MEADQUARTERS 4th Battalien, 12th Marines 3d Marine Division, (Rein) FMF FFO San Francisce 96602

JDM/smf 6 Mer 1969

MEMORANDUM

From: S-3, 4th Battalien, 12th Marines

Te: Misterical Branch, 6-3

Subj: Command Chronology

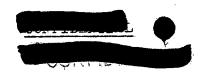
1. This unit does not require staff journals to be maintained by the S-1, S-2, and S-4.

2. All message traffic originating from this command prior to 961530H Jan 1969, have been destroyed.

J. D. MCNAMARA

30 MARDIV

4thBn, IZthall



HEADQUARTERS 4th Battalion, 12th Marines 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF FPO San Francisco 96602

> 3D MARDIV S&C FILE BI# 82969

3/JDM/smf 5751 Ser: 03A 036-69 5 Mar 1969

From:

Cormanding Officer

To:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)

Via:

(1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Command Chronology for period 1-28 February 1969 (U) Subj:

Ref:

- (a) MCO 5750.lA
- (b) FMFPac0 5750.8

(c) Div0 5750.lA

Encl: √(1) 4th Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

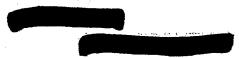
- 1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
- 2. This document is to be downgraded at three-year intervals and declassified after 12 years in accordance with DOD Directive 5200.10.

J. D. MCNAMARA By direction

MeNamaro

Copy to: CO, 12th Marine Regiment

Copy 12 of 12 copies





HEADQUARTERS
4th Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/JDM/smf 5751 Ser:03A036-69 5 Mar 1969

COMMAND CHROMOLOGY

1 February to 28 February

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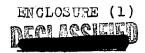
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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

DESIGNATION

4th Battalion, 12th Marines LtCol. E.W. BAILEY (1-28 Feb)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Capt, D.M. BUGBEE (1-28 Feb) Headquarters Battery Battery "K" Battery "L" Battery "M" Capt. L.D. WALKER (1-28 Feb) 1stLt, W.G. HORN (1-28 Feb) lstLt. D.E. MELCHAR (1-28 Feb)

2. LOCATION

1-28 February: DONG HA, RVN (YD 227596)

STAFF OFFICERS

xo	Maj. S.H. HELMS (1-2 Feb)
	Maj T.L. EDWARDS (3-28 Feb)
SgtMaj	SgtMaj. F. VIOLETTE (1-28 Feb)
S-1	2ndLt. J.V. MORRIS (1-28 Feb)
S-2.	lstLt. T.G. TURNER (1-28 Feb)
S-3	Maj. J.D. MCNAMARA (1-28 Feb)
S-3A	lstLt. J.J. BUTERA (1-28 Feb)
S-4	lstit. B.J. RENFROW (1-17 Feb)
	Mai. J.D. MCNAMARA (18-28 Feb)
Maint0	lstEt. P. JULICH Jr. (1-20 Feb)
CommO	1stlt. R.F. HOOGERWERF (1-28 Feb)
MTO	lstLt. G. WERNER (1-28 Feb)
SupplyO	lstLt. T.J. MORRIS (1-28 Feb)

AVERAGE OVERALL MONTHLY STRENGTH

OFFICER	USMC	ENLISTED	<u> </u>	FFICER	<u>USN</u>	ENLISTED
25		470		0		1 6





5. During the period I February 1969 through 28 February 1969 the battalion, within its capability of self-administration, performed its assigned mission in the area of personnel accounting and administration. The following is a compilation of statistical data for the period I February - 28 February 1969:

a. Authorized Manning Level

Marine Officer Personnel (025)

Marine Enlisted Personnel (490)

Navy Enlisted Personnel (008)

Navy Officer Personnel (000)

b. Distributed Personnel Strength. During the period 1 February 1969 - 28 February 1969 the battalion personnel were distributed and assigned to the following areas in the performance of its general support role:

USMC	DONG HA	FSB ELLIOTT	<u>c-1</u>	<u>c-2</u>
OFFICER	17	3	4	1
ENLISTED	230	91	90	43
USN				
OFFICER	0	0	0	Ŏ,
ENLISTED	10	2	2.	2

- c. Personnel Extensions of WestPac Tour. During the period 1 February 1969 28 February 1969 there were eight (8) personnel extensions of overseas tour of duty.
- d. Awards Recommendations. During the period 1 February 1969 to 28 February 1959 the following awards were recommended for personnel of the battalion:

Bronze Star Medal	(02)
Navy Commendation Medal	(04)
Navy Achievement Medal	(15)





e. Casualties. During the period 1 February through 28 February 1969, hostile and non-hostile casualties for the battallion were as follows:

HOSTILE NO		NON HOSTILE	(INJURIES)
MIA	KIA	DEATH	INJURY
2	0	. 0	12

f. During the period 1 February through 28 February 1969, casualties inflicted on the enemy (OPCON UNITS), were as follows:

<u>KIA</u>	WIA
9	5





PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Up to 20 February the battalion retained OPCON of Bravo 1/12 and 2nd Platoon, 1st Armored Amphibian Co. For a brief period OPCON of C 1/12, and 2nd Prov (155 How Towed), was exercised. All units were technically controlled from a centralized FDC at DONG HA. This facilitated the return of 1/12 to its direct support function in the 3rd Marines AO. The transition was smooth and efficient. Lt. J. J. BUTERA spent the initial day at the FDC of 1/12 in order to assist.

With the battalion reverted to its traditional role of general support, 3rd Marine Division, the volume and complexity of missions was reduced. The modification of missions involved only Battery "Ls!" reenforcement of 3/12. The battalion continued its support of Combined Action Platoons, QUANG TRI and DONG HA Combat Base, and Task Force CLEARMATER.

During Tet, 4/12 was direct support of the QUANG TRI Provisional Company and C Troop, 3d of the 5th Cavalry operating north of DONG HA. Significantly, by the end of the Tet period, Task Force BRAVO was responsible for the A4 and C2 area, the northern approaches to DONG HA, and the CUA VIET area. Each was a separate AO with its own COC/FSCC which coordinated directly with Division FSCC for air clearance. 4th Battalion, 12th Marines FDC found itself with five contiguous areas of operation for which it provided direct support and the sole common fire support coordination center was the 3d Division FSCC. Supported units within these AO's included at various times 2/3, C Troop 3/5, QUANG TRI Prov Company, Company "F" 2/4, 3/3, all Combined Action Platoons in the DONG HA area. Company "M", 3/4, 1st Amtrac Battalion and 45 reconnaissance inserts, in addition to ARVN, RF, PF, and CIDG units. On 16 February 1969, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines assumed OPCON of 2d Provisional Battery located at grid 218598, laid on azimuth 4000. On 17 February, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines had OPCON of 18-105 Howitzers (Towed). 18 M109 155 Howitzers (SP), 6 LVTH-6, and 4-155 Howitzers (Towed). By 20 February, however we had returned to our traditional role of general support and control of our three organic batteries.



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The battalion survey section was especially active this month. On 7 February they established survey into the eastern end of the DONG HA West sector. This involved a nighttime traverse. On the same day they completed a traverse for the C 1/12 position at DONG HA. On 18 February they established control at the VINH DAI rock-crusher using PO2 poles and flags. These points are important because we can now move into the MAI LOC area for target area survey. On 20 and 21 February 1969, survey was established for 12th Marines counter mortar radar positions at C2 and Fire Support Base ELLIOTT. The section also provides the forward observer personnel for the daily convoys to VANDEGRIFT Combat Base, MAI LOC, and CON THIEN.

Communications, largely due to the use of the AS2236 antenna, remained outstanding. Also, the battalion instituted a "cover shot" capability daily with the outlying batteries. This enabled us to inform the firing battery personnel of important changes in the tactical situation.

On 18 February 1969, the battalion received a "well done" from Commanding Officer, 12th Marines, a copy of which is included as a supporting document. The Sal and Sal coordinated the extensive photography of the battalion area for the unit history portion of the "press kit". Copies of these photos are in the CMC copy under supporting documents. The negatives will be retained on file with the command. Also included under the supporting documents is a diagram and narrative summary of the techniques employed in the fire direction center during the December through February period.

Toward the end of the month action increased considerably. On 21 February Lt. W. G. HORN was able to adjust his own battery on a grid where active mortars were firing on a convoy. On 25 February, Battery "L" was complimented by Commanding Officer, 2/4 for their fires when Fire Support Base RUSSEL was attacked. On 25 February and 26 February, Fire Support Base ELLIOTT and C2 were attacked with 24-122mm rockets. Both Battery "L" and "M" continued to man their guns during the hostile rocket attacks which were intended to divert the battery's firing on the NVA unit.

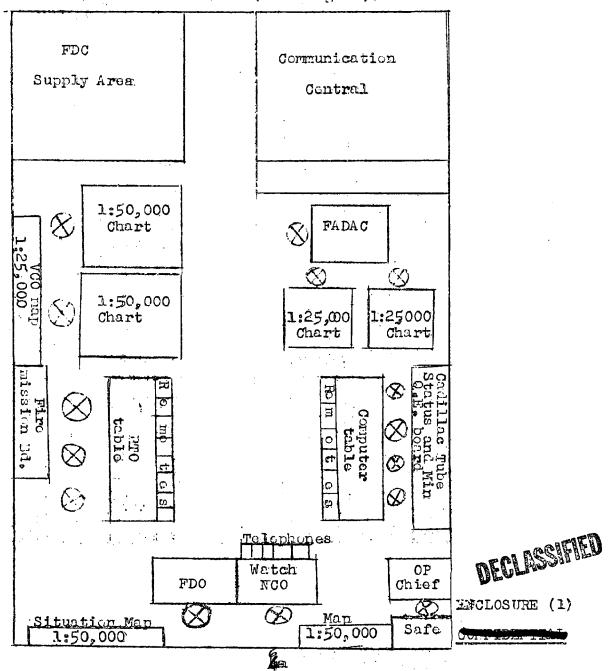




PART II A

1. FIRE DIRECTION COMTROL PROCEDURES

Fourth Battalion, Twelfth Marines, centralized Fire Direction Center is located at DONG HA in a bunker built by Fourth Battalion. The Fire Direction Center is fourteen feet (llf) by thirty feet (30) in size and is organized to function as technical and tactical control (see diagram).





The primary means of communication is by FM radio with the AS2236 antenna. Due to the distance between OPCON units-from CUA VIET to Fipe Support Base ELLIOTT-a florible system of radio communication is necessary. A "cover capability" is maintained at all organic units.

The Dattalion operates with up to fourteen (N4) radio nots. All radios are located in the Fire Direction Conter in the Cormunications Central.

During the month the Fire Direction Center operated with six (6) conduct of fire nots; Regimental Fire Direction net, Battalion Fire Direction net, Battalion Command net, Recommaissance nots and normally two spares ready to come up with Air Observers, Forward Observers or as needed.

The Battalion Fire Direction Center is technical control for Mike Battery, Kilo Battery, Kilo-Delta Plateon, Brave Battery, lst Battalien, 12th Marines, and 2nd Plateon, 1st Armored Amphibian Company, determining all primary data for firing using two (2) 1:25,000 firing charts with FADAC for Brave Battery, and two (2) 1:50,000 firing charts with FADAC for Mike Battery, Kilo-Battery, Kilo-Delta Plateon, the LVTM-6 Plateon, and Lima Battery with a secondary check being made at the individual Battery. The Battalion Fire Direction Center is primary control for the LVTM-6 Plateon but is not able to obtain FADAC data due to the limitations on the number of firing units that can be placed into FADAC. The Battalion maintains a primary Fire Direction Center at Lima Battery due to sometimes unreliable communications and the reemforcing mission assigned to Lima Battery.

The Battalion Fire Direction Center was accordary centrol for Whiskey Battery, 2nd Battalion for the first part of the month. The Battalion also had General Support Reinforcing fires from Alpha Battery and Charlie Battery 1st Battalion 40th Artillery (USA) and Charlie Battery 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery (USA) during the month. These missions are specifically for the support of Recommissance inserts in the Demilitarized Zone and instantaneous fires on targets acquired by sensory intrusion devices.

The 1/50,000 chart with the 3200 mil Range Deflection Protractor enables us to plot the Battery positions of all units.





Since the M109 and LVTH-6 use a 64,00 mil sight, there is need of only two (2) indexes for each firing unit (Kilo Battery, Kilo-Dolta Platoon, Mike Battery, Lima Battery, LVTH-6). The distance between Fire Support Base ELLIOTT (Lima Battery) and CUA VIET (2nd Phataon, LVTH-6) is 36,000 meters. The depth of coverage is 34,000 meters. This requires a chart five feet (51) by four feet (4). To do the same thing on a 1/25,000 chart would require a chart ten feet (10) by eight feet (8), or several charts used simultaneously. The firing chart for Brawo Battery, let Dattallon is 1/25,000 due to the use of the 3200 mil sight and the requirement for supplementary indexes every 1,000 mils. Also, since the bulk of the direct support missions are conducted by Bravo Battory, functions can be separated with relative ease. The chaek chart operator functions as the VCO. being checked by the primary chart operator. He utilizes a 1/25,000 pictomap with a different contour interval to compare altitule with the Fire Direction Officer.

Each Bathery has a computer assigned, with the Brave Battery computer also computing LVTH=6 data. He conducts the mission over the individual battorys: Conduct Of Fire net using the short phrace repeat back agatem (four phrases, followed by supplementary instructions such as nature of target, etc.). Before the mission's initial rounds are fired, the Battery reports chart azimuth, range, and deflethor. If danger close is involved, all data is manually checked, with corrections being relayed to the Battery, FADAC data is fired primarily. On unobserved fires FADAC data is also primary, with a manual check at Battalion Fire Direction Center and the Battery firing chart. Local forms are in use to record the additional data derived. FADAC is also used whenever possible for replot, target recall etc. Met messages are worked with FADAC and a manual check is made, GFT settings for all eight octants are derived and sont to the Battery four (4) times a day.

Due to the detailed records required, the Watch NGO has a variety of duties. As missions are received, from whatever source, he records the data in his log. Missions from higher headquarters are received win hot line to the Regimental Fire Direction Center or from the Regimental Fire Direction net. Reinforcing missions are received over "quick fire" nets from Direct Support Battalions, Reconnaissance, Combined Action Platoens, Quang Tri and Domg Ha Combat Base. As computers comlete missions, the computer sheets are forwarded to him for the FIREP and log entry. He also compiles all regular reports, monitors check fires and the issuance of SAV-A-PLANES.



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The Fire Direction Officer and the Operations Chief are fully responsible for all functions of the Fire Direction Center. Each checks against the other with the Fire Direction Officer determining the method of attack for each target. The situation map is maintained current by frequent liaison to supported units. Clearance, although the responsibility of the requesting unit, must be pursued aggressively due to the complexity of the boundaries in the castern A.O. of the Division. All special instructions, frag orders, firing errors or any other unusual occurence are recorded in the Watch Officer's log.

The most significant problems encountered have concerned communications and limison/clearance. Efficient, dependable radio communication is necessary particularly due to the great volume of traffic in the Fire Direction Center.







PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. 1-28 February: 4th Battalion, 12th Marines (Rein)-General Support of 3d Marine Division.

2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS SUPPORTED

During the month of February, the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines participated in the following operations: HIGHRISE (1-28 Feb); KENTUCKY (1-28 Feb); SCOTLAND II (1-28 Feb); MARSHALL MOUNTAIN (1-28 Feb).

3. FIRE SUPPORT PROVIDED

a. Recapitulation of Fire Missions for 155 Howitzers:

TARGET	<u>MISSIONS</u>	TOTAL ROUNDS
Confirmed Acquired Preparation Special Purpose Counterbattery Grand Total HE Total Illum Total MU49 Total WP Total Smoke Total	133 1,428 33 66 22 1,682	5,178 9,484 476 1,163 712 17,013 14,305 1,193 1,190 320

b. Recapitualation of Fire Missions for 105 Howitzers:

TARGET	MISSIONS	Station of	TOTAL ROUNDS
Confirmed Acquired Preparation Special Purpose Grand Total HE Total Illum Total WP Total Mully Total	19 791 3 44 857		1,177 6,664 125 234 8,200 7,446 551 153 50





PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- 1. The following significant entries are excerpts from the S-3 Work Sheet (Record of Missions), and the Fire Direction Officer's Log Book:
- 010800H 4/12 continues direct supports of Combined Action Platoons operating in the vicinity of DONG HA Combat Base.
- 031900H 4/12 establishes a quick fire channel with 3/12 for a more rapid response in support of units operating in the DMZ.
- 071552H "M" fired 4 WP and 43 HE on 2 NVA in treeline at 058715 for recon, resulting in 10 secondaries.
- 071600H 4/12 assumes responsibility for direct support of "F" Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Armor (1st Bde, 5th-Mech.), operating in the vicinity of CAM LO.
- 081510H "M" fired 2 WP and 31 HE on bunkers at 105758 for a Division AO resulting in 1 bunker destroyed, 1 damaged, and 1 secondary.
- 092115H "K" fired 48 ICM and 80 HE on 30 NVA at 211772 for 12th Marines observer achieving an excellent coverage of target area.
- 101455H "L" fired 2 WP and 4 HE on smoke on a hill at 879477 for QUANG TRI Combat Base, resulting in 1 small secondary and 1 small arms secondary.
- 101700H 4/12 assumes responsibility for direct support of a provisional rifle company and 1 regular Marine Company whose mission is to protect DONG HA City.
- 112230H "K" and "KD" fired 278 Illumination for the 1st Amtrac Bn. in contact at 250650, achieving a continuous Illumination of the target area.





- 121600H 4/12 assumes responsibility for direct support of "C" Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Armor (1st Bde, 5th Mech.), operating in vicinity of DONG HA.
- 121600H 4/12 assumes responsibility for direct support of Landing Zone PEDRO, now occupied by 5th Bn., 4th Artillery (1st Bde, 5th Mech.).
- 131300H "KD" displaced to C-1 and joined "K" Battery.
- 131300H "M" displaced three (3) M109's to DONG HA. They will have a call sign of "MD".
- 131907H "M" fired 15 HE and 45 ICM. Bravo fired 25 HE and 50 FC at 108747 for U.S. Army AO, resulting in 1 bunker destroyed and 2 KIA's.
- 140725H "B" fired 1 WP and 60 HE on a prep fire for the 2nd Bn., 3d Marines on 105614, resulting in 1 secondary.
- 141635H "M" fired 7 WP and 79 HE on 10 NVA at 117750 for U.S. Army AO, resulting in 3 bunkers destroyed, 1-50 caliber position destroyed and 1 secondary.
- 141907H "K" fired 2 WP and 12 HE on NVA and bunkers at 12387458 for the 2nd Bn., 4th Marines, resulting in 10 entrances destroyed, 10 fighting holes destroyed, and 20 bunkers damaged.
- 142147H "K" fired 6 HE and 80 ICM on 10-15 NVA at 247797 for 12th Marines observer achieving an excellent coverage of target area.
- 161200H 4/12 conducted a MED CAP visit to MON GIAN Dispensary at CAM LO. Seventy-three (73) Vietnamese Nationals were treated.
- 162100H 4/12 takes over operational control of 2nd Provisional 155 (Towed) Battery.
- 171205H "M" and "K" fired 68 HE and "B" fired 139 HE on 7-8

 NVA for a recon team in contact at 087658, resulting in 3 KIA's.





- 171633H "B" fired 3 WP and 175 HE for a recon team in contact at 086661, resulting in 2 bunkers destroyed.
- 171933H "K" fired 1 WP and 67 HE on bunkers and NVA at 248802 for a 12th Marines AO, resulting in 2 bunkers destroyed and 2 secondaries.
- 172000H 4/12 takes over operational control of "C" Battery, 1/12.
- 181200H 4/12 turns over operational control of "B" and "C" Battery, and 2nd Provisional Battery to 1/12.
- 181450H 4/12 receives a letter from the Commanding Officer, 12th Marines, commending them for a job well done.
- 181905H "K" fired 13 WP and 78 HE on a NVA flag at 245776 for a 12th Marines AO, resulting in 1 secondary.
- 191518H "K" fired 2 WP and 24 HE on a bunker complex at 158756 for a 12th Marines AO, resulting in 1 secondary.
- 201132H "K" fired 55 HE and 4 ICM on an active 30 caliber Machine Gun and bunkers at 215798 for U.S. Army AO, resulting in 1 bunker partially destroyed, 1 hooch destroyed and 20 meters of trenchline destroyed.
- 201200H 4/12 turned over operational control of the 2nd Platoon, 1st Armored Amphibian Company to 1/12.
- 211312H "K" fired 10 WP and 8 HE on an ammunition cache at 252765 for a 12th Marines AO, resulting in 1 secondary.
- 211500H "K" fired 19 WP and 16 H E on an amnunition cache at 250785 for a 12th Marines AO, resulting in 2 second-aries.
- 211920H "K" fired 2 WP, 2 ICM and 148 HE on 4-8 NVA at 240797 for a U.S. Army AO, resulting in 2 KIA, 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 secondaries, 2 huts destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged and 40 meters of trenchline damaged.
- 230750H "K" fired 3 WP, 25 H E, and 223 ICM on NVA in open at 280761 for 1st Amtrac Bn., achieving an excellent coverage of target.



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- 250425H "L" roceived 4 rounds of incoming rockets.
- 251408H "L" fired 36 HE on 8 NVA at 973615 for the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, resulting in 1 bunker destroyed, and 1 probable KIA.
- 251453H "M" received 9 rounds of incoming rockets.
- 251625H "L" received 5 rounds of incoming rockets.
- 251728H "M" received 6 rounds of incoming rockets.
- 251800H 4/12 assumes mission of reinforcing the 5th Bn., 4th Artillery. (1st Bde, 5th Mech.), in eastern portion of DMA.
- 252225H "MD" fired 175 HE on a VC mortar company at 258576 for DONG HA Combat Base, resulting in 1 large secondary.
- 261250H "M" and "K" fired 87 HE on enemy activity at 174765 for 12th Marines AO, resulting in 2 bunkers destroyed.
- 261509H "L" fired 1 WP and 40 HE on an enemy concentration at 967617 for the 1st Bn., 4th Marines, resulting in 2 secondaries, 4 probable KIA and 2 confirmed KIA's.
- 261700H "K" fired 160 HE on new bunkers and fighting holes at 253816 for 12th Marines AO, resulting in 1 bunker destroyed, 2 secondaries, and 3 bunkers heavily damaged.
- 271241H "MD" fired 2 WP and 20 HE on a suspected enemy position at 207473 for a recon team, resulting in second-daries and 1 fire.
- 281400H "M" fired 2 WP and 33 HE on bunkers and recent enemy activity at 077705 for 12th Marines AO, resulting in 1 bunker destroyed.
- 281645H "L" fired 2 WP and 126 HE on NVA, 20 bunkers, and 2-50 caliber positions at 970622 for a Division AO, resulting in (1) 50 caliber position destroyed, 7 bunkers destroyed and 1 secondary,
- 281925H "L" fired 2 WP and 70 HE on an enemy bunker complex at 968622 for a Division AO, resulting in 1 secondary.





ADMINC

For Bly Personnel May Har

ZNY ESEEE
R 181450Z FEB 69
FM THELFTH MARINES
TO FOURTH BN TWELFTH MARINES
BT
UNCLAS E F T 0

HAS BEEN SENT

CCN 1777

ADJ

UNCLAS E F T O
OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY
1. DURING THE MONTHS THAT THE 1ST BATTALION WAS ABSENT ON
TAYLUR COMMON YOUR BATTALION PERFORME MANY EXTRA DUTIES IN
AN OUTSTANDING MANNER. YOU PICKED UP THE OPCON OF SEVERAL
ADDITIONAL UNITS. AN AGGRESSIVE PROGRAM OF INSPECTIONS FOLLOWED BY SPIRITED ASSISTANCE ASSUMED THESE OPCON UNITS THAT
THEY WOULD BE WELL-CARED FOR IN THE ABSENCE OF THEIR PARENT
COMMANDS. EXCELLENT RESULTS WERE A OHIEVED. IN NO CASE DID
A UNIT PLACED OPCON OF YOUR COMMAND FAIL TO RECEIVE THE PERSUNAL CONTACT, SUPPORT, AND SERVICE OF YOUR STAFF.
2. YOUR FDC ASSUMED A COMPLEX DIRECT SUPPORT ROLE IN ADDITION
TO THAT OF GENERAL SUPPORT. THOUGH YOU ARE NEITHER MANNED.
EQUIPPED NOR ORGANIZED FOR THIS ADDED TASK. YOU A CCOMPLISHED
THIS ROLE IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER. THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION
AND HELPFULNESS YOU UNIT DEMONSTRATED WAS OUTSTANDING AND

PAGE TWO YILE UNCLASE F T O
FA VORABLY NOTED BY SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.

3 THE MEN OF YOUR COMMAN CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD OF THEIR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND "CAN DO" ATTITUDE.

4 COLONEL PETER J. MULRONEY SENDS.

BI

TOR 181500Z/COUR/RDN

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