

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

3/TDT/1e1
5750
1 Sept 1969

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 August to 31 August

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Battalion Landing Team 2/26

LtCol EDMONDSON

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	Capt	WINKLER	1-31 Aug
E Company	1stLt	MILLER	1-31 Aug
F Company	1stLt	ELLIS	1-18 Aug
	Capt	KUGEL	18-31 Aug
G Company	Capt	BEST	1-31 Aug
H Company	Capt	GORMAN	1-31 Aug

ATTACHED UNITS

3rdPlt, Co A, 5th AmTracBn	1stLt	PLATTER	1-31 Aug
1stPlt, Co A, 5th SPBn	GySgt	WISEMAN	1-18 Aug
	1stLt	HELLMAN	18-31 Aug
1st Clearing Plt, Co A, 5th MedBn	Lt	ROWAN (USN)	1-17 Aug
	Lt	NICOLETTI (USN)	17-31 Aug
2ndPlt (Rein), Co A, 5th EngBn	SSgt	O'NEIL	1-31 Aug
2ndPlt (Rein), Co A, 5th ReconBn	1stLt	BATES	1-27 Aug
	2ndLt	LARKIN	27-31 Aug
2ndPlt (Rein), Co A, 5th MTBn	1stLt	GOBELI	1-31 Aug
2ndPlt (Rein), Co A, 5th TkbN	1stLt	SCHERER	1-31 Aug
2ndPlt, Co A, MTBn	SSgt	DUEAN/S	1-10 Aug
	1stLt	SMITH	10-31 Aug
Det, 15th Dental Co, 9th MAB	Lt	STRENTSTROM (USN)	1-31 Aug

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Det, HQBn, 5th MarDiv	GWO	SHEAN	1-14 Aug
	WO	BROWN	14-31 Aug
Det, 1stBn, 13thMar (SFGP)	Ltjg	BURRIS (USN)	1-31 Aug
B Btry, 1stBn, 13thMar	Capt	BOYER	1-31 Aug
W Btry, 1stBn, 13thMar	1stLt	BUNTON	1-20 Aug
	1stLt	HYDE	20-31 Aug
LSU-2, 9th MCB	1stLt	DEAN	1-31 Aug

2. LOCATION

Bn Rear	1-9 Aug	USS VALLEY FORGE
	9-14 Aug	AT927738
	15-31 Aug	AT924692
Bn Command Post	1-3 Aug	BS697968
	4 Aug	BS692970
	5-7 Aug	BS691979
	7-10 Aug	USS VALLEY FORGE
	11-14 Aug	AT938747
	15-31 Aug	AT924692

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major GOUTY	1-31 Aug
Adjutant	2ndLt HOGGERWERFF	1-31 Aug
Personnel Officer	1stLt TAYLOR	1-31 Aug
S-1	2ndLt HOGGERWERFF	1-31 Aug
S-2	1stLt HELLMAN	1-18 Aug
	1stLt ELLIS	18-31 Aug
- S-3	Major HOGABOOM	1-26 Aug
	Major BIERMAN	26-31 Aug
S-4	Capt LINDSAY	1-31 Aug
S-5	1stLt SZABO	1-12 Aug
	1stLt MCGASKILL	12-31 Aug

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
65	1,673	8	88

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

At the beginning of the reporting period, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 was participating in Operation BRAVE ARMLDA in Quang Ngai Province along the seacoast south of Chu Lai.

The Battalion Landing Team 2/26 was involved in daily search activities during the daylight hours. During the hours of darkness, the Battalion Landing Team deployed more than two-thirds of its forces in ambushes, listening posts, and killer teams. Long-distance night patrols were kept to a minimum because of the heavy threat presented by mines, booby traps, and other surprise firing devices.

On the morning of the 6th of August, the first phase of the withdrawal of Battalion Landing Team 2/26 from the Amphibious Objective Area began. Heavy equipment, including tanks and amtracs were withdrawn to Amphibious Ready Group shipping. The direct support battery, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, was also withdrawn at this time.

Phase two of the withdrawal began on the morning of the 7th of August, Companies F, G, H, and Battery W, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, were lifted out by helicopter, and taken to the USS VALLEY FORGE (LPH-8). Company E was taken to the USS VERNON COUNTY (LST-1161) by surface craft. Headquarters and Service Company and the Battalion Landing Team Command Post were helilifted from the Amphibious Objective Area to the USS VALLEY FORGE. The withdrawal was complete by 1200 on the 7th of August.

Battalion Landing Team 2/26 remained aboard Amphibious Ready Group shipping until the 10th of August.

On the 10th of August, the Battalion Landing Team chopped to the operational control of the 1st Marine Division via Third Marine Amphibious Force, and began a relief in place in the Area of Operations of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, generally west of DaNang. From 10 to 12 August, the Battalion Landing Team effected the relief, assuming responsibility for the Area of Operations on 12 August. Some tactical elements of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines were under operational control of Battalion Landing Team 2/26 from 12 to 15 August. By 15 August, all elements of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines had been withdrawn.

Company E located its Command Post on Hill 22, in the northwestern section of the Area of Operations. Company F located its Command Post near the Hill 10 area (AT924692). Company G located its Command Post on Hill 41 (AT934663), in the southern section of the Area of Operations. Company H located its Command Post at the position then occupied by Battery H, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, vic (AT927737), at Fire Base

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Sixshooter. The Battalion Landing Team 2/26 Command Post located at the Command Post area of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines at landing zone Rock Crusher, vic Dai La Pass, (AT938747). The Battalion Landing Team's rifle companies then sent heavy platoon and squad-sized day and night activities into their sectors of the Area of Operations in support of the Battalion Landing Team's defensive mission.

On 15 August, the Battalion Landing Team Command Post and Headquarters and Service Company moved from the "Rock Crusher" area to Hill 10. This move was necessitated by a requirement to defend Hill 10, and the undesirability of using tactical elements of the Battalion Landing Team to defend Hill 10. In addition, Battery W, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines Command Post was located on Hill 10 and Battery B, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines Command Post was located at Fire Base Sixshooter (AT927737).

Daylight activities in the Area of Operations were increased to permit a better blocking force along the DaNang Barrier. These activities included observation posts, long-range patrols, and road sweeps. These activities accounted for numerous findings of enemy equipment and sightings of enemy personnel in the area.

Night activities were increased to block avenues of approach leading into the area, and to provide reaction forces to intrusions along the DaNang Barrier. Static positions in the Area of Operations were equipped with monitoring stations to receive readouts from the Balanced Pressure System sensors making up the barrier. Night observation devices and large spotlights were utilized to provide limited visual observation of the barrier system at night.

During this period a rapid system of reaction to barrier sensor readings with supporting arms (both direct and indirect) was developed and employed. Considerable effort was expended to train and coordinate the combat support units involved.

The Battalion Landing Team was still carrying out its mission of interdicting and destroying enemy personnel and equipment within the Area of Operations when the reporting period ended.

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PART III

LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. MISSIONS/OPERATIONSa. Major Operations

- (1) 1-7 August 1969.
 - (a) BRAVE ARMADA.
 - (b) Quang Ngai Province.

b. Command Relations

- (1) During the period 1-7 August, the Battalion Landing Team was deployed ashore under the operational control of Special Landing Force B, (CTG 79.5), and the Battalion Landing Team Command Post was established in the field.
- (2) During the period 7-10 August, the Battalion Landing Team remained under the operational control of Special Landing Force B, (CTG 79.5) and the Command Post remained afloat aboard the USS VALLEY FORGE.
- (3) During the period 10-31 August, the Battalion Landing Team was deployed ashore under the operational control of the 26th Marine Regiment, and the Battalion Landing Team Command Post was established ashore.

c. Command Missions Assigned

- (1) BRAVE ARMADA.
 - (a) 1-7 August 1969.
 - (1) Find, fix and destroy enemy forces, installations and materiel in the Amphibious Objective Area in order to improve security within the Amphibious Objective Area in preparation for Revolutionary Development.
 - (b) 10-31 August 1969.
 - (1) Effect relief in place of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, in their Area of Operation, and

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continue normal operations in accordance with 1st Marine Division directives once relief has been effected.

d. Command and Control

- (1) During the period 1-7 August, the Battalion Landing Team Command Post was located in the field, and displaced as necessary in order to control the Battalion Landing Team. Communications were established between the Command Post and the rear, including company administration, which remained afloat. Administrative runs, as necessary, were made to the field. Liaison teams were placed at the Command Post of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade and at Binh Son District Headquarters. The Battalion Landing Team experienced no degradation of control.
- (2) During the period 7-10 August, all elements of the Battalion Landing Team were located aboard Amphibious Ready Group (CTG 79.5) shipping with the Battalion Landing Team Headquarters aboard the USS VALLEY FORGE.
- (3) During the period 10-31 August, all elements of the Battalion Landing Team were based ashore under operational control of 26th Marines. No degradation of control was experienced by the Battalion Landing Team Command Post during this time.

e. Organic Operations

- (1) From 1-7 August, Battalion Landing Team operations included search and sweep operations and continuous patrols of the areas assigned.
- (2) From 10-31 August, Battalion Landing Team operations included numerous day long-range patrols and sweeps by the rifle companies inside their assigned Areas of Operation. Units were constantly moving throughout the Area of Operation in order to interdict enemy movement into the DaNang area.
- (3) During the period, the Battalion Landing Team conducted 52 listening posts, 208 patrols, 468 ambushes, and 88 observation posts.

f. NBC Warfare

During the period, the Battalion Landing Team used CS grenades in tunnels and caves. No NBC devices were used by the enemy.

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2. INTELLIGENCEa. Enemy Situation

- (1) From 1 August to 7 August, during Operation BRAVE ARMADA, the following enemy units were reported operating in the Amphibious Objective Area: The 95th Sapper Company, the P-31st Local Force Company, the T-20th Local Force Company, the K-51st Weapons Company, and elements of the 48th Local Force Battalion. Though no contact was made with organized units, the tunnel systems, caches, and captured documents indicated a high level of Viet Cong activity in the area.
- (2) From 10 August to 31 August, the Battalion Landing Team's Area of Operations in the DaNang area contained the 31st NVA Regiment, the 2nd Battalion, 141st NVA Regiment, the 2nd Battalion, 386-B NVA Artillery Regiment, and the Q-84th MF Company. These units were confirmed by POW's, returnees, and captured documents. The NVA units were situated in the Ba Na mountain area and on Charlie Ridge. They were reported to be low on food and morale. However, they posed a serious offensive threat to the DaNang military complex throughout the period. The Q-84 MF Company operated in the southeastern section of the Area of Operations. There was also evidence of Viet Cong logistics support activity in the central part of the Area of Operations for the NVA units to the west.

b. Enemy Initiated Incidents

- (1) During Operation BRAVE ARMADA, the enemy avoided contact, other than light sniper fire and heavy use of Surprise Firing Devices.
- (2) The period from 12 August to 18 August was characterized by extensive probing, sniping, and mining by the enemy. On 22 August, one patrol was ambushed by the NVA in daylight. Sporadic sniper fire continued throughout the month, and one mine was detonated on the 28th.
- (3) Also, on four occasions, Viet Cong and NVA entered friendly hamlets to intimidate, harass, and propagandize.

c. Enemy Losses

- (1) Casualties

NVA/VC KIA - - - - - 13

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NVA/VC WIA - - - - - None Claimed
 Hoi Chanh - - - - - 1
 Civil Defendents - - - - - 7

(2) Captured Equipment

.38 caliber pistol - - - - - 1
 AK-47 rifles - - - - - 2
 M-14 rifle - - - - - 2
 M-16A1 rifle - - - - - 1
 M-1 rifle - - - - - 1
 M-1891/30 rifle w/sniper scope - - - - - 1
 M-1944 carbine - - - - - 1
 B-40 rockets - - - - - 2
 M-79 rounds - - - - - 7
 60mm mortar rounds - - - - - 4
 81mm mortar rounds - - - - - 1
 4.2 in. mortar round - - - - - 1
 105mm dud - - - - - 1
 106mm dud - - - - - 1
 M-72 rifle grenades - - - - - 2
 175mm dud - - - - - 1
 .30 caliber linked ammunition - - - - - 1 box
 C-4 - - - - - 6 lbs
 TNT - - - - - 4 lbs
 Claymore mines - - - - - 3
 M-14 mine - - - - - 1
 M-16 mines - - - - - 2
 M-26 grenades - - - - - 12
 Chi-Com grenades - - - - - 25
 "Pop-up" flares - - - - - 2
 Medical gear - - - - - 2 1/2 lbs
 Rice and corn - - - - - 205 lbs
 Milk - - - - - 12 cans
 Tea - - - - - 51 lbs
 NVA flags - - - - - 4
 Documents - - - - - 1/2 lb

d. Enemy Trends

- (1) On Operation BRAVE ARMADA, the enemy attempted to avoid all contact except occasional harrassment activities. Occasional sniper fire and extensive use of Surprise Firing Devices characterized his only offensive efforts. However, it was obvious that the area was used as a haven for Viet Cong units when friendly units were not nearby.

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(2) Three trends were noted in the DaNang area:

- (a) The enemy conducted limited probes and harrassing activities in and around the Area of Operations. This was quite possibly in preparation for a major offensive to be launched against the DaNang military complex or Marine outposts to the south and west.
- (b) The enemy stepped up intimidation and propaganda operations in the area.
- (c) The enemy continued regular movement into and out of the area for resupply.

e. Weather Conditions

- (1) The weather was clear, dry, and favorable to friendly operations through out the month.

3. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 Aug At 1720, Company E discovered one tunnel measuring 2'x3'x75' at BS702952. The tunnel had 7 entrances leading to it. A search of the tunnel uncovered 4 NVA grenades, wooden sleeping pallets, and articles of clothing. The tunnel and its entrances were destroyed.

At 1900, Company F discovered a small tunnel at BS697944. A search of the tunnel revealed 3 enemy weapons. They included a Soviet 7.62mm, 1891/30 rifle with scope, a Soviet 7.62mm carbine, and a U.S. caliber .30 M-1 rifle. All the weapons were sent to the Battalion Landing Team's rear for evaluation by the Intelligence Section.

3 Aug At 1700, the 3rd squad, 3rd platoon of Company E spotted four Vietnamese individuals hiding in a treeline at BS707934. Before the squad could reach them, two of the Vietnamese fled. The remaining two were apprehended. All of them were wearing black pajamas. The two detainees were sent to the Battalion Landing Team Command Post for interrogation by Intelligence personnel.

5 Aug At 1710, a reconnaissance element spotted 2 enemy wearing black pajamas and carrying an M-16 rifle and a pack at BS649962. The reconnaissance element took them under fire with one enemy KIA and one probable KIA as a result. The reconnaissance element was

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extracted before a thorough search of the area could be accomplished.

- 6 Aug At 1700, the 3rd platoon of Company H, while sweeping through the area, sighted one enemy evading across a trail to their front at BS694955. When called to halt, the individual ran, and was taken under fire by the friendly point element. This action resulted in one enemy KIA. A search of the body revealed no identification card on the individual.
- 7 Aug Operation BRAVE ARMADA terminated at 0700 with the Battalion Landing Team 2/26's withdrawal from the Amphibious Operations Area to Amphibious Ready Group shipping. Companies H, G, and F were helolifted back to the ships, while Company E, the Battalion Landing Team Command Post and major supporting elements returned to the ships by surface craft. All combat elements of Battalion Landing Team 2/26 were out of the Amphibious Operations Area by 1200.
- 10 Aug Battalion Landing Team 2/26 debarked from Amphibious Ready Group shipping to take up positions in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Area of Operations. Company G located its Command Post on Hill 41 (AT934663), Company E located its Command Post at Hill 10 (AT924692), Company H located its Command Post at the battery position occupied by Battery B, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, and the Battalion Landing Team located its Command Post at Dai La Pass (AT938747).
- 12 Aug At 0745, the 2nd squad, 2nd platoon of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, made contact with a small enemy force in the vicinity of AT909744. Company F, Battalion Landing Team 2/26, coordinated with them to act as a blocking force while Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, elements of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, turned up 2 NVA KIA's. The bodies were wearing grey utilities, and carried packs. Two AK-47 rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade round were also found in the area.
- 13 Aug At 0325, the 2nd squad of the 3rd platoon, Company F, spotted 10-20 enemy moving east to the rear of their ambush site at AT913704. The friendly ambush took them under small arms fire, and searched the area with the aid of illumination. 12 cans of food, 150 pounds of rice, and other small bags of food were found.

At 1700, the 3rd platoon of Company H discovered the body of an enemy at AT901745. A rope was tied to the feet of the body,

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and it appeared as if it was being dragged away. Further search of the area revealed further drag marks, but no weapons or equipment.

- 14 Aug At 2110, the 2nd squad, of the 3rd platoon, Company F, ambushed and killed one enemy near their night ambush position. The individual was 25 years old, but a search of the area did not reveal any weapons.
- 15 Aug At 2200, the 1st squad of the 3rd platoon, Company G, ambushed 3 enemy moving near their position at AT928683. A search of the area yielded an AK-47 rifle. After the search, movement was heard in a nearby hamlet. Moving to that area, the friendly unit observed a Vietnamese woman attempting to throw two other Vietnamese women out of her house. After apprehending one of the women, the friendly unit observed the other moving away into a nearby treeline. A search for her yielded negative results. A personal search of the one female detainee revealed that she was wearing black pajamas and had darkened her face. She had a bullet wound in the leg, and was taken to the Battalion Landing Team Command Post to be turned over to IPT.
- 19 Aug At 1030, a NVA Hoi Chanh turned himself in at the Battalion Landing Team 2/26 Command Post. Questioning revealed that he was a member of the 11th Company, 16th Battalion, 141st NVA Regiment located in the vicinity of AT894658. He also stated that there were 61 men in his company, armed with rifles, a 61mm mortar and B-40 rockets. He was taken to Battalion Landing Team 2/26 Battalion Aid Station for treatment of a severely infected foot. After making a Chieu Hoi broadcast over the "Early Bird" system, the man was turned over to IPT for further questioning.
- 20 Aug At 2045, the 3rd platoon of Company F, spotted an enemy force of undertermined size at AT912708. When the enemy tripped a ground flare, the platoon reacted by throwing M-26 grenades into the area. Friendly positions received 5 Chi-Com grenades in exchange. A search of the area yielded negative results.
- 22 Aug At 1400, the 2nd squad of the 1st platoon, Company E had a Vietnamese boy report to them that he saw an NVA hiding an explosive device in some bushes 10 feet from a trail. The device was made of sheet metal, and appeared to be a 20 pound shaped charge. It was 11 inches high, 8 inches wide at the bottom, and 5 inches wide at the top. It also had a carrying handle on one side. It was not rigged for detonation. It was taken to Company E's Command Post and destroyed.

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- 24 Aug At 2205, the 1st squad of the 1st platoon, Company E ambushed the lead element of an estimated 20-30 enemy at AT910706. Action resulted in an enemy KIA. The KIA was wearing a green uniform with no insignia. No weapons were found when the area was searched.
- 26 Aug At 1145, the 2nd platoon of Company G was searching an abandoned house at AT925682. Inside were found a bag of medical supplies and a page of a U.S. manual of Viet Cong firing devices.
- 27 Aug At 1300, the 2nd platoon of Company F found a complete claymore mine wrapped in a sandbag at AT937723. It was brought to the company Command Post and destroyed.
- 28 Aug At 1452, Company E reported that a low-boy truck, enroute to work on the BPS system, struck a mine at AT895714. The left rear wheel was blown off of the vehicle, but it was able to leave the area under its own power. No friendly casualties were sustained.
- 30 Aug At 1400, the 1st squad of the 2nd platoon, Company B, found 11 caves dug into the side of a hill at AT962729. The caves were large enough to accomodate up to five people apiece, and contained air vents and chimneys which led to trenches covered with bamboo to filter smoke. Well used trails led into and out of the area. The caves were constructed strongly enough to resist heavy bombardment. Although the area showed signs of recent use, no weapons or equipment were found in a search.

4. FIRE SUPPORT

a. B Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

- (1) During the reporting period 567 missions were fired.
- (2) Of the above missions, 174 were observed and 393 were unobserved.
- (3) Ammunition expenditures were as follows:
 - (a) 5,566 HE
 - (b) 213 WP
 - (c) 158 Illum
 - (d) 139 Cofram

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b. W Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

- (1) During the reporting period, 263 missions were fired.
- (2) Of the above missions, 84 were observed and 179 were unobserved.
- (3) Ammunition expenditures were as follows:
 - (a) 1,981 HE
 - (b) 74 WP
 - (c) 236 Illum

c. Shore Fire Control Party

- (1) Ships that fired in support of the Battalion Landing Team during the reporting period are listed below:
 - (a) USS LEARY
 - (b) USS COCH
 - (c) USS HENRY W. TUCKER
 - (d) USS OKLAHOMA CITY
- (2) During the reporting period, 77 missions were fired.
- (3) Of the above missions, 77 were unobserved.
- (4) Ammunition expenditures were as follows:
 - (a) 782 HE

d. 81mm Mortar Platoon

- (1) During the reporting period, 112 missions were fired.
- (2) Of the above missions, 82 were observed and 31 unobserved.
- (3) Ammunition expenditures were as follows:
 - (a) 1,831 HE
 - (b) 70 WP
 - (c) 556 Illum

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e. General Support

- (1) During the reporting period, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 154 unobserved missions.
- (2) The expenditures were a total of 423 HE rounds.
- (3) During the reporting period, Battery D, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Group (155mm) fired 23 unobserved HE missions, expending 276 rounds.

f. Significant Events

- (1) During the reporting period, 2 "time on target" missions were fired in conjunction with the USS LEAHY, USS COCHRANE, Battery D, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Group (155mm), Battery W, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, and Battery B, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines.
- (2) These missions resulted in a number of small secondary explosions and one large secondary, believed to have been an arms cache.

5. AIR SUPPORT

- a. Battalion Landing Team 2/26 had two main periods of air support during the reporting period of August. The first period of activity was from the 1st through the 7th of August, during the final stages of Operation BRAVE ARMADA, a battalion-sized search and destroy mission utilizing air support for medical evacuations, troop lifts, close air support (fixed wing and rotary wing), visual reconnaissance, weapons control (artillery and air), intelligence gathering and distribution, and administrative purposes. The second period of activity and air support for the Battalion Landing Team 2/26 commenced on 10 August with a Battalion Landing Team-sized airlift to fixed defensive positions in an area of Operations west of DaNang. Although the remainder of the reporting period was not characterized by as much troop movement as was the beginning of August, air support was used and appreciated in many of the same roles. Air support was primarily used for visual reconnaissance, troop lifts, resupply of outposts, close air support, intelligence gathering and distribution, and administrative errands.
- b. The following are statistics and facts covering the reporting period from the 1st through the 7th of August:

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(1) Medical Evacuations

Emergency	-	7
Priority	-	8
Routine	-	6
		<u>21</u> Total

(2) The shortest period of time taken for an emergency medevac from the time of request to time of completion of the request was 5 minutes and 20 seconds.

(3) The average time for an emergency medevac was 14 minutes and 15 seconds.

c. Close Air Support

(1) One fixed wing mission was requested and received on 1 August. A section of F-4 (Lovebug 559) carrying D-2's and D-7's controlled by Helix 21 (USAF) successfully completed their mission by destroying a tunnel and bunker complex at BS674945.

(2) Helicopter gunships were used on 5 August in the emergency extraction of a reconnaissance element (Red Dancer). Also, gunships gave support to the extraction of the Battalion Landing Team 2/26 from its Amphibious Objective Area at the termination of Operation BRAVE ARMADA, on 7 August.

(3) The mission of visual reconnaissance, fire control and intelligence gathering was carried on by several different units. A team of four helicopters known as "Blue Ghost" was used three times during the period for observing and securing intelligence data. A visual reconnaissance flight was made daily for the Battalion Landing Team Commanding Officer and company commanders enabling them to observe their Areas of Operation.

d. Administrative work consisted of a daily shuttle (44 persons in 6 days), and a daily resupply of water, food, and ammunition. To complete Operation BRAVE ARMADA, a battalion-sized lift was organized and completed with gunship support placing the Battalion Landing Team 2/26 back aboard the USS VALLEY FORGE between 0800-1230 on 7 August.

e. A Battalion offload was completed on 10 August 1969, utilizing HMM 164 to place the Battalion Landing Team 2/26 in position. Daily visual reconnaissance flights were reduced to a minimum.

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Weekly troop exchanges were established for Observation Post "Reno" and resupply by air every three days maintained it.

- f. Flareships and gunships were used successfully in support and defense of the Battalion's fixed positions. Fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft were used in destroying tunnel and bunker complexes.

g. Medical Evacuation

(1) 7-31 August

Emergency	-	11 USMC
		3 Civilian (Vietnamese)
Priority	-	18 USMC
		1 Civilian (Vietnamese)
Routine	-	6 USMC
		39 Total

- (2) The shortest period from time of request to time of completion of an emergency medevac was 14 minutes.

- (3) The average period of time for emergency medevacs ran 27 minutes, 45 seconds.

6. PERSONNEL

a. Combat Losses

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
WIA	2	46	0	0
KIA	0	0	0	0
MIA	0	0	0	0

b. Non-Combat Losses

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
KILLED	0	1	0	0
INJURED	0	6	0	0

c. WIA's Returned to Duty

31 -- enlisted

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d. R&R Trips

130

e. Personnel Rotated (PCS)

84

f. Replacements Received

- (1) Marine Officers - six (6)
- (2) Marine Enlisted - eighty-three (83)

7. ADMINISTRATIONa. 1-10 August

- (1) All Battalion Landing Team and company administrative offices were located aboard the USS VALLEY FORGE (LPH-8).

b. 10-13 August

- (1) Battalion administration was located at vic AT927738.
- (2) All rifle company administrative offices were located at Hill 34, vic AT996719.

c. 13-31 August

- (1) All company administration was located at the respective company positions, excepting Company F, which was located at Hill 10, vic AT924692, along with the Battalion administration offices.

d. Awards

Navy Achievement Medals - 15
Bronze Star - 2
Purple Heart - 21
Navy Commendation - 1

e. Promotions

Sergeant - 1
Corporal - 76
 Lance Corporal - 64
Private First Class - 3

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8. LOGISTICS

- a. During the period 1-6 August, all units in the BRAVE ARMADA Amphibious Objective Area were resupplied via helicopter and /or boat. The USS FORGE continued as the Class II and water resupply point, while ISA at Chu Lai continued to issue Class I, III, IV, and V. From 7-10 August, the Battalion Landing Team backloaded from the Operation, sailed to and disembarked at Danang, Republic of Vietnam. During the period 11-31 August, all resupply was accomplished via truck except for Q.P. Reno, which was resupplied by helicopter.

b. Food and Water

During the period 1-6 August, the Battalion Landing Team's elements ashore subsisted on C-Rations. Rations were supplemented with canned fruit juices, fresh fruit, bread, and ice cream. Between 7-10 August, all hands received three hot meals daily while embarked aboard Amphibious Ready Group shipping. While the Battalion Landing Team was deployed in the Danang area, all units subsisted on C-Rations for the first two to three days. Thereafter, the Rifle Companies operating throughout the Battalion Landing Team's Area of Operations subsisted on C-Rations and one hot meal a day due to the combat and operational necessity. The H&S Company and the CP group received two hot meals a day at the Hill 10, LZ Rock Crusher and at FLC. Water was trucked to the various contingents for resupply.

Messhalls located on Hills 10 and 41 were operating full time. The messhall located at Hill 22 ran one meal per day, limited by the lack of electricity and water. The Battalion Landing Team received one ME109, 100 cubic foot refrigerator, while rating two. The second has been requested through 26th Marines. At the present time, ice is being used to preserve fresh foods.

c. Maintenance

During the period 1-6 August, 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance was performed by the units concerned. While in the Danang area, 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance continued being done by the units concerned with 3rd and 4th echelon maintenance being done at FSR.

The R&E Program, FY-69, saw three LVTP5's and one M50 Ontos turned in.

Some vehicles took a considerable amount of time to repair due to the shortage of parts available. As of August 31 all vehicles were up with the exception of one TD-15, one 2N Crane, one M35 Truck Cargo and two LVTP5's.

Outstanding maintenance was completed on a self-help basis, except for the new construction on Hill 41.

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9. NEW TECHNIQUES

- a. To respond to sensings from the Balanced Pressure System comprising the Danang Barrier, Battalion Landing Team 2/26 used both direct and indirect-fire weapons. These weapons provide rapid reaction to Barrier sensings with beehive or flechette rounds used by direct fire weapons, and VT or Gofram used by indirect-fire weapons.
- b. Direct-fire weapons are pre-cleared by the Battalion Landing Team's FSOC, and utilize range cards to provide immediate fires in the area where an intrusion is sensed. Indirect-fire weapons are precleared also, and are pre-registered to provide rapid response to Barrier sensings.
- c. Two communication networks are maintained to facilitate this rapid response to Barrier sensings. All the readout stations are connected by radio on a designated Ground Surveillance frequency. The readout station at Mike Tower (AT924670) is connected to the station at Hill 10 by land line.
- d. A Ground Surveillance wire loop is established at Hill 10 to connect the direct and indirect-fire weapons, the ground surveillance station, and the Battalion Landing Team FSOC. This loop provided rapid communication facilitating the Battalion Landing Team in rapid and accurate response to Barrier sensings.

10. TRAINING

- a. During the period 1-12 August, training was limited due to operational commitments on Operation BRAVE ARMADA. Training consisted of on-the-job training for rear-based units and sub-units. Limited on-the-job training was accomplished in the field by units participating in the Operation.
- b. Upon offloading Amphibious Ready Group shipping and assuming fixed and semifixed positions ashore, training was accomplished by all units as required by Battalion Landing Team 2/26 training directives.
- c. The new troop indoctrination training program briefed 83 new Marines upon their arrival at this command. Newly issued weapons were fired for familiarization and battle sights.
- d. Formal training included:
 - (1) NCO Leadership School - - - - - 4 enlisted
 - (2) Basic Infantry Weapons Repair Course - -1 enlisted

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- (3) Basic Ammo Technician Course - - - - - 1 enlisted
- (4) Scuba School - - - - - 2 enlisted
- (5) Embarkation - - - - - 1 enlisted
- (6) Landmine Warfare and Booby Trap School - - - 12 enlisted

11. CIVIC ACTION/PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

- a. During the reporting period, the Battalion Landing Team made seven leaflet drops and ran three medcaps and a Chieu Hoi earlybird aircraft was employed. Solatium payments totaling 17,750 \$VN were made throughout the Battalion Landing Team Area of Operations for various incidents.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

c. Radio

- (1) From August 1-7, while the battalion was on operation "BRAVE ARMADA", the following radio nets were maintained between Special Landing Force Bravo, Battalion Landing Team 2/26, 2/26 Rifle companies and supporting units:

- (a) Battalion TAC
- (b) Battalion Admin
- (c) SLF TAC (Covered KY-8/KY-38)
- (d) TACLOG

- (2) Another net (Covered KY-38) was established between the Battalion CE and the Headquarters, 198th Infantry Brigade.

- (3) From August 8-10, the following net was maintained by the Special Landing Force aboard the USS VALLEY FORCE with the Battalion Landing Team providing runners:

- (a) TACLOG

- (4) From August 10-31, the following nets were maintained between 26th Marines, BLT 2/26, 2/26 Rifle companies, and supporting units:

- (a) Regimental TAC
- (b) Battalion TAC
- (c) Battalion ADMIN
- (d) Division Convoy Control
- (e) TACLOG (until Aug 14)

- (5) The Tactical Air Control Party employed UHF equipment to maintain 2 radio nets:

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(a) August 1-7, while on operation "BRAVE ARMADA"

1. TAR NET
2. TACP LOCAL

(b) August 10-31

1. TAR NET
2. TACP LOCAL

b. Wire

(1) From August 1-7, the wire section maintained internal wire communications in the Battalion CP with 50 local lines and 4 trunk lines - 2 common users to 26th Marines, 1 common user to 1st Marine Division, and 1 trunk line to MACV (Hien Duc).

c. Message Center

(1) From August 1-9, the Special Landing Force maintained the BLT's Comm/Crypto guard. Message pickup and delivery was coordinated between the SLF and BLT message centers.

(2) The BLT's Comm/Crypto guard was changed on August 10 from the USS VALLEY FORGE to the 26th Marines.

(3) From August 10-31, the message center made courier runs twice daily to 26th Marines to pick up and deliver messages.

d. Radio Relay

(1) From August 10-31, a radio relay shot was established between Hill 10 and the 26th Marines. 8 Radio Relay channels were employed as follows:

- (a) Order Wire
- (b) Common User Trunks 2/26 to 26th Marines
- (c) 2/26 COG to 26th Marines COG Hot Line
- (d) "W" Battery to 1/13 common user
- (e) "W" Battery FDC to 1/13 FDC Hot line
- (f) 1. spare

e. Maintenance/Supply

(1) The maintenance/supply section continued it's reconciliation of supply records and requisitions. Second echelon maintenance was performed on AN/PRC-25's and TA-312's.

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f. Significant Events

- (1) The AN/PRC-77 radio was employed on covered nets with the KY-38 on operation "BRAVE ARMADA" with excellent results.
- (2) The rifle companies have been employing the AN/PRC-88 radio for short range communications with good results.

13. MEDICAL/DENTAL SUPPORT

a. Battalion Landing Team 2/26 Aid Station administration was handled by the section on the USS VALLEY FORGE and on Hill 10 at AT924692. All sick calls were handled by one Medical Officer and 6-7 corpsmen, utilizing facilities aboard the USS VALLEY FORGE and at Hill 10.

b. There were two Medical Officers with this unit and were assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/26. Corpsmen were assigned as follows:

(1)	Battalion Landing Team 2/26 Command Post	1
(2)	Rifle companies	8 per company
(3)	Reconnaissance	2
(4)	Antracs	1
(5)	Sanitation	3
(6)	Supply	7
(7)	Shore Party	2
(8)	Sick Call	7
(9)	Administration	3
(10)	Medical Health Records	6
(11)	B Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines	2
(12)	W Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines	2
(13)	Engineers	1
(14)	Dental	1
(15)	Tanks	1

c. Casualties/Injuries Treated

- (1) WIA - 47
- (2) KIA - 00
47 - Total Combat Casualties
- (3) Non-Combat injuries - 05
Non-Combat deaths - 01
06 - Total Non-Combat Casualties
- (4) Routine Sick Call - 569

d. DentalUNCLASSIFIED
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~~SECRET~~

(1) The dental clinic was established and operated aboard the USS VALLEY FORGE during 1-10 August and at 1st Medical Battalion and Naval Support Activity from 10-31 August.

(2) One new dental technician reported aboard on 17 August.

e. Significant Events

(1) On 2 August 1969, two corpsmen were wounded in action. One was medevaced to Yokohama, Japan and the other to Naval Support Activity Hospital. Battalion Aid Station offloaded with the Battalion Landing Team and was established at Hill 10. Lt(MC) L.R. WALKER USNR was relieved on 12 August by Lt(MC) R.A. RASSETI USNR.

(2) During the reporting period 17 new corpsmen joined the Battalion Aid Station and 7 were detached.

(3) Two Medcaps were conducted, treating an average of 90 Vietnamese children and 10-12 adults. Since 15 August, there has been an average of 4 Vietnamese children treated per day.

14. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

a. Personnel

- (1) Chaplain's Assigned: Lieutenant John M. WRIGHT, CHC USNR
- (2) Chaplain's Assistant: Corporal Heyward D. WILLIAMS, USMC

b. Services Conducted

<u>Type</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Sunday Worship - Protestant	4	80
Sunday Mass - Catholic	15	300
Weekday Worship - Protestant	5	40
Weekday Mass - Catholic	20	110

c. Facilities

- (1) Shipboard facilities were used while afloat.
- (2) Field Masses were held on Operation BRAVE ARMADA in each company Command Post.

d. Significant Events

- (1) Visitation of troops was conducted daily.
- (2) Hospital visitations were conducted at 1st Medical Battalion and Naval Support Activity Hospital twice weekly.
- (3) Assistance was provided in 5 Red Cross cases.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10