

SECRET

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

6/JBC/ceb
5750
9 Dec 1968
Ser: 0012A34468

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 General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 November 1968 to 30 November 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.

2. The command chronology of the 5th 155 Gun Battery, normally submitted as a supporting document, will be forwarded under separate cover upon receipt.

J. B. Cantlery
J. B. CANTLERY

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

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

Command Chronology
1 November 1968 to 30 November 1968

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NICOLLET BAY

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Part I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Commander

LtCol A. NOVAK
 1Nov68 - 15Nov68
 LtCol J. B. CANTIENY
 16Nov68 - 30Nov68

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

Capt M. E. POPELKA

5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

Maj W. M. STEPHANS

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

Capt A. J. SWETT

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

1stLt A. L. HARDING

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1stLt R. P. CIPRIANI

Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines

Capt R. K. PETERSON

Operational ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th Marines

Capt M. E. POPELKA

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

Capt A. J. SWETT

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

1stLt A. L. HARDING

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1stLt R. P. CIPRIANI

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

Danang, RVN

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

N. Cantonment Area
 Danang, RVN

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

Dai La Pass, RVN

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Enclosure (1)

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Hai Van Pass, RVN
1 Nov 68 - 14 Nov 68
Dai La Pass, RVN
15 Nov 68 - 30 Nov 68

Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines

Phu Bai, RVN
1 Nov 68 - 19 Nov 68
Danang, RVN
20 Nov 68 - 30 Nov 68

5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

Camp Carroll

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Lt Col J. B. CANTIENY
1 Nov 68 - 15 Nov 68

S-1

Capt B. D. NICHOLAS

S-2

1st Lt J. R. RYAN

S-3

Maj G. R. HOUGHIN

S-4

1st Lt M. C. BUNTON

4. Average Monthly Strength

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
Hq Btry, 1st Bn, 13th Mar	16	163	2	4
Btry "A", 1st Bn, 13th Mar	8	126	0	2
Btry "C", 1st Bn, 13th Mar	9	131	0	2
Mortar Btry, 1st Bn, 13th Mar	3	85	0	2
5th 155 Gun Btry (SP)(Rein)	9	178	0	7
Btry "K", 4th Bn, 13th Mar	4	119	0	3

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Enclosure (1)

Part II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1-30 November 1968, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, under the operational control of 11th Marines, provided direct support to the 26th Marines.

Operation NICOLLET BAY began at 071800H November 1968.

On 8 November, 2 105mm howitzers of Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from the Northern Artillery Cantonment Area, Danang, to the Hill 190 Complex in order to provide extended range support to the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.

On 11 November 1968, Battery "A" fired 16 rounds in support of an element of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. A subsequent search of the area revealed 1 enemy KIA which was credited to the artillery.

Operation NICOLLET BAY terminated at 140800H November 1968.

At 141205H, November 1968, Mortar Battery (-), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from their position in the vicinity of Hai Van Pass and returned to their Dai La Pass position.

On 15 November 1968, Lieutenant Colonel J. B. CANTILNY relieved Lieutenant Colonel A. NOVAK as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

On 15 November 1968, the 2 105mm howitzers of Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines returned from Hill 190 to the Northern Artillery Cantonment Area.

On 20 November 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 450 rounds in support of the 11th Marines counter-rocket program. An observer from 1st Battalion, 26th Marines called a mission on an active rocket site and counter fire was directed immediately. A subsequent search of the area by the Rocket Site Inspection Team revealed that this counter fire was extremely accurate and caused the enemy to abandon the firing site, leaving behind 2 122mm rockets.

On 24 November 1968, Battery "C" and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines were identified as being part of the BLT 3/26 Task Organization; on 25 November, these units reported to the 26th Marines for planning purpose, in preparation for a mid-December activation for operations.

On 25 November 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 4 firecracker rounds in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines; 1 enemy

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KIA resulted from these fires which was credited to the artillery.

On 25 November 1968, Battery "C" fired 150 illumination rounds in support of a 1st Battalion, 26th Marines contact. These fires assisted the infantry unit in obtaining 2 enemy KIA and 1 AK47 captured.

On 26 November 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 258 rounds on enemy in the open, observed within 1st Battalion, 26th Marines area of operations. The artillery was credited with 10 enemy KIA and 22 enemy KIA probable as a result of these fires.

On 28 November 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 57 rounds of High Explosive and 230 rounds of illumination in support of a 1st Battalion, 26th Marines contact with approximately 20 enemy. A search of the area revealed 14 enemy KIA; 8 of which were credited to artillery.

Ammunition expended during the month of November is as follows:

<u>MISSIONS</u>			<u>AMMUNITION</u>		
<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
184	7379	7563	16,737	2967	19,704

Friendly casualties during the month:

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIAE</u>	<u>WIANE</u>
0	2	3

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

<u>KIA(C)</u>	<u>KIA(P)</u>
20	22

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Part III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 7 November 1968 Operation NICOLLET BAY commences
- 8 November 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaces 2 105mm Howitzers to Hill 190 to support 3d Battalion, 26th Marines operation.
- 11 November 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines credited with 1 enemy KIA as they fired in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.
- 14 November 1968 Operation NICOLLET BAY terminates.
- Mortar Battery (-) 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from Hai Van Pass to Dai La Pass.
- 15 November 1968 Lieutenant Colonel J. B. CANTIENY relieved Lieutenant Colonel A. NOVAK as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines.
- Two 105mm Howitzers, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines returned to Northern Artillery Cantonment Area.
- 20 November 1968 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired numerous rounds on an active rocket site within the 26th Marines area of operations.
- 24 November 1968 Battery "C" and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines report for BLT planning to 26th Marines.
- 25 November 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines credited with 1 enemy KIA as they fired in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.
- Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired numerous illumination rounds in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines contact.
- 26 November 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines was credited with 10 enemy KIA and 22 probable KIA as they fired 258 rounds in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.
- 28 November 1968 Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines credited with 8 enemy KIA as they fired 287 rounds in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.

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

3/GRH/ceb
3000

18 Nov 1968

Ser: 0011A32467

SECRET

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

Subj: Operation NICOLET BAY, After Action Report (U)

Encl: (1) Artillery Support during Operation NICOLET BAY

1. Paragraph 7A (Artillery Support) to the 26th Marines After Action Report for Operation NICOLET BAY, 7-14 November, is forwarded herewith as enclosure (1).

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

J. B. Cantrany
J. B. CANTRANY

Copy: CG, 9th MAB
CO, 11th Marines

1ST BN/1ST MAR

COMBAT REPORT OPN NICOLET BAY

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TAB-A

7-14 NOV 1968

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18 Nov 1968

7A. Artillery Support

(1) Units Providing

- (a) Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
- (b) Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
- (c) Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
- (d) Reinforcing fires-11th Marines

(2) Missions Fired during the operation

<u>OBSERVED</u>	<u>UNOBSERVED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
31	1027	1058

(3) Ammunition Expended

105	4.2	81mm
1957	1050	4007

(4) Highlights of Missions Fired and Summary of Artillery Support

(a) On 11 November 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired on 3 enemy moving away from a village; 1 enemy KIA was credited to the artillery for these fires.

(b) The majority of the fires during this operation consisted of preparation, counter mortar, and unobserved fires directed against known and suspect enemy locations.

(c) The selective positioning of firing elements of 1st Battalion, 13th Marines proved invaluable during the conduct of the operation. Mortar Battery (-) occupied a position within a fire base in the vicinity of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines GP. and this position provided a significant degree of flexibility in available fire support. Two howitzers of Battery "A" were displaced to the Hill 190 corridor in order to extend fire deeper into enemy territory and to decrease the response time necessary to react to the fluid tactical situation.

(d) Battery "M", 4th Battalion, 11th Marines reinforced the fires of 1st Battalion, 13th Marines during the operation and provided the longer range and more destructive fires that were required.

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