

HEADQUARTERS  
2d Battalion, 12th Marines  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FME  
APO San Francisco 96602

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SER: 3A22369  
12 Aug 1969

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July - 31 July 1969

PART I ORGANIZATION DATA

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (p 11-19)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS

2d Battalion, 12th Marines  
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF  
 FPO San Francisco 96602

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 SER:03422667  
 12 August 1969

#31569

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

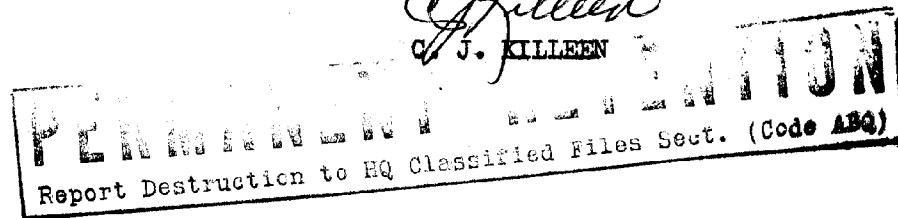
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July to 31 July 1969

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

Encl: ✓(1) 2d Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology for the  
      period 1 July to 31 July 1969

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

*C. J. Killeen*  
 C. J. KILLEEN



Copy to: CG, 9th MAB  
           CG, 12th Marines

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 Declassified after 12 years

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

2d Battalion, 12th Marines

LTCOL C. J. KILLEEN 050163/0802  
 USMC

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Hq. Btry, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines

CAPT C. F. NORTON 080524/0802  
 USMC

Battery "D", 2d Battalion, 12th Marines

1STLT G. E. HODGE 096071/0802  
 USMC

Battery "E", 2d Battalion, 12th Marines

CAPT H. C. BARNUM 084262/0802  
 USMC

Battery "F", 2d Battalion, 12th Marines

CAPT K. K. UPDEGROVE 084249/0802  
 USMC (1-10 July)

CAPT T. S. HUTCHINSON 094820/0802  
 USMC (11-23 July)

CAPT J. R. PARKER 083599/0802  
 USMC (24-31 July)

Mortar Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines

1STLT D. P. SKILES 0103803/0802  
 USMC

2. LOCATION. 1-31 July 1969, RVN3. STAFF OFFICERS.

Executive Officer

MAJ R. H. LEDET 063172/0802  
 USMC

S-1

CAPT N. W. CARMEN 096338/0130  
 USMC

S-2

1STLT H. L. PRICE 0105231/0802  
 USMC

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S-3

MAJ J. D. MCNAMARA 078628/0802  
 USMC

S-4

CAPT C. F. NORTON 080524/0802  
 USMC

Liaison Officer

1STLT L. S. WARDLOW 0104823/0802  
 USMC

Ordnance Officer

WO C. L. SERGENT 0105810/2020  
 USMC (1-23 July)

Supply Officer

M/GY/SGT C. H. STERLING 1070201/0891  
 USMC (24-31 July)

Motor Transportation Officer

1STLT H. J. PETERSON 0106012/3002  
 USMC

Communications Officer

1STLT R. R. SIMSON 0104775/3502  
 USMCR

1STLT R. BRYSON 0105878/2502  
 USMCR

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
35	414

<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
3	17

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. General Overview of all Activities. The month of July was primarily concerned with embarkation. Battery "E" provided direct support fires from 2-6 July in support of Operation Utah Mesa; and Battery "F" fired in support of Operation Utah Mesa from 1-8 July. Battery "F" also supported Operation Georgia Tar, 9-23 July under Opcon 3/12.

The disposition of the battalion at the opening of the reporting period was as follows: The CP, Mortar Battery, and Battery "D" at Dong Ha (YD21-7598); Battery "E" at VCB (XD986493); Battery "F" at FSB Tenaru. On 1 July Battery "E" was relieved one gun at a time at VCB to insure continuous fire support of the VCB/FSB Elliot Complex and surrounding area. On 2 July, 2/12 advance party left for Okinawa. On 2 July, Battery "E" helilifted from VCB to FSB Spark (XD869236) and was chopped to 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery by 3/12. On 6 July, Opcon of Battery "E" was returned to 2/12. Battery "E" was helilifted from FSB Spark to VCB and proceeded on to Dong Ha by convoy where it stood down in preparation for embarkation.

On 8 July, Battery "F" was helilifted from FSB Tenaru to Ca Lu. Operation Utah Mesa terminated and Operation Georgia Tar opened. On 9 July, Opcon of Battery "F" passed from 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery to 3/12 for defense of VCB and surrounding areas.

By 10 July, when Battery "D" and Mortar Battery's advance parties left for Okinawa, Batteries "HQ", "D", "E", and Mortar Battery were all in Dong Ha preparing for embarkation. The Embarkation of 2/12 was to be accomplished by breaking the battalion into three increments corresponding to Battalion Landing Teams, (BLT's). The Batteries would leave country with the same infantry battalions that they entered RVN with in 1965. Batteries "D" and Mortar Battery leave with BLT 1/9. Batteries "E" and "HQ" with HQ, 9th Marines and BLT 2/9. Battery "F" and Battery "L", 4/12 would leave with BLT 3/9. These units would be the nucleus of Regimental Landing Team 9, (RLT-9).

An average of three weeks was given to each battery to prepare for embarkation. This time period was found to be in excess of what was actually needed. Two weeks is sufficient time for a battery to prepare for embarkation. Generally, the plan for embarkation was to have an advance party proceed, via air transportation, to prepare Camp Hauge on Okinawa and to insure smooth occupation once the main bodies arrived. The batteries were broken into two groups. One group consisting of about twenty-five percent of the personnel who would go to Da Nang and embark with the corresponding infantry battalion and the rest of the battery with all vehicles would move to Cua Viet by river for embarkation aboard LST's. Since all vehicles had to be washed down prior to boarding the LST; at least one day had to be allowed for washing.

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On 12 July, most of Battery "D" and Mortar Battery moved to Cua Viet. The next day, 13 July, the rest of the personnel of Battery "D" and Mortar left from Dong Ha for Da Nang to embark on the USS Paul Revere. On 14 July, Battery "D" and Mortar Battery departed RVN aboard the USS Sedgwick County LST 1123. CG 3rd Marine Division took Opcon of Battery "D" and Mortar Battery and CG 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) assumed Adcon.

On 23 July, the last of 2/12's batteries still operational was to stand down. 2/12 regained Opcon of Battery "F" and the battery returned to Dong Ha from Ca Lu by motor convoy.

On 24 July, the second element of 2/12 was to begin its actual embarkation following the same sequel that had proved successful before. Batteries "HQs" and "E's" advance parties departed RVN for Okinawa on 24 July, personnel of Batteries "E" and "HQ" constituting about twenty percent of the batteries, departed for Da Nang on 1 August, and departed from RVN later that day. On 30 July, the rest of the personnel and all of the vehicles of "HQ" and "E" Batteries left for Cua Viet by river. On 31 July, "HQ" and "E" Batteries departed RVN aboard the USS Sedgwick County LST 1123 and the USS Park County LST 1077, respectively.

At the close of the reporting period, only one battery of 2/12 remained in RVN and it was non-operational. During the period, 2/12 had no batteries Opcon to it that were operational. Four Batteries of the Battalion were prepared for embarkation with surprising speed and no problems. By mid-August the remainder of the battalion should be embarked for Okinawa.

2. Command Relations. Throughout the period, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines was under the operational and administrative control of the 12th Marines.

3. Mission Assigned. Direct support of 9th Marine Regiment.

4. Intelligence. A search conducted around FSB Tenaru (XD823254) on 4 July produced, among other items, 48 DH-10 claymore mines (Russian, 10-pound type), the mines were emplaced by personnel, two of which were killed by direct fire of Battery "F" before the mine could be detonated. The mines were arranged in a configuration not seen before. A sandbag like sack filled with dirt had one mine attached to the bottom and another mine placed flat on top. Four bamboo splits were evenly spaced around this stack, and the whole package was held together with wire. The package was placed in a hole, six to seven inches deep. When emplaced, the package was inclined at an angle of approximately 45 degrees toward the target area. Fusing consisted of an electric blasting cap on the lower mine and a pull-friction delay (4-5 sec) fuse on the upper mine. When employed, the lower mine is detonated, propelling the upper mine toward the target. The fuse on the upper mine is

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activated at a point between three to ten feet from the ground. This is accomplished by tying a length of string to the upper fuze pin and securing the other end to the ground. Four to five seconds after pin extraction, detonation of the second mine occurs.

At FSB Tenaru, the mines were employed in two separate strings. The first string was approximately 100 yards from the perimeter and consisted of 16 mine packages linked together. The second string was 20 feet behind the first and consisted of eight packages. The strings were to be fired so that all mines in a particular string would go off simultaneously. The strings were independent of each other. The DM-10 mine has an effective range of 150-200 yards against infantrymen. It is believed that the mines are employed in this manner so that air bursts may be obtained. This would prove extremely effective against helicopters in or approaching an LZ and personnel.

5. Operations. During the month of July, 2nd Battalion's "E" and "F" Batteries were involved in operation Utah Mesa.

6. Results of Operations.

- a. Casualties inflicted on the enemy. Two
- b. Casualties sustained. 3 WIA
- c. Equipment. None

7. Supporting Arms. Paragraphs 1 through 6 above.

8. Logistics. The entire month was completely directed to redeployment and embarkation. Although the first two batteries, "D" and Mortar were not scheduled to debark until mid-month, they were ready before the fourth day of the month. Operation plans issued to the battalion had directed that the unit would sail for Okinawa at T/E standards, consequently, it was hoped that we would receive the six M35 trucks we were short. This hope was dissolved before the month was two days old and created a problem of transporting the cargo that would have been carried by these six M35 trucks. Despite the truck shortage, and after mobile loading the first two batteries, it was determined that all firing batteries could load all their equipment onto six or less M35s. The only transportation problem which posed any difficulty was the bulk of spare parts and supplies held by battalion supply, motor transport and mess gear. This cargo amounted to some seventy pallets, weighing approximately 139 tons. This bulk was anticipated and to alleviate the inconvenience of not mobile loading these pallets, it was

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thought that space would be available on a portion of the two truck companies that embarked on the first increment. This did not come to pass.

Each battery was given a type II Conex container in which to ship valuable personal property such as stereo equipment, etc. Upon completion of the debarkation these containers would prove useful. Headquarters Battery used two containers, one for the aforementioned purpose and the other for classified equipment.

The embarkation of the first two batteries was accomplished without difficulty. One hundred twenty one personnel of both Mortar and Battery "D" embarked on the USS Sedgwick County, LST 1123 at Cua Viet, via Dong Ha on 14 July. Two days were spent at Cua Viet preparing vehicles. Approximately 85 personnel, the remaining Mortar and "D" Battery Marines, flew to Da Nang on 13 July to embark on the USS Paul Revere. Weather and marine conditions were perfect and no problems were encountered. An advance party from these two batteries had flown to Okinawa on 10 July.

The battalion advance party which had flown to Okinawa on 2 July had reported that preparation of Camp Hauge was progressing satisfactorily. On 24 July the advance parties for "HQ" and Battery "E" flew to Okinawa from Da Nang. All during the last week prior to embarking, a good many man-hours were consumed in rehabilitating Dong Ha West for 3/12, to insure them of arriving in a first rate CP. By the 25th most of the equipment turned into FLSGB had been returned except for items like fire extinguishers, gunners quadrants, the balance of the optical equipment, BC scopes, pants and M34s which had been evacuated to 1st or 3rd FSR. Three TD18s and Three TD15s were invoiced to other units according to instructions passed by 12th Marines and 3rd Marine Division. Considerable indecision was encountered in determining uniform articles to be embarked. Combinations of jungle and sateen uniforms changed weekly. Troops finally embarked with two jungle uniforms. Finally on 31 July, Battery "E" loaded aboard the Park County LST 1077 and Headquarters Battery embarked on the Sedgwick County LST 1123. By 1500 on 31 July, the two LSTs had cleared the mouth of the Cua Viet and were sailing north by north east toward Okinawa.

9. Communications. During the month of July, Communications Platoon continued support of the Battalion CP at Dong Ha West. In addition, limited communication support was provided for batteries at Ca Lu, Spark, and Tenaru fire support bases.

The month was spent primarily in preparation for embarkation to Okinawa. No significant problems were encountered. Battery T/E's were reviewed and inventory corrections made so that all batteries were equipped to leave RVN. Prior to each battery embarking, technical inspections were held to insure proper care and handling of gear. No significant discrepancies were found.



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On 23 July, Gunnery Sergeant Tavares left for Okinawa in the advance party. The detachment leaving with 2/9 departed 29 July, and the main body with all communication gear left Dong Ha on 30 July. During transit, confidential material and narcotics were stored in a conex box which was guarded continually.

10. Equipment. Shortage of (7) M35, (3) TD15 and (1) PU348 reduce MT effectiveness and negates major engineer capability. Shortage of 100 cubic foot refrigerators reduces mess effectiveness. 1st and 2nd Echelon Maintenance improving in Motor transport, no serious problems. Ordnance, less optics is in excellent readiness. An excessive amount of M34A2, pantel and elbow sights are in for repair. Theodolite, BC scopes and aiming circles experience excessive delay in repairs. No communications problem.

11. Civic Action. Civil affairs for 2/12 was terminated on 21 July because of the move from Vietnam to Okinawa. On 21 July, the C.O. and the S-5 officer went to Thiet Trang with the C.O. and S-5 officer from 5th 175 Gun Battery for a ceremony to say "Goodbye" and "Hello". At this time presentations consisted of money, clothing, soap, and chickens. It was explained to the hamlet chief that the 5th 175 Gun Battery would now assist the hamlet of Thiet Trang. Before the change was made the corpsman from 5th 175 Gun Battery accompanied the 2/12 S-5 officer on a med-cap in order to see first hand the procedures that were used. The success in the area of civil affairs was most gratifying.

12. Personnel and Administration.

(a) Personnel Strengths. The battalion was brought to 100% T/O strength during July for deployment and reassignment to the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. Two officers and twenty-three enlisted (serving on overseas extensions) volunteered for reassignment within the 12th Marines to remain in Vietnam. The personnel were replaced by volunteers for deployment from within the Regiment.

(b) Personnel Vacancies. The only noteworthy T/O deficiencies were on Corporal MOS 0121 and one Gunnery Sergeant MOS 0441. The battalion rates one man in each of these billets and the billets remained unfilled.

(c) Promotions. The battalion meritously promoted 2 Lance Corporals to the grade of Corporal during July.

(d) R&R. Thirty seven personnel were sent on R&R during July.

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(e) Award Recommendations. During the month of July a total of 69 award recommendations were submitted. This included 2 Silver Star recommendations, 8 Bronze Star recommendations, 16 Navy Commendation Medal recommendations, and 44 Navy Achievement Award recommendations.

(f) Legal. During the month of July, 7 Battery Commanders office hours were held. One man was referred to trial by special court martial and 3 recommendations for undesirable discharge were submitted during July.

### Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 01 JULY E/2/12 is relieved by G/2/12 at VCB
- 02 JULY 2/12 advance party departed for Okinawa
- 02 JULY E/2/12 helilifted from VCB to FSB SPARK and went OPCON to 5th of 4th
- 06 JULY Assumed OPCON of E/2/12 and E/2/12 helilifted from FSB SPARK to VCB; from VCB moved by convoy to DONG HA and stood down.
- 08 JULY F/2/12 helilifted from FSB TENARU to CALU. Operation Utha Mesa terminated.
- 09 JULY F/2/12 went OPCON to 3/12
- 10 JULY D/2/12 and W/2/12 advance parties left for Okinawa
- 12 JULY D/2/12 and W/2/12 commenced their embarkation by moving to CUA VIET
- 13 JULY Elements of D/2/12 and W/2/12 depart for DANANG to embark on USS Paul Revere
- 14 JULY D/2/12 and W/2/12 departed RVN;ADCON of D/2/12 and W/2/12 went to CG 9th MAB and COM 7th Fleet  
*OPCON TO*
- 23 JULY Assumed OPCON of F/2/12 with F/2/12 returning to DONG HA and standing down. HQ/2/12 and E/2/12 advance parties go to DANANG
- 24 JULY HQ/2/12 and E/2/12 advance parties depart RVN for Okinawa
- 29 JULY Elements of HQ/2/12 and E/2/12 depart for DANANG for embarkation
- 30 JULY HQ/2/12 and E/2/12 depart DONG HA for CAU VIET
- 31 JULY HQ/2/12 and E/2/12 depart RVN aboard USS Sedgwick County LST 1123  
USS Park County LST 1077.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Copies of Staff Journal. None
2. Originated Messages. N/A
3. Copies of Op orders. None
- ✓ 4. Other.
  - ✓ a. History of 2d Battalion, 12th Marines in Vietnam.

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2d Battalion, 12th Marines in Vietnam

On March 8, 1965 Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 3/9 landed on the beaches of DaNang, South Vietnam, to spearhead the landing of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. Artillery support was provided by Fox (105mm howitzer battery) 2d Battalion, 12th Marines and Lima Battery (155mm howitzer battery) from 4th Battalion, 12th Marines. Upon landing, Fox 2/12 provided artillery support for BLT 3/9 which maintained security for the DaNang Air Base. On 17 June 1965, Fox 2/12 was replaced by Delta 2/12 when BLT 1/9 arrived and BLT 3/9 returned to Okinawa.

On 4 July 1965, the 9th Marines regimental headquarters and 2/9 arrived in DaNang from Okinawa with headquarters, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines commanded by LTCOL J. K. KNOCKE, Mike Battery 4th Battalion, 12th Marines, and 1st 8" Howitzer Battery. On 16 August 1965, Fox Battery 2/12 returned to Vietnam with 3/9. During the months of July and August the battalion engaged in civic action with local villages by donating food and toys to the people. 88,000 Vietnamese civilians lived in this area known as the An Hoa industrial complex which was of strategic importance to the people of DaNang and the surrounding Quang Nam Province.

September 1965 saw the beginning of "Operation Golden Fleece", a novel concept to protect the Vietnamese rice harvest and deny food to the enemy. 5,097 rounds were fired in support of the regiment while Controlled Variable Time (CVT) fuze was used for the first time in Vietnam. For the first time the fire support coordination center (FSOC) was able to coordinate with the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) to make possible the use of continuous artillery support during Med Evacs.

November and December 1965 saw action increase with 2/12's artillery support resulting in numerous KIA's and probables. Fox 2/12 and L 4/12 both operated decentralized FDC's. Each battery in 2/12 was responsible for providing its own security, patrols, and ambushes. December marked the first time in which an artillery battery (Fox 2/12) was lifted into combat by helicopter.

In January 1966, elements of 2/12 were attached to Task Force D to participate in Operation Double Eagle which was the largest amphibious operation since the Inchon Landing.

In February 1966, 2/12 provided support for the 9th Marines "County Fair" pacification program which was designed to isolate village or hamlet size areas and convince the Vietnamese that the government was interested in their welfare and to separate the Viet Cong from their parasitic control in each area.

In April, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines along with the 9th Marine Regiment moved to Dong Ha, where they became involved in some of the bitterest fighting of the war in areas near Khe Sahn, Gio Linh and Con Thien. 2/12 had as many as nine subordinate batteries under its operational control during

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the months of April and May including A/1/13, B/1/13, W/1/13, H/3/12, C/1/12, W/1/12, K/4/12, L/4/12, and 1st 8" Howitzer Battery. During this period Dong Ha Combat Base came under repeated NVA rocket attacks. In September the Marine outpost at Con Thien came under a heavy artillery pounding which lasted for a period of 12 straight days. During this bombardment, D/2/12 was credited with destroying at least three NVA artillery pieces and together with other batteries inflicted heavy NVA casualties during numerous ground assaults. Throughout this and the remaining months of 1967, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines was credited with 500 confirmed enemy KIA's.

During the month of June 1968, fierce fighting followed the breakout at Khe Sanh. Assumption by 9th Marines of the Lancaster AO required 2/12 to provide artillery support across a 36 KM front. In doing so 2/12 fired a total of 91,000 rounds and was credited with over 326 confirmed KIA's and 220 WIA's.

In July on operations Kentucky, Thor, Lancaster II, and Scotland II, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines supported the elements of the 9th Marines, 3d Marines, and two ARVN battalions in various successful search and destroy operations in and around the DMZ. During this action several 75mm pack howitzers, which had been firing on Camp Carroll, were captured while infantry units discovered well constructed observation posts, elaborate communications networks, large weapon and food caches. The heavy artillery fires in support of these units credited 2/12 with over 130 confirmed KIA's.

In late August, 9th Marines began Operation Lancaster II Trousdale in an area northwest of the Rockpile—an area never before entered. This operation required extensive employment of the relatively new Fire Support Base concept which would prove so successful in such later operations such as Dewey Canyon. Nine helilifts involving batteries firing from eleven positions placed maximum stress on the ingenuity and resourcefulness of all aspects of artillery and supporting logistics. Enemy resistance was heavy as Marines discovered large enemy weapons and ammunition caches and accounted for more than 1,000 enemy dead.

During September 2/12 continued to develop and occupy fire support bases in remote positions relying solely on helicopter insert and subsequently resupply. The concept proved particularly effective during this month when 9th Marines, with six maneuver battalions, conducted a thorough search and destroy operation sweeping from the DMZ south for over ten miles through territory heretofore considered inaccessible. 2/12 provided close, continuous fires for the infantry from their mountaintop firebases frequently expending and resupplying in excess of 5,000 rounds per day.

The final months of 1968 produced little enemy contact as intelligence sources indicated that the NVA had been forced back to his sanctuary north of the DMZ to reorganize his forces after great losses.

During the final months of 1968, there was comparatively little enemy contact despite extensive search and destroy operations. The NVA, having

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been pushed back across the DMZ, were trying to reorganize their forces after staggering losses. However, a conservative analysis indicates that Dawson River Afton in October and December had successfully interdicted major infiltration routes south of the Da Long River valley. The operation had disrupted major VC/NVA headquarters operating areas, thereby reducing the VC/NVA capability to apply pressure in the populated coastal areas to the east.

The advent of 1969 brought the 9th Marines and 2d Battalion, 12th Marines their most successful operation and perhaps the most successful search and destroy operation of the Vietnam War. The final stages of Operation Dawson River West in mid January laid the ground work for Operation Dewey Canyon, 22 January to 18 March. Units of 2/12 were positioned on fire support bases south of Vandegrift Combat Base to Support elements of 9th Marines in their long trek south to the Ashau Valley. Even in the initial stages, Operation Dewey Canyon was different from other more recent 3d Mar Div operations. To be sure, it involved the use of mobile Marine Corps Units against sizeable enemy resistance, the deployment of maneuvers of battalions under the protective fan of artillery on fire support bases, and rifle companies operating independently for extended periods conducting saturation sweeps and patrols. None of that was different. What was new was the remoteness of the AO from the nearest friendly tactical forces and from normal resupply sources, the known enemy AAA capability, and the tactics and techniques developed in each phase of the operation to cope with special situations.

Because the enemy expected a heliborne assault directly into the Ashau Valley from the south, he had prepared numerous strategically placed AAA positions and fixed artillery positions in defense against an allied assault. In order to reduce the effectiveness of the well prepared NVA defenses the concept of maneuver involved leap frog tactics of infantry battalions advancing on foot to secure fire support bases always remaining within the reach of supporting artillery fire. The relatively new concept of the fire support base in this remote AO was successfully employed to secure the Ashau Valley. This provided a base for the 9th Marines a classic Regiment on line assault into the northern reaches of the Ashau Valley.

Counter battery fires played a predominant role in neutralizing the enemy's supporting arms capabilities and enabled 9th Marines maneuver battalion's to advance upon the enemy's tremendous munitions caches and capture six 122mm guns two of which were destroyed by 2/12. At the same time, attempts to overrun FSB Cunningham and FSB Erskine were unsuccessful with the enemy leaving 73 dead behind.

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By any criteria, Operation Dewey Canyon was an unqualified success. A reinforced Marine infantry Regiment, with all of its supporting artillery, had been helilifted into an area so remote that it had never been entered before by free world military forces. Through some of the most rugged terrain in Vietnam, over a period of 56 days and despite weather which hampered resupply for better than one half the time, over 1600 of the enemy were killed, his operations in the area were completely disrupted, his main resupply/infiltration route was interdicted, and over 500 tons of communist arms and ammunition were uncovered by the Marines. Among 230 crew-served weapons captured and destroyed were 12 Russian made 122mm field guns and four 85mm field guns.

In early May, 2/12 again accompanied 9th Marines in a return to the Ashau Valley in operation "Apache Snow". 9th Marines served as a blocking force for combined units of the 101st Airborne Division and the 2d ARVN Regt pushing north. Contact remained light testifying to the effectiveness of the 9th Marines initial thrust into the area during Operation Dewey Canyon.

Operation Cameron Falls during June found 2/12 supporting 9th Marines south of Vandegrift Combat Base where intelligence sources indicated a large NVA unit was observing Vandegrift Combat Base and Route 9 from a mountaintop Observation Post. During the operation elements of 2/9 made contact with a superior NVA force. Contact continued into the hours of darkness while 2/12's 5 batteries fired continuous illumination and protective fires until reinforcements could reach the beleaguered company. Later, reacting on intelligence information concerning a new NVA threat to another 9th Marine unit, 2/12 fired on a column of moving lights. Later surveillance credited the artillery with 37 KIA's and numerous probables.

In late June during Operation Utah Mesa, NVA sappers attacked Fox 2/12 on FSB Tenaru. Despite a well coordinated ground and mortar attack, the position was not penetrated forcing the enemy to leave behind 30 of his dead.

During this Operation it was announced that 2d Battalion, 12th Marines would join 9th Marines in RLT 9 and become part of the 25,000 man troop withdrawal from Vietnam. On 14 July, Battery "D" and Mortar Battery departed for Camp Hauge, Okinawa.

By mid August, the remainder of 2d Battalion, 12th Marines under the command of LTCOL C. J. KILLEEN had departed RVN for Okinawa as part of RLT 9.



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2d Battalion, 12th Marines in RVN

1. Total round expenditures since 8 March 1965.

- a. 105mm, 1,232,368
- b. 155mm, 132,311
- c. 107mm, 113,542
- d. Total 1,478,221

2. Surveillance since 8 March 1965.

- a. Confirmed KIA 3,094
- b. Confirmed WIA 1,041
- c. Probable KIA/WIA 2,435
- d. POW 1
- e. Bunkers destroyed/damaged 628
- f. Structures 199
- g. Mortars destroyed 25
- h. Secondary explosions 1,205
- i. Trucks destroyed 12
- j. Crew Served Weapons destroyed 23
- k. Boats/Sanpans 148
- l. Recoiless Rifle 1
- m. Bridges destroyed/damaged 4
- n. Rocket Launchers 4
- o. 122mm Russian D-74 field guns 2

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p. Artillery pieces destroyed 14

q. Artillery positions destroyed 10

3. Civil Affairs Program

a. Civilians treated, 9,145

b. Schools built, 3

c. Dispensary built 1

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Fire Support Bases Occupied In Heliborne Moves By 2/12 Since June of 1968

LZ PEDRO	FSB CUNNINGHAM
LZ HOLCOMB	FSB ERSKINE
LZ HENDERSON	FSB TURNAGE
LZ LEJEUNE	FSB TAM BOI
LZ BLACK	FSB FULLER
LZ SANDY	FSB ELLIOT
LZ WINCHESTER	FSB RUSSELL
LZ SHEPARD	FSB GAUCHO
LZ ROBIN	FSB MCCLINTOCK
LZ ANN	FSB FILE
LZ MINK	FSB WHISMAN
LZ TUN TAVERN	FSB SPARK
LZ DICK	FSB TENARU
LZ SHILOH	
LZ CHARLIE	
FSB LITTLE BIGHORN	
FSB BARNETT	
FSB GATES	
FSB SMITH	
FSB GEIGER	
FSB SNAPPER	
FSB RAZOR	

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12 Aug 1969

## LISTING OF OPERATIONS SINCE 2d BATTALION, 12th MARINES HAS ARRIVED IN RVN

GOLDEN STRIKE	EARLY	DAWSON RIVER AFTON
HARVEST MOON	NEW CASTLE	DAWSON RIVER
MALLARD	HICKORY	DAWSON RIVER WEST
WAR BONNET	PRAIRIE IV	DAWSON RIVER SOUTH
BIG LODGE	CIMMARON	DEWEY CANYON
DOUBLE EAGLE	KINGFISHER	APACHE SNOW
WAR BONNET II	BUFFALO	CAMERON FALLS
ROUGH RIDER	HICKORY II	UTAH MESA
KINGS	LIBERTY	GEORGIA TAR
GEORGIA	KENTUCKY	
LIBERTY	HIGHRISE	
MACON	NAPOLEON	
SWANEE	NAPOLEON/SALINE	
KERN	LANCASTER II	
CHASTA	SCOTLAND II EAST	
MISSISSIPPI	LANCASTER II/JUPITER	
STERLING	SCOTLAND II/TROUSDALE	
CLEVELAND	TROUSDALE NORTH	
INDEPENDENCE	MAI LOC	
STONE	SCOTLAND II MOUNTAIN	
GULF	SCOTLAND II AFTON	