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BATTERY K
4th Battalion, 13th Marines
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
APO San Francisco, 96602

DRS/ceb

5000

1 Dec 1968

Ser: 0012A 34468

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-30 November 1968

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: (1) Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines Command Chronology

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

R. K. P. T. ROSE
R. K. P. T. ROSE
COMMANDING

Qty "K", 4/13

GROUP 4
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

LCN: 00887

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BATTERY K
4th Battalion, 13th Marines
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade MAF
APO San Francisco, 96302

COLLECTED CHRONOLOGY

1 November 1968 to 30 November 1968

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Part II - Narrative Summary

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ENCLOSURE (1)

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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1. DESIGNATION:COILANDER

Battery K, 4th Battalion
 13th Marines, 1st Marine Div
 (REIN) FMF

CAPT. R. K. PETERSEN

2. LOCATION:

Phu Bai
 1 Nov 68 - 19 Nov 68

Hill 34, at 9902 7174
 20 Nov 68 - 30 Nov 68

3. BATTERY OFFICERS:

Capt. Roger K. PETERSEN Commanding Officer

1stLt. Byron L. ELMENDORF - Executive Officer

1stLt. Lawrence E. CRAIG - Assistant Executive Officer

1stLt. Edward R. STEPHEN - Fire Direction Officer

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH:

<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
124	3	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the initial part of the subject reporting period, 1 November to 14 November 1968, this battery was engaged in the Army Operation, NEVADA EAGLE. The battery's primary mission had been reinforcing the fires of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery. All firing was accomplished from Fire Support Base ANZIO located at grid YD 9314 0712.

On 6 November 1968 at 0600, the battery went in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 502 Infantry and remained in this direct support role until 1800, 6 November 1968. The battery then reverted back to its primary mission of reinforcing the fires of 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery.

On 10 November 1968, the battery fired continuous illumination in support of the 1st Battalion, 327 Infantry when another phase of Operation NEVADA EAGLE was launched. During this phase of the operation, which lasted until 12 November 1968, the battery fired in excess of 250 rounds of illumination while the above unit performed its cordon and search operation of approximately 15 villages located about 7,000 meters east of the battery's position.

On 11 November 1968 at 0900, the battery went into direct support of a long range patrol from Company "F", 58th Infantry, 2/17 Cavalry, 101st Airborne, who began a 2 day operation on Leech Island approximately 12,000 meters southwest of the battery's position. Direct support of this unit terminated at 1430 on 13 November 1968.

On 14 November 1968 at 1030, the battery received the order to Close Station March Order (CSMO) and return to its battery rear position located in Phu Bai at grid YD 8882 1270. The battery executed this move, and at 1200 on 14 November 1968 the battery was laid and ready to fire. The battery continued to fire in support of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery while in this new position, but most of the firing was in the form of night-time defensive fires sent down by Phu Bai Base Defense as part of their Base Defense Plan.

On 20 November 1968 at 0600, the battery went non-operational while it prepared to Close Station March Order (CSMO) for its move to An Hoa, approximately 25 miles southwest of Danang. At 0700 on 20 November, the howitzers left for Hue, under the cognizance of the Executive Officer, to board USN LCU's for transportation by sea to Danang where they would undergo second and third echelon maintenance and a technical inspection by the First FSR. The howitzers were staged at the dock in Danang and moved via convoy to the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines area located at Hill 34, grid AT 9902 7174 to begin maintenance work. As the crews finished work on their individual howitzers, they were laid and placed on the perimeter to fire counter-rocket fire in support of the Danang vital area. This is the present status of the howitzers.

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The rest of the battery left the Phu Bai area via truck convoy at 1300 on 20 November 1968 under the cognizance of the Commanding Officer, and headed for the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines area located in Danang to stage, pick-up an armored convoy and moved to An Hoa. The battery moved out on 22 November 1968, less the howitzers which were to follow after maintenance work was completed on all pieces, and got as far as Hill 37, Base Camp of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. The battery was held up here for 24 hours awaiting for the ferry to become operational. Word was then received to return to the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines area in Danang to wait for the battery to obtain priority on the ferry. The latter is the battery's present location.

The following ammunition was expended during the month of November:

<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&I</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
766	543	765	2074

The consolidated surveillance received for missions fired during the month was:

<u>KIA</u>	<u>STRUCTURES DAMAGED/DESTROYED</u>	<u>BUNKERS DAMAGED/DESTROYED</u>
3(confirmed)	0	0
6(probable)		

Secondary Explosions

0

Personnel and Administrative statistics for the month of November are as follows:

Admin Losses -
 Battle KIA - 0
 Battle WIA (Evac) - 0
 Battle WIA (Non Evac) - 0
 Battle MIA - 0
 Battle POW - 0
 Non Battle - 1

The battery occupied one bunker in "D" sector of the Phu Bai Defense Perimeter. Most intelligence and target acquisition data was obtained from the S-2 of the 1st Field Artillery Group and also from the Army 101st Airborne Division.

The battery, at this time, is engaged in firing counter-rocket fire in support of the Danang vital area, with the impending mission of supporting the 5th Marines and going under operational control of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines when moved to An Hoa.

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Through the subject reporting period classes for the training and cross-training of personnel within the battery have been effected with growing results. Periods of instruction on all aspects of the M109 Howitzer have been handled through the Executive Officer via the Section Chiefs. Detailed maintenance instruction is being presented to all gun sections while the howitzers are undergoing TI's, and 2nd and 3rd echelon maintenance. Heavy emphasis has been placed on the cross-training of the Fire Direction Personnel due to the administrative losses being experienced by the Fire Direction Section.

At the termination of the subject reporting period, the battery and all but one gun operational, and that gun was still undergoing 3rd echelon maintenance at the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines area.

The policy instituted to ensure a complete and continuing inventory of all TE items and equipment has found to be quite exceptional and beneficial for the battery. Also, the commanding officer has initiated a policy emphasizing the importance of adhering stringently to all required preventative maintenance procedures on all types of equipment. It has been most successful in countering the major difficulties frequently incurred through neglect of Marine Corps property and equipment.

The battery did not, in itself, initiate any type of civic action/ civic affairs program during the subject reporting period. However continuous courtesy and respect for the Vietnamese, their traditions and customs are adhered to by all personnel of the battery.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. 7 November 1968 - An accidental ignition of a 155mm Howitzer (SP) powder charge while firing harassment and interdiction fires in support of 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery resulted in the injury of one cannoneer and minor damage to the interior of the howitzer cab. The cannoneer was medivaced to Danang, and subsequently to Yokohama, with second and third degree burns of his arms and neck.
2. 14 November 1968 - The battery received the order to Close Station March Order (CSMO) from Fire Base ANZIO and return to the battery rear position in Phu Bai.
3. 20 November 1968 - The battery went non-operational after receiving the order to Close Station March Order (CSMO) and move to An Hoa.

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