

HEADQUARTERS
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3/GRH/ceb
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Ser: 009A 26868

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 26th Marines

Subj: Operation Houston V, After Action Report (U)

Encl: (1) Artillery Support during Operation Houston V

1. Paragraph 7a (Artillery Support) to the 26th Marines After Action Report for Operation Houston V, is forwarded herewith as enclosure (1).

2. This letter is unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

A. Novak
A. NOVAK

Copy to: CO, 11th Marines

1ST BN/13TH MAR

(4/4, Opn Houston V)

25 JULY - 12 SEP 1968

LCN: 00846

COPY 13 OF 13 COPIES

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TAB-A

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7A. Artillery Support

(1) Units Providing

- (a) Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
25 July 1968 to 12 September 1968
- (b) Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
25 July 1968 to 12 September 1968
- (c) Battery "C"(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
25 July 1968 to 12 September 1968
- (d) Mortar Battery(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
25 July 1968 to 12 September 1968
- (e) Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines
25 July 1968 to 30 July 1968
- (f) Reinforcing fires were received from the 1st Field
Artillery Group during the reporting period.

(2) Missions Fired

<u>Observed</u>	<u>Unobserved/Intelligence</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
498	7266	7764

(3) Ammunition Expended

<u>105</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
23,233	5692	6232	35,157

(4) Highlights of Missions Fired

(a) On 29 July 1968, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 31 rounds, including 2 COFFIN, in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. Two (2) enemy KIA were credited to the artillery during this action.

(b) On 5 August 1968, Mortar Battery(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 41 rounds on an enemy position in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines; one secondary explosion resulted from these fires.

(c) On 5 August 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 364 rounds in support of elements of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines. Three (3) secondary explosions were reported as a result of these fires.

(d) On 6 August 1968, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 82 rounds at 15 enemy troops reported by 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. Surveillance by the observer for this mission

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SECRET

credited the artillery with one bunker destroyed and 5 probable enemy KIA.

(c) On 19 August 1968, Battery "C"(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired at 30 enemy reported by 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. Two (2) enemy KIA were credited to the artillery for this action.

(f) On 20 August 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 108 rounds in support of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines; one (1) enemy KIA was credited to the artillery during this action.

(g) On 21 August 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired at 6 enemy reported by a reconnaissance unit; four (4) enemy KIA probable were reported as a result of this section.

(h) On 22 August 1968, Mortar Battery(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 87 155mm rounds on a suspect enemy location. A CAP unit reported 4 secondary explosions as a result of these fires.

(i) On 26 August 1968, Mortar Battery(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 42 rounds on an enemy location; two secondary explosions were reported.

(j) On 30 August 1968, Battery "C"(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired at a suspect mortar position and received a surveillance of one bunker destroyed and one secondary explosion.

(k) On 9 September 1968, Mortar Battery(Rein), 1st Battalion 13th Marines fired in support of a 3d Battalion, 26th Marines element that observed 40 enemy. A subsequent search of the area revealed 7 enemy KIA which were credited to the artillery as well as 13 probable KIA.

(5) Summary of Artillery Support

(a) The artillery support provided by the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines can be characterized as being close, continuous, rapid, accurate and flexible.

(b) Throughout the reporting period, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, in addition to supporting the 26th Marines fired numerous missions in support of Combined Action Platoon units located within the 26th Marines AO. Additionally, numerous missions were fired in support of reconnaissance units that had been inserted into the area of operations, preparation and on-call fires for Special Forces units and missions to support a Vietnamese Junk Force Unit.

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(c) A significant amount of unobserved missions were fired on intelligence targets reported by reconnaissance units, 26th Marines Fire Support Coordination Center and Phu Lac District Headquarters. Results of these fires were generally unknown, due to lack of follow up ground operations, however, a Chieu Hoi reported that though the H&I program was not effective, surprise fire on target fire produced excellent results. This Chieu Hoi reported that on 12 August, a TOT fired by 1st Battalion, 13th Marines resulted in 35 enemy KIA and numerous WIA. Although these casualties could not be confirmed, it is believed the surprise fire provided by this battalion produced excellent results and contributed immeasurably to the successful accomplishment of the overall mission.

(d) Medium and heavy artillery support was provided by the 1st Field Artillery Group during the reporting period.

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