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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FAF
APO San Francisco 96602

3/000/em
5750
10 December 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein)
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 NOV to 30 NOV 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPAC O 5750.8
(c) 3d Mar Div O 5750.1A w/ca#1

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, November 1968

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

2. The security classification of this document is downgraded at three (3) year intervals and declassified after twelve (12) years.

G. W. Smith
G. W. SMITH

Unclassified when enclosure (1)
is removed.

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1ST BN/9TH MAR

CMD CHRON

Nov 1968

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CORLAND CHRONOLOGY

1 Nov to 30 Nov 1968

index

PART I	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III	SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1st Battalion, 9th Marines	LtCol. G. W. SMITH	1-30Nov68
Company "A"	CAPT. J. S. SIROTNIK 1stLt. W. L. FOX	1-6Nov68 7-30Nov68
Company "B"	1stLt. K. L. HARMON	1-30Nov68
Company "C"	CAPT. W. O. MOORE JR. 1stLt. B. W. RAY	1-19Nov68 20-30Nov68
Company "D"	CAPT. S. BRADLEY CAPT. E. F. RILEY	1-13Nov68 14-30Nov68
Company "H&S"	1stLt. T. G. JACKSON	1-30Nov68

2. LOCATION

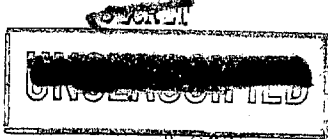
- a. 1-13 November 1968: FSB ANNE
 b. 13-17 November 1968: Mai Loc
 c. 17-27 November 1968: Thuong Xa

3. STAFF OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Major C. D. FOREMAN	1-30Nov68
S-1	1stLt. W. PELTO	1-30Nov68
S-2	2ndLt. J. W. JACKSON	17-30Nov68
S-3	CAPT. E. F. RILEY CAPT. J. S. SIROTNIK Major D. C. CAULFIELD	1-6Nov68 7-13Nov68 14-30Nov68
FSOC	1stLt. W. L. OWLS	1-30Nov68
ALO	1stLt. R. H. BULLOCK	7-30Nov68
FAC	1stLt. T. E. DAKE	27-30Nov68
S-4	1stLt. R. PETRY	20-30Nov68
COMM	1stLt. T. G. JACKSON	10-30Nov68

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Lt. Officer

Chaplain

Medical Officer

2nd Lt. R. E. McSWANNEY

1st Lt. J. T. CLARK JR.

Lt. Cmdr W. L. BAY

Lt. DICK

22-30 Nov 68

11-30 Nov 68

1-30 Nov 68

1-30 Nov 68

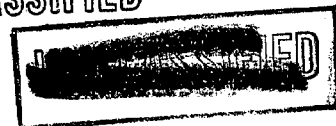
4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
OFF	ENL
34	1111

USN	
OFF	ENL
2	50

OTHER	
OFF	ENL
0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1 through 12 November 1968, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines provided security for Fire Support Base Anne and conducted extensive patrolling in the surrounding area of operations utilizing company-sized patrol bases. On 13 November two companies joined in a combined Marine/AVN operation with the 3d Marines in the Mai Loc area. The third company departed FSB Anne on 14 November conducted a heloassault to LZ Miami and assaulted, seized and occupied hill 618; constructed on LZ and largely assisted in development of FSB Dick. The last company continued the defense of FSB Anne until 17 November. From 17 to 27 November, 3 companies cordoned an area on the northeast and south around Thuong Aa and Mai Dang (1) and (2) village complex. Meanwhile, the fourth company completed building FSB Dick, left one platoon for security there, and assumed the defense of FSB. On 30 November the companies commenced relieving 2d Battalion, 9th Marines in the Da Krong Valley area.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat mission assigneda. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Operation Order 11-68

(1) 1/9 to relieve 1-8, First Brigade, First Cavalry Division, (Airmobile), at Fire Support Base Aard, and conduct further operations to seek out and destroy the enemy, his supplies, installations and/or base camps.

(2) Company A to land at FSB Aard to relieve Company A, 1-8, of the perimeter defense, to commence immediate improvement of position areas including clearing fields of fire, constructing barriers and obstacles, and reorganizing the defense, and to be prepared on order to conduct patrol activities in the Company AO.

(3) Companies B, C, and D to relieve in place Companies B, C, and D, 1-8 and to commence offensive combat operations in the assigned Company AO's.

b. Verbal Directive 9th Marines 1 NOV

(1) 1/9 to assume perimeter defense of FSB NANCY. G 2/3, Company B and the B Co group chopped opcon to Task Force Hotel.

c. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAG 76-68

(1) Company B at 061300H conducts helicopterborne assault to YD 864637, establish defensive position and at 070900H conduct a heliborne assault into an AO to be designated.

(2) Company D to conduct helilift to YD 876602, and conduct offensive operations in assigned AO.

d. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAG 77-68

(1) Company B to conduct helilift to YD 288408, tie in with Company A and carry out assigned mission.

e. Verbal Directive 9th Marines 7 NOV

(1) 1/9 resumes opcon of Company B and B Co group.

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f. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines MAG-79-68

- (1) 1/9 continues offensive operations within its AO with three companies, while providing defense for FOB Anne with the fourth.
- (2) Company B at 080800H conduct heliborne assault to YD 018587, conduct detailed search and clear operations toward the north and establish a patrol base near YD 018607.
- (3) Company A continues assigned mission and be prepared, as battalion reserve, to conduct heliborne assault on 30 minute notice to reinforce elements in contact in the battalion AO.

g. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines MAG-79-68

- (1) 1/9 continues offensive operations in AO in accordance with assigned mission.
- (2) Company D continue assigned mission, and modify day acts to maintain a 60-minute heli-reaction posture for employment anywhere in the battalion AO.

h. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines MAG-81-68

- (1) Company D be prepared to conduct helicopter movement to YU 290402 and occupy defensive perimeter in the vicinity of YD 292399.
- (2) Company A, on relief of defensive perimeter at FOB Anne, attack to seize, occupy and defend battalion objective 1, at YD 317389. Establish a company patrol base and conduct offensive activities in the AO.

i. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines MAG-83-68

- (1) Be prepared at dawn for helicopter movement to YD 069543 for further operations with the 3d Marines.
- (2) Company A conduct helicopter assault to YD 154336 to attack, seize, occupy and defend objective 1, vicinity YD 144334. Assist in building a fire support base.
- (3) Company B be prepared for helicopter movement to YD 069543. On order conduct helicopter assault to YD 170538 and establish a blocking position toward the west, tentatively from YD 171537 to YD 172527.
- (4) Company C be prepared for helicopter movement to YD 069543. On order conduct helicopter movement to YD 171517 and establish

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a blocking position to the west, tentatively from YD 171517 to YD 172527.

j. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FMAG 35-68

(1) At 150700H Company B commences consolidating its position to form a front on the 16 grid line from YD 160535 to YD 160530. Contact with I 3/4 must be maintained during movement and at a common boundary. I 3/4 is responsible for the river at the 16 grid line.

(2) Company C consolidate position from YD 160530 to YD 159540 on order.

k. Verbal Directive 9th Marines 13 NOV

(1) 1/9 C and Companies B and C choose a com to the 3d Marines.

l. Verbal Directive 3d Marines 15 NOV

(1) Companies B and C to helilift to LZ's BWSLT (137470) and BSL (147471) respectively.

m. Verbal Directive 9th Marines 17 NOV

(1) I 3/4 choose option to 1/9.

n. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FMAG 35-68

(1) Companies B and C and I 3/4 cordon the east portion of a three village complex (Thuong Aa, Hai Dang (1) and (2)) by 180001H and provide security for road check point (YD 368491) D on route 1.

o. Verbal Directive 9th Marines 18 NOV

(1) I 3/4 choose option of 1/9.

(2) Company B choose option to 1/9.

p. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FMAG 36-68

(1) On order 1/9 establishes 360 degree cordon of Thuong Aa (YD 380504) and provides security for check points C and D at YD 383487 and YD 368499 respectively on Route 1.

q. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FMAG 37-68

(1) Company B conduct patrols to the north and east, Company C

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to the east and Company D to the south and west.

r. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Radio 89-68

- (1) On order 1/9 will conduct a tactical motor to VCB.
- (2) 1/9 echos oacon to 9th Marines.

s. Verbal Directive 9th Marines 28 NOV

- (1) 1/9 assures oacon of E 2/9, H 2/4 and H 2/4.

t. Verbal Directive 9th Marines 28 NOV

- (1) 1/9 echos oacon of Company B and assures oacon of Company A.

u. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines OPERATION CRUISE 12-68

- (1) At 281330H 1/9 effects relief of 2/9 in its present AO and conducts detailed search and clear operations to locate, fix and destroy the enemy, his weapons, materiel and/or other resources. Additionally, 1/9 participates in the regimental endeavor to locate and evacuate Brou tribesmen.
- (2) At 281030H 2 companies conduct a heliborne assault into LZ's Charlie and Delta to establish company-sized patrol bases for the conduct of extensive patrolling, utilizing maximum force participation.

v. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Radio 90-68

- (1) Company A at 290000H to be relieved of the perimeter defense of VCB by E 2/9. On order Company A conduct administrative helilift to LZ ROBIN (TL 042249).
- (2) Company C continue the defense of Thon Son Ham, provide Sparrowhawk requirement until relieved, and when directed conduct a helicopter assault in to LZ CARLISLE.
- (3) Company D augment Company A in defense of VCB on 29 NOV and on 29 NOV conduct a heliborne assault into LZ DANA.
- (4) At 290900H E 2/9 assume defense of VCB and relieve Company A.
- (5) H 2/4 continue to maintain defense of Ca Lu and maintain the Bald Eagle requirement until relieved.

w. Verbal Direction 9th Marines 29 NOV

- (1) Helilift for this day postponed 24 hours.

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2. CONTINUED

01 NOV At 1735H Company D observed a warning device activated at YD 299428. An artillery mission was fired with unknown results. At 1730H the battalion net received a transmission from unknown call sign "Arizona 65," spoken with a voice with a southern accent, stating that 1/9 elements should maintain 100% alert on the lines from 2200H to 0200H. When the call was not acknowledged, the station requested the position of 1/9 x-ray. Immediately afterwards the net was jammed with loud martial music and a voice speaking in a slavie sounding language. At 2200H Company D sighted 2 VC at YD 285427, fired small arms and a 60 mm. mortar mission with negative results.

02 NOV At 1240H the battalion net was temporarily jammed by loud music with a horn blaring intermittently. Standard communications procedures were taken.

03 NOV At 1630H Company found 3 dud 81 mm. mortar rounds, and engineer personnel blew them in place at YD 287404.

04 NOV At 0830H Company C found 2 grass huts at YD 007330, each capable of holding 3-4 men. One hut was built over a bunker. Both were searched and destroyed. At 0850H Company C found one hut and 2 very small, possible VC camosites at YD 006330. One hut was built over a bunker that was caved in. The site appeared old. At 1015H Company D discovered a trail, infrequently used and slightly grown over, running southwest from YD 284428 to YD 279428. The trail was followed with negative results. At 0950H Company C saw 2 enemy personnel at YD 245374. The enemy disappeared into the brush line and fired 5 sniper rounds. Company C elements returned fire, maneuvered to the enemy position, and searched with negative results. At 1135H Company C found 3 huts, already in shambles, at YD 006333. At 1100H Company D observed one squad of Army personnel approximately 2 kilometers into 1/9's AO at YD 974392. The Army elements were shortly withdrawn. At 1130H Company D found one LAMW, believed to be a booby trap, and blew it in place at YD 307445. At 0840H a member of Company D tripped a booby trap consisting of blasting caps and lever portions of M-26 grenades, but the device did not explode. At 1115H Company D received one sniper round from YD 309445. At 1840H Company B sighted on enemy at YD 431385 and searched the area with negative results.

05 NOV At 1236H Company B discovered 3 bunkers (6'x3'x4') at YD 268435, one being covered with a shelter half and dirt, and all being very old and caved in. At 1400H Company D found 3 shelter halves (6'x3') at YD 275431.

08 NOV At 1230H Company B found one NVA body at YD 335345, buried under a mound on top of the ground. Fresh tracks had been made around the grave, and the body appeared to have been buried for about a week. At 1055H Company B found an old battalion sized bunker complex, already destroyed and an old trail system, not recently used. At 1850H Company B observed 3 NVA moving at YD 026407 and fired a 60 mm. mortar mission on them with negative results. At 2040H Company D heard movement, set up a

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hasty ambush, called in 60 mm. mortars to drive the movement into the ambush, and called artillery to cover possible exit routes. No contact was made and the mission had negative results.

10 NOV At 1300H Company C found at YD 224365 six one-man holes, 5 L-shaped holes, and 2 bamboo shelters (6'x8' and 15'x20') all of which were old and partially destroyed. At 1420H Company C picked up strong interference/override from a civilian radio station, which was suspected as jamming.

12 NOV At 1430H Company B sighted at least 2 enemy with bucks and AK-47's opened fire and called 60 mm. mortars and artillery missions with negative results.

14 NOV At 1530H 1/9 discovered one used campsite, approximately 2 weeks old at YD 165537.

15 NOV At 1725H Company B received fire from a tree covered hill west of their position at YD 134470, and returned small arms fire. At 1730H Company C received AK-47 automatic fire from YD 138470 and returned small arms with negative results.

16 NOV At 1730H 1/9 sighted lights on a hill at YD 137471 believe to be a flashlight and called an artillery mission on the hill with unknown results. At 2200H Company B heard movement approaching a listening post at YD 133468, but no action was taken and the movement ceased.

18 NOV At 1300H Company C found 2 bottles of unknown fluid, 4 AK-47 rounds, 1 shovel, 1 hoe, 1 pair of black pajamas, 5 fighting holes (2'x2'x4') and 2 thatched huts at YD 390497. At 2100H enemy personnel approached the lines of Company B at YD 385505, tripped a flare, and fired small arms from both the front and rear of the perimeter. Company B returned small arms fire requested clearance for a 60 mm. mortar mission, which was denied.

19 NOV At 0645H Company B found one body garbed in an NVA uniform, armed with 2 M-26 grenades and one magazine for AK-47, and dead less than 24 hours at YD 381507.

20 NOV At 1830H Company D found one Vietnamese body killed by small arms within the previous 24 hours at YD 417477. He was later identified as a VC prisoner who had tried to escape.

21 NOV At 2230H Company D sighted movement at YD 402470, fired M-79 and 49 rounds of 60 mm. mortar, giving good target coverage but with unknown results.

22 NOV At 1700H a patrol from the 2d Bn., 1st MVA Regiment released a VC to Company B, and the VC revealed a bunker site to the Company at YD 387508.

23 NOV At 0815H elements of Company C received 8 rounds of sniper fire from YD 387597. At 0810H Company B received automatic weapons fire from YD 373509 and returned fire with unknown results. At 1100H a suspected VC woman revealed to Company D several reinforced bunkers at YD 376487 containing one AK-50, 2 AK-50 magazines, 1 M-1 carbine, 2 pineapple grenades, 1 utility shirt, 3 civilian shirts, 25-30 lbs. of rice, 1 air mattress 1 straw mattress, one personal letter and 1 work-sheet with working hours of listed persons. At 1330H Company C found

9 DECLASSIFIED

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and destroyed two reinforced bunkers (3'x4'x5') at YD 385500.

24 NOV at 1300H Company B found a sandbag with clothes, a flashlight, documents and a pen at YD 376513, a reinforced bunker and a grenade at YD 375513; and one dud 105 mm. artillery round at YD 380513. At 2030H Company D sighted 5 enemy personnel at YD 366485, fired small arms and shot a 60 mm. mortar mission with good target coverage. The area was searched with negative results. At 2115H Company B saw 3 personnel at YD 373507, and when 2 rounds of M-16 were fired by element of Company B, the personnel fell, setting off a trip flare. There was no further movement.

25 NOV at 1100H two ARVN soldiers of the 2d Bn., 1st Reg. were apprehended stealing civilian radio and cigarettes at YD 383487.

28 NOV Company A heard 2 rounds of small arms fired in the area of YD 995472. A 40 mm. cannon mission was called in on the suspected enemy with unknown results.

30 NOV At 1130H Company D received an undetermined amount of small arms fire from YD 088236. A close air support mission was run on the target. At 1330H Company A received an undetermined amount of small arms fire from YD 036258 when landing near that grid. G 2/9 called in UH-1H gunships and fixed wing airstrikes on the grid with unknown results. At 1400H an AC sighted a hut and trails near Company D at 088236 and ran one flight of fixed wing airstrikes on the target, destroying the hut and 75 meters of the trail. At 1030H gunships in support of the insertion of Company D suggested an airstrike at 197247, and an AC called in one flight of fixed wing, carrying napalm, on the target. One secondary fire resulted.

5. Casualties and damage inflicted on the enemy

a. Personnel

- (1) NVA KIA: 2
- (2) NVA WIA: 0

b. Weapons Captured

- (1) Individual: 1

c. Munitions

- (1) Small Arms Rounds: 6
- (2) Grenades: 5

d. Foodstuffs

- (1) Rice: 30 lbs.

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e. Structures Destroyed

- (1) Bunkers: 15
- (2) Fighting Holes: 16
- (3) Huts: 10

f. Medical Supplies

- (1) 2 unknown bottles of fluid

g. Miscellaneous

- (1) AK-47 Magazines: 2
- (2) Military Clothing: 1 shirt
- (3) Civilian Shirt: 3
- (4) Mattresses: 1 air, 1 straw
- (5) Flashlights: 1
- (6) Tools: 1 shovel, 1 hoe
- (7) 782 Gear: 3 shelter halves
- (8) Several documents and letters.

6. Friendly casualties sustained during the reporting period.KIA WIA 1 WIA7. New Techniques Employed. None.8. Equipment.

a. The following is a report of the readiness of major items of combat essential equipment:

(1) Motor Transport	ALLOWANCE	ON	ON-READY
M 151A1	20	19	17
M 3791	4	4	3
MIC 109	2	1	0
MIC 83	2	1	0
MIC 87	1	1	0

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M 170	1	1	0
M 27442	30	30	19
M 101	4	5	4
M 107	6	4	3
M 41631	19	18	18
M 12	1	1	1
M 250	1	1	1

(2) Communications

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ALLOVANCE</u>	<u>ON</u>	<u>OPERANDY</u>
PP-3240 20132	5	5	3
PP-4567 20135	3	0	0
PP-348 20930	1	1	0
PP-388 21650	1	1	1
PP-2953 21665	1	0	0
AN/PIC-6 21775	0	6	6
AN/GRC-39 21907	12	6	6
AN/GRC-125 21954	7	7	7
AN/ARC-83 22040	2	1	1
AN/ARC-87 22050	1	1	0
AN/ARC-109 22052	2	1	0
AN/ARC-25 22101	75	72	63

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AN/MRC-41 22104	3	3	2
AN/MRC-77 22108	19	0	
AN/JRC-23 22390	1	1	1
AN/MRC-47 22105	5	2	2
SB-86/P 22670	3	0	
TA-312/PT 22680	35	30	26
TA-1 22730	44	26	26
AN/GGC-3 22770	1	0	
AN/TGC-14() 22783	2	0	
KY-8	3	3	2

b. Major and items previously evacuated to higher echelon maintenance facilities that have not been returned:

(1) Motor Transport

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
M 37B1	1	1st FdR
MRC 87	1	FLSG-B
M 2742	2	FLSG-B
M 107	1	FLSG-B

(2) Communications

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
PP-3240	2	FLSG-B
PU-346	1	3d FdR
AN/MRC 87	1	MRC 3841 to FLSG-B

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AN/MC 83	1	FLSG B-COMED
AN/MC 109	1	FLSG B-COMED
AN/MC 25	2	FLSG-B
AN/MC 41	1	FLSG-B
TA-312/PT	4	FLSG-B

c. None.

9. Logistics.a. Supply and Distribution

- (1) FLSG-B
- (2) Rifle cleaning gear
- (3) Supply point distribution

b. Resupply

- (1) Resupply figures, (by class) to the Companies in the Battalion

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>NUMBER POUNDS</u>
I	650632
II	36000
III	6880
IV	17250
V	15200

- (2) Total resupply figures for Companies in the Battalion

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NUMBER POUNDS</u>
Company A	229243
B	115863
C	108902
D	130905
E	141044

- (3) Hot meals were provided at LZ Alva and VCB.

c. Transportation

- (1) Truck from Quang Tri to VCB, Thuan Xa and the Rockpile.
- (2) The following vehicle have been code H. 1-415141, 1-410109, 1-41083, 2-41107, 1-417631, 1-4127412 has been stolen. The overall condition of the vehicles as far as 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance is good.
- (3) ANG-39

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(4) 681,062 lbs. were air lifted in November.

g. Services Situation

- (1) When the battalion was at VCS and the services were available, the showers, ice facilities, bakery and laundry were used.

f. Battalion Supply Situation

- (1) Although not all areas are C-1, battalion supply as a whole is C-1.

g. Medical.

- (1) Casualties were treated by the battalion at VCS, Quang Tri and FSB AMB, and sent by the battalion for treatment to the hospital ship and other in country facilities.
- (2) No medical problems
- (3) Dental facilities were made available at Quang Tri and VCS

10. Personnel and Administration

a. Personnel

(1)	<u>Enlisted MOS Shortages</u>				<u>MOS</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SHORTAGE</u>		
	<u>E-9</u>	<u>E-8</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-3</u>	<u>E-2</u>	<u>E-1</u>
0122						1			
0141				1	1			3	
0239			1						
0311					23	34	14		
0331					9	15			
0341					5	3		7	
0351					4	16	32		
0369				7					
0441				1					
0348		1							
1341							1		
2111					1				
2311						1			
2511							1	1	
2531								1	
2533					1		2		

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MOS	E-9	E-8	E-7	E-6	E-5	E-4	E-3	E-2	E-1
2542						1			
2549				1					
2811						1			
2851							1		
2867				1					
3041					1				
3051									3
3371						2	3		
3381			1						
3516							2		21
3531						1			4
5591									1
5931					2				
8421				1					

(2) Rotations during the month (CONUS)

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
2	99	0	0

(3) Replacement received during the month

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
9	95	0	6

(4) Casualties

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
NBC	0	65	0	0
WIAE	0	1	0	0
WIANE	0	0	0	0
NBC DOD	0	0	0	0

(5) PromotionsMeritorious

1 GySgt

1 SSgt

1 Cpl

Regular

1 Sgt

56 Cpl

21 Pfc

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1-LCol
1-Pfc(6) Awards

VOC - 9

b. Administration

(1) Special Services: Tennis Shoes, pens, lighters,
writing gear, sweat shirts.

(2) Discipline

(1) Problems if any - None

(2) Courts-Martial - None

(3) Bn Commanders Off hrs - 5

(4) Co Commanders Off hrs - 3

(3) Marine Corps P.M., postal affairs, and RER

(1) P.M. - There is a P.M. van located in the 3/9
area which services the regimental rear.

(2) Postal - No problems other than transporting mail
to the field, due to helicopter non-availability.

(3) RER -

(a) 1/9 was allocated the following quotas for
Nov. 68:

Bangkok - 16

Hawaii - 20

Hong Kong - 13

Kuala Lumpur - 2

Manila - 2

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Penang - 2

Singapore - 2

Sidney - 14

Laipai - 12

Tokyo - 5

Okinawa - 4

(4) Chaplain Services

22 Protestant Services

11 Catholic Services

0 Memorial Services

11. Civic Action: In the month of November medical supplies were received from 3rd Med. Bn. and Sanctuary for use in Med-Caps. A Med-Cap was held 29 Nov. 68, at Father CO's dispensary, PD 114578. A total of 49 persons were treated.
12. Psychological Warfare: There was no Psychological Warfare conducted by the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines during the month of November 1968.
13. Intelligence:
 - a. Units known to be operating in 1st Battalion, 9th Marines AO were the 7th Front Battalion and the 12th Regiment.
 - b. The area of operation encompassed most of Base Area 101. The rain in the area varied from a flat, sandy area to rolling hills to a jungled, mountainous area. Elevation ranged from 50 meters to over 700 meters high. The area was abundant with streams and trails. The principal river of the area is the Quang Tri river which flows in a northeasterly direction. Movement was comparatively easy as most of the terrain was open ground. Several times, 2-6 enemy were observed moving during daylight hours. Their uniforms and equipment consisted of green utilities, packs and AK-47 rifles. Most of the bunkers and fighting holes encountered were fairly old and partially destroyed. Their construction was basically A-framed with logs and dirt. The majority of above ground dwellings were constructed of small logs or

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poles and grass.

On 01 Nov at 1730H, an unknown station using the call sign "Arizona 63" and speaking with a Southern accent, came up on the 1/9 Bn. net and stated that 1/9 should maintain a 100% alert between 2200H and 0200H. When the call was not acknowledged, the unknown station queried 1/9 A-1 regarding their position. Immediately afterwards, the net was jammed with loud martial music and a voice speaking in a Slavic language.

On 02 Nov at 1240H, the Battalion net was jammed temporarily by loud music and a horn blaring intermittently. Standard communications procedures were taken.

On 10 Nov at 1420H, Company C picked up interference/override emitting from a civilian radio station, suspected as a jamming attempt by enemy.

- c. Analysis. Enemy activity during the reporting period was limited mostly to sniper/parashut-type contact. Contacts encountered were usually VC. AVK units appeared to have withdrawn from 1st Battalion, 9th Marines area of operations.
- d. Weather. Temperatures ranged from the high 80's to the low 60's. Winds ranged from 5-25 knots. Precipitation was occasionally heavy. However, the majority of the precipitation was light to moderate. The month of November has an average of 16 days of rain.

14. Air Support.

- a. Eight air strikes were run by fixed wing air craft during the month of November.
- b. MAG-39 supported 1/9 this month with 5 one-company lifts, 4 two-company lifts, and one battalion sized lift.
- c. Equipment lifted by MAG-39 was of all classes, but consisted primarily of daily class I, class IV, and class V resupply.
- d. Bomb damage assessment totals one hut and a section of improved trails.

15. Fire Support.

a. Artillery.

(1) General. During the month of November, 1968 artillery support of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was employed to varying degree and only in three operations. In the first operation, at and around 1000H and missions were largely in

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support of patrols and troop movements and were fired at targets of opportunity. While fires were relatively unrestricted, lucrative targets failed to present themselves. During the second operation in the Hai Loc area, most of the missions were the firing of illumination. All other fires were very restricted due to the great number of other friendly units participating in the operation and in close proximity to 1/9 and each other. During the third operation in the Thuong La area, missions were again limited to illumination, which was used extensively to aid the units participating in the cordon. Clearance for other fires inside the cordon was denied due both to the existence of ARVN battalion sweeping and searching within and to the preponderance of civilians in the villages.

(2) Significant Events. None.

(3) Type Mission Fired

Observed	21
Unobserved	5
HA1	2,300

(4) Number of rounds fired.

105	3900
155	12
106	63

(5) Significant Surveillance: None.

16. Communications/Electronics

- a. General: During the subject period, communications ranged from excellent to outstanding. The communications requirements imposed were more extensive than usual, but at no time was the Command Post out of communications with either its present organization or subordinate units. The terrain ranged from high and maintainous, to low, level beach-type areas. The weather was generally hot and dry, with some short periods of rain.

Maximum utilization was made of the Antenna Equipment RC-292, and where appropriate, camouflaging of antenna equipment was emphasized.

- b. Communication Center. Utilizing a limited two-man message center with the Battalion Command Post, and a normal Communication Center at the Battalion (Rear), the communication

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administration was handled in a functional manner. It was noted that the replacement of superceded Authentication/Shackle and Brevity codes was facilitated by having the forward message center assume the responsibility of same.

- c. Wire: Other than this units supply of wire, WD-1/TT, not being up to T/E (as noted in Command Chronology, Oct 68), there were no occurrences worthy of note.
- d. Radio: There were a few minor instances of conflict of frequencies during this period, but they were readily resolved by the specific units involved.

During one short period at the outset of the month, there were definite instances of enemy electronic interference ranged from imitative deception, to noise and tone. The interference was effective, but the corrective action taken by the Communication personnel, i.e., no indication made that the interference hampered our communications, was immediate and precise. It is believed that immediate action taken was the prime factor for all interferences being of only short durations. Spot Reports were submitted for each incident.

As reported in the Command Chronologies for September and October 1968, it is felt that the radio network required to support the administrative and logistic needs of this Battalion is too extensive, and commits men and equipment which could be more advantageously utilized in the field. It is again recommended, if only on a trial basis, that Regiment assume the responsibility for passing administrative message traffic from the Battalion Command Post (Forward), to the respective S-1 and S-4 sections of said Battalion.

During the course of the operation in the Thuong Xa area (17-27 Nov) in which this Battalion worked in conjunction with the U.S. Army and ARVN units, a copy of the SOI (Signal Operating Instruction) was made available by the U.S. Army. This information greatly facilitated communications, and ultimately the entire operation, in that frequencies/call signs of adjacent and supporting units was readily available.

- e. Radio-Relay: A Radio-Relay team was attached by Regiment to this Battalion during the period 4-23 November. They established a communication link from the Battalion Command Post at Fire Support Base Anne, to the Regiment Headquarters (Rear) at Dong Ha. without exception, the communication was excellent from point-to-point; there was some difficulty encountered in attempting to enter the wire network from the Dong Ha. (Div Hq) area.

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~~SECRET~~17. Regimental Scout Snipers:

- a. Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment supplied 1st Battalion, 9th Marines with 2-man scout sniper teams, which were employed against targets of opportunity.

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PART IV

TAB

✓A

✓B

✓C

✓D

Added ✓E

✓F

CONTENTS

1/9 OPERATION ORDERS
9th MARINES OPERATION ORDERS

1/9 FRAG ORDERS

9th MARINES FRAG ORDERS

1/9 LARGELY ASSISTED IN
THE CONSTRUCTIES OF FSB DICK

Combat After Action Report,
GIO VINH

Combat After Action Report,
YHUONG XA CORDON

ENCLOSURE (1)

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9th Mar. Regt.
Control No. 651-68
Page No. 1 of 8

1685 69

1/JDF/ar
3100
Ser: 001E12069
30 April 1969

[REDACTED] (Unclassified upon removal of the basic correspondence)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, 1stBn, 9thMar ltr 3/DCC/em over
3100.1D of 1 Dec 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Combat After Action Report

1. Forwarded.

J. D. Fitzpatrick
J. D. FITZPATRICK
By direction

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TAB-E

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

9th Mar. Regt. 00651-68
Control No. 1 of 8
Copy No. 1 of 8

1685 69

3/DCG/em
3100.1D
01 Dec 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Via: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines

Subj: Combat After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3100.1D
(b) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Operation Order 11-68

1. Code Name: GIO VINH
2. Dates of Operation: 14000H NOV 68 to 171400H NOV 68.
3. Location: Mai Loc
4. Task Organization:

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

Lt. Col. G. W. SMITH
13 Nov to 17 Nov 68

H&S Company

1st Lt. T. G. JACKSON
13 Nov to 17 Nov 68

Company B (Rein)
Company B
FO tm, D Btry 2/12
Det, H&S Company
FAC tm
FO tm, 81mm
Det, Comm Plat
Det, Med Plat
Det, 1st Plat, Co. C, 3d Engr Bn

CAPT. K. L. HARMON
13 Nov to 17 Nov 68

Company C (Rein)
Company C
FO tm, D Btry 2/12
Det, H&S Company
FAC tm
FO tm, 81mm
Det, Comm Plat

CAPT. W. O. MOORE
13 Nov to 17 Nov 68

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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Tab E

119 A/A Rpt (Opn Gio Vinh)

12-17 Nov 1968

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Det, Med Plat
Det, 1st Plat, Co. C, 3d Engr Bn

G. W. Smith
G. W. SMITH

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5. Supporting Arms.a. Artillery.

(1) General: Fires in support of the operation were primarily illumination missions and fires on targets of opportunity. Normal preparation fires were employed in support of major troop movements.

(2) Significant Events: None, due to the restrictive fire policy.

- b. Air: On 13 November Companies B and C were lifted to YD 1753. On 15 November UH-1H gunships and fixed wing aircraft ran airstrikes in support of Company B at YD 12471.

6. Intelligence. From 13 to 17 November only sporadic sniper fire from the enemy was encountered. There was one probable campsite found during the operation. Temperatures ranged from the high 80's to the low 70's. Winds were from 5-15 knots with moderate cloud cover and precipitation.

7. Mission. To establish a blocking position in the Mai Loc area, to conduct local patrols, and to find, fix and destroy the enemy.

8. Concept of Operation. Company B on order will conduct a heliborne assault into LZ BATH (YD 170536) and establish a blocking position toward the west from YD 171537 to YD 172527. Company C on order will conduct a heliborne assault into LZ CORRUPTOR (YD 171517) and establish a blocking position toward the west from YD 171517 to YD 172527.

9. Execution. The order for this operation was received on 12 November, and the operation commenced on 13 November.

14 NOV At 1530H 1/9 discovered one used campsite, approximately 2 weeks old at YD 165537.

15 NOV At 1725H Company B received fire from a tree covered hill west of their position at YD 134470, and returned small arms fire. At 1730H Company C received M-47 automatic fire from YD 138470 and returned small arms with negative results.

16 NOV At 1730 1/9 sighted lights on a hill at YD 13747h, believed to be a flashlight and called an artillery mission on the hill with unknown results. At 2200H Company heard movement approaching a listening post at YD 133468, but no action was taken and the movement ceased.

10. Results.

a. None.

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b.. None.

c. Only the LZ's BATAAN and CORREGIDOR, were searched after artillery and air missions.

d. None.

11. Administrative Matters.

a. Resupply was by helicopter and distribution by unit distribution.

b. Maintenance was first and second echelons.

c. Casualties were treated by cornsmen and the battalion surgeon, and were evacuated, when necessary, by helicopter.

d. Transportation was by helicopter.

e. Communication was normal.

f. Medical evaluation. No unusual circumstances.

12. Special Techniques and Equipment. None.13. Commanders analysis, Gie Vinh. Lessons learned concerning simplicity of maneuver and well defined points of coordination and responsibility for contact appeared to have been ignored. In view of the utilization of mixed forces (ARMY/ARVN) the aforementioned needed to be well defined and a multilateral communications circuit could have facilitated joint movement.

The seldom used principle of dusk/night helicopter movement was employed without sufficient planning or reconnaissance resulting in landing in the wrong zone and establishing a perimeter during darkness. The required foot movement the following morning to the correct LZ resulted in separating the continuity of the cordon. Tactical movement of the forces can be hazardous to both men and aircraft if a formidable opponent is present within the vicinity of the landing zone.

14. Recommendations.

a. Planning time for outer Regiment units i.e. 1/9 be in excess of 2 hours for such operations in that it was not a strict response to contact mission.

b. A common recognition signal be established when working with inter and intra service units.

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- c. The restriction of clearing all crew served fired, except M-60, through the FSOC severely limited, if not negated, the battalion commanders immediate response to an enemy contact. Recommend the control and utilization of the battalions organic supporting arms remain with the battalion commander.

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TAB A

1st Battalion, 9th Marine
Operation Orders

Copy of Copies
1stBn 9th Marines
So. Vietnam
012400Nov 68

Operation Order 11-68

Ref: (a) Map: Ba Long, 1: 50,000, Sheet 6442 III S. Vietnam

Time Zone: HMMAL

Task Organization: No change except as indicated in paragraph 1C below.

1. Situation:

a. Enemy Forces Current Intsums, Perintrops, and spot reports.

b. Friendly Forces:

(1) 9th Marine Regiment continues offensive operations within its assigned AO.

(2) Battery E (Rein) 2/12 D/S 1/9, lands in Landing Zone Anne to reinforced artillery battery of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

(3) Air Support:

(a) MAG-39 provides helicopter support as required to effect a relief in place at Fire Support Base Anne.

(b) First Marine Air Wing provides such class air support and aerial reconnaissance is required following the conduct of relief.

c. Attachments and Detachments: Detachment, Comm Platoon, Headquarters Company, 9th Marines attached, effective 310800H October 1968 (RR).

d. Assumptions: That weather conditions will not preclude the supplement of helicopters in the conduct of the relief.

2. Mission: First Battalion, Ninth Marines relieves 1-8, First Brigade, First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) at Fire Support Base Anne, conducts further operations to seek out and destroy the enemy, his supplies, installations and/or base areas.

3. Execution:

a. Concept of operations:

(1) See Annex A (Operations Overlay).

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- (2) 1st Bn., 9th Marines conducts a helilift into Fire Support Base Anne, with one reinforced rifle company, 42S Company (*), and the Battalion Command Group. On arrival these elements relieve like U.S. Army forces at that position. Following such relief, the remaining companies of 1/9 execute via helilift, a covered relief by echelon, of Army companies operating in the surrounding AO. Upon completion of the relief, 1/9 conducts offensive combat operations within its AO.

b. Company A (Rein):

- (1) Land at L-hour at Fire Support Base Anne.
- (2) Relieve Company A, 1-8, of the perimeter defense of that position.
- (3) Commence immediate improvements of positions areas to include extensive clearing of fields of fire, barrier and obstacle construction and reorganization of the defense.
- (4) Be prepared on order, to conduct patrol activity within company area of operations.

c. Company B (Rein):

- (1) Land in Landing Zone Bravo.
- (2) Relieve Company B, 1-8, and on order, commence combat operations in the company AO assigned.

d. Company C (Rein):

- (1) Land in Landing Zone Charlie.
- (2) Relieve company C, 1-8, and on order, commence offensive combat operations in the company AO assigned.

e. Company D (Rein):

- (1) Land in Landing Zone Delta.
- (2) Relieve company D, 1-8, and on order, commence offensive combat operations in the company AO assigned.

f. 81mm Mortar Platoon:

- (1) General Support.
- (2) Land at Fire Support Base Anne in trace of Company A and occupy existing mortar positions. Prepare such additional positions as required to conduct General Support Mission.

(A-2)

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- (3) Be prepared to attach sections to one or more rifle companies on order.

g. 106mm Recoilless Rifle Platoon:

- (1) General Support:
- (2) Land at Fire Support Base Anne in trace of the 81mm mortar platoon, and occupy firing positions defending primary avenues of approach into the perimeter.
- (3) Be prepared to attach section to one or more rifle companies on order.

h. 1st Platoon, Co. C, 3d Engineer Battalion:

- (1) Place one squad in direct support of each rifle company.
- (2) Be prepared to conduct such engineer tasks as landing zone construction, emplacement of barriers and obstacles, erection of bunkers, position improvement, and destruction of enemy fortifications and materiel.

i. Coordinating Instructions:

- (1) Lift sequence: A, CP, 81mm, 106mm, H&S, D, C, B.
- (2) Fire Support Base Anne located at YD 289402, Landing Zone D located at YD 272423, Landing Zone C located at YD 333444, Landing Zone B located at YD 326327.
- (3) Advance party composed of communications, S-4, operations, and intelligence personnel to be inserted at FSB on L-1.
- (4) Time factors are indefinite and dependent upon aircraft availability. Units will be prepared to accomplish the relief in a single day.
- (5) Units to be relieved provide landing zone security for relieving units. Relieving units will then provide landing zone security for the extraction of the relieved Army unit by Army helicopters.
- (6) On completion of the relief of forces at Fire Support Base Anne, and such time as Battery E is emplaced and capable of providing fire support, 1/9 will, with concurrence of the Commanding Officer 1-8, assume operational control of the remaining Army elements in that AO until conclusion of the relief.

(A-3)

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(7) Tentative 1-Day, 1 Nov. 68.

4. Administration and Logistics: IAW Admin Order 1-68.5. Command and Communications:a. Communication Electronics:

- (1) 1-8 call sign BIG DUCK. Battalion net freq. 44.70.
- (2) Army artillery conduct of fire net; Call sign QUICK COUGAR. Freq. 57.30, alternate 60.45
- (3) Advance party to establish radio relay, install telephones and erect necessary antennas.
- (4) Internal communications at FSB Anne to be primarily wire with radio backup.
- (5) Units will maintain sufficient power supply to operate for five days in the absence of re-supply.

b. Command Posts: Initially Vandegrift Combat Base, then displaced to FSB Anne immediately following Company A's helilift to that position.

(A-4)

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Operation Order 12-68

Ref: (a) Maps: 6341 I Sa Mai, 6342 II Than Doc Kinh, 6441 IV,
6442 Ba Long, 1:50,000 S. Vietnam

(b) 9th Marine Regt FragO issued 27 Nov 68.

Time Zone: HOTEL

TASK ORGANIZATION: No change1. Situation:

a. Enemy Forces: See current Intsums.

b. Friendly Forces:

- (1) 9th Mar Regt continues search and clear operations in assigned AO and locates and evacuates BRU tribesman to resettlement villages.
- (2) 2nd Bn., 9th Marines on order assumes defense of VCB/Ca Lu.
- (3) 3d Bn., 9th Mar continues search and clear operations in its AO.
- (4) Delta Battery 2nd Bn. 12th Marines direct support to 1.9.
- (5) Air support:
 - (a) Three sections fixed wing for LZ prep until 1030, and on request thereafter.
 - (b) AO on station from 0000 until released. Available on request.
- c. Attachments and Detachments:
 - (a) 1st plt, CO C, 11th EngrBn. (Effective 281930H Nov 68).
 - (b) Scout/ Sniper Teams on request.
 - (c) Unit Kit Carson Scouts. (Effective 281930H Nov 68).
 - (d) Five BRU tribesman. (Effective 281930H Nov 68).

2. Mission: At 0330 28 Nov 68, 1st Bn., 9th Mar effects relief of 2/9 in its present AO and conducts detailed search and clear operation to locate, fix and destroy the enemy, his weapons materiel and/or other resources. Additionally 1/9 actively participates in the regimental endeavor to locate and evacuate BRU tribesman.

SECRET3. Execution:

- a. Concept of Operations: At L Hour 2 companies and CP group conduct a heliborne assault into LZ Charlie and Delta to establish company size patrol bases for the conduct of extensive patrolling, utilizing maximum force participation.
- b. Co A (-):
 - (1) Continue to provide defense for VCB.
 - (2) On order, conduct administrative helilift to LZ Puson (043249) to effect relief of G 2/9 and assume mission as proscribed in paragraph 2.
- c. Co C (Rein): At L hour conduct heliborne assault into LZ Charlie (044214) and establish company patrol base orienting patrolling to north and northwest.
- d. Co D (Rein):
 - (1) Maintain Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle commitment until L Hour.
 - (2) On order conduct heliborne assault into LZ Delta (098234), and establish company patrol base, orienting efforts to north and northeast.
 - (3) Be prepared to accept and provide security for the battalion CP.
- e. 81mm Mortar Platoon: Attach one section to companies B, C, D, light section to A.
- f. 106mm RR Plat: Attach one section, personnel only, to Companies A, B, C, and D.
- g. 1st Plt, Co C, 11th EngrB N6 Attach teams to companies A, B, C, and D.
- h. Coordinating Instructions:
 - (1) L Hour at 1030.
 - (2) Company C and D stage at north end runway by 0945. op stages on order.
 - (3) Lift sequence: C, D, and CP.
 - (4) Report acquisition of BRU, all food caches and livestock this HQ, who will arrange evacuation.
 - (5) All resupply requests will be submitted to S-4 rep in the field over Bn Admin Net prior to 1100 daily.

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4. Administration and Logistics: no change.

5. Command and Communications:

a. Comm-Elect: No changes.

b. Command Posts:

(1) 9th Air Regt. FSB Dick (143334).

(2) 1/9 LZ Delta (099233).

(A-7)

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1st Battalion, 9th Marines

Frag OrdersTAB BFrag Order 76-68

1. Situation: Current IntSums and PerIntRens.
2. Mission: No change.
3. Execution:
 - a. Concept - 1st Battalion, 9th Marines assigned mission in AO with two Companies conducting operations as previously tasked & within their assigned AO/Recon area. A third Company conducts a helicopterborne assault into an unexploited portion of its AO & resumes offensive operations in accordance with its assigned mission.
 - b. Co. A - No change.
 - c. Co. B - (Effective, upon change to 1st Battalion, 9th Marines). At 061300 conduct helicopterborne assault into LZ located at XD 864673. Following consolidation establish defensive position & conduct local day/night activities. On order, at approximately 090900 conduct a helicopterborne assault into an AO to be designated. Conduct offensive operations as will be specified in subsequent Frag.
 - d. Co. C - No change.
 - e. Co. D - At 060900 conduct helicopterborne assault into LZ located at XD 876602. Following the assault conduct offensive operation in consonance with proscribed mission & within assigned AO.
 - f. 81mm Flt - G/S, be prepared to attach elements as directed.
 - g. Coordinating Instructions: (In FY groups that are no longer in the battalion's possession.)
4. Administration and Logistics: No change.
5. Command and Communications: No change.

SECRET

Frag Order 77-68

1. Situation: No change from Frag Order 76-68.
2. Mission: No change.
3. Execution: No change except.
 - a. Concept- At 091300 Company B to conduct helilift into LZ located at YD 978502. On landing establish perimeter defense on finger toward Florida, tying in with Company A occupying defense of higher ground. Conduct subsequent activities as indicated Frag 76-68.
 - b. Company D execute Frag 76-68 at 070900.
 - c. Coordinating Instructions:
 1. Company B chops Orcon Company B effective on landing.
4. Administration and Logistics: No change.
5. Command and Communications: No change.

Frag Order 78-68

1. Situation: No change.
2. Mission: No change.
3. Execution:
 - a. Company E continues offensive operations within its AO with three Companies while also providing defense for Fire Support Base with a fourth Company.
 - b. Company C and Company D - Continue assigned mission within respective AOs.
 - c. Company B at 080800 conduct heliborne assault into LZ at YD 078347. Immediately following the assault conduct detailed search and clear operations toward the north. Establish patrol base near LZ. Conduct offensive operations from patrol base and within assigned AO.
 - d. 81mm Flt. - G/S. Be prepared to attach elements to Companies as directed.
 - e. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines reserve Company A - Continue assigned mission. Be prepared to conduct heliborne assault on 30 minutes notice to reinforce 1/9 elements or exploit contact within 1/9 AO.
- f3. Coordinating Instructions:
 1. If ever Co. A committed in its mission as reserve, H&S Co. forms provisional Company for employment in defense at present position,

(B-2)

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or for assault to further reinforce or exploit contact.

4. Administration and Logistics: No change

5. Command and Communications: No change

Frag Order 79-68

1. Situation: No change

2. Mission: No change

3. Execution:

a. 1/9 continue offensive operations in AO law assigned mission

b. Co B continue search and clear operations to north. Earliest in AM and establish patrol base law Frag O 78-68.

c. Co C continue assigned mission within your AO.

d. Co D continue assigned mission. Modify day acts to maintain 60 minute reaction posture for employment anywhere in 1/9 AO contact. Reinforce and exploit contact.

e. Co A reserve. Continue assigned mission law Frag O 78-68.

f. 81mm Plt B be prepared to attach elements to companies on order.

g. Coordinating Instructions:

1. Prep fires for reserve reaction forces by this AM.

2. AO priority to Company B.

3. Priority of artyfires to units in contact.

4. Administration and Logistics: No change.

5. Command and Communications: No change.

Frag Order 80-68

No change from Frag Order 79-68.

(B-3)

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SECRETFrag Order 81-68

1. Situation: No change.
2. Mission: No change.
3. Execution:
 - a. 1/9 Continue offensive operations in AO L&W assigned mission.
 - b. Co B Continue assigned mission in AO.
 - c. Co C Continue assigned mission in AO.
 - d. Co D At 111000H Nov 68 be prepared to conduct helicopter movement from present position to LD 290402 and occupy defensive perimeter vicinity YD 292399 to YD 295398. Plan day acts and resupply accordingly.
 - e. Co A Reserve. On relief of defensive perimeter attack along axis road to seize, occupy, and defend Bn. Obj at YD 317389. Upon seizure of Bn Obj 1, establish company patrol base and conduct offensive patrol activities in AO.
 - f. 81mm Plt No change.
 - g. Coordinating Instructions:
 1. Helicopter lift for Company D contingent on weather.
 2. Co A Report crossing of phase line black and green.
 3. Companies submit 24 hours in advance of proposed helicopter requirements movement for support.
4. Administration and Logistics: No change.
5. Command and Communications: No change.

Frag Order 82-68

1. Situation: No change.
2. Mission: No change except all companies modify activities to maintain 60 minute ready status for helo movement to an objective within 3d Division AO.
3. Execution:
 - a. 1/9 continue offensive operations in AO L&W additional mission.
 - b. Co B: No change.
 - c. Co C: No change.

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- d. Co D No change except be prepared at earliest in morning to conduct helo-movement L&M Frag O 81-68.
- e. Co A Reserve - No change except establish company patrol base vicinity of YD 3090 grid vice Bn Obj 1.
- f. 81mm Plt No change.
- g. Coordinating Instructions:
 - 1. All companies continue improvement of LZ's.
 - 2. Co C be prepared to provide 81mm support to Co D when requested.
 - 3. Co A modify AO to include: from Camel R 1.0 east to Camel R 4.5 and south to Macy's L 1.0 U 2.0 from Macy's L 1.0 U 2.0 east to shirt L 2.0 D 3.0 (Thrust points not available).
 - 4. Co's D, B, A, limit patrol routes within 500 meters of common boundaries.

4. Administration and Logistics: No change.

5. Command and Communications: No change.

Frag Order 83-68

- 1. Situation: No change.
- 2. Mission: No change except: Two companies and command group be prepared earliest in morning for helo movement to LZ vicinity YD 069513 for further operations in Third Marines AO. Third company commence construction of FOB.
- 3. Execution:
 - a. Co A At 130900 conduct helo-assault into LZ vicinity YD 154336. assist building fire support base.
 - b. Co B Be prepared at earliest in morning for helo-movement to YD 069543. On order conduct helo assault into LZ YD 170538 and establish blocking position toward west. Tentative position YD 171537 to YD 172527. Be prepared to accept elements of 1/9 CP.
 - c. Co C Be prepared at earliest in morning for helo movement to YD 069543. On order conduct helo assault into LZ 171517 and establish blocking positions toward west. Tentative position YD 171517 to YD 172527.
 - d. Co D Reserve: Maintain defensive perimeter at present location, conduct offensive operations in AO.

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- e. 81mm Plt On order detach sections from company B and C and return to general support. Attach platoon minus to Company D at 130700H.
- f. 442(-): Provide personnel as directed for CP. Conduct holo-movement 1st para 2 FragO 83-68.
- g. Coordinating Instructions:
 - 1. Holo-movement sequence: A, B, CP, C.
 - 2. Brief for Company B and C at YD 069543 on arrival.
 - 3. On arrival at YD 069543 companies and CP chop to 3d Marines.
 - 4. Contact is right to left.
- 4. Administration and Logistics: No change.
- 5. Command and Communications: No change.
 - 1. Reg Tac 74.90
 - 2. COF 57.15
 - 3. Air 48.80

Frag Order 84-68

No change from Frag Order 83-68.

Frag Order 85-68

- 1. Situation: No change.
- 2. Mission: No change.
- 3. Execution:
 - a. Co B: At 0700H 15 Nov 68, commence consolidating position to form front on 16 grid line from YD 160535 to YD 160530. Contact with 4th Marines unit must be maintained during this movement, and at common boundary. 4th Marines responsible for river at 16 grid line.
 - b. Co C: Consolidate position from YD 160530 to YD 159540 on order.
 - c. 81mm Plt: No change.
 - d. Coordinating Instructions:
 - 1. Contact left to right.
- 4. Administration and Logistics: No change.
- 5. Command and Communications: No change.

SECRETFrax Order 36-68

1. Situation: No change
2. Mission: No change except: Task Force 1/9 establishes 360 degree cordon of village at YD 380504.
3. Execution:
 - a. Concept: On order TF 1/9 with 3 companies cordons village at YD 380504, establishes CP/AD on Route #1 at YD 368499 and re-establishes CP +C at YD 383489.
 - b. Company B: No change.
 - c. Company C: On order move left flank to establish cordon following general trace YD 388505 to YD 386489 to YD 387484 to YD 378481. Maintain contact right with Company B, effect link with company D at YD 378481. Establish check point CP I at YD 383489.
 - d. Company D: On order move company and establish cordon following a general trace from YD 367494 to YD 375517 to YD 371516 to YD 388481 to YD 372491 to YD 375479. Establish check point AC at YD 368499.
 - e. 1st Company: Provide a command group, relocate remainder of command group on order.
 - f. Coordinating Instructions:
 1. Companies report link-up on contact.
 2. Cordon trace flexible with terrain.
 3. Cordon to be completed by 1000 22 Nov 68.
 4. All companies be prepared to move at first light.
4. Administration and Logistics:
 - a. HAS: Be prepared to resupply elements of company C as needed.
 - b. Resupply to Company D and C by vehicle, Company B by air.
5. Command and Communications:
 - a. TF 1/9 CP opens at YD 383491 on arrival.

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Frag Order 87-681. Situation:

- a. Enemy: No change.
- b. Friendly: No change.
- c. Attachments/Detachments
 - 1. Third Tank Platoon, Company B.
 - 2. Det. 3d Engineer Bn.

2. Mission: No change.3. Execution:

- a. No change.
- b. Company B: No change except: Conduct patrol to north and east.
- c. Company C: No change except: Conduct patrols to east. One tank attached.
- d. Company D: No change except: Conduct patrols to south and west. One tank attached.
- e. H&S Company: Maintain defense of CP and provide Class I resupply to one Plt, Company C.
- f. 81mm Platoon: C/S No changes except: Provide perimeter defense of CP as required.
- g. Coordinating Instructions:
 - 1. All Companies use night warning defense devices to maximum.
 - 2. Engr personnel available on request.
 - 3. All Companies maintain one day MCI and DOA at all times.
 - 4. This FragO effective upon receipt.

4. Administration and Logistics: No change.5. Command and Communications: No change.

(E-8)

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Frag Order 88-68

1. Situation: No change.
2. Mission: No change.
3. Execution:
 - a. Companies continue day and night acts. Maintain 2 hours ready posture.
 - b. Coordinating Instructions:
 1. Avoid logistic burden that would hamper movement.
 2. Duration of cordon not known.
 3. Conduct activities outside of cordon only.
4. Administration and Logistics: No change.
5. Command and Communication: No change.

Frag Order 89-68

1. Situation: 1/9 (-) will terminate cordon 27 Nov 68.
2. Mission: On order 1/9 (-) will conduct tactical motor march to VCP.
3. Execution:
 - a. Concept: Two companies mount at present CP position, two Companies at 1/9 CP. Assemble on order at designated points. Order of march will be D, H&S, C, B.
 - b. Company B: Mount vehicles and load 4 trailers at Company CP. Assemble at 1/9 CP move on order. Report situation every 15 min on Bn TAG.
 - c. Company C: Arrive at 1/9 CP by 0900 mount 4 vehicles and load 4 trailers. Move on order.
 - d. Company D: Mount 9 vehicles and load 4 trailers at Company CP. Join convoy at YD 371496. Report situation every 15 min on Bn TAG NET.
 - e. H&S Company: Mount 6 vehicles and load 3 trailers at 1/9 CP. Provide guides to direct vehicles to Bravo and Delta CP.

(B-9)

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c. Coordinating Instructions:

- (1) Vehicles will arrive at 1/9 CP at 0900 27 Nov 68.
- (2) Company CO vehicle may be included in convoy.
- (3) Insure tactical distribution of automatic weapons.
- (4) Helmets and flak jackets will be worn during movement.
- (5) Personnel will sit in vehicle bed and face outboard.
- (6) Anti-ambush action-If vehicle disabled, personnel will mount another vehicle and convoy will resume.
- (7) Companies be prepared to provide .50 cal machinegunners.

4. Administration and Logistics: No change.5. Command and Communication:

- a. All freq's and call signs remain in effect.
- b. Bn. command vehicle will be with lead element.

Frag Order 90-681. Situation: No change except: Additional intelligence report.2. Mission: No change.3. Execution:

- a. Concept: No change except one Company effects admin relief of one 2/9 Co. at LZ Pucan.
- b. Company A: (1) At 0900 effect relief of perimeter defense of VCF to Co. E 2/9. (2) On order conduct admin helo-lift to LZ Pucan at YD 042249, and effect relief of Co. G, 2/9.
- c. Company C: (1) Continue maintain defense Thon Son Lam. (2) Provide Sparrow Hawk reqmt until relieved. (3) When directed and on order conduct helicopter assault into LZ Charlie and execute mission assigned by O-Ord 1-68.
- d. Company D: No change except augment Company A in defense of VCE on 29 Nov 68.
- e. 8mm Platoon: No change.

(B-10)

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- f. 106mm RR: No change.
- g. 1st Plt Co. C, 11th Engr: No change.
- h. Co. E, 2/9: At 0900 30 Nov 68 assume defense of VCP relieve Co. A, 1/9 of same.
- i. Co. H, 2/4: (1) Continue maintain defense of CaLu. (2) Maintain Bald Eagle regmt until relieved.
- j. Coordinating Instructions:
 - 1. L Hour 1015 30 Nov 68.
 - 2. Sequence D, A & CP.
 - 3. If lift cancelled, slip 24 hrs.
 - 4. All other coordinst no change OrOrd 12-68
 - 5. Until 1/9 CP estab all 1/9 Companies Orcon to 2/9.
 - 6. Maintain 60 min radio check w/1/9 while Orcon to 2/9.
- 4. Administration and Logistics: No change.
- 5. Command and Communications: No change except 2/9 freq avail from 1/9 Comm Off.

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TAB C

LANDING ZONES AND
FIRE SUPPORT BASES CONSTRUCTED

1st Battalion, 9th Marines largely assisted in the construction of
FSB DICK.

(2-1)

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(ENCLOSURE 6)

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9th Mar. Regt.

Control No.

652-68

Copy No.

1 of 8

168669

1/JDF/ar

3100

Ser: 001F12069

30 April 1969

[REDACTED] (Unclassified upon removal of the basic correspondence)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, 1stBn, 9thMar ltr 3/DCC/em over
3100.1D of 1 Dec 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines

To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Combat After Action Report

1. Forwarded.

J. D. Fitzpatrick
J. D. FITZPATRICK
By direction

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TAB-F

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division, (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

168669

9th Mar. Regt.
Control No. 00652-68
Copy No. 1 of 8

3/DOC/em
3100.1D
01 Dec 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Via: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines

Subj: Combined Action Report

Ref: (a) DIVO 3100.1D
(b) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Operation Order 11-68

1. Code Name: Simong Fa Gordon
2. Dates of Operation: 171100H 68 to 270900H NOV 68
3. Location: Tuong Ea, Mai Dang (1) and (2) Villages Complex.
4. Task Organization:

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

Lt. Col. G. W. SMITH
13 Nov to 17 Nov 68

H&S Company

1st Lt. T. G. JACKSON
13 Nov to 17 Nov 68

Company B (Rein)

CAPT. K. L. HARMON
17 Nov to 27 Nov 68

Company B

FO tm, D Btry 2/12

Det, H&S Company

FAC tm

FO tm, 8mm

Det, Comm Plat

Det, Med Plat

Det, 1st Plat, Co. C, 3d Engr Bn

Company C (Rein)

CAPT. W. O. MOORE
17 Nov to 27 Nov 68

Company C

FO tm, D Btry 2/12

Det, H&S Company

FAC tm

FO tm, 8mm

Det, Comm Plat

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

DECLASSIFIED

TAL E

1/9
A/Rp+(Opn THUNG FA GORDON)
17-27 Nov 1968

DECLASSIFIED

Det, Med Plt
Det, 1st Plt, Co. C, 3d Engr Bn

Company D (Rein)
Company D
FO tm, D Btry 2/12
Det, H&S Company
FAC tm

FO tm, 81mm
Det, 1st Plt
Det, 1st Plt
Det, 1st Plt, Co. C, 3d Engr Bn

CAPT. E. F. RILEY
19 Nov to 27 Nov 68

G. W. SMITH

5. 11 11 11

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5. Supporting Arms:a. Artillery:

(1). General: There were very few artillery missions on this operation due to the restrictive policy on fires within the cordon. Artillery illumination was employed extensively for ground units forming the cordon.

(2) Significant Events: None.

b. Log: On 19 November Company D was lifted to YD 3384 joining the 1st Battalion.

6. Intelligence: From 17 to 27 November the battalion encountered sporadic enemy contact and sniper fire. The enemy apparently had prior warning of the cordon operation and had escaped before its institution, since there were only a few feeble attempts to penetrate it from inside and outside.

7. Mission: At 061300H November 1968 First Battalion, 9th Marines conducts a cordon of the eastern portions of the Thuong Xa, Mai Dang (1) and (2) village complex.

8. Concept of Operations: First Battalion, 9th Marines (-) (Rein) with 1 3/4 cordons the eastern half of a 3 village complex by 180001H November 68 and provides security for road check point D on route 1.

9. Execution: 13 NOV At 1300H Company C found 2 bottles of unknown fluid, 4 AK-47 rounds, 1 shovel, 1 hoe, 1 pair of black pajamas, 5 fighting holes (2'x2'x2') and 2 thatched huts at YD 390397. At 2100H enemy personnel approached the lines of Company B at YD 385505, tripped a flare, and fired small arms from both the front and rear of the perimeter. Company B returned small arms fire, and requested clearance for a 60 mm. mortar mission, which was denied.

19 NOV At 0645H Company B found one body garbed in an NV1 uniform, armed with 2 M-26 grenades and one AK-47 and magazine for and dead less than 24 hours at YD 381507.

20 NOV At 1830H Company found one Vietnamese body killed by smallarms within the previous 24hrs at YD 417477. He was later identified as a VC prisoner who had tried to escape.

21 NOV At 2230H Company D sighted movement at YD 402470, fired M-79 and 49 rounds of 60 mm. mortar, giving good target coverage but with unknown results.

22 NOV At 1700H a patrol from the 2d Bn., 1st ARVN Regiment released a VC to Company B, and the VC revealed a bunker site to the company at YD 387508.

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23 NOV At 0815H elements of Company C received 8 rounds of sniper fire from YD 387594. At 0210H Company B received automatic weapons fire from YD 374509 and returned fire with unknown results. At 1100H a suspected VC woman revealed to Company D several reinforced bunkers at YD 376487 containing one AK-50, 2 AK-50 magazines, 1 M-1 carbine, 2 pineapple grenades, 1 utility shirt, 3 civilian shirts, 25-30 lbs. of rice, one air mattress, 1 straw mattress, one personal letter and 1 worksheet with working hours of listed persons. At 1330H Company C found and destroyed two reinforced bunkers (3'x4'x5') at YD 385500.

24 NOV At 1300H Company B found a sandbag with clothes, a flashlight, documents and a pen at YD 376513; a reinforced bunker and a grenade at YD 385513; and one dud 105 mm. artillery round at YD 380513, and blew it in place. At 2030H Company D sighted 5 enemy personnel at YD 386485, fired small arms and shot a 60 mm. mortar mission with good coverage of the target. The area was searched with negative results. At 2215H Company D saw 3 personnel at YD 373507, and when 2 rounds of M-16 were fired by the element of Company D, the personnel fell, setting off a trip flare. There was no further movement.

25 NOV At 1100H two ARVN soldiers of the 2d Bn., 1st Regiment were apprehended stealing a civilian radio and cigarettes at YD 383478.

10. Results.

- a. None
- b. 1 NVA KIA. Documents, 1M-1 carbine, 1 AK-50 rifle, 2 AK-50 magazines, 2 grenades, and 25-30 lbs. of rice were captured. One bunker destroyed.
- c. N/A
- d. None

11. Administrative Matters.

- a. Resupply was effected by helicopter and motor vehicles. Distribution was by unit distribution.
- b. Maintenance was first and second echelons.
- c. Casualties were treated by the corpsmen and battalion surgeon. Evaluation was effected by helicopter and motor vehicles.
- d. Transportation by helicopter and motor vehicles.
- e. No unusual problems encountered in communications.

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f. Medical evaluations: No unusual circumstances.

12. Special Equipment and Techniques: None.

13. Commanders Analysis. Thuong Xa Cordon

The lack of planning and adequate briefing for the initial movement to contact and cordon was supplemented by extensive helo reconnaissance which coupled with unit commanders map reading abilities and leadership effected a complex and harrowing night movement with minimum difficulty.

Selection of a single assembly area and LZ for 1/9 (-) resulted in the allotted time frame for movement hardly being feasible. A serious draw back was that the battalion commander was not afforded the opportunity to select his own landing zones.

With the exception of a moderate contact during the second evening of the cordon being the most significant event the operation continued with: coordinated and uncoordinated small arms firing by ARVN units, severe artillery fire restrictions, limited night movement and sporadic and isolated sniper fire.

Psy Ops operations were utilized and controlled by higher headquarters and association with non-combatants and indigenous personnel was conducted solely by ARVN units.

14. Recommendations: None.

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