

HEADQUARTERS
3rd Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/JCF/lde
5750
5 Apr 1968

~~SECRET~~ (UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF ENCLOSURE)

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, FPO San Francisco 96602
Via: Commanding Officer, 27th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, FPO San Francisco 96602

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 010001H to 312400H MAR 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPas 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: ✓(1) 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines Command Chronology

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

Tullis J. Woodham Jr.
TULLIS J. WOODHAM JR.

GP-4
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

3rd, 27th Marines S&C # 0134-68
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3rd/27th Marines Command Chronology

Mar 1968

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5 APR 1968

HEADQUARTERS
3rd Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

010001H TO 312400H MAR 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION & LOCATION

3rd Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
DANANG, RVN

COMMANDER

LtCol T. J. WOODHAM JR.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

HAS Co

1-9 Mar 68
10-31 Mar 68

Lt J. M. ZALIPSKI
Capt R. R. ANDERSON

Co I

Capt J. E. PINNICK

Co K

Capt J. D. PARKS JR.

Co L

Capt J. F. ERNEST

Co M

1-9 Mar 68
10-31 Mar 68

Capt E. M. KEEFE
Lt J. M. ZALIPSKI

2. STAFF/OFFICER

XO

Maj W. J. KALITA

S-1/Adj

1stLt J. W. PARRISH

S-2

1stLt P. E. MEEK

S-3

Maj E. T. FITZGERALD

S-4

Capt T. H. RALPH JR.

S-5

2ndLt J. F. RENAGHAN

CommO

Capt R. R. ANDERSON

SuppO

1stLt W. B. ROOT

MTO

WO R. E. BAZZINI

BaSurgeon

Lt (USNR) J. A. GOFF
(Medical Corps)

BaChaplain

Lt (USNR) M. P. O'NEILL
(Chaplain Corps)

BaSg'Maj

SgtMaj R. F. SNYDER

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3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC	USN
OFF 46	OFF 3
ENL 1044	ENL 51

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During March, the battalion's first month of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam, direct contact with the enemy was light and sporadic. However, the enemy by the use of landmine warfare and sniper fire inflicted a large number of casualties. Approximately 10% of the battalion strength was wounded during March due to surprise firing devices. To counteract this, a school on landmine warfare was conducted by division at this C.P. and twenty-one men from the battalion have been sent to the Division Landmine Warfare School.

During the month the M-16A1 was issued to all hands. Every man armed with the M-16A1 rifle has FAL fired and obtained a battle night setting. Thus far the weapon has proven highly satisfactory and only negligible minor malfunctions have been noted.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

9-24 March	Issuing and firing of M-16A1 Rifles
14 March	Conducted Operation 2-68 (Tab A to enclosure (1))
21 March	Conducted Operation 3-68 (Tab B to enclosure (1))
24 March	Conducted Operation 4-68 (Tab C to enclosure (1))

2. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Personnel Losses and Gains

	USMC	USN
Joined	OFF 2	OFF 3
Dropped	2	3

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	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
KIA	5	0
WIA	134	3
DOW	1	0
MIA	0	0

c. Promotion

(1) Enlisted. Twenty-three enlisted men were promoted. One to GySgt, three to SSgt and nineteen to PFC.

3. TRAINING

a. Garrison training was conducted for the companies during the time they were located within the Battalion Command Post. Classes consisted of basic military subjects pertinent to RVN. Subjects included were M-16/AL care and cleaning, rules of engagement, POW handling, helicopter indoctrination, small unit leadership and communications procedures.

b. Schools. Twenty-one attended landmine warfare, demolition and booby-trap training.

4. OPERATIONSa. Operational Plans

(1) Major Operations. There were three operations run by this battalion that were task organized that included two or more companies. (See Tabs A, B, & C to enclosure (1).)

(2) Day and Night Activities. The company generally operated on a twelve day cycle, nine days in the field and three in garrison. All day time activities were search and destroy type operations on the company and platoon level. Night time activities consisted of patrols and ambushes conducted by squad and fireteam units with saturation patrolling in the rocket belt area.

b. Enemy. The battalion has had ninety-two enemy contacts during the month with the majority of contacts being long range sightings and sniper activities with very few significant close contacts. However, the enemy has made extensive use of landmine warfare. Over 80% of all WIA's are the result of surprise firing devices.

c. Air Support

MedEvacs	70
Resupply	4
Visual Reconnaissance	5
Tactical Air Strikes	2

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d. Artillery Support

(1) 2nd Battalion, 13th Marines provided direct artillery fire support from centralized fire direction center. Battery F, 2/13 provided extensive BAI support.

5. LOGISTICS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY

a. Ordnance. The battalion armory has completed the issuing of the M-16A1 Rifle to all hands. All M-14 Rifles except a special allowance of 52 have been turned into F. L. C.

b. Motor Transport

(1) Maximum use has been made of the battalion vehicles. The M-274's logged 989 hours and the M-422's traveled 52,654 miles.

(2) A program to operate all M-274's from the walking position has drastically curtailed breakdowns in the vehicle.

(3) An average of three (3) vehicles have been combat deadlined during the month with an average of four vehicles being repaired daily on a second echelon level.

c. Messhall

(1) The average number of personnel fed per meal was 600. This includes feeding the company occupying positions at the TU CAU Bridge a hot meal at noon.

(2) All recommendations received from the Food Service Instruction Team on their visit on 11-16 March have either been completed or are now in progress. In addition, the enlisted and Officer/Staff NCO messes have been remodelled.

d. Medical

(1) The MEDCAP program was expanded to accomplish more intensive care to a larger portion of the civilian populace. The care given the patients has been broadened from mere bandaging of wounds to the treatment of disease and rehabilitation of civilians when possible.

(2) Sanitation. A team from the Preventive Medicine Unit inspected the battalion area and found everything in much better order than on previous inspections. The team pointed out new areas that need improvement and gave suggestions on how these improvements could be accomplished. Measures are being taken to carry out these tasks.

e. Civil Affairs

(1) MEDCAPS have been conducted in most of the villages surrounding the Battalion C.P.. In addition, large numbers of villagers are making use of the daily MEDCAP outside the main gate.

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(2) The battalion employs five Vietnamese who work in the messhall.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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TAB A (Operation Order 2-68)

ENCLOSURE (1)

Copy _____ of _____ Copies
 3rd Bn, 27th Marines
 DANGANG, RVN
 122000H MAR 68

Operation Order 2-68

Ref: (a) Map, DAI LOC Sheet 6640I, 1:50,000
 (b) Map, HOI AN, Sheet 6640 IV, 1:50,000

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization)

1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy Forces. See current INSTUMS.
- b. Friendly Forces. See Annex A (Task Organization)

2. MISSION

To conduct a thorough search and clear of PHONG HO (1), PHONG HO (2) and adjacent areas.

3. EXECUTION

(a) Concept of Operations. At H-hour on D-day move one reinforced Platoon by Tanks to blocking positions as shown on operations overlay. At H + 30 minutes move one rifle company minus, reinforced by AmTrac to sweep the objective area.

(b) Co I (Rein)

(1) At H-hour on D-day move one reinforced platoon by tanks to southern blocking positions.

(2) At H + 30 minutes move the remainder of the Company by Amtracs to sweep position.

(3) Thorough search and clear the objective area.

(4) On D + 1 link with southern blocking force and sweep north to return to 3/27 CP by 1800.

(5) During hours of darkness establish saturation ambushes within the objective area.

(6) Provide security for armor during the course of the operation

(c) 81mm Mortar Platoon

(1) Provide direct support.

A-1

(d) Btry F, 2nd Bn, 13th Marines

- (1) Provide direct support.

(e) Co B, 1st Amphib Bn

- (1) Provide direct support.

(2) At 0730 on 14 March move in armored column with infantry to sweep positions in vicinity of PHONG HO (2).

- (3) Be prepared to provide for rapid reaction force.

(f) Co C, 1st Tank Bn

- (1) Provide direct support

(2) At 0700 on 14 March move in armored column with infantry to blocking positions as shown on operation overlay.

- (3) Be prepared to provide for rapid reaction force.

(g) Co K (Rein)

(1) Provide one reinforced platoon for blocking force as shown on operation overlay.

(2) This blocking force will remain in position until the end of the operation.

(h) Plt, Co 2nd Bn, 27th Marines

(1) Provide one reinforced platoon for blocking force as shown on the operation overlay.

- (2) Secure on order

(i) Coordinating Instructions

- (1) D-day 14 March 1968.

- (2) H-hour: 0700

- (3) Report crossing of phase lines.

(4) Fire support coordination. All fire support coordination will be through the 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines, FSCG.

- (5) Current thrust points and shackle will be employed.

(6) This order effective for planning on receipt and execution at 0700, 14 March 1968.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- (a) Normal resupply upon request.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Communications

- (1) Normal within the Battalion
- (2) All blocking forces will maintain a station on 3rd Bn, 27th Marines Tactical Net.

(b) Command Posts

- (1) 3rd Bn, 27th Marines current CP.
- (2) Report command post locations when established.

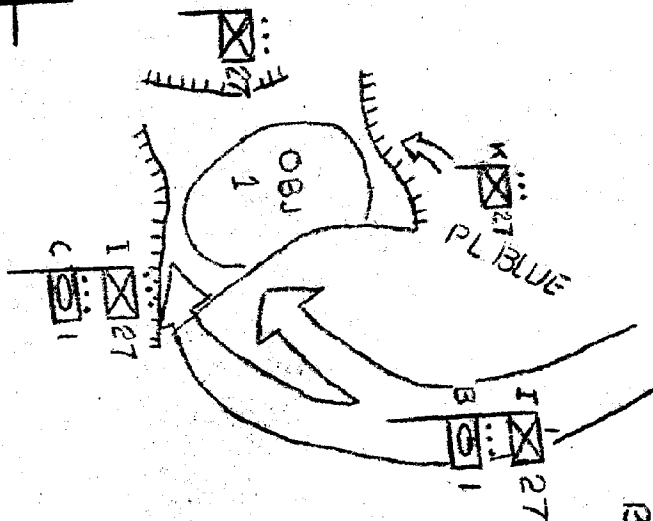
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Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

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OPERATION OVERLAY

68
+
12

TOD FOR SOUTHERN BLOCK
FORCE 0700. TOD FOR SWEEP
FORCE 0730 NORTHERN AND WESTERN
BLOCKING FORCE IN PLACE PRIOR
TO 0730 IP 3/27 CP



68
+
05

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5 Apr 1968

TAB B (Operation Order 3-66)

ENCLOSURE (1)

Copy No. _____ of _____ Copies
 3rd Bn, 27th Marines
 DANANG, RVN
 200800H MAR 68

Operation Order 3-68

Ref: (a) Map, HOI AN, Sheet 6640 I, 1:50,000

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

a. No change.

2. MISSION

To search and clear the area located generally between grid line 08 on the west, the French Road on the east and grid line 69 on the north.

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operations. At 0600 on 21 March link with elements of 3rd Bn, 51st ARVN and proceed to LOD. Upon arrival at LOD move into sweep positions with one ARVN company on the left and one Marine company on the right. Sweep in a generally northern direction toward blocking forces. Blocking forces will be positioned prior to 0700 on the north and west sides of the objective area.

(1) Co K (-)(Rein)

- (a) Move Platoon Patrol Base from vicinity coordinates (076675) to blocking positions as shown on the operation overlay.
- (b) Bring Platoon Patrol Base from vicinity coordinates (088654) to Battalion C.P. prior to 0500.
- (c) At 0600 move to link up point, at LOD.
- (d) At 0700 commence detailed search and clear of that zone of action as shown on the overlay.
- (e) Utilizing probes and other detection devices thoroughly search the area in Co K zone for hidden tunnels and caves.
- (f) Provide one squad for tank security.

(2) Co C, 1st Tank Bn

(a) Move in trace of friendly forces.

(b) Be prepared to act as immediate reaction force.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. No change.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION - ELECTRONICS

a. Bn C.P. remains the same.

b. Normal Bn communications.

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TAB C (Operation Order 4-68)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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 3rd Bn, 27th Marines
 DAHANG, RVN
 230100H Mar 68

Operation Order 4-68

Ref: (a) Map, HOI AN, Sheet 6640 I, 1:50,000 and DAI LAC, Sheet 6640 IV, 1:50,000

Time Zone: B

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy. See current INSTCOMS.

b. Friendly. No change.

2. MISSION

To search and clear the southwestern portion of the DEBERT AREA from the
 TU CAN Road to AN-LUY.
 HUANQUAN

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operations. At H-hour on D-Day sweep with one rifle company (Rein) from the vicinity of TU CAN Road to the vicinity of AN LUY using one company as a blocking force on the north, one company (-) as a blocking force on the east and one company (-) as a blocking force on the west.

(1) Co I (Rein)

(a) At H-hour on D-Day move to the LUB (TU CAN Road) and sweep from south to north in accordance with the operation overlay.

(2) Co K (-) (Rein)

(a) At 0500 move one reinforced platoon to TU CAN Bridge and assume security of same.

(b) With the remainder of Co K move to blocking positions as shown on the operations overlay. Be in blocking positions prior to 0700.

(3) Co M (Rein)

(a) Block with entire company in positions as shown on the operation overlay.

(b) That platoon operating with 3rd Bn, 51st ARVN will be returned to Co M control on 23 March 1968.

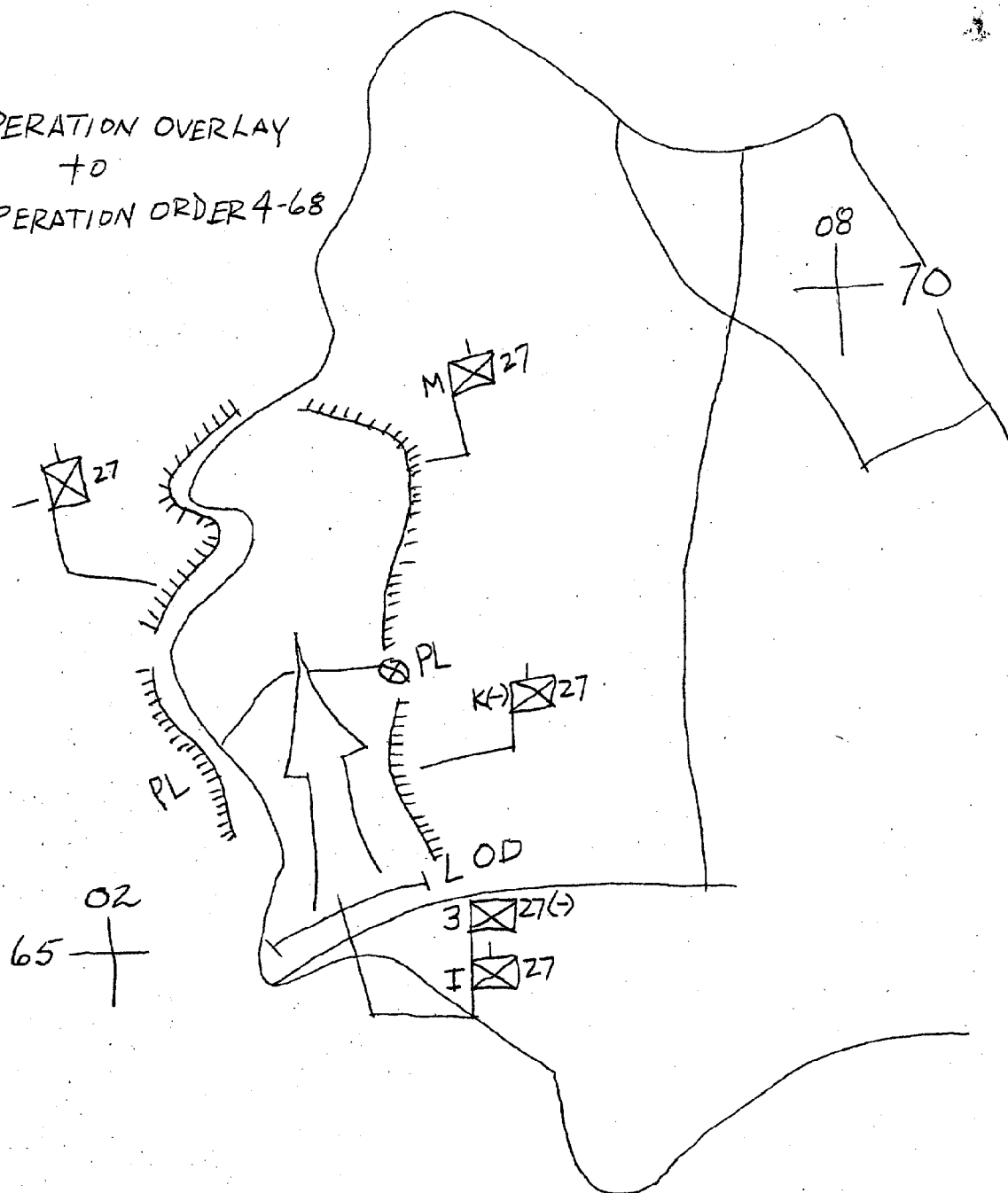
C-1

- (4) Co-- 1st Bn. 27th Mar
 - (a) Move to blocking positions as shown on the operation overlay. Be in position prior to 0700.
 - (5) 81MM Mortar Plt (-)
 - (a) Direct support.
 - (6) Btry F. 2nd Bn 15th Mar
 - (a) Direct support.
 - (7) Det LRT
 - (a) Direct support, move with the forward command group.
 - (8) Det Shore Party.
 - (a) Direct support. Move with the forward command group.
 - (9) Coordinating Instructions.
 - (a) D-Day, 24 March 1968
 - (b) H-Hour, 0730
 - (c) Blocking forces- in position prior to 0730
 - (d) LCB & TU CAU ROAD
 - (e) Secure on order.
 - (f) All attached units will activate radios on the 3rd Bn 27th Mar Tac Net.
4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICS
- (a) Resupply. Normal
 - (b) Co I stage packs at TU CAU Bridge for pick up by AMTRACS. Tag all gear.
5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS
- (a) Normal internal communications.
 - (b) The forward command group will follow in trace of the sweep force.
 - (c) Blocking forces report when in position.
 - (d) Sweep force report when crossing the LCB and Phase Line.

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C-2.



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