

310568

HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

3:WRD:j1
SER: 42-68
4 Apr 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March to 31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

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

R. P. Dunwell
R. P. DUNWELL

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Declassified after 12 years.

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2ND BN/12TH MAR

CMD CHRON

MAR 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March 31 March 1968

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

2nd Battalion, 12th Marines LTCOL. R. P. DUNWELL 056608/0802
USMC

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Hq Btry, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT. T. J. STACK 093456/0802 USMCR
Battery "D" 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines	1STLT. G. D. GARRISON 094719/0802 USMCR
Battery "E" 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT. P. G. CLARK 092578/0802 USMCR
Battery "F" 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT. E. L. CODY 082225/0802 USMC (1-24 March 1968)
	1STLT. W. R. DANIEL 094114/0802 USMC (25-31 March 1968)
Mortar Battery 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines	1STLT. J. K. KALLSTROM 091819/0802 USMCR
Battery "H" 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT. A. C. CONLON 082857/0802 USMC (1-28 March 1968)
Battery "K" 4th Battalion, 13th Marines	CAPT. F. A. BENDRICK 080587/0802 USMC (1-19 March 1968)
	1STLT. G. G. WOOD 095170/0802 USMC (20-31 March 1968)
Mortar Battery 1st Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT. J. M. STRANK 093470/0802 USMCR (28-31 March 1968)

2. LOCATION 1-31 March 1968, Dong Ha RVN

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3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

MAJ. D. F. BERGEN 075278/0802
USMC

S-1

1STLT. B. L. BUSSELL 096305/0130
USMC

S-2

1STLT. M. J. O'CONNOR 094325/0802
USMCR (1-15 March 1968)

1STLT. J. D. TOBIN 095116/0802
USMC (16-31 March 1968)

S-3

MAJ. C. J. JOHNSTON 077688/0802
USMC

S-4

CAPT. E. E. PRICE JR. III 0807934/0802
USMC

Ordinance Officer

W. O. S. G. HAFNER 098765/2020
USMC

Supply Officer

1STLT. R. E. WOOD 0100787/3002
USMCR

Motor Transport Officer

2NDLT. W. T. WHEELER 0103885/3502
USMCR

Communication Officer

CAPT. E. M. NORTON 090503/2502
USMCR

Liaison Officer

MAJ. R. C. MCFARLANE 077495/0802
USMC

Survey Officer

1STLT. J. D. TOBIN 095116/0802
USMC (1-15 March 1968)

1STLT. W. R. DANIEL 094114/0802
USMC (10-04 March 1968)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
40	540	1	11

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During March the Second Battalion, 12th Marines fired a total of 1,233 observed missions, 2,101 unobserved missions, and 3,664 H&I missions in support of the 9th Marines. Ammunition expenditures were 27,731 rounds of 105mm, 5,418 rounds of 155mm, and 4,038 rounds of 107mm.

Enemy casualties inflicted during March were 114 KIA and 211 WIA. In addition there were 12 secondary explosions and 21 bunkers and 2 automatic weapons destroyed.

On 28 March 1968, H/3/12 was chopped OPCON to 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery. On 28 March 1968, W/1/12 joined OPCON and was helilifted to A-3 from Camp Carroll.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Combat Missions Assigned. Direct support of 9th Marines
2. Significant Operations Conducted. Operations Kentucky and Highrise
3. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy. 114 KIA and 211 WIA
4. Casualties Sustained. 21 WIA and 1 DOW
5. Logistics. Logistic support was furnished to four organic firing batteries. Class V resupply and ordnance repair services were furnished to two OPCON batteries. A total of 37,187 rounds of artillery ammunition was moved by truck convoy and helicopter this month. The present vehicle deadline rate is 44%. The primary cause for deadline is the lack of required repair parts. Ordnance cleaning materials are in critically short supply. The 500 man messhall was completed and the installation of collateral equipment commenced. Power required to operate the messhall equipment is not yet available.
6. Civic Action. During March 2d Battalion, 12th Marines continued to assist in the relocation of refugees from north of the Cam Lo River. A total of 44 truck loads of household effects and 341 people were moved from Troung Xa Hamlet to Thiet Trang Hamlet. Approximately 10 acres of land were cleared and plowed for farming using a bulldozer and a plow provided by 11th Engineers. Refugees were presented 750 pounds of clothing donated by church groups in the United States. Battalion medical personnel treated 149 Vietnamese at MEDCAPS. Finally, the two room school house in Thiet Trang was opened on 25 March. A GVN teacher is teaching 48 first and second graders. SSgt. Sau, the interpreter assigned to this battalion, is teaching 15 third and fourth graders. School kits and miscellaneous school supplies have been distributed to the students.

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7. Personnel. The battalion was 86% T/O strength at the end of the reporting period. Shortages exist in MOS's 0122, 0239 and 0848. Thirty-eight Marines participated in R&R program during March.

8. Intelligence. Major ground contacts were made by elements of 3/3 in vicinity of A-3 and Gio Linh on 3 March and again on 6 March resulting in 132 and 96 enemy KIA respectively. The enemy forces involved were believed to be elements of the 48th Regiment, 320th NVA Division. The enemy continues his attempts to interdict lines of supply and communication with emphasis on the river traffic between Gua Viet and Dong Ha. The MSR traffic on Routes 1, 9 and 561 have had sporadic mining and sniper fire incidents. The mining attempts have included mines ranging in size up to a booby-trapped 500 pound bomb. Enemy incoming has remained at approximately the February level with more frequent use of rockets. Enemy forces appear to have massed in the Quang Tri area south and east of Dong Ha, but the enemy still retains the capability to conduct diversionary ground attacks on all bases within the 9th Marines AO. There have been several indications of enemy armor units north of Con Thien and Gio Linh and also sightings of tracked vehicles west of C-2 and south of Cam Lo. With the upcoming dry weather there is an increasing possibility of the use of armor in coordination with ground and artillery attacks.

9. Communication. During the month of March, the wire section fabricated and buried a new 25 pair slash wire cable running to 12th Marines Regiment and into the 3d Marine Division wire system. The number of frames within the battalion CP was reduced and new cables were made and rerouted. These improvements will reduce the vulnerability of the wire system to damage during artillery and rocket attacks. The radio section initiated an intensified training program for the 7 new radio operators that reported during March. All new 2531's and 2533's are now held in Headquarters Battery for training. The major subjects covered are radio procedure, artillery procedure, KY-8 operation, and operation and maintenance of the AN/MRC-83, AN/PRC-47 and AN/PRC-41.

10. Training. During March emphasis was placed on individual and section technical training. Service of the piece drill was conducted regularly in each battery to reemphasize the importance of correct procedures. Each 105mm howitzer section has now conducted direct fire training to increase readiness to respond to either enemy armor or close-in personnel threats. A new program of formal technical training classes is being conducted in the battalion CP area covering personnel administration, fire direction procedures and techniques, survey and meteorological techniques, communication, motor transport operations and maintenance, and supply. These classes are designed to increase the technical proficiency of headquarters battery personnel as well as personnel from the firing battery rear areas. Individual technical training records are being maintained to monitor the progress of this program. Formal schools for Basic Ammunition Technician and Basic Supply were completed by two men from this battalion during the month. In addition the Career Advisor attend Career Advisory School in Okinawa.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

EXTRACTS OF MISSION FROM 2ND BATTALION, 12TH MARINES

PERIOD 292300 to 012300 March 1968

1015 1 FM, E-2-12, (135725), 15 NVA in open, OP-2
EOM 1047, 10 Selected munitions, 4 HE, 5 WIA, BX 9449

1232 2 FM, F-2-12, (125742), 50 NVA in open, OP-2
EOM 1330, 18 Selected munitions, 75 HE, 15 WIA, HW 64357

1443 3 FM, F-2-12, (122736), 6 NVA in trenchline, OP-2
EOM 1502, 16 HE, 1 KIA, 2 WIA, BX 9492

1425 4 FM, F-2-12, (130723), 15 NVA in trench, OP-2
EOM 1440, 38 HE, 6 KIA, BX 9459

1355 5 FM, F-2-12, (12167360), NVA in open, OP-2
EOM 1424, 41 HE, 2 WIA, BX 9458

1535 6 FM, E-2-12, (12217365), 25 NVA in open, OP-2
EOM 1602, 30 HE, 10 WIA, BX 9462

1618 7 FM, D-2-12, (171692), 15 NVA in treeline, OP-3
EOM 1642, 30 HE, 4 WP, 5 WIA, BX 9466

PERIOD 012300 to 022300 March 1968

2115 1 FM, W-2-12, (095715), Infiltration route, OP-1
EOM 2132, 13 HE, 1 Secondary explosion, BX 9618

PERIOD 022300 to 032300 March 1968

1251 1 FM, H-3-12, (161668), NVA in treeline, Darting Star-63
EOM 1314, 22 HE, 1 KIA, BX 9653

1419 2 FM, W-2-12, (113718), NVA bunkers, OP-2
EOM 1439, 13 HE, 1 Bunker destroyed, BX 9693

1749 3 FM, F-2-12, (149733), NVA in trench, Cat Killer-40
EOM 1818, 18 HE, 6 WP, 6 KIA, BX 9674

1841 4 FM, H-3-12, (187611), Enemy movement, H-6
EOM 1845, 8 HE, 1 KIA, BX 9690

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EXTRACTS OF MISSION FROM 2ND BATTALION, 12TH MARINES

PERIOD 032300 to 042300 March 1968

- 1255 1 FM, W-2-12, (122737), 10-15 NVA in treeline, OP-2
 EOM 1328, 31 HE, 1 KIA, 5 WIA, BX 9764
- 1359 2 FM, W-2-12, (102703), Active sniper, OP-1
 EOM 1425, 18 HE, 1 WIA, BX 9770
- 1418 3 FM, F-2-12, (160742), 20 NVA in treeline, OP-2
 EOM 1445, 26 HE, 6 WP, 8 WIA, HW 64449
- 1525 4 FM, H-3-12, (162562), Mortar position, Southern Charlie
 EOM 1552, 22 HE, 4 WP, 3 KIA, BX 9802
- 1515 5 FM, W-2-12, (103703), Known enemy OP, OP-1
 EOM 1535, 10 HE, 1 WIA,, BX 9801

PERIOD 042300 to 052300 March 1968

- 0825 1 FM, K-4-13, (074739), NVA in treeline, American Beauty Whiskey
 EOM 0902, 17 HE, 2 WP, 2 KIA, EW 64416
- 1035 2 FM, F-2-12, (13557235), 7 NVA in open, Southern Tango
 EOM 1055, 5 Selected munitions, 1 KIA, BX 9866
- 1155 3 FM, D-2-12, (106604), Enemy position, Darting Star-61A
 EOM 1244, 20 HE, 2 WP, 1 KIA, BX 9871
- 1234 4 FM, K-4-13, (12077359), Occupied bunkers, OP-2
 EOM 1325, 11 HE, 5 KIA, BX 9873
- 1309 5 FM, W-2-12, (121736), NVA in treeline, OP-2
 EOM 1325, 13 HE, 8 WIA, BX 9888
- 1458 6 FM, F-2-12, (12077359), 10 NVA in treeline, OP-2
 EOM 1518, 14 HE, 6 WIA, BX 9895

PERIOD 052300 to 062300 March 1968

- 0739 1 FM, W-2-12, (120736), NVA in open, OP-2
 EOM 0812, 14 HE, 2 WP, 1 WIA, BX 9949
- 1550 2 FM, W-2-12, (124732), Known bunkers, OP-2
 EOM 1604, 9 HE, 2 Bunkers destroyed, BX 9973

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EXTRACTS OF MISSION FROM 2ND BATTALION, 12TH MARINES

PERIOD 062300 to 072300 March 1968

1817 1 FM, W-2-12, (11237179), Active mortars, OP-2
EOM 1834, 23 HE, 3 Secondary explosions, BX 9965

PERIOD 072300 to 082300 March 1968

1111 1 FM, K-4-13, (062729), Artillery position, OP-1
EOM 1139, 12 HE, 2 WP, 2 Secondary explosions, HW 64511

1407 2 FM, K-4-13, (100645), Bunkers, American Beauty Whiskey
EOM 1448, 14 HE, 3 KIA, 1 Bunker destroyed, BX 0126

PERIOD 082300 to 092300 March 1968

1320 1 FM, K-4-13, (161948), NVA in open, Southern Bravo
EOM 1410, 10 Selected munitions, 4 HE, 4 WP, 4 KIA, HW 64525

1630 2 FM, D-2-12, (090617), NVA in treeline, American Beauty Charlie
EOM 1650, 24 HE, 5 WP, 2 KIA, BX 0195

1752 3 FM, K-4-12, (126719), Anti-aircraft bunker, American Beauty Fox
EOM 1853, 20 HE, 1 Secondary explosion, 1 Bunker destroyed, BX 0200

PERIOD 102300 to 112300 March 1968

1043 1 FM, W-2-12, (118713), 1 NVA in open, OP-2
EOM 1110, 11 HE, 1 WIA, BX 0336

PERIOD 112300 to 122300 March 1968

1755 1 FM, H-3-12, (15245413), NVA in open, North Tide
EOM 1815, 30 HE, 10 KIA, 5 WIA, BX 0471

2034 2 FM, D-2-12, (176584), 18 NVA in treeline, Darting Star-64
EOM 2120, 22 HE, 4 WP, 5 KIA, BX 0519

PERIOD 122300 to 132300 March 1968

1516 1 FM, E-2-12, (102645), NVA in fighting holes, Southern Bravo
EOM 1617, 28 HE, 6 WP, 4 KIA, BX 0575

PERIOD 132300 to 142300 March 1968

1130 1 FM, F-2-12, (135728), NVA in bunkers, American Beauty Whiskey
EOM 1213, 38 HE, 2 WP, 2 KIA, 4 WIA, BX 0660

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EXTRACT OF MISSION 2ND BATTALION, 12TH MARINES

PERIOD 132300 to 142300 March 1968

2100 1 FM, D-2-12, (200655), Rocket position, 9th Marines
EOM 2127, 12 HE, 4 Secondary explosions, BX 0772

PERIOD 172300 to 182300 March 1968

2258 1 FM, H-3-12, (131636), Troop assembly area, OP-North
EOM 2320, 9 HE, 3 KIA, BX 0984 (Surveillance reported by a
patrol the following day)

PERIOD 192300 to 202300 March 1968

1025 1 FM, D-2-12, (165655), Troops in open, OP-North
EOM 1200, 10 HE, 12 WP, 8 KIA, BX 1121

PERIOD 202300 to 212300 March 1968

1243 1 FM, D-2-12, (098643), 2 NVA on trail, OP-West
EOM 1315, 30 HE, 2 WIA, BX 1184

1310 2 FM, D-2-12, (098643), 2 NVA in treeline, OP-West
EOM 1345, 36 HE, 1 KIA, 1 WIA, BX 1184

PERIOD 212300 to 222300 March 1968

1455 1 FM, D-2-12, (117612), 7 NVA in open, Darting Star-61A
EOM 1505, 16 HE, 3 KIA, BX 1270

PERIOD 242300 to 252300 March 1968

1800 1 FM, H-3-12, (188533), 200 NVA, Delmar
EOM 1940, 193 HE, 15 KIA, 50 WIA, BX 1488

1818 2 FM, D-2-12, (188533), 200 NVA, Delmar
EOM 1944, 119 HE, 10 KIA, 50 WIA, BX 1488

PERIOD 252300 to 262300 March 1968

1809 1 FM, F-2-12, (119728), Troops in open, OP-2
EOM 1850, 5 Selected munitions, 20 HE, 5 KIA, BX 1544

1810 2 FM, W-2-12, (119727), Troops in open, OP-2
EOM 1853, 151 HE, 2 KIA, 3 WIA, BX 1544

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EXTRACTS OF MISSION FROM 2ND BATTALION, 10TH MARINES

PERIOD 252300 to 272300 March 1968

- 0805 1 FM, B-2-12, (11967325), NVA in open, OP-2
 BOM 0850, 5 Selected munitions, 17 HE, 10 WIA, BX 1578
- 1849 2 FM, F-2-12, (11967325), 20 NVA in open, OP-2
 BOM 1906, 36 HE, 2 WIA, BX 1587
- 1851 3 FM, W-2-12, (11967350), 20 NVA in open, OP-2
 BOM 1912, 54 HE, 3 KIA, 3 WIA, BX 1587

PERIOD 272300 to 292300 March 1968

- 0855 1 FM, W-2-12, (11967325), 20 NVA in open, OP-2
 BOM 0913, 28 HE, 4 KIA, 7 WIA, BX 1582
- 1236 2 FM, D-2-12, (097534), 4 NVA in tree line, Darting Star-61A
 BOM 1252, 20 HE, 1 KIA, BX 1632
- 1339 3 FM, W-2-12, (074642), Suspected enemy position, American Beauty
 Golf BOM 1410, 15 HE, 33 WP, 15 Bunkers destroyed, 2 automatic
 weapons destroyed, BX 1657

PERIOD 282300 to 292300 March 1968

- 1114 1 FM, W-2-12, (150596), 6 NVA, Smitty-64A
 BOM 1146, 16 HE, 2 WP, 3 WIA, BX 1679
- 1125 2 FM, W-2-12, (11967325), NVA in open, OP-2
 BOM 1145, 44 HE, 1 Secondary explosion, BX 1680

PERIOD 292300 to 302300 March 1968

- 1750 1 FM, E-2-12, (124732), 1 NVA in open, Southern Sierra
 BOM 1817, 6 HE, 8 WP, 1 WIA, BX 1791

PERIOD 302300 to 312300 March 1968

- 1540 1 FM, F-2-12, (130732), 2 NVA in fighting holes, American Beauty Alpha
 BOM 1610, 37 HE, 6 WP, 1 KIA, BX 1853
- 1351 2 FM, E-2-12, (143731), Fortified ville, American Beauty Alpha
 BOM 1600, 17 HE, 4 WP, 5 Bunkers destroyed, BX 1835