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HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March 1968 to 31 March 1968

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Enclosure (1)

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HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

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3/WCE/jrn
5750
2 April 1968

From: Commanding Officer
to : Commanding Officer, 27th Marine Regiment

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 March 1968 to 31 March 1968

Ref : (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.28

Encl: ✓(1) 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines Command Chronology

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

Louis J. Bachner
LOUIS J. BACHNER

2nd Bn/27th Mar

Command Chron

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2/27 S/C # 111-68
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Mar 1968

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1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

2nd Bn, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein)

LtCol LOUIS J. BACHER
1Mar-31Mar68

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None

ATTACHED UNITS

15th I Tm	1-31Mar68
19th IT Tm	1-31Mar68
1st Div KCS Tm	1-31Mar68
E Btry, 2nd Bn, 13th Mar, Arty Liaison	1-31Mar68
E Btry, 2nd Bn, 13th Mar, (4) FO Tms	1-31Mar68
Hdqtrs Btry, 2nd Bn, 13th Mar, SFCP	1-31Mar68
11th Motor Transport, Det	1-31Mar68
Co C, 1st Engr Bn, 1st Mar Div, Det	1-31Mar68
9th Comm Bn, Radio Relay Tm	1-31Mar68
Hdqtrs Co, 27th Mar - Sniper Tm	1-31Mar68

2. LOCATION

1-31Mar68: DaNang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj C. W. GIBSON, Jr.
1-27Mar68

Maj R. N. GRATTAN
28-31Mar68

S-1

1stLt R. L. HASSE
1-27Mar68

1stLt H. D. PATTERSON
28-31Mar68

Adjutant

WO A. DEJOHN
1-31Mar68

S-2

1stLt R. D. DUFF
1-31Mar68

S-3

Maj R. E. ARMSTRONG
1-31Mar68

S-3A

Capt W. J. FLEMING
1-31Mar68

S-3L/ALO

1stLt C. R. THOMPSON
1-31Mar68

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Liaison Officer

1stLt W. K. FOO
1-31Mar682ndLt B. T. JONES
1-17Mar682ndLt W. C. EVANS
17-31Mar68

S-4

1stLt A. I. ALEXANDER
1-31Mar68

S-5

Capt T. A. WILLIAMSON
1-31Mar68

Ordnance Officer

WO R. V. WILLIAMS
1-31Mar68

Communications Officer

1stLt T. L. YADON
1-31Mar68

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt A. I. ALEXANDER
1-31Mar68

Supply Officer

WO R. V. WILLIAMS
1-31Mar68

Surgeon

LT E. R. COHEN USNR
1-31Mar68

Medical Officer

LT J. H. JOHNSON USNR
1-31Mar68

Chaplain

LT M. E. HUEBSCHMAN
1-31Mar68

H&S Company Commander

1stLt A. N. SOBROWIAK
1-31Mar68

E Company Commander

Capt H. H. DUPLER, Jr.
1-31Mar68

F Company Commander

Capt W. D. COLLINS, Jr.
1-31Mar68

G Company Commander

Capt W. C. SHAVER
1-31Mar68

H Company Commander

Capt D. L. BARTLETT
1-31Mar68

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH**UNCLASSIFIED**

USMC		USN		OTHER	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
37	1048	3	51	None	None

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

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During the month of March the Battalion participated in a number of varied activities including combined operations with the 2/51 and 4/51 ARVN and 1st Brigade ROK Marine Corps units; providing security for the POW Compound Marble Mountain, DaNang; improvement of CP defensive positions and housekeeping chores involved with further development of the Battalion Command Post. Additionally, the Battalion conducted daily combat patrols saturating that portion of the Rocket Belt within the TAOR.

On 7 and 8 March 1968, Company E (-) and Company H participated in a combined operation with elements of the 51st ARVN Regiment, 1st Brigade ROKMC, 1st Battalion 7th Marines, and the 5th Armored Infantry Company (USA). E Company and H Company established blocking position north along the Song La Tho river while the 1st Brigade ROKMC conducted a sweep within the ROK TAOR. A provisional platoon from H&S Company 2/27 provided a reserve force for the operation.

On 18 March 1968 the Battalion conducted its first small unit operation. Company G provided a blocking force while Company F swept the east and west banks of the Song Bau Xau River. One platoon of the 4/51 ARVN provided support for elements of Company F sweeping on the east bank of the river.

On 22 March 1968 the Battalion conducted its second small unit operation. Company G maintained blocking position in the area of Duc Ky within the Battalion TAOR, while elements of the 51st ARVN Regiment supported by tanks, LVT's and a platoon from Company F swept the area. On 31 March another operation was carried out in the same vicinity to clear an area adjacent to the village of Duc Ky. Company G set up a blocking position and two companies of the 51st ARVN Regiment swept and cleared the area of La Tho Bac (3).

On 28 March 1968 two platoons of Company F supported two companies of the 51st ARVN Regiment in a search and destroy operation north of the Song Bau Xau river and east of the Ha Dong bridge. Company F set in blocking position on the south bank of the river as 4/51 elements swept southeast.

The Battalion also conducted two other smaller operations. On 14 and 15 March 1968, the third platoon (Rein) of Company F operated in support of a search and clear operation conducted by the 3rd Battalion 27th Marines. On 16 March 1968, the 1st platoon (Rein) Company H was designated Sparrow Hawk and was lifted by Helicopter to provide security for a downed aircraft.

The Battalion provided security forces for the POW Compound Marble Mountain, DaNang between 1 March and 28 March 1968. The 1st Platoon (Rein) of Company G and Company F provided security from 1 March 1968 until 11 March 1968, when they were relieved by 2nd platoon Company H. On 28 March 1968 2nd platoon Company H returned to OPCON to the Battalion.

On 12 March 1968 Company E was released to OPCON 1st Bn, 7th Marines and returned OPCON to the Battalion on 30 March 1968.

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Additionally on 26 March 1968, the 3rd Platoon (Rein) Company F departed to provide Rough Rider security for 1st Division elements.

The first change in the Battalion TAOR was received on 6 March 1968. The boundary was extended from coord 033658 to the southern boundary of the Battalion TAOR to include the west bank of the Song Vihn Dien river. This established the eastern boundary of the TAOR. On 8 March 1968 the boundary between the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines was redefined. The new boundary is from 984633 east along a well defined trail to 007659 southeast along the trail through Nhon Tho (2) to 028654 northeast to the eastern boundary at 034658.

On 31 March 1968 the Battalion assumed O-CON of the 1st Battalion, 27th Marines TAOR.

At approximately 0300 on 4 March 1968 the Battalion Command Post received approximately 15 to 20 incoming 82mm mortar rounds. This was the first such attack on the CP since the Battalion relieved 3/5 in February.

With the occupation of a new area only six weeks ago, most of the day to day activities of the Battalion personnel within the Command Post were involved in improvement of the area, with continued emphasis on training. On 5 March 1968 the Battalion received 982 M-16 rifles and began issue on 7 March 1968. On 13 March 1968 the Sea Tail from Camp Pendleton arrived in the DaNang area and was trucked to the Battalion Command Post on 14 and 15 March 1968. On 18 March 1968 construction began on gun positions and bunkers for E Battery, 13th Marines who will displace from vic of Hill 55 to the Battalion's CP sometime during April 1968. The 2nd Platoon, Company B, 5th Tank Bn, was assigned to the Battalion on 28 March 1968 and was immediately employed in the CP perimeter security and at the Ha Dong bridge.

On 18 March 1968 a major Civic Action project commenced within the Battalion TAOR. The 7th Engineers surveyed a dam site at vic coord 007654 for future construction. The dam is to be constructed by local Vietnamese as part of the Revolutionary Development Program in an effort to irrigate several rice producing areas.

The S-5 Section of the Battalion has also initiated several Civic Action programs to include mobile MEDCAPS, Leaflet Drops, and Health and Hygienic programs. Coordination was made with all ARVN, Regional Forces, and CAP units within the Battalion TAOR.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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- 1Mar - 1st Platoon (Rein) Company G and Company F OPCON to 1st MP Bn at Marble Mountain, DaNang.
- 4Mar - The Battalion Command Post received an estimated 15 to 20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire.
- 5Mar - The Battalion received an allotment of 982 rifles, M16, 5.56mm.
- 6Mar - The Battalion TAOR was changed from 033658 to the southern boundary. 3/27 TAOR includes all of Song Vihn Dien.
- 7Mar - Battalion supply commenced issue of M16 rifles.
- 7-8Mar - E Company (-), H Company, and a Provisional Platoon of E&S Company took part in a combined operation with the 51st ARVN Regiment, the Republic of Korea Marine Corps Brigade, 5th Armored Inf Co (USA), and K Company, 1st Bn, 7th Marines.
- 8Mar - The Bn TAOR boundary between 1/27 and 2/27 was redefined.
- 11Mar - Assumed OPCON of Company F and 1st Platoon (Rein) Company G from 1st MP Bn.
- 11Mar - 2nd Platoon Company H released to OPCON 1st MP Bn, DaNang.
- 12Mar - Company E chopped OPCON to 1st Bn, 7th Marines.
- 14-15Mar - 3rd Platoon, Company F (Rein) supported a combat sweep conducted by the 3rd Bn, 27th Marines.
- 17Mar - Chopped 1st Platoon Company H OPCON to 3rd Bn, 7th Marines. in support of Sparrow Hawk operations.
- 18Mar - 7th Engineers surveyed dam site for construction in support of RD Program.
- 18Mar - Construction commenced within Battalion CP area on position for E Btry, 13th Marines.
- 18Mar - Last elements of 3rd Bn, 5th Marines departed Bn CP.
- 18Mar - Company G (-) participated with elements of the 51st ARVN Regt in a combat sweep of Song Bac Xau river.
- 22Mar - Company G participated with elements of the 51st ARVN Regt in a combat sweep vicinity of village of Duc Ky.
- 26Mar - 1st Platoon, Company H chopped OPCON back to Battalion.
- 26Mar - 3rd Platoon, Company F departed as Division Rough Rider security force.

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- 28Mar - Elements of Company F supported two companies of the 51st ARVN Regt in recon in force operation via coord 997642.
- 29Mar - 2nd Platoon, B Company, 5th Tanks assigned to Battalion; operating within Bn TAOR.
- 30Mar - Assumed OPCON Company E from 1st Bn, 7th Marines.
- 31Mar - Assumed operational control of 1st Bn, 27th Marines TAOR.
- 31Mar - Company G maintained a blocking position as two companies of the 51st ARVN Regt conducted a combat sweep in the area of La Tho Bac (3) via coord 003613.

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HEADQUARTERS

2nd Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

3/BTJ/fwf
10 March 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 27th Marine Regiment

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines Operation Order 1-68 (Combined 51st ARVN, USMC, USA, and ROKMC, Operation 7-8 March 1968).

1. Co E, Co H, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines (Combined USMC, USA, ROKMC, and ARVN) Echo Company and Hotel Company in blocking position.

2. Dates of Operation. 080700H - 081900H March 1968.

3. Location. Southern section of 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines TAOR along the La Tho, Thanh Quit Rivers; Hotel Company between coordinates 017608 - 027618, and Echo Company between coordinates 987609 - 006608.

4. Command. Joint command 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines and 51st ARVN Regiment.

5. Reporting Officer. Lieutenant Colonel Louis J. BACHER, 052622, USMC, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines.

6. Task Organization.

a. 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines (-) (Rein) Command Group

(1) Commanding Officer

(2) S-3

(3) S-3A

b. Company E (-) (Rein)

(1) Co Hq

(2) 1st Plt (Rein)

(3) 2nd Plt (Rein)

(1)

E & C FILES
HEADQUARTERS
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF

68 0981

GROUP-4

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[REDACTED] 014150

(4) 3rd Plt (Rein)

(5) 81 FO Team, H&S Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines

(6) FO Team, Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 13th Marines

(7) Interpreter, S-2, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines

c. Company H (-) (Rein)

(1) Co. Hq

(2) 1st Plt (Rein)

(3) 2nd Plt (Rein)

(4) 3rd Plt (Rein)

(5) 81 FO Team, H&S Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines

(6) FO Team, Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 13th Marines

(7) Interpreter, S-2, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines

7. Supporting Forces.

a. 81 Mortar Plt, H&S Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines

b. Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 13th Marines G/S of 27th Marines

c. ARVN Artillery

d. Kilo Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines G/S of 7th Marines

e. ROK Artillery

f. Hotel Company requested fire mission target 015603 at 081045H through Battalion TAC Net 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, unable to clear fire mission in grid squares 0060 and 0160. Army Air Observer called in air strike on target 015601 with 3rd Plt, Co H adjusting. Air strike executed at approximately 081100H. 70% coverage on target with rockets, 20mm cannon and 250 lb bombs.

g. Hotel Company requested fire mission on target 015603 again at 081400H through S-3B, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, acting liaison with 51st ARVN Regt. ARVN artillery fired mission before getting clearance. Resulted in (5) five rounds landing on Hotel Company positions. No friendly casualties resulted. Check fire effected by 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines Liaison Officer.

h. Army air observer called air strike on coordinates 006605 at approximately 081620H. Hotel Company adjusted the strike at approximately 081745H. Excellent coverage of area by 250 lb. bombs and napalm.

8. Intelligence.

a. Estimated NVA Regiment located in central part of ROKMC TADR (GS 0059).

b. Hotel Company engaged approximately (1) one plt (35 to 40 men), in small groups of 3 to 8 as the enemy tried to escape the 51st ARVN sweep. Enemy were VC not NVA (black pajamas, automatic weapons and 60mm mortars). Heavy enemy fire in front of ARVN sweep and into Hotel Company's position; indicating at least (1) one VC company (rein) in the area of coordinates 010604. Terrain covered with heavy brush, trees along the river and high grass in semi-open areas. Short fields of fire and fair observation from north to south banks of river.

9. Mission.

a. At 080200H commenced movement to blocking positions along the Song La Tho.

b. By 080700H Co E established a blocking force from coordinates 987608 to 007608; Co H established a blocking force from coordinates 007608 to 025611.

c. Maintain blocking position until ordered to displace by the Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines.

d. Destroy or capture all enemy coming within fields of fire or trying to break out through lines.

10.. Concept of Operations.

a. CoE (-) (Rein)

(1) See Operation Overlay

(2) One squad 3rd Platoon in reserve

b. CoH (-) (Rein)

(1) See Operation Overlay

(2) Plts had: M-60 squad, 3.5 rocket team and 60mm mortar team attached.

(3) One Squad, 2nd Platoon in reserve

11. Execution.

a. CoE (-) (Rein)

0200 - Commenced movement out of 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines' CP

0630 - Established blocking positions

0700 to 04530 - Negative contacts, sightings and no fire was received.

1530 - Ordered by 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines S-3 to dispatch 2nd Sqd, 3rd Plt to Hotel Company in order to redistribute ammunition.

1830 - Operation secured by 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines S-3 and returned to Bn CP.

b. Co H (-) (Rein)

0200 - Commenced movement out of 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines CP

0630 to 0700 - Established blocking positions

1000 - One hundred civilians left ROKMC TAOR at coordinated 023609. All checked for ID cards and were nationals except five VC's were held for interrogation at Bn CP.

1030 - Hotel-3 sighted 10 VC at coordinates 017603. Delivered small arms fire, M-60 fire and called in air strikes on enemy. 70% of target covered with 20mm cannon and two 250 lb bombs. Enemy dispersed, VC had one 60mm mortar. KIA unknown due to range.

1125 - Ten VC set up mortar at coordinates 015603. Called in 81mm mortar fire which was on target. KIA unknown due to range.

1430 - 51st ARVN Regt sweep force flushed approximately 35 VC. Enemy delivered heavy automatic weapons fire on Hotel Company and tried to break through the blocking positions at coordinates 006598.

1545 - 10 VC engaged while crossing river at coordinated 010606. Delivered small arms fire. 5 enemy KIA confirmed by body count of 3rd Plt commanders. One friendly KIA.

1630 - Hotel-1 engaged 8 VC at coordinates 013606. 5 enemy KIA confirmed by body count by 1st Plt commander.

1615 - 3 VC crossed river and were trapped in pagoda. Pagoda stormed and VC slipped out the back at coordinates 014606.

1645 - 51st ARVN Regt units began to withdraw while still engaged.

1745 - Hotel Company pulled back to permit air strike on target. 1800 air strike completed, assorted ordnance delivered.

1830 - While waiting for Otter Med-Evac, sighted 15 VC moving south at coordinates 011609. Set ambush to cut off enemy but lost sight of enemy in heavy vegetation as darkness set in. Enemy believed to have crossed river.

12. Results. Friendly: CoH; (7) KIA, (1) WIA minor. Enemy? Sighted 5 VC floating in river, 5 VC KIA laying on opposite river bank. Enemy KIA were sighted by both 2nd and 3rd Plt Commanders. Five very probable KIA's or WIA's. Ground was not searched or weapons captured due to darkness and necessity to cross river outside of 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines' TAOR.

13. Administrative Matters.

- a. Communications were good throughout the operation.
- b. Hotel Company expended approximately 1/2 BA of 7.62mm ammunition, 30 - 40mm rounds, 10 - M-72's and 12 - 60mm mortar HE rounds.
- c. Hotel Company evacuated casualties by Otter.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques. No special equipment or techniques were implemented. Standard small unit tactics and equipment were employed throughout the operation.

15. Commander Analysis. Had the 51st ARVN Regt continued the sweep as planned throughout the concept of operations, the VC would have been more effectively pushed into the Echo and Hotel Company blocking positions. As a result, the operation would have been highly successful with a greater number of VC KIA and WIA. The coordination between the USMC units and ARVN units was expedited through the effective exchange and employment of liaison officers between the 51st ARVN Regt and 2/27. Except for the unexpected withdrawal of the ARVN unit, the operation was well organized and executed.

16. Recommendations. Future ~~joint~~ ^{combined} USMC and ARVN operations should be coordinated on the understanding that the concept of operation will be executed regardless of time involved when enemy contact is established. If the untimely departure of the ARVN units had been postponed until adequate pressure had been put on the enemy involved, the operation would have produced justifiable results for an operation of this size. In future operations of this type, the use of a USMC liaison officer from the involved USMC unit will ease: fire support coordination, identification of various friendly maneuvering elements, and aid the involved unit commanders when immediate troop displacement or maneuver is needed in order to maintain pressure on the enemy. The commander initiating the operation should be specified Operation Coordinator for the purpose of controlling and coordinating supporting fires. Pre-established coordinating instructions would result in supporting arms being brought to bear more rapidly and effectively with less danger to friendly units.

Louis J. Bacher
 Louis J. BACHER
 Lt. Col. USMC
 Commanding

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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Copies of Concept of Operations Overlays for all major activities during March 1968 are appended to this report as supporting documents.

✓TABLE A/ARPT ON BLOCKING POSITION

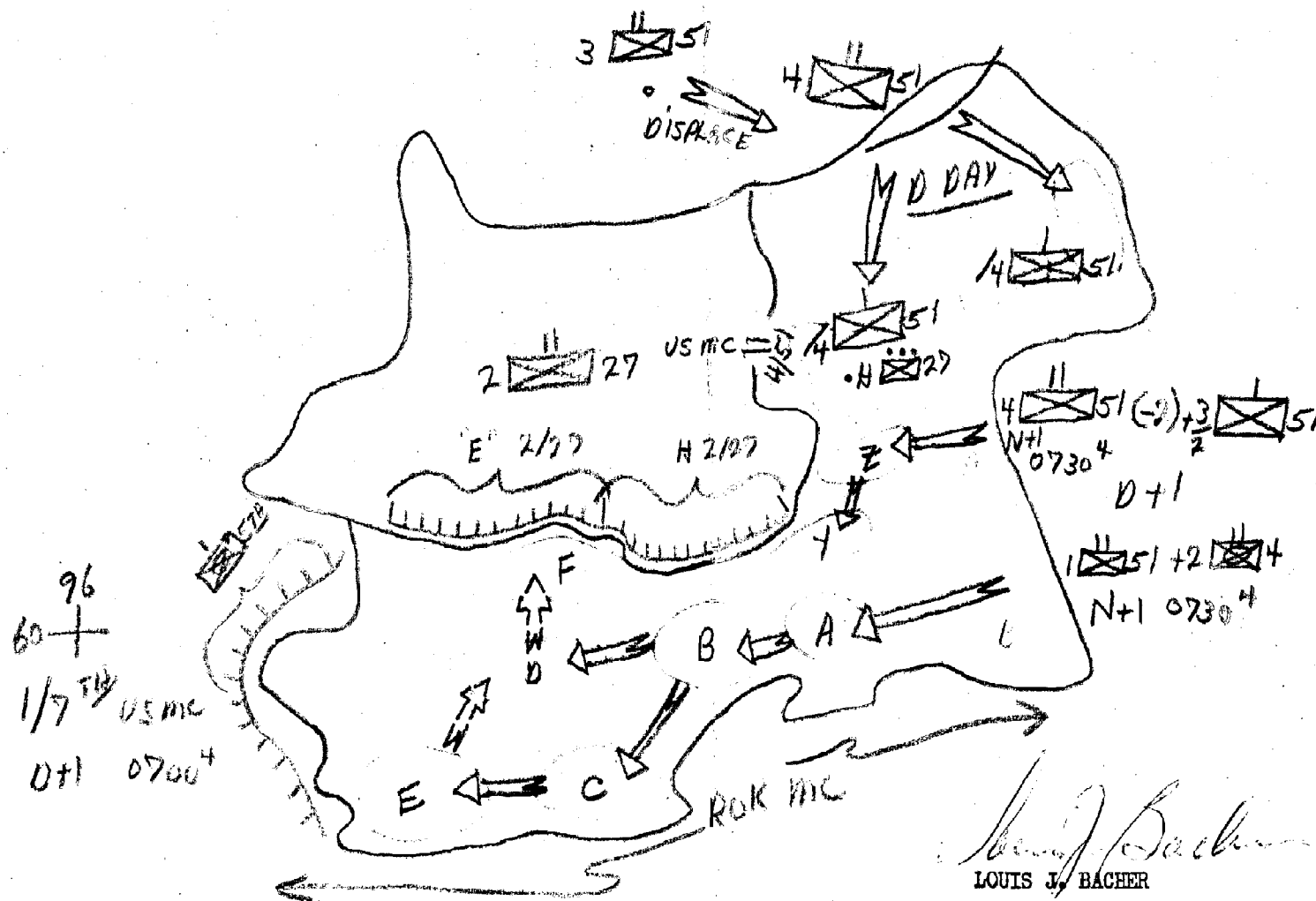
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APPENDIX A TO CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS
TO OPERATIONS ORDER 1-68

3 $\frac{11}{2}$ 51(-1)

09
+ 69

3 $\frac{11}{2}$ 51



LOUIS J. BACHER
LT. COL USMC
COMMANDING