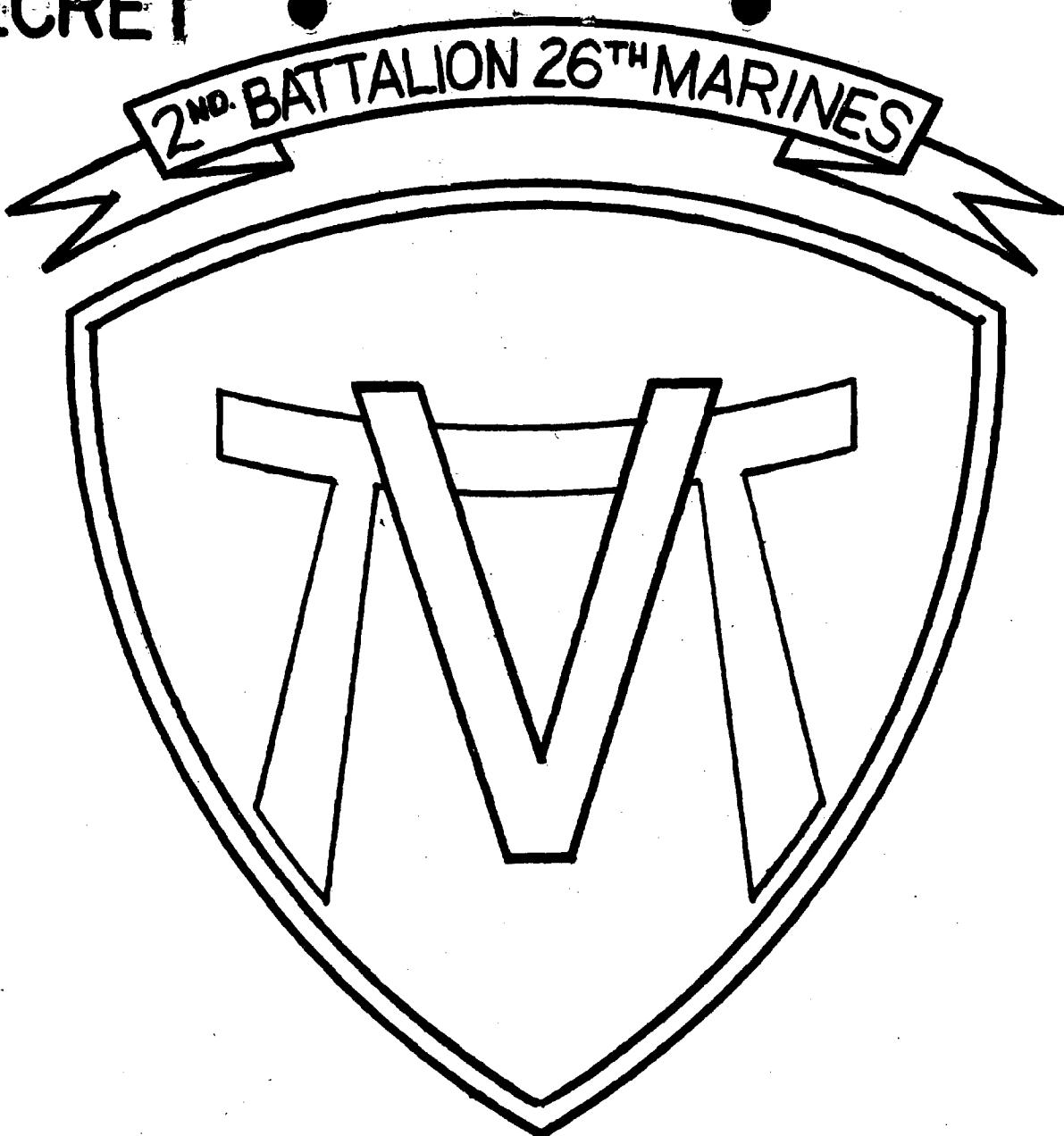


DECLASSIFIED

SECRET



COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

2 AUG 1968

2ND BN/26TH MAR

CMD CHRON

UNCLASSIFIED

LCN#

DD19368

HEADQUARTERS

Battalion Landing Team 2/26
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
FPO San Francisco, 966023/JDL/daf
5750
15 September 1968
Ser No. 003A25268From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander Task Group 79.4

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 August to 31 August 1968.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) BRIGO 5750.1C

Encl: ✓ Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) through (c),
enclosure (1) is submitted.Charles Tye
C. TYE
By directionDISTRIBUTION: CTG 79.4 01-15
CO 1st Marines 16
CG 3d MarDiv 17
CG 9th MAB 18
CG III MAF 19
SL3 BLF 2/26 20
SAC Files 21-25DEGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10Copy No. 1 of 85

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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 2/26
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 August to 31 August 1968

INDEX

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PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

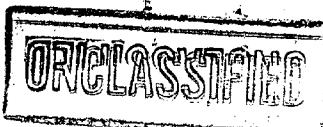
LtCol T. OWENS
LtCol W. F. SPARKS1-13 Aug
13-31 AugSUBORDINATE UNITS.

H&S Co	1stLt D. S. HARRINGTON	1-31 Aug
Co E	Capt J. C. CREGAN	1-31 Aug
Co F	Capt S. M. HARTMAN	1-31 Aug
Co G	1stLt R. W. RIORDAN	1-31 Aug
Co H	Capt H. L. ZIMMERLE 1stLt T. F. RUDD	1-30 Aug 31 Aug

ATTACHMENTS.

Btry B(-), 1st Bn, 13th Mar	Capt F. R. FRANZEN	1-31 Aug
Mortar Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Mar	1stLt R. H. SAUNDERS	1-31 Aug
1st Plt(Rein), Co A 5th AmtracBn	1stLt E. E. COX	1-31 Aug
1st Plt(Rein), Co A, 5th AT Bn	SSgt C. B. WHITFIELD	1-31 Aug
2d Plt(Rein), Co C, 3d Engr Bn	2dLt J. J. ASHCROFT II	1-31 Aug
2d Plt(Rein), H&S Co, 3d SP Bn	1stLt S. J. O'NEILL	1-31 Aug
1st Plt(Rein), Co A, 5th ReconBn	1stLt P. J. MCDONALD JR	1-31 Aug
4th Plt(Rein), Co A, 5th TK Bn	2dLt D. M. MURPHY	1-31 Aug
2d Plt(Rein), Co C, 3d MT Bn	1stLt B. L. LAMBIN	1-31 Aug
LSU, BMT 2/26	1stLt P. A. BURNS	1-31 Aug
Det, HQ Bn, (Postal, Disb & Photo)	1stLt R. J. LOVELACE	1-31 Aug
Collect & Clear, 5th Med Bn	LT(USN) D. A. BALLING	1-31 Aug

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2. Security Det, HQ Co, 9th MAB	Cpl	R. L. MARKHAM	1-31 Aug
NavGunFire In Team	Lt(JG)	J. CARROLL	1-31 Aug
Det, Radio Relay, HQ Co, 26th Mar	Sgt	J. W. BUFFA	1-31 Aug

2. LOCATION

01-07 0900H Aug 1968	Quang Tri, RVN
07 1400H-31 Aug 1968	South China Sea

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj	C. TYE	1-31 Aug
S-1	1stLt	J. W. SEAL	1-31 Aug
S-2	1stLt	R. I. MORGAN	1-23 Aug
	SSgt	H. E. ROLAND	24-31 Aug
S-3	Maj	J. D. LYNCH	1-31 Aug
S-4	Capt	C. O. BROUGHTON	1-31 Aug
S-5	1stLt	R. I. MORGAN	1-31 Aug

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
55	1485	8	74

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 August the Battalion was deployed as follows: Battalion Headquarters, H&S Co(-), Co F, and Co H were located at Quang Tri Combat Base under the Operational Control of 1st Marines while undergoing training and preparation for service afloat with SLF Alfa. Co E was located on the perimeter of Quang Tri Combat Base and was under the Operational Control of Hqtrs Battalion, 3d Marine Division for its mission of guarding a portion of the Quang Tri Combat Base perimeter. Co G remained in the Cua Viet area under the Operational Control of 1st Antrac Battalion.

On 2 August Co G proceeded to Quang Tri Combat Base and returned to Operational Control of the Battalion.

On 3 August Co E reverted to Operational Control of the Battalion. The Battalion received orders to begin embarkation upon assigned ARG shipping. Embarkation was completed on 8 August.

On 10 August the Battalion conducted a combined heliborne and amphibious landing south of the Cua Viet River to improve amphibious assault capabilities. No contact with hostile forces was made, and the Battalion reembarked on 12 August.

On 13 August Operational Control of 2d Battalion, 26th Marines was passed to III Marine Amphibious Force, thence to 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, and the Battalion was redesignated as Battalion Landing Team 2/26.

From 15 to 17 August three successive, one day, company sized landings were conducted by Co's E, F, and H to further increase the BLT's amphibious capabilities. No contact with hostile forces was made during these operations.

On 18 August BLT 2/26 landed to participate in Operation PROUD HUNTER. BLT 2/26 relieved 2d Battalion, 1st Marines of defensive positions in the vicinity of Mai Xa Thi on the Cua Viet River. Rifles companies conducted a vigorous program of day and night patrols, listening posts, and ambushes in an attempt to locate enemy forces in the area, however no contact with hostile forces was gained.

On 21 August BLT 2/26, less Co F, reembarked its assigned shipping. Co F reembarked on 22 August.

On 25 August Co G conducted a heliborne landing to secure the south bank of the Cua Viet River. Co G was placed under the Operational Control of 1st Antrac Battalion.

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On 27 August Co F relieved Co G by helilift. Co G returned to its assigned shipping and reverted to Operational Control of BLT 2/26.

On 28 August BLT 2/26 landed on Operation SWIFT PURSUIT at Mai Loc in the LANCASTER II AO. The BLT remained under Operational Control of 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade and was operating in the area surrounding Mai Loc at the close of this reporting period. No contact with hostile forces was made.

The main efforts of the Battalion, and subsequently the BLT, during this period were directed towards preparation for and assumption of the amphibious role. LTI's and on site rehab and training were conducted concurrent with operations during most of the month.

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. **MISSION.** During the period 7 to 31 August the Battalion was assigned the following missions:

a. 1-13 August (Division Reserve)

(1) Commence preparations to assume mission as Special Landing Force by conducting training orientated toward heliborne and amphibious operations.

(2) Prepare to board shipping.

(3) Be prepared to commit the Battalion anywhere in the KENTUCKY or NAPOLEON/SALINE Areas of Operations.

b. 13-31 August (SLF ALFA) At 0800H on 13 August the Battalion assumed the mission as the ground component of Special Landing Force Alfa and commenced amphibious exercises from Battalion to company level. This period included the following operations with missions as stated:

(1) 18-21 August (Operation PROUD HUNTER) in the NAPOLEON/SALINE AO.

(a) Establish defensive positions.

(b) Conduct day and night combat reconnaissance patrols, conduct ambushes, and establish listening posts.

(c) Locate and destroy enemy infiltrating through the operational area.

(d) Be prepared to counterattack anywhere in the NAPOLEON/SALINE or KENTUCKY Areas of Operations.

(e) Be prepared to reinforce or counterattack to restore Dong Ha Combat Base.

(2) 28-31 August (Operation SWIFT PURSUIT) in the LANCASTER II AO.

(a) To find, fix, and destroy enemy forces, installations, and material within the AO.

(b) To capture prisoners.

(c) To prevent attack on Camp Carroll from the southern sector.

(d) To provide security for the Bru ville (YD 083515).

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2. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 Aug 68 At 010945H, A member of a Company E patrol detonated a trip type booby-trap (estimated to be 105mm artillery round) in vicinity of YD 285525, resulting in 1 USN KIA and 1 USMC WIA (medevaced).

Ref: Journal No. 3
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

3 Aug 68 At 030515H, Company G returned to Operational Control of 2d Battalion, 26th Marines from 1st Amtrac Battalion operation in the NAPOLEON/SALINE AO and returned to Quang Tri Combat Base.

Ref: Journal No. 17
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

3 Aug 68 At 031529H, 2d Battalion, 26th Marines received orders to commence loading the troops and equipment aboard assigned ships.

Ref: Journal No. 22
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

3 Aug 68 At 03 1710H, An M-35 truck was transporting members from Company E 2d Battalion, 26th Marines to their Battalion area when the right side gate dislodged and 5 Marines fell from the truck, resulting in 1 Marine fracturing right elbow, and 4 Marines suffering cuts and abrasions.

Ref: Journal No. 23
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

5 Aug 68 At 052345H, 2d Battalion, 26th Marines commenced embarkation of equipment and troops to assigned ships. Embarkation completed at 081600H August 1968.

Ref: Journal No. 48
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

10 Aug 68 At 100615H, 2d Battalion, 26th Marines commenced a heliborne and amphibious landing exercise south of the Cua Viet River in vicinity of YD 3568 and swept inland 3000 meters. No enemy contact was made. Landing Exercise was completed and the Battalion reembarked at 11300H.

Ref: Journal No. 53
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

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13 Aug 68 At 130800H, 3d Marine Division passed Operational Control of 2d Battalion, 26th Marines to CG III Marine Amphibious Force. 2d Battalion, 26th Marines was redesignated Battalion Landing Team 2/26 and Operational Control was passed from CG III Marine Amphibious force to Commander Task Group 79.4 and command less operational to BLT-26

Ref: Journal No. 61
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

13 Aug 68 At 131700H, LtCol OWENS was relieved Commanding Officer of Battalion Landing Team 2/26 by LtCol SPARKS.

Ref: Journal No. 62
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

15 Aug 68 At 151110H, Company E conducted a heliborne landing exercise in vicinity of YD 3568 and swept inland 3000 meters. No contacts were made. The exercise completed Co E reembarked at 151800H.

Ref: Journal No. 63
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

16 Aug 68 At 160810H, Company H, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 conducted a heliborne landing exercise in vicinity YD 3568 and swept inland 3000 meters. No contacts were made. The exercise was completed and Co H reembarked at 161635H.

Ref: Journal No. 71
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

17 Aug 68 At 171230H, Company F, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 conducted a heliborne landing exercise in vicinity YD 3568 and swept inland 3000 meters. No contacts were made. The exercise was completed and Company F reembarked at 171820H.

Ref: Journal No. 79
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

18 Aug 68 At 181240H, BLT 2/26 landed to participate in Operation Proud Hunter. The BLT relieved 2d Battalion 1st Marines position in the Gua Viet area.

Ref: Journal No. 85
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

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19 Aug 68 At 190845H Company H found 3 NVA bodies at YD 266705. Remains appeared to have been dead about 3 weeks, and were wearing flak jackets, helmets and green utilities.

Ref: Journal No. 102
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

19 Aug 68 At 191525H, Company E found 1 enemy bunker in vicinity of YD 293687. Bunker was 5' X 5' constructed with bamboo cover. Also found one NVA skeleton.

Ref: Journal No.
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

19 Aug 68 At 191525H, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 to assumed Operational Control of Company G, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines.

Ref: Journal No. 122
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

20 Aug 68 At 200820H, Battalion Landing Team assumed Operational Control of Company E, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines.

Ref: Journal No. 126
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

20 Aug 68 At 201430H, Company H patrol found 4 bunkers arranged in a circle and 100 lbs of rice.

Ref: Journal No. 132
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

21 Aug 68 At 211800H, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 less Company F reembarked assigned shipping. Operation Proud Hunter terminated

Ref: Journal No. 156
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

22 Aug 68 At 221200H, Company F reembarked assigned shipping.

Ref: Journal No. 156a
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

25 Aug 68 At 251420H, Company G landed to secure the Cua Viet River in the NAPOCHEIN/SALINE AO vicinity of YD 325645.

Ref: Journal No. 157
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

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27 Aug 68 At 271345Z Company F landed in the NAPOLEON SALINE AO in vicinity of TD 325645 and relieved Company G in place. Company G reenlisted assigned shipping.

Ref: Journal No. 168
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

28 Aug 68 At 231200Z, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 landed on Operation SWIFT PUNJIT in the LANCASTER II AO at Mai Loc, vicinity of TD 090515 to find, fix, and destroy enemy forces and installations in the area.

Ref: Journal No. 173
(Tab A to enclosure (1))

1-31 Aug TOTAL number of patrols: 72
TOTAL number of ambushes: 94
TOTAL number of LP/OP's: 107

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~~DECLASSIFIED~~3. Personnel Administration

a. Personnel

(1) Number of replacements received: 230

(2) Number of personnel lost through rotation: 7

(3) Number of personnel lost through attrition other than rotation:

(a) WIA: Officers	0	Enlisted	0
1. Quang Tri	0		1
2. South China Sea	0		0
(b) DOW: Officers	0	Enlisted	0
(c) WIA: Officers	0	Enlisted	3
(d) Non-Battle Casualties: 7			
(e) Intra-Division/Regiment Transfers: 49			
(4) Number of personnel wounded, treated, and returned to duty, and non-battle casualties returned to duty after treatment:			
(a) WIA: Officers	0	Enlisted	0
1. Quang Tri	0		0
2. South China Sea	0		0
(b) Non-Battle Casualties: 58			
(5) R&R: No R&R was given during the month of August due to the Battalion going afloat and R&R quotas were turned back into 3d Marine Division.			

b. Administration

(1) Awards: No awards issued during the month of August.

(2) Promotions:

1stLt: 4	Cpl: 36
Capt: 1	LCpl: 7
Sgt: 1	PFC: 1

(3) Postal Service: From 1-12 August the mail continued to arrive at Quang Tri where it was picked up daily by helicopter and brought to the USS Princeton LPH-5. From 13-31 August mail was routed to Da Nang where it was sorted then issued to each unit.

(4) Post Exchange: From 1-7 August, before embarking there were numerous PX's throughout the Quang Tri area. After embarking (7-31 Aug) there were ships stores available aboard each ship.

(5) Special Services: Before embarking (1-7 Aug) volley balls and nets, basketballs, footballs, and other assorted items of equipment was secured for the BLT's use. In addition to the previous named items, each ship was equipped with other gear such as: weight rooms, libraries, movies, and television sets.

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~~SECRET~~4. INTELLIGENCE

a. Enemy Situation. Elements of the 320th Division were known to be operating in and around the 2d Battalion, 26th Marines' AO. The 52nd Regiment, located north of the Cua Viet River, the 48th Regiment, located north of Dong Ha, and the 64th Artillery Regiment, located north of the Ben Hai River.

The primary mission of the NVA in the Cua Viet area was mining and interdiction of the Cua Viet River.

Patrols found surprise firing devices in the Cua Viet area as well as in the Mai Loc area. The Battalion received only scattered harrassing mortar fire.

b. Enemy Initiated Incidents.

(1) The enemy initiated no ground attacks.

c. Mortar and Artillery.

60mm - 10 rounds Friendly position 268704

82mm - 02 rounds Friendly position 137525

Known enemy supporting arms positions are shown below:

YD 260700

d. Vietnamese Nationals Volunteering Information. There were no instances of Vietnamese Nationals volunteering information.

e. Summary of Enemy Casualties, POW's and Captured Equipment.

(1) KIA (by ground)	4 (bodies found)
KBA (by air)	0
KLA (by artillery)	0

(2) POW	0
---------	---

(3) Captured Equipment: 3 AT mines, 1 RR round, several AK-47 magazines, NVA packs, utilities, and cooking utensils.

f. Significant Trends. Noneg. Enemy Contact. None~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~SECRET~~
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h. Astrological Data. The weather was generally fair and hot. The wind averaged 10 knots from the west and there was a trace of rainfall from light and widely scattered showers. In general, the weather favored allied operations, heat being the only detrimental factor.

5. OPERATIONS

a. Command Relations. The Battalion was under Operational Control of the:

(1) 1st Marines 1 Aug to 0800H 13 Aug 1968

CTG 79.1 0801H 13 Aug to 31 Aug 1968

(2) Administrative Control was by:

3d MarDiv 1 Aug to 0800H 13 Aug 1968

9th Marine Amphibious Brigade 13 Aug 0801H to 31 Aug 1968

b. Major Operations Conducted.

(1) Participated in: Operation PROUD HUNTER 18-21 Aug 1968

(2) Participated in: Operation SWIFT PURSUIT 28-31 Aug 1968 (in the LANCASTER II AO)

c. New Techniques. None

d. Training.

(1) Throughout the month each rifle company conducted training in the following areas:

(a) Field Sanitation (Corpsmen utilized)

(b) Offensive Tactics (Squads, Platoon, and Company)

(c) Map Reading

(d) Crew-Served Weapons (Drills and Maintenance)

(e) M-16 Rifle (Zeroing and Fam firing)

(f) Heliborne and Amphibious Operations

(g) Life Aboard Ship

(h) Code of Conduct

(i) Physical Training

(j) Rules of Engagement

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o. Fire Support.

(1) From 18-20 August 1968, artillery support was provided by 1st Battalion, 11th Marines at Cua Viet.

- (a) There were 12 EM missions fired in support of the Battalion.
- (b) There were no illumination missions fired in support of the Battalion.
- (c) There were 33 E&I targets attacked at the Battalion's request.
- (d) There were no significant missions fired in support of the Battalion.

(2) During this period the 81mm Mortar Platoon was employed as follows:

- (a) 01-07 Aug. Entire Platoon at Luang Tri Combat Base. No missions were fired.
- (b) 08-09 Aug. Entire Platoon was afloat. No missions were fired.
- (c) 09-12 Aug. Landing exercise, south of the Cua Viet River.

Three (3) sections in direct support of the Battalion. No missions were fired.

- One (1) section in direct support of Company G (Mobile).
- (d) 12-13 Aug. Entire Platoon was afloat. No missions were fired.
- (e) 14-15 Aug. Two (2) sections from LPD-8 with direct support of one day, one (1) Co. Operating south of the Cua Viet River in vicinity of YD 686354. One base plate seating mission was fired.
- (f) 15-16 Aug. Two (2) sections from LPH-5 in direct support of Company G Operation in vicinity of YD 686354. Only one (1) base plate seating mission was fired.
- (g) 15-17 Aug. Entire Platoon afloat. No missions were fired.

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(h) 18-20 Aug. Three (3) sections were in direct support of the Battalion at Mai Xa Thi, vicinity of YD 279668.

06 HE missions were fired
01 Illumination missions were fired
12 WP missions were fired

One section in direct support of Company F in vicinity of YD 325645. One (1) base plate setting mission was fired.

(i) 21-25 Aug. Entire Platoon afloat. No missions were fired.

(j) 25-27 Aug. One (1) section in direct support of Company G in vicinity of YD 324644. No missions were fired.

(k) 27-28 Aug. One (1) section in direct support of Company F in vicinity of YD 325645. No missions were fired.

(l) 28-31 Aug. Entire Platoon in direct support of the Battalion in vicinity of YD 690512

06 HE missions were fired
02 Illumination missions were fired
04 WP missions were fired

(3) During this period 1-31 August the 106 Recoilless Rifle Platoon was in support of the Battalion as follows:

(a) 09-12 Aug. Landing Exercise south of the Cua Viet River. No missions were fired.

(b) 18-20 Aug. In support of the Battalion at Mai Xa Thi (YD 279668) (Operation PROUD HUNTER). No missions were fired.

(c) 20-31 Aug. In support of the Battalion at Mai Loc (YD 092512). No missions were fired.

1. There were no missions fired during this reporting period.

(4) From 20-31 August 1968 artillery support was provided by the 1st Battalion, 12th Marines at Camp Carroll.

(a) There were 22 HE missions fired in support of the Battalion

(1) 09 of these were NGF

(2) 13 of these were suppressive fires

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f. Air Support. During the month of August the Battalion received the following Air Support.

(1) **Resupply:** 98,400 lbs of resupplies were lifted to the Battalion's position.

(2) **Troop Movement:** On 15, 16, and 17 August 1 company landing was conducted each day from the USS Princeton (LPH-5) to the Gua Viet area. On 18-21 August 2 companies and 1 Command Group were lifted from the USS Princeton (LPH-5) to the Mai Xe Thi area and then back again. On 28 August the BLT(-) was lifted from the USS Princeton (LPH-5) and the USS Dubuque (LPD-8) to the Mai Loc area.

(3) **DAB/CAS:** No DAB/CAS missions were run.

(4) **Medevacs:** 51 personnel were medevaced by helicopters.

6. LOGISTICS

a. Supply and Maintenance. The source of supply and maintenance throughout the period remained with Force Logistic Command. Supplies were drawn from FLSG-B at Dong Ha, FLSG-A at Phu Bai, and FLC at Danang. Maintenance beyond second echelon was provided by FLSG-B at Dong Ha.

b. Status of Supply. During the period 1 August - 6 August the BLT was located at Quang Tri undergoing limited rehab and preparing for embarkation. Supply objectives for the BLT had not at that time been met, but it was possible to resupply all units with individual clothing and equipment. Organic supplies were packaged, manifested, and prepared for embarkation. Between 6 August and 9 August the BLT Supply section was relocated aboard USS Dubuque (LPD-8). During the same period FLC, Danang processed on a "fill or kill" basis all outstanding requisitions. About 52% of those were filled from "in-country" stocks and the unfilled requisitions were passed to 3d FSB by courier. The outstanding requisitions passed were to be filled and delivered during the BLT rehab period scheduled for September. Upon receipt of material provided by FLC, Danang the BLT was considered to be in a G-2 Supply readiness category.

c. Resupply. Throughout the period supply point distribution was in effect to the BLT. Resupply to BLT elements was effected by unit distribution. Upon embarkation the BLT Activity Code was shifted from FLSG-B, Dong Ha to FLC, Danang.

d. Hospitalization and Evacuation. Prior to embarkation, all personnel requiring medical treatment beyond the BAS level were evacuated to Company F, 3d Medical Battalion, Dong Ha. After the BLT was embarked, all personnel requiring medical treatment were evacuated to USS Princeton (LPH-5). Medical services were provided by the BLT Medical Section, the Collecting Platoon, and Medical Augmentation Team-Alpha all embarked aboard USS Princeton.

18

REBT
Enclosure (1)

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e. Transportation.

- (1) Surface transportation utilized Route 1 between Quang Tri and Dong Ha and the Cua Viet River between ARG shipping and Dong Ha.
- (2) During amphibious operations, ARG/SLFA organic transportation was utilized for ship to shore and shore to ship training/tactical operations.
- (3) Air transportation was provided by HMM-262 for all tactical, non-tactical, and training operations.
- (4) During embarkation small craft augmentation was provided by NSA Danang and wheeled vehicles were provided by 9th Motor Transport Battalion.
- (5) At sea transportation between ships was provided by HMM-262 and ARG small craft.

f. Services. Services provided prior to embarkation and afloat were satisfactory in all respects.

g. Maintenance. First and second echelon maintenance was performed on all equipment at Quang Tri prior to embarkation. Once embarked, routine maintenance was continued on a daily and weekly schedule. All equipment landed during training/tactical operations were subjected to preventive maintenance after backloading.

7. CIVIL AFFAIRS. Medcaps were held in the Mai Loc area begining on 29 August.

8. COMMUNICATION AND ELECTRONICS. Communications support was provided for the Battalion Landing Team during the past month for Operations KENTUCKY, PROUD HUNTER and SWIFT PURSUIT.

a. Wire. During the past month, due to rapid movement of the BLT, wire communication was not as extensively employed as previous months. Aboard ship a switchboard was set up on the USS Princeton (LPH-5) to augment the ships communications. Ashore wire was used when practical, but rapid movement held its use to a minimum.

b. Radio. Constant radio communication was maintained during the past month to the companies, supporting arms, attached units and to higher Headquarters ashore and afloat.

- (1) A KY-3 circuit was extensively employed to higher Headquarters during the past month.
- (2) The Tactical Air Control Party employed UHF and VHF equipment in support of the BLT.

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c. Radio Relay. Two AN/TRC-27 and 6 personnel were received from the 26th Marines for employment with the BLT. Due to the fact that much time was spent afloat and when ashore movement was rapid, radio relay equipment was not employed.

d. Message Center. During the past month communications guard moved to the 3d Marine Division Communication Center at Dong Ha Combat Base. A total of 1821 messages were processed during the last month.

e. Maintenance/Supply. During the past month the BLT communications section has had no radio or KY-8 repairmen which made maintenance of radios difficult. Therefore, during the past month radios were turned directly into FLAG-B on red-ball for the past 3 months.

9. MEDICAL SUPPORT.

a. BLT Medical agencies administered to 474 patients during the period.

b. Diseases encountered during the month are as follows:

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>PATIENTS</u>
URI	91
GC	3
FUO	5
DIARRHEA	6
DERMATOLOGY	121
HEAT CASUALTIES	6
GASTROENTERITIS	14
EYE DISEASE	6
NBC	12
MALARIA	2

c. Medical Support was provide by Medical Augmentation Team Alfa embarked aboard USS Princeton (LPH-5) for those cases beyond the BLT medical capability.

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10. RELIGIOUS SERVICES.a. Chaplain assigned. Lt Jerry A. ZANDSTRA, CHC, USARb. Services conducted.

Type	Number	Attendance
Sunday Worship - Protestant	7	180
Sunday Mass - Catholic	2	72
Weekday Worship - Protestant	8	122
Weekday Mass - Catholic	8	85
Holy Communion - Protestant	5	89

c. Personnel receiving counsel:

(1) Professional Counseling cases 42
 (2) American Red Cross Cases 8
 (3) Cases utilizing MARS radiotelephone 2

d. Significant activities:

(1) During the month 15 packages of books, toilet articles, comfort items, and food was received from donors in the United States, and distributed to the troops. A personal letter of thank you was sent to each of the donors in behalf of the men of 2/26.

(2) Chaplain sponsored a series of hymn sings aboard the USS Princeton for the troops. Eight such services were held with total attendance of 136.

e. Facilities:

(1) The month of August entailed a great deal of movement for the Battalion. The services that we were able to schedule amidst this movement were held in what ever spot was available: the chapel, a tent, a mess deck, the open field.

(2) Since the men of 2/26 were so spread out, the chaplain was assisted in religious coverage by 3d Mar Div chaplains.

(3) Chaplain purchased an autocarp and communion equipment for use in the field.

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Enclosure (1)

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ Tab A to enclosure (1)

Flight Journal

✓ TAB B

After Action Report Operation Proud Hunter

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	0500	1	010500	SITREP # 262.	FR
	1100	2	011100	SITREP # 263.	FR
	1130	3	010945	Spot Report: HFE patrol member tripped a booby trap at 285525, 1 WIA, 1 KIA.	FSR
	1905	4	011700	SITREP # 264.	FR
	2000	5	011955	HF to HW: Request position report on all friendly units in the 2/1 AO.	FR
	2400	6	012130	CTG 79.4 to HF: SLF commanders will be at 3d MarDiv CP at 020830.	FS
	2406	7	012115	HW to HF: Unit locations in 2/1 AO.	FS
	0020	8	012300	Sitrep # 265.	FR
	0615	9	020500	SITREP # 266.	FR
	1100	10	021100	SITREP # 267.	FR
	1455	11	021310	HF to PH: Request beach landing site information for AOA.	F(SIF)
	1740	12	021700	SITREP # 268.	FR
	2030	13	021900	HF to PH: Helo Frag request for 3 Aug.	F(SIF)
	2145	14	022130	HF to PH: Request maximum number of deck spots on LPH-5.	F(SIF)
	2300	15	022300	SITREP # 269.	FR
	0600	16	030500	SITREP # 270.	FR
	0530	17	030515	HF3 to HFG: HFG chopped back to OPCON of 2d Bn, 26th Marines.	FT

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Tab-A

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1AB RA

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN. OUT/ SER #:	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
0905	18	030840 HW to HF: Request status of Anti-tank weapons.	FS
0915	19	030915 HF to HW: HF6 on way to Plug Hole. (LPH-5)	FR
1100	20	031100 SITREP # 271.	FR
1700	21	031700 SITREP # 272.	FR
1825	22	031529 HF3 to HF3A: Received the order to execute the on load of the BLT.	FS
1845	23	031710 Spot Report: HFE reports traffic accident at vicinity of HQ 3d MarDiv involving HFE 6X6; 5 NBC's.	FR
2005	24	031945 Casualty report from HFE on traffic accident.	FSR
2300	25	032300 SITREP # 273.	FR
0545	26	040500 SITREP # 274.	FR
0715	27	040645 HW2 to HF: Weather Report.	FS
0720	28	040700 HF2 to PH2: Request confirmation on planned photo recon flight.	F(SLF)
1030	29	041000 HF to HW: Request 1st Plt Commander, Co A, 5th Amtrac Bn report ASAP to BLT 2/26 at QT.	
1130	30	041100 SITREP # 275.	FR
1430	31	041250 CTG 79.4 to HF2: Total photo coverage of AO available at this position.	FS
1440	32	041400 HF to HW: Shore Fire Control Party has not reported to BLT; please assist.	FR

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #	ITG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1515	33	041450		HF to PH: Return all BLT 2/26 troops except smallest possible security for cargo. Have ceased loading for embarkation.	F(SLF)
1623	34	041355		HW to HF: Ref: 041400H, Division states unit scratched from T/O organisation	FS
1645	35	041630		HF to PH: Approval for loading of HF expected momentarily from 3d MAF.	F(SLF)
1730	36	041700		SITREP # 276.	FR
2025	37	042000		CTG 79.4 to BLT 2/26: 55 personnel sent ashore, 1 sgt and 3 guards remain.	FS
2140	38	042130		BLT 2/26 to CG 3d MarDiv: Amtrac Plt leader reported this PM.	FB
2353	39	042110		HF to PH: Aircraft request for airstrike in support of land operation.	F(SLF)
2310	40	042300		SITREP # 277.	FR
0510	41	050500		SITREP # 278.	FR
1100	42	051100		SITREP # 279.	FR
1705	43	051700		SITREP # 280.	FR
18023	44	051755		CTG 79.4 to BLT 2/26: Arrival time of landing craft.	FS
2000	45	051930		CTG 79.4 to BLT 2/26: DIBQUE will depart night of 06 August.	FS
2240	46	052230		HF6 to HW6: Request you contact 1st Amtrac Bn to determine any improvement of capability.	FR
2330	47	052300		SITREP # 281.	FR

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	0258	48	060150	HF6 to CTG 79.4: Plan of usage for small craft.	F(SLF)
	0400	49	060340	CTG 79.4 to HF: WASHOE COUNTY available to receive cargo 6 & 7 Aug.	FS
	1510	50	061500	SITREP # 282.	FR
	1530	51	061520	SITREP to PH	F(SLF)
	2000	52	091800	Operation Plan 120B-68 distributed.	FS
	0630	53	100615	1st wave of LEX departing for the beach.	FS
	1310	54	101205	SITREP to PH.	F(SLF)
	1610	55	101600	SITREP to PH.	F(SLF)
	2100	56	102100	Position Report.	F(SLF)
	2130	57	102100	SITREP to PH.	F(SLF)
	2210	58	102159	Spot Report: HFE reports 1 NBC due to snake bite. Medevaced.	F(SLF)
	0345	59	110330	SITREP TO PH.	F(SLF)
	1000	60	110930	SITREP to PH.	F(SLF)
	1000	61	130800	CTG 79.4 to BLT 2/26: CG 3d MarDiv passed command of BLT 2/26 to CG	
				III MAF who passed OPCON of BLT 2/26 to CTG 79.4 and command less OPCON	
				to CG 9th MAB.	FST
	1700	62	131700	Lt Col OWENS passed command of BLT 2/26 to Lt Col SPARKS.	FST

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT	SER #	ITG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1120		63	151110	E Co SITREP (Landing unopposed; unit in defensive position around LZ at this time.)	FS(SIF)
1200		64	151200	BLT 2/26 call sign changed from HASTY FOOT to JOHN BROWN.	FST(SIF)
1340		65	151340	JB3 to JBE: "W" sequence withdrawal proposed by JBE laid on except last PK movement orbit on-call until JB and Sand Bar underway.	FST
1410		66	151410	JB3 to HBH: Change in patrol route.	FT
1415		67	151400	E Co SITREP (Conducted sweep from Ck Pt 5 to 1 to 4 with negative results).	FS(SIF)
1515		68	151459	JB3 to JBE: Additional instructions for helo withdrawal plan.	FT(SIF)
2130		69	152130	OPORD 27-68 issued to JBH6.	FS
2251		70	152040	JB3 to HBH: Patrol requirements.	FT
0950		71	160810	H Co SITREP (Landing unopposed, present location Ck Pt 1).	FS(SIF)
1035		72	161000	H Co SITREP (Present location Ck Pt 4).	FS(SIF)
1205		73	161205	H Co SITREP (Possible LZ from Ck Pt 5, L 0.5, U 0.0).	FS(SIF)
1345		74	161340	H Co SITREP (LZ secure, set in defensive perimeter).	FS(SIF)
1437		75	161430	JBH to JB: Ready to be extracted using LZ OAK.	FS(SIF)
1509		76	161500	JBH to JB: 1 priority medevac due to Heat Exhaustion.	FS(SIF)

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

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IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1515		77	161510	JBH to JB: Change medevac to Emergency; Casualty report.	FS(SLF)
1656		78	161635	JBH to JB: Leaving ROCKBOTTOM.	FS(SLF)
0912		79	170900	JBF to JB: SITREP unopposed landing; presently located at YD 354681.	FS(SLF)
1240		80	171230	F Co SITREP: (Unopposed at this time; presently located at YD 348662.	FS(SLF)
1340		81	171340	JB to BFB: W-Hour adjustment.	FST(SLF)
1715		82	171710	JBF to JB: Operation secured; returning from Red Beach.	FS(SLF)
1820		83	171820	All elements of JBF aboard LPH.	FS(SLF)
XX		XX	XX		
2200		84	172140	Order pertaining to the relief of 2/1 defensive responsibilities in the Napolean - Saline Area distributed.	FST(SLF)
1240		85	181240	JB "A" Cmd group arrived 2/1 CP position.	F
1350		86	181325	SITREP # 1 ("A" Cmd group at TP CP; no activity).	FS(SLF)
1359		87	181330	JBG casualty report (NBC)	FS(SLF)
1405		88	181355	JB3 to PH: Position report.	F(SLF)
1505		89	180900	Spot Report: Desert Sands checked area of previous night's movement; found 2 AT mines, possibly Soviet T-41's.	FS(SLF)
1645		90	181640	JB to PH: SITREP # 2.	F(SLF)

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines
JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1735	91	181730		JB to PH: Equipment and status report.	F(SIF)
2205	92	182200		JB to PH: SITREP # 3.	XF(SIF)
2207	93	182200		JB to all companies: Day activities requirements.	FTS(SIF)
2235	94	182130		JB to PH & DS: Current and planned activities for 18-19 Aug.	FS(SIF)
0105	95	190005		JB to PH: Position report.	F(SIF)
0400	96	190310		PH to JB: There have been several attacks on fixed installations in I Corps and III Corps in the past 24 hours.	FST
0504	97	190200		JB to PH: Day activities for 19 Aug.	F(SIF)
0730	98	190715		PH to JB: CTG 79.4 AO available 0800.	FS
1000	99	190810		Casualty report (NBC medevaced).	FS(SIF)
1003	100	190855		Spot Report: JBFLP received 2 rounds 60mm from 344643. Continued patrol.	FS(SIF)
1005	101	190930		JB to all companies: Night activity requirements.	FT
1035	102	190845		Spot Report: JBH found 3 dead NVA at 266705. Appeared to be dead for 3 to 4 weeks wearing flack jackets and helmets.	FS(SIF)
1035	103	191020		JB to PH: Change in G Co day activities.	FS(SIF)
1040	104	190955		JB to PH: Due to friendly activity in vic of FLP route, FLP has been cancelled.	FS(SIF)
1048	105	191000		JB to PH: SITREP # 4.	F(SIF)

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

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IN.	OUT	SER #	ITG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1055	106	190930	JB2 to PH2: INTSUM	FS(SLF)
	1100	107	191000	JB to PH: Request helo for JB6 at 191600H.	F(SLF)
	1158	108	191101	JB3 to JBF: Friendly Position report.	FT
	1325	109	191325	PH to JB: Air for JB6 will depart this position at 1600.	FS
	1605	110	191538	JB to PH: JB position report.	F(SLF)
	1610	111	191255	JB to PH: 1 Amtrac down at QV another down at CP.	FS(SLF)
	1615	112	191325	JB to PH: Recon insert night of 19-20 Aug.	F(SLF)
	1623	113	191445	JB to PH: Proposed withdrawal sequence.	F(SLF)
	1715	114	191600	JB to PH: SITREP # 5.	F(SLF)
	1715	115	191710	JB3 to JBG: Notification of Recon insert.	FT
	1730	116	191525	Spot Report: JBE1P at 293687 found 1 bunker and 1 NVA skeleton.	FS(SLF)
	1845	117	191610	JB3 to JBH: Notification of recon/E Co ambush in vicinity of YD 298684 tonight. FT	
	1855	118	191730	JB3 to all companies: Until further notice all units are to maintain 50% alert. FT	
	1905	119	191905	JB to PH: JBF reports 1 VN civilian with finger & 16" of tendon pulled off of hand. Medevaced to "D" Med.	FS(SLF)
	2006	120	192000	JB3 to all companies: Requirements for day activities.	FT
	2100	121	19 2010	Spot Report: JBH received 5 rds of 60mm 500 meters outside of perimeter.	FS(SLF)

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines
JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
2124		122	192124	PH to JB: Assume OPCON of units in 2/1 AOA.	FST
2215		123	192100	Spot Report: JBH received 5 rds 60mm at 268704. 81mm mission fired at 260700 with 100% target coverage but unknown results.	FS(SLF)
2220		124	192200	SITREP # 6.	F(SIF)
0523		125	200400	SITREP # 7.	FS(SLF)
0820		126	200820	JB assumed OPCON of E/2/1.	FS(SLF)
0900		127	200840	JB requested night activities from all companies by 1200.	FT
1050		128	201035	Code for the day distributed to all BLT units.	FT
1115	1200	129	201052	PH to JB: Change of thrust points received and relayed to BLT units.	FST
	1236	130	201215	JB to PH: Night activities.	F(SIF)
	1252	131	201225	JB to PH: Additional Night Activities.	F(SLF)
	1505	132	201430	Spot Report: JBH found 4 bunkers arranged in a circle and 100 lbs of rice at 258693. Destroyed bunkers and spread rice.	FS(SLF)
	1655	133	201620	JB to PH: Casualty Report (NBC)	FS(SLF)
	1655	134	201640	JB to PH: Position report.	F(SIF)
	1700	135	201600	JB to PH: SITREP # 8.	F(SLF)
	1715	136	201605	JB to JBH: Withdrawal instructions.	FT

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines
JOURNAL

IN	OUT SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1720	137	201520 JB to all companies: Higher HQ believed a major offensive may have started.	FT
1730		138	201730 PH to JB: Request completion time of day patrols in order to coordinate night fires.	FS
	1800	139	201745 JB to PH: All day activities in.	F(SIF)
	1935	140	201930 JB3 to all companies: Submit day activities for 21 Aug.	FT
	2200	141	202200 JB to PH: SITREP # 9.	F(SIF)
2304		142	202300 PH to JB: Warning Order to backload.	FST
	2320	143	202300 JB to PH: Day Activities for 21 August.	F(SIF)
0030		144	202330 JB to PH: Withdrawal recommendations.	F(SLF)
0035		145	202345 Spot Report: Observed 8 rds AA fire apparently radar controlled. Gun was 020° Mag. approximately 8000 meters from JB CP at 281668.	F(SIF)
0210		146	210150 PH to JB: Will confirm withdrawal transportation arrangements for H Co. in AM	FS
0414		147	210400 JB to PH: SITREP # 10.	F(SLF)
0910		148	210855 PH to JB: Request confirmation of LZ coordinates.	FS
0930		149	210925 JB to PH: Confirmation of LZ coordinates.	F(SLF)
1000		150	210950 PH to JB: CTG 76.4 says seas too rough to transport 81's and 106's by LCVP.	FST
1030		151	211015 PH to JB: 2/1 move will be delayed.	FST

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1040		152	211005	PH to JB: Understand that all helo borne units will not return to LPH.	FS
1048		153	211045	JB to JBG: TP will emplace element at vic 252624, secure area and meet element.	FT
1235		154	211225	JB to PH: LVTP's enroute to 1st Amtrac Bn., E Co enroute to LPD.	F(SLF)
1650		155	211545	Spot Report: JBF reports increased civilian movement at 3362 grid, indicating notable change of normal routine.	FS(SLF)
1800		156	211800	Operation Proud Hunter Terminated	F
1410		157	211410	Gulf Company launched at 1420 for Gua Viet. F Company assigned Sparrow Hawk	F
1600		158	251130	HW to JB Instructions for special operation	FS
1900		159	251900	JBG to JB Sitrep # 1	FS
2245		160	252220	JB to JBG Intell Report and emerg recall of codeword	F
0045		161	252355	JBG to JB Sitrep # 2	FS
0630		162	260630	JBG to JB Sitrep #3	FS
0755		163	260750	DS to JB mag Conduct of Fire	FST
1218		164	261200	JBG to JB Sitrep # 4	FS
1905		165	261755	JBG to JB Sitrep # 5	FST
0030		166	270030	JBG to JB Sitrep #6	FS

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
0839		167	270830	JBG to JB Sitrep # 7	FS(SLF)
1345		168	271345	JBF to JB Landed unopposed all secure, Relief of JBG complete	FS(SLF)
1440		169	271225	JBF to JB reports 2 NBC due to separate accidents. Sitrep # 1	FS
1430		170	271410	JBF to JB Sitrep # 2	FS(SLF)
1925		171	271845	JBF to JB Sitrep # 3	FS(SLF)
0207		172	280200	JBF to JB Sitrep # 4	FS(SLF)
1200		173	281200	Commenced Operation Swift Pursuit	FS(SLF)R
1230		174	281230	First helos touched down HLZ Oak (YD 092515) Vic Mai Loc, on time, No opposit.	F(SLF)R
1414		175	281414	BLT 2-26 Conducted Amphibious Landing Mai Loc	F(SLF)R
1430		176	281430	JB "A" Command Group arrived Mai Loc	F(SLF)
1709		177	281705	JB6 to PH6: Ready to assume OPCON of AOA at 1730	FR
1753		178	281753	JB to PH Sitrep # 1	F(SLF)R
2030		179	282030	PH to JB No more Sandbox Whiskey tonight	FS
2130		180	281915	JB to PH Applicable Thrust Points	F(SLF)
0050		181	282400	JB to PH Sitrep # 2	F(SLF)R
0618		182	290545	JB to PH Sitrep # 3	F(SLF)R
0830		183	290830	All Day and Night Acts that were submitted night of 28 Aug	F

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1100	184	291100	JB to PH Sitrep # 4	F(SLF)R
1446		185	291435	JB1 to JB: JB6 to report to Bull Horn for transfer(ASAP) on 30 Aug	FST
	1842	186	291815	JB to PH Sitrep # 5	F(SLF)R
2120		187	292045	JB to FM & PH Night Acts for 29 Aug	F(SLF)R
2345		188	292500	JB to PH Sitrep # 6	F(SLF)R
0210		189	300100 300000	Spotrep JHF received 2 rounds 82mm incoming at 137525 from unk direct. On Call FS(SLF)R	
2325	2325	190	292310	JB to JEH Boundary change effective 300600H	FST
2345	2345	191	292300	JB to FM & PH Day Acts for 30 Aug	F(SLF)R
0600		192	300545	JB to PH Sitrep # 7	F(SLF)R
1000		193	300930	Spotrep F3P at YD 142532 found one (1) reinforced bunker. Destroyed bunker, continuing patrol.	F(SLF)R
1117		194	300830	Spotrep Tarzan 2 found one (1) AT mine at YD 103538. Blew in place.	F(SLF)R
1125		195	301200	JB to PH Sitrep # 8	F(SLF)R
1220		196	301150	FM3 to JB3 Commence move to the east ASAP.	FS
1830		197	301800	JB to PH Sitrep # 9	F(SLF)R
2310		198	302300	JB to PH Sitrep # 10	F(SLF)R
0330		199	310330	Fm: A6 to LS, FM, Info JB: Modified Directive for Operations	FS

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	0510	200	310500	JB to PH Sitrep # 11	F(SLF)R
	0900	201	310900	JB3 to FM Minesweep complete	FSR
	0945	202	310950	JB to FM Day Acts for 31 Aug	FSR
	1100	203	311105	JB to PH Sitrep # 12	F(SLF)R
	1215	204	311215	JB3 to JBF, H, Resupply request	FT
1245		205	311245	FM2 to JB Request for Recon Zone clearance. Cleared by JB 3	FR
	1408	206	311404	JB found one (1) Leanto and One (1) fighting hole at 061494. Further check uncovered tunnel complex with AK47 mags and rotted packs. More thorough check in conjunction with "Spunky Hanson" within next 24 hours.	FSR
	1410	207	311415	JB to FM: JBH secured Obj(B)	FSR
	1755	208	311803	JB to PH Sitrep # 13	F(SLF)R
	2145	209	312108	JB to JBH Combat Patrol Plan	FT
0030		210	302215	A6 to LS, FM, Info JB: Directions for further Operations	FS
	2150	211	312155	JB3 to FM3 Report of LP's and Ambushes	FR
	2330	212	312330	JB to PH Sitrep # 14	FR

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LCA 0016368

HEADQUARTERS

Battalion Landing Team 2/26
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
 FPO San Francisco, 96602

JDL/ccc
 23 August, 1968
 001568

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commander, Task Force 79.4

Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation Proud Hunter)

Ref: (a) First Marines msg 131503Z/AUG 68

Encl: (1) Operation Overlay, (Operation Proud Hunter)

1. Name of Operation and/or Types of Operation. Operation Proud Hunter, an in-position relief of the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines.

2. Inclusive Dates and Location of the Operation. The operation was conducted in the Napolean - Saline Area of Operations during the period 18 - 21 August, 1968.

3. Command Headquarters. The Command Headquarters, BLT 2/26, was located at Mai Xa Thi (coordinates YD 281669).

4. Task Organization. Selected elements of BLT 2/26 were employed during Operation Proud Hunter. The operation task organization was as follows:

BLT 2/262d Bn, 26th Marines

H&S Co (-)
 Co E (Rein)
 Co F (Rein)
 Co G (Rein)
 Co H (Rein)
 81mm Mortar Plt
 106mm RR Plt
 Btry B, 1st Bn, 13th Marines
 4.2" Mortar Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Marines
 1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th Amtrac Bn
 1st Plt, Co A, 5th AT Bn
 2d Plt, Co C, 3d Engr Bn
 1st Plt, Co A, 5th Recon Bn
 4th Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th Tank Bn
 Det, 2d Plt (Rein), H&S Co, 3d SP Bn

LtCol SPARKS

LtCol SPARKS

1stLt	HARRINGTON
Capt	CREGAN
Capt	HARTMAN
1stLt	RIORDAN
Capt	ZIMMERLE
1stLt	GREEN
GySgt	WHIDDEN
Capt	FRANZEN
1stLt	SAUNDERS
1stLt	COX
SSgt	WHITFIELD
2dLt	ASHCROFT
1stLt	MCDONALD
2dLt	MURPHY
1stLt	O'NEILL

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DOD DIR 5200.10

2ND BN/26TH MAR

A/HARPT Opn PROUD HUNTER

18-21 AUG 1968

TAB B

5. Intelligence.

a. Prior to the operation it was known that the C-59 Local Force Company (approximately 100 men) with an attached sapper team operated from bases in the vicinity of Bo Bang (ID 337628) and An Trach (ID 356624). Additionally, it was understood that units of the NVA regularly utilized portions of the operating area as an infiltration route. Consequently, based upon intelligence information, the BLT anticipated contact with the C-59 Company and transient NVA units ranging in strength to company formations.

b. There was no contact with enemy forces throughout the operation.

6. Mission.

a. The most applicable mission assigned to BLT 2/26 was expressed in reference (a) as follows:

(1) Be prepared to assume mission assigned to 2d Bn, 1st Marines.

(2) Be prepared to counterattack anywhere in Napolean/Saline or Kentucky AO's.

(3) Be prepared to reinforce or counterattack to restore DHCB.

b. Only that portion of the mission concerning assumption of the 2d Bn, 1st Marines mission was actually executed. This mission basically required the maintenance of reconnaissance and surveillance throughout the assigned area; the defense of the assigned area in such fashion as to contain enemy attacks north of the Cua Viet River; and retention of the capability to counterattack anywhere within the assigned area.

7. Concept of Operation. BLT 2/26 relieved 2d Bn, 1st Marines in place, manned the same defensive positions, and conducted both day and night combat and reconnaissance patrols, to include ambushes, in an attempt to locate and destroy enemy units infiltrating through the operational area. Enclosure (1) indicates the location of the major BLT units.

8. Execution.

a. At or about 172000H, BLT 2/26 received orders to displace ashore commencing at 181200H and relieve 2d Bn, 1st Marines. The movement was conducted as scheduled and at 181700H, BLT 2/26 assumed control of the 2d Bn, 1st Marines Area of Operations. The BLT's method of operation was to conduct patrols of various types from fixed patrol/fire bases. The basic daylight tactic was to conduct platoon (rein) combat patrols which, on one occasion, detached a killer team to cover a known enemy infiltration route. The basic night tactic was to establish squad (rein) ambushes throughout the operating area. A second tactic employed was that of inserting, on foot, Reconnaissance Platoon "Stingray" patrols. A recapitulation of the number and types of patrols conducted during a three night and two day operating period is as follows:

(1) Night Ambushes	34
(2) Daylight Combat Patrols	16
(3) Night Reconnaissance Patrols (Conducted by a Reconnaissance Platoon team in conjunction with U.S. Navy Command)	1
(4) Stingray Patrols	2

b. There were no contacts with enemy forces and, aside from the finding of four vacant enemy bunkers and 100 lbs of rice at 201430H August by an H Company patrol, no significant events occurred.

c. At or about 0800 21 August, BLT 2/26 began a covered withdrawal to the ARG ships as Battery B, 1st Bn, 13th Marines, began backloading. The withdrawal continued throughout the day as elements of 2d Bn, 1st Marines returned to position. At 1800, 21 August, the entire BLT less Company F, 2d Bn, 26th Marines was reembarked in assigned shipping and Operation Proud Hunter terminated.

d. Company F remained ashore during the night of 21-22 August under the operational control of the 2d Bn, 1st Marines. At 0800, 22 August, Company F was relieved in position by Company H, 2d Bn, 1st Marines, and began backloading aboard the USS PRINCETON (LPH-5). The backload of Company F was completed at or about 1000, 22 August.

9. Results. The operation had no definitive results other than the assigned operating area remained pacified.

10. Commander's Analysis.

a. No significant or unanticipated problems were encountered. An anticipated problem that was encountered was the control and coordination of supporting arms. Problem recognition, professionalism, and hard work on the part of all hands forestalled difficulties and no friendly troops or civilians were subjected to friendly supporting arms fires.

b. BLT 2/26 undertook no Civic Action program or Psychological Operations during its brief stay ashore. However, during the evening of 19 August, a Vietnamese civilian sought medical assistance from F Company. The man, apparently a fisherman, had lost a finger in a boat accident. In view of the late hour, the man was given initial treatment by an F Company corpsman and at 0800, 20 August, was medevaced by an HMM 362 helicopter to a medical installation at Quang Tri.

11. Lessons Learned. The lack of enemy contacts coupled with the brief operational period, preclude any meaningful analysis of the BLT's Concept of Operations ashore.

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