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Serial No. 000A09169  
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BT 0065-69

HEADQUARTERS  
2nd Battalion, 26th Marines (Rein)  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/HHH/wel  
5750  
1 April 1969

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, Ninth Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, 26th Marine Regiment  
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 March to 31 March 1969  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPAGO 5750.8A  
(c) BrigO 5750.1C  
(d) RegtO 5750.1

Encl: ✓ (1) Battalion Landing Team 2/26 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), (b), (c) and (d), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

*G. H. Edmondson, Jr.*  
G. H. EDMONDSON, JR.

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1 April 1969

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March to 31 March, 1969

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PAGE 1

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Battalion Landing Team 2/26  
2nd Battalion, 26th Marines

LtCol EDMONDSON, Jr. 1-31Mar  
LtCol EDMONDSON, Jr. 1-31Mar

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&amp;S Company

E Company

F Company

G Company

H Company

ATTACHED UNITS

Btry "B", 1stBn, 13thMar

Mort Btry, 1stBn, 12thMar

1stPlt (Rein), Co "A", 5th AmTracBn

(CHOPPED 31 March 1969)

1stPlt (Rein), Co "A", 5th ATBn

1stPlt (Rein), Co "A", 5th EngrBn  
(2ndPlt (Rein), Co "C", 3rdEngrBn)

(Former Designation)

1st Clearing Plt (Rein), Co "D", 5th MedBn

(CHOPPED 31 March 1969)

2ndPlt (Rein), Co "A", 5th LTBn  
(2ndPlt (Rein), Co "C", 3rd LTBn)

(Former Designation)

2ndPlt (Rein), Co "A", 5th SPBn  
(2ndPlt (Rein), H&S Co, 3rd SPBn)

(Former Designation)

3rdPlt (Rein), Co "A", 5th TkBn  
(4thPlt (Rein), Co "A", 5th TkBn)

(Former Designation)

Det, HQBn, 5thMarDiv (TF's)  
(Det, HQBn, 3rdMarDiv)

(CHOPPED 31 March 1969)

(Former Designation)

Det, HQBn, 5thMarDiv (Postal)  
(Det, HQBn, 3rdMarDiv)

(CHOPPED 31 March 1969)

(Former Designation)

Det, HQBn, 5th MarDiv (Disbursing) (CHOPPED 31 March 1969)  
 (Det, HQBn, 3rd MarDiv) (Former Designation)

Det, HQBn, 5th MarDiv (Photo) (CHOPPED 31 March 1969)  
 (Det, HQBn, 3rd MarDiv) (Former Designation)

Det, HQCo, 26th Mar (Radio Relay) (CHOPPED 31 March 1969)

Det, Comm Supt Co, 9th MAB (Radio Relay) (CHOPPED 31 March 1969)

Det, 15th Dental Co, 9th MAB (CHOPPED 31 March 1969)

Shore Fire Control Party, 1stBn, 13th Marines (CHOPPED 31 March 1969)

LSU, PSB, 9th MAB

H Company, 3rdBn, 1stMar (CHOPPED 29 March 1969)

## 2. LOCATION

BLT Rear

1-2 Mar USS OKINAWA  
 28-31 Mar 2/7 Command Post AT 937748

BLT Command Post

1 Mar Vicinity AT 891773  
 2-4 Mar Vicinity AT 938784  
 5-8 Mar Vicinity AT 887772  
 9 Mar Vicinity AT 924527  
 10 Mar Vicinity AT 954536  
 11 Mar Vicinity AT 954535  
 12-14 Mar Vicinity AT 960530  
 15-16 Mar Vicinity AT 963533  
 17-19 Mar Vicinity AT 973533  
 20-21 Mar Vicinity AT 962526  
 22 Mar Vicinity AT 948528  
 23-24 Mar Vicinity AT 993637  
 25 Mar Vicinity ~~AT~~ 001534 BT  
 26 Mar Vicinity AT 930529  
 27 Mar USS OKINAWA  
 28-31 Mar 2/7 Command Post AT 937748

## 3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major W. G. GOUTY	1-31Mar
Adjutant	1stLt J. A. MC ELROY	1-31Mar
Personnel Officer	1stLt J. D. DEFLETRO	1-31Mar

S-1	1stLt J. A. MC EROY	1-31Mar
S-2	SSgt H. E. ROLAND 2ndLt T. D. LINDT	1-31Mar 14-31Mar
S-3	Major J. D. LYNCH Major P. L. MCCABOON	1-5Mar 5-31Mar
S-4	Capt G. V. BEST	1-31Mar
S-5	1stLt R. I. MOREAN 2ndLt G. E. DATES, JR.	1-12Mar 13-31Mar

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
63	1622	8	90

5. DETACHED UNITS

1stPlt (Rein), Co "A", 5th ReconBn

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 March 1969, the Battalion Landing Team was transferred to the operational control of the 26th Marine Regiment from Special Landing Force Alfa. In order to realign elements of Regimental Landing Team 26 certain attached units were redesignated as of 1 March 1969 to reflect appropriate 5th Marine Division parental organization.

A combined amphibious/helo-borne landing was conducted to launch Operation EAGER PURSUIT I within the areas of operation of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and 1st Battalion, 26th Marines on the above date.

During Operation EAGER PURSUIT I, the enemy chose to avoid combat, using evasive tactics.

On 8 March 1969, the Battalion Landing Team terminated Operation EAGER PURSUIT I and, following a tactical move by truck convoy to the Liberty Bridge area, at 090800H March 1969, began Operation EAGER PURSUIT II under the operational control of the 5th Marine Regiment.

Initially, the operation involved a search and destroy mission moving east from the Command Post of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (AT 930529) across Go Noi Island. Combat engineers were employed to destroy bunkers and fortifications encountered until a rain-swollen river necessitated the withdrawal of their heavy equipment.

During the last reporting period the Battalion Landing Team had operated in the same general area on Operation TAYLOR COMMON. On Operation EAGER PURSUIT II the Battalion Landing Team encountered no sustained resistance as enemy forces again refused to stand and fight. Instead, the enemy made extensive use of surprise firing devices and sniper-harassment.

Late in EAGER PURSUIT II, the area of operation was modified by an extension to the south, permitting the Battalion Landing Team to leave Go Noi Island and sweep back to the west. After less than three days, the task of the Battalion Landing Team was again changed as the unit reentered its initial area of operation for operations in support of elements of the 51st Regiment of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Specifically, the Battalion Landing Team acted as a blocking force for the allied forces pushing west on Go Noi Island.

The majority of Marine casualties were the result of surprise firing devices, but the percentage of mines or booby traps detonated versus the number discovered was low. This may be explained by the continuous pressure of the Battalion Landing Team's movement and the high training status of the individual Marine. It is evident that the enemy forces were hard pressed by the significant number of hastily camouflaged surprise firing devices discovered by the Battalion Landing Team without incident.

The Battalion Landing Team also accumulated a large amount of enemy

gear. Intelligence information was gathered from the majority of this equipment, enabling the Battalion Landing Team to more effectively perform its assigned mission.

On 27 March, all units were back-loaded aboard Amphibious Ready Group shipping to permit them limited rehabilitation, and time to prepare for rotation from the afloat phase.

At 280900H March 1969, Companies F and G, along with the Alfa Command Group, began helicopter movement ashore. The movement to the Command Post of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (AT 937748) was conducted as an administrative move. The helo-borne operation was completed without incident.

At 281300H March 1969, the remainder of the Battalion Landing Team commenced a surface movement to shore. Prior to landing the tactical units disbursing and a portion of Battalion Supply were relocated in the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines compound. The remainder of the Supply Section, and the Battalion Armory were set up within the 11th Motor Transport compound. Administrative gear was staged at 11th Motors until arrangements could be made to move it to the Command Post of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.

At 291800H March 1969, the Battalion Landing Team assumed responsibility for the areas of operation of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 7th Marines (as modified) and commenced tactical operations.

At the end of the reporting period, the Battalion Landing Team was firmly established in its new area of operations. The Battalion Landing Team was also making final preparations for separation from the Special Landing Force. This was expected to take place on or about 1 April 1969, and should be reflected in the next reporting period.

## PART III

LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. MISSIONS/OPERATIONSa. Major Operations

(1) 1-8 March 1969

(a) EAGER PURSUIT I

(b) Quang Nam Province

(2) 9-25 March 1969

(a) EAGER PURSUIT II

(b) Quang Nam Province

b. Command Relations

(1) During the period 1-8 March, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 was under the operational control of the 26th Marines, and the Command Headquarters remained in the field.

(2) During the period 9-25 March, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 was under the operational control of the 5th Marines, and the Command Post was again located in the field.

(3) During the period 26-27 March, the Battalion Landing Team was aboard Amphibious Ready Group shipping under the operational control of Special Landing Force Alfa.

(4) On 29 March, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 assumed operational control of Company II, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. Having off-loaded the previous day, the Command Post was located at the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Post. The Battalion Landing Team was under the operational control of the 26th Marines.

c. Combat Missions Assigned

(1) EAGER PURSUIT I

(a) 1-8 March

(1) Find, fix and destroy enemy forces within the assigned Tactical Area of Operation.

(2) EAGER PURSUIT II



## (a) 9-25 March

- (1) Find, fix and destroy enemy forces within the assigned Tactical Area of Operation.
- (3) Assumption of Areas of Operation for the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 7th Marines as modified.

## (a) 29-31 March

- (1) Relieve 7th Marines units in assigned Area of Operation.
- (2) Occupy and defend specified existing positions.
- (3) Find, fix and destroy enemy units within the assigned Area of Operation.
- (4) Contribute to the defense of population, economic centers, military installations, and the Da Nang Complex.
- (5) Support existing programs within the assigned Area of Operation.

d. Command and Control

- (1) During the period 1-8 March, the Battalion Landing Team Command Post was located in the field, and displaced as necessary with the units. Communication was established between the Command Post and the rear, including company administration which was aboard Amphibious Ready Group shipping. Administrative runs, as necessary, were made to the field. Liaison teams were placed at the Command Posts of the 26th Marines and the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, and the Battalion Landing Team experienced no degradation of control.
- (2) During the period 9-25 March, the Battalion Landing Team Command Post remained in the field, moved as necessary, and maintained direct radio communication with the rear aboard Amphibious Ready Group shipping. Necessary administrative runs were continued, as well as the liaison teams. Again, the Battalion Landing Team had no loss of control.
- (3) During the period 26-27 March, the majority of the Battalion Landing Team units were located aboard Amphibious Ready Group shipping with the Battalion Landing Team Headquarters aboard the USS OKINAWA.

- (4) During the period 28-31 March, the Headquarters was located at the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Post. Subordinate units were located in specific fixed defensive positions, and direct communications were established with them by radio, as well as to the Regimental Headquarters. A wire capability was established with the 7th and 26th Marine Regimental Command Posts. Daily administrative runs were set up to Regiment, and the Battalion Landing Team maintained positive control.
- (5) During the period just prior to off-loading, disbursing and supply were established at the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines Command Post, with a portion of supply relocating to the 11th Motors compound for the issuing of necessary gear. The armory was also moved to the 11th Motors area.
- (6) During the period 1-29 March, the attached Recon Platoon remained under the operational control of the 5th Marines.

c. Organic Operations

- (1) During the reporting period, the Battalion Landing Team conducted 276 listening posts, 171 patrols, 101 ambushes, 41 observation posts and 11 killer teams.

f. NBC Warfare

- (1) During the period, the Battalion Landing Team used CS grenades regularly, although no NBC devices were used by the enemy.

2. INTELLIGENCE

a. Enemy Situation

- (1) On 1 March, the Battalion Landing Team commenced Operation EAGER PURSUIT I. The intelligence provided by the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines indicated the presence of VC Local Forces in and around, the Area of Operations. Throughout the entire period spent in the area of operations Battalion Landing Team 2/26 made no contact with enemy forces. There were no sightings or significant incidents to report for the entire operation. As a result of no enemy contact the operation produced little intelligence.
- (2) Operation EAGER PURSUIT II
  - (a) Information provided by the 5th Marine Regiment indicated the presence of elements of the 36th NVA

Regiment and 38th NVA Regiment were located in and around the Area of Operations. The estimated strength of these units was 780 and 1,145 men respectively.

- (b) During this operation the enemy refrained from direct contact with the Battalion Landing Team. The enemy employed harassing tactics to include sniper fire, surprise firing devices and ground probes. On 18 March, at grid AT 960953, Company F engaged 3 enemy, resulting in 3 VC KIA. Documents recovered from the enemy bodies suggested that they were elements of the V 70th Local Force unit. On 22 March, at grid AT 954537, Company F sprung an ambush resulting in 1 NVA KIA. Documents recovered from the body suggested that he was a member of the 368B Artillery Regiment. Also, on 25 March, at 1600H, Company G engaged 3 enemy, resulting in 3 NVA KIA. Information taken from one of the bodies suggested that they were a part of the T 67 Sapper Battalion.
- (c) Just prior to the termination of this operation, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 was ordered to be employed as a blocking force for the 51st Regiment of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. While employed in the blocking position, Companies F and G engaged approximately 40 to 60 enemy while setting in their night time positions on 23 March. The attackers were driven off by organic weapons and an AC-47 aircraft.
- (3) At the end of the reporting period, the enemy units in this area of operations had had their effectiveness greatly reduced due to the destruction of a large number of surprise firing devices, and the capture of large amounts of individual weapons and equipment.

b. Enemy Initiated Incidents

- (1) During the period of Operation EAGER PURSUIT I there were no enemy initiated incidents. During Operation EAGER PURSUIT II, the enemy engaged the Battalion Landing Team primarily with surprise firing devices and harassing sniper fire. The enemy also employed limited ground probes.

c. Enemy Losses

EAGER PURSUIT I      EAGER PURSUIT II

(1) Casualties

NVA KIA	None claimed	14
VC KIA	None claimed	1

## (2) Captured Personnel

POW's	None claimed	2
VC Infrastructure	None claimed	1
VC Suspects	None claimed	10
Detainees	None claimed	567

## (3) Captured Equipment

M16	None claimed	1
.45 Caliber Pistol	None claimed	1
M14 Rifle	None claimed	1
K-44 Rifle (Soviet)	None claimed	5
SKS Rifle (Soviet)	None claimed	2
AK-47 Rifle (Soviet)	None claimed	3
AK-47 Rifle (Chi-Com)	None claimed	2
M1 Carbine	None claimed	2
M26 Grenade	None claimed	9
Chi-Com Grenade	None claimed	25
60mm Mortar Round	None claimed	6
AK-47 Round	None claimed	970
12 G Round	None claimed	8
M79 Round	None claimed	3
81mm Mortar Round	None claimed	2
M72 (LAW)	None claimed	3
B-60 Rocket	None claimed	1
Claymore Mine	None claimed	2
Gas Mask	None claimed	6
Anti-Tank Mine	None claimed	1
Full-Friction Device	None claimed	28
Blasting Cap	None claimed	22
C-4 Booster	None claimed	2
NVA Canteen	None claimed	4
Assorted Documents	None claimed	40 pounds
Medical Supplies	None claimed	35 pounds
Assorted Clothing	None claimed	40 pounds
Rice	None claimed	6,700 pounds

d. Enemy Trends

- (1) During Operation EAGER PURSUIT II, the enemy employed surprise firing devices almost continuously.

e. Weather Conditions

- (1) During the period, weather conditions favored friendly operations.

### 3. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 Mar The Battalion Landing Team commenced Operation EAGER PURSUIT I.
- 1 Mar Company G, at AT 873783, spotted 2 Vietnamese, and fired 179 rounds causing them to flee the area. An element of Company G, at AT 882787, while on a night activity, heard movement in their vicinity. The Marines fired a claymore and threw M26's at the suspected enemy position and the movement ceased. The night activity was relocated.
- 1 Mar Company E, at AT 884756, heard a .50 caliber machine gun being fired, but could not locate the source. Company E, at AT 897753, spotted 6 VC/EVA, and called in an artillery mission on the enemy position. Company E, at AT 885754, detected movement from an estimated 10 to 15 enemy, within 75 meters of the front of their lines. The company called in a fire mission.
- 2 Mar On this reporting day, Battalion Landing Team units found 3 fighting holes, and observed suspected enemy movement and 8 flashes from suspected rocket or mortar positions.
- 5 Mar A dud 500 pound bomb, found by Company G, at AT 858787, was destroyed in place.
- 6 Mar From a distance of approximately 1000 meters, a sniper, attached to Company G at AT 851793, spotted a Vietnamese in the process of digging a hole. An artillery mission was called in on him. A Spot Team, attached to Company G at AT 824805, observed a secondary explosion from their Naval Gunfire mission on a suspected enemy mortar position.
- 6 Mar Company H, at AT 893772, saw several Vietnamese moving around the company's positions, and dispatched an element to investigate. The patrol found 22 Vietnamese women and children and 1 Vietnamese Ranger, all of whom were taken to Counter-Intelligence for interrogation.
- 7 Mar At AT 883768, Company H discovered a surprise firing device which they destroyed in place.
- 7 Mar A truck carrying Company F personnel overturned at AT 894773, and resulted in 1 USMC killed and 32 USMC injured.
- 8 Mar The Battalion Landing Team phased out of Operation EAGER PURSUIT I, and was transferred to the operational control of the 5th Marine Regiment for a new operation.

- 9 Mar The Battalion Landing Team commenced Operation EAGER PURSUIT II. Operation EAGER PURSUIT I was scheduled to terminate 100000H March 1969.
- 9 Mar Company G, at AT 941553, accidentally detonated a surprise firing device resulting in 3 USMC Wounded In Action. At the same grid, a short time later, Company G again accidentally set off a surprise firing device resulting in 3 USMC WIA. At AT 973543, Company G received a heavy volume of accurate automatic weapons fire from 4 NVA well concealed in a tree line. The company pinpointed a bunker, and after gaining fire superiority took the position. The bunker contained spent cartridges, and a NVA uniform. During the fight, Company G suffered 1 USMC KIA and 5 USMC WIA. Enemy casualties were unknown, but the bunker was destroyed. Company G, at AT 974538, while adjusting rounds for a consolidation mission, received 4 rounds of friendly 4.2 inch mortar into their position resulting in 1 USMC WIA.
- 9 Mar Battalion Landing Team units discovered 1 bunker and a dead tree which could have been utilized as a sniping position.
- 10 Mar Company E, at AT 955548, accidentally exploded a surprise firing device resulting in 7 USMC WIA. At AT 963537, Company E received sniper fire resulting in 1 USMC WIA. An artillery mission was called on the suspected enemy position. Company E, at AT 963539, fired on a suspected Viet Cong who emerged from heavy shrub growth and ran from the approaching Marines. A search of the area revealed an NVA type bunker containing an undetermined number of Vietnamese, who refused repeatedly demands to come out. Small arms and 2 M26's were employed, resulting in moaning, but darkness necessitated withdrawal and a termination of the search. Security was set up, and the company was to check the area again at first light. A Company E night activity, at AT 961551, received 5 rounds of small arms fire, and immediately silenced it with return fire.
- 10 Mar Elements of the Battalion Landing Team on this day, ferreted out 1 bunker containing an M26; a fighting hole that contained 1 bolt action rifle and a B-60 rocket; one unit spotted 2 flags that appeared to be of enemy design (gold star in the middle, with a red top and blue bottom), and situated in a village at AT 950560 outside the battalion area of operation.
- 11 Mar Company G, at AT 981553, received 1 round of inaccurate sniper fire. The company returned fire, driving off the enemy, but was unable to cross the river to check out the area. At AT 982545, Company G, received AK-47 fire, and concentrated M16, M79, M60, and 60mm mortar. The sniper immediately broke contact and fled.

- 11 Mar At LT 958552, Company E engaged 1 Vietnamese who bolted and ran from their approach. Pursuit by fire, and a search of the area produced negative results.
- 11 Mar An element of Company F, at LT 954535 on listening post, detected movement in their vicinity, and threw a M26. When the movement persisted, 2 more M26's were thrown, one of which rebounded from a low hanging branch and detonated closer to the Marines causing 1 USMC KIA. The listening post returned to the company lines with two casualties. The area was kept under observation for the remainder of the night, but no further incidents were encountered.
- 11 Mar Continuing pressure of enemy units, the Battalion Landing Team this day amassed 1 AK-47, 1 Chi-Con grenade, 1 M26, 1 claymore type mine, 2 packages of medical gear, rice, various civilian and NV clothing, several items of personal gear, a notebook, several propaganda signs, 1 U.S. gas mask, 3 M1 rounds, 3 "D" size batteries, 1 spider hole, 1 "H" shaped bunker, 1 tunnel, 10 fighting holes and 1 badly mangled body in a shallow grave. In addition, while on patrol, a Viet Cong Suspect was discovered suffering from various bullet wounds in the legs and back. He was given sufficient medical attention, a medevac was secured unnecessary, and he was held for interrogation.
- 12 Mar Company G, at LT 965549, received accurate AK-47 fire resulting in 1 USMC KIA. At LT 966546, Company G, accidentally detonated a surprise firing device resulting in 2 USMC KIA.
- 12 Mar At LT 974532, Company E received heavy small arms, including .30 caliber fire, and 1 Chi-Con resulting in 2 USMC KIA.
- 12 Mar Company H, at LT 973524, spotted 2 Vietnamese males running rapidly away and took them under fire with negative results.
- 12 Mar On this day, Battalion Landing Team units discovered an "H" shaped tunnel, 15 and 50 pound sacks of rice, various articles of civilian clothing, documents and 37 radio tubes. They also found a tunnel containing a badly rusted K-44 type bolt action rifle. Both positions were destroyed.
- 13 Mar Company E, at LT 966548, accidentally detonated a surprise firing device resulting in 1 USMC KIA. At LT 966550, Company E uncovered an airvent, and by the use of smoke located the tunnel entrance. Noises were detected inside the tunnel, and after the occupants had refused an appeal to surrender, 3 M26's were thrown into the entrance resulting in 3 NV KIA, and the capture of assorted equipment.

- 13 Mar Company H, at AT 975525, accidentally set off a surprise firing device resulting in 2 U.S. KIA.
- 13 Mar Further activities of Battalion Landing Team units produced 2 spider bunkers, 1 spider hole, 300 pounds of rice, 1 Chi-Con grenade, 1 foreign gas mask, 1 flak jacket, 1 jungle boot, and a set of U.S. dog tags.
- 14 Mar At AT 953526, a night activity from Company F gave warning to an individual, who ignored it and continued to approach. The element opened fire, resulting in 1 KIA, and the site was relocated.
- 14 Mar Company E, at AT 959552, received sniper fire which was quickly suppressed by small arms fire. A search of the area produced negative results. At AT 965548, Company E discovered a tunnel containing one 20 year old Vietnamese female with a box of documents. She was detained. At AT 962551, the company captured a 35 year old Vietnamese male armed with a claymore and hell box in a tunnel.
- 14 Mar An element of Company H, while on ambush at AT 970532, spotted four (4) Vietnamese males entering a dwelling, and immediately opened fire on them. The suspects escaped by means of a tunnel.
- 14 Mar Diligent searching by elements of the Battalion Landing Team paid off in the discovery of 1 bunker and several tunnels containing: 2 K-44 Russian rifles, 1 M14 rifle, 1 SKS carbine, 4 60mm rounds, 90 M1 rounds, 40 .30 caliber rounds, 3 Chi-Cons, 1 M26, 4 M16 magazines, 3 M14 magazines, 25 grenade pull-friction devices, 22 blasting caps for grenades, 2 C-4 boosters, 50 feet of time fuse, 500 yards of plastic (poncho type), 1 Starlite battery, 2 M60 ammo boxes containing notes, receipts, medical books and medical drawings, and a plastic bag containing documents, 2 portraits, and several small books. The documents and literature were believed to be Chinese.
- 15 Mar Company H, at AT 986522, spotted six running individuals, and opened fire on them with negative results. At AT 986526, the company fired on seven more individuals, again with negative results.
- 15 Mar An Aerial Observer, at AT 974527, spotted a squad size unit of Viet Cong moving southwest, and alerted the Battalion Landing Team. A Naval Gunfire Aerial Observer, at AT 015520, spotted 10 uniformed enemy in four sampans, and called in a Naval Gunfire mission that resulted in the destruction of the target craft and their occupants.



- 15 Mar Company F, at LT 964539, accidentally detonated a Surprise Firing Device, resulting in 2 USMC KIA.
- 15 Mar The Battalion Landing Team, on this day, discovered and destroyed a suspected enemy base camp complex: 1 bunker, 3 spider holes, 1 Surprise Firing Device, 1 anti-vehicle mine, 1 damaged 60mm M1 round, 1 unexploded RIG projectile, and a 16 foot boat and a paddle. A well used trail was also discovered.
- 16 Mar At LT 973534, Company F observed movement, and fired M79 in the area with negative results. A Company F listening post, at LT 973535, detected movement, and threw an M26 with unknown results. Two other listening posts, from Company F, at LT 975534, spotted movement in their vicinity, and responded with small arms fire with unknown results.
- 16 Mar A Company E listening post, at LT 982534, heard heavy movement. The night activity was withdrawn, and threw 3 M26's. At LT 981531, Company E received 10 rounds of AK-47 fire. They spotted the two Viet Cong, and while delivering a volume of return fire, called in a 60mm mission with unknown results.
- 16 Mar Company G, at LT 998528, discovered and destroyed six (6) reinforced bunkers. The complex contained numerous AK-47 rounds, and various documents, which they evacuated to the rear for intelligence exploitation.
- 17 Mar Company F's listening post, at LT 973535, detected movement, and threw a M26 at the suspected enemy. The movement persisted and the listening post reacted with 2 additional M26's. A search of the area at first light revealed 1 M26.
- 17 Mar At LT 990527, Company G received 1 round of inaccurate sniper fire.
- 17 Mar A tunnel, at LT 996534, cost the life of a Marine from Company H, who had entered to search it, and was overcome by lack of oxygen. The tunnel was destroyed.
- 17 Mar In addition to the items reported above, Battalion Landing Team units on this day found and destroyed, 12 reinforced bunkers, 2 thatched dwellings, 1 "A" frame bunker, another tunnel and 4 dud artillery rounds. The following items were retained for intelligence purposes: 1 loaded AK-47 magazine, 1 poncho liner, 1 air mattress and 30 feet of manila rope.

- 18 Mar A company H listening post, at LT 980533, received a volume of fire from 2 extremely well concealed Viet Cong. The element quickly gained fire superiority, and estimated killing 1 Viet Cong. The unit suffered 1 USMC KIA. At first light the area was combed, and pools of blood and body drag marks were found. This convinced them of 1 Viet Cong KIA. At LT 980545, Company H accidentally detonated 2 surprise firing devices resulting in 6 USMC KIA. Company H, at LT 980530, took heavy automatic weapons fire from approximately 4 to 5 enemy. They suppressed the fire with small arms, and called a 61mm mission that had unknown results.
- 18 Mar At LT 960553, Company F encountered 3 armed Viet Cong. The ensuing fire fight resulted in 3 Viet Cong KIA and 1 .45 caliber pistol, 1 M-47 and 1 SKS captured.
- 18 Mar In addition to the gear previously reported Battalion Landing Team units today found 3 bunkers, 4 surprise firing devices, 2 Chi-Con grenades, a sign denoting "mines", and a trail marked with C-Ration can lamps to facilitate night movement.
- 19 Mar A portion of the Company F lines, at LT 947503, received several rounds of inaccurate small arms fire. Later in the evening, at LT 947503, Company F exchanged fire for approximately 2 hours with an enemy of undetermined strength. The enemy broke contact and Company F moved forward to the area from which they had received fire, encountering and detaining 40 civilians. The company, at LT 940500, spotted and exchanged small arms fire with 12 to 20 enemy. Company F moved to a blocking position and Company H called a fire mission. The results of the contact were 2 USMC KIA, and an estimated 10 enemy KIA.
- 19 Mar Company H, at LT 943503, while reconnoitering by fire, received sporadic automatic weapons fire. The company brought M60, M16, LAWs, and 60mm into play. They also called an air strike on the position. The attached sniper killed 4 enemy. At LT 980526, Company H accidentally detonated a surprise firing device resulting in 1 USMC KIA, and 3 USMC KIA.
- 19 Mar Careful searching netted Battalion Landing Team units a bunker complex, a tunnel, 2 M1 carbines, 10 carbine rounds, 1 SKS with 10 rounds, a surprise firing device, and an M60 ammo can containing 1 claymore mine with hell box and blasting cap, a M33 grenade, 1 M26 grenade and a M-PRC 25 radio battery.
- 20 Mar An accidental discharge of a .45 caliber pistol, by a member of Company H at LT 942507, resulted in 1 USMC KIA.

- 20 Mar Continuing their push, Battalion Landing Team units located 2 tunnels, 1 AK-47 with a loaded magazine, 2 dud 105mm rounds, a surprise firing device. 1 Chi-Con grenade, a Viet Cong newspaper, a clothing issue record, and an M60 ammo can containing handwritten recruiting papers, 1 medical book, and a pair of NVN trousers.
- 21 Mar Company F, at AT 937497, spotted movement, and tossed a M26. The movement abruptly ceased. At AT 923501, the company found 3 surprise firing devices, one of which was accidentally detonated. At AT 933504, Company F threw 2 M26 grenades in the area of a trip flare which was set off. The incident had negative results.
- 21 Mar On this day, Battalion Landing Team units discovered a discarded pack and 1 NVN M.L. The body was dressed in green utilities.
- 22 Mar At AT 935494, Company I tossed a grenade at movement detected to their front. They were not disturbed further. At AT 935492, a Company F listening post threw 1 M26, and fired a M79 round at movement they spotted in a tree line with negative results. At AT 928501, the company discovered a surprise firing device in a rice paddy dike. The device was destroyed in place.
- 22 Mar A Company E ambush, sprung at AT 905535, resulted in 1 NVN M.L., and the capture of 1 M16, a grenade pouch and various documents.
- 22 Mar Company G, at AT 905535, received 1 round of sniper fire.
- 22 Mar Company H, at AT 905535, received M16 fire.
- 23 Mar At <sup>05</sup> AT 003525, Company G accidentally detonated a surprise firing device. Continuing their movement, the company, at AT 003527, found and destroyed 2 more surprise firing devices.
- 23 Mar Company E, at AT 905539, received 6 to 8 rounds of sniper fire which they suppressed with return fire. Shortly, thereafter, an aerial observer spotted 2 Viet Cong, 1 of which was wearing a green pack. Rockets were fired at them, and the Viet Cong were not observed again.
- 23 Mar Company F, at AT 005538, made contact with 20 enemy troops. The company brought small arms and 81mm fire to bear on the enemy force. The enemy withdrew.

- 24 Mar At LT 003536, a Company F night activity spotted movement, and was withdrawn back to their lines. A fire fight ensued, and 1 enemy body was seen, but not recovered. At LT 004542, the company received 5 rounds of sniper fire. At LT 966533, automatic weapons fire was received by Company F, from a force estimated at 6 enemy. At LT 003536, Company F had movement in front of their lines, and reacted with M26's. The movement ceased.
- 24 Mar Company H, at LT 993537, received 15 rounds of sniper fire.
- 24 Mar Thorough searching by Battalion Landing Team units uncovered numerous bunkers, 1 AK-47, 1 M16, 4 Chi-Con grenades, 3 Chi-Con pull-friction devices, 1 AK-47 magazine, 1 M16 magazine, 1 M79 round, 20 rounds of .AK-47, 200 mixed M14 and M16 rounds, 2000 spent .30 caliber cartridges, 2 enemy packs, 2 first-aid packs, 1 canteen cover, a sewing machine and sewing line, 1000 pounds of rice, medicine wrappers, and 3 Viet Cong suspects. The suspects, 1 male, age 46, and 2 females, 24 and 30 respectively, were detained. It was believed that the 2 Vietnamese females were Viet Cong nurses.
- 25 Mar At LT 995536, Company E received from 20 to 25 rounds of AK-47 fire.
- 25 Mar A Company G listening post, at <sup>BT</sup> LT 005510, made contact with 3 NVN, and quick reaction resulted in 3 NVN KIA. At LT 005513, snipers with the company, spotted 4 Viet Cong. Highly accurate fire from the snipers killed 2 of the Viet Cong.
- 25 Mar Company F, at <sup>BT</sup> LT 006532, accidentally detonated a surprise firing device resulting in 3 USMC KIA.
- 25 Mar At <sup>BT</sup> LT 002530, Company H made contact with approximately 4 Viet Cong and the encounter resulted in 2 enemy KIA.
- 25 Mar On the last day of this operation, Battalion Landing Team units completed the destruction of a crashed UH1E helicopter, number 154767, USMC, first discovered on or about 20 March 1969. Several bunkers and numerous spider holes were uncovered, along with a 1000 pound bomb, a 750 pound bomb, and 50 pounds of rice, all of which were destroyed by the units. An element of the Battalion Landing Team captured and retained a Viet Cong suspect.
- 25 Mar The Battalion Landing Team terminated Operation EAGER PURSUIT II.

- 27 Mar The Battalion Landing Team back-loaded aboard Amphibious Ready Group shipping.
- 28 Mar The Battalion Landing Team off-loaded from Amphibious Ready Group shipping for the last time, and occupied positions in the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 7th Marines areas of operation. Preparations to assume responsibility for the area continued.
- 29 Mar At 1600H the Battalion Landing Team assumed responsibility for its new area of operations, relieving the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 7th Marines in place.
- 29 Mar Company G, at LT 918670, while moving to a night activity position, was fired on by friendly Vietnamese troops. They took more small arms fire from a tree line while continuing the movement. At this time they returned fire, but the results were unknown. An element of Company G, at LT 915672, on ambush, spotted 2 Vietnamese armed with AK-47's. The ambush opened fire and received return fire from the enemy. The encounter was followed by a search of the area with negative results. At LT 914707, a young Vietnamese bought in 271 AK-47 rounds for payment from Company F.
- 30 Mar Company G, at LT 918677, accidentally detonated a surprise firing device resulting in 2 Marines wounded.
- 30 Mar At LT 968687, Company F suffered 1 Marine non-battle casualty due to the collapse of a watch tower. 1 B-40 rocket, 2 Chi-Com grenades, 300 AK-47 rounds and 3 large blasting caps were turned into Company F for payment.
- 31 Mar Company H, at LT 920755, found 2 platforms which they destroyed.
- 31 Mar At LT 957675, Company F accidentally detonated a surprise firing device resulting in 2 U.S.C KIA. Company F received the following ordnance for which they paid varying amounts of Vietnamese money: 340 AK-47 rounds, 3 B-40 rocket boosters, 3 B-40 rocket fuses, 2 Chi-Com grenades, 2 AK-47 magazines, 2 Chinese 60mm mortar rounds, and 1 American 60mm mortar round.

#### 4. FLAME SUPPORT

##### a. Btry "B", 1st Bn, 13th Mar (105mm)

- (1) During the period, 209 H&I and H&E destruction missions were fired.
- (2) Of the above, 141 missions were observed, and 68 unobserved.

(3) Total rounds expended are as follows:

- (a) 2135 HE
- (b) 251 WP
- (c) 60 Illum

(4) There were no significant events for the period.

b. Btry H, 1stBn, 12th Marines (4.2")

(1) During the period, 131 HE, WP and Illum missions were fired.

(2) Of the above, 102 missions were observed, and 29 unobserved.

(3) Total rounds expended are as follows:

- (a) 1211 HE
- (b) 106 WP
- (c) 224 Illum

(4) There were no significant events for the period.

c. Shore Fire Control Party

(1) Ships available and dates available are as follows:

- (a) USS OKLAHOMA CITY - 1 March 1969
- (b) HMAS PERTH - 1 and 2 March 1969
- (c) USS MULLINIX DD944 - 2 through 7 March 1969
- (d) USS NEWPORT NEWS CL146 - 12 through 16 March 1969

(2) Delivered 49 H&I missions

(3) Of the above, 12 missions were observed and 37 unobserved.

(4) There were no significant events for the period.

d. 81mm Mortar Platoon, H&S Co, 2ndBn, 26th Marines

(1) Missions for the period are as follows:

- (a) 28 HE Destruction

(b) 21 WP

(c) 9 Illum

(2) Of the above, 37 missions were observed and 21 unobserved.

(3) Total rounds expended are as follows:

(a) 1426 HE

(b) 149 WP

(c) 311 Illum

(4) There were no significant events for the period.

c. Non-organic Supporting Units

(1) Btry D, 2ndBn, 11th Marines

(a) During the period, 86 HE and WP missions were fired.

(b) Of the above, 10 missions were observed and 76 unobserved.

(c) Total rounds expended are as follows:

(1) 503 HE

(2) 9 WP

(2) Btry N, 4thBn, 11th Marines (155mm)

(a) During the period, 1 HE/WP mission was fired. It was observed.

(b) Total rounds expended are as follows:

(1) 79 HE

(2) 2 WP

(3) 1st Field Artillery Group

(a) During the period, 7 HE missions were fired, all of which were observed.

(b) Total rounds expended were 63 HE.

(4) There were no significant events for the period.

5. AIR SUPPORTa. Units

- (1) HMM - 362
- (2) 1st MAF
- (3) 7th Air Force

b. Missions

- (1) Resupply: Daily, during operations
- (2) Close Air Support
  - (a) Missions: 13
  - (b) Ordnance: Napalm/Snake-eye bombs/20mm cannon
- (3) T-Q's: None
- (4) Flare support: 4
- (5) Observation: Daily during operations
- (6) Medevac: 53

c. There were no significant events reported during this period.

6. PERSONNELa. Combat Losses

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
WIA	2	77	0	1
KIA	0	6	0	0
MIA	0	0	0	0

b. Non-Combat Losses

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
Killed	0	1	0	0
Injured	2	93	0	4



c. WIA's Returned to Duty

65

d. R&R Trips

136

e. Personnel Rotated (PCS)

96

f. Replacements Received

(1) Officer: 2

(2) Enlisted: 183

7. ADMINISTRATION

- a. The Battalion Landing Team was composed of four (4) Rifle Companies, one (1) Headquarters and Service Company, and two (2) Batteries. Each unit was capable of performing internal administration, and each was assigned its own reporting code. While at sea all Company and Battery offices were located aboard the USS OKINAWA.

b. Awards

Bronze Star - two (2)

Navy Commendation - two (2)

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry - one (1)

Purple Heart - fifty-seven (57)

c. Promotions

Gunnery Sergeant - two (2)

Staff Sergeant - two (2)

Sergeant - sixteen (16)

Corporal - seven (7)

Lance Corporal - forty-four (44)

Private First Class - ten (10)

d. Significant Events

- (1) None reported during this period.

8. LOGISTICSa. Supply/Resupply

- (1) Operation EAGER PURSUIT I period, 1-6 March 1969, was supported by truck and helicopter with Class I and V from the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines rear. Class II and medical supplies were sent in from the USS OKINAWA.
- (2) Operation EAGER PURSUIT II period, 9-25 March 1969, was supported from An Hoa by helicopter. Class I and V were provided by Force Logistics Support Group at An Hoa while Class II and medical supplies were flown into An Hoa from the USS OKINAWA. During Operation EAGER PURSUIT II, aircraft were often unavailable and a lack of coordination resupply helicopters resulted in unreliable resupply of units. This situation was also experienced during Operation TAYLOR COMMON. During both operations this curtailed the movement and maneuverability of the Battalion Landing Team.

b. Food/Water

- (1) During Operation EAGER PURSUIT I tactical elements subsisted on C-rations supplemented with juice, milk and hot meals prepared by personnel aboard ship. On EAGER PURSUIT II no hot meals were sent to the field. However, juice, milk and soup were supplied from An Hoa. Water resupply was adequate during both operations, and natural sources were utilized to supplement unit needs.

c. Maintenance

- (1) No significant 3rd or 4th echelon maintenance was accomplished during the period. Limited 2nd echelon maintenance was performed aboard ship.

9. NEW TECHNIQUES

- a. The Battalion Landing Team, for the first time, in the latter stages of the reporting period found itself operating from fixed defensive positions. The Battalion Landing Team had little difficulty in adapting to this new role and encountered no problems in fulfilling its mission.

- b. The Battalion Landing Team continued perfecting its counter-sniper fire techniques.

#### 10. TRAINING

- a. The Battalion Landing Team initiated a positive troop indoctrination program, and all newly joined personnel were required to attend prior to movement to the field to join their respective units.
- b. Immediately upon completion of the Battalion Landing Team's movement to fixed positions, arrangements were made to take advantage of the several schools available in the Da Nang Complex. The Battalion Landing Team has a continuing representation at the three-day classes on VC/NV Mines and Booby Traps sponsored by the 1st Engineer Battalion at Camp Faulkner. A familiarization course for the PFS-6 (Ground Surveillance Radar Unit) is being conducted in conjunction with the 26th Marine Regiment to facilitate employment of the PFS-6's already in position in the Battalion Landing Team's tactical area of operation.

#### 11. CIVIC ACTION/PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

- a. The Battalion Landing Team was actively engaged in mobile operations during the month of March, and consequently did not engage in any formal civic action programs. Instead, the emphasis was placed on disciplined conduct of Marines when in civilian areas. Medical care was provided to Vietnamese civilians who requested it on an as required basis.

#### 12. COMMUNICATIONS

##### a. Radio

- (1) From 1-8 March 1969, during Operation EAGER PURSUIT I, constant communications were established and maintained between the Battalion Landing Team, Special Landing Force Alfa, 26th Marines, rifle companies and supporting units. The Tactical Air Control Party continued using Ultra High Frequency and Very High Frequency radio equipment to control aircraft in support of the Battalion Landing Team. A Tactical Air Control Party network was established between the Amphibious Ready Group ships and the Command Post ashore to provide logistic/supply support to the Battalion Landing Team. A relay station was established at the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines Command Post for the purpose of relaying radio traffic between the Command Post ashore and the USS OKINAWA. A logistic/administrative network was also established between the Battalion Landing Team ashore and afloat.

- (3) From 27-31 March 1969, the Battalion established communications between the 26th Marines, rifle companies and supporting units.

b. Wire

- (1) From 1-26 March 1969, while on Operations BULL DOG I and BULL DOG II, wire lines were laid within the Command Post ashore. Hotlines were provided between the S-3 Combat Operations Center and the communications bunker, between the Fire Support Coordination Center and the Combat Operations Center Bunker and between the Fire Support Coordination Center and the 8mm Mortar Platoon. The hotline between S-4 and supply, and between the communications office and maintenance shop were maintained aboard the USS OKINAWA.
- (2) From 27-31 March 1969, the Battalion established a switching center in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Post area with lines to Battalion sections and units.

c. Message Center

- (1) From 1-24 March 1969, the message center was maintained aboard the USS OKINAWA. On 24 March, Communications Crypto Guard was changed from the USS OKINAWA to the 26th Marine Regiment.
- (2) From 24-31 March, the message center was established in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Post area. Daily cover service was established between the Battalion and the 26th Marines.

d. Radio Relay

- (1) The AN/TRC-27 radio relay equipment was not employed during the reporting period. However, from 1-6 March, and AN/TRC-27 terminal was established between the Command Post ashore and the 26th Marines for the purpose of providing four (4) channels of clear voice communications. A Combat Operations Center hotline, Fire Support Coordination Center hotline and two (2) common users were provided.

e. Maintenance/Supply

- (1) During the reporting period a supporting capability was provided aboard the USS OKINAWA and at the Command Post ashore.

f. Significant Events

- (1) None reported during this period.

13. MEDICAL/DENTAL SUPPORTa. Medical

- (1) Battalion Aid Station administration was handled by the section aboard the USS OKINAWA, and at the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Post. All sick call was handled by our Medical Officers and 3-5 corpsmen utilizing the Battalion Aid Station facilities of the USS OKINAWA and the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.
- (2) Currently, there are 2 Medical Officers with the Battalion Landing Team. They were distributed so 1 was always in the Battalion Aid Station of the USS OKINAWA (while afloat), and the other was assigned to the Alfa Command Group. Corpsmen were assigned as follows:

2	Alfa Command Group
8	Rifle Companies
1	Antracs
2	Recon
1	Sanitation
3	Battalion Medical Supply
1	Medical Administration
3	Medical Records
2	Btry B, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
2	Btry W, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
2	Engineers
1	Dental
1	Anti-Tanks
1	Tanks
3	Shore Party

## (3) Casualties/Injuries Treated

(a) Combat Casualties	78
(b) Non-Battle Casualties	110
(c) Routine Sick Call	63

b. Dental

- (1) Our Dental Clinic was established and operated aboard the USS OKINAWA. Lt J. C. GABUS, DC, USNR, and Lt P. L. LIBERTI, DC, USNR, with the help of DTG 2 PANTILIN, manned the clinic for the Battalion Landing Team.

c. Significant Events

- (1) On 1 March 1969, Doctor GABUS was relieved by Doctor LIBERTI as Dental Officer.

14. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIESa. Personnel

## (1) Chaplain assigned:

(a) 1-8 March 1969

(1) Lt Jerry A. ZANSTRA, CHC, USNR

(b) 9-31 March 1969

(1) Lt John M. WRIGHT, CHC, USNR

## (2) Chaplain's assistant

(a) 1-8 March 1969

(1) Lance Corporal Wayne ROBERTS

(b) 9-31 March 1969

(1) Lance Corporal David WILLIAMS

b. Services Conducted

Type	Number	Attendance
Catholic	21	560
Protestant	4	75

c. Facilities

(1) Field Services during Operation EAGER PURSUIT I and EAGER PURSUIT II

(2) Enlisted Club area at 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Post

(3) Mess Hall at company positions

d. Significant Events

(1) On 9 March 1969, Chaplain ZANSTRA was relieved by Chaplain WRIGHT.