

HEADQUARTERS  
 2d Battalion, 26th Marines  
 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 FPO, San Francisco, 96602

187867

550  
 3/KEM/jwp  
 10 Apr 1967

Sur: 00152-67

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03)  
 Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
 Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
 Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 March 1967 to 31 March 1967

Ref: (a) HQO 5750.2  
 (b) FMFACO 5750.8  
 (c) DivO 5750.1A

Enclosure: (1) 2d Battalion, 26th Marines, Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. Downgraded at three (3) year intervals, declassified after twelve (12) years.

J. R. LAWRENCE  
 By direction

2ND BN/26TH MAR

CMD CHRON

MAR 1967

cy 1 of 12

HEADQUARTERS  
2d Battalion, 26th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 Mar 67 to 31 Mar 67

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Enclosure (1)

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

## 1. DESTINATION

## COMMANDER

2d Battalion, 26th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF

Lieutenant Colonel J. M. CUMMINGS  
1-31 Mar 1967

## SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	Capt. MOTLEY, P. C.	1-31 Mar 1967
Co E	Capt. JOY, J. R.	1-2 Mar 1967
Co F	Capt. FULFORD, F. D.	3-31 Mar 1967
Co G	Capt. FORT, G. E.	1-31 Mar 1967
Co H	Capt. OOTS, S. E.	1-31 Mar 1967
	Capt. ROZMAN, J. J.	1-31 Mar 1967

## ATTACHED UNITS

NONE

## 2. LOCATION

1-7 Mar 1967: Da Nang RVN  
8-30 Mar 1967: Bong Ha RVN  
31 Mar 1967: Da Nang RVN

## 3. STAFF OFFICERS

XO	Maj. LANDERS, J. H.	1-31 Mar 1967
S-1	2d Lt. RHODES, J. L.	1-31 Mar 1967
S-2	2d Lt. BROWN, W. A.	1-31 Mar 1967
S-3	Maj. YOUNG, D. L.	1-31 Mar 1967
S-4	Capt. BAKER, L. H.	1-31 Mar 1967
S-5	2d Lt. FELLINGER, B. E. C.	1-31 Mar 1967

## 4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC	USN	OTHER		
Off 30	Enl 1237	Off 3	Enl 53	NONE

[REDACTED]  
PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During this period the battalion has operated in a split configuration continuously, Operation Gulf, a battalion (-) (Rein) search and clear operation was conducted along the upper reaches of the Song Cu Do in Elephant Valley. The abrupt termination of Operation Gulf on 7 March was followed by deployment of a Command Group and three companies to Dong Ha on 8 March and commitment to Operation Prairie II and III,

The Battalion Executive Officer command group maintained responsibility for the northern portion of the Da-Nang TMR with Co "A" and Co "D", 1st Bn, 26th Marines. Security of vital installations and continued emphasis on denying VC use of the Song Cu Do and adjacent trail network for supply and infiltration was accomplished by saturation patrolling day and night.

The civil affairs program was continued with good results. Noteworthy was the intelligence voluntarily supplied by village chiefs which resulted in the capture or destruction of VC supplies, documents and weapons.

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Enclosure (1)

## PART III

## PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

## 1. Personnel

a. Number of replacements received: 64 USMC Enl, 1 USMC Off, 2 USN Enl and 0 USN Off

b. Number of personnel rotated: 4

c. Number of personnel lost through attrition other than rotation: 76

(1) WIA - 6

(2) KIA - 2

(3) Humanitarian/Emergency transfers - 1

(4) Non-battle injuries - 6

(5) Intra-division/regiment transfers - 57 Enl, 4 Off

d. During March 112 out of country R&R quotas were received, and 51 in country R&R quotas to China Beach were received.

e. Special Services. Movies were shown nightly. A USO show performed in the area.

## 2. Administration

## a. Awards

(1) Purple Hearts - 15

## b. Promotions

(1) To Corporal - 26

(2) To Lance Corporal - 51

(3) To Private First Class - 5

## c. Postal Service - Available

## d. Exchange facilities - Available

e. Information Services. There were 60 Fleet Home Town News releases during the month.

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f. Courts-Martial

	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Pending</u>
General Court Martial	0	0
Special Court Martial	0	2
Summary Court Martial	0	0

## INTELLIGENCE, 2d BATTALION, 26th MARINES

## 1. Enemy Situation at the beginning of the period.

a. DaNang Area. Enemy activity was passive in nature. The VC were avoiding contact and no daylight sightings were made.

b. Cam Lo Area. The enemy appeared to be hiding and observing friendly activity.

## 2. Enemy initiated incidents.

a. DaNang - 7 incidents

- (1) Three incidents of attempts to breach/mine perimeter wire.
- (2) One incident of small arms (sniper fire).
- (3) Three incidents of mine/booby traps.

b. Cam Lo - 11 incidents

- (1) Four incidents of small arms and sniper fire.
- (2) Seven incidents of mine/booby traps.

## 3. Summary of Enemy Casualties.

a. DaNang - unknown

b. Cam Lo - KIA 2, KIA (Prob) 3.

## 4. Significant trends during period.

a. DaNang and Cam Lo none.

## 5. Enemy Situation at the end of the period.

a. Da Nang: Enemy activity began to increase as compared to the same period for the preceding month.

b. Cam Lo: The enemy seems to be avoiding contact with friendly units. On the occasions when patrols encountered the enemy contact was broken almost immediately.

## 6. Weather.

a. Da Nang - No adverse conditions.

b. Cam Lo - There were two or three days of ground fog restricting visibility to two or three miles, clearing by 0900H. High temperatures and humidity coupled with a lack of water in some areas, and the nature of the terrain were causes for adverse operating conditions.

## INTELLIGENCE, DETACHMENT, 2d BATTALION, 26th MARINES

1. Enemy Situation at the Beginning of period.
  - a. The enemy was avoiding daylight contact and limited their activities to probing friendly defensive positions under cover of darkness.
2. There were 15 enemy initiated incidents.
  - a. One incident of attempt to breach/mine perimeter wire.
  - b. Two incidents of enemy sniper fire.
  - c. Two incidents of enemy ambushing friendly patrols.
  - d. Ten incidents of mine/booby traps.
3. Summary of Enemy Casualties
  - a. KIA 0
  - b. KIA (Prob) 3
  - c. PW 0
  - d. Detainees 5 (released as innocent civilians)
4. Significant trends during the period.
  - a. On 12 March 67, the first day light sighting of the enemy in this area was made. From then until the 21st of March a total of 3 actual daylight sightings were made, and reports of a 36 man VC unit operating within the Battalion TAC was received from villagers.
5. Enemy Situation at end of Period.
  - a. From the 21st of March contacts became less frequent. But this is attributed to the fact that moon light extended throughout most of the night and would have made night movement easy to detect. Enemy activity was limited to infiltration of personnel during hours of darkness.
6. Weather.
  - a. Fog/haze restricted employment of helicopters on several days, but usually cleared by early afternoon.

Enclosure (1)

## OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

## 1. OPERATIONS

a. Mission Assigned: During the month of March the battalion's mission was two fold due to the movement north of a command group and three rifle companies. The remaining command group with Company F Reinforced by Company D, 1st Bn, 26th Mar was assigned the following mission:

(1) Establish and maintain a reconnaissance screen throughout assigned TAOR and in OA's when assigned.

(2) Conduct unilateral offensive operations within assigned TAOR and in OA's as directed.

(3) Conduct unilateral and/or coordinated offensive operations in Division Area of responsibility as directed.

(4) Be prepared to conduct unilateral and/or coordinated offensive operations throughout I Corps Tactical Zone as directed.

(5) Occupy and defend assigned TAOR.

(6) Be prepared to deploy anywhere in RVN by the most expeditious means within indicated time from first warning order:

(a) One Reinforced Rifle Company within four (4) hours.

(b) One Reinforced Battalion (minus above company) within six (6) hours.

(7) Be prepared to counterattack against possible enemy penetration into Regimental TAOR.

(8) Conduct coordinated U.S./GVN operations including a concentrated and sustained civic action program within TAOR in support of Revolutionary development.

(9) Conduct coordinated U.S./GVN psychological warfare program within TAOR.

(10) Control and Maintain Routes of Communication within TAOR.

b. The Command Group and Companies E, G and H had the following mission:

(1) To Reinforce the 3d Marine Division Forward and to conduct operations as directed.

c. Major Operations Conducted: The battalion participated in Operation Prairie II, Prairie III and Gulf.

d. Command and Control

(1) Task Organization. During the month the battalion was Task Organized as follows:

Attachment 2d Bn, 26th Mar

H&amp;S Co (-)

Maj Landers

Co F (Rein)

Capt Motley

Co F

Capt Fort

Det, H&amp;S Co (-)

Det, Med Plt

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Serv Plt

Sec, 81mm Mortar Plt

FO Team, Btry B, 1st Bn, 13th Mar

Co D (Rein) 1st Bn, 26th Mar

Capt Johnson

Co D

Det, H&amp;S Co (-)

Det, Med Plt

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Serv Plt

Sec, 81mm Mortar Plt

FO Team, Btry A, 1st Bn, 11th Mar

Direct SupportBtry B, 1st Bn, 13th Mar

Capt Lathrop

2d Plt, Co B, 1st Tk Bn

GySgt Sims

2d Plt, Co B, 3d AT Bn

2dLt Monaghan

2d Plt (-) Co A, 3d AmTrac Bn

2dLt Couch

2d Bn, 26th Mar (-) (Rein)

Lt. Col. Cummings

Det, H&amp;S Co

Capt Mulligan

Det, 3d SP Bn (HST)

Co E (Rein)

Capt Fulford

Co F

Det, H&amp;S Co

Det, Med Plt

Det, Comm Plt

Det, 3d Eng Bn

FO Team, Btry B, 1st Bn, 13th Mar

Co G (Rein)

Capt. Oots

Co G

Det, H&amp;S Co

Det, Med Plt

Det, Comm Plt

Det, 3d Eng Bn

FO Team, Btry B, 1st Bn, 13th Mar

Co H (Rein)

Capt. Rosman

Co H

Det, H&amp;S Co

Det, Med Plt

Det, Comm Plt

Det, 3d Eng Bn

FO Team, Btry B, 1st Bn, 13th Mar

(2) Control. The primary means of control during the reporting period was radio backed up by wire. A minimum of difficulties were encountered.

## 2. NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL and CHEMICAL WARFARE

- a. Use of any equipment peculiar to CBR warfare; None
- b. All major items of CBR equipment are on hand.

## 3. TRAINING

- a. The following training was conducted.

(1) One enlisted Marine was sent to Okinawa for a period of five (5) days to attend MUMMS Training.

(2) Training was completed on the M-16 in preparation for issue. Driver training was conducted by the Motor Transport Section of H&S Company. Sniper training was conducted at Headquarters Company, 9th Marines. The Battalion sent eleven (11) enlisted marines to the school. Familiarization firing of individual and crew served weapons was conducted by all companies.

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## 4. Significant events: Second Battalion, Twenty Sixth Marines

1 Mar 1967 At 0745H a MedEvac was called for three men from Company E. Nature of wounds was two sprained ankles and one infected leg.

Ref: S-3 Journal #18 Annex A

2 Mar 1967 At 1345H point man detonated booby trap at AT898704 resulting in 3 USMC WIA.

Ref S-3 Journal #135 Annex A

3 Mar 1967 At 2245H ambush made contact with 4-5 VC at AT938881. VC fired approximately 5 rounds S/A and threw one frag grenade from 50 meters, resulting in one USMC WIA. Ambush fired approximately twenty rounds 7.62mm resulting in one VC WIA.

Ref: S-3 Journal #238 Annex A

4 Mar 1967 At 0700H Company E and H commenced Search and Destroy Operation (Operation Gulf)

Ref: S-3 Journal #253 Annex A

At 0745H One tank detonated land mine at AT854856 resulting in right track of tank damaged and six USMC WIA.

Ref: S-3 Journal #257 Annex A

At 1145H Company H patrol apprehended one Vietnamese with suspicious ID card and USMC Identification Tags on person. Detainee forwarded to 3rd CPT for evaluation.

Ref: S-3 Journal #286 Annex A

At 1155H Company F patrol made contact with 2 VC at AT836710, resulting in one VC WIA. While searching area patrol discovered a VC Patrol base with numerous fighting holes and cav s. One bunker was discovered and destroyed. Numerous items of clothing and cooking utensils were found at camp. Demo kits and Chinese grenades found and forwarded to Bn S-2.

Ref: S-3 Journal #297 Annex A

5 Mar 1967 At 1155H returning from ambush at AT903823 CAG 15 Patrol had a grenade thrown into column resulting in 2 ARVN WIA and 1 USMC WIA.

Ref: S-3 Journal #374 Annex A

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At 2130H Patrol observed 2 VC at AT891770. Sprung hasty ambush with M-79's and machine guns. Received approximately 15 incoming SAF. Ambush resulted in one VC WIA.

Ref: S-3 Journal #366 Annex A

6 Mar 1967

At 1130H Two Company H men were MedEvac'd from patrol base. Nature of wounds were one fracture and one head concussion.

Ref: S-3 Journal #420 Annex A

7 Mar 1967

At 0800H Operation Gulf Terminated.

Ref: 9th Mar Msg 060240Z

8 Mar 1967

At 0830H Command Group and Companies E, G and H departed Da Nang area for Dong Ha to reinforce the 3d MarDiv Forward.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1 Annex A

At 1015H The Command Group was airborne from Da Nang Air Field.

Ref: S-3 Journal #2 Annex A

At 1045H The Command Group touched down at Dong Ha and the 2d Battalion, 26th Marines chopped OnGra to the 3d MarDiv.

Ref: S-3 Journal #3 and 5 Annex A

At 1715H 2d Bn, 26th Mar C.P. was opened at YD 086575. Co H C.P. at YD 086575. Co F at YD 083576 and Co G C.P. at YD 089578.

Ref: S-3 Journal #6 Annex A

At 1820H Received Opn Prairie II Frag Order 12-67.

Ref: S-3 Journal #7 Annex A

At 1915H Received verbal instructions from 3d Mar S-3 to stand down from Prairie II Frag Order 12-67.

Ref: S-3 Journal #8 Annex A

At 2137H Received message from CG, 3d MarDiv Forward for Bn. CO to meet CG at 3d MarDiv C.P. in the morning.

Ref: S-3 Journal #9 Annex A

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9 Mar 1967 At 1430H Received message from 3d Marines to conduct a search and destroy operation.

Ref: S-3 Journal #29 Annex A

At 1809H Co E opened C.P. at YD 087590.

Ref: S-3 Journal #39 Annex A

10 Mar 1967 At approximately 0730 The Command Group and Companies G and H moved out.

C.P. Locations for the night were established as follows: Command Group YD 086596; Co E YD 080597; Co G YD 103629; Co H YD 091625. No enemy contact.

Ref: S-3 Journal #65 Annex A

11 Mar 1967 At approximately 0730 The Battalion started to move north.

At 0855H The point man from Co E detonated a surprise firing device believed to be a Shicom grenade. Resulting in 4 WIA, only one of which was MedEvacced.

Ref: S-3 Journal #72 Annex A

At 0830H Co H reported finding a Bn size bivouac area with sqd size bivouac sites out to 500 meters in all directions. The site was approximately 1 week old or less. The site was destroyed.

Ref: S-3 Journal #80 Annex A

C.P. locations for the night were established at: Command Group YD 097630; Co E YD 104615; Co G YD 113643; Co H YD 093632. No enemy contact.

Ref: S-3 Journal #85 Annex A

12 Mar 1967 At approximately 0900H the Battalion continued to move north. The Command Group with one Plt from Co E for escort and Companies G and H converging on an assembly area to assault Regimental Objective Two and Company E minus one Plt remaining behind to destroy an enemy bivouac site.

At 1035H a Co G patrol spotted one enemy dressed in khaki carrying a rifle. An artillery fire mission was called with unknown results.

Ref: S-3 Journal #90 and 93

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At 1045H The Command Group found one dead NVA and two weapons.

Ref: S-3 Journal #91 Annex A

At 1110H The 1st Plt of Co E, which was escorting The Command Group, engaged two NVA with small arms resulting in one NVA KIA (CONF) and one KIA (PROB).

Ref: S-3 Journal #95 Annex A

At 1245H elements of Co G received automatic, small arms fire from the vicinity of YD105652 an artillery fire mission was called with unknown results. The area was not searched due to other commitments.

Ref: S-3 Journal #98 and 102 Annex A

At 1710H Co G had moved into position to assault Regimental Objective Two, an artillery prep fire was delivered on the objective, one round fell in Co G's position resulting in 1 USMC KIA and two MedEvacs for shock. Later investigation revealed Co G to be in the wrong position.

Ref: S-3 Journal #106 and 107 Annex A

At approximately 1730H Co E, minus the Plt for command group security, was Holo lifted to the vicinity of the Command Group.

At approximately 1800H verbal instructions were received from CO 3d Marines to stand down on assault of Objective Two until 13 Mar 67.

C.P. Locations were established for the night at the following locations: Command Group YD115654; Co E YD115654; Co G YD118663; Co H YD118663. Companies G and H had a joint position with C.O. Co H designated as Commander.

Ref: S-3 Journal #108 Annex A

13 Mar 1967 At 1010H Companies G and H commenced a sweep of Regimental Objective Two.

Ref: S-3 Journal #113 Annex A

At 1330H Co H engaged an unknown number of enemy at YD117678. Two individuals dressed in green uniforms were observed to be fleeing toward the west. No further contact. The initial contact resulted in one USMC KIA.

Ref: S-3 Journal #119, 120 and 122 Annex A

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At 1400H The sweep of the eastern portion of Regimental Objective Two was completed and defensive positions established with C.P. locations as follows: Command Group YD114686; Co E YD114685; Co G YD113686; Co H YD115686.

Ref: S-3 Journal #127 and 129 Annex A

14 Mar 1967 At approximately 0730H Co E commenced a sweep of the western portion of regimental objective two.

At 0915H A Co G patrol found a tunnel with an opening 30 inches in diameter, 10 feet deep and turning toward the northwest. The tunnel appeared to be dug in the last 2 days. A CS grenade was thrown in the tunnel with negative results. The tunnel was blown with C-4.

Ref: S-3 Journal #135 Annex A

At 1145H Co E completed the sweep of Regimental Objective Two and encountered 2 surprise firing devices resulting in 4 WIA's, 3 USMC and 1 ARVN.

Ref: S-3 Journal #138 and 139 Annex A

At 1330H The battalion commenced a helo lift to the vicinity of YD977543 to assume the mission of the 3d Bn, 3d Marines. The lift was completed at approximately 1655H. Defensive positions were established.

15 Mar 1967 Received verbal instructions from 3d Marines S-3 to exchange duties with 3d Bn 3d Mar tomorrow at a time mutually agreeable.

Ref: S-3 Journal #196 Annex A

16 Mar 1967 At 1415H A Plt from Co H changed OpCon to Co K, 3d Bn, 3d Mar to conduct a patrol to search for possible infiltration routes.

17 Mar 1967 At 1150H Co H relieved Co K, 3d Bn, 3d Mar.

Ref: S-3 Journal #192 Annex A

At 1455H 2d Bn, 26th Mar. relieved 3d Bn, 26th Mar assumed OpCon of Co M and Co I 3d Bn, 3d Mar.

Ref: S-3 Journal #204 Annex A

18 Mar 1967 At 0735H Co G commenced move to blocking position.

Ref: 3d Mar Frag Order 15-67

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At 1350H Co G reported blocking position established.

Ref: S-3 Journal #286 Annex A

At 1410H A member of a Co G patrol tripped a frag grenade in grass on trail. 1 WIA MedEvacced.

Ref: S-3 Journal #293 Annex A

At 1800H Radio interference experienced.

Ref: S-3 Journal #311 Annex A

19 Mar 1967 At 1145H Co M spotted 5 men moving along razor back at XD964580 wearing green uniforms and carrying weapons.

Artillery fire mission called and 17 secondary explosions observed.

Ref: S-3 Journal #397 Annex A

At 1305H received message from 3d Mar which verified earlier verbal instructions that Operation Prairie II secured at 182400H and Operation Prairie III commenced.

Ref: S-3 Journal #421 Annex A

20 Mar 1967 At 1730H A 40mm round exploded in the loading tray of an M-42, self propelled 40mm, injuring 2 U.S. Army and 1 USMC while in support of Company G.

Ref: S-3 Journal #551 Annex A

21 Mar 1967 At 1140H Co M had one man MedEvacced for heat exhaustion. Casualty was taken to Company M C.P. by vehicle.

Ref: S-3 Journal #624 Annex A

22 Mar 1967 Company G had four heat exhaustion casualties. Casualties MedEvacced.

Ref: S-3 Journal #778

At 2045H At coordinates XD994593 Company G observed muzzle flashes at coordinates YD005585. Shortly thereafter the impact of 4 rounds was observed at 70 degrees and 600 meters. Artillery fire mission called with good target coverage.

23 Mar 1967 There were no significant events.

24 Mar 1967 There were no significant events.

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25 Mar 1967 At 1455H Co M, 3d Bn, 3d Mar, OP, spotted one enemy at a cave entrance at XD968574. Later another individual was seen to join the first. An OMTOS fired into the cave entrance which is located in almost inaccessible terrain. Both enemy were observed at the entrance just prior to firing. The cave entrance was destroyed.  
2 KIA, NVA (PROB)

Ref: S-3 Journal #1101 and 1116 Annex A

26 Mar 1967 There were no significant events.

27 Mar 1967 There were no significant events.

28 Mar 1967 At 0900H Company E chopped OpCon to 3d Bn., 9th Mar.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1160 Annex A

At 1948H 3d Bn, 3d Mar relieved 2d Bn, 26th Mar and assumed responsibility for the TAOR. 2d Bn., 26th Mar C.P. located vicinity XD978543.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1191 Annex A

29 Mar 1967 There were no significant events.

30 Mar 1967 At 1100H Assumed OpCon of Company E from 3d Bn, 9th Mar.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1442 Annex A

31 Mar 1967 The battalion was lifted by fixed wing aircraft to DeNang and chopped OpCon to the 1st MarDiv at 1100H

Ref: 2d Bn, 26th Mar Msg 311146Z Mar 67

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2. DETACHMENT, 2d BATTALION, 26th MARINES SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

8 March 1967 At 0830H Detachmeut 2d Battalion, 26th Marines was activated consisting of command group (HQ-C), Detachment H&S Company, Company F and Company D, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.

9 March 1967 Company D committed to Blue Springs at 1620H returned at 1750H.  
Ref: S-3 Journal #584 and 589 Annex B  
Operation Order 399-67, Blue Springs Annex E

10 March 1967 At 0340H a Company D ambush AT901830 observed one VC approaching on trail. Ambush held fire in anticipation of additional VC following. VC fired 2 rounds S/A. Ambush returned 15 rounds S/A. One USMC KIA.  
Ref: S-3 Journal #587 Annex B

11 March 1967 Company D committed to Blue Springs at 1730 returned 1820.  
Ref: S-3 Journal #587 and 689 Annex B  
Operation Order 399-67, Blue Springs Annex E

16 March 1967 At 1820H two members of Company D patrol were wounded as a result of unji strikes at AT90061. Two USMC WIA.  
Ref: S-3 Journal #962

17 March 1967 At 0400H Company F ambush fired on boat with 6 to 8 people moving down river at AT913835. When boat was captured it contained 3 VN males one with slight gunshot wound in lower left leg. Detainees turned over to 5th GIT.  
At 0915H Company D patrol made contact with unknown number of VC at AT840939. VC fired approximately 15 rounds of S/A fire, resulting in one USMC KIA. Ambush fired approx. 250 rounds S/A and called Arty fire mission resulting in 7 VC KIA (Prob).  
Ref: S-3 Journal #989 and 1000 Annex B

18 March 1967 At 1130H a tank moving east on road at AT873829 detonated a land mine. Resulting in damage to tank and five USMC WIA.  
Ref: S-3 Journal #1052 Annex B

19 March 1967 Sparrow Hawk was committed from Company D. Returned at 1730H.  
Ref: S-3 Journal #1048 and 1071 Annex B  
Operation Order 3-67 Sparrow Hawk Annex D

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At 1720H Blue Springs was committed from Company D and returned at 1758.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1720 and 1858 Annex B  
Operation Order 399-67 Blue Springs Annex E

19 Mar 1967 At 2330H Company F ambush observed 3 VC crossing river at AT913837. Ambush fired 4 M-79 grenades and approximately 150 rounds of small arms fire. VC seen falling but not found due to current of river. 3 VC KIA (Prd.)

Ref: S-3 Journal #1153 Annex B

20 Mar 1967 At 2245H H+S Company ambush observed one VC at AT920793. Fired S/A at 50 meters. VC disappeared in elephant grass leaving blood trail. One VC WIA.

Ref: S-3 Journal #189 Annex B

21 Mar 1967 At 0800H member of H+S Company was putting a claymore mine together and accidentally set off a detonator, wounding self in both thumbs.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1233 Annex B

23 Mar 1967 At 1635H Company D patrol member detonated unknown type mine at AT882826 resulting in one USMC WIA.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1342 Annex B

24 Mar 1967 At 0900H Company F patrol apprehended one Vietnamese male at AT928811. Man was turned over to 5th CIT.

Ref: S-3 Journal #879 Annex B

26 Mar 1967 At 0955H Company F resupply truck detonated a mine at AT934890. A 17 year old female was apprehended 100 meters west of incident. Female detainee taken to 3d MAF Brig.

At 1610H Company D committed to Blue Springs. Returned at 1740.

Ref: S-3 Journal #516 Annex B  
Operation Order 399-67, Blue Springs Annex E

28 Mar 1967 At 1725H Company D committed to Blue Springs. Returned at 1905.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1645 and 1649 Annex B  
Operation Order 399-67, Blue Springs Annex E

29 Mar 1967 Blue Springs committed from Company D 1725H. Returned at 1825H.

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Ref: S-3 Journal #1723 and 1726 Annex B  
Operation Order 399-67, Blue Springs Annex E

30 Mar 1967 At 1630H Company F patrol apprehended one Vietnamese male at AT925839. Detainee taken to 3d MAF Brig.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1779 Annex B

At 2005H Company D ambush observed 2 VC crossing river at AT898829. Ambush fired 500 rounds small arms. Searched area and found one C4 bomb grenade and one rifle. One USMC wounded (WIA) by friendly ricochet.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1796 Annex B

31 Mar 1967 At 1720H Company D committed to Blue Springs. Returned at 1820.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1841 and 1847 Annex B  
Operation Order 399-67, Blue Springs Annex E

At 2150H Company F ambush observed one unarmed Vietnamese male coming into ambush. Ambush captured Vietnamese male who had no I.D. card and resisted capture.

Ref: S-3 Journal #1869 Annex B

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Enclosure (1)

## LOGISTICS

## 1. Logistics

## a. Supply

(1) During the month of March the overall supply posture of combat items was good. Some shortages still exist in 2d echelon repair parts for truck, utility M-274A2.

(2) During most of March three companies and a command group participated in Operation Prairie II in the Dong Ha area. Resupply was conducted by HST teams through an LSA and by truck convoy from Dong Ha. The remaining elements of the battalion carried on normal resupply by truck.

(3) Sufficient quantities of In-Kind Issue clothing, lightweight jungle clothing and individual equipment were received to alleviate shortages which have existed for sometime.

## b. Maintenance

(1) Availability of spare parts improved during March. In general 2d echelon maintenance was good on all combat essential items.

## c. Food Services

(1) Messing facilities at the battalion rear elements at DaNang remained the same with field messes attached to each company.

(a) Ice cream was served twice weekly.

(b) Doughnuts were drawn from 1st FSR Bakery twice weekly.

(2) Messing facilities for elements of the battalion engaged in Prairie II consisted mostly of MCI's with one hot meal daily whenever units were located in the base camp area.

## d. Transportation and Road

(1) The battalion rear echelon continued to receive six trucks (6x6) for daily resupply.

(2) The forward elements of the battalion received one truck (6x6) for daily resupply.

(3) Twenty-four (6x6) trucks with trailers were utilized to move the battalion command group and three rifle companies to the DaNang airfield prior to the move to Dong Ha. Twenty-four trucks were also used to return this group to the battalion command post upon its return to DaNang.

### C. Water

(1) Potable water for the battalion was drawn from the 7th Engineer's water point near the battalion command post. Companies in the field continued to resupply by M-107 water tanks.

#### fi. Motor Transport

(1) Organic vehicles of the battalion were used for administrative and tactical runs during the month while the daily household trucks ("x6) were used solely for resupply.

(2) One M-422A1 is on 2d echelon deadline and one is on 3rd echelon deadline. One M-274A2 is on 3rd echelon deadline and three are on 2d echelon deadline.

### g. Embarkation

(1) The embarkation status of the battalion remains the same. Formal embarkation training for additional members of the battalion was interrupted by operational commitments.

**h. Hospitalization and Evacuation**

(1) Daily sick call was held at the battalion aid station for major elements. Serious injuries were evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion by vehicle or helicopter.

(2) Forward elements of the battalion relied on medical care in the field by attached corpsmen and the battalion surgeon. Serious evacuation cases were moved by helicopter to 3rd Medical Battalion.

## COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONIC CHRONOLOGY

## 1. Communications-Electronics

Communication elements of this command installed, operated, and maintain continuous communication during battalion participation in Operation Prairie II and Prairie III.

## a. Wire

(1) Provided normal internal wire communication.

## b. Radio

(1) Radio was primary communication means throughout the operation.

(2) New FM Series Radios (PRC-25) were used on all nets. These radios continued to provide excellent communication in the field.

(3) Due to terrain features and vegetation, it was necessary to use the long whip antenna (AT-271A/PRC) in order to maintain communication with all units. This resulted in some danger to antenna bases, but did not prove to be significant.

## c. Radio Relay

(1) No major problems.

## d. Message Center

(1) No major problems.

(2) During the month of March there were 225 incoming and 29 outgoing messages.

## e. Maintenance/Supply

(1) Following Combat essential equipment detailed:

(a) AN/MRC-109	Radio Jeep	1
(b) AN/TPS-21	Radar Set	1
(c) AN/TGC-4	Teletype	1

(2) Support from FSR has been outstanding.

## f. Problems Encountered

(1) Personnel Shortages

(a) 5931	1
(b) 2822	2
(c) 2531	5

(2) No major problems

## FIRE SUPPORT

## 1. Fire support coordination

## a. Artillery units providing support/reinforcing fires

(1) Direct Support: Btry B, 1st Bn 13th Marines;  
 1st Armored Amphib Tracter Co. (4-7 March)  
 L Btry, 4th Bn 12th Marines (4-7 March)

(2) General Support: 1st 8" How Btry, 1st Fld Arty Grp  
 1st Bn 12th Marines (Reinforced) (8-31 March)  
 C Btry, 1st Bn, 44th Artillery (10mm U.S. ART)  
 (8-31 March)

## b. Naval ships providing Naval Gunfire support: None

## c. Type and number of missions fired

## (1) Artillery

(a) Observed - 21	(f) Prep - 2
(b) Unobserved - 4	(g) Training - 14
(c) H & I fired - 977	(h) Defensive - 4
(d) Group fired - None	(i) Registration - 2
(e) Neutralization - None	

## FOR TRAINEE III AND PRACTICE III

(a) Observed - 48
(b) Unobserved - 1
(c) H & I fired - Data not available (approx. 600)
(d) Group fired - None
(e) Neutralization - None
(f) Prep - 3
(g) Training - None
(h) Defensive - 6
(i) Registration - 7

## (2) Naval Gunfire: None

## (3) 81mm Mortars

(a) Observed - 297	(f) Prep - None
(b) Unobserved - 136	(g) Training - None
(c) H & I fired - 387	(h) Defensive - None
(d) Group fires - None	(i) Registration - None
(e) Neutralization - 15	(j) Total - 415

## FOR PRAIRIE II AND PRAIRIE III

(a) Observed - 85	(f) Prep - 25
(b) Unobserved - 319	(g) Training - 34
(c) H & I fires - 345	(h) Defensive - None
(d) Group fires - None	(i) Registration - None
(e) Neutralization - None	(j) Total - 404

## (4) 106mm Recoilless Rifle

(a) Observed - None
(b) Unobserved - None
(c) H & I fired - 21

## (5) 60mm Mortars - Data not available

## d. Ammunition expended by type and caliber

## (1) Artillery

(a) 105mm	
HE - 4301	ILL - 495
WP - 193	SMK - 9

## FOR PRAIRIE II AND PRAIRIE III

HE - 1250 (approx 2000 for H & I's)  
 WP - 76  
 ILL - 3  
 SMK - 5

## (b) 155 mm Howitzer

HE - 95	ILL - None
WP - None	SMK - None

## (c) 82mm Mortars

HE (med) - 823	ILL - 145
HE (light) - None	WP - 80

## FOR PRAIRIE II AND PRAIRIE III

HE (med) - 1516	ILL - 179
HE (light) - 38	WP - 38

## (d) 106mm Recoilless Rifle

HEAT - 21
HAT - None

## (e) Naval Gunfire - None

Enclosure (1)

[REDACTED] d. 13 Mar 67 A/O was requested to establish accurate coordinates of location where 1 USMC KIA resulted from friendly artillery. Response was immediate and accurate, 8 digit coordinates were provided by the A/O.

3. Mole Recon. Flights were conducted in support of Operation Prairie III.

a. On 21 Mar 67 from C.P. and return. Mission aborted due to cloud cover in Recon area.

b. On 22 Mar 67 from C.P. and returned. Successful recon was completed.

c. On 24 Mar 67 a helo recon of Eastern Portion of DaNang TAOR was conducted.

4. Close Air Support.

CAS strikes in support of the battalion were run on 4 Mar. F-8 Aircraft were controlled by the A/O for LZ preps on LZ Buzzard.

5. TPQ's. Commencing 16 Mar 67 TPQ's were requested on a daily basis in the 2/3 TAOR and adjacent areas.

6. Flare Ships. Commencing 22 Mar 67. Flare Ships were requested on an as available basis from 2100-2400 daily.

7. Helo Resupply. Was conducted as required and no significant difficulties were encountered.

8. Med Evac. See attached sheet.

[REDACTED] Enclosure (1)

## COMBAT AIR COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. Troop Lifts

- a. 178 USMC consisting of Co H and attached units were helo lifted on 01 Mar 67 for Bald Eagle Commitment.
- b. On 02 Mar 67 65 USMC from Co F were helo inserted as a blocking force for the Bald Eagle force.
- c. Sparrow Hawk force consisting of 20 USMC from F Co were helo lifted on 11 Mar 67.
- d. In support of the Operation Gulf on 4 Mar 67 the following helo lifts were conducted:
  - (1) 17 USMC from LZ Turkey to LZ Sparrow
  - (2) 159 USMC from LZ Turkey to LZ Bluejay
  - .. (3) 74 USMC from LZ Turkey to LZ Buzzard
- e. On 7 March in support of Operation Gulf 7 USMC were helo retracted from LZ Sparrow to LZ Turkey. On 8 Mar 10 USMC were helo extracted from LZ Sparrow to LZ Turkey.
- f. On 8 Mar 67 the Bn Command Group and 3 rifle Co. were airlifted by KC-130 aircraft from DaNang to Dong Ha.
- g. 12 Mar 67 A Scout Sniper Team was helo lifted to the Bn Command Group location.
- h. Co E was helo lifted from YD104614 to rejoin the main body at YD 116645 on 12 Mar 67.
- i. The Command Group and 3 rifle Co's were helo lifted from two separate LZ's in vicinity of YD105645 to vicinity of YD997543 on 14 Mar 67.
- j. On 16 Mar 67 two Sparrow Hawk commitments were helo lifted. Both were platoon size.

2. Air Observation/Recon.

- a. Air observation was requested on 01 Mar 67 in support of the Bald Eagle force in an attempt to establish contact. Negative results.
- b. A/O were utilized during the insertion of the troop lift for Operation Gulf. The A/O coordinated air cover in the LZ, helo escort and LZ prep fires by both air and artillery.
- c. On 12 Mar in support of Operation Prairie II A/O was requested to maintain contact. A/O coverage thorough but contact was broken.

Med Evacs

The following Med Evacs were conducted within the DaNang TAOR during Mar 67.

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. of Persons</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Priority</u>
010825H	3 USMC	NBC	R
021415H	1 USMC	WIA	E
031930H	1 USMC	ILL	R
040923H	1 USMC	WIA	P
050130H	1 USMC	WIA	P
051205H	1 USMC	NBC	P
060050H	2 ARVN	WIA	E
171349H	1 USMC	KIA	R
181100H	1 USMC	WIA	P
231730H	1 USMC	WIA	E
260930H	1 USMC	WIA	P

The following MedEvacs were conducted in support of Operation Prairie III.

121430H	1 USMC	NBC	P
131345H	1 USMC	KIA	R
181135H	1 USMC	ILL	P
181434H	1 USN	WIA	E
191120H	2 USA	WIA	E
201301H	2 USMC, 2 USA	WIA	E
221313H	1 USMC	ILL	R
221430H	1 USN	ILL	P
221552H	2 USMC	NBC	P
241020H	1 USA	NBC	E
281330H	1 USMC	NBC	R
281705H	1 USMC	WIA	P

**MEDICAL AND DENTAL SUPPORT (Surg)**

A. Name of Surgeon LT. J. P. MILLER MC USN.

B. Significant Events: Nothing of significance to report.

C. Medical Trends: Nothing to report

D. Number of Battle Casualties: 00

E. Number of Non-Battle Patients Treated: 316

(1) Admissions to BAS: 07

(2) Emergency Treatment:

(a) Heat Casualties: 00

(b) Lacerations: 05

(c) Trauma: 31

(d) Burns: 02

(3) Number of Referrals to 3rdMedBn and NSA Hospitals: 58

(4) Cases of significant diseases of the area:

(a) Malaria: 00

(b) Hookworm: 00

(c) Bacillary Dysentary: 00

(5) Cases of Venereal Disease: 04

(a) Acquired Out of Country: 02

(b) Acquired in Country: 02

F. Preventive Medicine and Sanitation:

(1) Number of Innoculations: 127

(2) Other: The use of mosquito repellent is in effect. All personnel are participating in the malaria prophylaxis program weekly, on Sundays, and have received instructions in Personal Hygiene.

Enclosure (1)

**G. Civil Affairs Medical Support Rendered :**

(1) Number treated: 3,062

(2) Referrals for Corrective Surgery: . 00

(3) Other Events Affecting Civilian Health: A deworming treatment is automatically started on all local people seen.

(4) MedCap was held in several Villages by the Doctor and Corpsmen. The Battalion Chief and one Corpsman held MedCap at the Catholic Orphanage. Dr. Miller was on an operation near Dong Ha and while there he held MedCap in the surrounding area.

H. Problem areas: Nothing to report

### I. Dental Referrals: 33

Enclosure (1)

## CHAPLAIN SUPPORT

## 1. Chaplain Support

a. Name of Chaplain: Hebert W. Bolles

b. Number of Services by type and personnel attending:

18 General Protestant - Attendance	623
16 Holy Communion ("Episcopal")	145

c. Number of Personnel receiving counseling: 8

d. Facilities: Adequate

## CIVIL AFFAIRS/MILITARY GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## 1. Civil Affairs/Military Government/Community Relations

a. Mission: To conduct a civil action program that will enhance the prestige of the civil government and to conduct psychological operations to further the efforts of the Government of Vietnam in re-establishing its effective control over the people.

b. During the month of March 1967, this unit was involved in the following Civic Action Projects and Operations:

- (1) Monitor of hog project at four refugee hamlets.
- (2) Daily MEDCAP throughout T-201 treated 3,062 patients.
- (3) Began a sanitation project in Hoa Lac Village.
- (4) Began a project to repair the roof of the village rice storage building, repair floor of school and build latrines at school in Hoa Phu Village.
- (5) Conducted a "Golden Fleece Operation" in conjunction with the rice harvest in Hoa Lac Village.
- (6) Provided a truck to the orphanage in Hoa Thanh Village for half a day to haul lumber and cement.
- (7) Evacuated nine civilians for emergency medical treatment.
- (8) Made arrangements for the Veterinarian from the 29th Civil Affairs Company to treat an injured water buffalo in Hoa Lac Village.

c. Psychological Operations by this unit for March 1967 included the following:

- (1) 34,067 leaflets distributed hand to hand.
- (2) 13,146 newspapers distributed hand to hand.

d. Materials distributed during March 1967 were:

- (1) 800 lbs. food
- (2) 320 bars of soap
- (3) 51 bottles of Listerine antiseptic
- (4) 25 lbs. clothes
- (5) 35 sheets of tin

(6)  $\frac{1}{2}$  truck load of assorted lumber

(7) 3,100 lbs. of wet garbage to feed pigs

e. The results of this unit's Civil Affairs/Civic Action Program and Psychological Operations can be seen in every hamlet and village in the TAG by the continuing good relations between Marines and civilians. Several times throughout the month, hamlet and village officials have given Marines information about VC activities. On one occasion, the Village Chief of Hoa Ninh took some PF's from this village and went with a Marine patrol to search for some VC that were reported in the area.

Enclosure (1)

## PART IV

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ ANNEX A: 2d Bn, 26th Mar Extracts From SC-3 Journal
- ✓ ANNEX B: Det: 2d Bn, 26th Mar, Extracts From S-3 Journal
- ✓ ANNEX C: Operation Order 2-67, Operation Gulf & After Action Report
- ✓ ANNEX D: Operation Order 3-67 Sparrow Hawk
- ✓ ANNEX E: Operation Order 399-67 Blue Springs
- ✓ ANNEX F: 2d Bn, 26th Mar TAOR Overlay for PRAIRIE II AND III
- ✓ ANNEX G: Map Sheets for North: 6442 III and IV, 6342 I and II

[REDACTED]  
Enclosure (1)

2D BATTALION, 26TH MARINES S-3 JOURNAL EXTRACTS

TIME	CUT NUMBER	EVENTS
010910	18	From 2/26 to 9th Marines: Three men from Company E MedEvaccd. All non NBC
021400	135	From Company H to 2/26: Point man tripped grenade resulting in 3 USMC WIA
030012	236	From 2/26 to 9th Marines: Company G squad sprung ambush on 4 to 5 VC. VC fired 5 rounds S/A resulting in one USMC WIA
040710	253	From Company E to 2/26: Commenced Operation Gulf at 0700H. Crossed LOD at 0750H.
040755	257	From Company H to 2/26: One tank hit land mine. Resulting in 4 USMC WIA. Will attempt to repair tank at site of incident.
041229	286	From Company H to 2/26: Vietnamese male with suspicious I.D. card and USMC Dog Tags on person apprehended as detainee. Will be forwarded to 3rd GIT for questioning.
041515	297	From Company F to 2/26: Patrol made contact with two VC resulting in one WIA. While searching area, patrol found two Demolition Kits, 2 Chicon grenades and numerous items of clothing.
060135	374	From CAC to 2/26: Patrol made contact with unknown number of VC. Resulting in 2 ARVN and 1 USMC WIA. MedEvacs will be called.
061525	420	From Company H to 2/26: Two men have been MedEvaccd by vehicle to battalion DMS. Both men are NBC's.

Annex A to 2d Bn 26th Mar Command Chronology for 1 - 31 Mar 1967

TIME	IN	OUT NUMBER	EVENT
080830		1	Command Group, Company E, G and H departed DaNang C.P. 0830.
081015		2	Command Group, Company E, G and H lifted off at 1015. from DaNang.
081055		3	From 2/26 to CG 3d MarDiv Chop Opcon 2/26. A 9 Mar 071445Z Mar 67, 2d Bn, 26th Marines Chop Opcon to 3d MarDiv 081045Z Mar 67.
081047		5	Command Group, Company E, G and H touched down 1045.
081716		6	Open Battalion C.P. at YD086573, Company H C.P. at YD086575. Company E, C.P. at YD083576 and Company G C.P. at YD089578.
081423		7	Received Opn. Prairie II Frag Order 12-67 had to be returned.
081823		8	Received verbal instructions from 3d Marines S-3 to stand down from Prairie II Frag Order 12-67.
082138		9	CG 3d MarDiv request to meet CO 2/26 at his C.P. sometime tomorrow morning.
091430		29	From: 3d Marines to: CO 2/26 1. Conduct search and destroy Opn in area bounded on West by 08, East 12, North 68 and South 59. 2. Regt Obj #1 vic YD100626. 3. Regt Obj #2 vic YD205645 4. Final Obj block pos. running generally from YD095673 to YD116662. 5. Coordinating Instructions; A. Shot reports as occur. B. SitReps 0500, 1100, 1700, 2300 C. When moving, Location report every hour. D. Thrust Point Yankee - 1064 6. Command - Comm - Electronics: No Change 7. Admin - Log. A. Resupply by air through HST report to LSA.

Annex A to 2d Bn 26th Mar Command Chronology for 1 - 31 Mar 1967

111809	39	From 8, Site 2/26 Neg Contact. E-1 position YD082599 E-2 position YD087598 C.P. and E-3 position YD082596
101850	65	2/26 to 3d Marines Position Report 101830! Command Group YD086596, Company E YD080597, Company G YD103629, Company H YD091625. All positions final for tonight.
111110	72	From 2/26 to 3d Marines SitRep #9 as of 111100H. A. Command Group YD097601, Company F YD097610, Company G No Change, Company H YD091627. B. Cont. S/D Operation At YD0855H Company F point man detonated a Chicom grenade. Ref my spot rpt. 110855H. At 0830H Company H reported location of battalion size bivouac site Ref: My spot report 110830H. C. Neg D. Neg E. Plan to cont S/D Operation. F. USMC 4 WIA G. Neg.
111635	80	Hotel found Bn. size bivouac. Also rice balls in chines ration can. Squad size bivouac out to 500 M. in all directions. Site Approx. 1 wk old or less. Numerous living holes with overhead cover but no apparent bunkers. Site reported previously as cave was a hole. Site destroyed.
111925	85	2/26 to 3d Marines Position Report. Command Group YD097630, Company F YD104615, Company G YD113643, Company H YD093632. Final position for night.
121040	90	From 2/26 to 3d Marines Initial Spot Report A. Golf B. 121035H C. YD 099637 D. Found 1 dead WIA and 2 weapons 1 carbine and one submachine gun.
121050	91	From 2/26 to 3d Marines Final Spot Report. A. Command Group B. 121045H C. YD 099637 D. Found 1 dead WIA and 2 weapons 1 carbine and one submachine gun.
121135	93	From 2/26 to 3d Marines Final Spot Report. A. Company G B. 121125H C. YD119649 D. Neg E. Area search with neg results.

Annex A to 2d Bn 26th Mar Command Chronology for 1 - 31 Mar 1967

~~SECRET~~

A-3

121215 95 From 2/26 to 3d Marines Spot Report. A. Company E-1. B. 121210H C. YD105641 D. Company E squad encountered 2 NVN resulting in 1 NVN KIA and 1 NVN WIA fleeing northwest.

121255 98 From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Initial Spot Report A. Company G B. 121245 C. YD105652 YD107651 D. Received automatic S/A fire. Fire mission called.

121420 102 From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Final Spot Report A. Company B. 121410H C. YD105652 YD107651 D. Fire received from unknown number of enemy E. Area not searched.

121720 106 From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Final Spot Report A. Company G B. 121710H C. YD113659 D. Apparent short round from Atry Prep fire. Fell in Company G position resulting in one "SMC KILLED". E. Lifted all fire in immediate area. F. one

121725 107 From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Two men MedEvacced for shock as result of incident (Serial #106). Also one NBC MedEvacced for blood poisoning. Not related to same incident.

121920 108 From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Position Report as of 121900H. Command Group YD115654, Company E YD115654, Company G YD118663, Company H YD118663.

131020 113 From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Position Report as of 131010H. Command Group YD118663, Company F YD118663, Company G and H Comencence Sweep.

131335 119 From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Initial Spot Report. A. Company H B. 131330H C. YD117678 D. Engaged unknown number of enemy. E. Returned fire.

131350 120 From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Follow up Spot Report A. Company H B. 131340H C. YD117678 D. Ref Spot Report 131330H 2 enemy dressed in green uniforms broke contact and are fleeing west. F. One

Annex A to 2d Bn 26th Mar Command Chronology for 1 - 31 Mar 1967

SECRET

A-4

131120	122	From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Final Spot Report A. Company H B. 131415H C. YD117678 D. Ref Spot Report 131330H. E. Attry fire mission called. Area searched, no further contact.
131110	127	From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Position Report; Command Group YD164586, Company E YD 114686, Company G YD114686, Company H YD115686.
131310	129	From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Final Position Report as of 131300H. Command Group YD 114686, Company E YD114686, Company G YD11336, Company H YD115686.
140918	135	From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Final Spot Report. A. Company G B. 140915H C. YD117687 D. Plt. found tunnel opening 20" in diameter, 10 feet deep. Tunnel turned N.W. appeared to be dug in the last 2 days, no loose dirt around opening. Opening not camouflaged. E. Threw CS grenade in tunnel with neg. results blew tunnel with C-4.
141145	138	From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Initial spot report. A. Company E B. 141145H C. YD117635 I. Company E completed sweep through objective #2. Encountered two booby traps with small charges set in hedge row about 100 meters apart. G. Four USMC and one ARVN.
141215	139	From 2/26 to 3d Marines; Final spot report A. Company E B. 141200H C. YD123685 D. Reference my spot report 141145H. Device was unknown type, however charge appeared to be rather small. Charge was buried about six inches deep and rigged with twine trip wire about four feet long strung very close to ground. Neither two men failed to trip wire or device had delay action.
141216	192	Company H to 2/26; Company H assumed command from 3d Bn. 3d Marines at 171150H March 1967. Location is YD013455.
171142	196	2/26 to Company G; Returning to Base camp by CH 46's.

Annex A to 2d Bn. 26th Marines Command Chronology 1-31 Feb. 1967

181430	286	From 00 2/26 to 2/26: My 40MM Located at YD978588 and YD981587. MY 90MM Located at YD977585 and YD979584.
181531	293	From Company G to 2/26: Individual tripped booby trap in grass on trail. One man was WIA.
182105	311	From 2/26 to 3d Marines: At 1730 interference began on M-470. Interference is fluctuating in strength and is intermittent. Has ability to completely override friendly station. Interference of Vietnamese Origin. Location of stations receiving interference, battalion: YD983455, Company Golf; YD979589 and Company Hotel YD 013455.
191445	397	From Company M to 2/26: AT YD964580 OP observed five men moving along Razorback. Men wore green uniforms and carried weapons. 82MM, 90MM and 105MM saturated area and got 17 secondary explosions.
191840	421	From 3d Marines to 2/26: Prairie II secured and Prairie III commenced.
201750	551	From Company G to 2/26: A 40MM round exploded in loading tray. Injuring 2 USA and 1 USMC. Premature explosion caused by heat. Army personnel will conduct investigation.
211145	624	From Company M to 2/26: Had one heat casualty. Man MedEvaccd by tank to battalion C.P.
221700	773	From 2/26 to 3d Marines: SitRep # 54 as of 221700H. A. Co G YD992591. all others remain the same. B. Company G had NBC MedEvacs at 221230H, 221345H, and 221620H. C. Negative. D. Negative. E. Plan to continue assigned mission. F. 4 NBC USMC, 1 NBC USN, 2 WIA USA and 1 WIA USMC.
251535	1101	From Company M to 2/26: OP observed one VC in green uniform at YD968574. VC was carrying carbine. VC was seen to enter cave 150 meters from OP.
251835	1116	From Company M to 2/26: OP observed one VC enter cave and joined by another in cave's entrance. Ontos called and destroyed cave. Resulting in 2 VC KIA.

281114 1160 From 2/26 to 3d Marines: Company E OPCON  
chopped to 3d Bn. 9th Marines 280900H.

281949 1192 From 2/26 to 3d Marines: Relieved 3d Bn.  
3d Marines. 2/26 now located at YD978543.

281105 1442 From 2/26 to 3d Marines: Assumed OPCON  
Company E.

## DETACHMENT 2d BATTALION, 26th MARINES, JOURNAL EXTRACTS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>JOURNAL NO.</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
080832	522	Detachment 2d Bn. 26th Marines activated at 0830H
091520	584	2/26 to Company D Blue Springs mission at 1620. Pick up location, your CP LZ.
110024	657	Company D to 2/26 Fire team ambush observed 1 VC approaching on trail. VC fired two rounds S/A. Fire team returned 15 rounds and 3 rounds of M-79 grenades. Fire team attempted to intercept fleeing VC with neg. results. One USMC KIA.
111829	687	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs airborne 1750.
111900	689	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs secured 1820.
162045	962	Company D to 2/26 Two members of patrol were WIA as a result of punctures of punji stakes.
171031	989	Company D to 2/26 Made contact with unknown number of VC. VC fired 15 rounds S/A. One USMC KIA. Arty. mission called 7 VC KIA (Prob).
171115	997	Company F to 2/26 A boat with 6 to 8 people moving down stream. Company F ambush fired 120 rounds S/A. Captured 3 VN males one with wound in left leg.
181128	1048	Sparrow Hawk departed Company D position by vehicle and foot.
181205	1052	Company D to 2/26 Tank hit mine at AT873429 resulting in 5 USMC WIA.
181651	1071	Company D to 2/26 Sparrow Hawk returned.
200100	1153	Company F to 2/26 Three VC spotted wading from north bank of river. Fired 150 rounds S/A and 4 M-79's at range of 75 meters. Will check at first light.
201600	1189	Company H&S to 2/26 Squad heard noise in dump area. Fired 25 rounds S/A at one VC. Search of area revealed fresh blood traces.

Annex B to 2d Bn. 26th Mar. Command Chronology for 1 - 31 March 1967

<u>TIME</u>	<u>JOURNAL NO.</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
211125	1033	2/26 to Ninth Marines. PFC K.M. SLIDER Jr. was putting a claymore mine together and accidentally set off a blasting cap, wounding self in left thumb. Man treated at 1st Med Bn.
231725	1542	2/26 to Ninth Marines. Patrol detonated mine 100 meters from perimeter wire as squad was returning to CP. Checking area for more mines.
241020	1393	Company F to 2/26 Found one VN male walking along Route # 1. He has gunshot wound in back. Has no ID card on person. Wound treated by Corpseman. Will hold for 5th CIT.
261130	1516	Company F to 2/26 Truck hit mine. One VN female detainee taken to 3d MAF brig.
261611	1533	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs has been picked up.
261741	1535	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs D-1 has returned at 1740.
281626	1645	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs has departed.
281915	1649	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs has returned.
291725	1723	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs in air 1725.
291852	1726	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs returned 1848.
301809	1779	2/26 to Ninth Marines Patrol was conducting a patrol of a island which is uninhabited and apprehended one VN male, age about 47. Does not have ID card. Detainee will be forwarded to 3d MAF brig.
302005	1796	Company D to 2/26 Ambush observed 2 VC crossing river. Fired 300 rounds S/A. One USMC WIA by friendly ricochet.
311718	1841	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs departed.
311820	1847	Company D to 2/26 Blue Springs returned.
312319	1869	Company F to 2/26 Captured 1 VCS that entered ambush site. VCS not armed and is presently being returned to company CP.

Annex B to 2d Bn. 26th Mar. Command Chronology for 1 - 31 March 1967

3/PDR/1cc  
22Mar67FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines Combat Operations  
After Action Report (Operation GULF) 3/WES/ehm of 13 Mar 67.~~SECRET~~

9th Mar. No.

Control No. 00264-67Copy No. 2 of 10

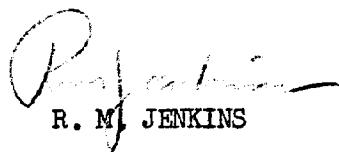
From: Commanding Officer, Ninth Marines

To: Commanding General, First Marine Division (Rein) FMF

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report (Operation GULF)

Ref: (a) 1st MarDiv O 3480.1

1. Forwarded.

  
 R. M. JENKINS
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9th Mar. Regt.

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HEADQUARTERS  
 2d Battalion, 26th Marines  
 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 FPO San Francisco, 96602

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3100  
 3/NES/ehm  
 13 March 1967

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Attn: G-3)  
 Via: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines

0010367

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

S &amp; C FILES

HEADQUARTERS  
 1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF

Ref: (a) 9th Marines 120635Z Feb 67  
 (b) 9th Marines 031220Z Mar 67  
 (c) 2d Bn, 26th Marines Operation Plan 2-67  
 (d) 2d Bn, 26th Marines Frag Order 41-67  
 (e) 9th Marines Frag Order 62-67  
 (f) 2d Bn, 26th Marines Frag Order 42-67  
 (g) Maps: Vietnam; 1:50,000, Sheets 6641 III and 6541 II

67 1203

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Encl: (1) Concept of Operation Overlay

1. Code Name. Operation Gulf, Search and Destroy2. Dates of Operation. 040700H Mar 67 to 070800H Mar 67.

3. Location. Song Cu De Valley, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. The specific operation area is bounded on the north by E-W grid line (AT 89), on the east by N-S grid line (AT 90), on the south by E-W grid line (AT 82) and on the west by N-S grid line (ZC 12).

4. Control and Command Headquarters.

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

LtCol. J. M. Cummings

Company E

1st Lt. F. D. Fulford

Company H

Capt. J. J. Rozman

Det. H&amp;S Company

Sgt. L. J. Harris

Battery B, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Capt. J. L. Lathrop

3rd Platoon, 1st Armoréed Amphibian Company

2d Lt. B. N. Gooch

2nd Platoon, Battery L, 4th Battalion,

1st Lt. C. L. Richards

12th Marines

1st 8" Howitzer Battery

Capt. P. E. Roush

2d Platoon, Company B, 1st Tank Battalion

GySgt J. R. Sims

2d Platoon, Company B, 3d AmTrac Battalion

1st Lt. R. K. Couch

5. Task Organization

2d Battalion, 26th Marines (-) (Rein)

Company E (Rein)

Company E

Det. Scout Dog Platoon

Det. 3d Engineer Battalion

Det. 3d Shore Party Battalion

Det. FAC Team, H&amp;S Company

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~Company H (Rein)

Company H  
 4th Section, 81mm Mortar Platoon  
 Det. 3d Engineer Battalion  
 Det. 3d Shore Party Battalion

Det. H&S Company (Radio Relay)

Det. Comm Platoon  
 Det. 106mm RR Platoon

6. Supporting Forcesa. Artillery

(1) Battery B, 1st Bn, 13th Marines was in direct support and remained in a fixed firing position (AT 922785) throughout the operation. They remained prepared to engage "on call" and counter mortar targets in support of the advance of the mechanized column and to protect the battalions lines of communication. No fire missions were required.

(2) 1st 8" Howitzer Battery was in general support of the Battalion from a fixed firing position (AT 922785). They were prepared to provide reinforcing fires throughout the eastern half of the area of operations and were primarily oriented toward providing defensive fires in support of artillery units displaced forward in the operation area (AT 822857).

(3) 3d Platoon, 1st Armored Amphibian Company was in direct support and moved with the armored column to occupy a firing position at (AT 822857). From this position they were scheduled to provide HLZ preparatory fires in support of the heliborne landings in HLZ's Buzzard and Bluejay. Following the HLZ prep fires, this unit would provide on call fires throughout the area of operations. This unit could not attain firing battery in time to provide the HLZ prep fires and the mission was reassigned to fixed wing aircraft. They fired only one fire mission which was direct fire against a small VC force in close proximity to their firing position. Target coverage was good, however a search of the area produced inconclusive results.

(4) 2d Platoon, Battery L, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines was in direct support and moved with the armored column to occupy a firing position with the LVTH-6's. They were prepared to add reinforcing fires to targets throughout the area of operations. No fire missions were required.

b. Tanks

(1) 2d Platoon, Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, in direct support provided the spearhead for the attacking armored column, protected resupply convoys, lines of communication, and augmented the perimeter defending the forward artillery firing position (AT 822857).

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

(2) Dozer Tanks with the 2d Platoon conducted operations with engineer support to improve Highway 545. Constructing bypasses and clearing earth slides the road was made passable for tracked vehicles between (AT 900822) and (ZC 196842).

(3) Limited Tank reconnaissance revealed that most of the streams within the area of operations are fordable and that Tanks can generally attain sufficient freedom of movement throughout the lower areas to maintain continuous support of advancing infantry. The bridge at (AT 197843) is damaged and is not passable for armor, however a ford approximately 50 meters to the north permitted easy bypass to allow tank penetration to (ZC 196842) during Operation Gulf.

c. Air Support

(1) At the commencement of the operation an 18 man radio relay team was helicopter transported to Dong Den (AT 837826) to insure a positive communication link between all elements participating in the operation.

(2) Four hours after the operation began, Company E (Rein) was simultaneously helolifted into two HLZ's: Buzzard (ZC 130847) and Bluejay (ZC 196838). This maneuver was delayed for HLZ prepfires which were, by necessity, rescheduled from artillery to fixed wing aircraft. The entire lift required two hours.

(3) One helicopter Med-Evac was called during the period and completed in 35 minutes.

(4) Fixed wing aircraft were on station to provide protection for the helicopter borne force. The inability of artillery to provide HLZ prepfires necessitated a request for aircraft to execute HLZ prep. Aircraft on station were not equipped with a suitable ordnance load and DASC assigned the mission to other aircraft. Aircraft prep on the target HLZ's commenced 20 minutes after the initial request.

(5) During the first four hours of the operation UH-1E gunships served as TAC (A) for the HLZ prep and provided visual reconnaissance throughout the area of operations with negative sightings.

(6) Aerial observers flew daily reconnaissance over the area of operations with negative sightings.

7. Intelligence

a. Terrain. Mountains on either side of the valley are extremely steep with a dense canopy up to 200 ft. The underbrush is heavy in the low areas but generally clears beyond the third or fourth contour line. Vegetation is a mixture of jungle growth, cane, and elephant grass about 10 ft. in height.

b. Trafficability

(1) River banks and trails are generally trafficable for wheel and tracked vehicles. Most river dikes were low enough to cross without difficulty.

(2) River depths vary from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 ft. Bottoms are predominantly soft. Numerous fording sites were found that would permit crossing without fording equipment, however during the monsoon the swollen streams probably require fording equipment.

(3) All bridges are passable for foot traffic, but most would require minor repair for vehicle traffic.

(a) The bridge at (ZC 196843) is a pony truss, with steel supports and wood decking. Wheeled vehicles can probably use this bridge as is, but repairs would be necessary for heavier equipment/vehicles. Approximate width is 13 feet.

c. Recommendations by Tank Unit Leader.

(1) That further operations have two heavy sections and one blade tank assigned.

(2) Two additional long cables be taken.

(3) That an engineer team be attached to the tank unit leader to perform clearing operations.

d. Enemy Activity

(1) No contact was made with VC/NVA units. One distant sighting was made of three VC moving up a hill and 60/82mm mortars were called in with good target coverage, a search of area produced inconclusive results.

(2) One landmine was encountered, resulting in a tank track being blown and four friendly WIA, one Med Evac.

(3) Evidence of VC movement through this area (I.C., Chicom grenade in dry river bed, and previous sightings by Recon teams) indicates this is probably used as a small unit infiltration route into the Da Nang area.

8. Mission. Commencing at 040700 March 67, 2d Bn, 26th Marines (-)(Rein) conducts search and destroy operations in area bounded on the north by E-W grid line (AT 89), on the east by N-S grid line (AT 90), on the south by E-W grid line (AT 82) and on the west by N-S grid line (ZC 12) to locate and capture or destroy enemy forces, equipment and supplies.

9. Concept of Operation. Commencing at 040700H Mar 67, one company (Rein) attacks west along the axis of Song Cu De Valley in assigned ZOA. This force will advance in an armored column supported by tanks and amtracs and will contain one plt LVTH-6s and one plt of 155 self propelled howitzers which will establish an advance artillery position to provide fire support for the helicopter borne force. Commencing at 041100H Mar 67 one company (Rein) lands by helicopter in designated HLZ's and attacks east and north east to establish blocking positions in assigned ZOA. See Enclosure (1) (Concept of Operation).

Initial Execution. At 030830Z my Frag Order 42-67 was released. At 031400H a briefing of all assigned units was conducted at the Bn Command Post.

Initial March 67

0700 Command Group and Company H crossed line of departure attacking west on route of Advance Road Runner via mechanized column.

Two CH-46 helicopters lifted radio relay team (18 pers) from Bn CP (AT 940784) to Dong Den (AT 937826).

0723 Command Group and Company H crossed Phase Line Red.

0745 Lead tank in mechanized column detonated a mine (AT 854856) resulting in 6 USMC WIA. Only one Marine required MedEvac (priority) for possible broken arm. Mine of unknown type was estimated to contain a charge of 25 lb which disabled tanks right track and produced a crater in road three feet deep and with a diameter of five feet. Tank was easily repaired and continued operation.

0815 Mechanized Column crossed Phase Line Blue.

CO 2/26 ordered heliborne force to delay landings until 041100.

0845 Priority MedEvac requested for suspected broken arm during tank mining incident.

0902 Helicopter MedEvac completed.

1010 Mechanized Column crossed Phase Line Yellow.

1045 LVTH-6s and 155 self propelled weapons arrived at forward firing position and commenced preparation for scheduled fires.

1046 Company E commenced helolift from Bn (Rear).

1053 LVTH-6s not prepared to provide HLZ prefires. CO 2/26 re-assigned mission to close air support, ordered LVTH-6s to secure scheduled fire mission.

1110 1st wave Company E touchdown in HLZ Bluejay (ZC 196838) with 447 prop. FAC (A) controlled troop helicopters and all air support.

1117 Fixed wing aircraft commenced HLZ prep of Buzzard (ZC 130847).

1130 CO 2/26 passed SITREP #1 to 9th Marines.

1142 Company E from HLZ Bluejay established first communication via Bluejay Team.

1144 LVTH-6s "in battery" and prepared to accept fire missions.

1157 Company E has 1st wave landed in HLZ Buzzard.

1235 Last troop lift departed Bn CP by helicopter.

1250 Company E completed helolift into HLZ Buzzard.

C-#1

Company F completed helolift into HLZ Bluejay.  
All heliborne forces in objective area.

1608 Company F secured objective 4.

1615 Company F discovered abandoned Chicom hand grenade in stream at (AT 80881).  
Trail leading north from stream into small clearing evidenced recent use.

1730 CO 2/26 passed SIT REP # 2 to 9th Marines.

1735 DrdgO issued for occupation of patrol bases and saturation ambushes throughout the night of 04/05 March.

2330 Negative Contact. SITRFP #3 passed to 9th Marines

All units in possession of assigned objectives. Units established patrol bases and saturated the area with ambushes during darkness. Company H continued attack at first light to effect contact with Company E.

05 March 67

Continued Search and Destroy mission to effect contact of Companies E and H. Following link-up commenced platoon sized probes and searches into subordinate draws leading into Elephant Valley.

0700 Negative Contact, SITRFP #4 passed to 9th Marines

0800 Arty Liaison Officer displaced forward to ALFA Command Group from Bn (Rear),

0957 Company H ordered to conduct Platoon sized reconnaissance of area along stream from (ZC 200889) to (ZC 205881).

1110 SIT REP # 5 to 9th Marines

1152 Dozer tanks and engineers cleared rock slide at (AT 816835) and constructed bypasses from (AT 816852) to (AT 814848). Road now open to last point.

1300 Company H fire team observation post protecting LVTH-6 firing. Observation post observed three (3) VC at (AT 825853). Target engaged by 60mm Mortars, and LVTH-6s with good area coverage. Search of area produced inconclusive results.

1320 Company H reached limit of advance and established contact with

1330 SIT REP # 6 to 9th Marines

1515 Task Force X-Ray requested presence of CO and S-3 2/26. Arranged for 061000.

110. 9th Marines requested estimated duration of operations. Informed of additional three days but prepared for early termination.

1400 SIT REP # 7 to 9th Marines

Units conducted extensive ambushes throughout area of operations during night of 05/06 March without contact.

26 March 67

Upon retraction of previous nights ambushes units continued searching tributary draws without incident. During the afternoon units consolidated positions in preparation for retraction from the operating area. Extensive night ambushes were maintained.

0530 SIT REP # 8 to 9th Marines

1000 Executive Officer 2/26 assumes control of operation. CO and S-3 2/26 helolifted to Task Force X-Ray conference.

1030 Helicopter resupply of Radio Relay accomplished without incident.

1130 SITREP # 9 to 9th Marines.

1140 Frag 0 for movement of Companies F and H. Designated location of combat bases and ambush locations for night of 06/07 March.

1400 Helicopter resupply of Company F accomplished without incident.

1402 Company H evacuated two nonbattle casualties by vehicle.

1700 SITREP # 10 to 9th Marines.

1800 Order issued to terminate Operation Gulf.

2330 SIT REP # 11 to 9th Marines.

07 March 67

Activities were conducted to consolidate forces and provide a tactical withdrawal from the operating area utilizing existing transportation as mechanized column.

0530 SIT REP # 12 to 9th Marines.

0600 Operation Gulf terminated. All units enroute to normal combat bases.

1200 SITREP # 13 to 9th Marines.

#### 11. Results

- a. Friendly: USMC 6 WIA
- b. Enemy: None

- c. One air ~~strike~~ was conducted in HLZ as prep fire.
- d. One tank had it's right track damaged when the tank detonated a mine of unknown type.

12. Administrative Matters. This units standing administrative plans were adequate.

a. Supply

(1) On the second day of the operation a helo resupply had to be cancelled due to the weather. Resupply was accomplished by unit distribution utilizing LVTP-5s in a mechanized column.

b. Maintenance. The only need for maintenance was when a tank detonated a mine. 2d echelon repair was within the capability of the tank unit and repair was readily accomplished.

c. Treatment of casualties, evacuation and hospitalization.

(1) There was a total of 6 USMC WIAs, one of which had to be Med Evacked by helicopter to the 1st MedBn.

d. Transportation

(1) No motor transport elements were attached for this operation.

(2) Response to requests for tactical and resupply missions were satisfactory.

e. Communications

(1) At the commencement of the operation an 18 man radio relay team was helocopter transported to Dong Den (837826) to insure a positive communication link between all elements participating in the operation. The communication plan established by the Battalion Communication Officer provided adequate response to operational requirements.

f. Medical Evaluation. There were no medical problems encountered on this operation.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques

(a) Radio Communication

The area of operation precluded direct FM radio transmission with Battalion (Rear) and between all units of the operation. Anticipating difficulties in maintaining radio contact, a radio relay team was equipped and prepared to maintain communication on the Bn TAC Net and on the Artillery conduct of fire net between all elements involved in the operation. This relay team was helolifted to Dong Den (AT 937826) at the commencement of the operation and permitted an orderly and continuous communications link. Traffic between the units engaged was transmitted via FM radio and to prevent undue traffic on the Bn TAC Net, communications between Bn (Rear) and the Relay Team was effected via HF circuits.

Commanders Analysis. From previous contacts prior to the operation, it is believed that there is probably a VC unit of platoon size that operates east of grid line 81 in Elephant Valley. Early termination of the operation precluded a thorough search of the area of operations west of that point. However, patrols and searches that were conducted produced no evidence of significant activity in the area.

It is felt that this operation demonstrated to the VC that we can and will move back into the mountains, thereby making him feel less secure.

15. Recommendation. That continued patrol action and company size operations be conducted in the area. Future Battalion size operations in this area are not considered appropriate unless recon sightings or other information indicate major VC activity.

96

  
H. LANDERS  
By direction