

UNCLASSIFIED

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

3/JMU/jlg
5750
5 June 1969
Ser: 0019-69

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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, FMF
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 May 1969 through 31 May 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.3
(c) BrigO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This document is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

J. B. Cantieny
J. B. CANTIENY

Copy to: CO, 11th Marines
CO, Btry K, 4thBn, 13th Marines

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Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
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Command Chronology
1 May 1969 through 30 May 1969

INDEX

- Part I - Organizational Data
- Part II - Narrative Summary
- Part III- Sequential Listing of Significant Events
- Part IV - Supporting Documents

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Enclosure (1)

Part I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

1st Battalion, 13th Marines

CommanderLt Col J. B. CANTIENY
1 May - 31 May 1969Subordinate UnitsHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th MarinesCapt A. J. SWETT
1 May - 31 May 1969

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

1stLt M. J. SCHILLING
1 May - 14 May 1969
Capt J. BOYER
15 May - 31 May 1969Administrative Control onlyBattery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines
1 May - 31 May 1969Capt W. C. BARTELS
1 May - 31 May 1969Operational Control OnlyDetachment, Mortar Battery,
3rd Battalion, 11th Marines
1 May - 31 May 19691stLt. HAGUE
1 May - 31 May 1969Battery "H", 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines
1 May - 29 May 1969Capt A. BREWIN
1 May - 29 May 1969Detachment, Mortar Battery
2nd Battalion, 11th Marines
1 May - 29 May 19691stLt LAZOTT
1 May - 29 May 1969Detachment, Battery "G"
3rd Battalion, 11th Marines
25 May - 29 May 1969Capt. R. W. OTTO
25 May - 29 May 19692. LocationHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,
13th MarinesCamp Perdue
DaNang, RVN
(1 May - 31 May 69)

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

An Hoa, RVN
(1 May - 31 May 69)

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

Northern Artillery
Contonement, DaNang, RVN
(1May-31May69)

Battery "H", 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines

Dai La (AT 923 737)
DaNang, RVN
(1May-29May)

Detachment, Mortar Battery,
2nd Battalion, 11th Marines

Hill 41 (AT 934 665)
DaNang, RVN
(1May-29May69)

Detachment, Mortar Battery,
3rd Battalion, 11th Marines

Hoi Van Pass (AT 944 918)
DaNang, RVN
(1May-31May69)

Detachment, Battery "G"
3rd Battalion, 11th Marines

Hill 10 (AT 924 691)
DaNang, RVN
(25May-29May69)

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Maj. C. L. McELHENY
(1May-31May69)

S-1

1stLt P. SMILEY
(1May-31May69)

S-2

1stLt D. McKNEW
(1May-31May69)

S-3

Maj. J. M. UPDYKE
(1May-31May)

S-4

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Capt. A. J. SWETT
(1May-19May69)
Capt. J. A. KELIEHER
(20May-31May69)

4. Average Monthly Strength

HqBtry, 1stBn, 13thMar
Btry "B", 1stBn, 13thMar
Btry "K", 4thBn, 13thMar

OFF
14
9
4

USMC

ENL
172
133
115

OFF
2
0
0

USN

ENL
3
2
2

2

Enclosure (1)

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During the period 1-31 May 1969, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines continued under the operational control of 11th Marines while command less opcon remained with CG, 9thMAB. 1st Battalion, 13th Marines continued to be assigned the tactical mission of direct support of 26th Marines. Besides supporting 26th Marines, the battalion fired in support of 11th Marines FO schools, supported the 11th Marines Counter-rocket program, convoy defense program and the Northern Sector Defense Command.

Several changes in units opcon to the battalion occurred during the month. With the return of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines to the opcon of 7th Marines, Battery "H", 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines and Detachment, Mortar Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines returned to the opcon of their respective battalions on 29 May. Two guns from Battery "G", 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines were displaced to Hill 10 from Operation OKLAHOMA HILLS on 25 May. These changes resulted in 1st Battalion, 13th Marines having only one 105 howitzer battery, B/1/13, and one detachment of 4.2 mortars, Detachment Mortar Battery /3/11, under its operational control as the month ended.

Although the majority of rounds fired by the battalion continued to be those fired on harassing and interdiction targets, observed missions and calls for fire increased significantly as enemy activity reached a high level during the month. On 10 May while firing 216 rounds of HE on intelligence targets, Hotel Battery was credited with 17 probable KIAs. Again on 14 May while shooting on intelligence targets, Hotel Battery was credited with 10 confirmed KIAs. A POW captured several days later reported that while shooting this same mission 100 additional NVA/VC casualties occurred but a breakdown of KIAs and WIAs was not provided. Further, reports were received during May of an additional 48 confirmed KIAs credited to 1/13 from missions fired during April.

The most significant activity during the month was the sapper attack on Hotel Battery's position. In the early morning hours of 19 May, the battery was attacked by an estimated 30-40 NVA soldiers using sapper techniques. The enemy was initially detected when several NVA were within about 15 feet of gun #6. Illumination revealed approximately 20 enemy in various stages of breaching the defensive wire. The enemy was immediately taken under fire with small arms, automatic weapons, M-79s and 105 howitzers firing direct fire with Beehive rounds. Although under continuous fire from enemy small arms and RPGs, battery personnel, under illumination provided by B/1/13, repulsed the attack and kill 19 of the enemy and captured 5 prisoners while sustaining only 5 wounded themselves. Battery personnel also captured 4 RPG launchers, 12 RPGs, 180 Chi Coms, 6 AK-47s, 7 Bangalore Torpedoes and two 20-pound shaped charges.

During the month the battalion conducted forward observer school for 112 small unit leaders and various other members of 2nd Battalion 26th Marines and 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. 40 members of CAP units from both battalions' AOs received the same school.

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On 23-25 May the battalion was inspected in all areas by staff members of 9th MAB. All areas of all units received a rating of satisfactory or satisfactory with discrepancies. Battery "K", 4th Battalton, 13th Marines was particularly complimented for their fine showing in the inspection.

Artillery support provided by 1st Battalion, 13th Marines during May is as follows:

MISSIONS

OBSERVED
363

UNOBSERVED
2311

TOTAL
2674

AMMUNITION EXPENDED

105mm
29,171

4.2"
4,051

TOTAL
33,222

RESULTS

Friendly casualties: One; KIA, HqBn, 1stMarDiv, illum base plug.
Five: WIA; H/3/11, enemy attack

Enemy casualties credited to 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

KIA(c)
79

KIA(p)
20

OTHER
100

Secondary explosions: 2

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 2 May - Conducted FO school for 22 personnel from 2nd Battalion 26th Marines
- 3 May - Conducted FO school for 33 personnel from 2nd Battalion 7th Marines
- 4 May - 1/13 credited with 17 enemy KIAs from missions fired 3-5 April
- 5 May - Received surveillance of 2 secondary explosions from missions fired by B/1/13.
- 6 May - Received surveillance of 1 VC KIA from mission fired by B/1/13 at grid 904 848.
- 7 May - Conducted FO school for 27 personnel from 2nd Battalion 26th Marines
- 8 May - Conducted FO school for 30 personnel from 2nd Battalion 7th Marines
- 10 May - Received surveillance of 15-20 probable KIAs from firecracker mission fired by B/1/13.
- Received surveillance of 17 probable KIAs from missions fired by H/3/11.
- 12 May - Conducted FO school for 18 members of CAP units in 2/7's AO.
- An illumination base plug struck and fatally injured a Marine from HqBn, 1st Mar. Div. Round was fired by B/1/13 in providing illumination for 26 Marines CP.
- Fired counter-rockets
- 13 May - Fired counter-rockets
- 14 May - Conducted FO school for 22 members of CAP units in 2/26's AO.
- Received surveillance of 7 confirmed KIAs from mission fired by H/3/11.
- 15 May - 1/13 credited with 3 KIAs from missions fired during April.
- Capt BOYER assumed command of B/1/13.
- 16 May - Fired counter-rockets twice.
- 17 May - Fired counter-rockets twice.
- 18 May - 1/13 credited with 3 KIAs and 100 casualties of unknown types from missions fired by B/1/13 and H/3/11 on 13 May.

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- [REDACTED]
- 19 May - H/3/11 target of sapper attack by 30-40 NVA between 0220H and 0600H. See narrative summary for details.
- Fired counter-rockets.
- B/1/13 reported to BLT 2/26 for planning effective 19 1200H.
- 22 May - B/1/13 fired 108 rounds of VT and 70 rounds of firecrackers at estimated 40-50 VC at grid 8884. Negative surveillance at this time.
- 23 May - Inspection by 9th MAB commenced.
- 25 May - Assumed opcon Detachment, G/3/11 effective 25 1300H.
- 28 May - 1/13 credited with 29 VC/NVA KIAS from missions fired during April.
- 29 May - Passed opcon of Detachment G/3/11 and H/3/11 to 3rd Battalion 11th Marines effective 29 1000H.
- Passed opcon of Detachment mortar Battery/2/11 to 2nd Battalion 11th Marines effective 29 1630H.
- 30 May - Ceased fire in recognition of Buddha's birthday commenced 0600H.
- 31 May - Ceased fire terminated effective 0600H. No rounds were fired by 1/13 during the cease fire.

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PART IVCHRONOLOGIES OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Command Chronology for May 1969 for Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines.

Filed/w 4/13

7

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