

Y12

1st Bn 12th Marines (-) (Rein)
3d Marine Division (Fwd) FMF
c/o FPO San Francisco 96601

3d MARDIV (Fwd)
SAC 1217-65

8 July 65

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officdr
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Forward)
Via: Commanding Officer, 3d Marines

Subj: Command Diary

Ref: (a) Div(Fwd)O 03100.1

Encl: (1) Command Diary for month of June 1965

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

G.W. Ferguson
G. W. FERGUSON

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June 1965

COMMAND DIARYPART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Reporting Unit: 1st Battalion, 12th Marines(-) (Rein)
Period Covered: 010001H Jun 65 to 302400H Jun 65
Date Submitted: 8 July 1965
Commanding Officer: Major G. W. FERGUSON, 050284, USMC
CP Location: (108 08' 30"/16 02' 15")

Subordinate Units:

Hq Battery, 1st Bn, 12thMar: Capt W. B. CLARK, 076876, USMC
Battery "A", 1stBn, 12thMar: 1/Lt F. H. HEMPHILL, 085257, USMC
Battery "B", 1stBn, 12thMar: Capt H. SCHOFIELD, 066966, USMC
Mortar Battery, 1stBn, 12thMar: 1/Lt J. J. CARR, 080715, USMC
Battery "D", 2dBn, 12thMar: Capt E. F. WHIPPLE, 064693, USMC
Battery "L", 4thBn, 12thMar: Capt D. F. TRENSKI, 076420, USMC
2dPlt, 1st 8" HowBtry: Capt J. A. GAFFNEY, 068422, USMC

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Mission Assigned: Direct support to 3d Marines.
2. Exercise Participation: Supported all infantry operations in defense of the airfield perimeter, the hill 327-368 complex west of the airfield, and deep patrolling operations within the assigned tactical areas of responsibility. Supported ARVN forces operations beyond the TAOR with harassing fires in areas of reported Viet Cong activities. During the reporting period, the firing batteries supported the infantry with will-adjust missions against observed or suspected Viet Cong troops or assembly areas, harassing and interdiction fires against likely avenues of approach, assembly areas, and campsites, preparation of landing zones for heliborne patrol operations and missions against Viet Cong movements observed by AN/TPS-21 radar units. Deep infantry patrol operations were supported by displacement of firing batteries to supplementary firing positions north, west and south of hill 327-368 complexes; however, numerous broken bridges, landslides, and primitive road conditions limit mobility in these directions. Survey of 1:3000 accuracy of position areas and survey control points and 1:1000 accuracy of target area survey have been completed to ensure accurate fire. Harassing and interdiction fire constitute approximately 92% of the fire missions during the reporting period. Will-adjust HE missions account for only 5% of missions.
3. Terrain and Weather: Terrain west and north of TAOR limits mobility of vehicles. Numerous poor or partially destroyed bridges and poor road conditions throughout the area of operation has an adverse effect on mobility. Weather has not had an appreciable adverse effect on operations to date; however, limited experience with rainy weather foretells that considerable difficulties can be expected during the rainy season because a large part of the existing road net is not designed for all weather traffic.
4. Training Conducted: The tactical situation to date has provided an outstanding training situation in which all artillery subjects can be practiced without degrading accomplishment of primary mission.
5. Morale and Discipline: Morale has improved 100 per cent due to the innovation of movies, enlisted men clubs, and fishing trips. Discipline continues to be superior to that experienced in garrison.

PART III

1 June: Fired 16 H and I missions. Ivan fired one will adjust mission for Burke Patrol at 011745 and at 021400. Sent FO Team from Hq with Saint Joe Alpha patrol.

2 June: 021800 Ivan fired 1 will adjust mission at coord 945598. Lima fired ten H and I missions.

3 June: 040800 displaced Foxtrot to vicinity coord 910811 in direct support of Fertilizer patrol. 040815 displaced Lima(Rear) to coord 914740 in general support. 040330 Whiskey fired illumination at coord 944740. 13 H and I missions fired.

4 June: Fired 31 H and I missions. Alfa fired two illumination missions at coord 958656 and 960665.

5 June: Alpha fired two will adjust missions at coord 964673 and 961664. Registered Lima(Rear), Lima(Fwd) and Bravo. Bravo, Lima(Fwd) and Lima(Rear) fired two TOT at coord 844797. 36 H and I missions fired.

6 June: Alpha fired illumination at coord 963676. Foxtrot and Alpha returned to primary position. Ivan displaced to coord 964709. Foxtrot fired three will adjust missions, reg mission, and prep fires from coord 843794 to 831799.

7 June: Fired 28 H and I missions. Bravo and Lima fired periodic illumination at coord 888810. Bravo and Lima fired area.

8 June: Foxtrol fired two will adjust missions at coord 888694 and 892688. Foxtrot displaced to alternate position at coord 911752 in direct support of Polish Kilo. Lima (fwd) displace to alternate position coord 936741. 21 H and I missions fired.

9 June: Ivan displaced to coord 942784 to fire deep interdiction missions. Lima (fwd) fired one will adjust mission. 39 H and I missions fired.

10 June: Fired 74 H and I missions. Foxtrot fired two will adjust missions at coord 885756. Displaced Whiskey to Fertilizer Kilo patrol base with mission of direct support. Displaced Foxtrot back to primary position. Displaced Ivan back to primary position. Placed Lima (Fwd) in direct support of Burke under decentralized technical control. Lima(fwd) fired one will adjust mission at coord 871664.

11 June: Bravo and Foxtrot fired TOT area mission at coord 909838. 46 H and I missions fired. Whiskey and Lima displaced to primary positions. All Batteries now in primary positions. Registered Lima, Ivan, Bravo and Foxtrot.

12 June: Fired 45 H and I missions. Two Battalion TOT's fired.

13 June: Fired 15 H and I missions. Lima fired one will adjust mission. Bravo, Foxtrot and Lima fired TOT in area bounded by coord 883788, 882789, 873788.

14 June: Displaced Ivan forward to support 2/3. 12 H and I missions fired. Conducted registration for Bravo, Foxtrot and Lima.

15 June: Displaced Bravo and one platoon of Lima to position near Le My to support 2/3. Joined Delta Battery, 2d Bn 12th Mar. Chopped Battery "F" to BLT 3/9 for return to Okinawa. Bravo fired four coordinated HE and illumination missions and five illumination missions in vicinity of coord 893800. 99 H and I missions were fired.

16 June: Bravo fired 7 will adjust missions. 57 H and I missions were fired.

17 June: Ivan displaced to primary position. Bravo fired 5 will adjust missions at coord 854850, 856866, 87108550, 819856. Alpha fired one illumination mission at coord 962664. Ivan fired one will adjust mission. Lima fired 4 will adjust missions and one registration. Delta conducted registration and one illumination mission. 38 H and I missions were fired.

18 June: Alpha fired 1 illumination mission at coord 962664. Bravo fired one will adjust mission. Lima fired one precision reg at coord 873836. 33 H and I missions were fired.

19 June: Bravo and Lima displace to their primary positions. Lima, Ivan and Delta conducted precision registrations. 18 H and I missions fired.

20 June: 7 H and I missions were fired.

21 June: Delta displaced to coord 965709. Delta fire one precision registration at coord 921648. Bravo fired one precision registration at coord 860788. Lima fired precision registration at coord 860788. Lima fired one illumination mission at coord 933665. Whiskey fired one illumination mission at coord 908772. 24 H and I missions fired.

22 June: 47 H and I missions fired. Lima battery Comm Chief and radio operator KIA when AN/MRC 37 hit land mine near My Son village. Whiskey fired 3 will adjust illumination missions at coord 957735, 961737, 964743.

23 June: Whiskey fired 3 illumination missions at coord 963744, 961737 and 955734. Alpha fired 1 illumination mission at coord 962705. Lima fired 2 will adjust at coord 903673 and 90707535. 36 H and I missions were fired.

24 June: Lima displaced one platoon to coord 96487095. 19 H and I missions were fired.

25 June: Delta, Bravo, Lima and Ivan conducted precision registrations at coord 86337950. 35 H and I missions were fired.

26 June: Lima has two platoons displaced to coord 96487095. 45 H and I missions were fired.

27 June: Bravo displace to coord 910752 to fire prep fires at coord 854794 and then returned to primary position. Delta fired one prep fire at coord 854782 and one will adjust at coord 844788. Lima(Fwd) fire 1 prep fire at coord 865752. Bravo fired one will adjust illumination mission at coord 906774. 58 H and I missions were fired.

28 June: One platoon of Lima displace to coord 922793 at 280800 and returned to primary position at 281250. Whiskey fired 1 illumination mission at coord 937751. Alpha fired 1 will adjust mission at coord 960671. Bravo fired one will adjust mission at coord 896806. Ivan fired 1 will adjust mission at coord 871976. 43 H and I missions were fired.

29 June: Whiskey fired 2 illumination conc at coord 947782 and 984736. Ivan fired one unobserved mission at coord 870652. Lima(rear) fired one uno bserved mission at coord 875674. Alpha fired 2 will adjust missions at coord 968669 and 954667. Bravo fired 1 will adjust illum mission at coord 90157995. 27 H and I missions were fired.

30 June: Whiskey Btry displaced to Squire Hotel area. Bravo fired 6 will adjust missions at coord 850795, 850790, 846750, 846762, 850800, 850805 and one area mission with WP to burn out area. Lima(Fwd) fired area mission to burn out grassy area. Lima fired precision registration at coord 92096480. Ivan fired one precision registration at coord 92096480. 23 H and I missions were fired.