

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

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

389967

3/TC/1kh
5750
003422167
10 Aug 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MAFAC 5750.3
(b) 3d MarDiv 5750.1A

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for period 1-31 July 1967 (U)

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

K. L. Hoch
K. L. HOCH

DISTRIBUTION:

CC 3d MarDiv (7)
CC 26th Mar (1)
3-3 3/66 (1)
File (1)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFYING AFTER 12 YEARS
DO NOT DECLASSIFY BEFORE 2000.10

UNCLASSIFIED

COPY 2 OF 10 COPIES

*3d MarDiv/26th Mar
Command Chron*

July 1967

~~SECRET~~HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 25th Marines
APO San Francisco 96602

UNCLASSIFIED

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July to 31 July 1967

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - DETAILED LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONSCOMMANDER

3d Battalion, 26th Marines

LtCol K. L. HOCH (1-31Jul67)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company

Capt J. R. CLICKENER (1-31Jul67)

Company I

Capt W. F. COULTER (1-31 Jul 67)

Company K

Capt W. R. WILDPREP (1-31 Jul 67)

Company L

Capt R. D. CAMP JR. (1-31 Jul 67)

Company M

Capt A. D. DEBONA (1-31 Jul 67)

2. STAFF OFFICERS:

Executive Officer

Maj C. E. MUNDAY (1-31 Jul 67)

S-1/Adjutant

2d Lt R. D. SPENCER (1-31 Jul 67)

Personnel Officer

2d Lt E. L. KNOX (1-31 Jul 67)

S-2

1st Lt T. A. BAILEY (1-31 Jul 67)

S-3

Capt C. O. REYNOLDS (1-31 Jul 67)

S-4

Capt M. A. KING JR. (1-31 Jul 67)

Comm Officer

Capt T. L. EARLY (1-31 Jul 67)

Supply Officer

Capt G. A. RADNIECKI (1-21 Jul 67)

Motor Transport Officer

2d Lt M. K. ECKHART (22-31 Jul 67)

Medical Officer

1st Lt W. G. MESSER (1-31 Jul 67)

Chaplain

Lt J. F. LILLY (1-31 Jul 67)

Lt B. WATTINGY (1-27 Jul 67)

Lt Cdr THOMAS MCELROY (28-31 Jul 67)

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
38	1050	2	55	0	0

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

At the beginning of July 1967, the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines was participating in Operation CROCKETT at KHE SANH, HUONG HOA District, QUANG TRI Province under the operational control of the 26th Marines. 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 June to 30 June 1967.

1 JULY 1967

At 0001H, Co M and H&S Co (-) were occupying positions on an unnumbered hill vic (XD791416); Co I and the Command Group were located vic (XD813409); and Co L was occupying Hill 689 vic (XD813409). The three companies had been operating along the ridgeline running between Hill 758 and Hill 689 since the Battle of Hill 689 on 27-28 June.

Co K was just outside the Khe Sanh Base Perimeter vic (XD839421) as the Regimental Reserve Company. H&S Co (-) and the Rear Command Group were in the regular Battalion area vic (XD845416).

During the day Co I moved to search for a suspected rocket site vic (XD795412); Co L moved to vic (XD787404); Co M moved to Hill 758 vic (XD784423); the Command Group displaced to vic (XD785421) off of Hill 758. All units patrolled around these locations during the day and established positions at the given coordinates for the night.

At 1045H, Co M found an NVA helmet with bullet and shrapnel holes vic (XD783422). 1 NVA KILL.

At 1100H, Co L found a dud 250 lb bomb and a possible rocket site vic (XD792406). Site consisted of four holes dug into ground on an inclination and pointed toward KHE SANH. Area to rear had received backblast.

At 1200H, Co I vic (XD785414) found and destroyed a tunnel $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft wide by $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft long by 4 ft high leading into a room 4 ft long by 3 ft wide by 3 ft high. Room had an air vent and could accommodate 2-3 NVA, but did not appear to have been recently used.

At 1237H, Co L found 1 bolt action sniper rifle with scope, scope cover, and rifle case vic (XD788404). Also found 5 "L"-shaped, covered fighting holes, 2 open holes, and 5 entrenching tools and a variety of NVA web gear. Holes were on the military crest of the hill protecting its principal avenue of approach.

At 1345H, Co L found and destroyed 3 fighting holes less than one week old vic (XD758410).

At 1820H, Co I called artillery on 2 NVA moving east across a stream vic (XD779407) with good coverage but unknown results.

At 1937H, Co L found a possible tunnel complex vic (XD788407).

At 2130H, Co L vic (XD787404) received 2 rds of 60 mm mortar with no casualties. An artillery station on Hill 950 observed muzzle flashes vic (XD787404) and artillery was fired on that area with unknown results.

2 JULY 1967

~~SECRET~~
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIED

During the day Co M moved to Hill 821 vic (XD 763443), Co I (-) joined the Command Group on Hill 758 vic (XD 785422), and Co L moved to Hill 542 vic (XD 809392). I-3 remained at the rocket site vic (XD 785412) until dusk, when it joined Co L on Hill 542.

At 0810H, Co I found and destroyed four bunkers vic (XD 785400). Bunkers were all 4 ft by 3 ft by 3 ft.

At 0845H, Co M vic (XD 773427) suffered 3 WIA's from shrapnel from a friendly bomb.

At 0830H, Co M found and destroyed 17 two-man fighting holes 4 ft by 3 ft by 3 ft vic (XD 774427). Bunkers were in a 360° perimeter, but most were oriented towards the northwest and were approximately 3-4 days old.

At 0900H, Co I found 6 fighting holes and assorted NVA web gear, AK-47 magazines, and used bandages vic (XD 784399).

At 1005H, Co I found a 102mm rocket vic (XD 785406). Rocket had Chinese markings and had a deep fuze well and electric detonating device still attached. A hole 72 inches in diameter and 7 ft deep was found twenty meters from the rocket. Fragments of U.S. WP and artillery rounds were found throughout the area.

At 1440H, Co M found 8 covered fighting holes, one dud Chi Com grenade, one dud 81mm mortar rd, and 1 NVA KIA (C) vic (XD 757446). Holes and body appeared to be one month old. Destroyed holes, grenade, and mortar rd.

At 1900H, Co L fired 81mm mortars on 4 NVA in green uniforms who were walking northeast into treeline vic (XD 802396). Negative surveillance due to heavy vegetation.

I-3 remained at the rocket site vic (XD 785412) until dusk, when it joined Co L on Hill 542.

3 July 1967

From 0600H to 1035H, Co M was helilifted from Hill 821 back to the KHE SANH Base.

I-3 rejoined Co I on Hill 758.

Co L returned to vic (XD 788405) from Hill 542 vic (XD 809391) and conducted a thorough search of the area between the two positions.

At 2000H, Co I vic (XD 784422) called 81mm mortars and artillery on one light moving east and another light moving west towards each other vic (XD 775413). The lights were extinguished.

4 July 1967

Co I and Co L patrolled to the west of their respective areas.

At 1800H, Co L found a well used trail with a worn tree crossing a creek vic (XD 764404).

5 July 1967

The Banana group displaced from Hill 758 vic (XD 785422) to Co L's position vic (XD 788405). Co I and Co L patrolled to the west of their respective positions.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

REF ID: A66000

At 0828H, L-3 found a hut vic (XD 778409). Hut was 4 ft by 4 ft, built into side of hill and covered with banana leaves, and estimated as being 2 days old. Also found 9 two-man bunkers with logs and dirt overhead and covered with foilage. Found NVA 782 gear, one NVA helmet, tin dishes with shrapnel holes, and bloody bandages throughout the area.

At 1200H, Co L found 22 rocket launcher sites vic (XD 772411). The positions were in groups of 6 and 7, the holes were $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft deep and set 2 ft apart. Two stakes were set in front of each pit, one foot apart on either side and connected with a braided rope. Smaller stakes were located between the pits and the larger, stakes, which appeared to be aiming stakes. Mask clearance had been out to the front. No burned areas were found behind pits, although some bark had been stripped from trees. Also found 3 102mm rocket rounds with Chinese markings. Also found fuzes, fuze cases, and an NVA helmet. This site was apparently the position from which the KHE SANH Base was rocketed on 28 June.

At 1700H, Co L was helilifted back to the KHE SANH Combat Base.

6 July 1967

Co I patrolled to the southwest of Hill 689.

Co K patrolled to the southwest of the KHE SANH Combat Base.

At 2240H, Co K observed two objects, one red and one white, moving slowly from the northwest to the southwest across the sky beyond Hill 1015. One of the objects burst in the air. They were subsequently determined to have been an American aircraft and a SAM missile.

7 July 1967

Co I patrolled in the Hill 758 area.

M-2 escorted Ontos and Tanks to D/1/26 position vic (XD 914403).

Co K patrolled to the southeast of the KHE SANH Combat Base.

At 1500H, Co I found a dud 250 lb bomb vic (XD 787422). The bomb was destroyed in place.

At 1700H, Co I was helilifted back to the KHE SANH Combat Base. The entire battalion went on a 24-hour standby to move by helilift/vehicle convoy to the Operation BUFFALO Area, if so ordered by the Division Commander.

8 July 1967

The Battalion continued on standby for Operation BUFFALO. Local patrols and ambushes were conducted in the immediate area of the KHE SANH Combat Base.

9 July 1967

The standby continued and operations were restricted to local patrols and ambushes in the immediate area of KHE SANH Combat Base.

REF ID: A66000

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

10 July 1967

Co M and Co L began two day search and destroy operations in the area southwest of HUONG HOA and the Hill 832 area vic (XD 873445), respectively.

At 1400H, Co L found the following USMC 782 gear and equipment vic (XD 873442); 2 entrenching tools, 1 entrenching tool cover, 1 mess kit, 2 M-14 bayonets, assorted utilities, 1 long range ration, 1 towel, 2 helmet liners, 1 jungle boot, 2 field jackets, 1 flack jacket, 1 soft cover, 2 ponchos, 1 shelter half with tent poles and pegs, 1 burned M-14 rifle stock, 2 bandoliers 7.62 ammunition and 1 rain jacket. All gear was helilifted back to the KHE SANH Base.

Co M established night time positions vic (XD 839345) and Co L vic (XD 874445).

11 July 1967

Co M and Co L continued their patrols, and both companies returned to KHE SANH by dusk.

12 July 1967

Co I began a three day search and destroy operation up the RAO MAN and KHE XA BAI Valleys and along the ridgeline containing Hill 527 and Hill 632. During the day it moved to vic (XD 862462) where it established night time positions.

13 July 1967

Co L was helilifted to Hill 758 vic (XD 785424) from 0905 to 0935H. Co K moved on foot to Hill 689 vic (XD 803409). Both companies were to conduct search and destroy operations in the area to the south and west of Hill 689-Hill 758-Hill 821 ridgeline.

At 1000H, Co K at 804408 found a harbor site used by an estimated 20 VC/NVA. Also found part of USMC utility uniform covered with flies. Odor in area indicated dead body, but none found. Further search revealed empty Chi Com ammo cans and tunnels cut in the brush, tunnel floor was wetted. Remained in area.

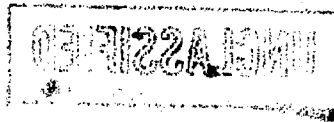
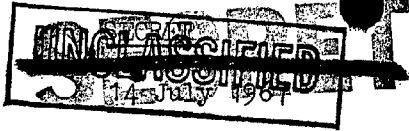
At 1030H, Co I destroyed 25 enemy bunkers used as a harboring site vic (XD 826468). Bunkers were all 2ft deep and 3ft square.

At 1100H, Co K found and blew in place 1 dud 250 lb bomb vic (XD 802407).

At 1245H, Co K found remains of 1 USMC body vic (XD 804408), estimated to be 15 days old. Body decapitated and right arm missing. US propaganda, 2 M-14 magazines with ammo, 2 M26 grenades, 1 compass, and 1 cartridge belt with 1 canteen found on or in the vicinity of the body. Area further searched and head located near body. No evidence of right arm or weapon found. Body returned to graves registration and subsequently determined to have been a Marine from CAC-0 who had been killed on 27 June while on patrol.

Co L established night time positions on Hill 758 vic (XD 784423), Co K vic (XD 786405), and Co I vic (XD 813473).

UNCLASSIFIED



At 0845H, Co K vic (XD 788409) observed four plumes of smoke rising from canopy vic (XD 752405), (XD 753408), (XD 755411), and (XD 755415). Fired 21 rds 81mm mortars, 10 rds 106mm recoilless rifles, and called 126 rds zone fire mission by two batteries on suspected enemy locations with excellent target coverage but unknown results. Estimate 2 company sized units.

At 0900H, K-1 reconed area vic (XD 783403) for possible harbor site. Found only trails with no signs of recent activity.

At 0915H, Co K observed a boat containing 11 people crossing river vic (XD 695360). Distance was too great to determine clothing, equipment, or activity.

At 1115H, I-1 found and destroyed a damaged LAAW vic (XD 807483).

At 1400H, K-2 found an old harbor site vic (XD 790405) which did not appear to have been occupied for some time. Also found 1 82mm rd in stream at same location, and pieces of bandages and clothing.

At 1530H, Co K vic (XD 770405) found and blew in place 1 dud 250 lb bomb, but the on surface and found 1 dud 500 lb bomb buried approximately 50 feet in dirt with tail assembly broken off on surface. Unable to blow 500 lb bomb, but the hole was filled in.

At 1715H, Co K vic (XD 789405) received 3 short burst of fire from a machinegun mounted on what appeared to be an S.O.C. UH-34 aircraft. Results: 1 USMC KIA.

Co I established night-time positions on Hill 632 vic (XD 828482)).

15 July 1967

At 0800H, Co K found 1 NVA KIA estimated as being 2 weeks old vic (XD 801410). Body had belt with two ChiCom grenades attached and beside the body was a pole with 2 unfused 82mm mortar rds attached with rope thongs. Ordinance was blown in place.

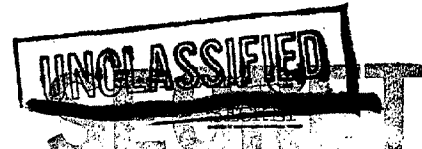
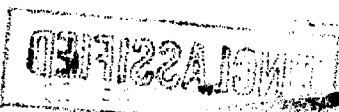
At 0835H, Co K found 1 ChiCom box mine at (XD 792412) camouflaged in front of a bunker. Mine was blown in place and bunker was destroyed.

Co I, Co K, and Co L returned to the same before dusk.

16 July 1967

At 1200H, Co L moved by vehicle convoy to vic (XD 918417) to begin an operation northwest along the stream bed to vic (XD 844438). Co L established night-time position vic (XD 918418).

At 2400H, Operation CROCKETT terminated in accordance with CG 3d Mar Div 160653Z Jun 67.



UNCLASSIFIED

17 July 1967

At 0001H, Operation ARDMORE commenced in accordance with CG Third Mar Div 160653Z Jul 67.

At 1010H, Co M was helilifted from KHE SANH to vic (XD 855469) to conduct operations in the Upper KHE NGHI Valley area (XD 8646-XD 9046, XD 9049-XD 8649). During the day Co M moved to vic (XD 878486), where it established night-time positions.

At 1420, Co M vic (XD 864470) fired 60mm mortars and called artillery on 6 NVA running west across ridgeline vic (XD 863489). 1 NVA KIA (P).

During the day, Co L moved northwest through the RAO QUAN valley to vic (XD 899422).

18 July 1967

At 0850H, Co M found in excess of 75 bunkers 3 ft deep and 4 ft square and covered with branches, a layer of dirt, and leaves on the south side of the stream vic (XD 868493) capable of harboring at least 2 companies. Also found 46 fighting holes approximately 2½ ft deep and 2 ft square covered with small logs, a thin layer of dirt, and leaves, and 33 uncovered fighting holes of approximately the same size, and 17 bunkers approximately 3 ft deep and 4 ft wide made of logs with overhead cover. All positions were approximately two-man size. Found 1 NVA helmet with a bullet hole and 2 pair of NVA trousers. Also found a trail 1½ meters wide heading to the northeast vic (XD 869492). The trail had been heavily used, although none of the positions appeared to have been recently occupied.

At 0943H, Co M found 1 pair of NVA trousers with shrapnel holes vic (XD 867493).

Co M established ambushes along the trail it had found vic (XD 862490).

Co L continued to move northwest through the valley, moving to vic (XD 876423), where it established night-time positions.

19 July 1967

At 1140H, Co M found one Montagnard house on stilts vic (XD 854491). House was approximately one month old and there were no trails or signs of recent occupancy in the area.

Co L and Co M established night-time positions vic (XD 873428) and (XD 863493), respectively.

20 July 1967

Co M moved east to Hill 606 vic (XD 863493) and Co L moved northeast to vic (XD 873428). Both companies established night-time positions at these locations.

Co L found and filled 15 two-man holes measuring 4 ft by 2 ft by 2 ft and positioned in a perimeter vic (XD 868931). Trash in area indicated that area was used by a friendly unit.

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

21 July 1967

At 0920H, Co M while moving from Hill 606 vic (XD 882496) to vic (XD 903497) located a trail vic (XD 902496). Co M followed trail east to vic (XD 905493) where the trail entered a treeline. The point moved into the treeline, where it found a hut and bunker complex. As the point moved to investigate, it received fire at close range from an estimated enemy platoon armed with 1 .50 cal machinegun, 2 light machineguns, and 10-15 automatic and semiautomatic weapons. At the time the company had entered about 25 meters into the woodline, however the CO ordered a withdrawal under cover of 60mm mortars and organic weapons. An artillery mission was fired at 0930H and fixed wing air arrived on station at 0950H. Contact was broken at 1017H. At 1030H, airstrikes were conducted on the enemy position and at 1050H, Co K was helilifted to vic (XD 898497) to reinforce Co M. At 1108H Co M began recovering KIA's in the area it had withdrawn from under cover of air, and at 1145H Co M was helilifted back to KHE SANH. Most of the enemy bunkers were oriented defensively toward the west and were covered with 2 layers of logs and 12 inches of dirt. The huts were built on stilts, similar to Bru huts. Area was apparently a permanent base camp occupied by a platoon-sized holding force. Co M suffered 5 KIA, 9 WIA (medevac), and 9 WIA (nonevac). The majority of the casualties were caused by extremely accurate sniper fire. Co M captured 1 tripod for a heavy machinegun with an anti-aircraft harness, and found several 12.7mm cartridges and Chi Com grenades. No estimate of enemy casualties was given. At 1245H Co K was helilifted from vic (XD 898497) to Hill 689 vic (XD 803409), where it established an operating base and began to conduct extensive patrols.

Co L returned to KHE SANH at 1600H.

22 July 1967

Co L and Co M assumed 30-minute alert as Sparrow Hawk and Reaction Force for Rough Rider.

At 2135H, Co K called 24 rds 105 and 8 rds 4.2 on 5 lights moving around on Hill 552 vic (XD 822402), with good coverage of target. Lights extinguished.

At 2145H, Co K vic (XD 803409) observed two lights coming over ridge-line vic (XD 792415). Lights blinked off and on.

23 July 1967

Co L and Co M continued on 30 minute alert.

At 0700H, Co K vic (XD 803409) observed 25 NVA in the open vic (XD 722442) moving northwest towards Hill 918 vic (XD 725444). Co K called in a fire mission but after the initial rounds, A/1/26 on Hill 691 vic (XD 778437) took over adjusting the mission since it was in better position to observe. Results unknown.

At 1425H, Co K (XD 803409) fired 81mm mortars and called artillery on 3 NVA in bushes vic (XD 782418). Good coverage, unknown results.

At 2235H, Co K vic (XD 803409) fired 4 rds 81mm mortars and 22 rds 105mm mortar on 4-6 lights moving north vic (XD 768394). Lights were extinguished.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

At 2140H, Co K vic (XD 803409) observed lights from what appeared to be a motor convoy with four or more trucks moving east vic (XD 712378). Requested artillery mission, but regiment cancelled mission and decided to take care of it by other means. At 2230H, the lights were observed vic (XD 745360).

At 2235H, Co K vic (XD 803409) received 2 rds of incoming artillery- one inside the perimeter, the other just outside- resulting in 3 USMC WIA. Co K observed muzzle flashes on Hill 861 vic (XD 803443) and rounds were subsequently determined to have been erroneously fired by the 4.2 mortar battery.

24 July 1967

Co M (-) conducted a minesweep on Highway #9 within the ARDMORE AO.

25 July 1967

At 1200H, Co I commenced a search and destroy operation to the northwest of KHE SANH. During the day, Co I moved to vic (XD 790448), where it established night-time positions.

Co M (-) conducted minesweep of Highway #9 within the TAOR, and the third platoon provided security for a minesweep from KHE SANH to LANG VEI.

Co I provided security for Rough Rider between KHE SANH and DONG HA. The Rough Rider returned to KHE SANH at 1530H.

At 2100H, Co K called artillery on lights vic (XD 822443). Lights were extinguished.

At 1830H, the 81mm mortar section attached to Co K found a dud 500 lb bomb vic (XD 790448) while digging a mortar position. D/1/26 was advised of location, and subsequently dispatched an EOD team to blow the bomb in place.

At 2135H, Co K vic (XD 803409) fired 45 rds 81mm HE on lights moving north on Hill 552 vic (XD 820403). Lights were extinguished.

26 July 1967

All activities were cancelled because of heavy rain and extremely poor visibility.

At 2300H, "A" Relay on Hill 950 vic (XD 844455) received a direct hit from a mortar or artillery round from an unknown source causing the bunker to collapse on two personnel manning the 3/26 relay station. 2 USMC WIA (nonevac).

CG 5th Mar Div 261447Z Jul 67 designated 3d Battalion, 26th Marines as the Division Reserve on 2-hour standby for a Spoiling Attack in the DMZ conducted by the Ninth Marines.

27 July 1967

Co K moved south from Hill 689 and conducted a through reconnaissance of the high ground vic (XD 809376). The company continued to LANG VEI on Highway #9 vic (XD 724363), where it was picked up by a convoy and returned to KHE SANH at 2130H.

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Co I moved southeast and returned to KHE SANH at 1830H.
 M-2 assumed the defense of Blue Sector on the KHE SANH Perimeter.
 The Battalion continued on two-hour standby as Division Reserve.

28 July 1967

Company M conducted a minesweep of Highway #9 between KHE SANH and the eastern boundary of the AO.
 Co I provided security for the Rough Rider to DONG HA, which departed KHE SANH at 0940H.
 The Battalion continued on two-hour alert as the Division Reserve.
 M-3 relieved M-2 of the defense of Blue Sector on the KHE SANH Perimeter.

29 July 1967

Co K moved by vehicle to vic (XD 875395). The company moved to vic (XD 873404) where it established night-time positions.
 Co I conducted a minesweep of Highway #9 to the east border of the TAOR.
 The Battalion continued on two-hour alert as Division Reserve.
 At 1905H, Co K vic (XD 873404) received SAF and M-79 from approximately 10 enemy on hill vic (XD 875397). Co K returned SAF, 81mm and 60mm mortars. No casualties.
 At 2130H, Co K vic (XD 872404) heard a possible grenade exploding vic (XD 873404).

30 July 1967

M-1 relieved M-3 of the defense of Blue Sector.
 Co I continued to patrol up the RAO QUAN Valley, returning to KHE SANH.
 The Battalion continued on two-hour alert as Division Reserve.

31 July 1967

At 1300H, Company M changed operational control to 1/26 and moved by vehicle at 1430H to vic (XD 915415) for an operation in the AO vic (XD 920440-XD 950440-XD 950415-XD 920415).
 The Battalion continued on two hour alert as Division Reserve.

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED AND SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED.

At the beginning of July, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines was engaged in Operation CRUCIBLE under the operational control of the 26th Marines in HUONG HOA District, QUANG TRI Province. At that time, the Battalion Command Group, Company L, Company M, two sections of the 106 Platoon, and two sections of 81mm mortars were operating in the area of the ridgeline running from Hill 689, Hill 758, and Hill 821. The Battalion (-) had been operating in this area since the Battle of Hill 699 on 27 June.

Company M returned to KHE SANH on 3 July, the Command Group and Company L on 5 July, and Co I on 7 July. From 7 to 9 July, the Battalion was on two-hour standby as Division Reserve for Operation BUFFALO.

From 10 to 11 July, Company L and Company M operated in the areas near Hill 832 via (XD 873445) and southwest of HUONG HOA, respectively.

Company I operated along the RAO QUAN and KHE XA BAI valleys from 12 to 15 July.

From 15 July to 15 July Company K and Company L operated in the area south and west of the Hill 689-Hill 758-Hill 821 ridgeline.

Operation CRUCIBLE terminated at 162400H and Operation ARIMORE commenced at 170000H.

On 17 July, Company M was helilifted to vic (XD 855469) and operated in the upper KHE SANH Valley area until 21 July, when it made contact with an estimated platoon of NVA and was subsequently extracted.

On 21 July, Co K was helilifted to reinforce Company M. After Company M was extracted, Company K was helilifted to Hill 689. The Company operated in that area until 27 July when it returned to KHE SANH.

Company I operated to the northwest of KHE SANH in the area near Hill 821 North from 25 July to 27 July.

On 28 July, the Battalion went on two-hour standby as Division Reserve for a spoiling attack in the DMZ by the Ninth Marines. The Battalion continued on standby for the remainder of the month.

On 28 and 30 July, Company K operated in the RAO QUAN valley via (XD 873445).

Throughout July, the Battalion maintained the defense of a portion of Gray Sector on the KHE SANH perimeter, and conducted local patrols,

UNCLASSIFIED

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

~~SECRET~~ mouches and listening posts. On 27 July, the Battalion assumed the additional mission of coordinating the defense of Blue Sector on the KHE SANH perimeter, and from 28 July to the end of the month, the Battalion provided security for a daily minesweep of Highway #9 to the eastern boundary of the Operation ARDMORE AO.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

CENTRAL FILE

~~SECRET~~

B. CASUALTIES

Friendly Casualties

KIA	5
DOW	1
WIA	28
TOTAL	34

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1. With Higher Units: The Battalion was under the operational control of the 26th Marine Regiment throughout July. Close liaison was maintained through frequent meetings and relations were satisfactory throughout the month.

2. With other Marine Units: The Battalion had no other companies under its operational control during the month, and units were assigned in direct support of the Battalion only for short periods when a specific operation required a particular unit in support. At various times during the month, units from Company A; 3d Amphibious Battalion; tanks from 3d Platoon, Company B; 3d tank Battalion; 44th Artillery; and Engineers from C Company; 3d Engineer Battalion operated in direct support.

3. With ARVN/RFM Units: While in KHE SANH, the 26th Marines were responsible for relations with the Vietnamese in the area. Battalion worked only indirectly with Vietnamese.

Enclosure (1)

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

D. COMMUNICATIONS

~~SECRET~~

1. Message Center. Message traffic is picked up and delivered to the 26th Marines Message Center. Distribution has not changed.

2. Radio. All battalion nets and the regimental tactical net terminate in the 3/26 COC bunker. Contact with operating elements is made possible through the use of a relay station on Hill 950.

3. Wire. Normal intra-battalion wire facilities were utilized. In addition, two trunk lines were laid to the Regimental switchboard, and one hot line was laid from 3/26 COC to the 26th Marines COC. Also, a hot line was laid to 1/26 COC in the event regimental command post is switched from the Regimental COC as a result of damage sustained in a mortar or rocket attack.

4. General. In recent operations it was found that normal antenna accessories were not capable of transmitting from the low land and valley areas, and such field expedients as the vertical, half rhombic, and long wire types employing field wire were used.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

E. FIRE SUPPORT

The primary function of the FSCC during July was to clear all supporting missions for the battalion. The FSCC displaced from 1 July to 5 July to plan and coordinate fires for the battalion during a Search and Destroy mission on Hill 689 and Hill 758. The FSCC's mission during this operation was to coordinate all fire missions in the assigned AO and to coordinate the night defensive fire plans of the companies, insuring that all fires were properly registered.

A normal H&I schedule was planned for the hours of darkness. On days of poor visibility a daytime schedule was also planned. Maximum use of intelligence and patrol information was used to determine H&I target lists.

Work was also continued on the perimeter fire defense plan by registering 81mm mortar targets in the various sectors.

During July no significant missions were fired against NVA/VC targets. Since the enemy did not conduct any mortar or rocket attacks, no counter-battery fire was delivered during the month.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

F. AIR SUPPORT

~~SECRET~~

I. Air Defense. No enemy aerial activity of any type was encountered during the month.

II. Air Support.

a. Medevacs. A total of 17 medevacs were flown during July. Five USMC KIA, 15 USMC MIA, and 30 USMC NMI were evacuated.

b. Fixed Wing. Four fixed wing airstrikes were flown, with unknown enemy casualties. The strikes were 90 per cent on target with 80 per cent coverage.

c. Aerial Observation Flights. Five AO flights were flown during July.

d. Resupply. Thirty resupply missions were flown during the month, and a total of 117,812 lbs were carried.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED**SECRET**

1. No major administrative difficulties were encountered during the period covered by this report. Battalion level personnel accounting has proven to be most effective with the organization split into forward and rear areas.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED
PERSONNEL

1. During the month of July, the Battalion joined 4 officers and 144 enlisted personnel while 5 officers and 21 enlisted were reassigned to other units within RVN. 24 enlisted personnel were reassigned out of country by service records as a result of medical evacuation.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1. INTELLIGENCE

1. Significant Intelligence Information 1-31 July

a. At the beginning of the month, operations centered around investigating the battle of Hill 689 on 27 June. At 050600H L Co found a rocket launching site on the eastern slope of a hill vic (XD776405). There were 22 holes--one group of 10 and a second group of 11 about 30 meters to the right flank of the first group--all in line. Three 102mm rocket rounds partially rusted were found discarded in the vicinity. There was no evidence of rockets having been fired from the positions. Further investigation along a trail in the area revealed vic (XD770407) a possible aid station at which were found 10 fighting holes with no defensive posture, bandages, tubes of medicine, used battery cells, a pair of trousers with one leg cut off, and a large grass area where probably 10-20 slept in the open under the canopy cover. At XD771407, 10 well dug single man bomb shelters were found dug into the side of the gully. Also Co L investigated an enemy harboring site at XD778409. There were 10 bunkers with double criss-cross logs 6"-8" in diameter covered with 6"-12" dirt for over head cover.

b. Numerous harboring sites were located throughout the month: At (XD826469) Co L destroyed 25 enemy bunkers. K Co located an old harbor site at (XD790405) and found 1x82mm round and pieces of bandages and bits of clothing in stream at XD790405. At 180850H M Co vic XD868493 found a large bunker complex in excess of 75 bunkers, 50 huts, and 17 fighting holes with covers, some of which had been used within the last 72 hours. Area was at least a 2 company position.

c. There were 2 significant contacts in July in which elements of 3/26 participated: (1) 170905H Special forces reported being in contact with approximately 50 VC/NVA at XD784350. Size of unit in contact was estimated to be 1 company. Artillery and air strikes were called and the enemy withdrew south into SAOC. Estimated enemy casualties were 4 KIA (C), and 6 KIA (P). An ID card on one of the bodies was marked E over 6/8. A small tin pin portraying a right hand holding a small flag about the size of a dime was found. The flag was red with gold star in the center. The inscription around the periphery of the pin was translated "Youth Labor Party Union".

(2) 210920H Co M while moving from Hill 606 (XD882496 to XD903497) located a trail at XD902496. The point followed the trail east to XD905493 where they entered the treeline. Just inside the treeline a hut and bunker complex was found. Upon moving to investigate the complex, the point received fire from estimated 50 cal machinegun, 2 light machineguns and 10-15 assorted auto and semi-auto small arms. Bunkers were oriented defensively toward the west. Co M penetrated 25 meters into the area when they received fire from an estimated platoon size holding force from a permanent base camp. M Co withdrew and requested artillery and air. There were no estimates of enemy casualties. The majority of friendly casualties were suffered by extremely accurate sniper fire.

2. ENEMY LOSSES FOR PERIOD 1-31 July

DECLASSIFIED

a. Enemy Personnel Losses

1 KIA (C)

1 KIA (P)

b. Enemy Equipment Losses

3 rds 102mm rockets

2x82mm mortar rds

2 CHACOM grenades Enclosure (1)

1 CHACOM box type mine

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

The KHE SANH area is thinly populated, rugged, and mountainous. Heights over 500 meters are common throughout the area. Terrain is severely dissected and thickly vegetated with dense undergrowth, broadleaf evergreen forests, and bamboo thickets. Trail networks are plentiful but trafficability to vehicles is almost uniformly restricted to National Route 9. KHE SANH Valley is aligned on a northwest-southeast axis and joins the QUANG TRI and DA KRONG RIVER valleys at a common juncture in GS (XD9240). From this juncture, the QUANG TRI Valley extends northeast to exit at (YD0035). The DA KRONG Valley runs in a meandering path toward the southeast and exits at (YD0036). Most drainage runoff is transported by the RAO QUAN river which conveys the entire KHE SANH valley drainage flow and exits the southeastern border at (XD9240). This river joins the QUANG TRI river and eventually empties into the Gulf of Tonkin. All other drainage flows into the SH PONE river (XD7834) which flows northwest as the Vietnam-Laos border before turning west. This river charges the MNKONG system.

(1) Vegetation.

(a) The valleys are generally covered with elephant grass six to twenty feet in height and low brush. Small areas in the immediate vicinity of villages are utilized for river and garden crops. The southern portion of the KHE SANH valley supports a rubber plantation vicinity (XD859395). A broad band of elephant grass extends from (XD6446) to (XD8630). In addition, interwoven bamboo thickets are prevalent along with dense jungle in the southwest corner of the AO.

(b) The mountains are covered by a dense broadleaf evergreen forest with smaller areas of pine and deciduous trees interspersed. Tree height increases with increased elevation. Tallest trees are 75-90 feet high, with some ranging to 150 feet. Canopy is generally continuous with more than 25 percent of the ground covered by 2 to 4 layers of canopy. The trees have shallow roots and their trunks are generally straight and average 0.3 meters in diameter, increasing somewhat in the higher elevations. Trees are commonly 2 to 3 meters apart. In inaccessible areas of heavy canopy, the sun rarely reaches the undergrowth, which becomes more grassy at higher elevations. In areas formerly cleared, shifting cultivation growing for 3-5 years and the discontinuance of the canopy has permitted the development of a much thicker undergrowth than would be expected deeper in the forest. Spring rattans, pill bushes, vines, and briars generally are interwound around trees or between bushes.

(c) The thick primary forest is normally not susceptible to conflagration, however extensive defoliation spraying and the relatively dry period of the southwest monsoon season should produce scattered areas of jungle and elephant grasslands highly susceptible to conflagration.

(2) Avenues of Approach

(a) The major avenue of approach is Route 9 which enters the KHE SANH area from the east and west.

(b) The five major rivers systems, the DA KRONG, QUANG TRI, RAO QUAN, SICHON and KHE GIANG THOAN and their tributaries, afford avenues of approach.

(c) The five major river systems of the KHE SANH valley and the KHE GIANG THOAN are the most easily traversed avenues of approach into the heartland.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1. The regular MedCap programs from the KAH SANH base and CAC-0 are being supplemented by the availability of the 3/26 surgeon and corpsmen to local natives.

2. Assistance on two projects was requested during liaison visits with local officials: a) Technical assistance for constructing a kitchen for a local Bru school, and b) construction of a small bridge to provide easier access to one of the Bru villages. The kitchen project is presently being handled by CAC-0 although 3/26 will help haul materials to the site of construction. The bridge project is under study with the District Advisor.

which knowledge to be removed from the file
(1) removed

which knowledge to be removed from the file
(1) removed

10/10/66

which knowledge to be removed from the file
(1) removed

10/10/66

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~SECRET~~L. LOGISTICS

1. General. Logistics support was generally satisfactory during July.
2. General Supplies. Many supply items were in demand, and nearly all items requested were provided during the month.
3. Transportation.
 - a. Transportation Support was provided by 26th Marines. The vehicle deadline rate from supporting units was very high, and consequently transportation was not as available as in previous months.
 - b. Within the Battalion, all organic vehicles were operational. Administrative runs were held to a minimum, and organic vehicles were used for most tactical commitments.
4. Resupply. Resupply of companies operation in the field was accomplished by helicopter throughout July.
5. Ordinance. For a short period, the Battalion had a shortage of M-16E1 rifles because of persons being transferred out of the Battalion with their weapons, while new arrivals from the states did not report as with M-16's. The problem was explained to Division and a requisition for additional rifles was filled.
6. Food Service. A mess hall serving three meals a day to approximately 1015 persons was in operation throughout July. Food was satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

Enclosure (1)

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED
OPERATIONS

In the absence of any assigned TAOR, this unit has submitted only PsyOps targets of opportunity based on our own operations. The need for a loudspeaker team and the specific targets of the KHE SANH area were topics of a discussion with the 3d Marine Division PsyOps representative at the III MAF Conference on 25 July. KHE SANH is a virgin area for a coordinated PsyOps effort.

2. On 18 July pictures of the POW and identifiable pictures of several enemy killed were submitted to 3d Marine Division for exploitation with a special leaflet identifying their unit which was engaged by 3/26 on 27-28 June. It is unknown at this time if the special leaflet was dropped on the target areas requested.

3. Until the KHE SANH area has the ability to cut tapes in Bru, a very important target audience cannot be reached. The Bru do not read or write.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)