

**SECRET**

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

6/AN/ceb  
5750  
3 October 1968  
Ser:0010A27968

**SECRET** (Unclassified Upon Removal of Enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
(2) Commanding Officer, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 September 1968 to 30 September 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFLacO 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 (4)  
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (1)  
Commanding Officer, 11th Marines (1)  
Commanding Officer, 1stFAG (1)

COPY 1 OF 13 COPIES

LCN: 00858

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1ST BATTALION 13TH MARINES

CMD CHRON

SEP 1968

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Command Chronology  
1 September 1968 to 30 September 1968  
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✓ TAB A: Artillery Support during Operation HOUSTON V

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**SECRET**Part I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Commander

LtCol A. NOVAK

Subordinate UnitsAdministrative ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,  
13th Marines

Capt M. E. POPELKA

5th 155 Gun Battery (SF)(Rein)

Maj W. M. STEPHANS

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

Capt J. B. ZIMMERMANN

Operational ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,  
13th Marines

Capt M. E. POPELKA

Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines  
1Sep68 to 2Sep68  
12Sep68 to 30Sep68

Capt A. J. SWETT

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

Capt J. D. DEMPSEY  
1Sep68 to 11Sep68  
1stLt A. L. HARDING  
12Sep68 to 30Sep68

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1stLt R. P. CIPRIANI

2. LocationHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion(Rein),  
13th MarinesCao Doi, RVN  
1Sep68 to 24Sep68  
Danang, RVN  
25Sep68 to 30Sep68

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

Phu Bai, RVN  
1Sep68 to 2Sep68  
N. Cantonment Area,  
Danang, RVN  
3Sep68 to 30Sep68

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

Phu Gia, RVN

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Rockcrusher Site,  
Cao Doi, RVN  
1Sep68 to 11Sep68**SECRET**

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Cac Dei, RVN  
 12Sep68 to 26Sep68  
 Phu Gia, RVN  
 27Sep68 to 30Sep68

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

Camp Carroll, RVN

5th 155 Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)

LZ SHARON, Quang Tri City

Battery Headquarters, 2nd Platoon

Camp Carroll

1st Platoon

Cam Lo (C-3)

3d Platoon

Thon Son Lam (Rock Pile)

8th Platoon

Ca Lu

### 3. Staff Officers

Executive Officers

Maj J. B. CANTIERY

S-1

Capt B. D. NICHOLAS

S-2

1stLt J. R. RYAN

S-3

Maj G. R. HOUGHIN

S-4

1stLt M. C. BUNTON

### 4. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
HqBtry, 1stBn, 13thMar	15	175	3	3
Btry "A", 1stBn, 13thMar	10	126	0	2
Btry "C", 1stBn, 13thMar	8	117	0	2
Mortar Btry, 1stBn, 13thMar	3	75	0	2
5th 155 Gun Btry (SP) (Rein)	9	195	0	6
Btry "K", 4thBn, 12thMar	5	137	0	3

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**SECRET**Part II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1-30 September 1968, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines participated in Operation HOUSTON V and OWEN MESA under operational control of the 1st Field Artillery Group and 11th Marines, in direct support of the 26th Marines.

On 3 September 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from their firing position near Phu Bai to the Northern Artillery Cantonment Area, Danang. This displacement was necessary in order to provide support to 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, who were assigned a new TAOR in the Danang area.

At 031800H September 1968, OPCON of Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was passed to 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.

At 042400H September 1968, OPCON of 1st Battalion(Rein), 13th Marines was passed from 1st Field Artillery Group to the 11th Marines.

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

At 120800H September 1968, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of Battery "A", from 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.

On 12 September 1968, 3 155mm Howitzers of Mortar Battery(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from Rockcrusher Site, Cao Doi, and moved to Hill 88, Phu Loc District, where they came under control of Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines. Mortar Battery(-) displaced to the Cao Doi area in the vicinity of the Battalion CP. At this time Mortar Battery had 3 M-30 mortars emplaced at the Hai Van Pass and 2 M-30 mortars, 1 107 howter and battery headquarters at Cao Doi. Battery "C", 1st Battalion(Rein), 13th Marines now consisted of 6 105mm howitzers and 5 155mm howitzers.

Operation HOUSTON V terminated on 12 September 1968.

On 15 September 1968, 2 M-30 mortars from Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines were displaced to Claymore Pass in support of an operation conducted by 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.

On 16 September 1968, one 107mm howter was emplaced at Claymore Pass with the 2 M-30 mortars. At this time Mortar Battery was emplaced at three location; 3 mortars at Hai Van Pass, 2 mortars and a howtar at Claymore Pass and battery headquarters at Cao Doi.

At 181420H September 1968, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines CP started receiving incoming mortar rounds. Between 1420 and 1600 hours a total of 40 rounds impacted in the vicinity of the CP, however, most of the rounds landed on the hillside between the CP at the bottom and an US Army battery that occupied the crest of the hill. One 82mm mortar round did impact

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at the entrance to the CI and wounded 1 man; two other personnel received minor shrapnel wounds. Counter fire was delivered by available Army and Marine artillery units and an airstrike was conducted which silenced the mortars.

On 18 September 1968, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines received approximately 100 incoming mortar rounds during the period 1500-1600 hours; minor damage and no casualties resulted from these rounds. Battery "C" returned fire, however, results were unknown. A convoy moving between Danang and Phu Bai was ambushed at approximately 1430 and the mortar attacks on 1st Battalion, 13th Marines CI, the US Army battery and Battery "C" were probably in conjunction with the enemy ambush at Claymore Pass.

At 181500H, September 1968, the Mortar Battery element positioned at Claymore Pass fired 18 rounds at an active mortar site; the surveillance for the mission included 3 bunkers and 2 mortars destroyed.

On 22 September 1968, three tubes from Battery "A" and Battery "C" were interchanged as a result of calibration data.

On 23 September 1968, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 93 rounds on an enemy village and received a surveillance of 15 houses and 5 bunkers destroyed, 2 secondary explosions and 20 enemy KIA probable.

At 240800H, September 1968, OPCON of 2 155mm howitzers passed from Battery "C", 1st Battalion(Rein), 13th Marines to 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.

On 25 September 1968, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines Command Post displaced from Cao Doi to the 35th Engineer Battalion (USA) area, Danang. The remainder of Headquarters Battery displaced from Cao Doi to the 11th Marines area, Danang, between 26 and 28 September 1968.

On 26 September 1968, a Counter Mortar Radar unit was dispatched by the 11th Marines to Claymore Pass in an attempt to locate enemy mortars that were harassing convoys and friendly positions. This unit, working in conjunction with the Mortar Battery element at Claymore Pass, became operational on 28 September 1968.

On 26 September 1968, Operation OWEN MESA was commenced by elements of the 26th Marines with 1st Battalion, 13th Marines in direct support.

Ammunition expended during the month of September is as follows:

<u>MISSIONS</u>			<u>AMMUNITION</u>		
<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>			
279	5558	5837	105 11,007	4.2 5029	155 2567
					<u>TOTAL</u> 18,603

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Friendly casualties during the month:

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIAE</u>	<u>WIANE</u>
0	0	2

Enemy losses during the month credited to 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

<u>KIA(C)</u>	<u>FIA(F)</u>
12	33

Secondaries: 2

Bunkers destroyed: 7

Mortars destroyed: 2

Sampans destroyed: 4

VC Huts destroyed: 15

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Part III  
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 3 September 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from Phu Bai to Danang.
- OPCON of Battery "A" passes from 1st Battalion, 13th Marines to 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.
- 4 September 1968 OPCON of 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed by 11th Marines.
- 9 September 1968 Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines credited with 7 enemy KIA and 13 probable as they fired in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.
- 12 September 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed OPCON of Battery "A" from 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.
- 3 155 How TD displaced from Mortar Battery(Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines position and went into position at Hill 88 under control of Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines.
- Operation HOUSTON V terminated.
- 15 September 1968 Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines dispatched 2 mortars to Claymore Pass to support a 3d Battalion, 26th Marines operation.
- 16 September 1968 Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines dispatched one 107mm howtar to Claymore Pass; position now consists of 2 M-30 mortars and one howtar.
- 18 September 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines receives 40-50 82mm mortar rounds in and around Command Post.
- Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines receives approximately 100 mortars rounds in and around position area.
- Mortar Battery element at Claymore Pass destroys 3 bunkers and 2 enemy mortars as counter fire is directed against enemy position.
- 22 September 1968 Battery "A" and Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines exchange 3 105mm howitzers.
- 23 September 1968 Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines receives credit for 20 probable enemy KIA as they fired in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.

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24 September 1968 Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines passed OI CON of 2 155mm howitzers to 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.

25 September 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines Co displaces from Cao Dai to Danang.

26 September 1968 Counter Mortar Radar unit emplaced at Claymore Pass.

Operation OWEN MESA commenced.

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