

S & C FILES  
3D MARINES

19865


HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 9th Marines, 9th MEB  
Marine #11  
c/o FPO, San Francisco, California3/BSS/jmb  
1 May 1965From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Third Marines

Subj: Command Diary for period 1-30 April 1965, submission of

Ref: (a) Ninth Marine Expeditionary Brigade Order 3121.1

Encl: (1) 3d Battalion, 9th Marines Command Diary for the period 1 through 30 April 1965.

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. Command Diary for the period 1 through 31 March 1965 was submitted via normal channels.

  
C. E. MC PARTLIN JR.

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3rd Bn., 9th Marines, Marine #11  
S & C No. 19865  
GARY #

Apr 1965

HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 9th Marines, 9th MEB  
Marine #11  
c/o FPO, San Francisco, California

COMMAND DIARY

1 April through 30 April 1965

Part I - Organizational Data Sheet

Part II - Narrative Summary and Chronological  
Sequence of Events.

Part III - Supporting Documents

Enclosure (1)

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA SHEETPART I

1. Reporting Unit. 3d Battalion, 9th Marines.
2. Period Covered. 1 April through 30 April 1965.
3. Commanding Officer. 3d Battalion, 9th Marines. - Lt. Col. C. E. MC PARTLIN JR
4. Command Post. Initially on Hill 327 (Coordinates 978743) and on 8 April 1965 to Danang Airfield (Coordinates 998747).

5. Subordinate Units

H&amp;S Co (-) (Rein)

Co "I" (Rein)

Co "K" (Rein)

Co "L" (Rein)

Co "M" (Rein)

3d Plt (Rein), Co C, 3rd AT Bn (OPCON ONLY)

3d Plt (Rein), Co B, 3d Tk Bn (OPCON ONLY)

Capt. THOMPSON

Capt. MORGAN

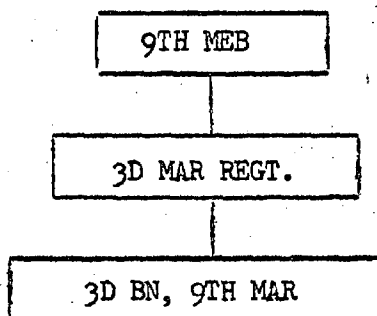
Capt. VREELAND

Capt. SHERIDAN

1/Lt. ROUNTREE

1/Lt. ROONEY

1/Lt. KLABOUGH

6. Command Structure~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

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## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

## PART II

1. Mission Assigned. Initially, BLT 3/9 was assigned the mission of occupying and defending the dominating terrain immediately West of Danang Airfield (Hills 327 and 268) and to provide security for the Brigade Engineer Group deployed in assigned zone and the LAAM Battery deployed on Hills 327 and 268. Subsequently, on 7 and 8 April 1965, moved to and establish defense around Danang Airfield (Proper).

2. Movements Made

7 and 8 April 1965 - Departed Hills 327 and 268 and moved to Danang Airfield (Proper)

3. Exercise Participation. Only local quick reaction exercises conducted.

4. Training Conducted. Training conducted during the period 1 through 30 April paralleled, as nearly as possible, the mission of the battalion. Training consisted of the following:

- a. Helicopter Operations
- b. Conduct of Reconnaissance and Combat Patrols
- c. Construction of Obstacles and Barriers
- d. Offensive Tactics
- e. Jungle Warfare
- f. Guerrilla Warfare
- g. Counter-Guerrilla Warfare
- h. NBCD
- i. Scouting and Patrolling
- j. Civil Disturbances and Riot Control
- k. Night Operations
- l. Specialized training was conducted where appropriate.

5. Terrain and Weather. Effects of terrain and weather upon training during the period 1 through 8 April 1965 were as previously stated in Command Diary for March, 1965. There has been no adverse effect of terrain and weather on training during the period 9-30 April 1965.

6. Summary of Events during the Period 1-30 April 1965

- a. 1-6 April 1965. Reporting period commenced with battalion occupying defensive positions on Hills 327 and 268. During this period, there were several sightings of unidentified movement resulting in friendly small arms fire but there were no confirmed enemy casualties. Unidentified personnel did not return fire. Extensive patrolling of assigned TAOR and NorthWest TAOR continued with negative contact although valuable information in regards to trails, water, etc. was obtained. On 6 April, General Waters, Commander of U.S. Army Forces, Pacific, observed battalion positions.

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- b. 7 April 1965. At 0800, relief of BLT 3/9 by BLT 1/3 commenced with Companies "B" and "C", BLT 1/3, relieving Companies "I" and "M", BLT 3/9. There was no contact during this period.
- c. 8 April 1965. Exchange of positions between BLT 1/3 and BLT 3/9 was completed at 081159H with BLT 3/9 assuming control of defenses Danang Airfield and BLT 1/3 assuming control of Hills 327 and 268. There was no contact during this period.
- d. 9-17 April 1965. Period commenced with battalion concentrating upon improvement of defenses around Danang Airfield (Proper). The largest problem has been explosion of mines in Company "M" area by dogs crossing minefields. On 11 April, one (1) Marine was slightly injured by shrapnel from one of these mines. Another problem was the firing of small arms by popular forces, VN, into battalion positions. Although considered to be accidental, these incidents were reported to 9th MEB and action was taken. On 12 April, the accidental discharge of a .45 cal. pistol resulted in the wounding of one (1) man from Company "K". This man was treated at the BAS and evacuated. At last report, his condition was listed as satisfactory. At 130800H, BLT 3 assumed operational control of BLT 3/9. On 15 April, Senator Dodd, Connecticut, visited the Battalion CP and talked with several personnel from the State of Connecticut. During this period, training was conducted by units of the battalion. Training consisted of a firex by the 81mm mortar platoon at the Hoa Cam Training Center and training by rifle companies in subjects that closely parallel the battalion mission. Also, emphasis placed upon offensive tactics. BLT 3/9 Operation Order 18-65, Defense of Danang Airfield, issued during this period. Although much firing was reported outside the Battalion zone, there was no contact made by units of this battalion.
- e. 18-30 April 1965. During this period, the battalion remained in the same defensive posture. There were several sightings of unidentified activity during this period which were considered of little or no significance. At 180850H, the Air Force Ammunition Dump exploded. Upon investigation it was discovered that a bomb had fallen from a VN truck and had exploded upon contact. A portion of the Napalm dump ignited and exploded. There were no USMC casualties. During this period, there were numerous mines detonated on the South end of the Airfield. These detonations were due to dogs crossing minefields. On 21 April 1965, battalion was given permission to conduct reconnaissance patrols outside protective wire. These patrols have resulted in negative contact and very little data has been obtained. On 23 April 1965, a Commanding General's Inspection was conducted. On 28 April 1965, General Greene, CMC, visited facilities at Danang Airfield. During this period, training consisted of those subjects relative to the mission of the battalion. There has been no contact.

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7. A Chronological Sequence of Events follows:

- a. Period commenced at 010001H April 1965. Journals closed at 1800 daily until 12 April 1965 when directed by RLT 3 to close journals at 1700H daily and submit unit reports accordingly. Chronological sequence will parallel closing time of journals.

010001H - 021000H April.

The battalion continues to occupy defensive positions and conduct patrols within assigned TAOR. In addition, BLT 3/9 has a platoon size patrol operating in the area North of Col de Dai La. Another patrol of the same size will relieve the present patrol at 021045H. BLT 3/9 received 9th MEB FragO 10-65 which pertains to change of positions between BLT 3/9 and BLT 1/3. A tour of BLT 3/9 positions was conducted by Colonel Greene, Assistant J-1, COMUSMACV. There has been negative enemy contact during this period.

021800H - 031800H April.

BLT 3/9 continues to defend and control its TAOR. Extensive patrolling of TAOR continues. During this period, there were occasional trip flares set off and possible sightings of unidentified personnel. Small arms fire was delivered at some of the sightings with negative results. The platoon size patrol operating North of Col de Dai La was relieved by another patrol of the same size. There has been no confirmed enemy contact during this period.

031800H - 041800H April.

Defense of and extensive patrolling of TAOR continues. At approximately 1500H, a recon patrol operating in the area North of Col de Dai La received small arms fire from village vic coordinates 918787. There were no casualties. There were also reports of firing outside the TAOR but firing was too far away to determine source. Three VN Marines reported to BLT 3/9 to be utilized as liaison personnel. The ARVN troops assigned to joint roadblock once again left their assigned post and did not return. There has been no contact other than the one incident previously mentioned.

041800H - 041800H April.

Patrols continued with negative contact. During this period, the battalion suffered three (3) non combat casualties. One (1) casualty suffered from a sprained ankle while the remaining two (2) were heat casualties. All were evacuated but returned to duty the next day.

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041800H - 051800H April. The battalion continues to defend and patrol it's assigned TAOR. There were two contacts with unidentified personnel. This resulted in the throwing of one hand grenade and the firing of small arms with negative results. No other contacts during this period.

051800H - 061800H April. Defense and patrol of TAOR continues. Several unidentified movements within TAOR reported but no positive contact was made. The battalion continues to defend and patrol it's TAOR.

061800H - 071800H April. Defense and patrol of TAOR continues. BLT 3/9 Frag Order 17-65 distributed. This order relates to counterattack by BLT 3/9 and supports MEB Order 37E-65. At 0810, relief of BLT 3/9 by BLT 1/3 commenced. Companies "B" and "C", BLT 1/3, relieved Companies "E" and "M", BLT 3/9. Company "B" assumed mission as Battalion Reserve. Relief terminated at 1200 and is scheduled to resume on 8 April at 0800. There was no contact during this period.

071800H - 081800H April. At approximately 081200H, BLT 3/9 assumed control of the defenses around Danang Airfield (Proper). The Battalion Command Post was repositioned at coordinates 998747. There has been negative contact by units of this battalion. The battalion has control of the defenses around Danang Airfield (Proper).

081800H - 091800H April. Defensive positions remain the same around Danang Airfield (Proper). There has been no activity during this period and the units of the battalion are concentrating upon improvement of existing positions. A Battalion Staff Meeting was conducted to discuss improvements of the battalion defensive posture.

091800H - 101800H April. The battalion remains in the same defensive posture and improvements continue to be made. At approximately 092315H three (3) small arms rounds were fired into the air to gain the attention of a Major Morgan, USMC, who failed to heed challenge of a sentry located on road 300 meters North of main gate. At 101220H, a VN male threw one (1) 5 gallon can and two (2) boxes under the wire obstacle in front of Company "I". He escaped and upon investigation the can and boxes were found to be empty. There has been negative contact during this period and the battalion maintains control of the defenses around Danang Airfield (Proper).

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101800H - 111800H April.

Several incidents occurred during this period. Company "M" apprehended one (1) VN male who came through a wire obstacle located in their area. Individual was sent to G-2, 9th MEB. At approximately 102008H, a mine exploded in vicinity of Company "M" position slightly wounding one (1) Marine. Marine was evacuated to BAS and returned to duty upon examination. Mine explosion was the result of a dog crossing a minefield. Two (2) Popular Forces personnel fired three (3) rounds of small arms into Company "M" position. There were no casualties. The two (2) personnel were arrested by VN authorities. BLT 3/9 Operation Order (Defense of Danang Airfield) was issued this date. The battalion maintains control of its assigned area.

111800H - 121800H April.

There were no changes in the battalions posture during this period. During the 24 hour period three (3) mines were detonated in Company "M" area by dogs. There were two (2) reports of small arms fire being heard in Company "M" area approximately 1500 meters to their front. There was an accidental discharge of a .45 pistol in Company "K" area resulting in one (1) Marine being seriously wounded. The Marine is in satisfactory condition and has been evacuated to Collection and Clearing company, 3d Med Battalion for treatment and further transfer to the Army Field Hospital, NHA Trang. There was no contact during this period.

121800H - 131700H April.

Period commenced with battalion in same positions. Company "M" reported that approximately nine (9) small arms rounds impacted into their positions. 9th MEB notified and ARVN troops investigated with negative results. At 130800H, BLT 3/9 came under operational control of 3d Marine Regiment. There was negative contact during this period.

131700H - 141700H April.

Battalion remains in same position. RLT 3, S-2, reported possible compromise of password. Alternate password put into effect. Company "M" reported that rocks were being thrown at an LP and that a small crowd had formed. The crowd dispersed a short time later with no further incidents. Company "M" reported that two (2) mines were detonated in their area by dogs. The battalion continues to improve its defensive posture. Negative contact during this period.



141700H - 151700H April.

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The battalion remains in the same defensive posture. There have been two (2) mine detonated on the outer perimeter by dogs. There were no casualties. Senator Dodd, Senator from the State of Connecticut visited battalion area during the day and talked to Marines from that state. There has been no contact during this period.

151700H - 161700H April.

There were several incidents that occurred during this period none of which were considered significant. Two (2) mines were set off by dogs during this period. The 81mm Mortar Platoon conducted a Firex at Hoa Cam Training Center. A staff briefing was conducted for Deputy Ambassador U.A. Johnson this date. The battalion continues to improve its defensive positions and conduct training relative to its mission. There has been no contact during this period.

161700H - 171700H April.

There were several incidents during this period none of which were considered to be significant. The 81mm Mortar Platoon conducted a Firex at Hoa Cam Training Center. There has been no contact during this period and the battalion continues to conduct training relative to its mission.

171700H - 181700H April.

The battalion remains in the same defensive positions. There was one (1) mine detonated in Company "I" area which was result of a dog. One (1) VN female was apprehended during this period. She was observed coming through perimeter protective wire. Turned over to 9th MEB. At approximately 0850 an explosion occurred in the vicinity of the Air Force Bomb Dump. Upon investigation, it was discovered that a bomb had fallen from a truck and exploded. A portion of the Napalm dump ignited and exploded. It appears that the explosion was not the result of sabotage but was an accident. There was no contact during this period. The battalion continues to improve its defensive posture and conduct training.

181700H - 191700H April.

The battalion remains in the same defensive posture. There were several incidents reported during this period none of which were considered significant. One (1) mine was detonated by a dog. The 81mm Mortar Platoon conducted a Firex at Hoa Cam Training Center this date. In addition a platoon quick reaction exercise was conducted at Hoa Cam Training Center. There was no contact during this period and the battalion continues to train in those areas relative to battalion mission.

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191700H - 201700H April.

There were several sitings during this period none of which was considered significant. During this period a Firex was conducted by the 81mm Mortar Platoon. Also, a quick reaction operational readiness exercise was conducted by the battalion. There was no contact during this period and the battalion continues to improve its defensive posture.

201700H - 211700H April.

The battalion remains in the same defensive posture. One (1) mine was detonated in Company "M" area by a dog. There were two (2) reports of people gathering near the battalion position but the crowds dispersed with no incidents. At 211315H, the 1st Platoon, Company A, 3d Tank Battalion returned to control of 3d Marines while the 3d Platoon, Company "B", 3d Tank Battalion was placed under operational control of 3d Battalion, 9th Marines. Quick reaction exercises continued at Hoa Cam Training Camp. Received permission this date to patrol outside protective wire. There has been no contact.

211700H - 221700H April.

Period commenced with battalion occupying same defensive posture. A mine was detonated in Company "M" area by a dog. Although there were several sitings during this period none were considered significant. There was no contact during this period.

221700H - 231700H April.

Battalion remains in the same defensive posture. At 222105H, Company "L" reported two (2) men 50-100 meters East of check point 19. These men appeared to be observing positions. Men moved away when Platoon Commander investigated. At 222120H, Company "M" reported that a mine detonated in vicinity of check point 6, possibly by VN persons throwing rocks into the minefield. On two (2) occasions several persons approached the wire near check point 8. On both occasions, personnel returned to a wooded area approximately 100 meters from the check point. Later, they moved in the direction of highway 1. 3d Battalion, 9th Marines was inspected by the CG, 9th MEB this date. Quick reaction exercise and other training continues. There was no contact during this period.

231700H - 241700H April.

Period commenced with battalion occupying same defensive posture. At 231755H, Company "L" check point 19 reported that they had received three (3) rounds of small arms fire. There were no casualties. At 241336H, Company "M" reported three (3) unidentified personnel outside protective wire. Two (2) of the men were in utilities and one (1) in civilian attire armed with a rifle. The rifle was pointed at troops

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along the protective wire and the individuals taunted, harrassed and laughed at them. Report was made of this and there have been no further incidents. There was no confirmed contact during this period.

241700H - 251700H April.

Battalion remained in same defensive posture during this period. Although there were many sitings, none were considered to be of any value. Training continued with emphasis upon offensive tactics. There has been no contact during this period.

251700H - 261700H April.

Battalion remains in same defensive posture. Many sitings during this period but none considered to be significant. Arrangements made with LAAM Battalion to provide security for a reconnaissance element to Hai Van Pass. 3d Battalion, 9th Marines Frag Order 19-65 distributed. There was no contact during this period.

261700H - 271700H April.

Battalion remains in the same defensive posture during this period. Although there were several sitings, none were considered to be significant. Security element for LAAM Reconnaissance Party departed at 270730H and returned at 271530H. There was no contact by this element. Training continues and there was no contact by units of this battalion.

271700H - 281700H April.

Battalion remains in same defensive posture. There were several sitings reported but none were considered to be significant. A visit to the battalion position by General Greene, Commandant of the Marine Corps, was cancelled. There was no contact by units of this battalion.

281700H - 291700H April.

Battalion remains in same defensive posture. There were several reports of small arms fire and flares around Battalion zone but these were considered insignificant. At 291035H, 3d Marines cancelled liberty until further notice due to terrorist activities in Danang. Colonel Wheeler visited the battalion area and inspected positions. ELT 3/9 ordered by 3d Marines to have one (1) reinforced rifle company on two (2) hour alert status for helicopter operations. Received 3d Marines Operation Plans 322A-65 and 322B-65. There was no contact during this period.

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291700H - 302400H April.

Battalion remains in same defensive posture. At 292257H, Crowd 3 informed Fertilize that there was an unconfirmed report that an enemy Regiment was moving into the Phu Loc area, coordinates 975785. It was thought that the enemy had various types of weapons for an attack on the Airfield. Company Commanders were briefed but attack failed to materialize. Received Brigade Order 002401.1 (Communications Instructions) and 3d Marines Operation Order 323-65 (Defense Order). Third Battalion, 9th Marines Operation Plans 18A-65 and 18B-65 distributed. Although there were several sightings during this period none were considered to be significant. There was no contact during this period.

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Enclosure (1)

SECRETSUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

## Part III

NIF { S-1 Journal for Period 010001H - 302400H April 1965  
S-2 Journal for Period 010001H - 302400H April 1965  
S-3 Journal for Period 010001H - 302400H April 1965  
Unit Reports for period 311800H March - 301700H April 1965  
Limits and checkpoints of Patrol Routes vicinity of Danang Airfield  
BLT 3/9 Operation Order 15-65  
BLT 3/9 Operation Order 16-65  
BLT 3/9 Frag 17-65  
BLT 3/9 Operation Order 18-65 w/changes 1 and 2  
3/9 Frag Order 19-65  
3/9 Frag Order 20-65  
3/9 Frag Order 20A-65  
3/9 Frag Order 18A-65  
3/9 Frag Order 18B-65

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