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



Command Chronology 010001H to 312400H Jan 1969

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PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

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(1)

ENCLOSURE (1)





PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Commander

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines

LtCol H. E. ATKINSON

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Company H&S

Capt T. P. BURNS

Company India

Capt M. A. GURROLA

Company Kilo

lstLt W. W. RIGGS

Company Lina

1stLt H. B. OVERTON

Company Mike

1stLt R. A. HUDSON

2. Locations. The entire reporting period for January, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines continued to participate in Operation TAYLOR COMMON in the western part of Thuong Duc and in the eastern part of Duc Duc Districts in the Quang Nam Province of RVN.

3. Staff Officers.

Chaplain

	•	
	Exec0	Major E. F. HERTLING To .9Jan69 Major W. F. Burt Fr 10Jan69
:	S-1	lstLt W. G. BINES, Jr.
•	S-2	1stLt K. J. SALAMON
	S-3	Major W. F. BURT To 9Jan69 Major M. L. SWEETY Fr 10Jan69
	S-4	Capt R. A. BEELER
	S-5	2ndLt D. W. JAMIESON
	Supply0	1stLt G. C. FERREE
	CommO	1stLt D. W. RODDY
,	MTO	2dnLt D. W. JAMIESON
	Medical0	Lt N. RUBIN Lt B. L. CHERTOCK

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Lt F. D. THOMPSO

ENCLOSURE (1)

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Air LiaisonO

Capt W. M. GIBBS ALO Capt E. J. SMITH FAC

Le. Average Monthly Strength

USMC OFF ENL 32 1,057 OFF ENL
3 56

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- 1. The Battalion's Officer shortages are one WO 0130, one Capt 0202, one Capt and two Lt's 0302 and one Capt 0402. The Battalion enlisted shortages are: one SSgt 0141, five GySgt's and four SSgt's 0369, and 38 Sgt's. The Battalion has 95% of its M/L strength in Lt's 03, 72% of its M/L strength in SNCO's 0369, and 30% of its M/L strength in Sgt's 03.
- 2. The 3rd Battalien, 5th Marines continues to participate in Operation TAYLOR COMMON which commenced 070001H Dec 1968. During this period the battalien constructed two fire support bases, three combat operating bases and numerous landing zones in Base Area 112. The battalien also conducted aggressive patrol operations to seek and destroy enemy forces, weapons and material.
- 3. 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; fam firing of all individual weapons and crew served weapons; Mines and Booby Traps; UCMJ and Geneva Convention; Punitive Articles; Review of Grenades, Claymore Mine, LAAW, M-79, Gas Mask and Use of Gas; Field Sanitation and Hygiene and Care of the Individual's equipment.

3-1

ENCLOSURE (1)



Charta

PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. Topics

1. Personnel and Administration

- a. Strength. The Battalion began the month of January with an on board strength of 32 Marine Officers, 1115 Marine chlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 60 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 34 Marine Officers, 1126 Marine Enlisted, 4 Navy Officers, and 56 Navy Enlisted.
- b. <u>Discipline</u>, <u>Law and Legal</u>. During the reporting period, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines had three Summary Courts Martial and two Special Courts pending.
- c. Morale. Morals and fighting spirit continued to be excellent. Personnel who captured POW's received incountry R&R.
- d. Postal. Postal service continued at the same degree or excellence.
- e. Awards. During the reporting period, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines awarded one Bronze Star and six Navy Commendation Medals for heroism and meritorious service.
- f. Interior Management. Administration procedures and proficiency continued to be excellent.
- g. FOM/Detaines. There was one detained during the month which was kater classified as an innocent civilian.

2. Enemy, Weather and Terrain

a. Enemy. During the reporting period, enemy activity consisted of small scale attacks against small units, continued use of mines and booby traps and recruitment and indoctrination of the local populace.

b. Weather.

1. Rainfall: Light

2. Temperature:

a. Avg High: 82

b. Avg Low: 72

3. Light:

a. Avg Sunrise: 0655

b. Avg Sunset: 1816

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c. Terrain. During the reporting period, steep mountainous terrain was prevalent, with the area covered by light to medium jungle canopy.

3. Organization and Operations

- a. Organization. For the entire reporting period, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines remains OPCON to the 3rd Marine Regiment.
- b. Operations. The entire month of January, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines continued to participate in Operation TAYLOR COMMON. At the present time, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines continues on Operation TAYLOR COMMON.

c. Supporting Arms.

- 1. The First Marine Air Wing. provided air support as follows:
- a. Helicopters flew 33 medevac missions to evacuate II emergencies, 19 priorities and 17 routines. Six troop lifts were made during this period.
- b. Aerial Observers flew 13 missions in support of the battalion.
 - c. Tactical Air Support was provided by 20 tactical air strikes as follows: Three TAC (A) controlled and 17 FAC controlled. There were 25 T.P.Q. 10 strikes flown.
 - 2. Artillery support was provided by the 1st Battalian.
 12th Marines, 2nd Battalian, 11th Marines and 1st FAG. These
 units fired 3,739 rounds of HE, 393 rounds of WP and 444 rounds of
 illumination on 28 observed fire missions (primarily registration
 NDF) and 25 unobserved missions

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- 3. Engineers. Excellent support was provided by Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion. Engineers were employed primarily in the construction of fire support bases, combat operation bases and helicopter landing zones. Engineers were also employed to destroy enemy bunkers and booby traps and dud ammunition.
- 4. Shore Party (HST). HST's were provided by Company B, 1st Shore Party Battalion. These teams provided satisfactory support in coordinating and effecting helicopter resupply and medevacs.
- 5. Scout Snipers. Detachment Scout Sniper Platoon, Headquarters Company, 5th Marines provided excellent sniper fire for the Battalion.
- 6. Interpreters. The Battalion is presently employing four ARVN Interpreters. Continuing efforts are being made to obtain two additional interpreters in order that each of the rifle companies, the Alpha Command and the S-5, have at least one qualified ARVN Interpreter.
- 7. <u>Kit Carson Scouts</u>. The Battalion is presently employing four Kit Carson Scouts. The Kit Carson Souts have been assigned to the four rifle companies of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

4. Training

- a. Training included lectures, demonstrations, and/or practical application in the seven Indoctrination Schools held by the 5th Marine Regiment.
 - b. Personnel attended the following schools:
 - 1. NCO School
 2. Officer Leadership School
 3. Embarkation
 4. SNCO School
 5. Basic Organic Supply Accounting School
 5
- 5. Logistics. The overall logistics status of the Battalion is satisfactory. The Battalion S-4 has resupplied the Battalion in the field on a daily basis.
- 6. Civil Affairs. During the reporting period 3rd Battalion,
 5th Marines S-5 has constructed 20 houses for the MY SON (2) village.
 At the present time S-5 has 20 additional houses under construction.



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- 7. Psychological Operations. During the reporting period there were 800 hand leaflets distributed. The themes were: Chieu Hoi & Rewards.
- 8. Communications. During the reporting period, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines were supported with primary use of FM radio communications.
 - 9. Significant Casualties Inflicted or Sustained; VC/NVA.
 - a. Friendly:

KIA	3.1	WI ANE	25
DOW	1	NHW	15
NHD	5	MIA	0
WIA	26	DAI	0

b. Enemy.

VC/NVA KIA 5

VC/NVA BNR 4 .

10. Significant Enemy Ordance Captured

8 SKS Rifles

1 Receiver for light machinegun

11. Significant Muntions Captured/Found and Destroyed

1 155mm Arty round 2 57mm rounds
20 9mm rounds
12 ChiCom grenades
1263 assorted small arms 620,30 cal. rounds

12. Significant Enemy Equipment/Food Stores Captured

25 pounds assorted documents
14 tons rice
35 pounds miscellaneous medical gear
75 woven blankets
125 pounds corn
miscellaneous NVA 782 gear

13. Significant Enemy Caves, Tunnels, Buildings and Fortifications Destroyed

44 hootches 8 tunnels 306 bunkers/fighting holes

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B. Entries: \See Tab "A" to Enclosure (1) (Staff Journal for period of 010001H through 312400H January 1969).

ENCLOSURE (1)

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UNIT OR SECTION

S-3. 3rd Bn. PLACE 5th Mar, 1st Div

TAYLOR COMMON

An Hoa, RVN FROM

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TI	ME	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
IN	TÜO	NO	GROUF		TAKEN
1100		1	011100Н	Co I (S&D) at (ZCO10585) While engineers were blowing LZ, an attached photographer was hit by flying debris. Results: 1 USMC NBCE	S≗F
1100		2	011100Н	3/5 CP((Sec) at (ZCOO4584) had one man wounded by friendly artillery at abnormal distance during enemy contact. Results: 1 USMC WIAE	S-F
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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. **DOD** DIR 5200.10

Tab "A" to Enclosure (1)



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UNIT OR SECTION

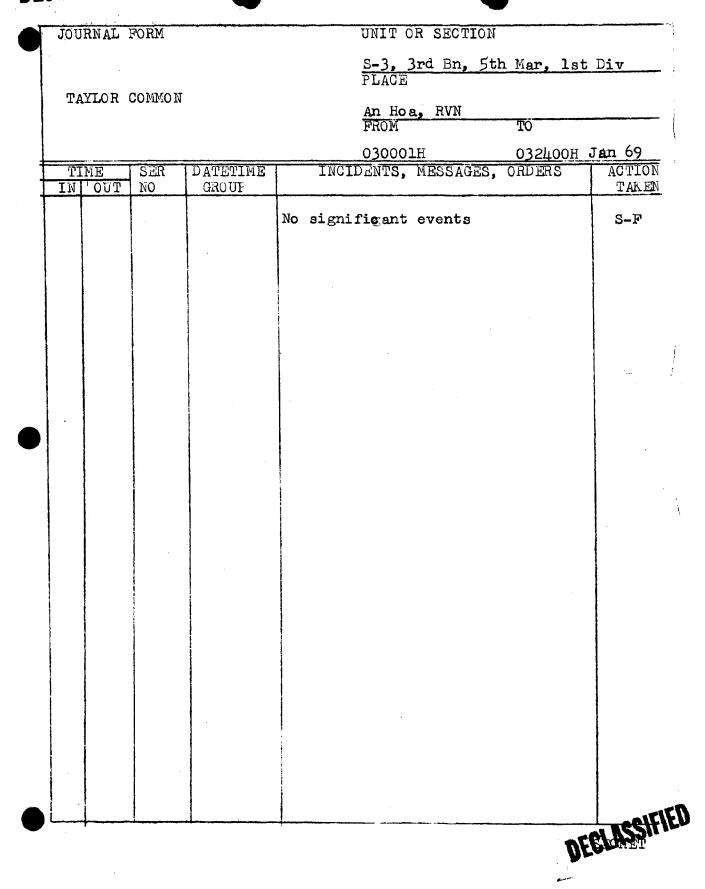
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		,			02000 1 H 022400H	Jan 69
1		ME 'QUT	SER NO	DATETIME GROUP	O20001H O22400H O2100H O2100H O22400H	ACTION TAKEN
	1030		1	021030Н	Co M (S&D) at (ZCO82378) While moving toward objective found one ChiCom microphone. Results: Destroyed in place	S-F
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Ī	TI	ME	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
I	ΙN	ΤΰΟ'	Ν̈́O	GROUP		TAKEN
	230		-1	040230Н	Co M (Night Positions) at (20082376) One Marine was accidentally shot while checking lines due to rain, fog and a heavy canopy. Results 1 USMC WIAE	S-F
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S-3, 3rd Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div

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IN OUT NO GROUF 1230 1 051230H Co M (Night Positions) at (ZC079374) Listening post received one sniper round then an automatic burst. Patrol was sent out to search area of enemy fire. Results: 1 USMC WIAE Co M (S&F) at (ZC080279) Searched out area referred to in spot report 051230H. Results: Found six enemy			·			050001н 052400н	Jan 69
1 051230H Co M (Night Positions) at (ZC079374) Listening post received one sniper round then an automatic burst. Patrol was sent out to search area of enemy fire. Results: 1 USMC WIAE O51400H Co M (S&F) at (ZC080279) Searched out area refered to in spot report O51230H. Results: Found six enemy	Ţ	TI	ME			INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN
(ZC079374) Listening post received one sniper round then an automatic burst. Patrol was sent out to search area of enemy fire. Results: 1 USMC WIAE Co M (S&F) at (ZC080279) Searched out area refered to in spot report 051230H. Results: Found six enemy	+	TN	OUT	NO	GROUP		T HICTOR
Results: 1 USMC WIAE O51400H Co M (S&F) at (ZCO80279) Searched out area refered to in spot report O51230H. Results: Found six enemy		1230		1	051230Н	(20079374) Listening post received one sniper round then an automatic burst. Patrol was sent out to	
		1400			051400н	Co M (S&F) at (ZCO80279) Searched out area referred to in spot report	S-F
						expanded 7.62 rounds	S-F
						expanded 7.62 rounds	S-

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

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1	TIME	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
	TUO'N	ЙO	GROUF	·	TAKEN
0 30		1	0617300н	Co I (S&F) at (ZCO97363) While on patrol located a village with three houses/bunkers. Also seven tunnels and one pig were found. Results: Houses, bunkers and tunnels destroyed. Documents (type unknown), rusty barrel and reciever for machinegum, and one satchel bag of assorted medical bottles were found	S-F

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•	IN IN	ME 'OUT	SER NO	DATETIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN
	0900	001		070900Н	Co L (S&D) at (ZCO84374) While on patrol found a network of trails. Along main trail found hootches able to sleep 16 people and numerous fighting holes. Results:	
	2350		2	072350Н	Holes and hootches were destroyed Co I (S&D) at (ZCO82373) While on patrol received two incomming grenades. Negative fire returned due to dense fog. Results: 2 USMC WIANE	S⊕F S-F
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S-3, 3rd Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div PLACE

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

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		···			090001H 092400H	Jan 69
1	TI	ME	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
1	IN	TUO	МО	GROUP		TAKEN
4	0350		1	090350н	Co L (Night Positions) at (ZCO81379) While in night position received three incomming grenades. Could not return fire due to folia and no distinct target. Results:	
	1445		2	091445н	4 USMC WIANE Co M (S&D) at (ZCO77382) While on ambush spotted one NVA in tree line. Opened fire with automatic small arms. Ememy fled. Results Search of area found blood trail	
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S-3, 3rd Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div

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				,	100001Н 102400Н	Jan 69
	TI	ΊE	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
	INI	TUO	NO	GROUF		TAKEN
00	50		1	100050н	Co L (Night Positions) at (ZCO84374) Night positions received four incomming grenades. Returned fire with small arms, grenades and mortars with unknown	
11	μ45		2	101445н	results. Results: 2 USMC WIAE Co I (S&D) at (ZCLL1463) While on patrol found hootch/bunker large enough to house 10 people. Result Found documents and pills of unknown type, turned over to the S-2 section and destroyed hootch	S-F S-F

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

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			110001H 112400H J	an 69
TIME IN OUT	SER NO	DATETIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN
1015	1	111015Н	Co L (S&D) at (ZCO76366) Patrol found footprints and large animal footprints. Checked out tracks.	
1050	2	111050н	Results: Negative Co M (S&D) at (ZC108429) Patrol received five rounds from unknown enemy. Point man was hit. Returned fire and searched area	S-F
1830	3	111830Н	with negative results. Results: 1 USMC WIAE Co M (S&D) at (ZCO79379) Patrol found fresh footprints and freshly cut punji stakes along both sides of the trail. Also found one USMC	S-F
2030	4	112030Н	helmet liner. Results: 1 USMC helmet liner Co M (Night Positions) at (20080377) Perimeter received one incomming grenade. Two positions spotted definite movement.	S-F
2040	5	112040Н	Returned fire with grenades and small arms. Results: Negative Co I (S&D) at (ZCO92380) Patrol received one incomming grenade.	S+F
2100	6	112100H	Returned fire with grenades. Results: Negative Co L (Night Positions) at (ZC083374) While on night ambush received three incomming grenades.	S-F
			Returned fire with grenades. Results: Negative	S-F
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S-3, 3rd Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Div PLACE

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Ţ		ME OUT	SER NO	DATETIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN
	1650		-1	121650Н	Co M (S&D) at (ZCO79379) At coordinates (ZCO70377) two trails were found. One appeared to have been used lately. Also found a small trail at (ZCO70377). Results: Negative	
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•		ME 'OÙT	SER NO	DATETIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN
•	0830		1	130830н	Co M (S&D) at (ZCl33382) While on patrol saw an enemy dragging a body south of our position. Search of area found two bodies. Results: 2 VC KIA confirmed	S-F
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1	TI	ME	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
1	IN	TUO	ЙO	GROUP		TAKEN
	1445		1	1 41445#	Co M (S&D) at (ZCO67384) While moving to objective had enemy contact with unknown number of	
	1445		2	141445н	enemy. Returned heavy small arms fire. Results: 2 USMC WIAE Co M (S&D) at (ZCO68389) While enroute to objective we were fired upon by an estimated four enemy. Returned fire and a search of the	S-F
	1450		3	141450н	area found one AK-47 magazine. Results: 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIAE Co M (S&D) at (ZCO68389) Located a base camp composed of five hootches 6 ft by 10 ft. Also	S=F
					approximately 20 open and 75 bunker type fighting holes. Base camp could have accommadated a battalion size unit. Results: Negative	S-F



UNIT OR SECTION

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TAYLOR COMMON

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TIME SER DATETIME INCIDENTS, MESSAGES IN OUT NO GROUP 1500 1 151500H Co M (S&D) at (ZC067390 large bunker complex consix hootches, numerous 75 fighting holes. Over concealment provided by Area not damaged by air Results: Area destroyed Co M (S&D) at (ZC061391 defensive positions recautomatic rifle burst. mortars fired and a squathe area. Results: 1 l USMC WIAE		Jan 69 ACTION TAKEN
IN OUT NO GROUP 1500 1 151500H Co M (S&D) at (ZC067390 large bunker complex consix hootches, numerous 75 fighting holes. Over concealment provided by Area not damaged by air Results: Area destroyed Co M (S&D) at (ZC061391 defensive positions recautomatic rifle burst. mortars fired and a squ the area. Results: 1		
1 151500H Co M (S&D) at (ZC067390 large bunker complex consix hootches, numerous 75 fighting holes. Over concealment provided by Area not damaged by air Results: Area destroyed Co M (S&D) at (ZC061391 defensive positions recautomatic rifle burst. mortars fired and a squathe area. Results: 1	+	TAKEN
large bunker complex consix hootches, numerous 75 fighting holes. Over concealment provided by Area not damaged by air Results: Area destroyed Co M (S&D) at (ZCO61391 defensive positions recautomatic rifle burst. mortars fired and a squathe area. Results: 1		
concealment provided by Area not damaged by air Results: Area destroyed Co M (S&D) at (ZC061391 defensive positions recautomatic rifle burst. mortars fired and a squ the area. Results: 1		ì
		S-F

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

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					160001н 162400н	Jan 69
Ī	TI	ME	SER	DATETIME	160001H 162400H INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
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UNIT OR SECTION

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			170001H 172h00H	Jan 69
TIME	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTIO
IN OUT		GROUP		TAKI
0845	1	170845H	Co M (S&D) at (ZCO42337) Patrol found network of trails and approximately 20 fighting holes. In the same villiage were found pungi sticks and one body.	
			pungi sticks and one body. Results: 1 NVA/VC KIA confirmed	S-F
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F	T	ME	SER	DATETIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION
T	IN	TUO	NO	GROUF	•	TAKEN
	020		1	181020Н	Co L (S&D) at (ZCO57389) While moving to objective found nine fighting holes, one antiaircraft position, one machinegun position and five sets of foot prints with	·
	.230		2	181230Н	tools lying near by. Results: Positions destroyed and tools carried by the unit Co L (S&D) at (ZCO54390) Discovered base camp composed of eight hootches. No air or arty damage. Area appears to have been used within 3-5 days ago. Results: Area will be searched and destroyed	S-F
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	1200	,	1	191200Н	Co I (S&D) at (ZCO67398) Patrol found 109 fighting holes, 3-4 cooking hootches and 4 living hootches. At (ZCO07344) found five hootches and four 10 man bunkers. Also found some gear	
	01 4.	5	2	190145H	in the area. Results: Bunkers and hootches destroyed. 2 57mm heat rounds, 1 155mm arty round, 1 NVM pick and 1 tube morphine Co L (Night Positions) at (20044387) Short round from 81's struck near Lima defensive	S-F
•	1500	6	3	191506н	position hitting one Marine. Results: 1 USMC NBCE Co M (S&D) at (ZCO60408) Platoon size patrod discovered an old camp site area and three fighting holes which were well concealed. Results; Destroyed camp site and fighting holes	S-F
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					210001H 212400H	Jan 69
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	L100		1	211100Н	Co L (S&D) at (ZCO57389) Patrol discovered small base camp consisting of eight structures. Results: Area Destroyed	S-F
	1620		2	211620Н	Co I (S&D) at (ZCO59399) Patrol found relay/rest camp consisting of two 25 man and three 15 man hootches with accompaning bunkers. Camp devoid of military gear. Results: 350 lbs rice, 125 lbs corn, 75 woven blankets and domestic gear, 1 cigarettee lighter, 1 montagnard drum, small	Tank Same
	184		3	211845н	game arrows and spears and machete Camp destroyed Co M (S&D) at (ZCO56405) While on patrol found large cultivated area containing potatoes, gourds, corn and grain. Found trail leading to camp. Found cooking utensiles and cloths. Results:	S-F
					Camp destroyed	S-F

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90	1 221690H	Co M (S&D) at (ZCO64415 on recon patrol found b		
		with two fighting tholes	ase camp :	
	·	(ZCO61411) also cultiva	ted area	
		with potatoes and gourd	s.	
		Results: Camp destroyed	, suggest	S-F
		napalm or WP on cultiva	ted area	5-r
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			230001Н 232400Н	Jan 69
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1300	1	231300Н	Co M (S&D) att(ZCO71407) Reconpatrol found a base camp with two NVA/VC hidding in a tunnel complex. They were asked to surrender with negative results. NVA/VC were killed. Results:	
1655	2	231655н	Search of area found 6 SKS rifles with approximately 100 rounds. 3,000 pounds rice, 65 pigs, 1 NVA male and 1 VC female KIA confirmed Area was destroyed Co M (S&D) at (ZCO71408) While on recon patrol discovered a base	S-F
			camp. Results: Camp and holes destroyed. 222 7.62 rounds, 1 SKS magazine pouch, 80 30 caliber rounds, 2 US carbine magazines, 20 9mm rounds, 1 AK bayonet, 2 ChiCom grenades, 3,000 pounds of rice, 3 VC packs, 1 NVA/VC canteen and pouch, 1 NVA belt, 1 can cleaning solvent, 1 bow and 12	
			arrows	S-F

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240001H 242400H Jan 69 ACTION INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS DATETIME TIME SER TAKEN IN OUT NO GROUF 111\$ Co I (S&D) at (ZCO63394) While on 1 241115H patrol discovered five houses and one cook shack. The houses contained 45 bed type structures. Four bunkers were within the Results: Bunkers and complex. houses destroyed S-F 1225 2 241225H Co I (Night Positions) at (ZCO57392) One member of India had an accidental discharge with a .45 caliber pistol. Individual shot himself in the left leg. Results: 1 USMC NBCE S-F 1605 3 241605H Co M (S&D) at (ZCO71408) While on patrol returned to base camp of previous day and found 20 hootches. Also captured POW female carrying with round in chamber. Also had 23 rounds of carbine ammo on person. 8 SKS rifles, 1 AK-47 Results: destroyed by fire, 861 AK-47 rounds 540 .30 caliber rounds, 10 ChiCom grenades, 23 carbine rounds, 10 tons rice, 2 NVA uniforms, 1 AK-47 magazine, 1 NVA canteen, 1 NVA belt, 5 pounds documents S-F



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1415 1500		2	271415н 271500н	PP 106's (Night Positions) att (ZCO51403) While in defensive positions spotted 3 NVA in open. 106's opened fire. Results: 3 NVA KIA confirmed, BNR Co L (S&D) at (ZCO11405) While moving to objective point man	S-F
				spotted one NVA moving northwest. Point man opened fire. Results: 1 NVA KIA confirmed, BNR	S-F
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