds was fired on fire missions: (203) high explosive fuze quick, (36) rounds fuze variable time, (74) rounds white phosphorous and (23) smoke rounds.

b. Air

(1) During Operation HOUSTON IV no fixed wing missions were flown in support of the Battalion.

(2) Helicopters were used for both Med Evac and resupply missions. Twelve Med Evacs and Thirteen resupply missions were flown in support of 3rd Battalion 5th Marines.

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UNCLASSIFIEDDuring Operation HOUSTON IV one aerial observer
was used for reconnaissance.8. Intelligence

a. During the month of July, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines became responsible for bridge and road security within its assigned AO. By using maximum amount of day and night time activities, and by frequently changing their composition and disposition, 3/5 successfully denied the enemy the opportunity to conduct a mass attack against friendly positions within the AO. The enemy's food-gathering capabilities, acts of terrorism, and probing activities were greatly reduced by extensive patrolling and ambush activities.

b. The following enemy units were identified as being disposed within striking distance of the AO:

1. K-2 Bn.
2. K-4 Bn.
3. K-4-C Bn.
4. K-15th Bn.

c. Collection and Dissemination

(1) Four Vietnamese civilians were detained for questioning. All four detainees were interrogated by ITT and released to Phu Loc District HQ as VC sympathizers. These detainee interrogations led to the employment of PRU's in the immediate area which resulted in the capture of three guerrillas, one rice collector and one finance committee man. 3/5 also worked closely with the CAG units in the AO, interrogating their detainees upon request. There were no Chieu Hoi's or POW's.

(2) Captured documents included anti-American propaganda, log books, tax collection records and personal letters.

(3) Captured weapons included:

- (2) AK-47
- (2) SKS

(4) Other captured equipment included the following:

a. Ordnance - (2) B-40 Rocket rounds, (4) ChiCom grenades and (3) 82mm Mortar rounds.

b. 15 lbs of misc. 782 gear

c. Approx. 400 lbs of food consisting of rice, fish, salt and sugar.

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(5) Total enemy losses for the period were (4) VC KIA (confirmed).

9. Mission

In the assigned AO: Keep the MSR open by protecting Route #1, bridges, culverts, and passes. Support and protect friendly installations, units, convoys and road repair parties. Conduct offensive operations to destroy enemy forces, material and positions. (See references b and c).

10. Concept of Operations: With four companies, establish AO's in accordance with enclosure (1). Employ minimum required forces at fixed positions in conjunction with friendly units established nearby. With remaining forces, conduct saturation daylight patrols and night ambushes to destroy enemy forces, caches and installations. (See references: (b and c)).

11. Execution

a. 9 July 1968

(1) At 090030H Lima Co. at coord. YD966087. Received (3) incoming fragmentation grenades from estimated 3 NVA/VC. Returned (100) rds. M-16, (1000) M-60, (30) M-79, (10) M-33 grenades, (20) rds. 81mm Mortar HE; searched area with neg. results. 2 USMC WIAE.

(2) At 092040H Kilo Co. at coord. YD958048. K-1B, while moving into ambush position, spotted 4 VC moving South across open approx. 100 meters to West. Marines opened fire with (8) M-79 rounds and approx. two M-16 rounds. K-1A, in ambush site to West, also opened fire with approx. (30) M-16 rds. Two stray rounds hit two members of Kilo 1B. One Marine was hit with small ricochet fragment in nose and the other had flesh wound in leg. Will return both to bridge #5 for routine Med Evac first light 10 July 1968. Enemy fled to South. 2 USMC WIAE.

(3) At 092230H Mike Co. at coord. YD905099. While in night ambush position observed an estimated (14) enemy armed with AK-47's and automatic weapons wearing green utilities at approx. 50 meter range. Detonated two claymores as enemy moved closer; called (41) rounds of 81mm fire; searched area. Remainder of enemy broke contact to West. (3) VC KIA conf. (2) AK-47's (1) SKS, (1) B-40 Rocket round and (3) ChiCom grenades, misc. 782 gear and documents.

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(1) At 110000H Lima 3/5 at coord. YD875088. While in night ambush position observed approx. 30 enemy 300 meters distance to NE carrying unknown type weapons. Called Marine arty mission of (60) HE and (3) WP rounds. Enemy dispersed, breaking into 2 main groups and fled West to SW. Ambush site not compromised. Potential contact still exists. Immediate area searched; plan to hold present position and conduct further search at first light.

b. 10 July 1968

(1) At 100010H India Co. 3/5 at coord. ZD010020. India received intel. rep. via S-3 at approx. 2100 that local people reported a large enemy force prepared to attack MCB compound this night from vicinity ZD013015. India 3/5 called (3) Marine arty missions, total of (37) HE, (1) WP, in vicinity of reported location. India also req. MCB compound to recon by fire in designated areas with their 50 cal. MG's. Recon by 50 Cal. in area of ZD024013 resulted in return fire of approx. 10 to 20 small arms from (3) separate locations. India called a new fire mission of 12 rounds of Marine 4.2 Mortar fire in area of reported small arms fire. India req. fire missions to be fired again at 0300. H&I to continue throughout the night.

(2) At 100115H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD875050. While in ambush position, observed approx. (6) VC at 600 meters range in open moving toward West. Called arty mission.

c. 11 July 1968

(1) At 110130H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD880062. While in ambush position, observed (5) VC at 600 meter range moving from bush to bush towards South. To fail to activate ambush. Called arty mission, 16 rds.

(2) At 111015 Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD875050. Refer to spot rep 110130H. Search of area of enemy siting completed, neg. results.

(3) At 111230H 3/5 CP at coord. ZD972066. Received following int. rep. from Cau Truci Hamlet Local:

S. 22
 A. Harbor Site
 L. ZD929074
 U. NVA/VC
 T. 111000H

E. (15) M-16 Rifles, (3) B-40's (1) 60mm Mortar
 Manuevered elements of Lima 3/5, Kilo RP-3 and RP-6, operating in area, to cordon and search reported site. At 111130H apprehended VC/NVA suspect at site. Neg. Contact. Search completed at 111245; ITT team requested.

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UNCLASSIFIED14 July 1968

(1) At 140330H Lima Co. at coord. YD951059. While in ambush position, received approx. (10) grenades from estimated (3) to (4) enemy located in a treeline approx. 75 meters North of position. Returned (100) rounds M-16, (10) M-79 rounds (5) M-33 grenades and (1) claymore. Enemy broke contact to the North. Unit searching area at this time.

(2) At 140330H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD889098. M-2B in ambush site observed (25) enemy approx. 50 meters distant moving NW to SE carrying small arms. Fired (100) rounds M-16 and M-60, (15) M-79, (12) M-26 grenades. Enemy returned approx. (30) rounds small arms fire. Called for and received (16) rds. 81mm HE (3) WP and (15) HE 105mm. Enemy broke contact to SE. Presently searching area.

(3) At 140720H Lima Co. 3/5 at coord. YD951059. Refer to spot rep. 140330H. Search of contact area completed, neg. results.

(4) At 140730H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD913117. While searching bridge defenses, found (1) Russian B-40 rocket round in abandoned tower. Forwarded to S-2.

(5) At 140746H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD889098. Refer to spot Rep. 140330H. Searched area and found one (1) NVA KIA confirmed, (100) lbs. rice, (50) lbs. fish, (50) lbs. salt, various documents.

(6) At 140900H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD914103. While moving to day time platoon patrol base, received (2) rds. small arms fire from village at range of 300 to 400 meters. Searched village and detained 2 personnel as VC suspects. Suspects will be brought to 3/5 CP later this afternoon.

(7) At 142320H India Co. 3/5 at coord. ZD055031. India reports neg. enemy ground attack within AO. Reports E Battery 2/11 reported receiving unknown number of enemy 60mm Mortars. I-1B and I-1C spotted apparent mortar flashes at coord. 056009. India commenced action for fire mission but was advised by Battery E, 2/11 that they were able to observe target and would control fire mission.

e. 15 July 1968

(1) At 152240H Kilo Co. 3/5 at coord. YD979053. Defensive position on extreme Southern portion of bridge #6 received one incoming enemy explosive device approx. 10 meters distant, believed to have been a grenade. Returned (5) M-79 rounds in general area but failed to draw enemy fire. Perimeter put on 100% alert. 1 USMC WIA.

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f. 17 July 1968

(1) At 171100H India Co. 3/5 at coord. ZD855006. India patrol still searching area of enemy mortar attack of 15 July 68 located approx. (4) large positions, possibly mortar sites, and (10) fighting holes. At first grid, (1) set of NVA gear was found by a fighting hole which had been hit by an arty rd. At the 2nd grid, (3) live 82mm mortars rounds were found in addition to a sand bag for carrying rounds. The bag was full of shrapnel holes. Arty coverage on 2nd position was outstanding with at least one direct hit on (1) of the larger positions. Also, a trail into and out of the position was located. All gear will be brought in and sketch of trails and positions will be plotted for future fire. Search will continue.

(2) At 171700H India Co. 3/5 at coord. ZD049017. 1 USMC sprained ankle while on combat patrol at above location. Requested and completed helo med evac. Also one Marine suffered from heat stroke, also med evaced. 2 USMC NBC.

(3) At 172000H Lima Co. 3/5 at coord. YD951070. While moving to ambush site, point man detonated unknown type of fragmentation explosive device. Explosion similar to M-26 grenade. Called for and received med evac. 3 USMC WIAE. 2 Em. 1 Priority.

g. 18 July 1968

(1) At 181235H Kilo Co. 3/5 at coord. YD965052. While passing through village, lead elements noticed unusual device attached to pole on right side of trail. Point man moved forward to investigate and device was detonated in unknown manner. Searched surrounding area with neg. results. Presently continuing mission and will bring in remains of explosive device for further examination and report. 1 USMC WIAE.

(2) At 182100H CAG-H-8 at coord. YZ995965. Intel. Rep. approx. (300) VC armed with (2) 82mm, (3) 60mm and many machine guns are staying in or around Troui Mountains. This should be K-4 Bn. and may suddenly attack friendly troops from village LOC AN and CAG - H-4 to Troui this night or next to celebrate July 20, or they will move to the village of Vinh Loc and travel along Route #1 to YD995043.

(3) At 182110H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD895855. Approx. 4-6 enemy approached ambush site from South West; unable to determine if armed. Engaged enemy with (2) M-26 grenades (10) rds M-16 from distance of 20 meters. Enemy fled to SW. Searched area with neg. results.

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(4) At 182230H CAP-H1 at coord. YD919109. Patrol observed (1) 60mm illum. Rd. hit houses at above coord. which resulted in fire. Shortly after fire started, (3) explosions similar to satchel charges, (2) explosions similar to grenades, and approx. 200 small arms explosions took place, (5) civilians wounded by explosions, were found in and near house. Search of area conducted with neg. results. Civilians taken to CAP-H-1 position. Med evac completed (2) Em. (3) priority. Mike 3/5 interpreter interrogated civilians with neg results. Thorough search of house will be resumed after first light.

(5) At 182230H India Co. 3/5 at coord. ZD003015. Ground radar at MCB 121 position detected heavy movement at above coord. MCB 121 after clearance from India Co. fired (25) rds 81mm HE. India 3/5 will check area at first light.

h. 19 July 1968

(1) At 190115H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD880060. One priority med evac; possible malaria; has had high temp. of 103° for 3 days. Called med evac. 1 USMC NBCE.

(2) At 192130H H&S Co. 3/5 at coord. YD855133. One USMC displayed symptoms of advanced case of malaria. Considered emergency medevac precedence. Med evac completed. 1 USMC NBCE.

i. 20 July 1968

(1) At 200830H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD905106. While sitting in patrol base civilians came up to M-1 actual and drew a picture in the dirt showing impression of explosion. M-1A checked out area, found (1) claymore which looks like one of first U.S. models; making payment of 500 P to civilians with S-2 scout handling transaction.

(2) At 200945H India Co. at coord. ZD053027. India contracted one probable malaria case, evac. Emergency evac being called. 1 USMC NBCE.

j. 21 July 1968

(1) At 211315H Mike CP 3/5 at coord. YD926105. Negligent discharge by Kit Carson Scout wounded one Marine in right arm with .45 pistol; investigation pending. Med evac in process. One USMC NBC routine evac.

(2) At 211410H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD900108. While moving to patrol base, Vietnamese woman stopped Mike 2-B while patrolling area and pointed to stream. Patrol checked out area woman indicated and located one AK-44 with wpn lubricant on it, 5 rounds, and one gas mask pouch. S-2 en-route to interrogate woman. Weapon will be forwarded to S-2 forward. Woman given 500 P as award payment.

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At 211700H India Co. 3/5 at coord. ZD020007. India contracted one probable USMC malaria case. Med evac completed at 211830H. One USMC NBC Evac.

(4) At 211830H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD897097. While moving to M-2A and M-2B ambush position, discovered suspected enemy cache at above location. Numerous trails leading to site warrants employment of entire platoon. (3) 50 lbs bags of rice, (1) 5 lb. bag of sugar, (1) bag containing pens, soap, candy, etc. were captured.

(5) At 211845H H&S Co. 3/5 at coord. YD847085. Suspected VC spotted in open at approx. 2,000 meters distance. Fire mission called by 1st FAG, (6) WP, (12) HE. Enemy fled in NE direction.

(6) At 212000H Kilo Co. 3/5 at coord. YD979053. PF's located on bridges at above locations (#6 and #7) departed their positions with wpns. When stopped and questioned by Marines, stated they were going on ambush. Past experience indicates PF's leave positions without orders only when they have knowledge of imminent attack. Check through local PF chain and CAG reveals no authorization for action. Although attempt was made to hold all PF's at positions, approx. five from each position departed. Advised all friendly units in AO of PF's actions.

k. 22 July 1968

(1) At 220930H India Co. 3/5 at coord. ZD053025. Marines from Shore Party attached to 5th Marine HST stationed Cau Doi LSA were emptying trash in dump used by all units at Cau Doi when an unknown type explosion device detonated in the burning trash, wounding 2 Marines and a Vietnamese girl about 12 yrs. old. Marines were treated by 2/11 dispensary. Civilian girl taken to Phu Bai by vehicle after CAP H-4 notified parents. 2 USMC NBCNE. 1 Vietnamese Civ. Evac.

(2) At 221645H Mike Co. 3/5 at coord. YD892075. One priority med evac of USMC; cause of med evac possible pneumonia. 1 USMC NBCE.

(3) At 221700H CP. 3/5 at coord. YD932074. Unidentified Vietnamese women reported that two Vietnamese civilians had been injured in an accident which occurred in a gravel pit located adjacent to 3/5 CP. Corpsman dispatched to render assistance. Upon arrival at the scene the following was observed: a 14 yr. old male with multiple minor abrasions; name: Le Mao; a 17 yr. old male with fractured skull, unconscious, lying on small piece of canvas, name: Tran Van Ha pronounced DOA by senior corpsman. Both delivered to home located vicinity YD934093. Vietnamese civilian, Tran Van Phu, who identified himself as member of family, stated that both victims were digging for rock, when an embankment caved in on

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top of them. Copy of this report to be furnished to local village chief. No military personnel involved.

1. 23 July 1968

(1) At 232025H Lima Co. 3/5 at coord. YD949068. At approx. 231910H, two machine guns and (3) .45 Cal. pistols were test fired by Marines. These weapons were fired due North from Bridge #4 directly into water. One PF negligently fired a BAR at the water and into the air from his bunker. The PF was shooting West. Lima 6 called for him to cease fire and he did. Moments later another PF fired a carbine and the PF with the BAR started firing again. Lima 6 again told the PF's to cease fire and they did. About 232000H SS Lima was notified by CAP H-2 that a civilian woman named Nguyen Thi Diep was killed by a bullet at coord. YD936081 at approx. 231900H. The NCOIC of the PF unit at bridge #4 is Sgt Tran Thieu.

m. 24 July 1968

(1) At 241145H Mike Co. at coord. YD926104. While in CP area, one Marine picked up a rifle belonging to another. During move, weapon was fired, resulting in GSW to shoulder of Vietnamese civilian. Em. medevac completed. Serious incident report to follow.

12. Results

a. Enemy

(1) Personnel. 4 VC KIA confirmed.

(2) Material

| | |
|---------------|---|
| (a) Rifles | 2 AK-47's 2 SKS's |
| (b) Equipment | 2 B-40 rocket rds, 4 ChiCom grenades, 3 82mm Mortar rds, 782 gear including approx. 15 lbs. of misc. gear. Food included approx. 400 lbs. of rice, fish, salt, and sugar. Captured documents included anti-American propaganda, log books, tax records, and personal letters. |

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| | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| (1) | KIA | 0 |
| (2) | DOW | 0 |
| (3) | WIAE | 5 |
| (4) | WIANE | 2 |
| (5) | NBC | 5 |
| (6) | Heat Casualties | 0 |

13. Administrative Matters

a. Resupply. Resupply to the major portion of the Battalion was accomplished by vehicle. India Co. was resupplied directly by the LSA, located at Cau Doi. Hill 230 was resupplied by helicopter only.

b. Maintenance. There were no major maintenance problems.

c. Treatment of Casualties, Evacuation, and Hospitalization.

(1) A forward aid station was established with the Battalion CP. The Battalion Surgeon was positioned at the rear aid station located at Phu Bai Combat Base.

(2) No significant problems were experienced in treatment, evacuation or hospitalization of casualties.

d. Transportation

The 5th Marine Regiment provided three M-37 and one M-51 which were used for troop transportation and resupply of units at fixed installations within AO.

e. Communications. The operation was primarily supported by FM communications. Co K employed an AM radio as a back up communications system. The PRC 77/KY-38 was satisfactorily used for secure transmissions between the Battalion and company CP's. Phone lines were used on each of the bridges to provide internal communications between defensive positions.

f. Medical Evacuations

| | | |
|-----|-----------------|----|
| (1) | KIA | 0 |
| (2) | WIA | 7 |
| (3) | NBC | 5 |
| (4) | Heat Casualties | 0 |
| (5) | Total Med Evacs | 10 |

14. Special Equipment and Techniques. None**UNCLASSIFIED**

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15. Commander's Analysis. The following requirements were considered essential to successfully accomplish the assigned mission.

- a. Employment of minimum number of forces at fixed installations, supported by maximum use of defensive barriers and comprehensive supporting arms fire plans.
- b. Employment of remaining forces to conduct saturation daylight patrols/night ambushes along avenues of approach to fixed installations.
- c. Retention of capability to consolidate platoon size units rapidly for employment as counter attack forces within AO. (See reference d)
- d. Maintenance of continuous communications with friendly units within AO in order to ensure rapid, successful, mutually reinforcing capabilities.
- e. Promotion of an active civil affairs program within villages near fixed installations to develop and maintain local intelligence sources.

16. Recommendations. None

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