

HEADQUARTERS  
1st Battalion, 11th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

3/JHB/sda  
5750  
9 October 1970

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 11th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-30 September 1970

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.2  
(d) RegtO 5750.2

Encl: ✓(1) 1st Battalion, 11th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

G. H. MARTIN

COPY TO: C.O., 1st Marines

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## COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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## PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATOR

1st Battalion, 11th Marines      LtCol. G. H. MARTIN      01-30 Sep70

## SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Battery	Capt T. W. CREW II	01-30 Sep70
Battery "A"	Capt A. N. HAFNER	01-30 Sep70
Battery "B"	Capt C. T. HAIR	01-30 Sep70
Battery "C"	Capt W. H. FLYNN Jr.	01-30 Sep70
107mm Mortar Battery	Capt K. R. UPDEGROVE	01-30 Sep70
Battery "L"	Capt B. R. FRANCIS	15-30 Sep70

2. LOCATION

1-30 September 1970, DaNang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj W. D. STEPHANI	01-30 Sep70
S-1	WO M. J. SCHULKE	01-30 Sep70
S-2	1stLt T. J. MOUNGEY	01-20 Sep70
	MSgt M. POSTER Jr.	21-30 Sep70
S-3	Capt P. R. AADNESEN	01-11 Sep70
	Maj J. H. BUTLER	12-30 Sep70
S-4	1stLt W. J. LUTHIN	01-30 Sep70
S-5	1stLt D. S. ALTHEAUS	01-30 Sep70
Assistant S-3	1stLt B. J. PRUETT	01-30 Sep70
	WO E. F. MORRIS	01-30 Sep70
	1stLt D. J. ROPP	01-14 Sep70
	1stLt F. B. COGSWELL	01-24 Sep70
	1stLt T. J. MOUNGEY	21-30 Sep70
Liaison Officer	Maj G. L. CAPWELL Jr.	01-30 Sep70
Naval Gunfire Officer	LT(jg) F. G. DENGLE	01-29 Sep70
Communication Officer	1stLt J. J. GRAHAM	01-04 Sep70
	Capt R. L. MATTHEWS	05-30 Sep70
Ordnance Officer	1stLt W. J. LUTHIN	01-30 Sep70
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt A. J. WALZ	01-03 Sep70
	2ndLt R. D. CHAPMAN	04-30 Sep70
Supply Officer	1stLt E. E. PRICHARD	01-20 Sep70
	1stLt R. C. MINICK	21-30 Sep70

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHUSMCUSN

OFF  
40

ENL  
634

OFF  
4

ENL  
11

(3)

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Throughout the month of September, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines continued its assigned mission of providing direct support for the 1st Marine Regiment. The battalion maintained assets of three (3) 105mm howitzer batteries and one (1) 107mm mortar battery during the entire month. Battery "A" was colocated with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines on Hill 10 (AT924694), until they were displaced to Hill 65 (AT881579) on 25 September 1970 in direct support of elements of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. Battery "B" was colocated with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines at Sea Anchor (BT083703), until they were displaced to FSB DAGGER (ZC143415) on 24 September 1970 in direct support of elements of the First Reconnaissance Battalion. Battery "C" remained at Northern Artillery Cantonment (AT923793). Mortar Battery Headquarters and one firing platoon remained on Hill 10 (AT922693) until they were displaced to Sea Anchor (BT083703) on 23 September 1970 in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines. Mortar Detachment "Y" is still located at Hill 270 (AT865681) in direct support of elements of 1st and 3rd Battalions, 1st Marines. Battery "L" located at Northern Artillery Cantonment (AT923793) was placed under the operational and administrative control of 1st Battalion, 11th Marines on 15 September 1970 in a general support role, reinforcing 1/11 in the 1st Marines TAOR. Battery "A" was assigned two (2) 155mm howitzers (towed) during the month and the howitzers became operational on 27 September 1970. This additional fire capability will give depth in offense to the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 1st Marines.

Enemy activity during the first week of September was moderate. In general the activity was limited to sightings of small groups of 3-5 enemy. Significant events included the daylight mortar attack against Company "C", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines position (AT900722). Flashes were observed by OP RENO in the vicinity of (AT893727). The area was searched with negative findings.

Enemy activity declined during the second week of September with additional sightings occurring in the vicinity of Hill 190 (AT895822). Several sightings and contacts with small groups of enemy near the base of Hill 190 can possibly be attributed to the forthcoming rice harvest in that area. Except for an increase in enemy activity in the northern sector of the 1st Marines TAOR, activity elsewhere was relatively low. Towards the end of the month enemy activity accelerated with a rocket attack launched against the Duc Duc District Headquarters. This attack consisted of six (6) 122mm rockets launched in volleys of two at three separate intervals during the night and early morning. There was also a mortar attack on the 29th of September against the friendly outpost on Hill 52. The enemy fired four (4) 60mm mortars into this position with negative casualties or damage.

The extensive use of pre-emptive artillery fires, active patrolling and numerous sightings by the IOD OP's are considered responsible for part of the low level enemy activity during September. The high threat

(4)

ENCLOSURE (1)

OP's, RENO, ROBIN and CROWSNEST were manned from the 1st to the 12th of September. This was the only high threat period during the month.

Pre-emptive fires were reduced during the month because of a cost reduction survey initiated by higher headquarters. These targets were closely evaluated and adequate fire was brought to bear on these suspected enemy locations. Ammo expenditure was normally one gun one round three times.

Illumination requirements continued at a high rate throughout the 1st Marines TAOR in support of numerous small unit ambushes and patrols. Quick fire channels were maintained throughout the month and were invaluable in providing responsive fire support to units operating within the fire capability of the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines.

On 5 September 1970, 1stLt. T. GOLENSKI, the 1/1 Bailey made liaison with the 1/27th RF's to establish a system to provide support to this unit. 1/27th is located at Dai Loc Pass and had originally been located as part of the RF group at Hieu Duc District near Hill 10.

Finally for September, position improvements continued at the Northern Artillery Cantonment. Several engineer requests were accepted and initiated. Work has been completed on Battery "C"'s gun pads and construction has been started on Battery "L"'s gun pads and turning pad. This work is expected to be finished in early October.

(5)

ENCLOSURE (1)

## Summary of Surveillance for the Month of September 1970

Casualties

VC/NVA KIA = 8

Damage Assessments

Bunkers Destroyed = 4  
 Bunkers Damaged = 1  
 Tunnels Destroyed = 1  
 Secondary Explosions = 2

Summary of Missions and Ammunition Expended

<u>Type of Mission</u>	<u>No. of Missions Fired/Ammunition Expended</u>		
	105mm	107mm	155mm
Confirmed	50/2404	7/110	10/232
Acquired	2162/24103	251/1754	343/1932
Counter-Battery	8/238	3/30	
Preparation	29/2048	26/43	9/386
Interdiction			
Special Purpose	70/564	50/448	17/116
Total Missions	3035		
Total Rounds	34408		

(6)

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. Topics

## a. Personnel and Administration

(1) Administration	USMC Off	USMC Enl	USN Off	USN Enl
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## Losses

Administrative	14	114	1	3
Battle KIA	0	0	0	0
Battle WIAE	0	0	0	0
Battle WIANE	0	0	0	0
Battle POW	0	0	0	0
NBC	0	1	0	0

(2) Replacements	11	229	2	6
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(3) Net Loss	3	0	0	0
--------------	---	---	---	---

(4) Net Gain	0	115	1	3
--------------	---	-----	---	---

## (5) Awards:

Presented: None

Recommendations to  
Higher Headquarters  
for approval:

Bronze Star - 1  
Navy Commendation Medal - 2  
Navy Achievement Medal - 5

(6) Approved awards forwarded  
to other commands: None

(7)

ENCLOSURE (1)

## b. Intelligence

Enemy activity in the 1st Marine TAOR continued on a moderate level, dropping to a low point around the 15th of the month due to 100% lunar illumination. Towards the end of the month the enemy activity was on a steady rise, climaxing with a rocket attack on the 29th of September against Duc Duc District Headquarters (AT863479) and a mortar attack against Hill 52 (ZC213552). The rocket attack consisted of six (6) 122mm rockets fired at Duc Duc and the mortar attack against Hill 52 consisted of four (4) 60mm mortar rounds. The launch site for the mortars is believed to be in the vicinity of (ZC198544) and the site of the rockets are unknown. The suspected mortar site was investigated with negative findings.

Activities for the first week of September were again sightings of small groups of 3-5 enemy and, was highlighted by a daylight mortar attack against Company "C" 1st Battalion, 1st Marines position (AT900722). Observation Post RENO observed rocket flashes at (AT893727). The area was searched with negative findings.

Enemy activity declined steadily during the second week with the more significant incidents occurring in the vicinity of Hill 190 (AT895822). Several sightings and contacts with small groups of enemy on the finger and near the base of Hill 190 is most likely associated with the establishment of liaison with the local cadre in preparation for the coming rice harvest. Elsewhere in the 1st Marines TAOR, activity consisted of scattered sightings and limited contact with one and two enemy.

Except for an increase in enemy activity in the northern portion of the 1st Marines TAOR, activity elsewhere was relatively light. Increased westward movement was noted between Hill 124 (AT875788) and Hill 190 (AT 895822), west along the streams which run west to east. The enemy appears determined to collect rice and supplies in spite of the high lunar illumination period. The most significant event during the period occurred on the evening of 17 September, when a detainee led the 3rd CIT and element of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines to a tunnel complex in the vicinity of Viem Dong (BT994658). Investigations revealed a tunnel and bunker complex with five (5) unoccupied mortar pits.

Although "Operation Dubois Square", did not result in contact with the enemy in the Elephant Valley area, Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines was inserted into the vicinity of the Hoa Hiep base camp and found several huts. Further investigation turned up 12-15 enemy and an immediate fire fight resulted. There were no friendly casualties and the enemy fled into the brush. This type of contact is an indication that the enemy is again using counter-recon tactics.

It appears that the enemy has purposely avoided contact with U. S. Forces in the western lowlands in an effort to ensure a limited loss of personnel while collecting rice in this area. On the other hand, the noted increase in sightings and contacts in the vicinity of Binh Ky, Tu Cau and Ngan Cau was apparently aimed at a VC attempt to "show the flag" through increased guerrilla activity.

(8)

ENCLOSURE (1)



Enemy destruction of the Golden Gate Bridge on 25 September 1970 and low enemy activity to the south of Hill 55 (AT986618), along route #4 and route #1 is a good indication that GVN/FMF efforts in this area have hurt the enemy.

Rocket, mortar and sapper attacks are anticipated against outposts along the Thuong Duc Corridor; Hill 52 (ZC213552), Hill 65 (AT880579), CUPP Units astride route #4 and friendly positions around Hill 37 (AT 916581) are probable targets. To the north, recent activity reported by 1st Recon Battalion west of OP RENO indicates an unidentified element has returned to that area after a brief absence.

c. Maintenance, Equipment, and Supply

During the month of September, position improvement continued at Northern Artillery Cantonment. A work request has been submitted to "A" Company, 7th Engineers for upgrading Road 545, the access road to NAC. "C" Battery gun pads are finished and work has begun on Battery "L" gun pads and turning pad. This work is expected to be completed in early October. Motor Transport has retained an average deadline of 2% through the month of September, ending the month with a 1% figure. The Battalion has picked up an additional 21 vehicles and 18 additional trailers, all of which are in operational condition. During September the Battalion picked up 4 Eimco tractors and at the present time, are waiting for disposition of the TD-18's from Division Engineers. All other Engineer equipment remains in operational status. Four MedCaps were conducted during the month with good participation and excellent results. The anti-drug program was launched with a lecture to each battery by HMI KANAI of Division Inspectors Office. The Messhall received three (3) inspections during September. Two (2) from Division Sanitation and one (1) from Division Food Services. All were satisfactory with minor discrepancies. Also, an electric grill was installed in the enlisted section to improve conditions. Battalion Supply is in the process of initiating, or has completed, the following projects: (1) Inventorying all operational stocks for publication of excess/no demand type items for redistribution, plus turn-in of unauthorized direct exchange items; (2) Pick up and issue of monsoon gear; (3) Brief of battery armorers on tighter control/reporting of small arms; (4) Updating garrison account; (5) Continuous resupply need for operations and complying with redistribution of T/E equipment.

d. Civil Affairs

The Battalion continued to operate in its assigned Civic Action Area of responsibility, consisting of three Hamlets. The hamlets of Houng Phous, Van Doung and Thanh Vinh. There were four MedCaps held during the month, these were held in the hamlets of Houng Phouc and Van Doung.

There has been approximately 180 villagers treated for sores, infected cuts, dental work and cysts. Lectures were given to the people on keeping the open cuts and sores clean in order to heal. In addition, soap was

provided to the villagers, for practical application in conjunction with the sanitation lectures.

In the hamlet of Thanh Ninh there was a tea field cleared by the Bimco from Battery "L". The village seemed very interested in the project and showed a great deal of cooperation in all matters pertaining to the project. The job took approximately 12 hours to complete. The hamlet of Van Duong has shown very little effort in completing the new school. The S-5 has initiated the proper paperwork to gain the material that is needed to replace the material that was lost during a heavy rain storm. Approximately 20% of the work completed on the school was destroyed in the rain storm occurring in the second week of September. The desks for the school have been started, the material is wood, and was donated by the S-5 Section.

S-2 held an intelligence run at Houg Phouc which was considered quite successful based on the information obtained. S-5 has worked approximately 15 Vietnamese a day for the past month through the use of AIK fund. The villagers came from Thanh Vinh, Huong Phuoc and Van Duong. These people were used for the building of bunkers, gun pits and sanitational purposes, along with general improvement of the Battalion area. The IRO controls eight workers, twenty-two house maids, seven club workers, and eight concession workers. A request for thirty AIK fund workers has been made at 150 Piasters per day.

In all the hamlets S-5 has worked with, cooperation and appreciation was apparent. Participation in each event was wide spread and future cooperation between Vietnamese and Marines looks favorable.

#### e. Training

During the month of September the Military Occupational Specialty training consisted of progressive cross training. One hour per week was held on firing safety procedures by all firing units to minimize the possibility of error during firing. In addition there was extensive fire direction training held in the batteries pending decentralization of the technical phase of fire direction to the batteries.

#### f. Operations

Enemy activity for the month of September was moderate in the 1st Marines TAOR, but increased as the month progressed. Movement was restricted to small groups of 3-5 enemy operating throughout the Regimental AO. Booby traps continue to be a constant threat to ground units and the enemy has the capability to launch indirect rocket/mortar attacks against the DaNang Vital Area and friendly outposts within the area.

First Battalion, 11th Marines was faced with one high threat period during the month. The inclusive dates were 1-12 September and OP's, Robin, Reno, and Crowsnest were manned to provide constant surveillance of the rocket launching sites and enemy staging areas. On 1 September 1970 OP Reno observed flashes in the vicinity of (AT900722). The target

of the enemy fire was Company "C", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines located (AT900722). Suspected launch site was investigated with negative findings.

IOD OP's continued to provide lucrative live targets for artillery by constant surveillance of the "Charlie Ridge-Mortar Valley" area. Artillery ambush tactics again were employed with limited effectiveness due to the fact that the enemy is moving in small groups to avoid detection by IOD's.

Battery "C" participated in "Operation Dubois Square" from 10-19 September 1970. Battery "C" operated in the Elephant Valley area in direct support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. On D-Day "C" Battery, consisting of four 105mm howitzers and two 4.2 inch mortars, displaced to Fire Support Base SAM. Upon arrival, the battery continued in direct support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, being prepared to displace on order.

The two 4.2 inch mortar tubes were internally helilifted to FSB SAM 90 minutes after the initial insertion of infantry forces. The four 105mm howitzers were externally helilifted into Fire Support Base SAM 2½ hours after the initial infantry insert. A battery commanders reconnaissance party preceded the arrival of the weapons. FSB SAM had been previously developed as an FSB by other units. All elements remained at FSB SAM for the duration of the operation. Artillery units attacked targets reported by Forward Observation Teams with the maneuver elements. Counter-rocket and counter-mortar targets were fired, as were pre-emptive fires plotted by the Battery Liaison Officer and the Battery Fire Direction Officer. Few lucrative targets were found during the operation. Targets of opportunity were attacked aggressively with both mortar and howitzer fire. There was no friendly artillery casualties and enemy losses have not been reported to the Command.

During the period 24 September - 30 September 1970 Battery "B" was located at Fire Support Base DAGGER in direct support of elements of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. Resupply at times was difficult due to inclement weather, but the unit was resupplied as weather and helicopter availability permitted. As the 1-30 September 1970 reporting period ended Battery "B" was still located at Fire Support Base DAGGER. An after action report on the operation is forthcoming.

Battery "L" came under the operational and administrative control of 1st Battalion, 11th Marines on 15 September 1970. Lima provided a contact team to train personnel on the 155mm howitzers (towed) acquired from Battery "H" (2/11).

The 1st Battalion, 11th Marines continued to support numerous squad size daylight patrols and night ambushes throughout the First Marines TAOR. Liaison was maintained throughout the month between the Battalion FDC and the maneuvering ground units to insure the best available fire support.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- /Tab A 8-3 Journal Entries
- /Tab B Worksheet Summaries
- /Tab C Message Traffic Summary
- /Tab D After Action Dubois Square

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET

SECRETS-3 Journal Entries

<u>No.</u>	<u>DTD</u>	<u>ENTRY</u>
1	010001H	First Battalion, 1st Marines enters the month of September with operational control of three (3) 105mm Howitzer Batteries and one (1) 107mm Mortar Battery located around DaNang, Republic of Vietnam. The command post is located at the Northern Artillery Cantonment (AT925795); Battery "A" is located at Hill 10 (AT924795); Battery "B" is located at Sea Anchor (BT083703); Battery "C" is located at the Northern Artillery Cantonment (AT923793); Mortar Battery "W" is located at Hill 10 (AT924692) and Mortar Detachment "Y" located at Hill 270 (AT865681). First Battalion remains in direct support of the First Marine Regiment.
2	090920H	MoveRep a. WY/1/11 b. (1) 107mm mortar c. 090920H d. AT 923691 (Hill 10)
3	090935H	FireCap a. W/1/11 b. (1) 107mm mortar c. AT 923691 d. 4000m e. 090935H
4	091038H	MoveRep a. W/1/11 b. (2) 107mm mortars c. 091038H d. AT 923793 (NAC)
5	100645H	MoveRep a. C/1/11 b. (2) 107mm mortars (4) 105mm howitzers c. 100645H d. LZ 460
6	100910H	MoveRep a. C/1/11 b. (2) 107mm mortars c. 100910H d. AT 81208575

TAB A

(1)

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

<u>No.</u>	<u>DTD</u>	<u>ENTRY</u>
7	100900H	MoveRep a. B/1/11 (Rear) b. (1) 105mm howitzer c. 100900H d. AT 923793 (NAC)
8	101030H	MoveRep a. A/1/11 b. (1) 105mm howitzer c. 101030H d. AT 923793 (NAC)
9	100915H	MoveRep a. C/1/11 b. (4) 105mm howitzers c. 100915H d. AT 81208575
10	101000H	FireCap a. C/1/11 (Forward) b. (2) 107mm mortars, (4) 105mm howitzers c. 4200m d. AT 81208575 e. 101000H
11	101040H	FireCap a. C/1/11 (Rear) b. (4) 105mm howitzers c. 5500m d. AT 923793 (NAC) e. 101040H
12	151515H	MoveRep a. WY/1/11 b. (1) 107mm mortar c. 151515H d. AT 923691 (Hill 10)
13	151515H	FireCap a. WY/1/11 (Rear) b. (2) 107mm mortars c. 6000m d. AT 865681 e. 151515H
14	151530H	FireCap a. W/1/11 (Rear) b. (2) 107mm mortars

TAB A

(2)

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

SECRET

<u>No.</u>	<u>DTD</u>	<u>ENTRY</u>
		c. 4000m d. AT 923691 e. 151530H
15	161345H	MoveRep a. W/1/11 (Rear) b. (2) 107mm mortars c. 161345H d. AT 879579
16	190815H	MoveRep a. C/1/11 b. (4) 105mm howitzers, (2) 107mm mortars c. 190815H d. AT 921795
17	190939H	MoveRep a. A/1/11 b. (1) 105mm howitzer c. 190930H d. AT 924691
18	191200H	MoveRep a. B/1/11 b. (1) 105mm howitzer c. 191200H d. BT 082703
19	191300H	MoveRep a. W/1/11 b. (2) 107mm mortars c. 191300H d. AT 923691
20	191100H	FireCap a. C/1/11 b. (5) 105mm howitzers c. 5500m d. AT 921795 e. 191100H
21	191130H	FireCap a. A/1/11 b. (6) 105mm howitzers c. 5000m d. AT 924691 e. 191130H

TAB A

(3)

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

<u>No.</u>	<u>DTD</u>	<u>ENTRY</u>
22	191339H	FireCap a. B/1/11 b. (6) 105mm howitzers c. 3600m d. BT 082703 e. 191339H
23	191355H	FireCap a. W/1/11 b. (1) 107mm mortar c. 4100m d. AT 923691 e. 191355H
24	211100H	FireCap a. A/1/11 b. (6) 105mm howitzers c. 4000m d. AT 924691 e. 211100H
25	211315H	FireCap a. W/1/11 b. (1) 107mm mortar c. 4000m d. AT 923691 e. 211315H
26	211600H	MoveRep a. W/1/11 (Rear) b. (2) 107mm mortars c. AT 923691 d. 211600H
27	212240H	FireCap a. W/1/11 b. (2) 107mm mortars c. 4000m d. AT 923691 e. 212240H
28	231135H	MoveRep a. W/1/11 b. (3) 107mm mortars c. 231135H d. BT 083703 (Sea Anchor)

TAB A

(4)

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET



SECRET

<u>No.</u>	<u>REF</u>	<u>ENTRY</u>
29	251000H	MoveRep a. A/1/11 b. (3) 105mm howitzers c. 251000H d. AT 881579 (Hill 65)
30	251640H	FireCap a. A/1/11 b. (6) 105mm howitzers c. 4500m d. AT 881579 e. 251640H
31	271840H	FireCap a. AX/1/11 b. (2) 155mm howitzers (towed) c. 4500m d. AT 881579 (Hill 65) e. 271840H
32	290230H	SpotRep a. A/1/11 b. 290230H c. AT 881579 d. Squad size patrol from Thin Man Charlie was returning to Hill 52 (ZC213552) and were attacked by an unknown sized VC unit. e. A/1/11 fired in support of Thin Man 63. Charlie. Thin Man 63 directed fire on VC in the wire around Hill 52. f. 02 g. 02 h. Negative i. 08 j-m. Negative
33	302400H	First Battalion, Eleventh Marines ended the month of September with operational control of three 105mm Howitzer Batteries, one 155mm Howitzer Battery (SP), one 155mm Howitzer Platoon (Towed) and one 107mm Mortar Battery, located around Da Nang, Republic Vietnam. The command post is located at the Northern Artillery Cantonment (AT 925795); Battery "A" is located at Hill 65 (AT 881579); Platoon "AX" is located at Hill 65 (AT 881579); Battery "B" is located at Fire Support Base DAGGER (ZC 143415); Battery "C" is located at the Northern Artillery Cantonment (AT 923793); Mortar Battery Headquarters is located at Sea Anchor (BT 083703); and

TAB A

(5)

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

SECRETNo.DTDENTRY

Mortar Detachment "Y" is located at Hill 270 (AT 865861).  
First Battalion, Eleventh Marines remains in direct support of the First Marine Regiment.

TAB A

(6)

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET

SECRETWORKSHEET SUMMARY

03 September

1. 1400H, FA0368, AX/1/11, BT 096664, bunker complex, Petrify 68 obs., 1 bunker destroyed and 1 bunker damaged.

03 September

2. 1800H, FA0370, AX/1/11, BT094649, bunker complex, Petrify 85 obs., destroyed.

15 September

3. 1935H, RD1610, Lima 3 Actual (CAP Unit), AT863794, suspected enemy infiltration route, 1 secondary explosion.

16 September

4. 2145H, RD1719, 64/3/1, BT098654, bunker complex, 1 tunnel and 2 bunkers destroyed.

29 September

5. 1900H, RK2936, 63/1/1, ZC201563, enemy mortar site, 1 secondary explosion.

TAB B

(1)

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET

SECRET

MESSAGE TRAFFIC SUMMARY

No significant messages originated from the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines during the month of September.

TAB C

(1)

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET

BATTERY C  
 1st Battalion, 11th Marines  
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

5/GRC/ces  
 3480  
 27 Sept 1970

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines

Subj: Combat After Action Report

Ref: (a) 11th Marine Regimental Orders P3000.3\_  
 (b) 1st Marines Operation Order 22-70

1. Name of Operation. Dubois Square
2. Dates of Operation. 10 September - 19 September 1970
3. Location. Hoa Vang District, Republic of Vietnam (AT 888858)
4. Command Headquarters. C Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines
5. Reporting Officer. 1st Lieutenant G. R. CORN
6. Task Organization. C Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines
7. Supporting Forces. Fire Direction Center Personnel from Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines
8. Intelligence. There was known enemy activity in the area. There was a possibility of either mortar and rocket attack or ground assault. The weather was generally hot, with a few showers.
9. Mission. C Battery operated in direct support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines.
10. Concept of Operation. On D-Day C Battery, consisting of four 105mm howitzers and two 4.2 inch mortars, displaced to Fire Support Base Sam. Upon arrival, the battery assumed a direct support role for 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. The battery was prepared to displace on order.
11. Execution. Operation Dubois Square commenced on 10 September 1970. The two 4.2 inch mortar tubes were internally helilifted to FSB Sam 90 minutes after the initial insertion of infantry forces. The four 105mm howitzers were externally helilifted into FSB Sam 2½ hours after the initial infantry insert. A battery commander's reconnaissance party preceded the arrival of the weapons.

ENCLOSURE (1)

TAB D

Btry "C" / 11/11 A/R Rpt (DUBOIS SQUARE) 10-19 SEP 1970

FSB Sam had been previously developed as an FSB by other units. FDC personnel from Headquarters Battery consisted of 4 Computer/Chart Operators, C Battery's Fire Direction Officer and Operations Chief plus 3 FDC personnel and 4 communicators completed the Fire Direction Center. All elements remained at FSB Sam for the duration of the operation. Artillery forces attacked targets reported by Forward Observation Teams with the maneuver elements. Counter rocket and counter mortar targets were fired, as were pre-emptive fires plotted by the Battery Liason Officer and the Battery Fire Direction Officer.

## 12. Results.

- a. Friendly. No friendly artillery personnel or equipment losses.
- b. Enemy. Not known by this command.

## 13. Administrative Matters.

### a. Supply.

- 1. Artillery peculiar items were supplied by S-4, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines. Common items were resupplied by S-4, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines.
- 2. All resupply was by helicopter.
- 3. Artillery ammunition resupply was initially force-fed, then by request. All other items were on a request basis.

### b. Maintenance. No maintenance problems were encountered.

### c. Casualties. Casualties were medevaced by helicopter.

d. Transportation. All movement was by helicopter. Loading manifests proved useless because helicopter pilots often refused to land to take an internal load, preferring to take an external load only. This renders any preplanned manifest useless. Care must be used in lifting howitzers and a piggyback load simultaneously. The howitzer sling may be caught in the piggyback cable as the helicopter lifts, not allowing the gun to lift properly. Helicopter Support Troops assist gun crews in holding slings as the slack is taken up. It is suggested that personnel working with HST personnel wear gas masks to enable them to see and breath in the rotar wash of the helicopters.

### e. Communications. RC292 antennas occasionally had to be lowered to enable the howitzers to fire in all directions.

ENCLOSURE (1)

14. Special Equipment and Techniques.

a. The 4.2 inch mortar was effective in the valleys and draws of the area of operations. Gun crews must use azimuth markers and be proficient in 6400mil firing.

b. The use of the collimator made firing easier, but the electrical cable and battery box are subject to severe damage during trail shifting. Cables were severed by the trails, torn by tires, and the battery boxes were battered by the tires. It is suggested that the "push and hold" light switch be taped down (the "on" position) during fire missions, and the power source and cable laid out of the way of the gun and crew. After a mission, the tape can be removed so the batties will not run down.

c. Forward Observers' target locations were often 600-800 meters in error. Some error is attributable to the forward observers. It was also noted that officer forward observers were sorely needed. The role of the forward observer is often that of a company fire support coordinator. The enlisted forward observer does not have the broad knowledge to do this. Nor did the enlisted forward observers have sufficient knowledge of all phases of artillery to enable them to adequately advise the maneuver company commanders.

d. No unusual gunnery problems occurred.

e. Howitzer crews must be thoroughly familiar with the techniques of shifting trails and using the handbrakes. The uneven terrain of an FSB can make trail shifting difficult without this knowledge.

15. Commander's Analysis. Few lucrative targets were found during the operation. Targets of opportunity were attacked aggressively with both mortars and howitzers fire. Reconnaissance, selection, and occupation of the position went well, but troops must be drilled in these techniques more often. In an FSB environment, 6400 mil firing is essential and all personnel must be familiar with the techniques.

  
G. R. CORN

ENCLOSURE (1)