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DT#169969HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 966023:EAC:je
SER:03A13369
1 May 1969

#18769

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From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code 403D)
 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 April to 30 April 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
 (b) FMFAGO 5750.8A

Encl: ✓(1) 2d Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology for the
 period 1 April to 30 April 1969

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with references (a) and (b).

C. J. Kullen
 C. J. KULLEN

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2nd BN/12th MAR

CMD CHRON

APR 1969

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

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1 May 1969

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 April--30 April 1969

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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ENCLOSURE (1)
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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

2d Battalion, 12th Marines	LTCOL C. J. KILLEEN 050163/0802 USMC
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SUBORDINATE UNITS

Hq. Btry, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT W. W. COOK 083044/0802 USMC (1-22 April)
	CAPT C. F. NORTON 080524/0802 USMC (23-30 April)
Battery "D", 2d Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT M. R. ROSS 088020/0802 USMC
Battery "E", 2d Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT H. C. BARNUM 084262/0802 USMC
Battery "F", 2d Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT C. F. NORTON 080524/0802 USMC (1-21 April)
	1STLT R. R. FOULKES 0101616/0802 USMC (22-30 April)
Mortar Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines	1STLT G. E. HODGE 096971/0802 USMC
3d Provisional 155 Towed Battery 2d Battalion, 12th Marines	CAPT T. S. HUTCHINSON 094802/0802 USMC

2. LOCATION 1-30 April, RVN

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3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

MAJ R. E. LEDET 063172/0802
USMC

S-1

CAPT N. W. CARMEN 096338/0130
USMC

S-2

1STLT CHASE 0101806/0802
USMCR

S-3

MAJ E. A. CONDON JR. 072264/0802
USMC

S-4

CAPT W. W. COOK 083044/0802
USMC (1-22 April)

CAPT C. F. NORTON 080524/0802
USMC (23-30 April)

Liaison Officer

MAJ J. D. MCNAMARA 078628/0802
USMC

Ordnance Officer

WO C. L. SERGENT 0105810/2020
USMC

Supply Officer

CAPT P. M. SHEEHAN 095667/3002
USMCR (1-6 April)

2DLT H. J. PETERSON 0106012/3002
USMC (1-7 April)

Motor Transportation Officer

1STLT R. R. SIMSON 0104775/3502
USMCR

Communications Officer

1STLT A. S. KYLE 0102617/2502
USMC

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	ENL	OFF
46	596	17	3

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

In comparison with recent months, April was a relatively quiet month in terms of firing for the 2d Battalion, 12th Marines. 2,501 missions and 32,812 rounds (29,649 105mm & 3,163 4.2") were fired in support of the 9th Marines, the 2d ARVN Regiment, and U.S. Army forces in the Khe Sanh-VCB-Rockpile-Mutter's Ridge-C2 area of operations. In addition, the 2/12 FDC received 8,512 rounds of all calibers from GS/R units to support the above units. Surveillance of the missions fired by 2/12 batteries included 16 KIA, 4 probable KIA/WIA, 1 NVA POW, 17 bunkers destroyed or damaged, 48 secondary explosions, 2 mortars silenced, and 1 automatic weapon silenced.

At the start of the reporting period, 2/12 had OPCON of its three light batteries and Mortar Battery. The 3d 155 Provisional Battery (2/12) was OPCON to 3/12 throughout the reporting period, supporting 4th Marines operations south of the western portion of the DMZ. On 29 April, the battalion took OPCON of B/1/12 for the purpose of effecting a relief in place of Battery D at C-2, after which the latter was moved to VCB for air movement to a new AO. Only four battery displacements, all by road, were made during the reporting period: two involving Batteries B and D for the relief in place, and two by Mortar Battery. On 15 April, Mortar Battery displaced from the Rockpile to MAI LOC to support a limited 9th Marines operation in that area. The operation was terminated on 21 April and Mortar Battery displaced back to its position at the Rockpile.

Three significant contacts with the enemy developed during the reporting period which involved 2/12 support. At 0400 21 April, an estimated enemy company attacked the night defensive position of G/2/9 at YD 041627, northeast of FSB FULLER. Batteries D and E fired 310 ILLUM and 174 HE, and the attack was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. After the attack and continuing until daylight, Battery D fired a platoon mission surrounding an area where it was believed some of attackers might be trying to escape. At daybreak, one NVA emerged from the area to surrender. He stated that he had not been able to escape because of the artillery fire, so the infantry commander credited Battery D with 1 NVA POW.

POW's captured after this action stated that only 100 NVA were involved in the attack on G/2/9 because they had underestimated the size of the Marine unit, and that there were 400 more NVA around FSB FULLER, with a mission of attacking U.S./ARVN installations and of interdicting Route 9. This confirmed other information concerning the infiltration of NVA through the central DMZ, and accounts for the increased level of enemy activity against convoys on Route 9 during the reporting period.

The other two significant contacts involved attacks on the night defensive

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positions of U.S. Army mechanized forces operating adjacent to the 9th Marines AO, at Khe Sanh and southwest of C-2. 2/12 fired organic and GS/R units in support of those forces.

At the close of the reporting period, a net gain of one light Battery (B/1/12) had been realized as a result of OPCON changes. Two special projects of operational importance were completed in April--the review and improvement of special protective measures against sapper attacks at all battery positions, and an FDC/firing battery inspection of all batteries by the 12th Marines.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. 2d Battalion, 12th Marines.

a. Combat Mission Assigned. Direct support of the 9th Marines

b. Significant Operations Conducted. None.

c. Displacements and Changes in Operational Control.

15 APR W/2/12 moved from the ROCKPILE to D-5 MAI LOC (YD 0851)

21 APR W/2/12 moved from MAI LOC to the ROCKPILE

29 APR Assumed OPCON of B/1/12

30 APR B/1/12 moved from the ROCKPILE to C-2

30 APR D/2/12 moved from C-2 to VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE

d. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy. 16 KIA (Confirmed), 4 Probable KIA/WIA, 1 POW

e. Casualties Sustained. 2 WIA

f. Logistics. The only significant logistic occurrence in April was the relocation of the battalion LSA operation at Vandegrift Combat Base. Due to the destruction of the LSA facilities at VCB, heavy lift operations, particularly Class V resupply, was initiated at Quang Tri LSA. The 12th Marines organized a Regimental logistic operation from there with all direct support battalions contributing personnel and equipment. 2d Battalion positioned three men and one vehicle as its contribution. 2d Battalion continued its LSA operation at VCB with four men and three vehicles under the direct supervision of the 12th Marines representative there.

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Only Battery "E" on FSB FULLER, and C/6/33, a GS/R unit on FSB CATES under 2/12 control, required helicopter resupply.

Battery D, F and the Mortar Battery were in road-bound positions, taxing the battalion's motor transport capability for the first time since December 1968. The Mortar Battery made two motor marches, displacing from the Pockpile to Mai Loc and back, gaining experience that had been denied them since November 1968.

Other S-4/Logistic activity was normal.

g. Civic Action. During the month of April, the Battalion S-5 held Med-caps for the following number of civilians: 31 children, 5 male and 9 female adults. The 2/12 BAS inoculated 105 civilians with their second series of Bubonic Plague shots.

The 2/12-4/12 messhall continues to haul its wet garbage to Thiet Trang for the villagers' use, as a supplement to feed their livestock. The garbage dump area near the hamlet is inspected once a week and continues to be in a good state of police.

The refugee hamlet of Troung-Xa, which was located adjacent to Thiet Trang, has been moved back across the Cua Viet river to an area close to the original location of the hamlet.

The civilian shops at the gate to 2/12 have been reopened under new management. A new building was built to house the laundry and gift shop, and another barber has been employed, for a total of 2.

h. Personnel.

(1) Strength and shortages. The battalion was at 95% of manning level for both officer and enlisted strengths during April. However, the manning level contains no personnel authorization for the 155mm Provisional Howitzer Battery (Towed). This has caused all firing batteries to be manned at approximately 75% strength to compensate for the additional battery. Significant shortages exist in occupational fields 08 and 35.

(2) R & R. Forty six personnel of the battalion participated in out of country R & R during April and 8 men went on in-country R & R.

(3) Promotions. One Gunnery Sergeant, two Sergeants and seven Corporals were promoted to the next higher grade during April. 26 Privates First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal during April as additional promotions authorized by CG 3d Mar Div. In addition, 6 Privates First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal under meritorious promotion authorities.

(4) Award Recommendations. A total of 41 recommendations for awards were forwarded during April, 1969. These included 7 Bronze Star Recommendations, 5 Navy Commendation Medal recommendations, 22 Navy Achievement Medal recommendations, and 7 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry recommendations.

(5) Legal. During April a total of 5 Battery Commanders Office Hours were held. One man was referred to Battalion Commander and was subsequently awarded a Summary Court-Martial. Four CID investigations for possession

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of marijuana were initiated and three informal investigations were conducted.

1. Communications. During the month of April, the Communications Platoon supported the battablion at Quang Tri, Dong Ha and Vandegrift Combat Base. At Dong Ha, work was completed on the communications bunker which houses the switchboard, radio watch and message center. The old message center area was remodeled into a crypto repair area and a communications supply area where all communications supplies are stocked. A Conex box was obtained and is now used to store all the battalion's crypto graphic equipment. At Vandegrift Combat Base, the CP area was completely rewired and a color-coded wire system was installed. Five new PP 2953 power supplies were acquired through the supply system and two were put to use powering bench mounted cipher sets at Dong Ha and Vandegrift.

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PART IV

EXTRACTS OF MISSIONS FROM 2ND BATTALION, 12TH MARINES

PERIOD 052300 to 062300

1430 FM, E/2/12 (008667), 1 NVA in the open, Noonwatch Oscar
EOM 1611, 49 HEQ, 2 WP, 2 Bunkers destroyed, BX 1090

PERIOD 062300 to 072300

0735 FM, E/2/12 (020623), Active mortar, Coconut Candy
EOM 0900, 90 HEQ, 4 WP, Mortar silenced, BX 1133

PERIOD 072300 to 082300

1425 FM, D/2/12 (123742), Bunkers, Neuter Golf
EOM 1548, 150 HEQ&D, 4 WP, 5 Bunkers destroyed, BX 1261

PERIOD 082300 to 092300

1447 FM, D/2/12 (099633), 2 NVA in the open, Colonial Ville
EOM 1455, 30 HEQ&WT, 2 WP, 2 KIA (Confirmed), BX 14621832 FM, D/2/12 (080600), Contact Mission, Speeding Home
EOM 1932, 420 HEQ, 4 WP, 3 Probable KIA/WIA, BX 1499

PERIOD 092300 to 102300

1630 FM, E/2/12 (04986700), 10 NVA in the open, Big Alice
EOM 1700, 130 HEQ, 4 WP, 2 KIA (Confirmed), BX 16081855 FM, D/2/12 (056674), NVA and Bunkers, Big Alice
EOM 1927, 40 HEQ&D, 2 WP, 2 Bunkers destroyed, BX 1666

PERIOD 102300 to 112300

0845 FM, D/2/12 (075642), NVA in bunker, Northtide Papa
EOM 0945, 60 HEQ&D, 8 WP, 1 Bunker destroyed, BX 17011024 FM, D/2/12 (100700), Suspected radio relay station, Speeding Home 63
EOM 1106, 40 HEQ&D, 8 WP, 1 Bunker damaged, BX 17031414 FM, D/2/12 (09747062), Ammunitions Cache, Speeding Home 63
EOM 1720, 444 HEQ, 6 WP, 39 Secondary explosions, BX 1711CONFIDENTIAL

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PERIOD 112300 to 122300

1312 FM, D/2/12 (08757140), Bunker, Noonwatch
 EOM 1352, 120 HEQ&D, 4 WP, 1 Bunker destroyed, BX 1936

PERIOD 182300 to 192300

1150 FM, E/2/12 (818668), 6 NVA in the open, Sundowner
 EOM 1251, 120 HEQ&D, 1 WP, 1 KIA (Confirmed), 3 Bunkers destroyed,
 1 Bunker damaged, BX 1031

PERIOD 202300 to 212300

0400 FM, D/2/12 (04106265), Contact mission, League Leader 63
 EOM 1025, 174 HEQ, 8 WP, 6 KIA (Confirmed), 1 POW, BX 3602

PERIOD 222300 to 232300

0108 FM, D/2/12 (054601), Time on Target, League Leader 24
 EOM 0120, 30 HEQ, 2 KIA (Confirmed), BX 3641

PERIOD 252300 to 262300

0730 FM, E/2/12 (057608), Prep fire, League Leader 63
 EOM 0755, 32 HEQ, 2 WP, 3 KIA (Confirmed), BX 4309

1605 FM, D/2/12 (062595), 50. cal position and Bunkers, Noonwatch Bravo
 EOM 1849, 139 HEQ&D, 2 WP, 1 Automatic weapons position destroyed,
 1 Bunker destroyed, 1 Probable KIA/WIA, BX 4412

1640 FM, E/2/12 (075605), Active mortars, Crystal Star 24
 EOM 1700, 30 HEQ, Mortar silenced, BX 4413

PERIOD 272300 to 282300

1340 FM, E/2/12 (063600), 50. cal and bunkers, Noonwatch Romeo
 EOM 1625, 80 HEQ, 32 WP, 1 Secondary explosion, BX 4824