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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 26th Marines
3d Marine Division(Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code 107D), Headquarters, U. S.
Marine Corps, Washington, D. C.
Via: (1) Commanding General, FMF PAC
(2) Commanding General, III MAF
(3) Commanding General, Third MarDiv(Rein)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5720.2a
(b) FMFPSC 5750.8
(c) 3dMarDiv O 5750.1a

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

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

2. Downgraded at 3 year intervals. Declassified after 12 years LAM EDD 1-1-67 52.10.10.

L. L. ALDERMAN
L. L. ALDERMAN

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3rd Brn/26th Mar
Cind Chron

Oct 1967

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 26th Marines
3d Marine Division(Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 October to 31 October 1967

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONSCOMMANDEER

3d Battalion, 26th Marines

LtCol H. L. ALDERMAN (1-31Oct67)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&F Company

2ndLt G. C. CRANGLE (1-30Oct67)

Company I

Capt W. H. DABNEY (3-26Oct67)

Company K

Capt J. GILGE (26-31Oct67)

Company L

1stLt T. A. BAILEY (1-4Oct67)

Company M

Capt L. P. CAULFIELD (4-31Oct67)

Capt J. R. BROWN JR. (1-31Oct67)

Capt R. D. CAMP JR. (1-31Oct67)

Capt W. H. DABNEY (1-30Oct67)

Capt A. LARDIZABAL (3-31Oct67)

2. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj J. L. LOUGHRAN (1-31Oct67)

S-1/Adjutant

1stLt R. POST (1-31Oct67)

Personnel Officer

2ndLt E. L. KNOX (1-11Oct67)

S-2

1stLt R. POST (12-31Oct67)

S-3

1stLt C. F. KINNEY (1-31Oct67)

S-4

Maj C. E. MINDY JR. (1-31Oct67)

Comm Officer

Capt A. LARDIZABAL (1-30Oct67)

Supply Officer

Capt W. H. DABNEY (3-31Oct67)

Motor Transport Officer

Capt T. L. EARLY (1-31Oct67)

Medical Officer

2ndLt L. K. MCKLANN (1-31Oct67)

1stLt W. G. RUSSELL (1-10Oct67)

2ndLt K. WOOD (10-31Oct67)

Lt R. W. MITCHELL, USN (1-31Oct67)

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC	USN	OTHEL
<u>ENL</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>
36	1051	0
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
	2	7

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The narrative summary contains only major events of activity for the battalion during the month of October. In that the battalion's mission was the security of Camp Evans, Hill 674, and Hill 51, there was little or no major significant contact with the enemy. The daily summary of significant events is contained in the After Action Report of Operation FREMONT.

For the month of October, 3dBn, 26th Marines(-), was located at Camp Evans, Phong Dien District, Quang Tri Province, with the mission of providing security for Camp Evans, Hill 674, and Hill 51. Company L was under the operational control of 2dBn, 26th Marines.

6 October 1967

At 1525H, while moving on a patrol in vic (YD 566307), K-3-A received 30 to 40 rounds of small arms fire from a hamlet in vic (YD 566309). Fire was returned, and the patrol maneuvered against the enemy. One VC was observed watching the patrol with binoculars. The patrol fired at him and flushed two additional VC who attempted to flee but fell under the patrol's fire. The patrol moved into the hamlet and commenced a methodical search of the houses. Two large blood pools were found at the point of contact. While checking ID cards in the hamlet, one VN male who had been hiding in a hut attempted to flee. The patrol fired, and the individual fell. A subsequent search of the area in which he fell failed to produce a body. The patrol continued a search of the hamlet with negative results. Patrol accounted for 2 VC KIA(P).

11 October 1967

During the day, an intelligence report from District Headquarters was received, indicating that a battalion of VC/NVA was intending to cross Highway 1 during the night somewhere to the south of Camp Evans. Co M (rein) was sent out to establish 4 platoon sized ambushes. At 2030H, M-2 in vic (YD 596302) observed 13 VC/NVA approximately 300 to 400 meters west of their position. Three of the enemy moved as close as 100 meters from M-2, before turning in a northwest direction and moving towards M-1 in vic (YD 596306). The other 10 enemy followed the first 3. M-2 held its fire in an effort to capture the VC/NVA or in case the 13 were a point element for a larger unit. At 2145H, an additional 50 to 60 enemy came into view and followed the initial 13, turning towards M-1. An artillery mission was called, and Co M began firing small arms fire, automatic weapons fire, and mortars, causing the enemy to flee. A sweep was organized, but due to the dispersion of the company's elements, was slow in moving out. No bodies were found.

20 October 1967

At 0800H, the scout sniper team operating from Hill 51 observed 9 VC moving along a trail in vic (YD 572295). The patrol opened fire and moved to check the area. One VC KIA(C) was found. In addition, one pack, a blue uniform, and a document were found. The document was forwarded to Regimental S-2. Result was 1 VC KIA(C).

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24 October 1967

At 1800H, the FO on Hill 674 spotted 20 to 30 VC in vic (YD 559237). They were carrying what appeared to be rice. An artillery mission was called which resulted in at least one secondary explosion, and one VC KIA(P). At 1805H, the FO spotted an additional 12 VC in the same area, and called another artillery mission. He observed 5 VC fall from a direct hit. Results were 6 VC KIA(P).

30 October 1967

At 1100H, while on a patrol in vic (YD 600289), I-2 received small arms fire from a small hamlet. A cordon was established, and a sweep with I-2 and PF's was begun. Two VC were observed in a hole, and a PF threw a grenade in, resulting in 2 VC KIA(C) and 1 weapon captured. In addition a list of VC sympathizers was taken from one of the dead VC. 17 of these sympathizers were promptly apprehended and detained for questioning.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED AND SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

1. For the month of October, the mission of the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines was; provide security and perimeter defense for Camp Evans, Hill 51 (Reg't OP vic 549282) and the Radio Retransmission Site on Hill 674 (YD 516219); provide security for MCE Construction Teams, Regimental Water Point, and Rough Riders as required with two rifle companies; conduct aggressive small unit patrols and Search and Destroy operations with the remaining available forces.

2. From 29-31 October, Company I (Rein) conducted a County Fair Operation on Ap Pho Ninh-Ap Hien Si hamlets (vic YD 608290) to detect/destroy enemy forces therein and to assist GVN authorities in gaining more firm control of the populace.

B. CASUALTIES

Friendly Casualties

KIA	0
VIA	3
TOTAL	3

Enemy Casualties

KIA(G)	3
KIA(P)	16
POW(VC)	1
TOTAL	20

C. COMMAND RELATIONS

1. With Higher Units. The battalion(-) was under the operational control of the 4th Marines for the month of October.

2. With Other Marine Units.

a. Close liaison was maintained with infantry battalions operating in adjacent areas.

b. Company I was under the operational control of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines.

c. For the perimeter defense at Camp Evans, the battalion had the following units under its operational control:

Security Platoon, 4thMar Hqts Co
Co C(-), 3d Tank Bn
Co B(-), 3d Engr Bn
2nd Plt(-), Btry D, 1/44th Arty
Provisional Plt, H&S Co, 1stBn, 4thMar

3. With ARVN/FF/RF Units

a. By maintaining close direct liaison with local Vietnamese forces, intelligence given by them was used frequently in establishing ambush/patrol operations.

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c. Company I provided tactical, logistical, psyops, and civil affairs support to local PF and RF forces in conducting the County Fair held from 29 to 31 October.

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D. COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

1. Message Center. Message traffic was picked up at and delivered to the 4th Marines Message Center.

2. Radio. All battalion nets and the regimental TAC net terminated in the 3/26 COC bunker. Contact with operating elements was made possible through the use of a relay station on Hill 674.

3. Wire. Normal intra-battalion wire facilities were in use during the month. Utilized lines including two trunk lines to the Regimental switchboard, one hot line from the 3/26 COC to the 4th Marines COC and one hot line from the 3/26 COC to the 3/4 COC. In addition, one hot line from the 3/26 COC (FSOC) to the 81mm Mortar FOC and one hot line from the 3/26 COC (FSOC) to the 4th Marines COC (FSOC) were utilized for matters pertaining to artillery and mortars.

4. General. On recent operations in the area, it was found that normal antenna accessories were not capable of transmitting from the low land and valleys areas. Recommended antennas are the vertical, half rhombic, and long wire types employing field wire. Communications were adequate in all respects.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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1. FIRE SUPPORT

1. Camp Evans. From 1 to 31 October the FSOC conducted normal operations. M107s were fired based on intelligence reports from S-2 and map reconnaissance. In addition, numerous fire missions were called against sighted VC/NVA. Sightings were usually made by FO's on Hill 51 and Hill 674. Surveillance, however, on target coverage was poor, generally due to distances involved or terrain features. For the period covered, artillery missions resulted in 9 VC KIA(P).

2. AIR SUPPORT

1. Air Defense. No enemy aerial activity was encountered during the month of October.

2. Air Support.

- a. A total of 29 personnel were med-evaced.
- b. Resupply and troop lift: A total of 234,715 lbs of supplies and equipment and 661 troops were transported to Hill 674 and Hill 51.
- c. Fixed wing. No missions of fixed wing were requested.
- d. Aerial Observer Flights: 8 aerial observer flights and over-flights were used to check areas of operation for battalion and company command personnel.
- e. Flareships: 1 flight was used on an ambush by M Company to facilitate their sweep following the action described in the fourth paragraph on page 3.

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1. No major administration difficulties were encountered during the period covered by this report. Battalion level personnel accounting proved to be very effective. During the entire period covered, the battalion administration was in one location for the first time since May 1967.

H. PERSONNEL

1. During the month of October, the battalion joined 20 Officers and 259 Enlisted personnel, while 11 Officers and 317 Enlisted personnel were transferred. 17 enlisted were re-assigned out of country by service records as the results of medical evacuations.

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I. INTELLIGENCE

1. Summary.

a. Weather. During October, Vietnam was still under the influence of the Southwest monsoon. In the Camp Evans area, the maximum temperature was 82 degrees, the minimum was 71 degrees. Average relative humidity was 76%, precipitation was 22.4 inches, and winds averaged 7 knots from the southwest.

b. Terrain. The area is characterized by coastal lowland plains, which consists primarily of poorly drained level areas of rice cultivation. Elevation in this area rarely exceeds 35 meters, and maps of the area are very accurate. Preceding inland the elevation rises sharply to 500 to 700 feet, characterized by dense forests and jungles.

c. Avenues of Approach. The main avenues of approach are the Hoa Ly trail running through Camp Evans, the railroad tracks running to the east of Camp Evans in a northwesterly direction, the Song O Mo River draining from the Co Bi-Thanh Tan valley, and the trail system throughout the Xom Phu Le & Xom Bo Dien complex (VF 5631).

2. Enemy Situation.

a. The enemy continued sporadic incidents of harrassments, mining, and mortar attacks. A heavy infiltration throughout the area exists with emphasis on rice gathering and transporting to the mountain areas.

3. Incidents.

a. Numerous sightings were made of the enemy, averaging groups of 3 to 8 and as large as 30. The majority of the sightings were made in the Co Bi-Thanh Tan Valley, lending evidence to reports that the area is a major rice transportation route.

b. Mines and Booby Traps. There was a noticeable increase in discovered mines and booby traps during October. Also of importance was the discovery of a barrier of booby traps around the Xom Phu Le - Xom Bo Dien complex and the Ap Tho Binh - Ap Hien Si complex, especially along the railroad. The incidence of mines on Route 7 decreased south of Phong Dien District Headquarters, but increased north of it.

4. Cumulative Totals.a. Enemy Personnel Losses

KIA(C)	3
KIA(P)	16
POW	1

b. Enemy Equipment Losses

IND WPNS	2
GSW	0

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J. CIVIL AFFAIRS

The civil affairs activity for October took place on 13 October in Xom Phu Le when a medcap was conducted in conjunction with a search and clear operation, and during County Fair of 29-31 October in Ap Dong Gia (YD 609284) during which an extensive two day medcap was conducted. The County Fair as an operation is discussed in the Psychological Operations portion of the Command Chronology, but should also be referred to in the Civil Affairs chronology for the month.

K. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

The mines reward program met with considerable success, and promises to continue under the incentive of immediate payment passed by word of mouth at the Water Point (YD 520349) and the dissemination of leaflets on 26 Oct in Phu Trac.

On 13 October, Company M conducted a search and clear operation in Xom Phu Le Xom Bo Dien. Employed during the operation was an HB Team, 244th PsyOps Co., broadcasting information on the amnesty, and mine reward program. Numerous leaflets were distributed complementing the broadcasts. The success was negligible in this VC sympathetic village.

Between 29 and 31 October, a County Fair was held in Ap Dong Gia (YD 608283). The Cultural/Drama Team (six members) and the Armed Propaganda Team (five members) that participated in the fair excelled in bringing the message of the GVN to this heretofore VC controlled area. Also very effective were the speeches of the assistant District Chief and the Village Chief. In addition to their efforts, the Audio/Visual Team from the 244th PsyOps Co. showed movies and passed out various leaflets on the Chieu Hoi and Mine Rewards Program. Upon termination of the operation an aerial broadcast was conducted, and 200,000 leaflets were dropped on the County Fair area. Realizing that the area in which the County Fair was held lay in the cradle of a VC rice transportation route in a predominantly VC sympathetic area, all the psychological operations efforts that were undertaken were valuable.

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L. LOGISTICS

1. General. Logistical support was satisfactory during October. There were no major problems obtaining supplies, transportation, or food services.
2. General Supplies. General supplies were adequate except for a short supply of BA-30 and BA-386 batteries.
3. Transportation.
 - a. Transportation was provided by the Third Motor Transport Battalion, through the Fourth Marine Regiment (S-4), and service was excellent.
 - b. Due to overall tactical commitments of the battalion, tactical runs were frequent. Administrative runs with organic vehicles were held to a minimum.
4. Resupply. At Camp Evans, resupply was accomplished both by truck convoy and helicopter.
5. Maintenance Support. Maintenance support was furnished by FLSC-A, at Phu Bai, and service was satisfactory.
6. Ordnance. Ordnance support was provided by FLSC-A, at Phu Bai.
7. Food Service. This unit operated a field mess at Camp Evans. Food was satisfactory in quality. There were adequate quantities of food and supplies, and food was prepared in a very satisfactory manner. Throughout the month, the field messhall at Camp Evans served three full meals at breakfast, dinner, and supper. With short notice, the messhall fed various Rough Rider Security elements remaining in Camp overnight, as well as the majority of BHT 1/3, which was at Camp Evans for 3 days.

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M. MEDICAL-DENTAL

1. Personnel. This Battalion Aid Station had a total of 52 personnel. These consisted of 51 Hospital Corpsmen, and 1 Medical Officer.

2. Capabilities. The Battalion Aid Station treated all minor medical and surgical problems. Patients requiring more extensive care were evacuated to the 3rd Medical Battalion at Phu Bai. Three hardback buildings were utilized for treatment room and ward, administrative office spaces, and the doctor's and corpsmen's quarters. In addition, one tent was used for storage of medical supplies.

3. Supply. Medical supplies were obtained from FLSU-2 at Phu Bai.

4. Dental. There were no facilities for dental care at the BAS. Patients requiring limited care were referred to the Regimental Aid Station (4thMar) for treatment. Patients requiring extensive dental care were evacuated to the 3rd Medical Battalion.

5. Malaria Prophylaxis. Chloroquine-Primaquine tablets were taken once a week on Sunday, preferably with meals. This Battalion had no confirmed malaria cases, but three (3) probable malaria cases during the month.

6. Sanitation. Sanitation reports were made weekly to the Battalion Commander.

7. Statistics. The following were the statistics for the period from 1 October to 31 October 1967:

DIAGNOSIS	FBI	I	K	L	M	OTHER	TOTAL
BURNS	1	2	0	3	1	2	9
INFECTIONS	21	10	8	32	14	34	109
DYSENTEREA	6	4	4	12	2	7	35
LACERATIONS	12	2	0	8	1	4	25
FALLO.	5	1	3	8	2	6	25
COLDS	6	7	3	12	4	10	42
DENTAL	28	13	11	15	16	0	84
RASH	12	15	8	26	9	14	74
STOMACH DISORDER	4	2	3	9	0	7	25
HEADACHES	16	10	11	15	6	12	70
ETES	10	8	16	13	17	0	61
FOOT DISORDERS	2	12	8	16	4	10	52
OTHERS	78	104	93	147	88	105	715
TOTAL	201	188	168	308	164	311	1326

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N. TRAINING

The following training was conducted during October:

1. Orientation. Personnel joined as replacements during the month received an orientation to Vietnam from their Company Commanders.

2. Familiarization and Fire Training of Personal Weapons. All personnel joining the Battalion in October fired their M-16's for familiarization, and all personnel who had not received their weapons, did so. Personnel issued .45 cal pistols were also required to fire their weapons.

3. Although the Battalion was extremely limited in training time due to security commitments, the individual companies conducted their own training when possible. Special emphasis was placed on scouting and patrolling techniques, fire discipline, individual movement, noise and light discipline, and ambush techniques.

4. Hospital corpsmen received on the job training under the supervision of the Medical Officer and the Chief Hospital Corpsman. The classes emphasized field medical techniques and diagnostic care.

5. All personnel joining the Battalion in October were given a thorough familiarization with the mines and booby traps peculiar to this area. In addition, personnel were shown the various types of warning signs which the VC use to warn of mines and booby traps in this area.

6. In Company I, instruction was given to small unit leaders on the proper procedure for calling in supporting artillery, and the methods used for adjusting it.

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PART IV

APPENDING DOCUMENTS / NFF

1. The following messages and orders governed the activity of the battalion during the month:

- a. Fourth Marines 021515ZOct67
- b. Fourth Marines 021615ZOct67
- c. Third Bn, Twenty-Sixth Marine, Frag Order 7
- d. Fourth Marines 100115ZOct67
- e. Fourth Marines 161125ZOct67
- f. Fourth Marines 171115ZOct67
- g. Third Bn, Twenty-Sixth Marine, Frag Order 5-67
- h. Fourth Marines 201615ZOct67
- i. CG, Third M&Div 19052910Oct67
- j. Fourth Marines 301110ZOct67
- k. Third Bn, Twenty-Sixth Marine, Op Order 3-67

Added

- 1. Msg 301140 z Subj: County Fair 4-4, Special SITREP #2
- m. Msg 311035 Z Subj: County Fair 4-4, Special SITREP #3

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ENCLOSURE (7)

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BNY CCCCC
 D 301140Z OCT 67
 FM THIRD BN TWENTY SIX MAR
 TO CG THIRD MARDIV
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L
 COUNTY FAIR 4-4, SPEC SITREP 2
 SUMMARY OF OPERATION

- (A) 291800H/301300H OCT 67/CONTINUING
 (B) AP HIEN SI/AP PHO MINH - YD 628290
 (C) CO 1 (REIN), THIRD BN TWENTY-SIX MAR
 PLT(-), CO B, 3D AMTRAC BN
 RF CO
 PF PLT

(D) TO PROVIDE TACTICAL, LOGISTICAL, PSYOPS, AND CIVIL AFFAIRS
 SUPPORT TO GVN FORCES TO OBTAIN BETTER SUPPORT FROM AND MORE EFFECTIVE
 CONTROL OF PEOPLE FOR GVN, DESTROY OR WEAKEN VC INFRASTRUCTURE, AND
 INDUCE VC TO GVN THROUGH HIS OWN FAMILY.

(E) 1 USMC NBC (29OCT)

(F) 908 VN SCREENED (FIGURES FM SPEC SITREP 1 REFLECTS 1900 VN)

3
 Ccc

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A 3/100 RFO

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~*County Fair*

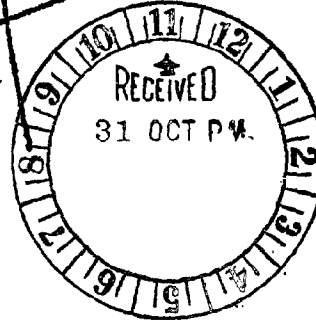
ZM CALL

O 311035Z OCT 67

FM THIRD BN TWENTY SIXTH MAR
TO CG THIRD MARDIV
INFO ZEN/FOURTH MAR
BTCONFIDENTIAL
COUNTY FAIR 4-4, SPEC SITREP 3
SUMMARY OF OPERATION

- (A) 301800H/310800H/TERM/WRAP UP
(B) AP HIEN SI/AP PHO NINH-YD 606290
(C) CO 1 (REIN), THIRD BN, TWENTY SIX MAR
PLT (-), CO B, 3D AMTRAC BN
RF CO
PF PLT

(D) TO PROVIDE TACTICAL, LOGISTICAL, PSYOPS, AND CIVILAFFAIRS
SUPPORT TO GVN FORCES TO OBTAIN BETTER SUPPORT FROM AND MORE
EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF PEOPLE FOR GVN, OBJECTIVE WAS REALIZED FOR THE
GVN OFFICIALS AND MESSAGE WERE BROUGHT TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS
HERETOFOR VC CONTROLLED AREA. THE SHEER PRESENCE OF THE DISTRICT



PAGE TWO 90F7 CONFIDENTIAL
OFFICIALS AND VIETNAMESE PSYOPS PERSONNEL, SUCH AS THE CULTURE TEAM,
WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. EACH OF THE ABOVE VERY EFFECTIVELY BROUGHT
THE MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE. IN ADDITION THE VC
INFRASTRUCTURE WAS SHAKEN UP WITH THE DEATH OF 2 VC AND THE DETEN-
TION OF FORTY-SEVEN OTHERS.

(E) 1 USMC NBC (29OCT67)

(F) 910 VN SCREENED. BREAKDOWN AS FOLLOWS: 250 FAMILIES, 75 MALES, 225

FEMALES, 600 CHILDREN.

(G) 2 VC KIA(C), 47 DETAINEES, 2 BOOBY TRAPPED M-26 GRENADES, 1
DOZEN PUNJI STAKES, 1 K-30 AUTO WEAPON, ASSORTED CAPTURED DOCUMENTS.
THE 2,200 OF POUNDS OF RICE REPORTED DISCOVERED ON LAST REPORT WAS
DETERMINED BY ASSISTANT DISTRICT CHIEF ON 31 OCT TO BE REDISTRIBUTED
TO THE PEOPLE BY THE VILLAGE CHIEF.

(H) EFFECT ON VC INFRASTRUCTURE: TWO VC KIA(C) AS RESULT OF
INFORMATION GIVEN AT FAIR. DOCUMENTS FOUND ONE ONE OF THEM LISTED
VC LIAISON TYPES, 17 OF WHOM WERE DETAINED. TOTAL NUMBER OF 47
DETACHMENT DISRUPTED VC INFRASTRUCTURE IN AREA. THE INFRASTRUCTURE
IS ASSUMED TO BE EXTENSIVE.

(I) CIVIC ACTION SUPPORT RENDERED:

- (1) MEDCAP TREATED 400 PEOPLE
(2) 50 COOKING UTENSILS DISTRIBUTED
(3) 500 SACKS OF RICE DISTRIBUTED
(4) 2 LARGE BOXES OF CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED

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PAGE THREE C O N F I D E N T I A L
 (5) 100 BARS OF SOAP DISTRIBUTED
 (6)

8 VOLLEY BALLS, 2 NETS DISTRIBUTED

(J) PSYOPS SUPPORT RENDERED. CULTURAL DRAMA TEAM MIXED WITH THE PEOPLE BOTH DAYS AND VERY EFFECTIVELY ENTERTAINED THEM WITH PATRIOTIC OVERTONES ON BOTH EVENINGS. THE ARMED PROPAGANDA TEAM MIXED WITH THE PEOPLE AND TALKED ABOUT THE AMNESTY PROGRAM. LEAFLETS ON THE CHIEU HOI PROGRAM WERE DROPPED BY AIR THE FIRST DAY. THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT CHIEF GAVE 1 1/4 HR TALK TO THE PEOPLE EARLY IN THE EVENING ON BOTH DAYS. HIS IMPACT WAS THE MOST BENEFICIAL OF THE OPERATION. THE VILLAGE CHIEF TALKED TO THE PEOPLE THE SECOND EVENING. CARTOONS AND A MOVIE DEPICTING THE DIFFERENT FORTUNES OF TWO VC AND ARVN BROTHERS WERE SHOWN THE SECOND NIGHT.

(K) THIS OPERATION IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. THE FACT THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE SO HAD NOT OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS DICTATED THAT IT BE TERMINATED AT THE END OF THE SECOND DAY IS UNQUESTIONABLE. THE AREA WAS DEFINITELY UNDER VC CONTROL AND THE PEOPLE WERE INITIALLY FRIGHTENED AND RELUCTANT TO COOPERATE. AFTER ONLY A FEW HOURS HOWEVER, THEIR RESPONSE AND ENTHUSIASM NOTICEABLY IMPROVED. DUE TO THE LARGE AND UNEXPECTED NUMBER OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATING, A MAJORITY OF THE FORCES AVAILABLE WERE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE COUNTY FAIR DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, THEREBY LESSENING THE COMPANY COMMANDER'S ABILITY TO CONDUCT S&D PATROLS DURING THE DAY. THIS SITUATION WAS BEING OVERCOME BY THE END OF THE SECOND DAY, HOWEVER, AS THE GUN OFFICIALS

PAGE FOUR 9077 C O N F I D E N T I A L
 GAINED BETTER CONTROL. CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION WOULD HAVE BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE MARINE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO OPERATE IN THE VICINITY OF THE COUNTY FAIR, AND WOULD HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY RESULTED IN MORE TANGIBLE DESTRUCTION OF VC ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.

GP-4

BT

TOR/31/1330/06767/24 MAR

A-3/KOC

CEO

W/M

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