

275968

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

3/JHS/jhs
5750.
1 June 1968
Ser No. 0868

From: Commanding Officer
To: CMC (CODE A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Forces
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 May 1968 (U)

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

Encl: ✓ (1) 3d Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology
for period 1 to 31 May 1968

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) through (d) enclosure (1) is submitted.

J.A. Como
J.A. COMO

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 to 31 May 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>
3d Battalion, 12th Marines (-) Rein. 3d Marine Division (Rein)	LtCol J.A. COMO 059588/0802 1-31 May 68

Subordinate Units

Battery "G" 3d Battalion 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division (Rein)	Capt G.V. THURMOND 083878/0802 1-31 May 68
Battery "I" 3d Battalion 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division (Rein)	Capt G.C. HEARN 076973/0802 1-31 May 68
Headquarters Battery, 3d Battalion 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division (Rein)	WO-4 J.P. FELL 043735/2010 1-31 May 68
1st Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery 3d Battalion, 12th Marines 3d Marine Division (Rein)	Capt W.K. LAW 092636/0802 1-31 May 68
2nd Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery 3d Battalion, 12th Marines 3d Marine Division (Rein)	1stLT J.P. GLASGOW 094411/0802 1-16 May 68 Capt S.D. HAYES 093169/0802 17-31 May 68

Attached Units

240th Field Artillery Group Counter Mortar Radar U.S. Army	CWO F.W. CROSBY W2215890/211A8 1-5 May 68 17-31 May 68
"A" Battery, 1st Battalion 240th Artillery U.S. Army	Capt W.D. WATSON 05419913/1193 1-3 May 68

I-1

ENCLOSURE (1)

608 Battery 3d Battalion
Artillery U.S. Army

Capt D.J. PONGONIS
10-17 May 68

638 Battery 1st Battalion
13th Marines 3d Marine
Division (Rein)

Capt J.C. UECKER
093495/0802
18-27 May 68

"W" Battery 1st Battalion
13th Marines 3d Marine
Division (Rein)

Capt M.T. PIERSON
093360/0802
18-31 May 68

"C" Battery 1st Battalion
11th Marines 1st Marine
Division (Rein)

1stLt R.L. BUCKHAMMER
094227/0802
1-7 May 68
Capt J.A. MURRAY
085421/0802
8-31 May 68

"W" Battery 3d Battalion
12th Marines 3d Marine
Division (Rein)

Capt F.X. SULLIVAN
081078/0802
1-31 May 68

Detachment "W" Battery
1st Battalion 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein)

1stLt R.C. DOUGLASS
0100200/0802
1-17 May 68
1stLt D.A. DEIBEL
0102754/0802
18-31 May 68

1st Platoon 1st Armored
Amphibious Company FMF

2dLt J.T. FOWLER
0101908/1802
1-18 May 68

3d Platoon 1st Armored
Amphibious Company FMF

2dLt B.J. BOSTROM
0100877/1802
19-31 May 68

"H" Battery 3d Battalion
12th Marines 3d Marine
Division (Rein)

1stLt A.D. NETTLINGHAM
095594/0802
27-31 May 68

2. Location

1-31 May 68 Command Group "A" YD 346697 Cua Viet,
Republic of Vietnam

1-31 May 68 Headquarters (Rear) YD 300551 Quang Tri
Province, Republic of Vietnam

1-2

ENCLOSURE (1)

Staff Officers

a. Executive Officer	Major D.E. VOWELL 070105/0802 1-23 May 68 Major W.D. ISBELL 068961/0802 24-31 May 68
b. S-1 Adjutant/Legal Officer	WO-1 F.P. DURBINO 098602/0130 1-31 May 68
c. S-2 Officer	1stLT C.P. JAMESON 092878/0802 1-23 May 68 1stLT R.W. SHUGART 0100675/0802 24-31 May 68
d. S-3 Officer	Capt S.B. GRIMES 082336/0802 1-7 May 68 Capt R.G. HOLLIDAY 082781/0802 8-31 May 68
e. S-3A Officer	Capt R.G. HOLLIDAY 082781/0802 1-7 May 68 1stLT J.H. MURPHY 0100535/0802 8-31 May 68
f. S-4 Officer	Capt A.D. NASTRI 082249/0802 1-31 May 68
g. Communications Officer	1stLT W.T. PITCHFORD 095452/2502 1-31 May 68

I-3

ENCLOSURE (1)

h. Motor Transport Officer

1stLT L. LUDWIG
0101245/3502
1-31 May 68

i. Supply Officer

2dLt S.M. EASTON
0103464/3002
1-31 May 68

j. Survey Officer

1stLT R.W. MARSTELLER
0101268/0802
1-31 May 68

k. Liaison Officer

Major J.C. DEEMER
076888/0802
1-23 May 68
Capt F.H. WITTEL JR.
072268/0802
24-31 May 68

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
Off	Enl
36	513

USN	
Off	Enl
1	11

Other	
Off	Enl
0	0

I-4

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART II

The month of May began with the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines continuing the three simultaneous missions of direct support of the 3d Marines on Operation Napoleon/Saline in the Cua Viet area, direct support for the defense of the Quang Tri Airfield Complex, and direct support for the 26th Marine Regiment on Operation Rice.

The S-2 and S-3 sections along with the necessary communications and operations personnel, were displaced 3 May to the 3d Marines Headquarters at Cua Viet. The S-2 and S-3 sections joined Command Group "A" which consisted of the Commanding Officer, the Battalion Liaison Officer with the necessary FSCC personnel and a tactical Fire Direction Center. It was during this period the battle for Dai Do was in progress.

It was felt the primary mission of the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines, that of direct support of the 3d Marine Regiment, would be better controlled by establishing a centralized FDC. The tactical FDC was transferred from the 3d Marines COC Bunker to the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines FDC Bunker. A tactical and technical FDC was organized. During the period of the battle for Dai Do, there were three 105 Howitzer batteries, one LVT H-6 Platoon, one 155 Howitzer battery consisting of two howitzers, one 4.2 battery, and one 155 Gun platoon which was general support-reinforcing to 3d Battalion, 12th Marines. All of these batteries were immediately responsive to the 3d Marine Regiment for Operation Napoleon/Saline.

The 3d Battalion, 12th Marines played a significant supporting arms role in the battle of Dai Do. During the course of the heavy fighting an additional 105 Howitzer battery, "D" Battery, the 3d of the 82d was airlifted into the Mai Xai Thi area YD 287672. The 3d Battalion, 12th Marines assumed operational control of "D" Battery on 10 May. "D" Battery was assigned the mission of direct support for the 3d of the 21st Infantry Battalion. Because of the distance between the battery and the Battalion FDC, "D" Battery maintained a decentralized technical FDC. The 3d Battalion, 12th Marines retained tactical control of the battery so that its fires could be effectively directed within the 3d Marine Regiment's AO. "D" Battery was chopped 17 May and airlifted to the South.

During the month of May the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines, in direct support of Operation Napoleon/Saline, expended 36,443 rounds which accounted for 340 confirmed enemy kills. Operation Rice which began 1 May and ended 17 May received 275 rounds fired in its support from the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines. During the period 18 May to 31 May the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines expended 1,491 rounds in general support-reinforcing for the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The 1st Air Cavalry Division is employed in Operation Jeb Stuart III.

The 1st Platoon of the 1st Armored Amphibian Company, located in the Cua Viet area rotated by echelon back to DaNang. They were replaced by the 3d Platoon of the 1st Armored Amphibian Company on 19 May. The move was accomplished so that the full fire power of the platoon was always available for fire missions.

On 3 May "A" Battery, 1st of the 40th was chopped to 1st Battalion, 13th Marines.

The 3d Battalion, 12th Marines was relieved on 7 May of its mission of direct support for the Defense of the Quang Tri Airfield Complex with the arrival of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines from Khe Sanh. The 3d Battalion, 12th Marines continued to effect a smooth transition for the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines by augmenting the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fires for the 26th Marines and the Quang Tri Complex.

On 17 May the direct support roles of 3d Battalion, 12th Marines changed. Operation Rice ended 17 May when the 26th Marines moved south to the Danang area. The 1st Air Cavalry Division moved into the vicinity of Operation Rice. The 3d Battalion, 12th Marines was assigned the role of general support-reinforcing 1st Air Cavalry Division in Operation Jeb Stuart III on 17 May.

On the same day two 155 Howitzers from the 2d Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery were chopped to the 1st Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery. The 1st Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery with four 155 Howitzers was chopped to 1st Battalion, 13th Marines. The 1st Battalion, 13th Marines with its organic "A" and "C" Batteries along with the 1st Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery were air lifted to the Danang area in order to provide artillery support for the 26th Marines.

The 18th of May "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines and "W" Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines came under operational control of 3d Battalion, 12th Marines. The two batteries were utilized in the mission of direct support of the Defense of the Quang Tri Airfield Complex.

The 18th of May the Fire Direction Center in the Quang Tri Complex was organized once again as a technical and a tactical FDC for the direct support role of the Defense of the Quang Tri Airfield Complex. An FSCC team was organized to provide Fire Support Coordination in the Division Rear SOC Bunker for the Quang Tri area. Also on this day, a detachment of the 240th Field Artillery Group Counter Mortar Radar came under operational control of the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines.

On 27 May "H" Battery, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines came under operational control of the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines. "H" Battery located in the C-1 area, is presently employed in the Battalion's direct support role of the 3d Marines in Operation Napoleon/Saline. The same day, "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was chopped to 2d Battalion, 12th Marines.

Significant personnel changes occurred during the month of May. Major W.D. ISBELL joined the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines 15 May. He assumed the duties as the Battalion Executive Officer on 24 May. Major ISBELL replaced Major D.E. VOWELL who rotated to CONUS. 1stLt R.W. SHUGART was assigned as the Battalion Intelligence Officer vice 1stLt C.P. JAMESON who returned to CONUS. Capt R.G. HOLLIDAY became the S-3 on 8 May replacing Capt S.B. GRIMES who returned to CONUS. 1stLt J.H. MURPHY stepped up to the position of the Assistant S-3. Capt F.H. WITTLE relieved Major J.C. DEEMER as the Battalion Liaison Officer on 24 May. Major DEEMER also rotated to CONUS.

The month of May ended with the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines conducting two centralized Fire Direction Centers. One located at Quang Tri and one located at Cua Viet. The two Fire Direction Centers utilized both technical and tactical concepts. The 3d Battalion, 12th Marines completed the month with three assigned missions, one of direct support of the Defense of the 3d Marines, one of direct support of the Defense of the Quang Tri Airfield Complex, and one of general support-reinforcing the 1st Air Cavalry Division. "H" Battery located in the C-1 area, is presently employed in the Battalion's direct support role of the 3d Marines in Operation Napoleon/Saline. The same day, "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was chopped to 2d Battalion, 12th Marines.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events.

1. Combat missions assigned

- a. 1-31 May 1968, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines in direct support of the 3d Marine Regiment.
- b. 1-7 May 1968, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines in direct support of the 26th Marine Regiment.
- c. 1-7 May 1968, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines in direct support of the Defense of the Quang Tri Airfield Complex.
- d. 17-31 May 1968, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines in general support-reinforcing of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.
- e. 17-31 May 1968, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines in direct support of the Defense of the Quang Tri Airfield Complex.

2. Significant Operations Conducted

- a. Operation Napoleon/Saline
- b. Operation Rice
- c. Operation Jeb Stuart III

3. Casualties inflicted on the enemy

- a. KIA (C) 340
- b. KIA (P) 10

4. Casualties sustained

- a. KIA 1
- b. WIA 20
- c. Died (NBC) 0

5. Equipment. The TD-15 that was deadlined has been given code "H" letter. Thirteen (13) of the battalion's prime movers are deadlined: 12 for 3d echelon repairs. The battalion's maintenance situation continues to stay at a good level. Throughout the month constant checks by the cognizant battalion staff members and backing by the battery commanders continues to strengthen the 1st echelon maintenance program.

General Logistics. General logistics support remains T/E combat essential equipment shortages continue to be a key problem area. Communications equipment are the most urgently needed items. Appropriate supply action has been initiated in all cases.

The battalion continues to operate in two main areas: Quang Tri and Cua Viet. The main logistics effort is located in Quang Tri with mainly ammunition being processed and handled for the opcon units in Cua Viet. The battalion logistics chief is handling the Cua Viet section with the S-4 controlling the over-all operation in Quang Tri. Lack of river and air transportation at times hinders a totally smooth running operation.

The battalion still has adcon of G-3-12 located at Khe Sanh and the 1st Provisional 155 Howitzer Battery now operating in the Danang area. A regular courier service is established between both units and normal supplies are constantly being fed to the units.

a. Food Services. The battalion has served 90% "A" rations, 7% "B" rations, and 3% "C" rations during the reporting period. The battalion was operating two messhalls at the end of this month. A night bakery has been established in the Hq Battery galley producing pastry items daily for the entire battalion.

Fresh foods have increased in their availability at Division Food Services.

b. Medical. There were 308 out patients treated by BAS during the month. The battalion had 20 WIA's and 1 KIA during the month.

7. Administration. There was no Commanding Officer's Non-Judicial Punishment awarded during the month of May. There were no courts-martial.

8. Personnel. The average strength for the month was 88% of the manning level. During the month the battalion joined 4 Marine officers and 20 enlisted Marines. There were 5 officers rotated or transferred. There were 21 enlisted Marines either transferred or rotated.

III-2

ENCLOSURE (1)

Intelligence

a. Enemy Activity. In early May Allied units engaged elements of two NVA Divisions in the Napoleon/Saline Area. A number of missions could account for the presence of this large enemy force, the more probable being the interdiction of the Cua Viet River, and reinforcement for an attack on Dong Ha. The enemy was decisively defeated and driven north. However, numerous sightings of small groups of enemy continue, and fighting in this area continues.

Camp Kistler continued to receive sporadic enemy artillery fire from positions north of the Ben Hai River.

b. Enemy Intentions. In the northernmost part of I Corps, limited probes in force by NVA elements are expected to continue. The mission of these actions will be to tie down Allied forces by maintaining contact, yet refusing to be drawn into a major engagement in circumstances unfavorable to them. Uppermost in the mind of the enemy is the demonstration of his ability to inflict casualties on American units, thus enhancing his position for any peace negotiations.

In the Quang Tri-Ai Tu Area, the enemy hopes to force allied forces into a defensive role around Allied installations and heavily populated areas, thereby taking them away from the protection of the harvesting of rice. Interdiction of Allied installations by supporting arms can also be expected.

c. Administration. The initial counter-mortar/counter rocket plan was drawn up for Camp Kistler.

10. Communications-Electronics

a. During the month of May, the battalion supported both the Third Marine Division Rear located at Quang-Tri and the Third Marine Regiment located at Cua Viet.

b. The Battalion displaced its FDC from Quang-Tri to its forward position at Cua Viet. FDC operations in Quang-Tri area were turned over to India Battery. Transitions were effected smoothly and professionally.

III-3

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART IV
NAPOLEON/SALINE

1 MAY

EARLY FLOWER "B" (FO for B 1/40) requested fire on NVA in open at YD 267704. At 1040H the LVT H-6 Platoon expended 2 rounds of WP and 22 rounds of HE. Four (4) KIA's (confirmed) was the surveillance.

The 3d Marines (FSCC) requested a time on target on a suspected NVA Battalion at YD 268704. At 1159H "C" Battery 1/11, "W" Battery 3/12, and the LVT H-6 Platoon expended 225 rounds of HE. This mission was unobserved so no surveillance was given.

Bad Mit Bravo 6 (FO for 1st Amtracs) requested fire on 6-8 NVA at YD 314702. At 2225H the LVT H-6 Platoon expended 15 rounds of HE. The surveillance was negative.

2 MAY

At 2300H LVT H-6 Platoon expended 10 rounds of HE on 4 to 6 NVA. Bad Mit Bravo 6 (FO for 1st Amtracs) called this mission in at YD 314702. No surveillance was given for this mission.

3rd Marines (FSCC) requested a Prep Fire on YD 285689. At 0745H "C" Battery 1/11 and the LVT H-6 Platoon expended 252 rounds of HE. No surveillance was given for this mission.

Elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA in open at YD 268704. At 1725H "C" Battery expended 3 rounds of HC Smk and 77 rounds of HE. The surveillance of this mission was negative.

At 1645H elements of 2/4 reported that they were receiving automatic weapons fire from YD 253631. "I" Battery 3/12 expended 1 round of WP and 517 rounds of HE which resulted in negative surveillance.

"I" Battery 3/12 at 0055H expended 105 rounds of HE on NVA in open. Elements of 2/4 called this mission in at YD 25496299. Negative surveillance was reported for this mission.

Southern Kilo (AO) requested fire on NVA in ville at YD 248638. At 1230H Battery "I" expended 2 rounds of WP and 83 rounds of HE which resulted in 1 KIA (confirmed) and 7 KIA's (probable).

IV-1

ENCLOSURE (1)

TAB-A

NAPOLEON/SALINE

3 May

Elements of 3/21 requested blocking fires at YD 270703. At 1000H "C" Battery 1/11 expended 225 rounds of HE. The mission was observed, but no surveillance was reported.

Elements of 3/21 requested fire on active mortars at YD 271712. At 1200H "C" Battery 1/11 expended 71 rounds of HE. No surveillance was given for this mission.

Elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA in open at YD 264707. At 1455H "C" Battery 1/11 expended 124 rounds of HE. This mission was observed, but no surveillance was given.

4 May

At 2215H elements of 3/21 requested a time on target on a suspected NVA position at YD 264713. "C" Battery 1/11 expended 10 rounds of WP and 6 rounds of HE. This mission was reinforced by 12th Marines. No surveillance was reported for this mission.

Elements of 1/3 requested fire on NVA in trenches at YD 24406330. At 1608H "I" Battery 3/12 expended 2 rounds of WP and 40 rounds of HE. This mission was observed, but no surveillance was given.

The 3d Marines (FSCC) requested counter mortar fire at YD 250708. At 1445H the LVT H-6 Platoon expended 40 rounds of HE. This mission was unobserved so no surveillance was given.

"C" Battery 1/11 expended 1 round of HC Smoke and 93 rounds of HE on NVA in open at YD 269710. Elements of 3/21 called this mission in at 1145H. Negative surveillance was reported for this mission.

At 0830H elements of 3/21 requested a Prep Fire at YD 271706. "C" Battery 1/11 expended 1 round of HC Smoke and 234 rounds of HE. No surveillance was reported on this mission.

Elements of 3/21 requested fire on suspected NVA at YD 269710. At 1915H "C" Battery 1/11 expended 2 rounds of HC Smoke and 35 rounds of HE. This mission was unobserved so no surveillance could be given.

IV-2

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NAPOLEON/SALINE

At 1145H Elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA in the open. At YD 269710 "C" Battery 1/11 expended 1 round of HC Smk and 93 rounds of HE. No surveillance was given for this mission.

3rd Marines FSCC requested fire on an active mortar position at 1953H, at grid YD 243650. "W" Battery 3/12 expended 75 rounds of HE. On this mission there was no surveillance.

Elements of 3/21 requested fire on enemy bunkers and trenches at 0745H. The LVT H-6 Platoon expended 4 rounds of HC Smk and 99 rounds of HE at YD 274702. No surveillance was given for this mission.

At 2100H Elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA in the open. At YD 272712 "C" Battery 1/11 expended 2 rounds of WP and 24 rounds of HE. No surveillance was given for this mission.

5 May

At 0610H elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA movement at YD 274702. The LVT H-6 Platoon expended 90 rounds of HE and 3 rounds of WP. No surveillance was given for this mission.

Elements of 3/21 requested fire on VC in the open at YD 27127080. At 0615H "C" Battery 1/11 expended 3 rounds of WP and 176 rounds of HE. No surveillance was given for this mission.

At 0500H Elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA in open at YD 284710. The LVT H-6 Platoon expended 3 rounds of WP and 30 rounds of HE. No surveillance was given for this mission.

Elements of 3/21 requested fire on V.C. in open at YD 27127080. At 0615H "C" Battery 1/11 expended 3 rounds of WP and 176 rounds of HE. No surveillance was given for this mission.

Elements of 3/21 reported suspected troop movement at 200H. At YD 274270 "C" Battery 1/11 expended 1 round of WP and 213 rounds of HE. No surveillance given for this mission.

ENCLOSURE (1)

IV-3

(A)

NAPOLÉON/SALINE

6 MAY

Elements of 3/21 at 0500H requested fire on NVA in open at YD 284710. The LVT H-6 Platoon expended 3 rounds of WP and 30 rounds of HE. No surveillance was reported for this mission.

At 0200H suspected troop movement was reported by elements of 3/21. "C" Battery 1/11 expended 1 round of WP and 213 rounds of HE at YD 274720. The surveillance was 17 KIA's (confirmed).

Elements of 3/21 reported that they were receiving sniper fire from YD 265714 at 1355H. The LVT H-6 Platoon expended 225 rounds of WP and 265 rounds of HE with no surveillance.

At 1715H elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA dug in at YD 268718. "C" Battery 1/11 expended 2 rounds of WP and 30 rounds of HE. The surveillance was 22 KIA's (confirmed).

Elements of 3/21 at 2220H requested fire on 20 NVA in open. At YD 293712 the LVT H-6 Platoon expended 1 round of WP and 71 rounds of HE. The surveillance for this mission was negative.

7 MAY

Elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA in open at YD 280682. At 0515H "W" Battery 3/12 expended 1 round of WP and 23 rounds of HE. The surveillance was 14 KIA's (confirmed).

At 1000H elements of 3/21 requested fire on NVA in open at YD 283699. "C" Battery expended 1 round of WP and 109 rounds of HE. The surveillance was 5 KIA's (confirmed).

Elements of 3/21 at 1440H requested fire on active mortars at YD 255714. The LVT H-6 Platoon expended 104 rounds of HE with surveillance of a secondary explosion.

At 2130H Music Box (recon) requested fire on NVA in open. At YD 298703 "W" Battery 3/12 expended 14 rounds of HE. Negative surveillance was reported for this mission.

At 0026H 30 NVA in open was reported by elements of 3/21 at YD 26257060. LVT H-6 Platoon expended 203 rounds of HE and 33 rounds of WP. No surveillance was given.

ENCLOSURE (1)

IV-4

(4)