

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

3/JCF/lac
5750
4 May 1968

(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 302400H APRIL 1968

Ref: (a) MKO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encls (1) 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines Command Chronology

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

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

GP-4

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3rd 27th Marines S&C # 0165-68
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CMD CHRON

APR 1968

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4 May 1968

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

010001H TO 302400H APR 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), MCF
DANANG, RVN

COMMANDER

LtCol TULLIS J. WOODHAM JR.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co

Capt R. R. ANDERSON

Co I

1 -24 Apr 68
25-30 Apr 68

Capt J. E. PINNICK
Capt T. H. RALPH

Co K

Capt J. D. PARKS JR.

Co L

Capt J. F. ERNEST

Co M

1 -15 Apr 68
16-30 Apr 68

1stLt J. M. ZALIPSKI
Capt B. K. THOMAS

2. STAFF/OFFICER

XO

1 -14 Apr 68
15-30 Apr 68

Maj W. J. KALITA
Maj E. T. FITZGERALD

S-1/AAJ

1stLt J. W. PARRISH

S-2

1stLt P. E. MEEK

S-3

1 -14 Apr 68
15-30 Apr 68

Maj E. T. FITZGERALD
Capt E. M. KEEFE JR.

S-4

1 -24 Apr 68
25-30 Apr 68

Capt T. H. RALPH
1stLt J. F. WILLIAMS JR.

S-5

1 -18 Apr 68
19-30 Apr 68

2ndLt J. F. HENAGHAN
1stLt R. P. BROOME

CommO

Capt R. R. ANDERSON

SuppO

1stLt W. B. ROOT

MTO

WO R. E. BAZZINI

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Bn Surgeon

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

Bn Chaplain

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

Bn Sgt Maj

Sgt Maj R. F. SWYDER

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>OFF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENL</u>
40		1027	3		54

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During April, direct contact with the enemy continued to be light and sporadic with the enemy's use of landmine warfare remaining intense. This month far greater numbers of mines and booby traps have been discovered prior to detonation resulting in approximately 30% fewer casualties.

Due to the large number of non O3's filling O3 billets a study is presently being made by Division G-3 to compare the percentage of casualties incurred by O3's and non O3's holding O3 billets. A similar study in this battalion has shown that the casualty rate between the two groups has remained within 5% of being equal to each other.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

5 April 68	Conducted Operation 6-68 (Tab B to enclosure (1))
12 April 68	Conducted Operation 7-68 (Tab C to enclosure (1))
17 April 68	Conducted Operation 8-68 (Tab D to enclosure (1))
26 April 68	Aast. CMC LTCEN Lewis W. VALE visited the 3/27 C.P.

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2. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION**a. Personnel Losses and Gains**

(1)		<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Joined	0	229	0	9
Dropped	7	137	0	5

(2) Upon arrival in the Republic of Vietnam in late February the battalion rifle company strengths averaged 62% non O3's holding O3 billets. By selective transfer and reassignments this percentage has been reduced to 35% non O3's at the end of April.

b. Casualties

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
KIA	13	0
WIA	96	2
DOW	1	0
MIA	0	0

c. Promotion

(1) Officers. Two officers were promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

(2) Enlisted. 1-CySgt; 2-SSgt; 9-Sgt; 70-Cpl; 44-LCpl; 16-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. Special indoctrination classes were given to newly joined personnel during the month of April.

b. Schools. Fifty personnel attended Landmine Warfare, Demolitions and Booby Trap Training. Other schools attended included Vietnamese Language School, Basic Weapons Repair, and Staff NCO/NCO Leadership School.

4. OPERATIONS

a. Battalion's T.A.O.R. (See Tab A to enclosure (1).)

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

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e. Small Unit Operations. The companies generally operated on a twelve day cycle, eight days in the field and four in camp. While in camp all day and night activities originated by from this Battalion C. P. All day time activities, other than major operations, were search and destroy type operations on the company, platoon, and squad level. Night time activities consisted of patrols and ambushes conducted by squad and fireteams with saturation patrolling of the rocket belt. During the entire month one company has been Opcon to III MAF for airfield security.

d. Enemy. The battalion had 121 enemy contacts during the month. (See Tab E to enclosure (1)). The majority of these contacts were surprise firing devices employed by the enemy. There has been an increase in the number of incidents involving an exchange of small arms fire during the latter part of April. However, the enemy is still unwilling to take under fire large units and has continued his sniper and harassing type tactics.

e. Air Support

(1) <u>Type</u>	<u>Missions</u>
MedEvacs	74
Resupply	5
Visual Reconnaissance	6
Tactical Air Sorties	4

f. Artillery Support

(1) The Second Battalion, 13th Marines provided direct artillery fire support, supplemented by general support weapons of the 11th Marines. Extensive area saturation, T.O.T., and H&A missions were fired.

5. CIVIL AFFAIRS/CIVIC ACTION

a. MEDCAPS. Daily MEDCAPS are held at the main entrance to the Command Post and frequent trips were made to villages within the Battalion's TAOR.

b. Relocation. Approximately 150 civilians were relocated this month from two villages within this Battalion's TAOR. This relocation was necessitated by the fact that many booby traps and sniper incidents had occurred in the area previously occupied by these personnel. This relocation has cleared these areas to facilitate the use of increased fire power without causing casualties to indigenous personnel.

6. LOGISTICS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY

a. Embarkation. The mechanized embarkation data systems (MEDS) was introduced. Complete conversion is expected by mid-May.

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b. Laundry. A laundry unit has been put into operation, after some delay due to lack of specialized tools and spare parts. By the end of the month the laundry was averaging 1400 pounds per day.

c. Motor Transport. A 50% reduction in the numbers of miles and hours driven by the battalion vehicles has been accomplished by the use of tighter controls. Off base runs are screened and are consolidated when possible. Additionally, a daily bus schedule has been established to all points in the division area.

d. Medical

(1) MEDCAP. The MEDCAP program continued to function very effectively with the dental department also becoming an active participant in this program.

(2) Sanitation. A preventive medicine unit inspected one area and found the area in very good order with noticeable improvement over the previous month. A program on insect control was instituted with the spraying of all areas in the compound as well as in the TU CAU Area.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ TAB A - Battalion's T.A.O.R.
- ✓ TAB B - Operation Order 6-68
- ✓ TAB C - Operation Order 7-68
- ✓ TAB D - Operation Order 8-68
- ✓ TAB E - Enemy Contacts by Area and Type

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4 May 1968

✓ TAB A

3RD BATTALION, 27TH MARINES

T.O.C.R.

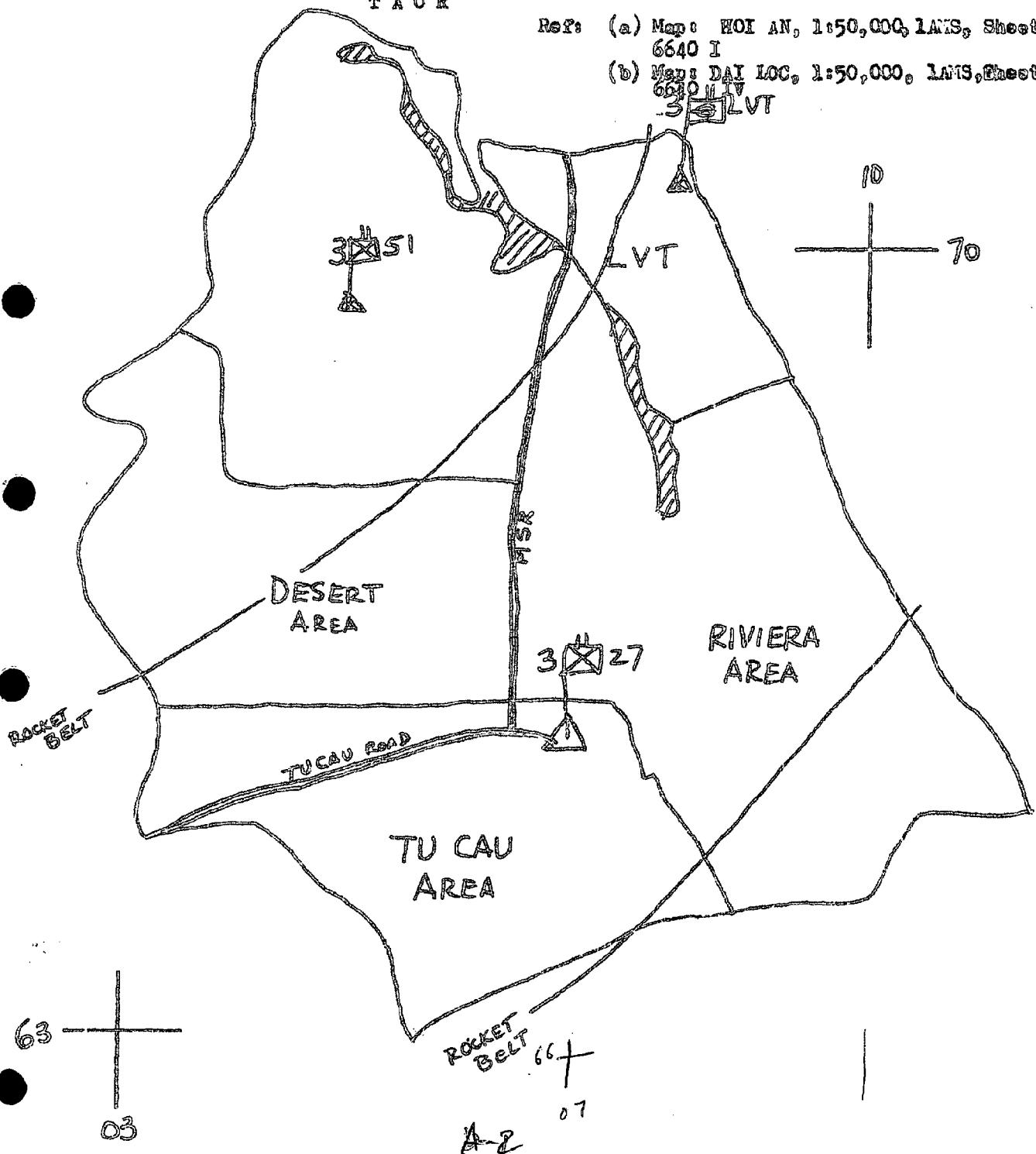
ENCLOSURE (1)

A-1

TAB A
3rd Battalion, 27th Marines
T A O R

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

(b) Map: DAI LOC, 1:50,000, LAMS, Sheet
6640 II



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4 May 1968

✓
TAB B

Operation Order 6-88

ENCLOSURE (1)

B-1

Copy No. of Copies
 3rd Bn, 27th Marines
 DANANG, RVN
 031600H APR 68

Operation Order 6-68

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

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy. See current INTSUMS.

b. Friendly. No change.

2. MISSION

To conduct a combat sweep of PHONG HO (1) and PHONG HO (2) as shown on operation overlay.

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operations. At L-Hour on D-Day, lift one reinforced rifle company by helicopter to Landing Zone GREEN (via BT061621). Company conducts combat sweep from Landing Zone north through PHONG HO (2) and PHONG HO (1). The blocking forces on the north, east and west will be in position thirty minutes prior to commencement of combat sweep. The Landing Zone will be neutralized by UH1B gunships prior to landing the helo lifted company.

b. Co L (Rein)

(1) At L-Hour on D-Day lift from LZ 413 to LZ GREEN.

(2) Conduct combat sweep in area shown on operation overlay.

(3) Secure on order.

c. Plt, Co K

(1) Provide northern blocking force as shown on operation overlay.

(2) Move by AmTrac from TU CAU Bridge utilizing the VINH DIEM River to (via BT055635).

(3) Secure on order.

d. Plt, Co K

(1) Provide eastern blocking force.

(2) Move from night PFB to blocking position.

c. Plt, Co 2nd Bn, 27th Mar

- (1) Provide western blocking force.
- (2) Move from night PFB to blocking position.

d. Btry F, 2/13

- (1) Direct support.
- (2) Mark LZ with smoke for LZ prep - fires.

e. Co M

- (1) Provide one platoon as Battalion Reserve.
- (2) Be prepared to move by either helicopter or armor on order.

f. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) L-Hour, 0700.
- (2) H-Hour, 0730.
- (3) Landing Zone Preparation, 0720-0730.
- (4) Landing Zone Designation - Landing Zone GREEN.
- (5) Blocking forces in position by 0700.
- (6) Secure on order.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- a. No change.
- b. Resupply to be provided as necessary.

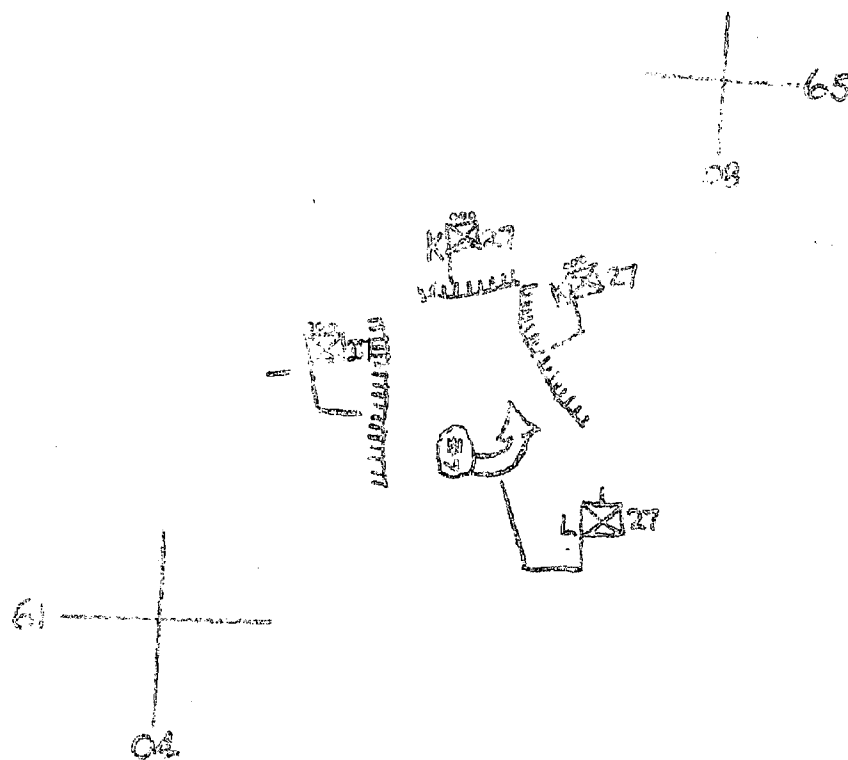
5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS

- a. C.P. remains the same.
- b. Normal internal communications.
- c. A.O. will be on Battalion Tac Primary.
- d. Blocking units will be on Battalion Tac Primary.
- e. Units will carry air panels for front line identification.
- f. Green smoke will identify friendly units.

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OPERATION OVERLAY TO OPERATION
ORDER 5-68



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4 May 1968

✓ TAB C

Operation Order 7-68

ENCLOSURE (1)

C-1

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DANANG, RVN
091300H APR 68

Operation Order 7-68

Ref: (a) Map: HOI AN, 1:50,000 AMS, Series L7014, Sheet 6640 I
(b) Map: DAI LOC, 1:50,000 AMS, Series L7014, Sheet 6640 IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy. See current INTSUNS.
- b. Friendly. No change.

2. MISSION

To conduct a combat sweep of the VIEM DONG area as shown on the operations overlay.

3. EXECUTION

- a. Concept of Operations. During the hours of darkness move one reinforced rifle company into blocking position in the vicinity of VIEM DONG as shown on the Operation Overlay. At first light sweep from east to west with one reinforced rifle company and the forward command group. Movement of the sweep force to the objective area will be by LVTP-5.

- b. Co L

- (1) Link with KTRAC in vicinity of 067674 at 0515 on 12 April 1968.
- (2) Be prepared to mount vehicles with thirty men per vehicle. Maintain tactical integrity as far as possible.
- (3) Upon reaching the LOD dismount and move in sweep formation as shown on Operations Overlay.
- (4) Conduct combat sweep of area of operations.
- (5) Secure on order.

- c. Co M

- (1) Provide blocking forces as shown on operation overlay.
- (2) There will be no physical link with the KMC block force.
- (3) Secure on order.

d. Forward Command Group

- (1) Depart Command Post on Command Tractor (LVTC) at 0500.
- (2) Link with Co M and move to LOD.
- (3) Follow in trace of sweep force.
- (4) Provide security for LVTC and litter tractor during sweep.

e. Co K

- (1) Provide one platoon as Battalion Reserve in Battalion Command Post. Report to C.P. prior to 0700.

f. Co KMC

- (1) Provide block forces as shown on operation overlay.
- (2) Secure on order.

g. 81MM Mortar Plt (-)

- (1) Provide one section 81MM Mortars.
- (2) Move with Forward Command Group.
- (3) Provide direct support for sweep force.

h. Co B, 1st AMTRAC Bn

- (1) Provide sufficient vehicles to move sweep force and Forward Command Group.
- (2) Link with Co L in vicinity coordinates 067674.
- (3) Move from link up point to 1st AMTRAC Bn area, then south along beach to objective area.
- (4) Initial formation for move to objective area will be column. Upon reaching objective area bring vehicles on line for move to LOD.
- (5) Upon reaching LOD halt to dismount troops.
- (6) After dismounting troops all tractors will return to 3rd Bn, 27th Marines Command Post with the exception Command and Litter Tractors.

i. Btry F, 2nd Bn, 13th Marines

- (1) Provide direct support.

3. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) D-Day - 12 April 1968.
- (2) H-Hour - 0700.
- (3) Depart C.P. - 0500.
- (4) Link with AMTRAC and Co L - 0515.
- (5) Block forces in position prior to 0700.
- (6) Right flank of Co M block force on request of KMS fire green star cluster to designate right flank.
- (7) Contact within the sweep force will be from right to left.
- (8) All fire support will be coordinated through 3rd Bn, 27th Marines FOCU.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- a. Normal resupply on request.
- b. One meal C-Rations optional.
- c. Make maximum use of local water with halizone tablets.
- d. All weapons will carry Basic Allowance of ammunition.
- e. Send all casualty reports to Battalion C.P. on admin net.

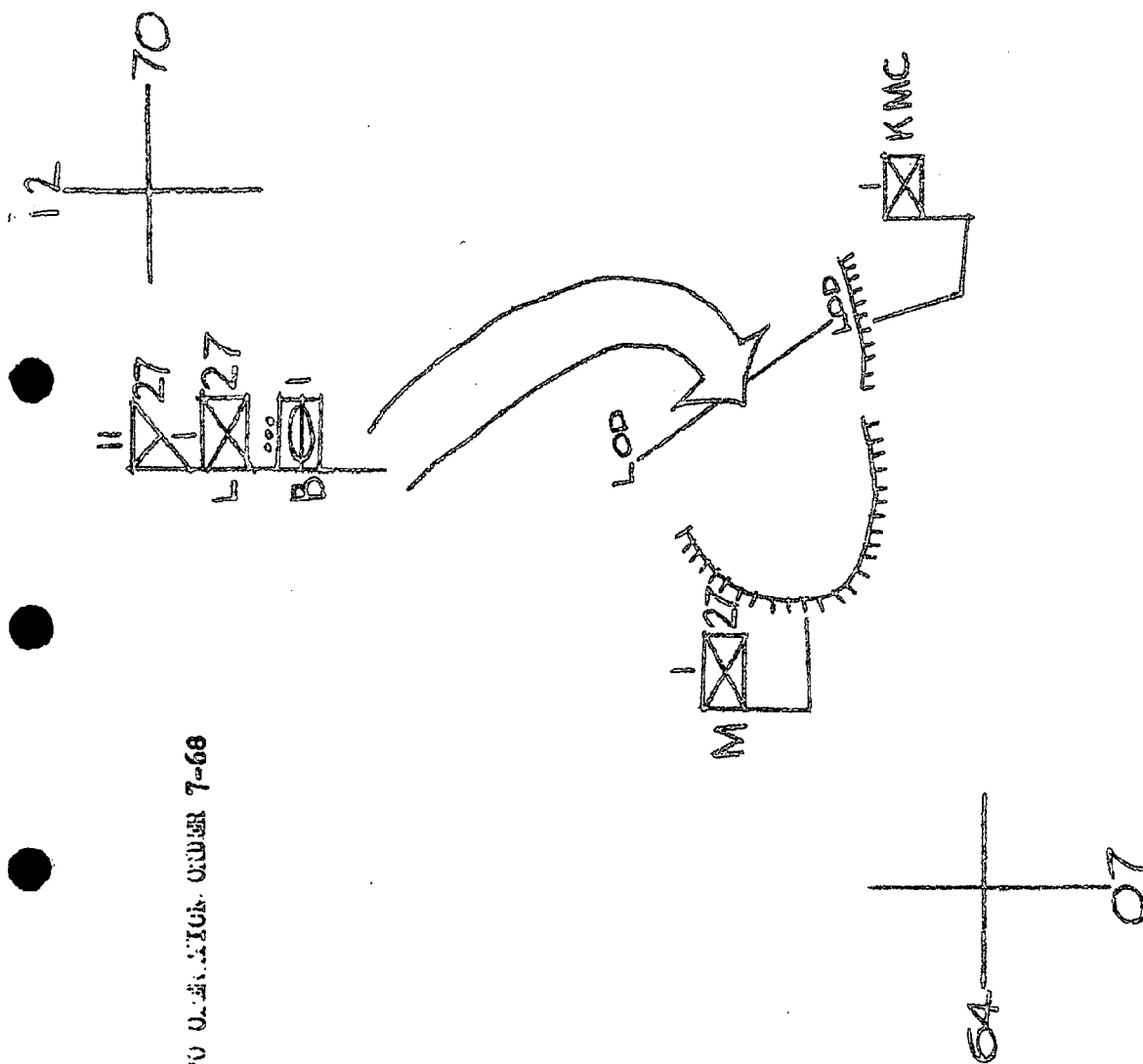
5. ~~COORDINATING~~ AND COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS

- a. Forward Command Group will follow in trace of sweep force.
- b. Med Evacs will be handled through SANFORD 14.
- c. Sweep force report when crossing LUD.
- d. All internal communications remain unchanged.

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 Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
 Commanding

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OPERATION OVERLAY TO OPERATION ORDER 7-68



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✓ TAB D

Operation Order 8-68

ENCLOSURE (1)

D-1

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 DANANG, RVN
 142300H APR 68

Operation Order 2-68

Ref: (a) Map: HOI AN, 1:50,000 AMS, Series L7014, Sheet 6640 I
 (b) Map: DAI LOC, 1:50,000 AMS, Series L7014, Sheet 6640 IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy. No change. See current INFOSUMS.
- b. Friendly. No change.

2. MISSION

To conduct a combat sweep of TRA LO and TRA KHE (1).

3. EXECUTION

- a. Concept of Operations. On D-Day conduct a combat sweep of TRA LO and TRA KHE (1) with one reinforced rifle company and the Forward Command Group. Blocking forces will be provided by one company of 3rd Bn, 51st ARVN on the west and one reinforced rifle company USMC on the south as shown on the operation overlay.

- b. Co E

- (1) On D-Day move aboard MTRACS to LOD and dismount.
- (2) At H-Hour commence sweep of objective area.
- (3) Thoroughly search the area of operations and destroy all enemy positions.
- (4) Utilize attached scout dog teams to search area.
- (5) Secure on order.

- c. Co I

- (1) Provide blocking force in the southern portion of the objective area as shown on the operation overlay.
- (2) Secure on order.

Page 1 of 4 Pages

d. Co, 1st Bn, 51st ARVN

(1) Provide blocking force in the western portion of the objective area as shown on the operation overlay.

(2) Secure on order.

e. Squad Section

(1) Establish OP's as shown on operation overlay.

(2) Secure on order.

f. Co, 3rd AMTBAC Bn

(1) Transport one reinforced rifle company and Bn Command Group to LOD.

(2) Dismount troops at LOD and return to 3/27 C.P..

g. Forward Command Group

(1) Follow in trace of sweep force.

(2) Secure on order.

h. 81MM Mortar Plt (-)

(1) Provide one section to move with Forward Command Group.

(2) Provide direct support.

(3) Secure on order.

i. Squad Dog Teams

(1) Attached to Company K.

j. Bn

(1) Provide one platoon as Battalion Reserve.

(2) Report to 3/27 C.P..

(3) Be prepared to move on tanks as required.

k. Coordinating Instructions

(1) D-Day - 17 April 1968.

(2) Helms - 0700.

(3) Blocking forces in position by 0630.

(4) AMTRAC's depart 3/27 C.P. - 0600.

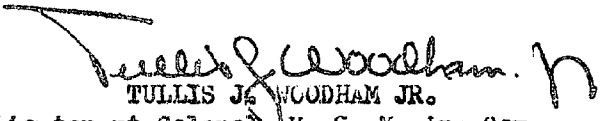
(5) All fire support will be coordinated by Forward Command Group 3/27.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- a. Normal resupply.
- b. Uniform and equipment - normal.
- c. Co K carry sufficient demolitions to destroy enemy positions.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS

- a. Normal internal communications.
- b. Forward Command Group will follow in trace of sweep force.
- c. Block forces report when in position.
- d. Sweep force report crossing of LOD.


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Commanding

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