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BATTERY K  
4th Battalion, 13th Marines  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
APO San Francisco, California, 96602

RFP/fal  
005750  
28 Feb 1969

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 February 1969 to  
28 February 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) 1stMarDivO 5750.2  
(d) RarO 5750.2

Encl: (1) Entry "K", 4thBn, 13thMar Command Chronology for  
the subject period.

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

2. This page is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

*R. K. Peterston*  
R. K. PETERSTON

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1-28 February 1969  
Battery E, 4th Battalion, 13th Marines

PART I.....Organization Data  
PART II.....Narrative Summary  
PART III.....Sequential Listing of Significant  
Events

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IORGANIZATION DATA1. Designation:Commander

Battery E, 4th Battalion, 13th Marines  
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, MFPAC  
 C/O FPO San Francisco, California, 96602

R. E. PETERSEN CAPT

2. Location:

An Yoa, RVN at 86787.89 47257.71, Dai Loc  
 Sheet 6649 IV, serial L7014, AMS

3. Battery Officers:

Captain R. E. PETERSEN	Commanding Officer
First Lieutenant L. E. CRAIG	Executive Officer
First Lieutenant R. C. GIBSEN	Asst Executive Officer
First Lieutenant A. L. HARDING	Fire Direction Officer
Second Lieutenant J. A. HENRY	LNO/Asst Fire Direct Officer

4. Average Monthly Strength:

<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
133	3	0

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**DECLASSIFIED**PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of February, Kilo Battery remained task organized for combat under the operational control of First Field Artillery Group, General Support, Task Force Yankee and remained in its position at An Hoa, in support of operation "Taylor Common".

On 10 February 1969, Staff Sergeant BENNETT, the battery local security chief was injured when a belt of M60 ammo he was straightening out went off and several pieces of brass entered the lower legs. He was med-evaced to Danang.

On the afternoon of 10 February 1969, the battery had ten M109 Howitzers on position. The five remaining new howitzers had arrived with the four remaining old guns leaving two days later. The five new howitzers had been calibrated before leaving Danang with Kilo Battery receiving the five longest shooters of twenty-four new guns in country. This leaves one howitzer to be calibrated.

On 13 February 1969, the battery received a special artillery Defense Fire Plan from the First Field Artillery Group; firing data for this was completed and is available for instant use.

On 15 February 1969, the battery transferred 17 men to 5th 155mm Gun Battery. This transfer included 13 cannoners and 4 FDC personnel which caused an acute shortage of cannoners in the battery.

On 17 February 1969, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines sent a courtesy Motor Transport Inspection Team to the battery position; this inspection resulted in the following recommendations:

1. More supervision of Motor Stables.
2. That the mechanics be broken down into heavy and light sections.
3. That a twice weekly check be made on all parts ordered.

All recommendations were approved and implemented immediately.

On 17 February 1969, Kilo Battery received its Embarkation inspection, which resulted in the findings of a few minor discrepancies which were corrected. The inspector commented several times that the embarkation showed an unusual amount of hard work and the battery was to be commended.

On 21 February 1969, PFC PITHIAN was injured when he attempted to kick a firing lock which caused the howitzer to fire. The recoil caught the man in the left leg and injured him slightly.

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On the morning of 23 February 1969, the An Hoa complex was hit by mortar, sapper and rocket attacks resulting in the destruction of the open pit ammo storage. Kilo Battery did not receive any enemy fire although the enemy shelled the complex daily with rockets, mortars, and recoilless rifle fire.

On 25 February 1969, HH1 MEEDS was evacuated to Danang with infectious hepatitis. All personnel who had had close contact were given precautionary shots.

On 27 February 1969, mortar flashes were observed from the battery position and the suspect area was immediately taken under direct fire. Two direct hits were reported on the enemy mortar position.

On 28 February 1969, recoilless rifle fire was spotted from the battery position and the area taken under direct fire.

During the month the battery completed construction of the ammo, powder, and FDC bunkers, and personnel bunkers were started through-out the battery position.

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MISSIONS FIRED DURING FEBRUARY  
 TO 1200, 28 FEBRUARY

<u>OBSERVED</u>	<u>UNOBSERVED</u>	<u>HALL'S</u>	<u>TOTAL MISSIONS</u>
164	51	429	644

AMMUNITION EXPENDED - FEBRUARY  
 THROUGH 1200, 28 FEBRUARY  
 TYPE

<u>HE</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>ILL</u>	<u>FC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
4191	176	366	46	4779

ROUNDS OBSERVED	2352	
ROUNDS UNOBSERVED	741	
HALL'S	1686	
	4779	ROUNDS

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28 Feb 1969SURVEILLANCE

This period was marked by numerous missions fired for Recon Inserts in the range of the battery. Generally very little positive surveillance is given. The battery also fired on numerous G-II and URS targets. Recon by fire and WII's composed the bulk of the missions.

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>PIIA</u>	<u>MORARS/A-A</u>	<u>STRUCTURES/DAMAGED</u>
4	2	28	6	25

Secondary Explosions

12

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONA. Personnel Administration1. Gains and Losses

(a) Admin Losses	28
(b) Battle KIA's	0
(c) Battle WIA's	0
(d) Battle PIIA's	0
(e) Battle WIA's	0
(f) Battle POW's	0
(g) Non-Combat Cas.	0
(h) Replacements	2
(i) Net (Gains)	26

The Battery is still under the administrative control of 1st Battalion, 18th Marines, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade and the operational control of 1st Field Artillery Group.

The Battery retains all battery level operations including Fire Direction, Resupply and 1st and 2nd Echelon Maintenance. Limited 3rd Echelon Maintenance is available through PLSC-A An Hoa.

The Battery continues to be responsible for a sector of the An Hoa perimeter and two of its bunkers.

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During this period reported, on the battery continued its training and cross training of personnel to cope with any situation.

At the end of this period the Battery will have 6 operational howitzers. The Battery is experiencing quite a bit of fuel cell trouble. It appears that the fiber glass fuel cell is not as sturdy as it should be to take the shock of continuous firing.

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## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 5 February 1969 The Battery TD-15 was deadlined due to a broken clutch. It is still deadlined due to the non-availability of parts
- 10 February 1969 Staff Sgt BENTLEY was injured while handling a belt of M60 rounds. This required a Med-Evac to Danang.
- 10 February 1969 Kilo Battery received the remaining five new howitzers.
- 15 February 1969 Kilo Battery transferred 17 men to 5th 155 Gunbtry
- 21 February 1969 SFC BENTLEY was injured while trying to close a firing lock and it fired catching him in the path of recoil.
- 23 February 1969 The An Hoa complex was hit by hostile fire destroying the ammo dump. The Battery felt no ammo shortage during this time. The Battery has not been hit by hostile fire as the An Hoa area continues to be hit sporadically.
- 25 February 1969 CHM C.M. NEEDS the senior Corporal in the battery was Med-Evaced to Danang with suspected infectious hepatitis.

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