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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 26th Marines
FPO San Francisco 96602

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6 May 1967

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-30 April 1967 (U)
Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8
(b) 3dMarDivO 5750.1A

1. In compliance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

K. L. Hoch
K. L. HOCH

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 26th Marines
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 April to 30 April 1967

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- A - Combat Missions Assigned and Significant Operations Conducted
- B - Resume of Monthly Activity
- C - Casualties
- D - Command Relations
- E - Communications-Electronics
- F - Fire Support
- G - Air Support
- H - Army Artillery Support
- I - Administration
- J - Personnel
- K - Intelligence
- L - Civil Affairs
- M - Psychological Warfare
- N - Logistics
- O - Medical-Dental
- P - Training
- Q - Chaplain Support

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONSCOMMANDER

3d Battalion, 26th Marines

LtCol K. L. HOCH (1-30Apr67)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company
Company I
Company K

2dLt P. A. FELLETHIER (1-30Apr67)

Capt R. M. MALLARD (1-30Apr67)

Capt A. L. SISCO (1-2Apr67)

Capt W. R. WILPRETT (3-30Apr67)

Company L

Capt R. J. SASEK (1-24Apr67)

Capt F. D. BYNUM (25-30Apr67)

Company M

Capt A. D. DEBONA (1-30Apr67)

Company G/2/26

Capt A. G. OOTS (9-22 Apr67)

2. For matters pertaining to the defense of the Phu Bai vital area perimeter and Gia Le Encampment area, the following units fall under the operational control of the battalion.

MAG-16 B

HqBn

3dMTBn

MCB-62

4thBn, 12thMar

H&S 2/9

H&S 2/26

FLSG-A

D/1/44

3d Engr Bn

Sector Commanders as designated.
(1-30Apr67)

(30-30Apr67)

3. STAFF OFFICERS:

Executive Officer

Maj W. J. WOODRING JR. (1-30Apr67)

S-1/Adjutant

2dLt R. D. SPENCER (1-30Apr67)

Personnel Officer

2dLt E. L. KNOX (1-30Apr67)

S-2

1stLt T. A. BAILEY (1-30Apr67)

S-3

Capt F. D. BYNUM (1-24Apr67)

Maj W. J. WOODRING JR. (25-30Apr67)

S-3A

Capt W. F. FARRELL III (1-15Apr67)

Capt C. O. REYNOLDS JR. (16-30Apr67)

S-4

1stLt M. A. KING (1-30Apr67)

Comm Officer

Capt J. L. STEELE (1-23Apr67) WIA

Capt T. M. EARLY (24-30Apr67)

Supply Officer

Capt G. A. RAINIECKI (1-30Apr67)

Motor Transport Officer

Capt P. E. SULLIVAN (1-8Apr67)

2dLt W. J. RUSSELL (9-30Apr67)

Medical Officer

Lt J. F. IPPOLITTI (1-30Apr67)

Chaplain

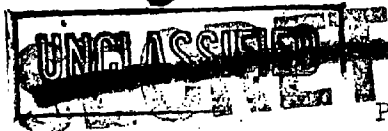
Lt B. WATTIGNY (1-30Apr67)

ENCLOSURE
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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHOTHER

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
36	1192	3	48	0	0

ENCLOSURE (1)



PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

At the beginning of April 1967, the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines held responsibility for the PHU BAI Vital Area TAOR, the mission it had assumed on 9 March 1967. The material covered in this part of the Command Chronology is a continuation of Part II, Narrative Summary to the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines Command Chronology for the period 1 March-31 March 1967.

1 April 1967

I-1 was relieved of combat outpost on Hill 230 and assumed patrolling mission for CAC-A1 and A2, I-2 continued as Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve, and I-3 continued patrol base mission in GIA LE area. K-1 continued as Sparrow Hawk, K-2 provided 2 squads as security for surveyor teams to COLCO BEACH and Hill 103 vic (YD 776193), and K-3 continued as Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. Co L (-) continued as operating company in TRUOI area, while L-3 continued mission of providing security for survey team vic (AU 828078). Co M (Rein) and attached Force Recon team continued to operate in PHU LOC area. 106 Flt continued to maintain combat outpost on Hill 180, continued to provide personnel to man a section of Sector F on the Vital Area Perimeter, and relieved I-1 of combat outpost on Hill 230. 81 Flt continued to maintain squads on Hill 180, Hill 250, COLCO BEACH, and the airstrip; and one section in defense of the Vital Area Perimeter, and one section attached to Co M. D/1/44 continued in direct support of 3/26.

At 0120H, CAC-A3 patrol vic (YD 904115) made contact with 8-12 VC vic (YD 903105). VC fired 3-4 rounds SAF and CAC-A3 returned 10 rds SAF. VC broke contact. No casualties on either side.

At 0745H, CAC-H4 reported that a civilian truck carrying sugar cane detonated a mine vic (ZD 013027), wounding 2 civilians and causing slight damage to the road, which remained passable. Mine estimated to have been 80-100 lb charge. Civilians taken to CAC-A4 for medical assistance.

At 1030H, Recon team attached to Co M made contact with 20 VC moving N on trail vic (ZC 160977). VC wore khaki uniforms, packs, and carried carbines. Results: USMC 1 WIA; Enemy: 2 KIA, 3 KIAP.

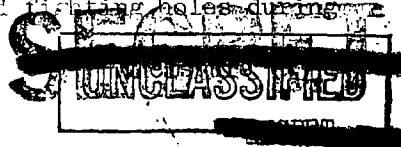
2 April 1967

K-2 relieved K-1 as Sparrow Hawk and K-1 provided security/search and destroy element for a road/ambush clearing operation between PHU BAI and the LANG CO Bridge. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0905H, K-1 (Rein) with 2 M-55's, engineers, FO and FAC departed on road sweep to LANG CO Bridge. Stopped at CAC-H8 for liaison and then proceeded along Hwy #1 searching for likely ambush sites. Halted convoy at following locations with results described:

YD 999031 - unable to fire because of ARVN troops in area.

ZD 105013 - reconned area by fire and found fighting holes during subsequent search of area.



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- AU 814003 - fired on hillside and found fighting holes during subsequent search of area.
- AU 840002 - two squads swept hillside and found nothing; turned around and started return run.
- AU 810001 - swept area with negative results.
- ZD 020024 - swept area and found a few fighting holes.

Convoy returned to HUU BAI at 1615H. Several likely sites were not fired on because of woodcutters or ARVN troops in area.

At 0930H, Recon unit attached to Co M vic (ZC 198970) fired 20 rds SAF at 3 VC moving E vic (ZC 198970). VC fled in unknown direction without returning fire. VC wore black pajamas and camouflage covers, and carried rifles.

At 0945H, Recon unit attached to Co M fired on 1 VC vic (ZC 153972). VC jumped into bush and a second VC returned fire with an AW. Recon unit fired 80 rds, VC returned 20 rds. Area searched with no evidence of enemy casualties.

At 1752H, I-3 vic (YD 805153) received 3 rds SAF from vic (YD 805151). No casualties, no further contact.

At 1700H, CAC-A6 patrol vic (YD 817175) apprehended 1 detainee, 26 yr old male farmer with name on blacklist. Delivered to CIT.

At 2100H, CAC-H received a report from an ARVN unit that the railroad bridge vic (AT 855950) was destroyed.

At 2400H, an unknown number of VC blew a 30 meter bridge on Hwy #1 vic (AU 808010). CAC-H7 patrol investigated area at 030800 H and found it to be 100% destroyed with no bypass available. Patrol also found some pamphlets, which were later determined to have been distributed by hand to taxi drivers in HUE on 2 April. Pamphlets stated that bridge was to be destroyed and the road would be mined.

3 April 1967

I-2 relieved I-3 of patrolling mission in GIA LE area and I-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. K-3 provided 2 squads as security for surveyor teams to COLCO BEACH and Royal Tomb area vic (YD 776193). All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0800H, Recon unit attached to Co M received 8 WIA while moving W on trail vic (ZC 157976) when a Claymore mine was command detonated. 1 dog (USMC) was killed. At same location, a booby-trapped 155 rd with an M-2 grenade as a detonating device was found 5 meters off the trail. The 155 rd and grenade were destroyed in place. 8 WIA's were medevaced at 0845H.

At 1000H, Engineer team with Road Runner blew in place a Russian AT mine found near a hole in Hwy #1 vic (YD 599309).

At 1115H, a civilian vehicle detonated a mine, killing 1 civilian and wounding one. CAC-H7 patrol found evidence of more mines along highway and established security for EOD team that was dispatched to area.

At 1800H, CAC-A6 patrol sighted 4 VC on trail vic (YD 837170). Patrol fired 160 rds 5.56, 8 M-79 rds, and 2 grenades. VC returned 50 rds SAF and fled SE. Subsequent search of area revealed 1 VC KIA, 1 wpn captured (K-50). CAC-A6 suffered 1 USMC WIA.

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At 1820H, I-2 vic (YD 997441) received 1 rd sniper fire from vic (YD 795135). I-2 returned 10 rds SAF and 5 60mm HE rds. Searched area with no evidence of enemy casualties.

At 1940H, L-2 vic (YD 991029) encountered 2 VC moving W on trail while moving into night positions. VC fired 4 carbine rds and fled. L-2 fired 40 rds 5.56mm and 3 M-79. Search of area revealed 1 dead VC in black pajamas and coolie hat. Also a basket containing dried meat, fish, rice, and a 2 or 3 cans assorted C-rations.

At 032220H, 3d MarDiv COC received report from HUECOC that THUA THIEN reported an unknown number of VC attacked the PF vic (YD 912180) and were burning houses in the area. ARVN fired artillery in support of PF's with unknown results.

4 April 1967

I-3 relieved I-1 of patrolling mission in support of CAC-A1 and A2, and Assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. K-3 provided 2 squads for security of 2 mine sweeps on Hwy #1 from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5, and upon return of the two squads, K-3 relieved K-2 as Sparrow Hawk. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 1030H, an ARVN truck detonated land mine vic (ZD 015027) resulting in 2 ARVN WIA. K-3 mine sweep security squad assisted in medevac.

At 1115H, truck carrying K-3 mine sweep security squad detonated a land mine while attempting to move disabled ARVN truck from road (see previous paragraph). 3 USMC WIA. Mines were probably plastic, since engineers made a thorough sweep of road after ARVN truck detonated first mine.

At 1220H, L-1 patrol detonated a mine rigged with a trip wire across trail vic (YD 997002), resulting in 2 USMC WIA.

At 2050H, M-3 heard VC talking vic (ZC 156980). M-3 threw grenade at VC, which was a dud. VC fled W and M-3 threw another grenade. Negative results.

At 2145H, CAC-H8 patrol vic (YD 993043) received an estimated 10 incoming grenades. Illum fired and VC broke contact. No casualties.

At 2154H, 1st 155 Gun Btry (Sector 5) fired 1 M-79 and 3 rds illum at 3 people in front of wire vic (YD 896121). People hit deck and then fled in unknown direction.

5 April

I-1 relieved I-2 of patrol base in GIA LE area, and I-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. K-1 (Rein) provided security for Rough Rider to DANANG. K-2 squad provided security for mine sweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5. K-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon relief from Sparrow Hawk. Co M returned to PHU BAI from PHU LOC operating area. M-1 and M-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve and M-3 relieved K-3 as Sparrow Hawk. Section of 81mm mortars returned to PHU BAI perimeter with Co M. D/1/44 provided 2 M-55's for security for Rough Rider to Danang. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0130H, CAC-H8 patrol vic (YD 988046) received 7 incoming concussion type charges, 3 of which were duds. Illum fired with negative surveillance. Upon reaching ambush sight vic (YD 993044) patrol received 100 rds SAF and 2 grenades from vic (YD 992032). Returned SAF, M-79, and M-26 grenades and fired illumination. Negative surveillance.

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At 1615H, PF's from CAC-H8 captured 1 VC vic (YD 970059). VC had 5500 piasters in his possession and was suspected of having a weapon but PF's were unable to find it. Man admitted he was a VC. CIT notified.

At 1745H, I-1 vic (YD 907141) received 1 rd sniper fire from vic (YD 799141). I-1 returned 40 to 50 rds SAF and VC did not fire anymore.

At 1843H, L-1 vic (YD 989039) received 25 rds AWF from 3 VC vic (YD 993036). L-1 returned 3 rds 60mm, 100 rds 7.62 link, 25 rds 5.56mm, and 3 rds M-79. No casualties on either side.

At 2115H, CAC-A3 patrol moving W on trail vic (YD 907104) found a ChiCom grenade rigged with trip wire across trail. As patrol moved around booby trap, an estimated 2 squads of VC fired on patrol with AWF and M-79, resulting in 1 USMC WIA and 1 PF WIA. Patrol returned SAF and continuous illumination was fired. VC broke contact at 2125H. Search of area revealed 1 VC KIAC (female), 1 carbine, and 1 plastic bag containing clothing.

At 2345H, PF's from CAC-H8 on THUA LUU Bridge vic (ZD 197010) received large volume of fire from an estimated 2 platoons of VC with AW and rifle grenades vic (ZD 201006). PF's returned fire and called artillery mission through CAC-H7. 1 PF WIA.

6 April 1967

K-1 (Rein) provided security for Rough Rider's return from DANANG. M-2 squad provided security for mine sweep from CAC-H5 to CAC-H8. D/1/44 provided 2 M-55's for security of Rough Rider's return from DANANG. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0600H, Hq Bn (Sector B) vic (YD 885150) received a burst of 15 rds AWF from 1 weapon vic (YD 885158). No fire returned due to friendly area.

At 2110H, CAC-A6 ambush vic (YD 814186) fired 60 rds SAF and 8-10 rds M-79 at 3 VC who entered ambush position from NW. VC returned 2 rds SAF. Ambush captured 1 wounded VC who died before he could be interrogated. Other 2 VC were believed to have also been wounded and fled in an unknown direction. Search of area revealed 1 K-44, 2 K-50 magazines, 1 ChiCom grenade, and 1 13 year-old girl wounded in right leg. Girl was sent to A-Med. 1 VC KIAC, 1 wpn captured.

At 2130H, CAC-H7 reported that PF's at bridge vic (ZD 198010) were receiving SAF and M-79 from an unknown number of VC. VC broke contact at 2145H. No casualties.

7 April 1967

I-3 squad provided security for resupply convoy to Co L(-). M-2 squad provided security for mine sweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5 and M-2 relieved M-3 as Sparrow Hawk upon squad's return. M-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0030H, PF's guarding bridge vic (YD 932064) received SAF from approximately 30 VC vic (YD 930064) who broke contact and fled SW when a patrol from CAC-H3 arrived at the bridge. Patrol searched area and found no evidence of enemy casualties.

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At 0330H, Chieu Hoi Village vic (YD 857163) received 4-10 60mm mortar rds from vic (YD 859162), and SAF and M-79 from an estimated 2 platoons of VC vic (YD 857163) and (YD 857165) resulting in 2 WIA's (1 female civilian, 1 armed propaganda team member). Armed propaganda team returned SAF. 3/26 Reaction Force was alerted to reinforce village if necessary. VC broke contact at 0350H. Subsequent search of area revealed blood and drag marks. 2 VC KIA.

At 0945H, an M-35 on Big Horn convoy detonated a mine vic (YD 579311). Vehicle and trailer turned over and caught fire, destroying all cargo. 1 USMC WIA. Both vehicles were left on the side of the road for recovery the next morning.

At 1330H, mine sweep for which M-2 squad was providing security found an AT mine vic (ZD 018027). Blown in place.

At 2030H, Chieu Hoi Village vic (YD 858163) received approximately 20 rds SAF from NE and NW. Illumination fired and registered. 3/26 Reaction Force alerted.

At 2215H, CAC-H6 vic (ZD 140008) heard firing on bridge vic (ZD 149015). CAC-H informed ARVN's and CAC-H6 directed artillery around bridge. No further SAF heard.

8 April 1967

K-1 squad provided security for mine sweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0930H, 3d Shore Party patrol vic (YD 828322) apprehended 1 Vietnamese male without an ID card vic (YD 828322). Delivered to CIT.

At 2110H, L-2 patrol moving W vic (YD 962054) received approx. 20 rds SAF from their left front vic (YD 962054), apparently from a VC ambush that was initiated prematurely. Patrol returned 200 rds 5.56mm and M-79. Search of area revealed 3 sets of footprints. VC apparently fled W. No casualties.

At 1450H, the Sparrow Hawk was alerted to provide security for medevac chopper that was downed by mechanical trouble vic (YD 685355). Sparrow Hawk was activated at 1456H, airborne at 1510H, and landed in LZ vic (YD 685355) at 1530H, chopping Operational Control to 4th Marines upon arrival. At 1830H, the Sparrow Hawk returned to PHU BAI. No enemy contact was made at anytime.

9 April 1967

Co K conducted search and destroy operations in the LOI NANG area. I-2(Rein) relieved Co L(-) of patrol base mission in TRUOI area. Co L(-) returned to perimeter. L-1 chopped Operational Control to Co M and moved to NAM HOA area with Co M. L-2 relieved M-3 as Sparrow Hawk. M-3 squad provided security for mine sweep from CAC-H5 to CAC-H8. Co M (Rein) moved to vic (YD 775131) to conduct operations in the NAM HOA area. G/2/26 chopped Operational Control to 3/26. G-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk, G-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve, and G-1 provided security for convoy to Big Horn. 81mm mortar platoon provided one section to Co M and one section to I-2 (Rein). All other units continued with assigned missions.

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At 0830H, a civilian bus detonated (YD 825197) killing 1025 civilian and wounding 6. CAC-H4 sent patrol to investigate findings. The mine was on a bypass and the main road remained passable.

At 0915H, Co K vic (YD 822198) received sniper fire from 3 VC vic (YD 832198). Co K returned SAF and 60mm mortar fire, and VC broke contact at 0940H. Co K suffered 1 USMC WIA. Subsequently apprehended 7 detainees and found documents in a house vic (YD 825197). Documents and detainees returned to CP.

At 0952H, Co K found a punji pit and a grenade rigged as a booby trap vic (YD 829197). Pit destroyed, grenade blown in place.

At 0935H, Co K found a grenade rigged as a booby trap on a gate vic (YD 832198). Grenade blown in place by opening gate with grappling hook.

At 1025H, Co K found a punji pit and a tunnel reinforced with concrete and sod and leading into river vic (YD 825197). Tunnel and pit were destroyed.

At 1120H, mine sweep for which M-3 squad was providing security found a home made mine vic (ZD 035026). Mine blown in place.

At 1145H, Co K vic (YD 829197) received sniper fire. Co K returned SAF and sniper ceased firing.

At 1150H, Co K exchanged SAF with an unknown number of VC vic (YD 840187).

At 1215H, Co K spotted a platoon-sized VC ambush vic (YD 835203), but was unable to fire artillery because of friendlies in area. AO maintained surveillance and Co K fired 60mm mortars and SAF into area.

At 1330H, 3/26 assumed Operational Control of G/2/26 IAW.

At 1230H, point fire team of Co K received SAF from 3 VC in spider holes vic (YD 836197), Co K returned SAF and enemy broke contact. Co K suffered 1 WIA, who died of wounds at 1250H before medevac helicopter arrived.

At 1300H, K-2 found 1 ton of native rice in bags and overhead bins in a house vic (YD 831196). K-2 slit bags and threw rice in canal when District Chief ordered rice to be destroyed. A sample of rice and of the bags was returned to the CP for investigation.

At 1330H, 155 Gun Btry vic (YD 893128) received 3 rds SAF from vic (YD 901129).

At 1535H, Co K found 6 punji pits (1 meter cubed each) vic (YD 839196). Pits were destroyed with demolitions.

At 1550H, K-1 vic (YD 843196) found 100 100 lb bags of corn, and 700 lbs of wheat. 4000 lbs of corn were evacuated by helicopter. The remaining 6000 lbs of corn and all 700 lbs of wheat were destroyed at the direction of the District Chief. 12 enemy boats were also destroyed.

At 1725H, Co K fired 25 60mm mortar rds and AWF at 15 VC vic (YD 826207). Good coverage of target, 11 VC KIAP.

At 1730H, I-2 vic (YD 988049) found 1 ChiCom AP mine while digging in mortar. Mine destroyed in place.

At 1900H, Co K vic (YD 839193) received 300 rds AWF and 5 rds 60mm mortar from vic (YD 845195). Co K called artillery mission with good coverage of target and firing ceased. 2 VC KIAP.

10 April 1967

I-3 squad provided security for mine sweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5. Co K (Rein) with 81mm mortar section and Engineer team moved to vic (YD 872064) to conduct operations in the GIA IE area. G-3 provided security for convoy to BIG HORN AO. All other units continued with assigned missions.

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At 1100H, L-4 patrol detained 2 Vietnamese males in a boat on river vic (YD 841427). Detainees had no ID and were taken to CP for interrogation. Delivered to ARVN at completion of interrogation.

At 2000H, the point of a CAC-H5 patrol on W end of bridge vic (ZC 092999) encountered approx one company of VC who were just crossing bridge from E end vic (ZC 092999). Patrol fired 400 rds 5.56mm and 150 rds 7.62 link. VC returned 100 rds of what sounded like carbine and 9mm fire. VC attempted to assault across bridge but then withdrew to the E. Search of area revealed 2 VC KIAC, one on bridge, 1 in water. Five VC KIAP.

At 2145H, CAC-A reported that VOA Radio Station vic (YD 836177) fired 81mm mortars on 100 VC vic (YD 834167) with unknown results.

11 April 1967

I-3 completed mission of conducting patrols for CAC-A1 and CAC-A2 and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon return to perimeter. Upon relief as Sparrow Hawk, L-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. G-1 provided security for convoy to BIG HORN. G-2 relieved L-2 as Sparrow Hawk. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0745H, M-3 challenged 2 VCS walking on trail vic (YD 783103). VCS attempted to flee and M-3 fired on them, wounding 1 in left leg. Wounded VCS was apprehended and delivered to District Headquarters, other VCS escaped. District Headquarters, recognized the wounded man as being a VC.

At 0755H, M-1 destroyed a 105 rd rigged with pull wire lying across path vic (YD 769116).

At 0850H, M-1 vic (YD 778114) received 3 rds SAF from enemy snipers vic (YD 779114). M-1 returned 2 IAAW's, 50 rds 5.56mm, and 2 M-79 rds. No casualties.

At 0920H, M-3 vic (YD 784106) made contact with 3 VC carrying AK-47's and grenades walking on trail vic (YD 783106). Firefight resulted in 1 VC KIAC and 1 VC KIAP. 3 AK-47 magazines and a cartridge belt were captured.

At 1430H, Co M vic (YD 786115) received fire from 10 VC vic (YD 786115). While searching ville, VC moved in and began shooting up area. Co M suffered 1 USMC KIA and ARVN's suffered 1 KIA.

At 1840H, CAC-A6 patrol vic (YD 827168) made contact with 30-50 VC walking through graveyard vic (YD 824162). CAC-A6 patrol fired 200-400 rds SAF, 20 M-79 rds and requested artillery. VC fired 300-400 rds SAF and 2 60mm mortars rds before breaking contact and splitting into two groups which fled N and S. CAC-A6 was sent to vic (YD 817164) to observe artillery. They observed VC carrying away bodies of 5 VC KIAP. VC unit carried 1 .30 cal MG, several K-44's, 1 M-1, and a moderate number of AW's. VC wore black uniforms and green uniforms with brown capes.

At 1900H, 11th Engineers vic (YD 832157) received 3 rds SAF from snipers in treeline to their N, resulting in 2 USMC WIA.

At 2150H, Co K ambush vic (YD 887063) fired on 3 VC in heavy brush. VC fled in unknown direction. Area swept under illumination with negative results.

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At 2200H, CAC-H5 patrol lost contact with point element. Point and main body started to return to CP. Enroute, the point made contact with a VC patrol vic (ZD 086992). As the main body moved to reinforce the point, it was ambushed by an estimated 2 platoons of VC with SA and grenades vic (ZD 090003), resulting in 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA, 1 USMC MIA, 2 PF MIA, and 3 VC KIAF. CAC-H sent reaction force to area and all three elements linked up and returned to CP. USMC MIA returned to CP at 0630H. At 0710H, a search party investigated area and found 1 PF KIA and 1 PF WIA. Final results: USMC: 1 KIA, 1 WIA; Enemy: 3 VC KIAF.

12 April 1967

Co I CP and I-3 moved to TRUOI area to link with I-2 as operating company (-) in TRUOI area. L-2 relieved L-3 of surveyor security mission vic (AU 8207) and L-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. All other units continue with assigned missions.

At 0545H, CAC-H7 ambush vic (ZD 202017) heard noises near their ambush site and threw 10 M-26 grenades into area. Swept area with negative results and returned to CP. One marine was wounded by grenade fragments.

At 1140H, Co K vic (YD 879055) called artillery on 7 VC moving NE along ridge vic (YD 894070) with good effect on target. 5 VC KIAF.

At 1935H, CAC-A6 patrol vic (YD 832169) observed 4 armed VC wearing U.S. utilities vic (YD 833169) who were approaching the patrol's position. Patrol set up immediate ambush, but did not fire, hoping they had not been seen. VC spotted patrol and fled W.

13 April 1967

G-3 (Rein) provided security for Rough Rider to DONG HA. D/1/44 provided 2 M-55's for security of Rough Rider to DONG HA. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0030H, CAC-A3 patrol vic (YD 904115) received heavy AWP, satchel charges, and grenades from an estimated platoon of VC vic (YD 904115). Patrol returned SAF and fired illumination and VC broke contact. 2 PF's were killed. Results: USMC 4 WIA; Enemy: 1 KIAF, 2 weapons (1 M-1, 1 BAR) captured.

At 0300H, Popular Forces on bridge (YD 913116) received AWP from vic (YD 913114). Patrol returned SAF and requested illumination and reaction force was dispatched to bridge. VC broke contact and fled in unknown direction. No casualties.

At 0630H, CAC-H4 found a mine in road vic (ZD 015026). Mine blown in place and road remained passable.

At 0915H, CAC-H3 vic (YD 967063) dispatched patrol to market place when PF's reported that VC were embarking there. Apprehended 7 suspicious personnel who were returned to CP for interrogation.

At 1246H, K-3 vic (YD 892040) called artillery on 12 VC moving E vic (YD 915036). Results unknown.

At 1325H, Co K vic (YD 892040) called artillery on 5 VC wearing white, black, and brown clothing who were carrying large bundles and moving E. 3 VC KIAF.

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At 1400H, Sector E (4/12) vic (YD 886150) observed 5 unarmed Vietnamese men wearing civilian clothes and approximately 20 yrs old who approached perimeter wire and began taking notes on paper. Men fled when sentry approached them. Sentry had never seen them before.

At 1600H, Sector E (4/12) apprehended 6 Vietnamese children selling narcotics and whiskey vic (YD 881126). Detainees and narcotics delivered to PMO. Whiskey destroyed.

14 April 1967

G-3 provided security for Rough Riders' return from DONG HA, and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon return. B-1 of 1/26 chopped Operational Control to 3/26 and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. D/1/44 provided 2 M-55's for Rough Riders' return from DONG HA. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0400H, villagers reported to CAC-H7 that 30 VC entered THUY TRU vic (ZD 183007) and took Tran Van Khoa, age 30 from his home to the church, where they shot him in the head.

At 1000H, CAC-H7 reported that an unknown number of mines of unknown type were placed in Hwy #1 vic (AJ 833007) by VC sometime last night. Mines were removed by friendlies in area.

At 1547H, M-1 vic (YD 743183) destroyed 1 uncovered 3-4 month old punji trap 2 1/2' long, 2' deep, and 1' wide with 10" stakes. Also destroyed 100 7-8" bamboo stakes extending 75' along trail and 3' on either side of it. Area believed to be old VC position.

At 2045H, a sentry from 4/12 observed a semi-naked figure crouching in a 105mm howitzer pit vic (YD 888127). Individual threw a hand grenade and fled when sentry challenged him, and sentry fired 3 rds SAF at individual. Reaction squad searched area with negative results.

At 2120H, CAC-A6 ambush vic (YD 814183) fired 30 rds 5.56mm and 1 M-26 grenade at 2 VC who approached ambush position from the N. VC returned 20 rds SAF and fled N. Ambush pursued by M-79 fire and searched area with no evidence of enemy casualties.

At 2130H, a 1/4 ton U.S. Army truck returning to HHU BAI from HUE was ambushed by an unknown number of VC vic (YD 827179). Truck ran into rice paddy, VOA radio station returned fire, and CAC-A6 reaction force was dispatched to area.

15 April 1967

I-1 assumed election security mission in CAC-A7 area. Co K returned to perimeter from GIA LE area. K-1 relieved L-3 as Sparrow Hawk at 1550H and K-2 and K-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. L-3 relieved G-2 as Sparrow Hawk at 0900H. G-1 assumed election security mission in CAC-A6/9 area. G-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. G-3 squad provided security for Survey Team to Colco Beach. B-1/1/26 provided security for Rough Rider to DANANG and chopped Operational Control to 1/26. All other units continued with assigned missions.

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At 1100H, a civilian bus detonated a booby-trapped 155 rd vic (ZD 068012), one civilian was killed, three were wounded, the bus was destroyed, and a crater 3' deep and 10' in diameter blocked further traffic on Hwy #1.

At 1830H, M-3 spotted 3 VC with packs and rifles moving E vic (YD 777110) while moving to ambush position. Point fired 10 rds 5.56mm and VC fled in unknown direction. Search of area revealed several large bundles clothing, but no evidence of enemy casualties.

At 1850H, M-1 and Co M CP group moving to new CP site received approximately 100 rds SAF from 10 VC in defensive positions vic (YD 783115). M-1 returned 150 rds 7.62mm linked, 300 rds 5.56mm, 1 rd M-79, 3 rds 60mm mortar, and 4 M-26 grenades. One VC was hit, but was carried off by the other VC, who fled NE.

At 1855H, M-3 found freshly dug enemy positions vic (YD 777110). One VC attempted to flee when M-3 flank security moved to flush him from bushes. M-3 fired 8 rds 5.56mm, resulting in 1 VC KIA.

At 1915H, HUONG THUY District Officials reported to CAC-A vic (YD 846172) that a Popular Forces outpost vic (YD 846187) spotted approx 1 platoon of VC carrying a 60mm mortar and unknown number of AW's moving E towards LOI NONG. Outpost fired 200 rds SAF and called artillery on VC. VOA radio station vic (YD 834178) fired an unknown number of mortar rds.

At 2000H, the Hamlet Chief of THIEU HOAI was beaten by 3 VC and shot while escaping. Hamlet Chief came to CAC-H5 for treatment of his wound, which was not serious.

At 2045H, CAC-A6 patrol vic (YD 815189) fired 2 rds SAF and 5 M-79, at 2 VC who were moving towards their position. Search of area revealed no evidence of enemy casualties.

16 April 1967

Co I (-) returned to perimeter from TRUOI area and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon return. I-3 relieved K-1 as Sparrow Hawk at 1600H. K-1 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon return from Sparrow Hawk commitment at 1600H. I-3 squad provided security for exchange of liaison personnel and resupply to HHU GIA. G-3 relieved Co I (-) of patrolling mission in TRUOI area. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0300H, villagers reported to CAC-H that VC terrorized 1 civilian from BAT SON vic (ZD 007034) and took him with them when they left the village. CAC-H4 dispatched a squad to investigate.

At 0915H, Co M patrol vic (YD 787110) received 30 rds AWF from a pagoda. Co M deployed on line and assaulted pagoda, firing 300 rds SA, 1 M-26 grenade, and 1 M-79 rd. Contact resulted in 1 VC KIA, 1 VC KIAP. Remaining VC fled SW. VC KIA was a female nurse with assorted medical gear.

At 1550H, the Sparrow Hawk was activated to assist a Recon team that was ambushed. K-1 was launched at 1620H with 45 troops and landed vic (YD 835006) at 1650H. From LZ, the unit moved N to vic (YD 835011) to link with Recon team, which had suffered 1 KIA (the patrol leader).

At 1945H, both the Sparrow Hawk and the Recon team returned to the perimeter. No enemy contact was made at any time during the period the Sparrow Hawk was committed.

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At 2125H, Co M vic (YD 783117) fired 25 rds 5.56mm and 15 rds illumination at 3 VC who were moving S across a field vic (YD 781119). Area searched the following morning with no evidence of enemy casualties.

At 2220H, CAC-A3 vic (YD 912118) received 15 rds SAF from an unknown number of VC to their S. No further contact.

At 2255H, 3d MT Bn (Sector C) received 7 rds SAF from vic (YD 910147). No further contact.

17 April 1967

I-1 completed election security mission for CAC-A7 and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. I-1 squad provided security for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5. Co K relieved Co M as operating company in NAM HOA area. Co M and L-1 returned to perimeter and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. G-1 completed election security mission for CAC-A6/9 and assumed patrolling mission in GIA LE area. G-2 provided 2 squads as surveyor security at COLCO Beach. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 1950H, G-1 vic (YD 790114) received 4 rds SAF from a hut 75 meters away while moving to ambush site. G-1 returned 60 rds 5.56mm and VC fled out of back of hut to the E. No casualties.

At 2018H, MCB-62 (Sector D) vic (YD 895135) fired 2 rds 7.62mm at 2 people vic (YD 896134). Figures disappeared without returning fire.

18 April 1967

M-2 relieved I-3 as Sparrow Hawk and I-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. G-2 provided 2 squads as surveyor security at COLCO Beach and 1 squad as security for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5. All other units continued with their assigned missions.

At 0045H, FBSC-A (Sector B) vic (YD 861141) received 15 rds SAF from vic (YD 859143). Three USMC personnel who went down to the perimeter wire to see if the fire was coming from ARVN's were wounded by an M-26 grenade. No fire returned. 3 USMC WIA's.

At 0925H, an ARVN truck detonated a mine vic (ZD 028027), resulting in 2 ARVN WIA. CAC-H4 squad swept area with negative results.

At 0930H, an ARVN armored vehicle detonated a mine vic (ZD 070011). No casualties. CAC-H5 squad swept area with negative results. The minesweep detail for which G-3 squad was providing security also found 2 pressure detonated box type mines vic (ZD 024026). Both were blown in place.

At 1930H, CAC-H5 patrol vic (ZD 089003) saw an estimated 60 VC setting in an ambush in a pagoda vic (ZD 089005) CAC-H5 fired 400 rds 7.62 link, 1000 rds 5.56mm, and 30 rds M-79. VC returned 10 rds 60mm mortar, 7 rds WP, 3 hand grenades and approximately 1800 rds SAF. CAC-H5 had 6 men superficially wounded, 2 USMC and 4 PF's. Patrol observed VC carrying off numerous bodies but was unable to search area because enemy force outnumbered CAC-H5 patrol. Results: USMC 2 WIA; Enemy: 10 KIA, 24 KIAP. At 190630H, PF's reported to CAC-H5 that 8 VC carried off bodies of 4 dead VC vic (ZD 089003).

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At 2200H, CAC-H5 patrol vic (ZD 085006) observed an estimated platoon of VC crossing a path and setting up an ambush vic (ZD 085006). CAC-H5 fired 200 rds 5.56mm, 3 rds M-79, and 5 M-26 grenades. VC returned approximately 200 rds SAF before breaking contact at 2250H. As patrol attempted to evacuate civilians from a house that had caught on fire during the firefight, the VC resumed contact. Patrol set up a defense around the house and VC fled S. One civilian was evacuated to CAC-H5 CP. Results: 5 VC KIA.

At 2040H, CAC-A6 patrol vic (YD 816186) received 15 rds SAF from VC vic (YD 816186), resulting in 1 PT WIA. Patrol returned 60 rds SAF and VC fled N. Patrol swept area and found 1 five foot boat with bullet holes in it.

19 April 1967

Co I 15 minute alert to be helilifted to BEN TAU area to exploit any contact made by recon element. Co K completed mission as operating company in NAM HOA area and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve at 1855H. L-3 moved to PHE LOC to reinforce CAC-H5 at 1400H. At 2030H, L-1 moved to vic (YD 854160) to provide security for Chieu Hoi Village. M-1 squad provided security for convoy to Big Horn AO. G-2 squad at Colco Beach completed security mission at 1800H, and another G-2 squad provided security for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0315H, 106 plt on Hill 180 vic (YD 856134) sighted 3 lights of flashlight intensity from an unknown source moving about in a 200 meter square area vic (YD 839125). Called illumination and 81mm mortar mission and lights went out. Lights last observed moving N.

At 1205H, a 5-man water patrol from Co K CP fired 3 rds SAF at 2 VC moving N on a trail in draw vic (YD 732090), killing one. Other VC fled into a thicket and returned 15 rds carbine fire. Patrol fired 30 rds SAF and 1 M-26 grenade into thicket. Search of area revealed one 30 year old dead VC with documents and 782 gear, 1 M-1 carbine, and fresh blood on leaves in a tunnel in the thicket. Apparently the other VC crawled into thicket and rested for awhile before crawling out. Results: 1 VC KIA, 1 VC KIA, 1 wpm captured.

At 2100H, L-31 patrol vic (ZC 091999) received 20 rds AWF from an estimated 5 VC in building vic (ZC 091999). L-31 returned 200 rds 5.56mm and 6 rds M-79 and VC fled NE out of building. Patrol made a quick search of area and found 1 VC helmet, one 5-10 lb sack of rice, and a bag of C-rations and assorted chow. Results: 1 VC KIA. VC KIA later identified as local man with father and two sisters in village. S-2 sent CIT to area the following day to question relatives.

20 April 1967

K-1 provided one squad for security of minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5 and one squad for security of EOD team which went to CAC-H5 to destroy duds. At 0800H, K-2 relieved G-3 of patrolling mission in TRUOI area and K-3 relieved G-1 of patrolling mission in GIA LE area. L-1

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completed mission of providing security for CHIEU HOI Village and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. Co M (-) provided security for Rough Rider to DONG HA. Co G chopped Operational Control to 4th Marines at 1200H and prepared to depart for BIG HORN AO.

At 0013H, Hq Bn (Sector B) reported 2 rds of incoming from an unknown source landed vic (YD 900152). Search of area revealed no craters. Roads believed to have been 60mm mortars.

21 April 1967

Co I stood down on 15 minute alert as Recon back-up element and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve at 1900H. L-2 completed mission of providing security for surveyor team vic (AU 8207) and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve at 1800H. Co M (-) provided security for Rough Rider's return from DONG HA. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0110H, 3d Tank Bn received what was believed to be two incoming grenades vic (YD 835144), resulting in 1 USMC WIA. Fired illumination and reaction squad searched area with negative results.

At 0855H, CAC-H4 blew in place two mines vic (ZD 014026) and (ZD 013027). Both mines were electrically wired and contained 40-60 lbs of TNT.

At 1650H, K-3 vic (YD 808077) observed 3 VC moving downstream in a camouflaged boat vic (YD 803073). VC wore black pajamas and appeared to be delivering or receiving supplies. K-3 fired 100 rds 7.62 link and saw all 3 VC fall into river and disappear. 3 VC KIAP.

At 1500H, PF Corporal DUO returned to CAC-H8 CP and reported that he had been captured by 1 VC in village of PAO CAN vic (YD 958043), but had escaped by swimming across river. CAC-H8 sent reactionary squad down river opposite PAO CAN. Upon reaching position, squad received 8 rounds SAF from 1 VC in village armed with an M-1 carbine and M-26 grenade, squad returned 10 rds 5.56mm and 5 rds M-79 and VC fled S.

At 2020H, FLSG vic (YD 863141) received 3 rds SAF from ARVN training area to their N. Two rds hit in CP. 3/26 contacted DONG DA and they investigated incident.

At 2035H, 106 Flt on Hill 230 vic (YD 848086) called artillery on a yellow light vic (YD 881065). Light appeared 4 times. Each time it would rise 20 feet and then return to deck and go out. Light stayed out after artillery mission.

At 2050H, CAC-H5 patrol made contact with an unknown number of VC moving W across bridge vic (ZC 090999). Patrol requested assistance and L-33 reaction force was dispatched from CAC-H5 CP. Reaction force made contact with VC on W side of bridge. VC broke contact and fled N. Reaction force fired 40 rds 60mm mortar vic (ZC 090995). H5 patrol and reaction force linked at 2105H and reaction force crossed bridge and searched area S for 200 meters making contact with unknown number of VC vic (ZD 091997). VC fired 300 rds SAF, 10 hand grenades, and 1 satchel charge. Patrol and reaction force returned 500 rds 5.56mm 500 rds 7.62 link, 12 M-26 grenades, 45 rds M-79, 40 rds 60mm HE, and 139 rds 60mm illum. Search of area revealed 1 automatic weapon, 6 ChiCom grenades, 1 ChiCom 60mm mortar round, 1 ChiCom Claymore, and 2 green tubes which appeared to be Bangalore torpedoes. Results: USMC 1 KIA, 2 WIA; Enemy: 1 KIAC, 7 KIAP, 1 WIA, 1 captured.

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22 April 1967

Co I assumed mission as operating company in PHU LOC area. K-1 assumed mission of election security for CAC-H1. L-1 provided 1 squad for minesweep between CAC-H8 and CAC-H5, and 1 squad as election security for CAC-H1. M-1 relieved M-2 as Sparrow Hawk and M-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0715H, CAC-A6 dispatched a patrol to vic (YD 820179) to investigate a report from PF's that the VC had mined the market place at that location. Patrol found seven satchel charges and one Chi Com grenade. Satchel charges blown in place, grenade returned to CAC-A6 CP.

At 2130H, CAC-H4 patrol engaged 7-10 VC who were planting a satchel charge on the bridge vic (ZC 201025). Patrol fired 500 rds 5.56mm and 14 M-26 grenades, and VC returned 50 rds SAF and 5 frag grenades, before fleeing W. Initial search of area revealed 1 submachinegun (K-50), 3 magazines, 1 satchel charge, 2 ChiCom grenades, 2 bamboo mine detonators, 2 batteries, and a notebook. Patrol returned to CP to medevac one of the WIA's and then returned to bridge to search area more thoroughly. Search completed at 230130H, with no further findings. Results: USMC 3 WIA; Enemy: 1 KIAC, 2 KIAP.

23 April 1967

L-1 (+) provided security for engineer team in NAM HOA area and one squad for election security at CAC-H1. M-2 provided one squad as security for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5, and one squad as security for Road Runner to SHAWNEE. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0745H, CAC-A6 and A7 were engaged by approximately 30 VC vic (YD 831196) as they were moving down the Loi Nong River to occupy a blocking position vic (YD 837196) as part of a HUONG THUY District RF/PF operation. Enemy fired 300 rds SAF and CAC unit returned 10 M-79 rds and 250 rds SAF. Contact resulted in 3 PF WIA, 1 USMC WIA, and 1 VC KIAP. After medevacing wounded personnel, CAC-A6 and A7 moved to vic (YD 833197) where they had a brief firefight with 2 or 3 VC which resulted in 1 VC KIAC, 5 civilians who were wounded in this firefight were medevaced to HUE. No further contact was made during the remainder of the operation, although wounded villagers said that over 50 VC had been in the area that morning. Upon the approach of the CAC units, one half of the VC fled east and the remainder stayed back to fire at the Marines. The operation was completed at 1400H.

At 0830H, a civilian truck detonated a mine vic (YD 965020). No casualties. Road was repaired and traffic continued after a brief delay.

At 0930H, 5 VC killed a Vietnamese woman vic (YD 969078). CAC-H3 patrol investigated area and found woman's body with a note saying that she had collaborated with the enemy and was to serve as a warning to other collaborators. CIT sent team to investigate.

24 April 1967

K-1 completed election security mission for CAC-H1 and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. K-2 and K-3 were relieved of patrol base missions in TRUOI and GIA LE areas and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. L-1 squad completed election security mission for CAC-H1 and L-1

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relieved M-2 as Sparrow Hawk at 1700H. L-2 provided 1 squad for minesweep between CAC-H8 and CAC-H5, 1 squad for Road Runner to SHAWNEE AO. L-3 completed election security mission for CAC-H5 and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. M-2 relieved M-1 as Sparrow Hawk at 0800 and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve at 1700H. M-1 with an AN/TPS-21 relieved K-2 of patrolling mission in TRUOI area. M-3 relieved K-3 of patrolling mission in GIA LE area. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0145H, Bq Bn (Sector B) received 4 rds SAF from vic (YD 887156). Returned 100 rds 5.56mm with unknown results.

At 1930H, CAC-H reported that 100 VC were planning to pick up food vic (ZD 035006) and to terrorize the villagers in CAC-H4 area. At 2230H, 4/12 fired mission vic (ZD 035006) with unknown results.

At 2015H, CAC-H3 patrol fired 300 rds SAF and 3 M-26 grenades at 2 VC vic (YD 957062). VC fled through rice paddy and linked with 7-8 other VC. Patrol fired 15 M-79 rds and VC split up and fled south, east and west. Searched area but found no bodies. 2 VC KIAP.

25 April 1967

K-1 squad provided security for survey team vic (YF 057029). M-2 provided 1 squad for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5, 1 squad surveyor security vic (ZD 129093), and 1 squad as security for Road Runner to SHAWNEE AO. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 2040H, 11th Engineer unit at GIA LE Encampment area vic (YD 838162) received 4 rds SAF from an unknown number of VC to their N. Unit returned 5 rds SAF, 1 M-26 grenade, and 8 rds 81mm illumination with unknown results.

At 0200H, CAC-H8 vic (YD 975055) reported that FF unit guarding bridge vic (YD 980054) exchanged SAF with an unknown number of VC who were attempting to destroy bridge; H-8 received approximately 8 stray rounds. No casualties.

26 April 1967

K-2 provided one squad as surveyor security vic (ZD 057029). M-2 provided one squad for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5, one squad for security of Road Runner to SHAWNEE, and one squad as surveyor security vic (ZD 129093). All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 1430H, M-3 vic (YD 787115) fired 60 rds 5.56mm at 5 armed VC vic (YD 786115) who were moving from ville toward river. VC returned 10 rds SAF before breaking contact. 1 VC KIAP.

At 1520H, M-3 vic (YD 788116) received heavy SAF from ville vic (YD 788115). M-3 returned SAF and VC broke contact. No casualties.

27 April 1967

M-2 provided one squad for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5 and one squad for Road Runner to SHAWNEE. All other units continued with assigned missions.

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At 1040H, I-2 patrol vic (ZD 096981) detonated a booby-trapped M-26 grenade, resulting in 2 USMC WIA. Both men were medevaced for shrapnel wounds in legs.

At 1115H, M-3 patrol received one grenade from their rear while crossing a bridge vic (YD 784120). Search of area revealed spot where someone could have been hiding. 1 USMC WIA.

At 1145H, I-2 vic (ZC 096982) found a 105 rd buried 3 inches under surface of ground and 1 foot off of trail with comm wire running 75 meters to a freshly cleared area. No battery or firing device. Destroyed in place.

At 1315H, M-3 fired 30 rds SAF at 2 VC who were crossing stream vic (YD 798140). VC fled without returning fire, M-3 captured 1 poncho, rice, clothes, papers, a pay roster, and 1 empty pistol magazine.

At 1428H, the Sparrow Hawk (L-1) was alerted to be helilifted to NAM HOA area to exploit contact made by recon team. Entire 60 man Sparrow Hawk went to airfield and L-3 formed a new Sparrow Hawk but was never inserted because of poor landing zones in area. At 1630H, the Sparrow Hawk was secured and returned to the battalion area.

At 1815H, I-3 squad ambush vic (ZC 170987) called artillery on 19 armed VC walking N along a hedge row vic (ZC 157974). Good effect on target. I-3 dispatched unit to area at 1835H. At 1900H, unit had moved to vic (ZC 157980) and was engaged in a firefight with an unknown number of VC vic (ZC 157974). At 1910H, unit received 3 60mm mortar rounds. I-3 returned artillery fire on suspected enemy mortar position and continued to advance. At one point unit closed to within 20 meters of what was estimated to have been the point of a VC company armed with AK-50's, carbines, 1 BAR, and 60mm mortars. At 1935H, a gunship arrived on station but I-3 could not maintain radio communications with the unit in contact and could not conduct a direct airstrike on enemy. Enemy broke contact and I-3 returned to original position to medevac 3 wounded Marines. During the contact numerous enemy bodies were seen, but no bodies or weapons were recovered because I-3 unit was greatly outnumbered. Results: USMC 3 WIA; Enemy: 14 KIA, 15 KIAP.

At 1030H, C/1/13 patrol discovered enemy mortar position with one base plate impression and aiming stakes which were dug in and camouflaged vic (

28 April 1967

Co K commenced Operation GOLDEN FLEECE I at 0900H. L-1 provided security for engineers in NAM HOA area. M-2 provided one squad for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5, and one squad for Road Runner to SHAWNEE. M-3 completed patrolling mission in GIA LE area and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0136H, PHU BAI perimeter received incoming mortars from vic (YD 8911). The three M-42's on the south side of the perimeter began returning fire after the first flashes, at 0138H Mortar Plan #4 was fired, and at 0142H Mortar Plan #3 was fired, at 0158H fired zone shifting fire vic (YD 893113), and at 0200H Mortar Plan #6 was fired. During the attack the PHU BAI area received 68 USMC WIA, 28 of which were from 3/26.

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Subsequent investigation revealed that the perimeter received over 200 incoming 82mm mortar rds. MAG-16 suffered varying degrees of shrapnel damage to 22 aircraft; 3/26 had 10 vehicles damaged, 5 of which were destroyed, and 3d Recon had generator damaged. MAG-16 reported 75 craters, and 5 duds, 3d ME Bn reported 5 craters. MCB-62 reported 42 craters vic (YD 898137), 4/12 reported 18 craters in "C" Battery area and 25 craters in 155 Battery area, Recon Bn reported 4 craters and 18 duds and 3/26 reported 9 craters. In addition, an unknown number of rounds landed in the marshy areas near MCB-62 and 4/12. The following morning, a patrol from "C" Battery found enemy mortar position vic (YD 889117) with 6 base plate impressions 2 ft wide and 1 ft deep and one FO position. Also found 3 aiming stakes and 3 parapets, all of which were covered with camouflage. One-man foxholes were located near the entrance of each mortar position. All the holes had been dug the previous day and could accommodate 30-50 men. One of the mortar positions and the FO position had received direct hits from artillery. Two other mortar positions had received hits within 2 meters, and there was numerous artillery and mortar craters throughout the area.

At 0255H, the airstrip received SAF from unknown direction. Contact broken at 0300H.

At 0315H, airship fired at movement vic (YD 911129) and at 0325H, airship moved out of area.

At 0445H, Sector B (Hq Bn) vic (YD 902149) received one hand grenade, resulting in 1 USMC KIA. Hq Bn fired 10 rds SAF at 2 persons sighted 75 meters in front of position in direction of which grenade was thrown. Unable to observe results.

At 0410H, 4/12 observed a light from a possible mortar position vic (YD 981119). Fired zone-shifting mission and M-42's.

At 0705H, I-3 called artillery on 3 VC vic (ZC 157974) with good coverage of area, unknown results.

At 1125H, a USAF spotter plane called artillery on 3 VC in a clearing vic (AU 832029), resulting in 3 VC KIA. CAC-H7 sent a patrol to check bodies, but bodies had already been carried off. One 105 dud was destroyed by EOD team.

At 1745H, Ngo Mong, age 8, was shot in back by an unknown person armed with a carbine while herding water buffalo vic (YD 893106). Ngo was brought to CAC-A3 by his father and medevaced to A-Med.

At 1915H, Co I observation post vic (ZD 086007) fired 81mm mortars at 3 VC at position previously occupied by Co I vic (ZD 093980). Artillery was fired on approaches to position. Good coverage of target, unknown results.

29 April 1967

Co I relieved M-1 of patrolling mission in TRUOI area and continued to operate in HHU LOC area. L-2 relieved L-1 of security mission for engineers in NAM HOA area and L-1 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. L-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon relief as Sparrow Hawk. M-1 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon relief of patrolling mission in TRUOI area. M-2 provided 1 squad for minesweep

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from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5 and 1 squad for security of Road Runner to SHAWNEE. M-3 relieved L-3 as Sparrow Hawk. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0930H, a civilian truck detonated a pressure type mine vic (ZD 138009). The explosion blew the tires off the truck and left a 6 ft by 6 ft crater in the road, but road remained passable and there were no casualties. CAC-A6 dispatched a squad to area. Two empty 2½ lbs bags of C-4 were found 30 meters from crater.

At 1030H, 4/12 patrol found 1 M-1 AT mine, 3 rds 60mm smoke, and 30 rds 60mm HE vic (YD 874112) EOD team destroyed the mine and mortar rds.

At 1205H, a civilian truck detonated a percussion-type mine vic (ZD 125015), resulting in 2 civilian KIA and 1 civilian WIA. CAC-H6 patrol was sent to area and assisted in clearing vehicle from road.

At 2250H, CAC-H6 ambush vic (ZD 129012) heard coughing vic (ZD 124017). Enemy approached to within 30 meters of ambush position and ambush fired 15 rds 5.56mm and 2 frag grenades. Enemy took cover and fled. Search of area revealed that the CAC-H6 unit's Claymore had been turned around to face the ambush position.

30 April 1967

L-3 provided one squad for minesweep from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5 and one squad for security of Road Runner to SHAWNEE. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0030H, K-1 ambush vic (YD 978048) received SAF from an estimated 5-6 VC who broke contact and ran into a nearby house and then out the back door. K-1 entered the house and apprehended 6 VCS: a man and a woman 50 yrs old, a young girl, and 3 children. Also captured material used for making booby traps, including an M-26 grenade. VCS and materials taken to Co K CP for investigation.

At 0105H, FLSG Civil Affairs Unit reported that the Chieu Hoi Village vic (YD 867154) was receiving a light probe by an unknown number of VC vic (YD 868155).

At 0310H, 11th Engineers vic (YD 844154) fired 1 rd M-79 and 40 rds SAF at 4 VC (YD 845155). VC returned 10 rds SAF and fled in an unknown direction. No casualties.

At 0530H, CAC-H6 patrol heard approximately 2 VC near the wreckage of a mined truck vic (ZD 125015) (see entry for 291030H above). Patrol fired 20 rds SAF and 2 M-26 grenades. Search of area revealed no evidence of enemy casualties.

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED AND SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED.

Third Battalion, 26th Marines continued with the responsibility for the PHU BAI TAOR throughout April. As the Vital Area Defense Battalion, the Battalion's mission was to defend the PHU BAI Vital Area and provide security for the TAOR; ensure that adequate surveillance and security are maintained on the perimeter; maintain reserve/counterattack force during the hours of darkness; maintain combat outposts on Hill 180 and Hill 230, provide personnel for 81mm mortar section at Colco Beach; maintain reinforced platoon (Sparrow Hawk/Reaction Force) on five-minute alert; maintain one company (Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve) on two-hour alert; maintain patrol bases and conduct extensive patrolling in the GIA LE and TRUOI areas; assume Operational Control of Combined Action Companies A and H; conduct extensive patrolling in assigned AO; provide security for Rough Riders to DONG HA and DANANG; provide Officer/Staff NCO and Forward Observer for Road Runners to BIG HORN/SHAWNEE AO.

The entire month of April was spent in fulfilling this mission. In addition, both formal and informal training was conducted in PHU BAI, the entire Battalion was equipped with the M-16, and 362 new replacements were joined.

The numerous routine commitments assigned in the Battalion's mission reduced the Battalion's capability of conducting numerous company sized operations. One rifle company was always committed to the Sparrow Hawk and Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. Two platoons were always committed to patrol bases in the GIA LE and TRUOI areas. Other forces were required to man combat outposts on Hills 180 and 230, and a sector of the Vital Area Perimeter. Frequent Convoy, Election, Minesweep, Surveyor, and other security requirement further depleted the Battalion's available manpower.

Nevertheless, the Battalion conducted a number of company-sized operations, from 9 to 20 April, the Battalion had operational control of a fifth company, G/2/26, and had much more freedom to operate.

At the beginning of April, two companies were conducting search and destroy operations in the field: Co M (Rein) operated in the PHU LOC area until 5 April, and Co L (-) operated in the TRUOI Area until 9 April.

On 9 April, Co K conducted a search and clear operation in the LOI NONG Area, and Co M with L-1 attached moved into the NAM HOA Area, where it conducted search and destroy operations until 17 April.

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Co K conducted Search and destroy operations in the GIA LE Area from 10-15 April, and in the NAM HOA Area from 17-19 April.

From 22-30 April, Co I conducted Search and Destroy operations in the PHU LOC Area.

On 28 April Co K commenced Operation GOLDEN FLEECE I in the Southern portion of the PHU BAI TAOR.

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B. RESUME OF MONTHLY ACTIVITY

1. Continuous Commitments. Several of the Battalions commitments during April were routine commitments that had to be met on either a daily or a continuous basis.

a. Sparrow Hawk. The Battalion maintained a reinforced rifle platoon numbering 60 personnel on five-minute alert at all times during April.

(1). Platoon Providing. The units that supplied the Sparrow Hawk are listed in the table below.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Unit</u>
010001	020700	K-1	151550	161600	K-1
020700	041930	K-2	161600	180900	I-3
041930	051900	K-3	180900	220800	M-2
051900	071600	M-3	220800	240800	M-1
071600	091400	M-2	240800	241700	M-2
091400	111930	L-2	241700	281430	L-1
111930	151550	G-2	281430	291630	L-3
150900	151550	L-3	291630	302400	M-3

(2). Commitments. The Sparrow Hawk was committed three times during the month.

(a). At 081450H, the Sparrow Hawk (M-1) was alerted to provide security for a medevac helicopter downed by mechanical trouble vic (YD 685355). M-1 was committed at 1456H and M-3 immediately formed a new Sparrow Hawk. M-1 was launched at 1510, and landed vic (YD 685355) at 1530H, chopping Operational Control to the 4th Marines at that time. The Sparrow Hawk returned to HHU BAI at 081830H. No enemy contact was made at any time.

(b). At 161550H, the Sparrow Hawk (K-1) was activated to assist a Reconnaissance team that was ambushed vic (YD 835011) and I-3 formed a new Sparrow Hawk. K-1 with 45 men was launched at 1620H and landed vic (YD 835006) at 1650H. From LZ, the unit moved North to vic (YD 835011) to link with the Recon team, which had suffered 1 KIA (the patrol leader). At 161945H, both the Sparrow Hawk and the Recon team returned to HHU BAI. No enemy contact was made at any time during the period the Sparrow Hawk was committed.

(c). At 271428H, the Sparrow Hawk (L-1) was alerted to be helilifted into the NAM HOA area to exploit contact made by a Reconnaissance team. At 1445H the entire sixty-man Sparrow Hawk went to the airfield and L-3 formed a new Sparrow Hawk. Because of poor landing zones in area, L-1 was never inserted. At 1630H, the Sparrow Hawk was secured and returned to the Battalion area.

b. Patrol bases. Patrol bases were maintained in the GIA LE and TRUOI Areas continuously during April.

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Date	Truoi	Gia Le	Date	Truoi	Gia Le
1	Co L (-)	I-3	16	G-3	---
2	"	"	17	"	G-1
3	"	I-2	18	"	"
4	"	"	19	"	"
5	"	I-1	20	L-2	K-3
6	"	"	21	"	"
7	"	"	22	"	"
8	"	"	23	"	"
9	I	"	24	M-3	M-1
10	"	"	25	"	"
11	"	"	26	"	"
12	Co I (-)	"	27	"	"
13	"	"	28	-	-
14	"	"	29	-	Co I
15	"	-	30	-	"

c. Security Patrolling. From April 1 to April 11, this Battalion provided two squads to CAC-A to conduct night time security patrolling for CAC-A1 and CAC-A2. I-1 provided one squad to both A-1 and A-2 from 1-3 April, and I-2 from 3-11 April.

d. Combat Outposts. The 106 Platoon maintained Combat Outposts on Hill 180 and Hill 230 throughout the month.

e. Mine Sweep of Highway #1. From 4-10 April and from 17-30 April, the Battalion provided one reinforced squad to provide security for a daily minesweep of Highway #1 from CAC-H8 to CAC-H5 by an Engineer team. The platoons that provided these squads are listed below.

Date	Unit	Date	Unit	Date	Unit
4	K-3	17	I-2	24	I-2
5	K-2	18	G-2	25	M-2
6	K-2	19	G-2	26	M-2
7	M-2	20	K-1	27	M-2
8	K-1	21	L-1	28	M-2
9	K-3	22	L-1	29	M-2
10	I-3	23	M-2	30	L-3

f. Road Runners. 3d MT Bn conducted a Road Runner to the Big Horn/Shawnee AO every morning during April, and after April 15, an afternoon Road Runner was conducted to the same area almost every day for the remainder of the month. This Battalion provided an officer/staff NCO platoon commander and an artillery forward observer for all such convoys. On several instances, the Battalion also provided the convoy security force. The companies providing the platoon commander and forward observer are listed immediately below.

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Units from 3/26 through 4/26 provided security elements for which convoys are listed in paragraph 3.

Date	Plt Cmdr/FO	Date	Plt Cmdr/FO	Date	Plt Cmdr/FO
1	K	15	G	24	H&S/K
2	I	16	K		L
3	I	17	I	25	L
4	K	18	H&S/L		M
5	I		L	26	K
6	I	19	L		M
7	M		M	27	H&S/K
8	H&S	20	H&S/K		M
9	M	21	K	28	L
10	I		H&S/C		M
11	G	22	H&S/L	29	H&S/M
12	H&S		M/K		M
13	H&S	23	H&S/L	30	H&S/C
14	G		M/K		L

2. Rough Riders. At specified times during the month the Battalion was assigned the mission of providing security for Rough Riders. Dates, Destinations, and units providing the security force for all such convoys are listed in the following table:

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Destination	Unit Providing Security
5 April	6 April	DANAENG	K- (Rein)
9 April	10 April	BIG HORN	G-2 (Rein)
10 April	11 April	BIG HORN	G-3 (Rein)
11 April	12 April	BIG HORN	G-1 (Rein)
13 April	14 April	DONG HA	G-3 (Rein)
20 April	21 April	DONG HA	Co M (-)

3. Miscellaneous Assignments. In addition to the commitments listed in the previous paragraphs, the Battalion was frequently assigned various security missions for survey teams, minesweeps, and other details requiring Marine infantry units. All such assignments are listed below.

Date	Unit Providing Security	Mission	Location
1-12	L-3 (Rein)	Surveyor	AU 8207
1	K-2 Squad	Surveyor	Colco Beach
1	K-2 Squad	Surveyor	YD 776193
3	K-3	Surveyor	Colco Beach
3	K-3 Squad	Surveyor	YD 776193
7	I-3 Squad	Co L Resupply	PHU LOC
12-21	L-2 (Rein)	Surveyor	AU 8207
15	G-1	Surveyor	Colco Beach
15-16	I-1	Election	CAC-A7
15-16	G-1	Election	CAC-A6/9
16	G-3 Squad	Surveyor	Colco Beach
17	G-2 Squad	Surveyor	Colco Beach

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Date	Unit Provided Security	Mission	Location
17-19	G-2 Squad	Surveyor	Colco Beach
18	G-2 Squad	Surveyor	Colco Beach
19	M-1 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
19-20	L-1	Reinforce	Chieu Hoi Village
19-24	L-3	Election/Reinforce	CAC-H5
20	K-1 Squad	EOB	CAC-H5
22-24	K-1	Election	CAC-H1
22-24	L-1	Election	CAC-H1
22	M-3 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
23	M-2 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
24	L-2 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
25	K-1 Squad	Surveyor	ZD 057029
25-26	M-2 Squad	Surveyor	ZD 129093
25	M-2 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
26	K-2 Squad	Surveyor	ZD 057029
26	M-2 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
27	M-2 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
28-30	L-1 (Rein)	Engineers	NAM HOA
28	M-2 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
29	M-2 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO
30	L-3 Squad	Road Runner	Shawnee AO

4. Operations Conducted. Whenever adequate forces were available, the Battalion conducted platoon or company sized operations in various areas throughout the TAOR and in the adjacent RHU LOC and NAM HOA Areas. All such operations are listed below:

1-5 April: Co M (Rein) conducted search and destroy operations in the RHU LOC Area.

2 April: K-1 conducted a road-clearing operation along Highway #1 from RHU BAI to the LANG CO Bridge.

1-9 April: Co L (-) conducted search and destroy operations in the TRUOI Area.

9 April: Co K (Rein) conducted a search and clear operation in the LOI NANG Canal Area.

9-17 April: Co M (Rein) with L-1 conducted search and destroy operations in the NAM HOA Area.

10-15 April: Co K (Rein) conducted search and destroy operations in the GIA LE Area.

17-19 April: Co K conducted search and destroy Operations in the NAM HOA Area

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19-21 April: Co I maintained 15-minute alert status to be helilifted into B-3 MA area. No explo. any contact made by Recon team in that area.

22-30 April: Co I conducted search and destroy operations in the HHU LOC area.

28-30 April: Co K with L-3 conducted Operation GOLDEN FLEECE I in CAC-A3, H-1, H-2, H-3, and H-8 area.

5. Small-Unit Operations. In addition to the company-sized operations listed in the preceding paragraph, nearly two thousand small-unit operations were conducted throughout the TAOR and adjoining areas during April. The vast majority of these patrols were conducted by units from Combined Action Companies A and H. Although these operations were rarely larger than squad-size, and the patrol routes were usually short, these operations were very valuable in providing security for the villagers living with each CAC unit. In addition, they disrupted enemy movement to village areas and were a good source of information on enemy movements. Although it is not possible to give individual attention to each patrol, the following table gives the daily and monthly totals for the various small unit operations that were conducted during the month.

<u>Date</u>	<u>LP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>Night Ambushes</u>	<u>Night Security Patrols</u>	<u>Day Security Patrols</u>
1	6	4	30	20	14
2	6	4	26	18	14
3	6	4	29	16	15
4	6	4	29	24	14
5	6	4	26	20	13
6	6	4	28	18	15
7	6	4	28	15	20
8	6	4	26	22	15
9	6	4	18	20	15
10	6	4	26	22	15
11	6	4	34	20	15
12	6	4	28	20	15
13	6	4	36	22	13
14	6	4	33	16	15
15	6	4	30	19	16
16	6	4	20	15	16
17	6	4	27	18	16
18	6	4	27	17	15
19	6	4	21	16	16
20	6	4	21	16	14
21	6	4	20	17	16
22	6	4	29	14	14
23	6	4	36	15	15
24	6	4	28	14	15
25	6	4	24	15	13

Enclosure (1)

28.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>LP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>Night Ambushes</u>	<u>Night Security Patrols</u>	<u>Day Security Patrols</u>
26	6	4	26	16	12
27	6	4	29	15	13
28	6	4	31	13	16
29	6	4	30	18	15
30	6	4	32	16	14
TOTAL	180	120	828	527	445

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C. CASUALTIES

1. Friendly Casualties (1-30 April 1967)

Killed	3
Died of Wounds	0
Wounded	50
TOTAL	53

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D. COMMAND RELATIONS

1. With Higher Units: The Battalion was under both Operational and Administrative Control of the 3d Marine Division throughout April. No problems were encountered in command relations.

2. With Other Marine Units:

a. At 091300H April, 3/26 assumed Operational Control of "G" Company, 2d Battalion 26th Marines. The company was employed as any of the organic companies in the Battalion, and relations were very good. Co G Chopped Operational Control to the 4th Marines at 201200H and rejoined its parent unit in the BIG HORN AO.

b. While the Battalion was responsible for the defense of the HHU BAI Vital Area, it had Operational Control of all units assigned sectors of the Vital Area perimeter for all matters concerning perimeter defense. Each unit provided a sector commander who was responsible to the Battalion's Perimeter Defense Officer, who coordinated all matters pertaining to the perimeter. No problems were encountered in this area, and relations with units on the perimeter were good.

3. With ARVN/FF/RF Units

a. Direct liaison was maintained with HUONG THUY and HHU LOC Districts through frequent visits to both District Headquarters by the Commanding Officer and the Operations Officer.

b. Indirect liaison with Vietnamese units was accomplished through the 3d MarDiv, which supplied the Battalion with a continuous flow of information regarding ARVN operations in the area and intelligence information that was reported by ARVN units.

c. Liaison was also maintained through Combined Action Companies A and H, both of which were under the Operational Control of the Battalion. The two companies maintained CAC units in the villages along Hwy #1 that were in or near the HHU BAI TAOR. The former operated in the northern and central section of the TAOR (HUONG THUY District); the latter in the extreme southern section and along the stretch of Hwy #1 east of the TAOR (HHU LOC District). Much of the information the Battalion received from HUONG THUY and HHU LOC Districts was relayed through CAC A and CAC H, respectively.

Enclosure (1)

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2. COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS

1. Message Center. Message traffic is picked up from and delivered to the Division Message Center. Distribution has not changed.

2. Radio. All of the battalion nets terminate in the COC bunker. Contact has been possible with all outlying units due to a relay station being maintained on Hill 180.

3. Wire. The facilities of the previous vital Area Defense Battalion were utilized by our wire section when we moved into this area. In addition to the regular switchboard the COC has a switchboard for direct contact to all Perimeter Security units. The FSCC in the COC bunker has another switchboard for their direct contact with all artillery units in Phu Bai.

4. General. No unusual difficulties were encountered within the month. Communications were adequate in all respects.

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F. FIRE SUPPORT

1. The primary function of the 3/26 BATT during the month of April was to clear all supporting arms fire missions within the PHU BAI TACOM.
2. Missions were fired in support of operations by 3/26 units, CAC units, and ARVN units.
3. H&I fires were conducted every night during the month. They were fired by all supporting artillery weapons to insure short and long range coverage of targets. Maximum use of patrol and intelligence information was used in the selection of H&I targets.
4. Work on the Phu Bai Vital Area Counter mortar/Counter Rocket plan was continued. The construction of seven flash observation towers equipped with permanent azimuth indicators was initiated at the end of the month.
5. Frequent drills were conducted to test and evaluate existing flash OP's. One round of 105MM Illumination was fired to give a ground burst to simulate a mortar/rocket muzzle flash. OP's were required to furnish an azimuth and distance to the burst of illumination.
6. Practice firing of the counter mortar/counter rocket plan was conducted to evaluate all supporting units and to improve speed and accuracy of fires.
7. During the enemy mortar attack on Phu Bai on 28 April, the counter mortar/counter rocket plan was effectively employed against enemy mortars. Once the initial direction of attack was determined the plans in that area were employed until an accurate enemy location could be plotted. Once the flash OP's had reported an azimuth and distance, a more accurate target location was possible and enabled supporting weapons to completely neutralize the attack. The enemy positions were neutralized by 105MM Howitzers, 81MM mortars, and Twin 40's.

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G. AIR SUPPORT

I. Air Defense. ~~SECRET~~ No enemy aerial activity of any type was encountered.II. Air Support. ~~SECRET~~

a. Medevacs. A total of 45 medevac missions were flown during April. Four KIA's, 46 WIA's and 41 NBC's were evacuated. In addition, 3 Vietnamese civilians (one pregnant woman, and wounded girl, and a sick boy) were evacuated. The improvement in weather and faster communications between helicopter and ground units enabled Medevacs to be handled much more efficiently than in the past.

b. Fixed Wing Support. No fixed wing was employed in support of the Battalion during April.

c. Resupply. Since companies frequently operated at great distances from PHU BAI aerial resupply was frequent. A total of 25 such missions was flown.

d. Command and Control: Twenty missions were flown for reconnaissance purposes.

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H. ARMY ARTILLERY SUPPORT

1. General:

Throughout April, D Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery operated in direct support of 3/26 with 10 M-42's and 4 M-55's.

2. Twin-40's:

a. The primary mission of the twin-40's was to augment perimeter firepower. Eight of the twin 40's were permanently assigned to the perimeter, where they were located at key positions in the various sectors.

b. During the hours of darkness two M-42's were assigned to the Vital Area Reaction Force.

3. Quad-50's:

a. The primary mission of the quad-50's was security for all convoys originating from HHU BAI.

b. The quad-50's were also used to augment perimeter firepower.

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I. ADMINISTRATION

1. No major administrative problems were encountered during the period covered by this report.

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J. PERSONNEL

1. During the period covered by this report, the battalion joined 362 enlisted personnel and 2 officers. 3 officers and 347 enlisted were reassigned to other units within RVN. 1 officer and 11 enlisted were transferred out of country by service records after being medically evacuated due to wounds or injuries received.

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K. INTELLIGENCE

1. Weather and Terrain

A. Weather. Precipitation increased at the end of a two week dry spell during the last week of March and first week in April. Weather conditions varied as indicated below.

Maximum Temperature	95°
Minimum Temperature	69°
Mean Temperature	77°
Number of days w/rain	19
Total Rainfall Received	10.00 in.
Average winds	North at 5 MPH
Visibility	6 mi.

B. Terrain.

(1) The area north and east of Highway 1 is characterized by flat, poorly drained open areas suitable for rice farming. Areas not under such cultivation are predominantly populated areas having brushwoods and treestand of pine and palm. The predominant terrain features are the paddy dikes which are used widely for foot movement. South and west of Highway 1 are rolling plains and small hills up to 300 meters elevation. Vegetation consists of sparsely foliated scrub wood usually having a dense undergrowth of vines, briars, and grasses 1 to 2 meters high. The SONG NONG and SONG TRUOI are the principal navigable rivers; smaller streams can be forded by foot troops. The only known bridges are located along Highway 1.

(2) Main Avenues of Approach used by the VC.

(a) In the northern portion of the TAOR the enemy travels out of the Royal Tombs area using all available rivers and paths, but no longer guiding on route 546. The insignificant contact which CAC A7 has made indicates that the enemy is now skirting the TAOR and now guiding on route 549 up to the LOI NONG Canal vic (YD 780209), then crossing rice paddies traveling along the canal to LOI NONG Village vic (YD 840195). From this point the VC can move freely into PHU THU District.

(b) The SONG THIEU HSA River in PHU THU District is often used. The avenue follows the river north to the intersection of the SONG CON QUAN River vic (YD 951111). At this intersection indications are that boats are used to travel south on the DUN CAN HAI Bay crossing to vic THON GIA LUONG (V) coordinates (XD 077014), then on to village complex to the south. Infiltration from the intersection of the two rivers vic (YD 951111) south along the coast to vic (YD 9808), then traveling in and along the SONG THIEU HSA River to the coast. But the

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enemy seems to favor the boat crossing method on the DAM CAU HAI Bay.

(c) VC have been sighted moving from the intersection of SONG CONG QUANG and SONG THIEU HOA Rivers through area between QAC H2 and H3 on their way to the hill and mountain area west of Highway #1

(d) From BEN TAU guiding on route 545 and from vicinity UPPER TRUOI River, crossing Highway 1 in GS (YD 9407), (YD 9507) across SONG TONG QUAM River to PHU THU (D).

(e) From vic GS (ZC 1595) north through THUY CAHN vic (ZC 1598) crossing Highway 1 vic (ZD 120015) and (ZD 080009) to boats on DAM CAN HAI.

2. Enemy Situation. VC tactics have shifted from small scale ambushes to acts of terrorism and mining incidents and an increased propaganda campaign. Information gathered through documents, RVN, and CIT agent reports and contacts indicate the change of tactics because of the rice harvest season coupled with the local village elections.

A. Significant Enemy Activity. Large unit sightings, company and battalion size units, were reported in PHU LOC District, during the first two weeks of April. It is believed that units from the 804th MF battalion were supporting small unit operations in and around TRUOI for the purpose of distracting attention in the rice bowl in and around the northern portion of the PHU BAI TAOR. The last two weeks in April showed a definite shift of enemy units from PHU LOC (D) to PHU THU (D). All confirmed units in and around the TAOR have moved to new locations during the latter part of April with most of the units concentrated in PHU THU District. Reports of terrorism and the large increase in mining incidents demonstrate the enemy's capability of freedom of movement just outside the PHU BAI TAOR using cover of darkness and his ability to lose himself within the local population.

B. Order of Battle

(1) PHU THU District contains three (3) confirmed Local Force Companies plus elements of the 804th. The C113 Local Force Company is based out of VINH PHU Village vic (YD 9615). The C116 and C117 Local Force Companies are based north of LOI NONG Village vic (YD 8420). Two (2) companies from the 804th MF Battalion are operating in and around LOI NONG. No fixed position can be given. It is believed the elements of the 804th are providing the Local Force units with logistical and training support.

(2) In PHU LOC District the OB has changed in that all elements of the 804th moved north into PHU THU District. At last report, the only confirmed unit left is the C113 LF Company. Its exact location is not known.

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(3) VINH LOC has no known confirmed units. It is possible that the three Local Force Companies now operating in PHU THU district use areas in VINH LOC as base camps.

(4) In PHU VANG District order of battle confirms the presence of the 802MF Battalion vic (YD 7825).

(5) In NAM HOA District various agent reports confirm the forward and rear headquarters of the 804th. The forward headquarters plus a weapons company was last reported as being in vic (YD 8000) and the rear headquarters was reported in vic (YC 9795).

(6) Local cadres have been active in several hamlets in HUONG THUY District. AP LOI NONG Hamlet is considered a vital area which the enemy uses for harboring, assembly, and observation just outside the TAOR. Many sightings have been made of bunkers along both sides of the canal vic (YD 830198) to (YD 850195).

3. Enemy Activity

A. Sightings. During the reporting period the majority of company size sightings took place in and around the Royal Tombs area vic (YD 7710) and in the PHU LOC area vic (ZC 0800). There was a total of 12 company sized sightings in the Royal Tombs vicinity. 12 company size units were sighted in PHU LOC (V). Out of a total of 87 Co size unit sightings and 13 battalion size sightings, the majority of unit sightings were in PHU LOC District with a total of 36 company size and 5 battalion size unit sightings. Most of the above sightings were ARVN agent reports with no intelligence rating given by Division.

B. Significant Engagements. On 10 April CAC H5 patrol encountered approximately 1 VC Company across a bridge vic (ZC 092999) expending 700 rounds. VC attempted to assault across bridge resulting in 2 KIA and 5 KIAP. CAC A6 at (YD 824162) on 11 April brought 30-50 VC under fire in an open graveyard inflicting 5 VC KIAP. CAC H5 patrol fired 1000 rounds 5.56mm and 400 rounds M-60 on 18 April at an estimated 60 VC near a pagoda (ZD 089003). Thirty minutes later the same patrol had a fire fight with a VC unit of platoon size. Total enemy losses in these two contacts were 10 KIA and 29 KIAP. India Company on 27 April made contact with an estimated VC Company. India received 7 rounds 60mm mortars and SAF. Artillery was called in on target at (ZC 157974) while India Company closed to within 20 meters of enemy's point. Enemy broke contact suffering 14 KIA and 15 KIAP. The most significant engagement during the reporting period occurred at 280136H when the 3/26 area began receiving incoming mortars from vic (YD 891114). Within two minutes artillery began an effective counter mortar barrage. An estimated 700 rounds of 82mm mortar were fired into friendly positions shifting from the 3/26 area across Highway one into the MCB-62 and MAG-16 areas. At daylight a search of the area near enemy mortar positions revealed 6 base plate impressions and fighting

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holes for 30-50 men. Attack resulted in 68 friendly WIA's.

C. Mines and Booby Traps: There has been a sharp increase in the number of mines and booby traps encountered. Out of a total of 42 mines and satchel charges set by the VC, 25 were located along Highway One. Most of the VC mining incidents have occurred from the TRUOI Bridge (YD 967064) to (ZD 040025). Of these 25, eleven were found and disarmed or destroyed in place by EOD. The type and charge of these mines varies widely because of their local manufacture. Soviet anti-tank mines (model TM-41) have been encountered as have 105 and 155 rounds. Bulk explosives and command detonating mines are often used. The most frequently used mines have been box type, pressure detonating with charges varying from 10 to 50 pounds. It is evident that the VC have made fairly extensive use of mines along Highway One and there is every reason to believe that they will do so in the future.

D. Terrorism: VC terrorist incidents in the TAOR have occurred almost exclusively in PHU LOC District. VC executions have occurred with about the same frequency as during the last reporting period with 3 assassinations and two kidnappings. On 14 April at (ZD 183007) 30 VC assassinated a man, possibly because he had previously been a PF. The hamlet chief of THIEN LOAI at (ZD 007012) was threatened by 3 VC and was wounded while escaping to CAC H5. At (ZD 007034) on 16 April an unknown number of VC kidnapped a young Vietnamese male. CIT reported a 64 year old farmer killed by the VC on 20 April at (YD 982054) because he refused to pay the VC taxes. Then on 23 April at (YD 969078) 5 VC took a woman from her home and killed her. The VC left a note on her body to the effect that she had been executed by the NLF as an example to others who are "helping the enemy fight against the front".

4. Enemy Losses

A. Personnel

KIA(C)	46
KIA(P)	104
Detainees	33
FW(VC)	19
Inn Civ	14

B. Fortifications Destroyed

Fighting holes	16
Panji Traps	8
Tunnels	2
Bunkers	7
Trenches	2

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Ind Wpns	8
AK-47	3
US Carbine	2
M-1	1
BAR	1
ChiCom type	
53 Carbine	1
Grenades	11
Mines	8
Boats	12
Rice	2,100 lbs.
Corn	10,000 lbs.
Wheat	700 lbs
Clothing/	
Web gear	60 lbs.

D. VC Initiated Incidents

Small unit (12 VC or less)	20
Large unit (13 VC or more)	11
Mortar	7
Sniping	19
Kidnapping	2
Assassinations	3
Booby traps	11
Mining	42
Grenades	10
Propaganda	2
Bridges mined	2

E. Friendly Initiated Incidents

Small unit (12 VC or less)	23
Large unit (13 VC or more)	8

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L. CIVIL AFFAIRS

1. The Civil Affairs activities within the PHU BAI TAOR are coordinated by 3d Marine Division G-5. Each unit operating in the vital area is assigned responsibility for a village. 3/26 is responsible for LOC BON.

2. The following is a list of the Civil Affairs projects and their status in LOC BON Village:

PROJECT	STATUS
A. School building	School nearly completed; interior decoration still unfinished. Projected completion date is 15 May.
B. LOC BON Market	Under construction; cement has been delivered for use on market place floor. Materials for building overhead structure still on order except for tin sheets for roof.
C. Head Facilities	Proposed; to be constructed in four hamlets. 6 cement heads have been delivered.
D. Wells	Proposed; to be constructed in the four hamlets, materials on order.
E. Health and Sanitation Program	Proposed; to be conducted in conjunction with the improvements of the market place and the construction of the head facilities.

3. MEDCAPS are being conducted weekly at 1300 by the Battalion Surgeon at the CAC H1 dispensary with the assistance of battalion corpsmen and the CAC H1 corpsman. They have been treating about 60 villagers per MEDCAP. 10,000 leaflets have been printed to promote both the Health and Sanitation Program in LOC BON and the MEDCAP's free medical service.

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M. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

During the month of April the USA PsyWar team working under 3d Marine Division PsyOps, made broadcasts and showed movies throughout the CAC FACOR's. At each CAC visited by the team a series of cartoons, news reels, and informational type films were shown. With each visit the village chief spoke over a loudspeaker to the people.

To supplement the personal broadcasts, various pre-recorded tapes were played in order to exploit known attitudes and situations in particular areas. Broadcasts were made both day and night. Since 21 April several broadcasts were made in the CAC H1, H2, and H3 areas in preparation for Operation Golden Fleece.

Armed Propaganda Teams were employed successfully on 3 occasions during the reporting period from 14-18 April. While attached to H5, located in CAU HAI (V), they were an effective propaganda machine. On the CAC H5 patrols they were instrumental in several successes, most noticeably a contact on the night of 18 April with 60 VC resulting in 10 VC KIA and 24 KIAP. While attached, the APT located 2 VC ambushes and accounted for 4 VC KIA. On 24 April the APT was again inserted at CAC H5 for a period of two days.

APT was again used during a day time patrol on 26 April to positions used by the VC the previous night to mortar PHU BAI. They obtained much information from the villagers and assisted in the S-2 analysis of the attack.

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N. LOGISTICS

1. General. The battalion logistics situation has been good for this period. Damaged equipment is being repaired. Destroyed equipment has been placed on order.

2. General Supplies. There has been no major problems in this area. There are no critical shortages in general supplies or 782 gear.

3. Logistics Support

a. Transportation for the Battalion was provided by the 3d Motor Transport Battalion upon request through the Division Motor Transport Officer. Service was excellent.

b. Due to the tactical commitments of the Battalion, tactical runs with organic vehicles were frequent. Organic vehicles were used for administrative runs as sparingly as possible.

c. Resupply was accomplished by Helicopters, or vehicle convoy.

d. On 28 April, six (6) M274A2 (Mules) were destroyed due to enemy action. These M274A2 (Mules) were re-ordered on Milstrip Document #71180002.

4. Ordnance. The Battalion completed issuing the M16E1 rifle. Ordnance support for this period has been good.

5. Food Services. This unit has maintained the mess hall in Cantonment Two. There has been no critical shortages of supplies or food for the mess hall. Food was excellent throughout the month.

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0. MEDICAL - DENTAL

1. Personnel: The Battalion Aid Station has a total of 52 personnel. This consists of 50 Hospital Corpsman and 2 Medical Officers.
2. Capabilities: The Battalion Aid Station is capable of treating all minor medical and surgical problems. Patients requiring more extensive care are evacuated to the 3d Medical Battalion at Phu Bai. There are no ward facilities at present, but individual patients have been kept at the BAS for observation.
3. Supply: Medical Supplies are obtained from FLSG-4 at Phu- Bai. There is no problem obtaining supplies at this time.
4. Training: Hospital Corpsman receive on-the-job training under the supervision of the Medical Officer and the Chief Corpsman. They are also given daily lectures by one of the senior corpsmen.
5. Medcaps: A MedCap program has been established at CAC-H1. Weekly sick call is held there by the Medical Officer.
6. Dental: There are no facilities for dental care at the BAS. Patients requiring such care are evacuated to the 3d Medical Battalion.
7. Malaria Prophylaxis: Chloroquine-Primaquine tablets are to be taken one a week on Sunday, preferably with a meal. Further preventive measures consist of spraying living areas with mosquito repellent and screening of all living areas.
8. Sanitation: Daily sanitation inspections are made by one of the medical officers or by their representatives.
9. Statistics: The following are the statistics for the period 1 April to 31 April 1967.

<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>MES</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
Burns	2	1	0	1	2	3	9
Infections	39	44	30	39	46	32	230
Lacerations	20	26	7	4	30	31	98
Colds	4	2	1	2	2	10	31
Dental	24	6	12	30	13	3	78
Eyes	2	3	4	1	1	0	11
WIA	18	0	2	1	3	0	24
KIA	6	0	1	1	0	0	8
Stomach Disorders	21	16	21	40	21	12	109
Headache	1	2	1	1	1	4	11
Removal	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Foot Disorders	1	1	1	1	1	1	6

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Concussion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical	7	4	3	2	1	0	17
Ear	9	3	6	5	8	2	33
Eye	4	4	2	1	5	3	19
Rash	11	8	2	6	5	2	29
Others	72	79	76	83	90	87	477
TOTAL							1257

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P. TRAINING

The following training was conducted during April.

1. Orientation. Personnel joined as replacements during the month received an orientation from the Commanding Officer. Upon being assigned to a company, they received orientations from their respective Company Commanders.
2. Landmine Warfare School. During April, 130 of the small unit leaders in the Battalion attended the three-day Landmine Warfare School conducted by the 3d Engineers Battalion at the DONG DA training Center.
3. Vietnamese Religion and Customs. Approximately 170 Marines attended a one-hour lecture by the Battalion Chaplain on the religions and customs of the Vietnamese people.
4. Familiarization and Zero Firing of the M-16 Rifle. All personnel who had not previously fired the M-16 fired 20 rds for familiarization at the PHU BAI Rifle Range. All personnel also fired 20 rounds at zeroing targets to establish battlesights. As of 30 April, the entire Battalion was equipped with the M-16, and all personnel had determined their correct battlesight settings.
5. Personal Response. During April, 250 Marines of the Battalion attended a one-hour lecture on the Personal Response Program given by personnel from 3d Mar Div G-5.
6. Medevac Classes. Nearly 150 Marines attended a 1-hour class on proper procedures for evacuating and reporting casualties. The class was conducted by personnel from the S-1, BAS, and the TACP.
7. Company Level Training. In addition to the above mentioned training, all companies conducted their own formal training when they were in the Battalion Area. Concurrent training was conducted when the companies were operating in the field. The following subjects were stressed: counterinsurgency operations, counterterrorism operations, anti-guerrilla operations, civic-action operations, ambush and counter-ambush techniques, tactical trends and training tips, countermeasures against mines and booby traps, safety regulations for individual weapons and grenades, security of information and material, and first aid.

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Q. CHAPLAIN SUPPORT

1. Sunday Services: Protestant Services were provided every Sunday of the month at 0900 at the 3/26 Chapel. The Chaplain himself conducted Holy Mass at C/1/13, 3/26, 8th RRFS, and 3d AT Bn every Sunday.

2. Regular Weekday Activities

a. The Chaplain conducted Holy Mass at the 3/26 Chapel at 1730 daily.

b. The Chaplain visited the Combat Outposts on Hills 180 and 230 to conduct services on every Monday of the Month.

c. On Tuesdays, the Chaplain conducted Mass for the Catholic personnel at Colcor Beach.

d. On Fridays, the Chaplain conducted masses at HMM-163 and 8th RRFS.

3. Training. The Chaplain delivered his lecture "Religions of Vietnam" three times during the month; on April 8, 14, and 18. Approximately 45 troops attended each lecture.

4. Visits to CAC units. During April the Chaplain held services at the various CAC units on a weekly basis. On Saturdays, the Chaplain would visit the Hotel units and on Wednesdays and Thursdays he would visit the Alpha units. Both the villagers and the marines of the Catholic faith attended these services.

5. Distribution of Gifts. During the month, the Chaplain made several visits to the Sisters at the Orphanage near CAC-41. On April 21 over 800 lbs. of clothing and medical supplies were donated to the Orphanage. In addition 200 lbs of clothing were given to the Phi Red Catholic School.

6. Other

a. On April 19 and 20, the Chaplain flew to Khe Sanh and conducted a total of five masses for units in that area.

b. On April 21, the Chaplain conducted services at the 3/26 Chapel for Corporal WMM of 1st Company who was killed in action April 19.

c. On April 22, the Chaplain conducted services at the 3/26 Chapel for the Red 1st Company.

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PART IV
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following 3d Marine Division messages and orders governed the activity of the Battalion during April.

- missing*
- a. CG 3d Mar Div 170115Z Mar 67
 - b. CG 3d Mar Div 181151Z Mar 67
 - c. CG 3d Mar Div 231203Z Mar 67
 - d. 3d Mar Div OP O. 12-67

2. The following 3d Battalion, 26th Marines Operation Plans governed activity of the Battalion during April.

- missing*
- a. Operation Plan 2-67 (Golden Fleece)
 - b. Operation Plan 3-67 (Big Horn)
 - c. Operation Plan 4-67 (Go I-Xocsa)
 - d. Operation Plan 5-67 (Loi Hung)
 - e. Operation Plan 6-67 (Phu Loc)

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003A28367

11 October 1967

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines ltr K/WRW/jhd,
3100, over Ser. OOKA162-67 of 11 June 1967

From: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FME
To: Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Forces

Subj: Combat After Action Report

Ref: (a) COMUSMACV Inst 335-8 of 2 April 1966

1. Readdressed and forwarded in accordance with reference (a).
2. ~~Reopen~~ with the basic report. Particular attention is invited to the reference made on page 16, paragraph 14 concerning handicaps imposed when tactical commanders are required to submit administrative reports in excessive detail and of adverse psychological format. Administrative reporting procedures were modified during the operation.
3. Operation GOLDEN FLEECE I, conducted during the period 28 April to 3 June 1967 in the Phu Loc District, Thua Thien Province, RVN, was a denial operation intended to limit the enemy's capability to harass, induce Vietnamese civilians into supplying rice, money and material necessary to sustain VC operations. A primary task was to gain the respect and confidence of the people. This was accomplished through direct liaison with local officials, strict adherence to Vietnamese tradition and customs, and prompt command attention wherever potential problem situations arose.
4. Paragraphs 13, page 15 and paragraph 14, page 16 of the basic correspondence highlight general and specific lessons learned which should prove to be beneficial during similar operations conducted in the future.

J.R. Stockman
J. R. STOCKMAN
By direction

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ENCL-2-TAB-E

3/26

A/RPT(GOLDEN FLEECE I)

28 APR 1968

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HEADQUARTERS

3d Battalion, 26th Marines
FPO San Francisco 96602294667
K/WRW/jhd

3100

Ser: OOKA 162-67.

11 June 1967
COPY 1 of 13From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report (U)

Ref: (a) Map: VIETNAM, 1:50,000, Sheet 6541 I, IV
(b) Third MarDiv OpO 385-66
(c) CG Third MarDiv msg 231203H Mar 1967
(d) Third MarDiv LOI 1-67
(e) ForceO 3121.2
(f) Third Bn, 26th Mar Op Plan 2-67
(g) Third Bn, 26th Mar FragO 1-67

1. Code Name. Operation GOLDEN FLEECE I.
2. Dates of Operation. 281030H April 1967 to 031300H June 1967.
3. Location. Phu Loc District, Thua Thien Province, RVN.
4. Task Organization.

3d Battalion, 26th Marines

LtCol K. L. HOCH

Company "K"

Capt. W. R. WILDPRETT

1st Platoon India Co. (12-29 May)
 3rd Platoon Lima Co. (3-13 May)
 2nd Section, 81mm Mortar Platoon, H&S Company
 F.A.C. Team, H&S Company
 F.O. Team, C/1/13
 S-2 Scout Team
 Drivers, 3d Motor Transport Battalion
 Engineers Demolition Team, 11th Engineers

5. Supporting Forces.a. Units.

"C" Battery 1stBn, 13th Marines
 "L" Battery 4thBn, 12th Marines
 1st 155 Gun Battery

b. Artillery Support.

Artillery support consisted primarily of illumination. An F.O. Team manned an observation post on Hill 162 vic (YD 988040) and called fire missions on observed V.C. movement and suspected V.C. locations. Artillery support was timely and effective.

F.O.

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c. Air Support.

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Air support consisted solely of helicopters used for medevacs. Requests were made over the Battalion Tactical Net and were handled quickly and efficiently.

6. Intelligence.

(1) CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA.

1. Terrain.

(a) The maps of the AO are generally accurate in their representation of the terrain. East of Highway # 1 are the coastal lowland plains characterized by flat, poorly drained open area suitable for rice growing. The predominant relief features are the dikes which are 0.5 meters to 2.0 meters high and 0.5 to 2.5 meters wide, and are often lined with hedgerows. Areas not under rice cultivation are usually populated areas having brushwoods and trees and of needle pine and palm trees. There are very few roads trafficable by vehicle. However, streams, canals, and rivers form a network of navigable waterways. The streams and canals should be fordable by foot troops during the low water period (Feb through July). However, the SONG TRUOI will still be unfordable. The only known bridges are on Highway # 1.

(b) The area west of Highway # 1 is characterized by rolling plains and low hills which separate the coastal lowlands plains from the rugged mountain range to the west. The elevations in this area range from 20 to 200 meters with principal tactical relief in GS YD 9402, 9502 and 9107. The most predominate type of vegetation on the rolling plains is brushwood which is essentially secondary scrub wood with wide spacings and little foliation. The brushwoods have moderate undergrowth consisting of vines, briars, and grasses 1 to 2 meters high. The density of trees and undergrowth varies. The SONG NENG and SONG TRUOI are the principal navigable rivers. Smaller streams can be forded by foot troops. Vehicular traffic is limited to three dirt surfaced roads, most noticeably Provincial Road 545 which winds out of the mountains into the TAOR.

(c) At (YD 956033) there is an old French position with a trench line and bunkers. It's an excellent OP for the surrounding region.

(2) Main Avenues of Approach used by the VC.

(a) The SONG THIEU HOA in PHU THU (D) is often used. The avenue follows the river south to its intersection with the SONG CONG QUAN vic (YD 9809), then travels in and along the SONG TRUOI to the hill complex vic (YD 9598), (YD 9698), and (YD 9809).

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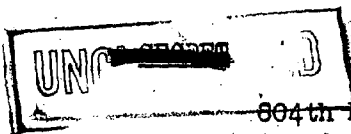
- (b) From the intersection of the SONG THIEU HOA and SONG CONG QUAN the VC travel south along the coast crossing the SONG TRUOI bridge on Highway #1 vic GS (YD 9705). The VC then proceed over well established trails to the BACH MA area vic GS (YC 0592).
- (c) VC have also been sighted moving from the intersection of the SONG CONG QUAN and SONG THIEU HOA southward over well established trails crossing Highway #1 between CAC H2 and CAC H3 vic GS (YD 9407) to (YD 9506), then guiding on Provincial Highway 545 move back into the mountains to BEN TAU vic GS (YC 8999).
3. Weather. The weather is of subtropical nature and is influenced by the monsoons. The average daily temperature for May will be 83° with a temperature range from 92° to 75°. The mean relative humidity for May is 82%. The mean number of days with precipitation is 9 inches and the average monthly precipitation is 2.7 inches.
4. Political and Sociological Characteristics.
- (a) The principal portion of the AO is in PHU LOC District of THUA THIEN Province. PHU LOC has a population in excess of 46,600. It is subdivided into 8 villages and 69 hamlets. Within the AO there are in excess of 19,000 people who live in the villages of LOC BON, LOC AN, LO SON, and LOC DIEN.
- (b) A portion of HUONG THUY District is included in the Northwest portion of the AO. The population of HUONG THUY District is 69,000 and is subdivided into 14 villages and 55 hamlets.
- (c) Each district is governed by a District Chief who is both the military commander and the civilian administrator. Each village has a chief.
- (d) Local elections will be held in LOC BON (V) on the 23 of April. The VC will try to take advantage of the occasion and step up their propaganda and terrorism campaign prior to and following elections. June 4 is the date of the next election in AO.
- (e) The attitude of the people toward USMC forces in the above mentioned districts is friendly. However, on occasion, the people are reluctant to give much information concerning VC activities for fear of reprisals.

b. ENEMY SITUATION.

1. Disposition.

- (a) PHU THU(D). C117 Local Force Company vic (YD 8621); C113 Local Force Company vic (YD 9716); 2 companies of the

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804th Main Force Battalion vic (YD 8921), and evidence of a third company in same vicinity.

(b) HUONG THUY (D). There is no evidence of any large enemy unit in this district, however, intelligence information shows there are small guerrilla/militia forces which are supported by the 804th Main Force Battalion and the Local Force companies in the adjacent districts.

(c) PHU LOC (D). The C118 Local Force Company in vic of (YD 9605). HQ 804th Weapons Company vic (YD 9201). There have been reports that an engineer company operates in southwest PHU LOC (D).

2. Composition.

(a) 804th Main Force Battalion has a strength of 400 with three infantry companies and one weapons company. Weapons include 4-81mm mortars, 2-57mm RR, 8-60mm mortars, 3 heavy machineguns.

(b) C116 Local Force Company has a strength of 80, is in fair condition and has 2-60mm mortars.

(c) C117 Local Force Company has an estimated strength of 50, is in fair combat condition and has 6-60mm mortars and 10 submachineguns.

(d) C118 Local Force Company has an estimated strength of 60 men, is in fair combat condition and has an unknown number type of weapons.

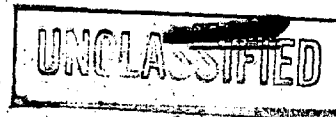
c. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

(a) Attack at anytime the CAC units along National Highway # 1 with platoon to company size strength.

(b) Commit assassinations and kidnappings of village officials throughout the AO.

(c) Harrass USMC units using small arms and mortars during hours of darkness.

(d) The VC have been and have the capability to mine Highway # 1 and adjacent secondary roads. From 12 March to present there have been a total of 19 mining incidents south of TRUOI Bridge on Highway # 1 resulting in 13 civilians killed, 26 civilians wounded, 3 ARVN killed, 15 wounded, and 9 Marines wounded.



~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIEDd. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION.

(a) It is evident that with the combination of the elections and the harvest season, the VC will take full advantage of the civilian population. People will be gathered together in greater numbers making it a good opportunity for the VC to use propaganda and terrorism. If the VC find that the elections are going well it is likely that they will turn to terrorism tactics using threats, assassination and kidnapping.

(b) Assassination attempts have already been successfully conducted. Others have been threatened. The people who have been terrorized are those people who have given information to friendly forces and officials. It can be assumed that the VC will continue and increase these tactics since the friendly forces are and will be in force in the PHU LOC (D) preventing the VC from conducting any large scale operations.

(c) Rice will be harvested and stored in central locations in accordance with District Chiefs orders. The VC will make attempts to establish their own collection system, storage areas, and transportation routes. Friendly units should be alert for any movement out of the AO by Vietnamese with rice. All river traffic is suspect. And detailed attention is mandatory to areas where rice might be concealed for later pickup such as tunnels and holes in river banks and along trails.

7. MISSION. To conduct operations, to protect Vietnamese Nationals, and to insure harvest of the rice crop in PHU LOC District in the area of the villages of LOC BON, LOC SON, LOC AN and LOC DIEN.

8. CONCEPT OF OPERATION.

Company K and attachments were inserted by motor march into the AO to conduct a search and clear operation, establishing outposts near the vicinity of CAC A-3, CAC H-1, H-2, H-3 and H-8 to protect villages harvesting and transporting rice, denying the enemy ready access to the harvest area, and curtailing his ability to exact taxes in the form of rice and money from the local population.

Direct liaison was effected with the District Chief, Sub-Section Advisor, and ARVN Forces operating in Phu Loc District.

CAC A-3, CAC H-2, CAC H-8 were utilized as platoon operating bases with CAC H-3 as the company command post. The 81mm mortar section was positioned at CAC H-3 to cover a gap between the 105mm artillery battery at Phu Bai and the section located at Phu Loc District HQ.

Liaison with village and hamlet chiefs was established to acquire local intelligence about enemy movement and intentions.

CAC Marines and PF's utilized as guides during the initial phase of the operation, and supplemented Kilo Company's operation in the field.

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9. EXECUTION

On 25 April, a verbal order was issued by the CO 3/26 to commence OPERATION GOLDEN FLEECE on 28 April 1967. Initial plans included only Company K, 1 section of 81mm mortars, an Artillery Forward Observer team, a FAC team and an Engineer Demolition team. Later a platoon from Company I and a platoon from Company L chopped operational control to Company K. Consequently there were 4 platoons operating in the AO during the majority of the operation. The Commanding Officer, Company K, was senior officer in the AO, he exercised operational control of CAC A-3, H-1, H-2, H-3 and H-8 as well as local ARVN and Popular Forces.

Initially CAC Marines and PF's guided Kilo elements over patrol routes and assisted in selecting ambush sites. Once a knowledge of the assigned operational area was obtained, Kilo moved independently with CAC elements assigned specific areas of operation.

In the vicinity of CAC A-3 and H-1, K-2 integrated the CAC elements into his platoon, facilitating extensive patrolling and ambushing of a densely populated area by squad size elements. Population dispersion in other areas necessitated utilization of larger elements to ensure adequate security for operations conducted at ranges greater than 3000 meters from the platoon patrol bases.

Attached 81 mortars supported all patrols to their maximum range. Artillery fires were planned in support of all other activity. Additionally, H&I fires were planned on all routes of access to the populated areas that could not be physically covered.

28 APRIL

The Company Commander established liaison with CAC H-6, the Company Command Post was established at CAC H-3, K-1 at CAC H-8, K-2 at CAC A-3 and K-3 at CAC H-2. All Kilo units made liaison with the village chiefs at their respective Command Posts. Kilo-3 also made liaison with the village police chief. The commanders of Company K, Kilo-1 and CAC H-6 attended school dedication ceremony at Truong Su Lo Dong, (YD 980069) met with village elders, District Chief, and Village Chief, and had lunch with the local assembly. All Vietnamese personnel were very friendly in this area. K-3 reported that Vietnamese personnel in his area were less friendly as the distance from the CAC increased. Hamlets in the vicinity of (YD 937070) and (YD 933046) were unfriendly at night. Eight ambushes were established at night. No contact was made.

29 APRIL

Conducted daylight patrols and Observation Posts around respective Command Posts to see and be seen. Corpsmen treated 65 Vietnamese at Company Command Post. No contact.

30 APRIL

Kilo-1 had contact with 5 VC/NVA, vic(YD 980050). Viet Cong were in a house conducting a class on mines and booby traps when they were observed by PF and CAC guides. They fled when fired on by Kilo-1 with 30 rds. SAF.

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While pursuing the Viet Cong, Kilo-1 received approximately 75 rounds AW. The VC broke contact with Kilo-1. Searched house with negative results. Apprehended 1 Vietnamese male and 1 Vietnamese female.

Nam Pho Can (1) vic (YD 964052) Hamlet Chief Voty, reported 120 NVA of the 218th Co-K806 Battalion moved into Nam Phu Can (YD 950040) at 291500H came to talk about rice harvest and Kilo's activity in the area.

An estimated 40 Viet Cong visited Bony Mon (1), (2) and (3) vic (YD 964072), (YD 970075) and (YD 977076). Hamlet Chiefs reported VC made rice demands to the people.

Corpsmen treated 40 Vietnamese.

1 MAY

Rice harvest commenced at approximately 0630H at Loc Son, Loc An, Loc Bon, Loc Dien and Thuy Phu and ended at 1830H. Size of the harvest could not be accurately determined because each family worked its own area. Approximately 33 square klm. were worked simultaneously. Between 1000 klm. and 3000 klm. will be harvested daily in each district according to the village chief's estimates. Approximately 8000 Vietnamese were in the field daily. Hamlet Chiefs did not have central storehouses available for storage of rice at this time.

Corpsmen treated 65 Vietnamese.

No contact.

2 MAY

Rice harvesting commenced approximately 0630H, and ended approximately 1830H. Thuy Phu and Loc An reported 10,500 kilos of rice harvested. 7000 Vietnamese worked in the AO.

Corpsmen treated 100 Vietnamese.

At 2220H a patrol from K-Hq enroute to ambush site made contact with 5-10 VC at range of 10 meters or less vic (YD 960085). Enemy fired 10 rds. automatic weapons fire and the patrol returned 20 rds. AW fire, 1 rd. 12 gauge shotgun, 1 M26 grenade. Five 81mm mortar illumination rds. were fired. Area searched with negative results.

3 May

Rice harvesting commenced at 0630H, ending at 1800H. The Company Commander met with village chiefs of Loc An and Loc Son to discuss harvest storage.

Corpsmen treated 170 Vietnamese in AO. Engineers attached to K at CAC H-3 aided ARVN in communication site project. Construction began on a helo-pad at CAC H-3.

No contact

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4 May

At this time cumulative total for rice harvested was 50,000 kilos. Company Commander briefed village and hamlet chiefs on search and clear operation.

Corpsmen treated 170 Vietnamese

L-3 chopped operational control to Company K.

No contact.

5 May

At 0400H, K-3 established blocking position vic (YD 955035) with K-1 blocking vic (YD 948047) and (YD 963040). At 0615H, L-3 began sweep through Lai The, vic (YD 964058), Nam Pho Can (1) vic (YD 964050), Phuoc My vic (YD 960048) and Nam Pho Can (2) vic (YD 958040). Company CP group, CIT team, the village chief of Loc An, and the area hamlet chiefs accompanied L-3. The National Police, CAC H-3 Marines and PF's conducted the screening of people.

Five detainees were apprehended. Four were sent to Phu Loc, and ~~one~~ to Phu Bai. K-1 found 1 VC hard corps helmet and 2 1/4 lbs. blocks TNT at (YD 964040).

Battalion began making all rice reports.

6 May

Supported PF Bridge Guard (YD 986048) with 81mm mortar illumination and HE after bridge was hit by an estimated VC platoon at 2045H. 71 rounds of 81mm illumination, and 63 rds. 81mm HE expended with good coverage on target. 155mm mission called for illumination and HE. Excellent coverage. The VC broke contact at 2130H. The artillery was requested by ARVN bridge platoon defense commander.

Corpsmen treated 210 Vietnamese personnel.

7 May

A patrol from CAC H-2 had contact with an estimated 50 VC, vic (YD 944073) at 0115H. VC wore khaki uniforms and black and white pajamas. Fired SAF and AWF, M-79 and 81mm illumination. The VC did not return fire and broke contact. Search at first light produced 2 AK-50 Magazines, NVA helmet, M-1 Carbine magazine, ChiCom grenade, canteen (NVA) and assorted individual gear.

L-3 received 15 rds. SAF incoming at vic (YD 969104). Returned SAF and 81mm illumination. Searched area with negative results.

At 1400H estimated platoon of VC vic (YD 967028) kidnapped 1 Vietnamese male (Nguyen Thihy) and headed SE.

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8 May

L-3 patrol made contact with estimated 3 VC at 2045H vic (YD 965057). Found booby-trapped grenade on trail. VC used water buffalo as cover and patrol fired SAF, M-79, and 81mm mortar illumination. Enemy broke contact. First light search found blood trails and pools. 2 VC KIA probable.

Corpsmen treated 80 Vietnamese.

9 MAY

At 2145H K-2 patrol enroute to ambush made contact with 6 VC, some of whom were dressed in camouflaged uniforms. VC took Marines for their own. Occured at possible VC rendezvous site. VC talked to Marine rear security in Vietnamese. Another Marine asked who the first was talking to, in English. VC fled and K-2 fired 60 rds. SAF. VC did not return fire. First light search found 1 VC male, age 23-26 yrs. KIA by gunshot wounds. Found on side of trail, 25 meters from ambush sight. Name-Phau Bong on canteen. Also recovered cartridge belt, parachute cape, first aid packet, ChiCom canteen, personal items of equipment and 1 love letter.

Corpsmen treated 100 Vietnamese.

10 MAY

CAC H-3 patrol made contact with an unknown number VC at 2000H vic (YD 964059) Enemy fired AWF. Patrol returned SAF, M-79, M-26 grenades, 81mm and 60mm illumination. Searched area with negative results. During action ARVN Bridge forces saw 16 VC running towards the railroad from Truc Bridge. ARVN Bridge force opened fire and enemy returned fire. Some rounds hit CAC H-3 compound.

3rd Marine Division Band visited Loc An village market and played for 2 hr. concert which was well received by the populace.

Corpsmen treated 85 Vietnamese.

12 MAY

I-1 chopped operational control to Company K.

Element of CAC H-3 on routine patrol made contact with estimated 3 VC at 2105H, (YD 964059). Enemy fired approximately 15 rounds, carbine. Patrol returned 100 rounds M-16, 4 M-26 grenades, 5 M-79 rounds, 10 rounds 60mm illumination, 5 rounds 81mm illumination. Swept area thoroughly at first light with negative results.

Corpsmen treated 85 Vietnamese.

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13 MAY

Swept villages of Thon Ke Bong (YD 965037) Luong Diene Thuong, (YD 966048) Nam Tho Can (2) (YD 960040) with negative results.

I-1 ambushed 4 VC (YD 945072) at 122120H when 2 of the VC crossed railroad tracks in the area. I-1 fired 120 rds. SAF, 10 rds M-79, 6 rds. 60mm HE and 5 rounds 60mm illumination. VC did not return fire, but broke contact. Initial search of area had negative results. First light search found 1 VC seriously wounded about 30 meters from ambush sight. Second VC WIA found across road (YD 945072). Numerous personal items of equipment and documents recovered. Seriously wounded VC died at 0745H from wounds. The other VC was treated by corpsmen and evacuated by helo about 0800H. All documents forwarded to S-2. Results 1VC KIA; 1VC (POW) WIA

Corpsmen treated 80 Vietnamese. ~~Attitude of people improved with~~ killing of VC. L-3 returned to Vital Area Perimeter.

14 MAY

Conducted platoon sweeps of Thou Te Yuan, (YD 970055), Thou Que Chu (YD 966050) with inconclusive results.

At 2030H, K-3 observed 1 VC leaning against a house while moving to ambush. VC observed patrol and fled, dropping French type ruck-sack. Patrol fired 3 rounds SAF and searched area with negative results. Ruck-sack contained approximately 50 lbs. milled rice, hammock, first aid packet, plastic sheet and bag of peanuts.

At 2115H K-3 had 2 VC enter ambush site moving North along river trail, (YD 961041). VC suddenly reversed direction and ran south. Ambush fired 40 rds. SAF, 1 rd. M-79. Immediate search with inconclusive results. Hamlet chief of Nam Pho Can (1) (YD 963050) reported to CAC H-3 that 1 VC was killed in K-3 ambush and carried off into hills.

Villagers from Nam Pho Can (2), vic (YD 958040) reported 1 VC KIA (P).

Corpsmen treated 50 Vietnamese

15 May

At 0500H, I-1 observed 3 VC, (YD 945072) and fired 70 rds SAF, 2 M-72 LAAW's and 3 rounds 81mm illumination. Enemy broke contact and fled north. Area searched with inconclusive results.

At 0920H, a truck convoy of 9th Engineers and 3d AT's was moving north on Highway #1 when the second vehicle detonated a pressure type mine of about 40 lbs of explosive. The truck left the road about 25 meters from mine vic (YD 003037) and turned over on its left side. The vehicle suffered extensive damage and 12 Marines

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were wounded. Medevac was completed in 1 hour and 40 minutes. Another mine of the same type was found by engineers 50 meters north of the first and blown by engineers. Co K CP provided security until truck was recovered.

Corpsmen treated 65 Vietnamese.

16 MAY

The Phu Loc District Chief visited the Company K CP at 1500H.

Corpsman treated 63 Vietnamese.

17 MAY

Corpsman treated 40 Vietnamese.

No contact.

18 MAY

At 2010H, a patrol from the Company CP passed through the village of Ba Vinh vic (YD953070) and was crossing a bridge about 100 meters from the village, when the rear security observed 1 VC moving near a pagoda. The security opened fire and 4 enemy returned SAF/AWF, wounding two Marines. Enemy driven off by heavy volume of friendly fire. Search of area at first light found documents, one Chi Com detonator and many spent cartridges. WIA's medevaced by helo. Enemy casualties unknown.

At 2110H a patrol from K-2 was fired on by 3 VC, vic (YD915108). Enemy attempted to detonate claymore mine but failed. K-2 returned fire and enemy fled. Search of area found 1 claymore mine, 1 satchel charge, blasting caps and wire. Claymore failed to detonate because of improper wiring. No friendly or enemy casualties.

Corpsmen treated 50 VN

Estimate rice harvest was 65-70% complete at this time.

19 MAY

At 2015H a patrol composed of Company CP personnel ambushed 4 VC vic (YD 953084) at a range of 20 meters. VC first observed moving east to west, then south towards ambush sight. Fired 250 rds SAF, 200 rds AWF, 11 M-79 rds, 7 rds .45 cal, 4 M-26 grenades, and 16 rounds 81mm illum. Enemy did not return fire. 1 VC KIA (c) killed on dike. 1 VC KIA (P) body observed sinking in water after being shot by .45 rounds. Recovery attempt was unsuccessful. 2 VC escaped into canal. Recovered: 1 AK-47, 1 demolitions kit, 1 sapper's bag, 1 V6 ID card and personal items of gear. Results 1 VC KIA (c), 1 VC KIA (p).

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At 2330H a patrol from K-2 received one (1) grenade of unknown type vic (YD910100) returned 3 M-26 grenades, 11 M-79, 250 rds SA, 200 rds 7.62 link, Swept area, no bodies recovered. No friendly casualties.

Corpsmen treated 60 VN

20 MAY

No contact

Corpsmen treated 50 VN. Four Vietnamese wounded as a result of automobile accident were given first aid and medevaced.

21 MAY

No contact

Corpsmen treated 30 VN.

22 MAY

At 2315H a patrol from K-2 received 75 rds SAF from estimated 3 VC, vic (YD908108). Returned 150 rounds SAF, 1 M-26 and 3 M-79 rounds. Enemy broke contact to SW. Swept area with negative results.

Corpsmen treated 60 VN.

23 MAY

No contact

Corpsmen treated 38 VN

Buddha's birthday celebrated by VN.

24 MAY

No contact.

Corpsmen treated 52 VN. A helicopter was downed at 1415H vic (YD908120) K-CP and elements of K-2 proceeded directly to sight and secured same. No casualties, no gear missing. Downed helicopter and salvage team lifted out by helicopter by 1800H.

25 MAY

No Contact

Corpsman treated 55 VN.

26 MAY

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No contact.

Corpsmen treated 63 VN.

27MAY

At 262005H, vic (YD959041) K-32 sprung an ambush killing 2 VC and recovering 1 M-1 rifle and 1 K-50 automatic rifle. Estimated VC force, 5-6. At 2045H in vicinity of YD 960048 the VC ran into K-31 ambush (mutually supporting ambush to K-32) resulting in 1 VC KIA (c) and 1 M-1 rifle and 1 K-50 automatic rifle recovered. 81mm and artillery illumination was fired in support. At 2200H, K-32 saw VC in boat trying to escape. Hit boat with heavy AW fire. Results unknown. 81mm HE fired on all exit routes south. Extensive first light search revealing evidence of additional VN casualties, number unknown. Results: 3 VC KIA (c), 1 USMC WIA.

At 1530H, Hamlet Chief of Nam Pho Con (2) Came to Company C.P. and reported he knew of 2 WIA or KIA VC women in his hamlet. He thought that these VC were possibly wounded in K-3's ambush of previous night. Thorough search of Nam Pho Con (2) with inconclusive results.

Corpsmen treated 47 VN.

I-1 returned to Vital Area Perimeter.

28MAY

No contact.

Corpsmen treated 47 VN.

29MAY

No contact

Corpsmen treated 51 VN; also delivered 1 baby VN girl.

30MAY

At 2130H a patrol from K-2, while moving west enroute to vic (YD916099) met 4 VC head on. VC were moving east. K-2 opened fire with 150 rounds 5.56mm, 125 rds 7.62mm link, 1 M-26 and 7 rds M-79. VC did not return fire. 1 VC KIA (c) and 1 model 50 NVA submachine gun recovered. VC KIA identified by Loc Bon Village Chief (CAC H-1) as Vo Hien Phuoc of An Nong (1), Loc Bon Village. Considered #2 man in VC infrastructure. Detail search made at first light with negative results.

Corpsmen treated 69 VN.

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Rice Harvest considered complete by Village Chiefs.

31 MAY

No contact

Corpsmen treated 60 VN.

1 JUN

At 2005H, K-3 made contact with unknown enemy force vic (YD963057). Enemy opened fire with SAF. K-3 returned fire with small arms and M-79. Enemy broke contact and fled north. K-3 searched area with inconclusive results. 81mm HE was fired in support to close off exit routes.

Corpsmen treated 67 VN.

At 2045H while firing 81mm mortars to close off exit routes of VC who made contact with K-3, 1 short 81mm mortar round landed in Nam Pho Ha approx 30 meters outside CAC H-3 compound vic (YD966063). Round was fourth one out of tube. 2 KIA VN and 10 WIA VN. No Marine casualties. Immediate medical assistance was rendered by corpsmen, seriously wounded evacuated by helo to Hue.

Company Commander made immediate first light investigation of impact area with village chief, and accompanied by the senior ARVN present in the vicinity, in making condolence calls to relatives of deceased. Later in the day the Company and Battalion Commander visited next-of-kin. No adverse reaction was experienced or expected from local population.

2 JUNE

No Contact.

Corpsmen treated 71 VN.

Company Commander attended funerals of VN killed by short 81 round.

3 June

No Contact.

Company K was relieved by Company I.

10. Results obtained from 220 daylight patrols and 342 ambushes/night patrols during the 37 day period are as follows.

a. 4 USMC W.I.A.
2 USMC NBC

b. VC K.I.A. (Confirmed) - 7
VC K.I.A. (Probable) - 5
VC Captured - 1

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Weapons recovered:

- 1 AK 47
- 2 M-1
- 2 K-50
- 1 Model 50 NVA Submachine gun

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

- a. Resupply accomplished mainly by two 6x6's attached to company for operation from 3rd Motors. With company controlling resupply, it ran very smooth with no difficulties encountered.

12. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES.

- a. Medcap treated a total of 2197 Vietnamese or a daily average of about 60 VN for the 37 days.
- b. Aerial photos of operating areas were used extensively during patrol briefing and debriefing.

13. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS. GOLDEN FLEECE was in essence a denial operation, the denial of the enemy's capability to harass and coerce the Vietnamese civilians into supplying the rice, money and material necessary to sustain VC operations. The initial task was to gain the respect and confidence of the people to be protected and to establish a feeling of security as well as the actual security itself. "See and Be Seen" patrols, OP's during daylight hours, frequent liaison with village and hamlet chiefs, participation in local affairs and events, and an extensive MEDCAP program all helped to acquire the local population's respect. Strict observance of local customs was imperative and liaison with the village chief was the surest means of accomplishing this. Night activity consisted of extensive patrol and ambush action. Night-long ambushes and patrols hindered local VC movement and eliminated VC ability to organize the people for classes, and rallies. Frequent changes in platoon operating areas, with one platoon leaving, it left the impression that they were off to a new area by moving out during the daylight hours, while another would be inserted in the same area during the darkness, this produced repeated enemy casualties. Changes in unit call signs, utilizing colors instead of numeric designators, helped confuse enemy monitoring of the company tactical net and frequent changes in Thrust Points resulted in increased contact. In short practiced deception was a constant requirement if contact was to be attained, since all company elements were immersed in an environment of friend foe and their respective sympathizers.

Hot humid weather also resulted in a preference for night activity by both sides.

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The amount of moonlight available influenced enemy movement in the AO. Bright clear nights indicated movement at dusk until moonrise only.

On dark or stormy nights the enemy attempted a wider latitude in his operations.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS.

- a. Establish early liaison with district forces and village leaders in the intended zone of operation. If possible, have unit leaders briefed by local CAC's on the peculiarities of the assigned area, to include ground reconnaissance. Ensure the availability of qualified interpreters for all meetings with Village Chiefs. If Marine linguist are available within the unit, have them monitor the translation to make certain the intent and expression as well as the context of the conversation is conveyed accurately. While reports of activity and the progress of the harvest are necessary, excessive and detailed requirements at the field level curtail the commander's ability to get about and work his company.

Brief factual reporting formats will lessen this burden. In one instance, a daily rice report dealing with the effectiveness of the harvest ie: sq kilometers harvested, kilos harvested, people working and protected etc. was questioned by the Vietnamese officials as to the need for the Americans to know data and compared with the interest a tax collector might show. This was the exact opposite impression we desired to convey, so the reporting was modified to the extent of the harvest completed from time to time. A daily requirement on hamlet and village chiefs to collect data and turn it in daily to the American Commander on the scene unnecessarily exposed these individuals to VC interception once a pattern has been established.

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-16-

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