

UNCLASSIFIED

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

6/AN/ceb
5750
4 September 1968
Ser: 00254A0968

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0014792

~~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 August 1968 to 31 August 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 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-(5)
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division-(1)
Commanding Officer, 11th Marines-(1)
Commanding Officer, 1st Field Artillery Group-(1)
S-3, 1stBn, 13thMar (1)
S&C, 1stBn, 13thMar (1)

1STBN/13THMAR

CMD CHRON

~~SECRET~~

AUG 1968

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Command Chronology
1 August 1968 to 31 August 1968
Index

Part I -Organizational Data

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Part IV -Supporting Documents -NONE

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2. LocationHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th Marines

Cao Doi, RVN

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

Phu Bai, RVN

Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion,
13th Marines

Phu Gia, RVN

Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion,
13th MarinesCao Doi, RVN
1Aug68 to 26Aug68
Rockorusher Site,
Cao Doi, RVN
27Aug68 to 31Aug68
3 Mortars-Hai Van Pass, RVN

2-155 Howitzer (SP)

Cao Doi, RVN
18Aug68 to 26Aug68
Rockorusher Site
Cao Doi, RVN
27Aug68 to 31Aug683. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Maj J. B. CANTIENY

S-1

Capt B. D. NICHOLAS

S-2

1stLt J. R. RYAN

S-3

Maj G. R. HOUGHIN

S-4

Capt P. M. BURTON
1Aug68 to 7Aug68
1stLt M. C. BURTON
8Aug68 to 31Aug684. Average Monthly Strength

	USMC		USM	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
HqBtry, 1stBn, 13thMar	14	170	3	3
Btry "A", 1stBn, 13thMar	8	113	0	2
Btry "C", (Rein), 1stBn, 13thMar	7	105	0	2
Mortar Btry, 1stBn, 13thMar	4	70	0	2
5th 155 Gun Btry (SP)(-)(Rein)	10	190	0	4
Btry "K", 4thBn, 12thMar	5	135	0	3
6 155 How (TD), 1st F&G	0	41	0	0
2 155 How (SP), 4thBn, 11thMar	1	18	0	0

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Part I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Commander

LtCol A. NOVAK

Subordinate UnitsAdministrative ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th MarinesCapt J. B. ZIMMERMANN
1Aug68 to 22Aug68
Capt M. E. POPELKA
23Aug68 to 31Aug68

5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

Maj E. B. BEALL
1Aug68 to 6Aug68
Capt T. W. STEELE
7Aug68 to 8Aug68
Maj W. M. STEPHENS
9Aug68 to 31Aug68

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

Capt H. D. SULLIVAN
1Aug68 to 22Aug68
Capt J. B. ZIMMERMANN
23Aug68 to 31Aug68Operational ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th MarinesCapt J. B. ZIMMERMANN
1Aug68 to 22Aug68
Capt M. E. POPELKA
23Aug68 to 31Aug68

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

Capt A. J. SWETT

Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Capt J. D. DEMPSEY

Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion,
13th Marines1stLt R. L. SAUNDERS I
1Aug68 to 23Aug68
1stLt R. P. CIPRIANI
24Aug68 to 31Aug68

6-155 Howitzers TD, 1st Field Artillery Group

2 155 Howitzers(SP), 4th Battalion, 11th Marines 1stLt CHAVEZ

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Narrative Summary

During the period 1-31 August 1968, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines participated in Operation HOUSTON V under operational control of 1st Field Artillery Group and in direct support of the 26th Marines.

On 3 August 1968, Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 60 rounds on enemy movement in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.

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.

On 5 August 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 258 rounds in support of an element of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines that was in contact; two secondary explosions resulted from these fires. Approximately one hour later, Battery "A" fired 108 rounds on an enemy force; outstanding coverage of target was reported with one secondary explosion.

On 6 August 1968, Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 82 rounds at 15 enemy troops reported by 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. Surveillance by the observer for this mission credited the artillery with one bunker destroyed and 5 probable enemy KIA's.

On 12 August 1968, Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 114 rounds at 15 enemy reported by 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.

On 16 August 1968, a 155 How (TD) assigned to Mortar Battery, (Rein) 1st Battalion, 13th Marines experienced a fuze quick premature burst approximately 10 meters from the muzzle of the howitzer; four friendly WIA's resulted from this round.

At 180155H August 1968, an enemy force of unknown strength attacked the Mortar Battery position in vicinity of Cao Doi peninsula. The attack was initiated with approximately 80-100 82mm mortar rounds, followed immediately by sapper attacks on defensive position, communications facilities, and command and control facilities. A reaction force engaged the enemy force as they were departing the position area. Seven personnel of Mortar Battery and 2 OPCON personnel from 1st Field Artillery Group were killed in this action and one 155mm How (TD) was severely damaged. Seven (7) enemy KIA were located within the position area after the action was complete. Intelligence received subsequent to the attack indicated the enemy suffered an additional 5 KIA and 8 WIA during this action, however, enemy casualties for the month do not reflect this as this information could not be confirmed.

On 18 August 1968, Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 85 rounds at active enemy mortars in support of a CAP unit within the area of operations.

On 18 August 1968, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of 2 155mm How (SP) from 4th Battalion, 11th Marines. They went into position at the Mortar Battery (Rein) position area.

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On 19 August 1968, Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 40 rounds at 30 VC in the open reported by 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. Two (2) enemy KIA were credited to the artillery for this action.

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.

On 21 August 1968, a mortar round from a friendly 81mm mortar unit dropped short and landed in the position area.

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

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

On 25 August 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 173 rounds in support of a US Army element prior to entry into their operational area.

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

On 28 August 1968, Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from their position near Cao Doi Peninsula and went into position four-thousand meters west in the vicinity of the Rockcrusher Site, Cao Doi.

On 30 August 1968, Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired rounds at a suspect mortar position. Surveillance for this mission included one bunker destroyed and one secondary explosion.

At 311200H August 1968, OPCON of the two 155mm How (SP) passed from 1st Battalion, 13th Marines to 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.

Throughout the reporting period 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired forty-six missions and expended 722 rounds in support of Combined Action Platoon units. In addition, numerous missions were fired in support of reconnaissance units that were inserted into the area of operations, preparation and on-call fired for Special Forces units and missions in support of a Junk Force.

Ammunition expended during the month of August is as follows:

<u>MISSIONS</u>			<u>AMMUNITION</u>			
<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
343	4669	5012	16,127	3892	3844	23,863

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Friendly casualties during the month:

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIAE</u>	<u>WIAE</u>
ADCON UNITS	1	4	2
OPCON UNITS	8	9	9

Enemy casualties during the month credited to artillery:

<u>KIA(C)</u>	<u>KIA(P)</u>
11	9

Secondaries: 13

Bunkers Destroyed: 3

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Part III

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 3 August 1968 Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired in support of Combined Action Platoon.
- 5 August 1968 Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 41 rounds on enemy position with one secondary explosion reported.
- Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines who were in contact. Two secondary explosions resulted from the fires.
- 6 August 1968 Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 82 rounds in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. The observer reported one bunker destroyed and probable enemy KIA from these fires.
- 12 August 1968 Battery "G", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 114 rounds on 15 enemy in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines; excellent target coverage was reported.
- 16 August 1968 A 155mm How (TD), Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines experienced a fuze PD premature burst 10 meters from the muzzle of the weapon. Four (4) friendly WIA's resulted from this premature burst.
- 18 August 1968 Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines position area came under a coordinated mortar, RPG and ground attack. Sappers penetrated defensive wire and placed numerous satchel charges throughout the area. When the attack was over, Mortar Battery had incurred 9 friendly KIA's, 18 WIA's and one (1) 155mm How (TD) destroyed. The attack occurred at 0155 and at 0600, Mortar Battery fired counter-mortar fire in support of a local CAP unit. By 181300H, three M-30 Mortars and 2-155mm How (TD) were firing from the battery position.
- 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of 2 155mm How (TD) from 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.
- 19 August 1968 Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines were credited with 2 enemy KIA as they fired in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.
- 20 August 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines were credited with one (1) enemy KIA as they fired 108 rounds in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.

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21 August 1968 Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines position in the Hai Van Pass area received one round 81mm mortar which was fired by a friendly unit. One (1) KIA and four (4) WIA resulted from this erratic round.

Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was credited with four (4) probable enemy KIA as they fired in support of a reconnaissance insert.

22 August 1968 Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired numerous rounds on a suspect enemy position which resulted in four (4) large secondary explosions.

26 August 1968 Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 42 rounds on an enemy location; two secondary explosions were reported as a result of these fires.

Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired on a suspect enemy location and received a surveillance of 2 secondary explosions.

28 August 1968 Mortar Battery, (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from one firing position to another in the Cao Dai Peninsula Area.

30 August 1968 Battery "C", (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines received surveillance of one secondary explosion and one bunker destroyed as they fired in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.

31 August 1968 OPOON of 2 155mm How (SP) passed to 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.