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S & C FILES

3d MARINES

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1/ELL/ell
5750
8 Nov 1967FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, 3dBn, 9thMar ltr 3/BWC/jhw 05750
of 1Nov67

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 October to 31 October
 1967

1. Forwarded.

J. E. LoPate
 J. E. LO PATE

3dBn/9thMar

Cmd Chron

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3d MARINES
 Copy 1 of 9

Oct 1967


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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Reinf) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/B IC/jhw
05750
1 Nov 1967

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From Commanding Officer
To Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Reinf)
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, West Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 October to 31 October 1967

Ref: (a) LCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPAO 5750.8

Encl ✓(1) Command Chronology 1-31 October 1967
✓(2) S-2 Journal
✓(3) S-3 Journal

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

2. Downgraded at 3 year intervals, declassified after 12 years DOD Dir 5200.10

G. C. JOCK

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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1. DESIGNATION.

3d Battalion, 9th Marines

Lieutenant Colonel G. C. COOK
1-30 November 1967SUBORDINATE UNITS

Company I

Captain V. A. CONGER
1-30 November 1967

Company K

Major R. W. AUSTIN
1-2 November 1967Captain A. K. WARD
3-30 November 1967

Company L

Captain J. S. ADAMS
1-30 November 1967

Company M

Captain F. J. BRETT
1-2 November 1967Captain R. A. O'NEILL
3-30 November 1967

US Company

Captain A. K. WARD
1-2 November 19671stLt. J. POPE
3-30 November 19672. LOCATION.

1-30 November 1967 - THON SON LAM, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

Executive Officer

Major R. L. JAMES
1-30 November 1967

S-1

1stLt. R. E. POSTAL AIT
1-30 November 1967

Enclosure (1)

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S-2

2dLt. B. E. BRYAN, JR.
1-30 November 1967

S-3

Major B. F. GARDNER
1-30 November 1967

S-3A

1stLt. H. T. DALE, JR.
1-30 November 1967

S-4

Captain R. A. O'NEILL
1-2 November 1967Major R. F. AUSTIN
3-30 November 1967

S-5

1stLt. J. L. PENDLAND, JR.
1-30 November 19674. AVERAGE STRENGTH.USMCUSNOFFICERSENLISTEDOFFICERSENLISTED

41

1012

2

48

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1-30 November 1967, this battalion continued in the occupation and defense of T'ON SON LAM (XD 982545) to include the mission of denying the enemy access through the "ROCKPILE" Area, conducting security operations on Route 49 in assigned AO; conducting operations to interdict enemy locations and destroy enemy forces in AO, and maintaining patrol base at CA LU (YD 012455) to deny access through CA LU and BA LONG VALLEY.

On 131120H Nov 1967, Companies L and K returned from Camp CARROLL where they were OPCON to the 3d Marines during a phase of Operation LANCASTER.

On 17 November 1967, Company K commenced a seven (7) day operation to the southwest of the T'ON SON LAM Area. The operation resulted in negative enemy contact or sightings. On 23 November 1967, Company K returned to T'ON SON LAM and Company I departed to the northwest on a seven (7) day operation. Company I was recalled on 26 November 1967, due to an operational commitment of the 3d Marines.

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On 26 November 1967, Company I displaced to the KUT GIA Bridge (YD 027563) and D-5 (YD 095515). On 28 November 1967, Company K displaced to CAU J. J. C ROLL leaving E&S Company and Company M at TION SON LU and Company L at CA LU.

In addition to the company operations, extensive small unit patrols, ambuses, and LP's were conducted during the entire period of 1-30 November 1967.

PART III

1. FIF organization committed to combat.

a. Combat missions assigned.

- (1) Deny enemy access through "ROCKPILE"/TION SON LU area.
- (2) Conduct operations to maintain security of ISR Route '9 in AO.
- (3) Maintain Patrol Base at CA LU to deny enemy access through CA LU and BA LONG Valley.
- (4) Conduct operations to interdict enemy LOG's and destroy enemy forces in assigned AO.

b. Significant operations conducted. Company operations in conjunction with Operation LANCSTER.

c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy.

- (1) KIA Confirmed ----- 0
- (2) KIA Probable ----- 0

d. Casualties sustained.

- (1) KIA ----- 0
- (2) KIA (NBC) ----- 0
- (3) DOW ----- 0
- (4) IA ----- 2
- (5) IA (NBC) ----- 5

e. New techniques employed. None.

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f. Command relations. Command relations with all supporting units continued to be excellent. Coordination and assistance received on all levels of command functions has been excellent. During the period 1-30 November 1967 this battalion remained under the OPCON of the 3d Marine Regiment.

g. Equipment. During this period there were no serious problems with equipment and normal Marine Corps issue was sufficient in all respects.

h. Logistics.

(1) Supply and Redistribution.

(a) During this period the Battalion Supply Office was moved to a new location at the DONG HA Combat Base. The relocation was directed at centralizing all Battalion Rear Supply Offices.

(b) The armory was moved into the Battalion Supply which allows for greater convenience for personnel checking in and out of the battalion.

(c) The personnel problem which existed during October has improved since this section has received necessary personnel in the 3041 field to fill vacancies caused by rotation to CONUS.

(d) During this period a request sent to the Division Comptroller requesting an additional \$65,000.00, was approved.

(e) Revision of the Battalion Supply SOP was initiated.

(f) The supply status is presently very good. The critical shortages which exist are

Magazine Assembly, M-16

Wire Cutters

Sweat Bands

Mattress, pneumatic

First Aid Kits

(2) Transportation.

(a) During this period, the Motor Transport Section moved from the DONG HA Combat Base to the TUON SON LAM area. Two (2) mechanics and one (1) driver remained to support operations in the rear area.

(b) Due to the shortages of materials, the Motor Transport maintenance capability has been curtailed. One-half of the battalion's vehicles have been deadlined for maintenance problems and are awaiting action by FLSU. All M274A1 vehicles have been turned in to FLSU. The battalion now has twenty-eight M274A2 vehicles which is one (1) vehicle below FO.

1. Civic Action.

(1) Company L has conducted Med-Cap activities at CA LU.

(2) The problems facing the civilians residing at CA LU remain the same as previously reported. The shortage of food, especially for the Montagnards, has been aggravated by the closing of Route #9 to civilian traffic. For this reason they cannot travel to the CAM LU market area to obtain sufficient food and other needed commodities. The agricultural production of the area is not sufficient to support the present population without supplement from the outside.

(3) A clerk has been assigned to the Civil Affairs Section to handle the administrative work.

(4) The Battalion Civil Affairs Officer has completed a plan of action for the CA LU Area in regards to Civic Action projects and the Battalion Personnel Response Program.

j. Administration. There were no administrative difficulties encountered during this period.

k. Personnel. Replacement personnel have been available in sufficient quantities to replace losses due to combat and rotation to CONUS.

1. Intelligence.

(1) Weather.

(a) Temperature - the average high for the month was 85 degrees Fahrenheit. The mean minimum temperature ranged between 67-72 degrees Fahrenheit.

(b) Winds - during the month of November the winds were mostly from the north of northeast at an average of eight knots per hour.

(c) Precipitation - the precipitation was greatest during the first half of the month. The estimated amount of rainfall during the month was 3.0 inches.

(d) Humidity - the relative humidity averaged 80% and is steadily decreasing.

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(e) Clouds - cloudiness has been after the first of the month. Clouds were at low altitudes. The sun shown through 3 out of 10 days, usually clearing between 0630 and 0900.

(f) Visibility - visibility was limited at times to several hundred meters because of low clouds, rain, and cachin (ground fog). The average visibility was about five miles during the month.

(2) Terrain

(a) USMC observation post, Rockpile (XD 979558) is the most dominant terrain feature in the area and provides the best observation of the AO. The other dominant terrain features of the AO include the Razorback (XD 964573) and Hill 504 (XD 966467).

(b) The terrain within the AO is heavy brush and undergrowth, some of which is secondary jungles. In the low valley areas, elephant grass is predominant from knee high to head high.

(c) The mountains and hills in the AO range from gradual sloping hills to steep cliffs. The mountains are not so steep that troops can not move up them fully combat loaded.

(d) The dominant streams and rivers within the AO include the Song Chien, Song Trich, and the Riviere De Quang Tri. There are numerous small seasonal streams which run fast and clear.

(e) Roads - the north-south road (XD 999564) to (XD 980436) is an all weather road and accurately depicted on the map (Thon Doc Kinh, Sheets 6342I and 6342II).

(f) Villages - all villages except those around CA LU (YD 0135/3) are destroyed but can be recognized as such. The villages around CA LU are presently occupied.

(g) Observations and Fields of Fire - the thick brush and vines cover the mountains severely hamper observation and fields of fire. The low grassy areas offer excellent observation and fields of fire. The lowlands are either covered with thick brush, which limits observation severely, or is marshland or old rice paddies covered with knee high to waist high grass and permits excellent observation and fields of fire.

(h) Cover and Concealment - Concealment, except in the areas of low grass, is excellent to outstanding. There is excellent cover in the area.

(i) Obstacles - the major obstacles for foot troops is thick brush, parts of which are almost impenetrable. The streams and rivers

during and after rains become obstacles. Wheel and track vehicles are restricted to road travel because of wet marshy lowlands and steep hills.

(j) Landing Zones - HLZ's are limited to low grassy areas, rice paddies, gentle sloping hills, or hill tops which are covered in grass.

(3) Enemy Situation - From reports received, it is believed that elements of the 101st Regiment are located vicinity of XD 920500, elements of the 18th Regiment are located vicinity of XD 870570; and fortified positions extend along the valley from XD 870620 to XD 898617.

(4) Enemy Activity - Enemy activity in the area of the "ROCK-PILE" CA LU has been considerably light. A total of **five (5)** sightings occurred during the month.

m. Communications. During this period the Communications Platoon continued to provide support for this battalion.

n. Fire Support.

(1) Units in direct support of this battalion during the month of November were

(a) 1st Battalion, 12th Marines

(b) B Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery, USA

(2) During the month of November, there were a total of 250 missions fired in support of this battalion. There were 190 observed missions, 50 unobserved missions, and 10 illumination missions fired.

(3) The total artillery rounds fired during this period were 5,487 rounds.

o. Air Support. A detailed breakdown by type of aircraft is listed below:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
MEDEVAC - Routine	5	5
Priority	4	4
Emergency	4	4
Helo Resupply - Routine	4	3
Priority	1	1
Emergency	0	0

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<u>TYPE</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
Helio Gunship	2	2
Admin Lift	12	10
TACA (AO)	7	5
Helio Recon	7	1
Fixed Wing - D S	0	0
CAS	0	0
TPC	150	UNK

Chaplin.

(1) Divine Services - Protestant.

(a) Number of Services 26.

(b) Total Attendance 703.

(c) Number receiving Holy Communion 87.

(d) Choir Rehearsals - 9 Number Present - 82.

(2) Divine Services - Catholic.

(a) Number of Services 5.

(b) Total Attendance 150.

(c) Rosary Services 3 Number Present - 45

(d) Catholic Services are conducted weekly by the 2d Batt Lion, 12th Airborne's Chaplin.

(3) Memorial Services were held for Major General B. . TOLSON with a total of 112 in attendance.

(4) Significant Events.

(a) Thanksgiving Day Services Attendance 87.

(b) Troop Indoctrination Lectures 4.

(c) Private Communion 3.

(d) Letters written for troops 14.

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(e) Made daily dispensary visits.

(f) Narcotic Inventory was conducted during the month of November.

c Medical.

(1) The medical status of this battalion is presently satisfactory.

(2) There were 596 visits to sick call during the month.
Navy-586, Navy-6, and Army-4.

(3) There were 10 clinical laboratory procedures performed during the month.

(4) The present strength of the medical department is one (1) doctor, and 48 hospital corpsmen. One (1) hospital corpsman is presently in CONUS on emergency leave. One (1) hospital corpsman is presently on the sick list at A-Med.

(5) Medical supply is satisfactory.

(6) There were 59 Vietnamese civilians treated during the past month.

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

10

CONFIDENTIAL

DAY

MONTH

YEAR

TIME ENTERED	DATE/TIME GROUP	JOURNAL	ACTION
	011644H	Recon Report 2C2 - XD 875562 2C1 - XD 954495	
	021705H	Recon Report 2C2 - XD 875562 2C1 - XD 952468	
	031045H	Recon Report 2C2 - XD 876570	
	041045H	Recon Report 2C2 XD 873573	
	041958H	Recon Report 2C2 - XD 873573 2C1 - XD 124457	
	051026H	All Recon teams in same place as yesterday.	
	051945H	Recon Report 2C1 - YD 113465 2C2 - extracted	
	050230H	Mike Co. heard screams after firing 81mm mission in coord YD 012462.	
	052120H	40mm guns observed lights at XD 9554. Fired 32 rounds - lights went out.	
	052340H	MA1 at YD 019457 detected movement to their front, fired 6 rounds H.E. in coords YD 021457.	
	066236H	Recon report 3C1 @ YD 064585 6-1 - XD 965572	
	072000H	Recon patrol 6-1 observed lights in Fishbowl, coords XD 977567. 81mm mission fired.	
	081203H	Patrol found neg results at coords XD 977567.	
	100345H	M Co, saw 2 figures after they tripped flare at YD 009456. 81mm mission fired. Searched area with negative results.	
	102100H	RockPile saw lights at XD 949531 Arty mission called.	
	102315H	Mike observed lights at YD 006461. 81mm and 105mm mission called.	

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ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

DAY

MONTH

YEAR

TIME ENTERED	DATE/TIME GROUP	JOURNAL	ACTION
	112359H	OP Wyn observed lights at XD 955545 Arty mission fired - lights out.	
	131400H	MP-1 entered ville at YD 045445 and observed 3 people moving in SE. direction. Point man ordered halt and fired warning shot. People lost in bush.	
	142055H	Rockpile observed lights at XD 943538. Arty mission fired - lights out.	
	161715H	K Co found 3 ChiCom grenades at coords XD 973506. Buried 2 and brought one back	
	190000H	LP-3 patrol found trench line approx 1½ feet wide 2-3 feet deep and approx 50 meters long, estimate 4 months old. Searched area with negative results.	
	191655H	Patrol found 50 cal position with tunnel or air vent at coords XD 982502. Searched out with negative results.	
	192005H	L Co observed flashing lights between coords XD 992441 and YD 025456, in VN ville. No pattern.	
	192045H	OP Eve observed lights at coords YD 004585. Arty mission fired, possible secondary.	
	192210H	Patrol made contact with 2 individuals moving toward river. Fired M-79 and automatic weapons - both fell, searched area at first light with neg results.	
	211430H	Patrol found possible enemy base camp with 5 grass huts 6X4' with fighting holes, approx 5 brass pans, 2 brass pots and 5 rice balls at coords XB 969429.	

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ENCLOSURE (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

DAY

MONTH

YEAR

TIME ENTERED	DATE/TIME GROUP	JOURNAL	ACTION
	201630H	K Co patrol found series of 1 and 2 man fighting holes - about 20 covered holes - estimate 2 months old at coords XD 976473.	
	202020H	L Co observed flashlights moving north to south towards ville at coords YD 034459. Arty mission fired - results unknown.	
	XXXXXX 212150H	K Rockpile observed lights trough NOD - arty mission fired - lights out. Coords 946622	
	212200H	Rockpile observed lights through NOD at coords XD 953621. Arty mission called - lights out	
	261600H	Enemy blew bridge at XD 977433 - civilians in area at time. Many civilians were wounded and killed - were medevaced from L Co position civilians saw large number of NVA/VC in area.	
	271215H	L Co found 7 one man snake type fighting holes at YD 036459. Est holes to be several months old	
	271600H	M Co found 20 fighting 4X3X4 at XD 978532 - some partly covered with logs - est 3 months old.	
	280200H	M Co position at bridge was probed fired small arms in vicinity of XD 982532. Checked area with negative results.	
	291535H	L Co observed possible 50 cal MG position at XD 967422, also observed 1 man - arty mission cancelled by 3d Marines.	
	292030H	M Co bridge position - XD 982532 - trip flare set off - fired small arms, 3 - M-79's and 2 grenades.	
	301340H	M Co found 25 1 man fighting holes at XD 994538 - est 90 days old.	

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ENCLOSURE (2)

JOURNAL (3480)
NAYMC 219 (REV 5 63)

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UNIT OR SECTION

3d Battalion, 9th Marines

PLACE

THON SON LAM, RVN

FROM (Date and hour)

010001H

TO (Date and hour)

01 2400H Nov 1967

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE 18

JOURNAL (3480)
NAVMC 219 (REV 5 63)

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UNIT OR SECTION

3d Battalion, 9th Marines

PLACE

THON SON LAM, RVN

FROM (Date and hour)

020001H

TO (Date and hour)

022400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~ENCLOSURE 13~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
0300001H	032400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE 131

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
040001H	042400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
050001H	052400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (3)

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION

3d Battalion, 9th Marines

PLACE

THON SON LAM, RVN

FROM (Date and hour)

060001H

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062400H Nov 1967

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PAGE NO

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ENCLOSURE (3)

JOURNAL (3480)
NAVMC 219 (REV 5 63)

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
070000H	072400H Nov 1967

TIME		SERIAL NO	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS MESSAGES ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN M-Maps S-Staff T-Troops F-File
IN	OUT				
0100		1	062335H	Company K reports two friendly patrols had contact with each other. One NBC-17A medevaced, hit in lower right leg, man in good condition. Investigating officer will be assigned.	S-F, 3d Mar.
0110		2	061305H	Call signs change all radio call signs, change effective 070801H. To prevent I Corps immediate compromise ensure all personnel concerned are properly instructed on procedure and are aware of the new call signs and time of change.	S-F, 3d Mar.
0245		3	070230H	Company M reports noises resembling screams after 81mm H&I, at YD 012462. Repeated fire mission with greater volume and area will be searched at first light.	
2015		4	072003H	OP NON observed lights at XD 974567, fired 35 rounds HE and 5 rounds 81mm and artillery mission. Lights went out good coverage on target.	S-F, 3d Mar.

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PAGE NO

ENCLOSURE (3)

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
080001H	082400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (3)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
090000TH	092400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (3)

UNCLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION 3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour) 1000001H	TO (Date and hour) 102400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED

PLACE

FROM (Date and hour)

TO (Date and hour)

110001H

112400H Nov 67

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Classification)
UNCLASSIFIED

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE 31

UNIT OR SECTION

3d Battalion, 9th Marines

PLACE

THON SON LAM, RVN

FROM (Date and hour)

1 20001H

TO (Date and hour)

122400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (3)

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
130001H	132400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE '3'

JOURNAL (3480)
NAVMC 219 (REV 5 63)

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON L'M, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
140001H	142400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
ENCLOSURE (3)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNIT OR SECTION 3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE THON SON LAI, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour) 150001H	TO (Date and hour) 152400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

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ENCLOSURE (3)

3d Battalion, 9th Marines

THON SON LAM, RVN

TO (Date and hour)

160001H

162400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

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ENCLOSURE (5)

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UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
170001H	172400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-13-01 BY 131

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UNIT OR SECTION 3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour) 180001H	TO (Date and hour) 182400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE 131

JOURNAL (3480)
NAVMC 219 (REV 5 63)

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
190001H	192400H Nov 67

TIME		SERIAL NO	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS MESSAGES ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN	
IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
1515		1	191000H	Co. L patrol reports finding one trench line approximately 1 - 1 1/2 feet wide, 2-3 feet deep, and 50 meters long and 4 months old. Its location is YD 008444 Trench searched with negative results		S-F, 3d Mar.
1715		2	191655H	Co. K reports finding possible .50 cal. machine gun position, XD 982502 Searched area with negative results.		S-F, 3d Mar.
2025		3	192005H	Co L reported observing flashing lights in Vietnamese villages near their position. Will keep under observation, lights moving between 992441, and 025456		S-F, 3d Mar.
2055		4	192045H	OP EVE spotted lights at YD 004585, called artillery mission, fired 32 rounds (HE) possible secondary.		S-F, 3d Mar.
2304		5XXXX	192210H	Co. L ambush/patrol made contact with 2 armed individuals moving toward river (YD 029447) Fired M-79 and automatic weapons fire, both individuals fell. Patrol withdrew across river, will search area at first light		S-F, 3d Mar
2343		6	192343H	Co. L ambush/patrol while in ambush heard numerous loud voices across river. 2 armed individuals walked across andy bank Unit dropped 3 M-79 rounds upon the and commenced automatic fire. Both figures dropped, unit returned to Co. Through search all was conducted at first light		S-F, 3d Mar

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

(Classification)
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UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
200001H	202400H Nov 67

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
2100001H	212400H Nov 1967

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

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ENCLOSURE (3)

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UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
220001H	222400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

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ENCLOSURE

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UNIT OR SECTION:

UNIT OR SECTION
3d Battalion, 9th Marines

PLACE

THON SON LAM, RVN

FROM (Date and hour)

230001

TO (Date and hour)

232400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE 13

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UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
2400001H	242400H Nov 67

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (3)

UNIT OR SECTION

PLACE

FROM (Date and hour)

250001 H

TO (Date and hour)

252400H Nov 67

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ENCLOSURE (3)

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UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
2600001H	262400H Nov 1967

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (3)

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UNIT OR SECTION 3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour) 270001H	TO (Date and hour) 272400H Nov 1967

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

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ENCLOSURE (3)

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON IAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
280001H	282400H Nov 1967

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

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UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
2900001H	292400H Nov 1967

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

ENCLOSURE (3)

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UNCLASSIFIED

UNIT OR SECTION	
3d Battalion, 9th Marines	
PLACE	
THON SON LAM, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
300001H	302400H Nov 1967

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(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO

ENCLOSURE (3)

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