

00136-69

HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/26
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

UNCLASSIFIED

0017369

3/1971/tad
5750
28 August 1969
Ser: 003A21169

(GROUP 4 DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS)

From: Commanding Office
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
Subj: Command Chronology for period 01 July to 31 July 1969
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPAGO 5750.8
(c) BrigO 5750.C
(d) RegtO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Battalion Landing Team 1/26 Command Chronology
(2) A/2, Opn MIGHTY PLAY, 10-20 Jul 69
1. In accordance with provisions of reference (a), (b), (c), and (d) enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

J. C. Goodin
J. C. GOODIN

DISTRIBUTION:

10 Copies to CTG 79.4

EXT 1/26

SECRET

COPY 1 OF 2 COPIES

UNCLASSIFIED

2 of 11

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

UNCLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/26
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

0017369

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July to 31 July 1969

INDEX

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III

LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

UNCLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED (1)
~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]

PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA1. DESIGNATION.

<u>Battalion Landing Team 1/26</u>	LtCol. G. C. KLIEFOTH	1-27 July 69
	LtCol. J. C. GOODIN	28-31 July 69

TASK ORGANIZATION

<u>H&S Company (-) (Rein)</u>	Capt. G. M. REGAN	1-31 July 69
-----------------------------------	-------------------	--------------

Det. Hq. Bn., 5th Mar Div
 Det. Hq. Co., 26th Marines (Radio Relay)
 Det. 15th Dent. Co., 9th M&B

<u>Company A (Rein)</u>	1st Lt. B. A. STEVENSON	1-31 July 69
-------------------------	-------------------------	--------------

Co. A
 Det. H&S Co.

FO Team
 Det. Comm Plt.
 Sect. 4, 106mm RR Plt.
 3rd Squad, 2nd Section, Flame Plt.
 Det. Med. Plt.
 S-2 Scout

FO Team "A" Btry 1/13
 Det. 1st Plt., Co. A, 5th Engr. Bn.
 Det. 2nd Plt., Co. A, 5th SP Bn. (HST)

<u>Company B (Rein)</u>	1st Lt. J. E. HENNESSEY	1-31 July 69
-------------------------	-------------------------	--------------

Co. B
 Det. H&S Co.

FO Team
 Det. Comm Plt.
 Det. Med. Plt.
 S-2 Scout
 Sect. 3, 106mm RR Plt.
 4th Squad, Section 2. Flame Plt.

FO Team "A" Btry 1/13.
 Det. 1st Plt., Co. A, 5th Engr. Bn.
 Det. 2nd Plt., Co. A, 5th SP Bn. (HST)

<u>Company C (Rein)</u>	Capt. H. W. REED	1-31 July 69
-------------------------	------------------	--------------

Co. C
 Det. H&S Co.

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

FO Team, Section, 81mm Mortars
 Det. Comm Plt.
 Det. Med. Plt.
 S-2 Scout
 Sect. 1, 106mm RR Plt.
 1st Squad, 1st Section, Flame Section

FO Team "A" Btry 1/13.
 Det. 1st Plt., Co. A, 5th Engr. Bn.
 Det. 2nd Plt., Co. A, 5th SP Bn. (HST)

Company D (Rein)

Capt. E. J. LLOYD

1-31 July 69

Co. D
 Det. H&S Co.

FO Team, Section, 81mm Mortar
 Det. Comm Plt.
 Sect. 2, 106mm RR Plt.
 2nd Squad, 1st Section, Flame Plt.

FO Team "A" Btry 1/13
 Det. 1st Plt., Co. A, 5th Engr. Bn.
 Det. 2nd Plt., Co. A, 5th SP Bn. (HST)

<u>81mm Mortar Plt. (-)</u>	1st Lt. E. P. ARNOLDS-PATRON	1-31 July 69
<u>106mm RR Plt. (-)</u>	2nd Lt. L. F. NASON	1-31 July 69
<u>"A" Btry 1/13 (Rein)</u>	Capt. J. B. CREEL Jr.	1-31 July 69
<u>"W" Btry 1/11</u>	1st Lt. C. A. BELLIS Jr.	1-31 July 69
<u>1st Plt. Co A, 5th Amtrac Bn. (Rein)</u>	1st Lt. J. T. BARTEE	1-31 July 69
<u>1st Plt. Co A, 5th LT Bn. (Rein)</u>	2nd Lt. J. M. YEAGER	1-31 July 69
<u>1st Plt. Co A, 5th Engr. Bn. (-) (Rein)</u>	1st Lt. P. J. SHEA	1-31 July 69
<u>1st Plt. Co A, 5th MT Bn. (Rein)</u>	1st Lt. L. P. MALINOWSKI	1-31 July 69
<u>1st Plt. Co A, 5th Recon Bn. (Rein)</u>	2nd Lt. J. C. MANCINI	1-31 July 69
<u>2nd Plt. Co A, 5th SP Bn. (-) (Rein)</u>	1st Lt. J. B. QUINN	1-31 July 69
<u>1st Plt. Co A, 5th TK Bn. (Rein)</u>	1st Lt. C. S. CERTAIN	1-31 July 69
<u>1st Clearing Plt. Co D, 5th Mod. Bn.</u>	Lt. R. P. KING	1-31 July 69
<u>LSU</u>	1st Lt. W. DOMKE	1-31 July 69

2. LOCATION.

a. 1-19 July - USS Cleveland

3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
b. 20-31 July - DaNang, RVN
3. STAFF OFFICERS.

Executive Officer
S-1/Adjutant
Assistant S-1
S-2
S-3
S-3A
S-4

Maj. D. B. TOWNSEND
Capt. J. P. WILSON
1st Lt. M. B. GERITY
1st Lt. B. P. O'CONNOR
Maj. E. C. O'BYRNE
1st Lt. M. J. BRENT
1st Lt. J. B. SHEA
Capt. W. W. MOORHEAD Jr.

1-31 July 69
1-11 July 69
12-31 July 69

4. AVERAGE STRENGTH.

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>		<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
62		1703	7	92

0
1
2
3
4
5
6

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)
[REDACTED]

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

UNCLASSIFIED

Operation Bold Pursuit on Barrier Island continued from the combined helicopter and amphibious assault of 27 June 1969. The Battalion continued to conduct thorough search and clear missions. As in previous missions in that area minor enemy contact was encountered. The BLT units searched for caches, bunkers, information of military value, and precluded enemy activity in the area.

On 10 July 1969, BLT 1/26 made a helicopter assault in the southern portion of Third Battalion, First Marines AOA. Enemy activity encountered was light. The BLT ran search and clear missions throughout the area, covering carefully, inhabited areas and suspected routes of enemy movement.

On 20 July 1969 the BLT assumed the defense of 3rd Battalion, First Marines TAOR. This entailed extensive ambush and patrol activities to interdict the enemy. Cordon and search activities of several hamlets were conducted. In addition security was provided for all vital bridges and roadways. The companies were deployed to provide defense of the Danang vital area and adjacent military installations.

0
1
2
3
4
5
6

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

PART III

LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. MISSIONS/OPERATIONS.

a. Major Operations. The Battalion Landing Team participated in two (2) major operations during this reporting period.

- (1) Bold Pursuit: 1-6 July 1969.
- (2) Mighty Play: 10-20 July 1969.

b. Command Relations.

- (1) The Battalion Landing Team during Operation Bold Pursuit and Operation Mighty Play was under operational control of CTG 79.4, 1-20 July 1969.
- (2) M Company, Third Battalion, First Marines was OpCon to the BLT from 10 July until 20 July 1969.
- (3) From 20 July 1969 until the end of the reporting period the Battalion Landing Team was OpCon to 1st Marine Division for operations with the 1st Marine Regiment.

c. Combat Missions Assigned.

- (1) Bold Pursuit. Conduct search and clear operations on Barrier Island AOA.
- (2) Mighty Play. Conduct search and clear operations in AOA.
- (3) Defense of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines TAOR.
 - (a) Conduct unilateral, reinforced, and combined offensive operations within assigned TAOR to locate and destroy enemy forces and logistic installations with primary emphasis on those forces which pose the greatest threat to GVN control of important population economic centers and to the security of military installations.
 - (b) Deploy forces throughout assigned TAOR to provide defense of Danang vital area and military complex contiguous to that area; emphasis on routes of approach to probable rocket/mortar launching positions, to include waterway control.
 - (c) Be prepared to defend vital areas within assigned TAOR.
 - (d) Support Revolutionary Development Program within assigned TAOR.

UNCLASSIFIED (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

In cooperation/coordination with ARVN and district headquarters conduct continuous Special Pacification Offensive to upgrade designated hamlets within TAOR. Be prepared to continue these operations during the RVN Pacification and Reconstruction Program which commenced February 1969.

- (f) Provide security for Tu Cau (Cooper) Bridge arranging for periodic inspection.
- (g) Be prepared to provide Alert/Rapid Reaction Forces on order.
- (h) Secure lines of communications within TAOR.
- (i) Be prepared on order, to provide a Company size reaction force for the defense of SEA ANCHOR.
- (j) Locate and interdict routes of infiltration in TAOR.
- (k) Provide security for engineer road sweeps and other engineer projects as required.
- (l) Be prepared on order to conduct offensive operations exterior to assigned TAOR.
- (m) Be prepared within 24 hours to be relieved of assigned TAOR and assume missions of either other Battalion, 1st Marines.

d. Command Control.

- (1) During Operation Bold Pursuit the BLT rear was embarked aboard the USS Cleveland. The Command Post was co-located with the Beach Support Area and the Fire Support Base vic. BT (230509).
- (2) On Operation Mighty Play the BLT rear was aboard the USS Cleveland. The Command Post was at the 3/1 cantonment, vic. (BT 071653).
- (3) During the defense of 3/1 TAOR, the Command Post was located at 3/1 cantonment. The Battalion rear was off loaded to SLF in-country camp at Hill 34 on 19 July 1969.

e. Organic Operations.

During the Operation, patrols of squad and platoon size were run on a daily basis. During the occupation of 3/1 TAOR, the Battalion conducted 12 scout sniper activities, forty-eight LP/OP's, one hundred eighty-six day patrols, and three hundred eleven night ambushes.

f. NBC Warfare.

CS and HC Smoke were used extensively to clear tunnels and bunkers.

UNCLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE (1)

2. INTELLIGENCE.a. Enemy Situation.

UNCLASSIFIED

(Operation Bold Pursuit.) Barrier Island has long been used as a semi-safe haven and supply base for local forces. Its location is ideal for hit and run operations in the southern portion of the DaNang TACR and the control of the local population could have great political influence in and around the city of Hoi An. The enemy has fortified the area with well constructed fighting holes, trenches, bunkers and tunnel complexes, which are generally oriented to repel attacks from the north.

During Operation Bold Pursuit, BLT 1/26 was able to sever the steady flow of enemy movement into and off of Barrier Island. By clearing and securing all vital areas in the AOA, the Landing Force made it impossible for the VC/NVA to stage in our area during day or night. By our tactical deployment, VC/NVA communication and supply routes were made too hazardous for enemy use.

- (2) (Operation Mighty Play). The target was located in the southeastern portion of Quang Nam Province on the coast, in an area known as the Horseshoe Area. The Area has long been under VC/NVA control and the enemy has full support of the population. It was believed that most rocket fire received in the DaNang TACR is fired from this area.

Recent Intelligence Reports indicated approximately 520 enemy troops operating in the AOA from the following units: the R. 20 Local Bn, with an estimated strength of 165 of which 165 were reportedly within the AOA. The 92nd Special Action Sapper Co, with 100 men of which 50 were believed to be within the AOA. In addition to these organized units, a 200 man Guerrilla Force was believed to be operating within the AOA.

Upon completion of Operation Mighty Play, BLT 1/26 had been able to halt enemy movement thru the AOA into DaNang. By the tactical deployment of the Landing Force, enemy communication and supply routes were made too hazardous for their use.

Enemy staging areas were severely damaged; 200 bunkers were uncovered and destroyed. This action denied the VC/NVA the ability to stage in our area during day or night for movement thru the AOA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

b. Enemy Initiated Incidents/Actions.

On 3 July 1969, Company C received enemy sniper fire. Artillery fire upon the suspected enemy position resulted in nine VC KIA's, the largest number of enemy KIA during the reporting period.

c. Enemy Losses.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| (1) 48 VC/NVA KIA | (4) IWC-15 |
| (2) 5 POW's | (5) CSWC-1 (RPG Launcher) |
| (3) 1400 lbs. of rice, 50 lbs. of salt, munitions, clothing, 782 gear. | (6) 33 Detainees |

d. Enemy Trends.

During this reporting period, the enemy's tactical trends have varied somewhat in relation to previous reporting periods in that there has been a significant increase in the use of booby traps and also a larger variety of types of booby traps. The use of land mines by the enemy was greater during this reporting period than previously encountered.

e. Weather Conditions.

The weather has had little effect on enemy or friendly movement throughout the area of operation this month. The maximum temperature for the month of July was 106 degrees and the low was 68 degrees. The total amount of rainfall for the month was 1.21 inches in the DaNang area.

3. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS. (All grids prefixed by BT).

a. 010001 to 012400 July 1969.

- (1) 010730 July 1969. Due to faulty 60mm round, three (3) Marines from B Company were wounded.
- (2) 011515 July 1969. D Company Second Platoon, found and destroyed a bunker at grid 211484.
- (3) 011930 July 1969. Third Squad, First Platoon, C Company spotted six to eight enemy at grid 210740. Fired tanks and swept with negative results.
- (4) 012010 July 1969. Second Squad, Second Platoon, D Company spotted seven enemy at grid 216480. Fired small arms, resulting in two VC KIA's.
- (5) 012130 July 1969. Third Squad, Second Platoon, D Company spotted two enemy at grid 215485. Fired small arms killing one VC.

- b. 021850 July 1969. A Company found 76 bunkers, 78 hooches, two 105 rounds, two 8-inch H.E. rounds, one 106mm H.E. round, and punji pits. All were destroyed.

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

c. 030001 to 032400 July 1969.

- (1) 030700 July 1969. C Company received enemy sniper fire from grid 205461. Artillery was fired, resulting in nine VC KIA's.
- (2) Second Squad, Second Platoon, A Company received 20 to 30 M-16 rounds from grid 222303. Artillery was fired, but a sweep showed negative results.
- (3) 031000 July 1969. First Platoon, C Company found bunker and tunnel complex at grid 207473 which yielded one (1) VC KIA and three (3) POWs.
- (4) 031330 July 1969. Sweep of grid 230490 resulted in three hundred pounds of rice, fifty pounds of salt, two (2) U.S. claymores, one (1) M-1 rifle, one (1) M-26 grenade, and various medical supplies.
- (5) 031830 July 1969. C Company observed fifteen to twenty-five enemy with rifles at grid 199464. Fired artillery, killing nine (9) enemy.
- (6) 032007 July 1969. Third Platoon, A Company spotted six (6) enemy at grid 173492. Artillery produced negative results.
- (7) 032345 July 1969. Third Platoon, A Company received an incoming RPG. Fired small arms which killed two (2) NVA.

d. 040001 to 042400 July 1969.

- (1) 040757 July 1969. Third Squad, Second Platoon, A Company received 20 rounds AK-47 fire. Called 81mm fire with negative results.
- (2) 040855 July 1969. Second Squad, First Platoon, A Company tripped a boobytrap believed to be 105mm round. Medevac was completed.
- (3) 041200 July 1969. Third Platoon, Company A observed two (2) enemy at grid 183502 and five (5) enemy at grid 183499. Artillery fired with negative results.
- (4) 041400 July 1969. Third Platoon, Company A received 10 to 15 rounds of small arms fire from grid 184494. Returned fire with small arms and 60mm mortars with negative results.
- (5) 041925 July 1969. Third Squad, Second Platoon, D Company engaged 20 enemy at grid 215487. Sweep yielded negative results.
- (6) 041940 July 1969. Third Platoon, C Company received 75 rounds of AK-47 fire at grid 204477. Artillery produced negative results.

ENCLOSURE (1)
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- (7) 041443 July 1969. Third Platoon, A Company spotted ten (10) enemy carrying RPG's. Artillery produced a secondary explosion.
- (8) 042130 July 1969. C Company received eight (8) incoming 82mm rounds from BT 222461. Artillery and Spooky produced a secondary explosion.
- e. 050001 to 052400H July 1969.
- (1) 050615 July 1969. Third Squad, Second Platoon, A Company spotted five (5) enemy at BT 216512. Small arms fire gave negative results.
 - (2) 050930 July 1969. C Company spotted fifteen to twenty enemy at BT 230457. Artillery produced negative results.
 - (3) 051645 July 1969. C Company found satchel charge at BT 203477. Blown in place.
 - (4) 051700 July 1969. Third Platoon, C Company received thirty AK-47 rounds. 60mm mortar fire yielded negative results.
- f. 061200 July 1969. Tactical withdrawal of all units completed.
- g. 070001 to 092400 July 1969. During this period all troops were aboard ARG Shipping. Training schedules and administrative work were conducted.
- h. 100001 to 102400 July 1969.
- (1) 100710 July 1969. Third Platoon, M Company observed two (2) VC in treeline at BT 092650. Fired artillery with unknown results.
 - (2) 100820 July 1969. Third Platoon, M Company observed six to eight enemy in treeline and took three AK-47 rounds from BT 098640. Fired artillery with unknown results.
 - (3) 101705 July 1969. A Corpsman from D Company tripped a boobytrapped CHICOM at BT 077626.
 - (4) 101705 July 1969. First Platoon, D Company spotted ten to fifteen enemy moving south at BT 077625. Fired small arms and M-26's. Sweep yielded ten VC KIA's.
 - (5) 101730 July 1969. First Platoon, D Company found three (3) boobytraps at BT 071648. Blown in place.
 - (6) 101920 July 1969. A Company at grid 069638 found forty bunkers, sixty-five structures, one (1) 60mm dud, one (1) mine, tools and accessories, one (1) M-16 upper receiver, 300 pounds of rice, two (2) 105mm HE duds, three (3) boobytrap detonating devices, one (1) LAAW, and 20 AK-47 rounds which were all destroyed. Documents and two (2) detainees were taken to S-2.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- (7) 102040 July 1969. First Squad, Third Platoon, D Company contacted two (2) enemy. Sweep yielded one (1) VC KIA, two (2) CHICOM's, and one (1) poncho.
- i. 110001 to 112400 July 1969.
- (1) 111933 July 1969. Third Platoon, A Company spotted approximately eight enemy at BT 075683. Fired small arms with negative results.
 - (2) 112000 July 1969. First Platoon, C Company blew in place a booby trapped M-26.
 - (3) 112050 July 1969. D Company blew in place fifteen booby traps.
- j. 120001 to 122400 July 1969.
- (1) 120200 July 1969. Second Squad, First Platoon, D Company tripped a booby trapped M-26.
 - (2) 120750 July 1969. M Company blew in place **six** CHICOMs at BT 096674.
 - (3) 120800 July 1969. D Company found four (4) bunkers and one (1) SKS at grid 076627.
 - (4) 120825 July 1969. M Company blew in place sixteen CHICOMs at grid 097674 also a booby trapped M-26.
 - (5) 120945 July 1969. M Company found one (1) M-27 illum. and two CHICOMs.
 - (6) 121215 July 1969. D Company, First Platoon had two (2) Marines wounded in a booby trapped spider hole. Killed two NVA KIA in hole.
 - (7) 121220 July 1969. M Company found eight (8) CHICOMs.
 - (8) 121315 July 1969. First Platoon, D Company found a bunker and killed two (2) NVA at grid 083622.
 - (9) 121630 July 1969. First Platoon, A Company spotted three (3) enemy at grid 066634. Fired small arms with negative results.
- k. 130001 to 132400 July 1969.
- (1) 130830 July 1969. D Company found one (1) VC KIA in blown bunker at grid 075637.
 - (2) 130929 July 1969. First Platoon, A Company had two (2) emergency medevacs due to a booby trapped M-26 at grid 060630.
 - (3) 131005 July 1969. First Platoon, A Company hit a booby trapped M26 at grid 060630, resulting in two (2) WIA's and one (1) wounded dog.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- (4) 131100 July 1969. First and Second Platoons, C Company blew in place four booby traps on sweep at grid 094633.
- (5) 132154 July 1969. First Platoon, A Company spotted four (4) enemy moving at grid 072625. Small arms and claymores believed to have wounded one enemy.
- (6) 132200 July 1969. D Company ambush exchanged fire with three enemy. Negative results.
1. 140001 to 142400 July 1969.
- (1) 140830 July 1969. First Platoon, B Company found one (1) 105mm round booby trapped.
- (2) 140950 July 1969. Second Platoon, A Company found eight (8) fortified hooches, fourteen bunkers, 200 pounds of rice, two (2) punji pits, and five (5) 105mm H.E. rounds.
- (3) 141631 July 1969. D Company found seven (7) bunkers and assorted ordnance.
- (4) 141855 July 1969. Second Platoon, D Company tripped two (2) booby traps resulting in 11 wounded Marines.
- (5) 142330 July 1969. B Company sighted one (1) enemy. Artillery and small arms fire. Sweep yielded blood trails.
- m. 150001 to 152400 July 1969.
- (1) 150730 July 1969. D Company found assorted documents.
- (2) 150900 July 1969. C Company patrol found two hundred pounds of rice and a booby trapped M-26.
- (3) 151100 July 1969. Third Platoon, C Company observed five to seven enemy. Mortar fire produced negative results.
- (4) 151410 July 1969. Second Platoon, D Company tripped two (2) booby traps.
- (5) 151930 July 1969. Second Platoon, A Company found two (2) pressure detonated 105mm H.E. booby traps.
- (6) 152040 July 1969. D Company found five (5) bunkers, four (4) booby trapped M-26's, two (2) 81mm H.E., one (1) 105mm H.E., and three (3) Bangalore torpedoes.
- n. 160001 to 162400 July 1969.
- (1) 160930 July 1969. B Company blew in place one (1) anti-tank mine and one (1) anti-personnel mine.

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

161250 July 1969. First Platoon, M Company spotted three (3) enemy at grid 092663. One (1) VC was captured.

(3) 161400 July 1969. First Platoon, C Company found three (3) bunkers containing two (2) M-26's, three (3) CHICOMs, and a notebook.

(4) 161400 July 1969. First Platoon, A Company found a notebook with names of VC sympathizers. Eight (8) suspects were apprehended.

o. 170001 to 172400 July 1969.

(1) 170830 July 1969. National Police apprehended three (3) Vietnamese woman with faulty ID cards.

(2) 170945 July 1969. Third Platoon, M Company blew in place a booby trapped M-79 round.

(3) 171200 July 1969. Second Platoon found a bunker with five (5) VC and miscellaneous equipment. Five (5) VC KIA's resulted from M-26's.

(4) 171430 July 1969. M Company found a 105mm round booby trap. Blown in place.

(5) 171545 July 1969. Third Squad, Second Platoon, A Company made contact with three (3) enemy at grid 061635. A sweep made with negative results.

p. 180001 to 182400 July 1969.

(1) 180900 July 1969. Third Platoon, C Company tripped a booby trapped 60mm round.

(2) 181200 July 1969. B Company found 500-600 pounds of rice and four (4) VC bodies. Destroyed rice.

(3) 181200 July 1969. First Squad, First Platoon, M Company found seventeen VCS with faulty ID cards.

(4) 181350 July 1969. Third Platoon, M Company found a booby trap consisting of ten (10) CHICOMs in a sand trap. Blown in place.

(5) 181430 July 1969. First Platoon, M Company found booby trapped M-26's.

q. 190001 to 192400 July 1969.

(1) 191130 July 1969. First Platoon, M Company found one (1) female and six (6) detainees at grid 094665.

(2) 191510 July 1969. B Company patrol found and blew two (2) anti-personnel mines.

UNCLASSIFIED



- (3) 192030 July 1969. B Company took small arms and grenades from grid 084626. Returned small arms and 60mm mortar fire with negative results.
- r. 200001 to 202400 July 1969. Nothing significant.
- s. 210001 to 212400 July 1969.
- (1) 211400 July 1969. Popular Forces found a bunker containing five (5) VCS at grid 053657. Bunker was destroyed.
- (2) 212025 July 1969. First Squad, Second Platoon, A Company spotted three (3) indigenous personnel at grid 071650. Fired 60mm mortars with negative results.
- t. 220001 to 222400 July 1969.
- (1) 220015 July 1969. Second Squad, First Platoon, D Company spotted three to four enemy at BT 084685. Fired small arms fire and grenades with negative results.
- (2) 220805 July 1969. Third Platoon, A Company found 85 AK-47 rounds.
- (3) 221220 July 1969. Second Platoon, B Company tripped a booby trap while on patrol. No injuries resulted.
- (4) 221320 July 1969. B Company found a SFD believed to be an 81mm round.
- (5) 222330 July 1969. Rat patrol hit a land mine believed to be an 81mm mortar round. Three (3) Marines WILs were medevaced.
- u. 230001 to 232400 July 1969.
- (1) 230100 July 1969. First Platoon, A Company received three (3) incoming 105mm rounds from unknown source.
- (2) 230545 July 1969. Rat Patrol received sniper fire. Returned fire wounding 1 Vietnamese woman.
- (3) 231900 July 1969. A bulldozer operator was wounded in the leg by small arms sniper fire from grid 073658.
- (4) 231915 July 1969. Second Platoon, A Company received three to four rounds from a Regional Force at BT 051669. Contacted Regional Force and got a cease fire.
- (5) 232130 July 1969. Third Squad, First Platoon B Company spotted a group in a spider hole at grid 084634. Threw M-26's and swept finding two NVA KIA, one SKS, four CHICOMs, and miscellaneous ammunition.



UNCLASSIFIED

(6) 231715 July 1969. Second Platoon, A Company was led by children to a booby trap at grid 050666. Destroyed in place.

(7) 232115 July 1969. Rat Patrol hit a land mine at grid 065655. Replaced vehicle and continued patrol.

v. 240001 to 242400 July 1969.

(1) 241100 July 1969. A Company, LIT, ITT, and NFFP completed cordon and search of Ngan Cau (2) resulting in the detection of six VCS and destruction of eight bunkers.

(2) 241445 July 1969. First Squad, Third Platoon, B Company received fire from four enemy from grid 074638. Returned small arms fire and swept resulting in one VNA KIA and one Marine WIA.

(3) 242010 July 1969. "W" Tower spotted six enemy at BT 073654 and six enemy at 075658. Received small arms fire and returned 81mm mortar fire. Negative results.

(4) 242245 July 1969. First Squad, Second Platoon, B Company made contact with nine enemy at grid 090674. Received two CHICOMs resulting in one WIA. Fired artillery with negative results.

w. 250001 to 252400 July 1969.

(1) 250930 July 1969. Vietnamese boy turned in one M-26 and a cart-ridge belt.

(2) 251800 July 1969. Vietnamese boy turned in one 60mm illumination round.

x. 260001 to 262400 July 1969.

(1) 261105 July 1969. Two Vietnamese children turned in two 81 mortar rounds.

(2) 261320 July 1969. Two Vietnamese boys turned in two 60mm illumination rounds.

(3) 261345 July 1969. Second Platoon, B Company found medical gear in house. Also received sniper fire.

(4) 261430 July 1969. B Company paid 1000 \$ VN for two 105mm rounds, one 81mm round, one 60mm round. All blown in place.

(5) 261510 July 1969. Vietnamese boys turned in one M-16 magazine and one M-79 round, four 60mm illumination rounds.

y. 270001 to 272400 July 1969.

(1) 270920 July 1969. A Vietnamese woman tripped a boobytrap and was medevaced.

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

- (2) 271150 July 1969. Vietnamese boy received 500 \$ VN for one 60mm illumination round.
- (3) 271630 July 1969. Two Vietnamese boys paid 200 \$ VN for M-26.
- (4) 271845 July 1969. Vietnamese boy turned in one 60mm illumination round and paid 300 \$ VN.

z. 280001 to 282400 July 1969.

- (1) 280415 July 1969. ARVN Headquarters at Tower 1 took about four incoming mortar rounds in
- (2) 280730 July 1969. Two Vietnamese children brought in 30 caliber linked to A Company and led them to other assorted ordnance.
- (3) 281225 July 1969. Vietnamese boy turned in one 60mm illumination round.
- (4) 281305 July 1969. A Company, First Platoon, Third Squad tripped a booby trapped M-26.
- (5) 281400 July 1969. Two Vietnamese boys turned in two 60mm H.E. rounds.
- (6) 281838 July 1969. C Company, Third Platoon, First Squad spotted four VC washing clothes on river.
- (7) 281900 July 1969. Vietnamese boy brought in an electrically detonated RPG round.
- (8) 282125 July 1969. Third Squad, Second Platoon, D Company received two M-79 rounds while in NDP.

aa. 290001 to 292400 July 1969.

- (1) 291255 July 1969. 1500 \$ VN paid out for various ammunition turned in.
- (2) 292125 July 1969. Third Squad, First Platoon, C Company found a possible fording place at grid 044648.

bb. 300001 to 302400 July 1969.

- (1) 301000 July 1969. First Platoon, B Company found one female with medical supplies. Turned over to IIT.
- (2) 301215 July 1969. Vietnamese boy turned in part of a LAAW found at grid 035656.
- (3) 301220 July 1969. Third Squad, Second Platoon, A Company found a sign with Vietnamese writing and turned it into S-2.

UNCLASSIFIED

- (4) 301600 July 1969. An amtrac hit a land mine at grid 063643.
- (5) 302000 July 1969. Second Squad, First Platoon, B Company received one incoming CHICOM. Sweep was negative.
- (6) 302200 July 1969. Approximately twenty-five Vietnamese approached grid 033649 with 2 Vietnamese who had been wounded by mortar fire. They were medevaced.

cc. 310001 to 312400 July 1969.

- (1) 311045 July 1969. First Squad, Third Platoon, A Company found a booby trapped 105mm round. Bolwn in place.
- (2) 311530 July 1969. B Company apprehended a Vietnamese woman with a faulty ID card.
- (3) 311530 July 1969. A Company, Second Platoon paid 800 \$ VN for two 81mm H.E. rounds.
- (4) 312020 July 1969. Third Squad, First Platoon, B Company received 12 60mm rounds from grid 068634. Returned 60mm and 81mm mortar fire. Sweep was negative.
- (5) 312215 July 1969. The 34th AFWN took three incoming grenades. Fired mortars with negative results.

4. FIRE SUPPORT:

a. ARTILLERY:

During Operation's Bold Pursuit and Mighty Play "A" 1/13 was in direct support of BLT 1/26 with "W" 1/11 providing reinforcing fires when assigned by "A" 1/13. On 20 July "A" 1/13 and "W" 1/11 went under operational control of 1/11. For the remainder of the month "A" 1/13 continued to fire in support of BLT 1/26 activities; however "W" 1/11 was moved to a new battery position and was not able to furnish support. General Support was utilized only twice during the month of July, both times supplied by "A" 1/13. The following are the different types of fires employed: targets of opportunity, contact missions, preparatory, and withdrawal fires, harassing and interdicting fires, intelligence targets, and counter-mortar fires. During July "A" 1/13 fired a total of 219 missions and 5937 rounds. "W" 1/11 fired 248 missions and 2805 rounds.

b. NAVAL GUNFIRE:

During Operation Bold Pursuit, Naval Gunfire was used to the maximum. Preparatory fires, withdrawal fires, intelligence targets, harassing and interdicting fires, and contact illumination missions were fired. The greatest single achievement gained through the use of Naval Gunfire was the utilization of it's fires for the destruction of bunker

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

and tunnel complexes. On Operation Mighty Play the BLT employed Naval Gunfire initially for harassing and interdicting fires, however the compactness of the AO restricted its further use. During the month of July Naval Gunfire fired a total of 5372 rounds.

c. 81mm Mortar Platoon:

On Operation Bold Pursuit and Mighty Play, the 81mm Mortar Platoon was located with the BLT 1/26 CP and provided reinforcing fires whenever required. On 20 July, when BLT 1/26 went OpCon to the 1st Marines, the 81mm mortar platoon was divided in order to give maximum support to activities. Two sections ("W-2") were located in the north-eastern sector of our AO, while the other two sections ("W-1") remained at the Bn CP. Both units provided their own fire direction center and served in direct support for the remainder of July. Besides contact missions, they fired harassing and interdicting fires, preparatory and withdrawal fires, contact illumination missions, mine and boobytrap clearing missions and one counter-mortar mission. A total of 347 missions and 4482 rounds were fired during the month of July.

5. PERSONNEL

a. Combat Losses

WIA	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Evac	0	68
Minor	0	19
KIA	0	6
MIA	0	0

b. Non-Combat Losses

Injured	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Evac	0	41
Minor	0	0
Killed	0	0

c. WIA's Returned to Duty - Twenty-three

d. R&R Trips - 124

e. Personnel Rotated PCS - 5 OFF - 70 ENL

f. Replacements Received - 5 OFF - 96 ENL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
6. ADMINISTRATION

a. Personnel Accounting

On 19 July 1969, the Battalion S-1 along with all company/battery administrative sections and supply elements for the Battalion off-loaded at Danang RVN. The administrative rear was located at the SLF in-country camp on Hill 34. The S-1 is experiencing some minor problems generated by the physical separation of the Command Group and Staff Sections from the administrative sections. These problems concern themselves with delays in decisions due to slow communication and time lost due to transportation of guard mail.

b. Awards

1-Silver Star
1-Naval Comm
1-Purple Heart

c. Promotions

4 to First Lieutenant
1 to Master Sergeant
4 to Staff Sergeant
1 to Corporal
3 to Lance Corporal
1 to Private First Class

d. Significant Events

Lieutenant Colonel G. C. KLIEFOTH was relieved by Lieutenant Colonel J. C. GOODIN as Commanding Officer in the Change of Command ceremonies on 28 July 1969.

7. LOGISTICS.

a. Supply/Resupply.

(1) During Operation Mighty Play (10-20 July 69), the BLT operating stocks remained on ARG Shipping and only class II items were drawn from this source daily. Two days of supply in classes I, III, and V were maintained in the BSA (LZ 413) having been requisitioned and trucked from FLC and ASP-2. Operational units were resupplied by helicopter, amtracs, and trucks.

(2) On 20 July 1969, the operating stocks were off-loaded to Hill 34 and the same system prevails to date with the following exceptions:

(a) The amount of supplies in the BSA was increased and tailored to meet demand.

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

b) Amtracs and trucks meet the majority of the transportation requirement. Shortages of essential equipment did not overly effect operational capabilities and no outstanding problems occurred.

~~b. Food/Water.~~

- (1) Supply and resupply of all food and water consumed in the field during "Mighty Play" came from the DSA, and the majority was helo-lifted.
- (2) Since the termination of that operation, the resupply of food has been augmented by messhalls in the rear and forward CP's, one (1) company size field mess, and an adjacent units messhall. With a few exceptions, all units are receiving at least one (1) "A" ration per day. The resupply of water has decentralized from the exclusive use of the BAS to many treated water sources. No other food/water sources have been utilized.

c. Maintenance.

- (1) 1st FSR provided this BLT with maintenance/repair support. Equipment on deadline for third and fourth echelon repair was repaired or replaced by float maintenance within a reasonable time. The BLT remained in a state of C-1 operational readiness throughout the operation.

d. Camp Facilities Development. During this month, the BLT has had personnel living in five (5) permanent or semi-permanent camps and has continued to maintain and improve camp facilities within its capability with no outstanding developments worthy of specific comment.

6. CIVIC ACTION/PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

a. During this period, 1st Bn., 26th Marines conducted operations in the Danang TAOR and assumed temporary responsibility for 3rd Bn., 1st Marines AO. Operation Mighty Play was conducted during this time also. Several hundred people were moved from the area to a temporary site where construction had began on a new resettlement village. In the initial move 280 civilians were relocated. The S-5 Section provided temporary shelter for the people. 1st Bn., 26th Marines has been supplying 25 cases of C-rations per day to supplement rice from District sources. At the present time an estimated 550 people are now located at the resettlement site. This increased amount is a result of the execution of the planned movement of civilians to provide greater security for the combat base. The removal and relocation of the civilians has improved the tactical security of the compound and taken away area used for VC terrorist activities. At the resettlement site, tactical wire has been provided by the battalion to complete the security for the village. Close liaison between RF and Marine units have also helped tighten the security around the site by increasing patrols and ambushes. Several

UNCLASSIFIED

and search operations have also been accomplished during the month. These operations have shown some success at eliminating VC and providing closer contact between the population and the GVN. Future operations of this type have been planned.

- b. The projects underway have been aided greatly by 1st Bn., 26th Marines. The food shortage at the New Life Village has been eliminated due to help from S-4. S-4 has also provided the major portion of the stakes, concertina, and wire needed for completing of tactical wire around the new village. Work has progressed slowly but many problems have been solved paving the way for faster progress in the future.

9. NEW TECHNIQUES.

Not applicable to this reporting period.

10. TRAINING.

- a. A total of twenty-eight (28) newly joined personnel attended indoctrination class.
- b. A total of seven (7) personnel attended formal schools as follows:
- (1) Officers Career Planning Course - 1 - Camp Hansen, Okinawa.
 - (2) Enlisted Embarkation - 1 - Camp Hansen, Okinawa.
 - (3) NCO Leadership School - 4 - Camp Hansen, Okinawa.
 - (4) Basic Ammo Tech. Course - 1 - Camp Hauge, Okinawa.
- c. The above is in addition to the weekly training schedule which is being conducted on company level. One (1) training handout was distributed to the companies.

11. COMMUNICATION.

- a. 1-6 July - Operation Bold Pursuit. Communications were maintained between elements of 1/26 ashore and ARG Shipping on the SLF Tac Net. This circuit was covered utilizing a Command LVT and KY-3. Normal BLT Radio circuits were activated and remained in effect for the entire operation. Comm Guard was maintained on the USS Cleveland with regulated courier runs from ship to shore. Backload was accomplished on 6 July utilizing BLT Tac and BLT Tac Log.

11-20 July - Operation Mighty Play. Communication was established with SLF A on the SLF TAC Net. Comm Guard remained on the USS Cleveland.

On 19 July the rear Communication elements were moved from the USS Iwo Jima and the USS Cleveland to Hill 34. Comm Guard was shifted to 1st Tank Bn. and courier runs were originated from Hill 34 to the forward

UNCLASSIFIED

CP of 1/26. At 200800H OpCon was changed to 1st Marines Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and a covered radio circuit was activated between 1st Marines Regiment and the forward CP of 1/26. From 20-30 July normal Battalion communications were maintained to tie elements of 1/26 rear on Hill 34 with 1/26 CP forward. Comm Guard remained with 1st Tank Bn.

- b. Radio Relay. From 10-30 July a hot line between 1/26 forward CP and 1st Marines Regiment was maintained utilizing a 1st Marines Regiment Radio Relay Circuit. No component Radio Relay equipment of 1/26 was utilized.
- c. Wire. Internal wire communication was maintained during Operation Bold Pursuit and Operation Mighty Play. From 10-30 July a common user line was tapped utilizing the 3/1 switchboard.
- d. Maintenance/Supply. A small forward Tech Shop was set up ashore during Operation Bold Pursuit. Due to lack of time, radios were not peaked prior to Operation Mighty Play. In turn, some PRC/25 damage was experienced. At one time 20 PRC-25's were under repair. FSR was not able to DX items as needed. This problem was eliminated by sending a technician team to all companies and performing on the spot alignment. No supply problems were encountered.
- e. Significant Events. None.

12. MEDICAL/DENTAL SUPPORT.

a. Medical.

- (1) Location of the BAS: 1 July 1969 to 18 July 1969 - USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2). 19 July 1969 to 31 July 1969 - Hill 34.
- (2) Number of Doctors/Corpsmen: 1 Dental Officer
2 Doctors from 1 July 1969 to 16 July 1969; 1 Doctor from 16 July 1969 to 31 July 1969. 63 Corpsmen and 1 Dental Tech.

(3) Casualties/Injuries Treated:

- (a) Combat: 57
- (b) Non-Combat: 318

b. Dental.

- (1) Location of Dental clinic: 1 July 1969 to 31 July 1969 - USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2).
- (2) Number of personnel treated: 123 patients.

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)

c. Significant Events. None.

13. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

a. Personnel: Lt. W. A. WILL U.S.N. Chaplain
PFC T. V. WILSON Chaplain's Assistant.

b. Religious Activities.

(1) Services.

(a) Regular: 17 Services, 631 attended.

(b) Memorial: 2 Services, 504 attended.

(c) Communions: 294.

(2) Visits.

(a) Brig: 1 visit, 7 prisoners visited.

(b) Hospital: 13 visits, 67 patients seen.

(3) Counselling.

(a) Pre-marital: 1

(b) Marital: 14

(c) Personal: 52

(d) Religious: 8

(4) Significant Events.

(a) 5 letters of condolence.

(b) 14 letters to parents of servicemen.

(c) 3 letters of acknowledgement for goods received for troop distribution.

(d) Distributed three thousand paperback books.

(e) Served as acting Special Service Officer for the month.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED SECRET
SECRET - NOFORN

COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT, MIGHTY PLAY

1. NAME OF OPERATION. MIGHTY PLAY.
2. INCLUSIVE DATES AND LOCATION OF OPERATION. Operation Mighty Play 100900H July 1969 to 200800H July 1969. Map references: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS, Series L7014, Sheets 6640 I and 6640 IV. The assigned Amphibious Operation Area was in the southeast corner of Quang Nam Province from the South China Sea at BT 113654, to BT 066620, to BT 063620, to east bank Song Vinh Diem at BT 057618, then north along east bank of Song Vinh Diem, to BT 058636 east along trail to BT 073648, to BT 083656 and to the South China Sea at BT 099675.
3. COMMAND HEADQUARTERS. Commander Task Group 79.4 embarked aboard SLF/ARG Alfa shipping. Commander Battalion Landing Team 1/26 embarked aboard USS Cleveland while afloat. Command Post ashore vic. BT 073657. BLT 1/26 OpCon to CTG 79.4.
4. TASK ORGANIZATION.
 - a. Task Group 79.4 Col. W. C. DOTY
BLT 1/26 LtCol. G. C. KLIEFOTH
HMM 265 LtCol. R. L. GRAY Jr.
 - b. Reference (b).
5. INTELLIGENCE. (SLF Intelligence Estimate for Operation Mighty Play)

a. Enemy Situation.

General. The specific AOA which BLT 1/26 was to sweep was used as a staging area and infiltration route for enemy units moving into DaNang. There was a reported enemy battalion working out of this area prior to the landing of BLT 1/26. Hostile forces known to be operating in or near the TAOR are listed in paragraph 5b.

The VC had set up an extensive network of surprise firing devices in order to slow the progress and inflict casualties on a sweeping force. The enemy was known to use well-concealed tunnels and bunkers and defined routes to hide, evade and move through friendly units without... detection.

Civilian population in the area was reported to be in support of VC/NVA whenever allied forces were operating in the area. Numerous 122mm and 140mm rocket caches were reported to be hidden in the AOA for use in rocket attacks against Marble Mountain Air Facility and DaNang Air Base.

b. Enemy Order of Battle.

- (1) The following list of enemy units were known to be operating in or near the area of operation.

1

ENCLOSURE (1)
SECRET - NOFORN

UNCLASSIFIED SECRET
ENCLOSURE (5)

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET - NONFORN

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AKA</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>EST STRENGTH</u>	<u>PROB LOCAL</u>
R.20	Quang Nam Indep Bn; Doc Lap Bn Ha Chig 20; B.20 Viet Dung; 70th Bn; 1st Bn; F.5, Q.90th Bn.	LF	170	BT 0763
V.25 Bn	Lam Bn; 5th Bn; R.25th Bn, 2nd Bn; D.25th Bn; Q.92nd Bn; 2nd Indep Bn of Quang Da.	LF	160	BT 1851
Q.82 Co.	Dien Bam Co; H.40th Co; X.55 Co; 104th Co; X.65th Co; Q.15th Co.	LF	110	BT 0563

c. Effect on Enemy Capabilities.

During Operation Mighty Play, BLT 1/26 was able to sever the steady flow of enemy movement thru the AOA into DaNang. By the tactical deployment of the Landing Force, VC/NVA communication and supply routes were made too hazardous for enemy use.

Large numbers of surprise firing devices were uncovered and destroyed by BLT 1/26 making freedom of movement and maneuver of our units easier, thus giving the BLT the capability to cover more area which had been previously denied to friendly movement. By clearing and securing all vital areas in the AOA, BLT 1/26 developed a quick reaction to all enemy threats of attack, and made enemy infiltration impossible without detection.

Enemy staging areas were severely damaged; 200 bunkers were uncovered and destroyed. This action denied the VC/NVA the ability to stage in our area during day or night for movement through the AOA.

6. MISSION.

BLT 1/26 will execute an amphibious heliborne assault into AOA; Conduct search and clear operation in AOA. Locate, kill or capture all enemy forces. Locate, capture or destroy all enemy installations and caches.

7. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.

Commencing on D-Day minus one, BLT 1/26 prepositions selected combat support units in the 3/1 area of operation as mutually agreed upon. At L-Hour on D-Day, BLT 1/26 conducts a three company helo assault into the central portion of the AOA, seizes Landing Force Objective 1, attacks eastward and seizes Landing Force Objective 2. Upon seizure of the Landing Force Objectives, begins conducting thorough search and clear operations in AOA.

8. EXECUTION.

On 7 July the warning order for Operation Mighty Play was received

ENCLOSURE (1)
SECRET-NONFORN
UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (5)

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET - NOFORN

from CTG 79.4 and the BLT immediately began its planning phase for the forthcoming operation.

On 8 July, BLT 1/26 issued its Operation Order and all Staff Sections and Unit Leaders attended the pre-sail conference to coordinate the amphibious assault.

On 9 July at 1100H an advance party from BLT 1/26 landed at the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment cantonment to effect liaison with adjacent units and establish the Command Post for the Operation.

The D-Day assault went as scheduled at 100900H. The initial landing plan called for a vertical assault by three companies into Landing Zones Lee, Grant, and Sherman with one company, as BLT reserve, aboard SLF/ARG shipping. During the landing no significant opposition to aircraft or troops was encountered. Upon landing the companies immediately began their primary mission of search and clear operations, and prepared for the seizure of Landing Force Objectives 1 and 2. The flat terrain and the limited size of the AOA created a potentially dangerous navigation problem to the ground forces during the initial phase on D-Day, but with the aid of an aerial observer the problem was quickly rectified. Company M, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, OpCon to the BLT for the Operation, established a blocking position along the south eastern AOA boundary. The first contact on D-Day occurred at 101705H when Company D working with an aerial observer killed eleven Viet Cong in a brief encounter. At 1600 on 10 July the Amphibious Task Force began evasive action in view of typhoon warnings, and the BLT was chopped OpCon to the 1st Marine Division until 1700H on 11 July.

Operations during the early hours of 11 July were hampered by heavy rains, a result of Typhoon "Tess". At 1400H Company D began to sweep south and then west from Objective 1. During the sweep they found one Viet Cong body and an AK-47, a result of the contact of the previous day. As the companies moved they encountered and destroyed numerous surprise firing devices and fortified bunker positions. At 111900H a Frag Order was issued to prepare for the seizure and search of Objectives 2 and 3.

Actions on 12 July were characterized by the positioning of forces in preparation for the sweep of Objectives 2 and 3. On this day Company D killed two NVA southwest of Objective 1 and recovered a packet of documents. Preliminary interpretation indicated the material content to be of high value and the documents were flown to Headquarters III MAF for further evaluation.

Three SFD incidents were reported on 13 July. At 0925H two Marines from the 1st Platoon, Company A, were injured by an M-26 grenade rigged with trip wire. Both Marines were medevaced. At 1005H, at DT 060630, a scout dog, dog handler, and a Marine from Company A were injured by an M-26 SFD. All were medevaced. At 1100H, Company C found and destroyed four SFD's. In other actions on 13 July, S-2 Scouts attached to Company D

ENCLOSURE (1)
SECRET-NOFORN

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (5)

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET - NOFORN

found and destroyed four concealed bunkers at BT 076627 and captured one SKS rifle, 20 rounds of ammunition, and two M-26 grenades.

During actions on 14 July, Company A found and destroyed eight fortified houses, 14 bunkers, 200 pounds of rice, two punji pits and five 105mm HE rounds. At 0830H, 1st Platoon, Company B, found a 105mm HE round rigged with a BA 386 and dynamite alongside a village at BT 093653. The device was destroyed in place. Actions by Company D on 14 July resulted in the destruction of seven fortified bunkers, six 82mm mortar rounds, three 105mm HE rounds, two factory made CHICOM grenades, one 40 pound box mine, one LAAW rigged with M-26 grenade, six orange juice cans filled with composition B. A lower receiver group from an M-16 was also found and was turned into the BLT S-2. Two significant night actions took place on 14 July. At 1855H an element of Company D, while moving into night positions, tripped an 81mm mortar SFD. During the resulting medevac another SFD was tripped resulting in a total of eleven Marines wounded in the incident. At 2330H a Company B ambush came under heavy CHICOM and satchel charge attack by an estimated 10-15 enemy. Eleven Marines were wounded during the contact.

On 15 July at 0730H, S-2 Scouts from Company D discovered a concealed bunker at BT 077627. The bunker contained documents listing Liberation Front Committee members, a map of DaNang and propaganda leaflets. Later that morning at 0900H, Company C found 200 pounds of rice and destroyed two SFD's. At 1410H at BT 062629 a Platoon Commander from Company D was injured by an M-26 SFD. A corpsman was injured by another SFD as he attempted to aid the injured man. Both were medevaced. During daylight activities in the Company D area of operation, five bunkers, four M-26 SFD's, two 81mm SFD's, one punji pit, and three bangalore torpedoes were destroyed. Company A found and destroyed two 105mm SFD's in the vicinity of BT 067643.

At 0930H on 16 July, 2nd Platoon, Company B, discovered one anti-tank mine and one anti-personnel mine at BT 106640. Both were destroyed. A patrol from Company A in the vicinity of BT 074636 found three Vietnamese signs warning the people to stay out of the area. Search of the area disclosed a punji pit surrounded by various types of anti-personnel mines and a notebook containing the names of sympathizers in the area. The mines and punji pit were destroyed and the notebook was turned over to the S-2. At 1400H at BT 103626, the 1st Platoon, Company C, found and destroyed three bunkers containing various food stuffs, two M-26 and three CHICOM grenades.

National Police Field Forces assisted in activities on 17 July. Acting on information gained from the interrogation of a Viet Cong prisoner BLT S-2 personnel, assisted by elements of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, discovered a spider hole complex in the vicinity of BT 095656. Destruction of the bunker network netted five Viet Cong KIA and the capture of two M-16 rifles, two AK-47 rifles, one Russian 9mm automatic pistol, two RPG-2 rounds, medical supplies, and 30,000 \$VN. All

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (5) **SECRET**

UNCLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~~~SECRET - NOFORN~~

equipment was delivered to the S-2 for disposition. Two SFD's were discovered and destroyed by Company M; a 105mm round vicinity BT 098665 and a M-79 round vicinity BT 104648.

On 18 July Company M continued its coordinated activities with National Police Field Forces. An identification card screen by the two units netted 17 VCS. All suspects were taken to the 3rd CIT compound for interrogation. In other actions in the Company M area of operation, ten CHICOM grenades were discovered and destroyed by the 3rd Platoon at BT 102653. At 0900H on 18 July a Marine from Company C detonated a 60mm mortar SFD inflicting mortal wounds on himself and injuring two other Marines. While searching a destroyed bunker complex in the vicinity BT 080623, the 2nd Platoon, Company B, discovered 600 pounds of rice and four Viet Cong bodies. The enemy had been dead for approximately one week.

At 1130H on 19 July Company M captured six male and one female suspects at BT 094665. The suspects had a chest X-Ray and an inventory sheet from the DaNang Air Base in their possession. Throughout 19 July preparations were made for the takeover of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, TACR on 20 July.

At 0800 on 20 July Operation Mighty Play was terminated, and the BLT was chopped OpCon to the 1st Marine Division, for further chop to the 1st Marine Regiment to participate in the defense of the DaNang Vital Sector and cooperate in the District Accelerated Pacification Program.

Battery A, 1/13, and the 81mm Mortar Platoon fired in direct support, and W 1/11 fired in general support of the BLT during Operation Mighty Play. Naval Gunfire support was provided when available by CTG 79.4.

Statistics for Operation Mighty Play are as follows:

	<u>A, 1/13</u>	<u>W, 1/11</u>	<u>81mm Mortar Plt.</u>	<u>NGF</u>
Missions	117	65	82	28
Total rounds expended	1505	1203	774	1131

Communication for Operation Mighty Play was conducted in accordance with CTG 79.4 COI dated 8 July, 1969, and 1st Marine Regiment COI effective for that period.

A large amount of mutual radio frequency interference was experienced during the first days of the operation. Eight individual frequency changes from the CTG 79.4 COI were required before the majority of interference could be eliminated. The following major radio circuits were activated and maintained throughout the operation:

SLF TAC. This net is normally manned and equipped by the SLF. However,

5

ENCLOSURE (1)
~~SECRET - NOFORN~~

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (5) ~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET-NOFORN

during the operation, it became an additional burden to the BLT to supply this circuit with adequate batteries and equipment for the covered capabilities required. On 12 July this net was secured for approximately 18 hours while the ARG took evasive storm actions out of FM range. During this time the 1st Marine Regiment TAC Net was entered.

BLT TAC. This net was entered by all component units of BLT 1/26 and Company M, 3rd Bn., 1st Marine Regiment. After initial frequency changes no additional difficulties were experienced.

In addition to the above, the following circuits were also maintained: BLT TAC LOG, BLT LOG/ADMIN, BLT TACF NET, and LZ Control.

Internal wire circuits were installed throughout the CP area. A "Hot Line" was run from the 1/26 COC to the 3/1 COC. One line was entered into the 3/1 switchboard for access to the Division Telephone System. One line was placed from the radio relay system at 3/1 CP to the 1st Marine Regiment COC. This line terminated at the FSCC desk and functioned as a "Hot Line" from 1/26 FSCC to the 1st Marine Regiment FSCC.

During Operation Mighty Play (10-20 July 69), the BLT operating stocks remained on ARG shipping and only Class II items were drawn from this source daily. Two days of supply in Classes I, III, and V were requisitioned and trucked from FLC and ASP-2. Operational units were resupplied by helicopters, LVT's and trucks.

Supply and resupply of all food and water consumed in the field during "Mighty Play" came from the ESA, the majority being helo-lifted.

1st FSR provided this BLT with maintenance/repair support. Equipment on deadline for third and fourth echelon repair was repaired or replaced by float maintenance within a reasonable time. The BLT supplies and equipment remained in a state of C-1 operational readiness throughout the operation.

All Civic Action during Operation Mighty Play was coordinated through the S-5 provided to the BLT by 1st Marine Regiment. Over 280 civilians were moved from the AQH to a resettlement village. Temporary shelter was provided by the S-5 and the rice ration provided by District Headquarters was supplemented by C-rations provided by the BLT.

Communications guard was maintained aboard the USS Cleveland until 18 July. At this time communications guard was shifted to the 1st Tank Battalion.

A definite problem was experienced with RT 505 maintenance. The DX exchange system for RT 505's was incapable of handling the requirement of downed radios. At one time 20 RT 505's were turned in waiting replacement. An effort to maintain a small reserve stock of replacement modules with the BLT is in progress. Inadequate rehab time between

ENCLOSURE (1)
SECRET-NOFORNUNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (5)

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET - NOFORN~~SECRET~~

operations prevents sufficient higher echelon maintenance on company radios. This factor attributes to the high damage of RT 505's.

9. RESULTS.

a. Enemy.

KIA - 30	SFD Discovered - 96
POW - 0	SFD Detonated - 6
Detainees - 71	Rice Captured - 1600 lbs.
Civil Defenders - 7	Bunkers Destroyed - 188
IWC - 10	Structures Destroyed - 22

b. Friendly.

KIA - 1	WIA (Non Evac) - 12
DOW - 3	NIC (Evac) - 17
WIA (Evac) - 22	

10. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS.

Operation Mighty Play was characterized by lack of large unit contact. The largest group of enemy encountered was the 11 killed by Company D on the first day. Extensive SFD activity, however, indicated that there had been enemy in the area previously.

Twenty-eight of the 30 kills on this operation were VC. The circumstances of their deaths (except the 11 by Co. D on the first day) indicated that they were local force or hamlet guerrillas. This same inference could be drawn from the contacts that did not result in enemy kills. All ambushes had to be sprung at long range on small groups of enemy, apparently very aware of the ambush location. The two kills by Company D on 12 July were not VC. From papers found on their bodies, both were determined to be NVA, one an officer, perhaps of Regimental Commander level. Documents found on his body were forwarded to III MAF and were evaluated as containing very valuable information, but of no immediate tactical significance. It is assumed that the two were transients on a courier mission.

The major achievement in the Operation was the destruction of the bunkers used to harbor transients and the killing of the 28 local force VC in an area that would have not been touched otherwise. It is felt that this will hamper infiltration thru the area.

ENCLOSURE (1)
UNCLASSIFIED - NOFORN
UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (5)

