

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion (Rein), 13th Marines
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
APO San Francisco, California 96602

0014659

6/AN/ceb
5750
4 August 1968
Ser: 008A12268

SECRET (Unclassified Upon Removal of Enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

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

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFACO 5750.3

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

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

A. Novak
A. NOVAK

Copy to:
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Commanding Officer, 11th Marines
Commanding Officer, 1st Field Artillery Group

LCN: 00827

COPY 1 OF 14 COPIES

SECRET

1ST BN/13TH MAR

CMD CHRON

JULY 1968

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Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
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Command Chronology

1 July 1968 to 31 July 1968

Index

- Part I - Organizational Data
- Part II - Narrative Summary
- Part III - Sequential Listing of Significant Events
- Part IV - Supporting Documents - NONE

SECRET

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Commander

LtCol A. NOVAK

Subordinate UnitsAdministrative ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th Marines1stLt J. W. HUGHES, Jr.
1July68 to 4July68
Capt W. G. KEMPLE
5July68 to 23July68
Capt J. B. ZIMMERMANN
24July68 to 31July68

5th 155 Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)

Maj E. B. BEALL

Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

Capt H. D. SULLIVAN

Operational ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th Marines1stLt J. W. HUGHES, Jr.
1July68 to 4July68
Capt W. G. KEMPLE
5July68 to 23July68
Capt J. B. ZIMMERMANN
24July68 to 31July68

Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Capt A. J. SWETT

Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Capt J. D. DEMPSEY

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1stLt R. L. SAUNDERS, II

2 155mm How TD, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines

Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines

Capt C. G. BLASE

6 155mm How TD, 1st Field Artillery Group

2. LocationHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th MarinesHill 55, Da Nang, RVN
1July68 to 6July68
An Hoa, RVN
7July68 to 20July68
Hill 55, Da Nang, RVN
21July68

Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Cao Doi, RVN
22July68 to 31July68

Thuong Duc, RVN
1July68 to 4July68
Hill 37, Danang, RVN
5July68
Hill 55, Danang, RVN
6July68
Nung Son, RVN
7July68 to 11July68
LZ Duck, An Hoa, RVN
12July68 to 20July68
Hill 55, Danang, RVN
21July68
Phu Bai, RVN
22July68 to 31July68

Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

LZ Pelican, Happy Valley, RVN
1July68 to 6July68
Hill 55, Danang, RVN
7July68 to 23July68
Phu Gia, RVN
24July68 to 31July68

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Thuong Duc, RVN
1July68 to 4July68
Hill 55, Danang, RVN
5July68 to 12July68
An Hoa, RVN
13July68 to 14July68
LZ Swan, RVN
15July68 to 19July68
Hill 55, Danang, RVN
20July68 to 21July68
Cao Doi, RVN
22July68 to 31July68

2 155mm Hows, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines

LZ Duck, RVN
14July68 to 19July68

Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines

Phu Bai, RVN
25July68 to 30July68

5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)(-)(Rain)

LZ Sharon, Quang Tri, RVN

1st Platoon, 5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)

Cam Lo (C-3)

"8" Platoon

Ca Lu

2nd Platoon, 5th 155 Gun Battery

Camp Carroll, RVN
26July68 to 31July68

Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

Camp Carroll, RVN

6 155mm How TD, 1st Field Artillery Group

2-Phu Bai
2-Cao Doi
2-Phu Gia

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Maj J. B. CANTLENY

S-1

Capt B. D. NICHOLAS

S-2

1stLt H. E. WASSON, Jr.
1 July 68 to 14 July 68
2ndLt J. R. RYAN
15 July 68 to 31 July 68

S-3

Maj G. R. HOUGHIN

S-4

Capt P. M. BURTON

4. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Hq Btry, 1st Battalion, 13th Mar	14	159	3	3
Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Mar	8	105	0	2
Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Mar	9	120	0	2
Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Mar	3	65	0	2
2 155mm How TD, 4th Battalion, 11th Mar	0	14	0	0
Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Mar	8	111	0	2
5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)(-)(Rein)	10	188	0	5
Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines	6	128	0	2
6 155mm How TD	0	41	0	0

PART II

COMMANDERS NARRATIVE

During the period 1-31 July 1968, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines participated in Operations MANELUKE THRUST, PHASE II, MANELUKE THRUST/POCAHONTAS FOREST, MANELUKE THRUST, NORTHERN PHASE and HOUSTON IV in direct support of the 26th Marines.

On 3 and 4 July 1968, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired numerous preparation fires prior to 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines operations in the vicinity of LZ Hawk, Happy Valley. These fires provided the infantry with valuable assistance in the securing of assigned objectives.

At 040830H July 1968, Battery "A", and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines closed station at the Thuang Duc Fire Base and proceeded to Hill 37, Danang, where they remained overnight, prior to completion of the move to Hill 55 on 5 July 1968. Both firing units went into position with a mission of reinforcing the fires of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines.

On 6 July 1968, the fire base at LZ Pelican, Happy Valley, was closed out and Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was helilifted to Hill 55, Danang. All 6 105mm Howitzers were programmed into 1st Force Service Regiment for routine 6 month maintenance and, upon completion, returned to Hill 55.

At 0900, 7 July 1968, the command group of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from Hill 55 and at 0930 7 July established an operating Fire Direction Center at An Hoa. At 071200H 1968, OPCON of Battery "C" and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines passed to 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines. At 071500H 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines commenced a helilift from Hill 55 and at 1900 completed occupation of position at Nung Son Fire Base in the An Hoa Valley. The battery had the mission to support 1st Battalion, 26th Marines as they conducted wide ranging operations throughout the valley.

Operation MANELUKE THRUST/POCAHONTAS FOREST commenced 071000H July 1968.

On 8 July 1968, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 497 rounds in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines as they conducted operations in the vicinity of Objective Victor, An Hoa Valley.

At 0730 on 12 July 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines commenced displacement from the Nung Son Fire Base to the fire base at LZ Duck, An Hoa Valley; displacement was completed 1400.

At 141200H July 1960, 2 155mm Howitzers (Towed) from 4th Battalion, 11th Marines were chopped to 1st Battalion, 13th Marines. These two howitzers were helilifted into LZ Duck, An Hoa Valley at 0000 15 July and went into position adjacent to Battery "A". Their fires were controlled from Battery "A" Fire Direction Center and were used to reinforce the fires of the 105mm battery and to provide longer range fires to support subsequent operations.

1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines at 150500H. At 151130H Mortar Battery was helilifted into a fire base at LZ Swan, An Hoa Valley, and commenced providing fires for the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.

At 0000, 16 July 1960, a small command group from Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced to Battery "A" position area and established a forward battalion FDC. This forward FDC returned to An Hoa on 17 July 1960 to plan impending move.

On 19 July 1960, Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was helilifted out of LZ Swan and moved to Hill 55, Danang.

On 19 July 1960, the 2 155mm Howitzers (Towed) were extracted from LZ Duck by helicopter; OPCON of these guns was passed from the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines to the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines at 191200H.

At 191710H, 3 guns from Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines were extracted from LZ Duck, An Hoa Valley and flown to Hill 55, Danang. The remainder of Battery "A" was displaced from LZ Duck to Hill 55 on 20 July 1960.

At 1230 20 July 1960, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines Command Post displaced from An Hoa and arrived at Hill 55, Danang at 1600. At 201200H, the mission of the battalion was changed from direct support of the 26th Marines to reinforcing the fires of 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.

At 211200H, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines from 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.

At 0030, 22 July 1960, Headquarters Battery, Battery "A" and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines commenced displacement from Hill 55, Danang to Cao Doi (Phu Loc area). All units closed destination by 1000 with Battery "A" occupying a prepared position in the Phu Bai area and Headquarters Battery and Mortar Battery occupying positions at Cao Doi. At 221000H, OPCON of the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was assumed by the 1st Field Artillery Group and the battalion was assigned a mission of reinforcing the fires of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.

On 24 July 1960, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from Hill 55, Danang and went into position at the Phu Gia Sand Spit.

At 251200H, July 1960, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was assigned a mission of direct support of the 26th Marines. In addition, the battalion was tasked to support convoys, reconnaissance inserts and Combined Action Platoons within the 26th Marines Area of Operations.

At 251200H, July 1960, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.

On 29 July 1960, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 31 rounds, including 2 COMBAT, in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. 2 enemy KIA were credited to the artillery during this action.

At 301200H, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines passed OPCON of Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines to the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.

Ammunition expended for the month of July is as follows:

<u>MISSIONS</u>				<u>AMMUNITION</u>			
<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&I</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
143	1036	255	2232	9630	2149	815	12,602

Friendly Casualties during the month: 0

Enemy Casualties during the month credited to artillery:

KIA(C)
2

PART III

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 3-4 July 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired numerous Prop Fines in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.
- 4 July 1968 Battery "A", and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines move from Thuong Duc to Hill 55, Danang.
- 6 July 1968 Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines moves from LZ Pelican, Happy Valley to Hill 55.
- 7 July 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines Command Group moves from Hill 55 to An Hoa.
- OPCON of Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines passes to 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.
- Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines moves from Hill 55 to Nung Son Fire Base, An Hoa Valley.
- Operation MAMELUKE THRUST/POCLHONTAS FOREST commenced 071000H.
- 8 July 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 497 rounds in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines operation in An Hoa Valley.
- 12 July 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines moves from Nung Son Fire Base to LZ Pelican Fire Base, An Hoa Valley.
- 14 July 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of 2 155mm Howitzers from 4th Battalion, 11th Marines. These howitzers were positioned with Battery "A" at the LZ Pelican Fire Base.
- 15 July 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines from 3d Battalion, 11th Marines. Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines moved to LZ Swan Fire Base, An Hoa Valley, in order to support 3d Battalion, 26th Marines operations in that area.
- 16 July 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines Command Group moves from An Hoa to LZ Pelican Fire Base.
- 19 July 1968 2 155mm Howitzers extracted from LZ Pelican and OPCON passed from 1st Battalion, 13th Marines to 4th Battalion, 11th Marines. 3 Guns from Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines moved from LZ Pelican to Hill 55.
- Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines moved to Hill 55.

20 July 1968 Remainder of Battery "A" moved to Hill 55.
1st Battalion, 13th Marines Command Post moved from An Hoa to Hill 55; battalion assigned mission of reinforcing fires of 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.

21 July 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines.

22 July 1968 Headquarters Battery, Battery "A" and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from Hill 55 to Cao Doi. The battalion mission was to reinforce the fires of 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.
OPCON of 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed by 1st Field Artillery Group.

24 July 1968 Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines moved from Hill 55 to Phu Gia Sand Spit.

25 July 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assigned a mission of direct support of the 26th Marines.
1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.

29 July 1968 Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines credited with 2 enemy KIA as they fired in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.

30 July 1968 OPCON of Battery "D" passed from 1st Battalion, 13th Marines to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.