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CTG 79.4

0071-68

0013989

968

COMMANDER  
SPECIAL LANDING FORCE  
ALFA  
SEVENTH FLEET



TG SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA 79.4

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1-31 JANUARY 1968

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HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/GFW/der  
SFR: 003A05768  
26 February 1968

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 January 1968  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) Brigo 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4 Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with references (a), (b), and (c).

  
BRUCE F. MEYERS

DISTRIBUTION:

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CG 9th MAB	1-2
CG 1st MAR DIV	3
CG 3d MAR DIV	4
CG 1st MAW	5
CTG 76.4	6
CTG 79.5	7
RLT-26 (Rear)	8
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COMMANDER TASK GROUP 79.4

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 January 1968 to 31 January 1968

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation  
Task Group 79.4

Commander  
Colonel J. A. CONWAY  
1-14 January 1968

Colonel B. F. MEYERS  
14-31 January 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

BLT 1/3  
1-2 January 1968

BLT 2/4  
2-31 January 1968

HMM-361  
1-31 January 1968

LtCol R. W. GOODALE  
1-2 January 1968

LtCol W. WEISE  
2-31 January 1968

LtCol D. M. WILSON  
1-31 January 1968

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. Location  
1-31 January 1968

USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2)  
1-31 January 1968

USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)  
1-31 January 1968

USS COMSTOCK (LSD-19)  
1-31 January 1968

USS WEXFORD CTY (LST-1168)  
1-31 January 1968

3. Staff Officers  
Executive Officer

LtCol P. H. SIMPSON  
1-31 January 1968

Adjutant/S-1

1stLt J. C. SMITH  
1-31 January 1968

S-2

Capt W. N. FOWLER  
1-31 January 1968

Asst S-2/Aerial Observer

Capt J. A. HATCHETT  
1-31 January 1968

S-3

LtCol J. ERWIN  
1-31 January 1968

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Asst S-3

Maj G. F. WARREN  
1-31 January 1968

Fire Support Coordinator

Maj R. M. BLACK  
1-31 January 1968

S-4

Capt P. J. SAMUELS  
1-31 January 1968

Communications Officer

Capt L. M. ZWICK  
1-31 January 1968

4. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Hq, Task Group 79.4	10		27	0		0
BLT 1/3	60		1423	8		78
BLT 2/4	65		1566	8		85
HMM-361	45		165	1		3

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## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the first four days of January 1968 BLT 2/4 continued embarking aboard ARG/SLF ALFA shipping. Operational control (OPCON) of BLT 2/4 was passed from CG III MAF to CTF 79 at 020600H and OPCON of BLT 2/4 was passed from CTF 79 to CTG 79.4 at the same time. Embarkation of BLT 2/4 was completed at 040810H and all ARG/SLF ALFA ships departed RVN for Subic Bay, R. P. The USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), with CTG 79.4 embarked, arrived in Subic Bay on 6 January. Vehicles and personnel were debarked and a ten day REHAB/TRNG period commenced immediately. During the period 6 Jan-13 Jan CTG 79.4 and his staff supervised and coordinated the BLT 2/4 REHAB/TRNG Program and planned for HILL TOP XIX, an amphibious training exercise which was to be conducted in the Zambales Training Area in Subic Bay.

On 13 January CG III MAF requested ARG/SLF ALFA return to I CTZ waters as soon as possible and not later than 17 January. COMSEVENTHFLT concurred in the request and an immediate re-embarkation of BLT 2/4 commenced. Colonel B. F. MEYERS relieved Colonel J. A. CONWAY as CTG 79.4 on 14 January in an informal ceremony. CTG 79.4, with staff planners from TG 79.4/76.4, departed for RVN by aircraft on 14 January in order to attend a planning conference at the III MAF Command Post. HILL TOP XIX was cancelled and all ARG/SLF ALFA ships were underway for RVN by 15 January. On 15 January CTG 79.4, with the planning staffs of TG 79.4/76.4, made liaison visits with the 3D MARDIV at Dong Ha and with the 26th Marines at Khe Sanh. COMSEVENTHFLT issued an initiating directive for Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR at 152318Z. The USS IWO JIMA, with TG 79.4 embarked, arrived in the I CTZ waters late in the evening of 16 January.

Because of the tense situation ashore during the Vietnamese New Year Celebration (TET), ARG/SLF ALFA was directed to remain off the coast of northern I CTZ, beyond visible range, and be prepared to reinforce any one of a number of possible areas of employment in the event of a NVA/VC attack.

On 22 January CG III MAF requested ARG/SLF ALFA conduct an amphibious operation to land BLT 2/4 by helicopter at Camp Evans in Thua Thien Province in order to provide security for the Camp. Within two hours and twenty minutes the first wave of sixteen helicopters was airborne and enroute to Camp Evans as Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR commenced. An increasing volume of enemy ground fire and pilot fatigue caused the helicopter lift to cease late at night and to resume at first light on 23 January. CLF reported to CATF that BLT 2/4 (-) was firmly established ashore as of 231130H. ARG/SLF ALFA remained in support of operations ashore during the follow-on operation, NEOSHO II.

On 24 January ARG/SLF ALFA received a request to reconstitute SLF ALFA and to conduct an amphibious operation in the

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3D MARDIV area as soon as possible. COMSEVENTHFLT issued an initiating directive for Operation FORTRESS ATTACK at 261604Z. OPCON of BLT 2/4 (-) was passed to CTG 79.4 at 261200H and re-embarkation of BLT 2/4 was completed at 261830H, five hours and fifteen minutes after it had begun. Operation FORTRESS ATTACK commenced at 270930H with the landing of leading elements of BLT 2/4 in the 9th Marines Area of Operations. CTG 79.4 reported selected elements of SLF ALFA were firmly established ashore and simultaneously passed OPCON of BLT 2/4 (-) to CG III MAF at 271500H.

ARG/SLF ALFA remained in support of operations ashore during the remainder of the month of January.

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## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 2 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 received OPCON of BLT 2/4 at 020600H from CG III MAF and passed OPCON of BLT 1/3 to CG III MAF the same date/time.
- Ref: CG 3D MARDIV 031535Z JAN 68  
ADMINO III MAF 041504Z JAN 68  
CTG 79.4 050601Z JAN 68
- 5 Jan 1968 Major W. L. LANG Jr., 9th MAB Ordnance Officer, and 9th MAB Ordnance Team departed.
- 8 Jan 1968 Capt C. B. COX, 9th MAB Staff Legal Officer, and Capt H. L. LADUCA Jr., 9th MAB LogO, aboard for liaison visit.
- 9 Jan 1968 Capt C. B. COX and Capt H. J. LADUCA Jr. departed.
- 11 Jan 1968 Colonel B. F. MEYERS reported aboard as relief for Colonel J. A. CONWAY.  
Capt R. D. LANE and Capt S. S. McMATH, 9th MAB Legal Officers, aboard to conduct an Article 32 Investigation.
- 13 Jan 1968 ARG/SLF ALFA was directed to return to RVN as soon as possible to be employed in the 3D MARDIV Area of Operations.
- Ref: CG III MAF 130254Z JAN 68  
COMSEVENTHFLT 130612Z JAN 68
- 14 Jan 1968 Colonel B. F. MEYERS relieved Colonel J. A. CONWAY as CTG 79.4. Auth CG, 9th MAB LtrO 11/jbb 1320 of 5Jan68.  
Colonel J. A. CONWAY departed for duty as Asst CofS G-3, 9th MAB. Auth CG 9th MAB msg 100123Z Jan 68.  
Colonel B. F. MEYERS, CTG 79.4, and Staff planners from TG 79.4/76.4 departed for III MAF Headquarters for planning conference.
- 15 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 and planning staff made liaison visit to 3D MARDIV at Dong Ha and 26th Marines at The Sanh, as requested by ACoFS G-3, 3D MARDIV, and returned to Dong Ha, 3D MARDIV Headquarters(Fwd).
- Ref: COMSEVENTHFLT 152318Z JAN 68

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- 16 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 and planning staff made liaison visit to 1st Marines, returned to Dong Ha, and then to USS VALLEY FORGE for liaison visit with CTG 79.5.
- 17 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 and planning Staff returned to IWO JIMA from in-country liaison visit.  
CTG 79.4 and planning Staff made a liaison visit to 3D MARDIV Headquarters.  
Cdr. L. J. McDONALD, 9th MAB Chaplain, arrived and departed on liaison visit.
- 18 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 established liaison with 3D MARDIV by voice from 1st AmTracBn CP concerning possible employment areas.  
LtCol J. F. CONLON, ProvServBn XO, aboard for liaison visit.
- 19 Jan 1968 TG 79.4 S-3A to 3D MARDIV for liaison visit concerning possible employment areas.
- 20 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 and TG 79.4 S-3 to 3D MARDIV for liaison visit.
- 21 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4, TG 79.4 S-3, TG 79.4 S-2, and representatives from BLT 2/4 and HMM-361 made a liaison visit to III MAF Headquarters.  
Capt R. D. LANE, Capt S. S. McMATH and LtCol J. F. CONLON departed.
- 22 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4, TG 79.4 S-3 and TG 79.4 S-2 attended III MAF briefing with CTF 76.  
CG III MAF, LtGen CUSHMAN; CG 1ST MARDIV, MajGen ROBERTSON; and CG 1ST MAW, MajGen ANDERSON aboard for liaison visit and luncheon.  
Received a request to employ ARG/SLF ALFA in the vicinity of Camp Evans.

Ref: CG III MAF 220400Z JAN 68

TG 79.4 Executive Officer and TG 79.4 FSC to 1st Marines to coordinate BLT 2/4 landing and relief of First Bn, Ninth Marines at Camp Evans.  
Commenced Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR.

Ref: CTG 79.4 220530Z JAN 68  
COMSEVENTHFLT 220536Z JAN 68  
CTG 79.4 221112Z JAN 68  
CTG 76.4 221446Z JAN 68  
CTG 79.4 221526Z JAN 68  
CTG 79.4 221526Z JAN 68  
TAB D, PART IV

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CTG 79.4, TG 79.4 FSC and TG 79.4 S-2 to BLT 2/4 CP and 1st Marines to coordinate landing of remainder of BLT 2/4. CLF reported the landing force firmly established ashore at 231121H.

Ref: CTG 79.4 230305Z JAN 68

Selected elements of the SLF (BLT 2/4(-)) were chopped to CG III MAF at 231130H.

Ref: CG III MAF 221544Z JAN 68  
CTG 76.4 230315Z JAN 68  
CTG 79.4 230344Z JAN 68  
CG 1ST MARDIV 240258Z JAN 68

23 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 and TG 79.4 Staff members made a liaison visit to 1st Marines and BLT 2/4.

24 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 and TG 79.4 Staff members made a liaison visit to 1st Marines, BLT 2/4, and 3D MARDIV. Capt W. J. BIEN, ProvServBn, arrived and departed on liaison visit. CTG 79.4 briefed CTG 76.4 and Staff on proposed move of BLT 2/4. OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) was passed to CG Task Force X-Ray at 252001H JAN 68.

Ref: CG 1ST MARDIV 241345Z JAN 68

26 Jan 1968 Commenced re-embarkation of BLT 2/4 at 261315H. Received initiating directive on Operation FORTRESS ATTACK.

Ref: COMSEVENTHFLT 251604Z JAN 68

CG III MAF passed OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) to CTG 79.4 at 261200H.

Ref: CG III MAF 251626Z JAN 68

Completed the re-embarkation of BLT 2/4 at 261830H. BLT 2/4's tank platoon and AmTrac PLT landed at Cua Viet at the request of CG III MAF.

Ref: CG III MAF 261750A JAN 68

27 Jan 1968 Commenced Operation FORTRESS ATTACK.

Ref: CTG 79.4 261350Z JAN 68

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TG 79.4 Liaison Team to 9th Marines CP. CTG 79.4 reported selected elements of SLF ALFA firmly established ashore and chopped BLT 2/4(-) to CG III MAF at 271500H.

Ref: CTG 76.4 270736Z JAN 68  
CTG 79.4 271205Z JAN 68  
CG III MAF 280224Z JAN 68

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## PART IV

## CHRONOLOGY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

TAB A

- ✓ 1- CG 3DMARDIV 031535Z JAN 68
- ✓ 2- ADMINO III MAF 041504Z JAN 68
- ✓ 3- CTG 76.4 050601Z JAN 68
- ✓ 4- CG III MAF 130254Z JAN 68
- ✓ 5- COMSEVENTHFLT 130612Z JAN 68
- ✓ 6- COMSEVENTHFLT 152318Z JAN 68
- ✓ 7- CG III MAF 220400Z JAN 68
- ✓ 8- CTG 76.4 220530Z JAN 68
- ✓ 9- COMSEVENTHFLT 220536Z JAN 68
- ✓ 10- CTG 79.4 221112Z JAN 68
- ✓ 11- CG 3DMARDIV 221446 JAN 68
- ✓ 12- CTG 76.4 221526Z JAN 68 - Body of msg NIE
- ✓ 13- CG III MAF 221544Z JAN 68
- ✓ 14- CTG 76.4 230305Z JAN 68
- ✓ 15- CTG 76.4 230315Z JAN 68
- ✓ 16- CTG 79.4 230344Z JAN 68
- ✓ 17- CG 3DMARDIV 240258Z JAN 68
- ✓ 18- CG 1STMARDIV 241345Z JAN 68
- ✓ 19- CG III MAF 241540Z JAN 68
- ✓ 20- COMSEVENTHFLT 251604Z JAN 68
- ✓ 21- CG III MAF 251648Z JAN 68
- ✓ 22- CG III MAF 260750Z JAN 68
- ✓ 23- CTG 79.4 261350Z JAN 68
- ✓ 24- CTG 76.4 270736Z JAN 68
- ✓ 25- CTG 271205Z JAN 68
- ✓ 26- CG III MAF 280224Z JAN 68

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TAB B ✓	BLT 1/3 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-2 JAN 1968
TAB ✓	BLT 2/4 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-31 JAN 1968
TAB ✓	HMM-361 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1 JAN-10 FEB 1968
TAB E	CTG 79.4 After Action Report Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II.

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NNNNVV FFAC-70-150ZVA 408VV PVB462

○ RUYEUAK

○ RUMKVP 06,90 031535

○ ZNY SSSUU

○ 031535Z JAN 68

○ Y CG THIRDMARDIV

○ O RUYEUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

INFO RUMMWAA/CG III MAF

BT

S E C K E T

CHOP OPCON ELT 2/4

A. CTOP79.2 031210HJAN68 (TOTAL)

B. CG THIRD MARDIV :91502 JAN 68

1. IAW REQUEST CONTAIN 250 400PCON OF ELT 2/4 PASSED TO CG III MAF  
BY REF 3 AT 020600HJAN68.

GP-4

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JAN 4 12 07 '68

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031535Z

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041504Z JAN 68

ADMINO III MAF DANANG

TO RUABQL/CG NINTH MAB

RUABQL/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

INFO ZEN/CG FMFPAC

RUABUL/COM SEVENTH FLT

RUMFKRV/CTF SEVEN SIX

ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV

BT

SECRET

A. CG III MAF 150810Z DEC 67

B. CG III MAF 237230Z DEC 67

C. CG NINTH MAB 240107Z JAN 68 NOTAL

D. CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR 240201Z JAN 68 NOTAL

1. CG III MAF PASSED IOMXZND BLT 2/4 TO CTF SEVEN NINE 020600H

JAN 68 IAW PAR 2B REF A AS MODIFIED BY PAR 1A REF B.

2. THIS CONSTITUTES REPLY TO REF C AND D.

P-4

BT

NNN/T  
I

JAN 4 10 57 1968

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E RUABOL/CG NINTH MAI  
 E RUABOL/CG NINTH MAI  
 NY 55555  
 054601Z JAN 68 ZYO RUMY  
 M CG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 D RUABOL/CG NINTH MAI  
 EN LT TWO SLANT FOUR  
 INFO RUHREMA/CG PEPAC  
 RUABOL/CG PEPAC (FWD)  
 RUABOL/CG CONVENTHFLT  
 RUMHAA CG III MAF  
 RUMHVP CG THIRD MARDI  
 RUMFKRI CTG SEVEN SIX  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUABOLY LT TWO SIX (EAD)

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CG NINTH MAB 050512Z JAN 68

CG NINTH MAB 210523Z DEC 67

IAW REF A CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR ASSUMES ON ON THE TOW LINE WA  
 REF 021000H JAN.

FOR ELI TWO SLANT FOUR: IAW REF B RPT TO CG A T TWO SIX C TWO  
 FOR COMI LESS OPCON. CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR RELATES ON

EP-4

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U MAY 423  
01 JAN 68 ZYI RUM TIA  
02 JAN 68 SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
03 JAN 68 NINE SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
04 JAN 68 TWO BLANT FOUR  
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06 JAN 68 HZ JAN 68  
07 JAN 68 HZ JAN 68  
08 JAN 68 EVENTHFL  
09 JAN 68 MUSMACV  
10 JAN 68 FLT  
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 ZNY SSSSS  
 O 130612Z JAN 68 ZYO RUMF  
 FM CONSEVENTHFLT  
 TO RUMFUAK/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUMFUAX/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 INFO RUMWAA/CG III MAF  
 RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUMGUV/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUMHBRA/CIICPACFLT  
 RUMELA/CG FIFTH MARDIV  
 RUMFCR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE  
 BT

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ARG/SLF ALFA EMPLOYMENT (U)  
 A. CG III MAF 130204Z JAN 68  
 1. TAKE REF A FORAC. DIRLAUTH.  
 GP-4  
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NNNN

ANXKUSA MR 8816 152318  
 Q QI EGIZ JAN 68 ZYO RUMF  
 CONSEVENTFLT  
 TO RUMPCR/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUMPCR/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 RUMPCR/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUMSBB/COMNAVFORV  
 RUMPMRE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE  
 RUMGUZ/CTF SEVEN THREE  
 RUMPCR/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT  
 RUMWAA/CG III MAF  
 INFO RUMHHGA/CINCPAC  
 RUMHBRA/CINCPACFLT  
 RUMJMSU/COMPHIBPAC  
 RUMFMA/CG FMFPAC  
 RUABOL/CG FMFPAC (FWD)  
 RUMHAN/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUMVND/CTF ONE ONE FIVE  
 RUMSBB/ENDV SEVENTH AIRFORCE

28 / 1455Z JAN 68  
 [Signature]

AGE TWO RUMFUL 1244 S E O R E T  
 RUMPCR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT ONE  
 RUMPCR/CTF SEVEN SEVEN  
 RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUMHLA/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 RUMPCR/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
 RUMPCR/SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
 RUMPCR/CTG SEVEN THREE PT FIVE  
 RUMPCR/TU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE  
 RUMVND/CTG ONE ONE FIVE PT ONE  
 RUMPCR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT TWO

S E C R E T  
 CTE 78.2.1.1 PASS ADVANCED COPY TO COMUSMACV  
 BALLISTIC ARMOR INITIATING DIRECTIVE (U)  
 A. MY OPLAN 101-77

SITUATION. CG III MAF HAS REQUESTED THE EMPLOYMENT OF AN ANG/AF IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IN THE I CTZ. CONSEVENTFLT WILL PROVIDE IG 78.4.73.4 AND SUCH OTHER FORCES AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THIS OPERATION. INITIATING DIRECTIVE IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. THE OPERATION, WHEN EXECUTED, WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFNA.

PAGE THREE RUMFUP 1244 S E C R E T

2. MISSION. WHEN DIRECTED, CATF CONDUCT A SEARCH AND DESTROY AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION AGAINST VC/MIU FORCES IN AMPHIBIOUS OBJECTIVE AREA IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE OF I CTZ OR OTHER OPERATION AS AGREED UPON WITH CG III MAF OR HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE.

3. CIG 76.4 (COMPHCZRON THREE) EMBARKED IN USS IWO JIMA (LPH 2) DESIGNATED COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE (CATF).

4. CIG 79.4 COMMANDER SLF ALFA) EMBARKED IN USS IWO JIMA DESIGNATED COMMANDER LANDING FORCE (CLF).

5. COMMAND RELATIONSHIP IAW PARA 3X(2) AND (3) OF REF A.

6. COMUSMACV WPL PROVIDE ANTI-INFILTRATION/EXFILTRATION PATROL CRAFT FOR THIS OPERATION AND WILL PROVIDE CAS AND OTHER SUPPORT AS AGREED UPON WITH CATF IAW PPARA 1B(1) OF REF A.

7. AMPHIBIOUS OBJECTIVE AREA (AOA). THE AOA WILL BE PROMULGATED BY CATF AS APPROPRIATE.

8. NICKNAME FOR THIS OPERATION WILL BE BALLISTIC ARMOR WITH INITIATIVE D-DAY TO BE DETERMINED DEPENDING ON TACTICAL SITUATION. H AND L HOURS TO BE DETERMINED BY CATF AND D-DAY CONFIRMED BY CATF UPON DESIGNATION OF CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS AND WHEN ALL FORCES ARE PREPARED, CATF REPORT ON ORIG STATE OF READINESS, FINAP RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING D-DAY AND L HOUR, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THIS OPERATION. COM AND

PAGE FOUR RUMFUL 1244 S E C R E T

OF EXECUTION WILL BE BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. SUBMIT FORMAL REQUEST FOR EXECUTION AS EARLY AS PRACTICABLE TO ALLOW FOR COMMUNICATION DELAYS.

9. ORIGINATOR EXECUTE MSG NOT RECEIVED AT RECOMMENDED TIME FOR EXECUTION, ASSUME APPROVAL, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY, INFORMING ALCON.

9. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/INTEC

MUE. WHEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ASHORE, AND WHEN

USUALLY AGREED BY

CATF AND CG III MAF. REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF SLF CHOP TO CG III MAF.

B. UPON CHOP OF REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF SLF TO OPCON OF IN-COUNTRY COMMANDER, CATF REMAIN IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS ASHORE.

C. WITHDRAWAL IAW ANNEX B TO REF A.

10. TERMINATION IAW ANNEX B TO REF A.

11. PUBLIC AFFAIRS IAW ANNEX V TO REF A.

12. ACTION ACKNOWLEDGE.

GP-4

FLASH FOLLOWS

GALL NR6529  
 Z 020406Z JAN 68  
 FM CG III MAF DAWANG  
 TO RUEYUAK/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUEYUAE/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUHSHA/COMUSMACV  
 RUHSHL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 INFO RUHSHV/CTG SEVEN SIX  
 RUHSHL/CTG SEVEN NINE  
 RUEYUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 RUEYUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
 RUHSHV/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE  
 ZE /CG FIRST MAF  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 ZEN/CG FORLOGOMD  
 BT

SECRET

EMPLOYMENT ARG/SLF ALPHA AND BRAVO

1. SITUATION KHE SANH REQUIRES IMMEDIATE REIN BY ONE BATTALION  
 I DESIRE TO DEPLOY 1/9 FROM CAMP EVANS TO KHE SANH. REQUEST SLF

PAGE TWO RUHSHAA 2339 SECRET

ALPHA (BLT 2/4) DEPLOY IMMEDIATELY BY HELO TO CAMP EVANS WITH  
 THREE RIFLE COMPANIES TO EFFECT RELIEF OF 1/9 AND ASSUME RESPON-  
 SIBILITY THAT AREA FOURTH RIFLE COMPANY TO BE HELD IN RESERVED  
 ELEMENTS OF 1ST ACD WILL RELIEVE BLT 2/4 O/A 25 JAN 68 AT WHICH  
 TIME, I DESIRE TO RECONSTITUTE SLF ALPHA AS CORPS RESERVE. SHOULD  
 YOU DESIRE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS REQUEST BY AN AMPHIB OPN, I DEFER  
 TO YOUR JUDGEMENT, HOWEVER, SPEED OF THE ESSENCE. REQUEST ARG  
 REMAIN IN SUPPORT.

2. REQUEST ARG/SLF BRAVO CONDUCT AMPHIB OPN VIC CUA VIET TO CLEAR  
 RIVER BANKS AND ADJACENT AREAS OF ENEMY FORCES. COORDINATE WITH  
 CG THIRD MARDIV. ARG TO REMAIN IN SUPPORT. ENEMY HAS SUCCEEDED  
 IN CLOSING CUA VIET TO LOGISTIC TRAFFIC FOR PAST TWO DAYS  
 EVEN TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THIS VITAL LOC IS UNACCEPTABLE.  
 SUBSEQUENT TO CLEARING OPERATION ON CUA VIET DESIRE TO COMMIT  
 BLT 3/1 TO SEARCH AND DESTROY OPN IN AREA WEST OF ROUTE 561 AND  
 NORTH OF ROUTE 9 IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE ADDITIONAL MARINE  
 BATTALION.

BT

032 0220243  
 032 0220243  
 032 0220243

[illegible]

PAGE TWO RUHEUAK 032 S E C R E T

RUMFCR/TG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
RUMVHD/CTF ONE ONE FIVE  
RUWJSA/COMPHIBPAC  
RUHHMA/CG FMFPAC  
RUHHBRA/CINCPACFLT  
RUNGUZ/CTF SEVEN THREE  
RUHHQA/CINCPAC  
RUMHNA/COMNAVSUPPACT DANANG  
ZEN/TG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
BT

**SECRET**

**BALLISTIC ARMOR (U)**

A. YOUR 220400Z JAN 68 NOTAL

UNODIR AOA FOR BALLISTIC ARMOR HELD LANDING IS 1500/6 RPT 1500/6  
METERS ARC AROUND YD 534315/1 RPT YD 534315/1.

2. CG THIRD MAF (PRESENTLY EMBARKED) AND CTG 79.4 CONCURS.  
GP-4 (C) 23FEB68

RT

(F) TACRON

m cps



PAGE THREE RUYEUAK 070 E C R E T

SET 08-40

CO F/2/4 LT GAVELIK

1. SITUATION

A. ENEMY FORCES: CURRENT INTSUMS, PERINTREPS

B. FRIENDLY FORCES:

(1) CTG 79.4 PROVIDES: HELICOPTER LIFT FOR SELECTED ELEMENTS OF BLT 2/4 TO LANDING ZONE LEMON

(2) 1ST MAW PROVIDES HELICOPTER HEAVY LIFT REQUIREMENTS AND

UH-1E (ARMED AND UNARMED) HELICOPTERS FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION/OBSERVATION.

(3) FIRST MARINES PROVIDE SECURITY AND CONTROL AT LZ LEMON.

(4) III MAF PROVIDES COORDINATION FOR FIRE SUPPORT IN AGA AND APPROACH AND RETIREMENT LANES.

(5) TO 100% PROBABLY AMPHIBIOUS AND AIR SUPPORT.

2. MISSION: COMMENCING O/A 221500H JAN 68, CTG 79.4 CONDUCTS A HELICOPTER-BORNE AMPHIBIOUS LANDING OF BLT 2/4 (-) AT CAMP EVANS (LZ LEMON) TO EFFECT RELIEF OF 1/9 AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY THAT AREA.

3. EXECUTION

A. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS. COMMENCING AT L-HOUR ON D-DAY THREE

PAGE FOUR RUYEUAK 070 S E C R E T

RIFLE COMPANIES (REIN) BTRY W/3/12, AND ALFA COMMAND GROUP WILL BE HELICOPTER-BORNE INTO LZ LEMON (YD 534310) PREPARED TO EFFECT RELIEF OF 1/9 AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY THAT AREA. ARTILLERY AND COMMUNICATIONS ELEMENTS PREPARE FOR LANDING ON ORDER. BLT 2/4 REPORTS CLOSING OF LAST ELEMENTS OF RIFLE CO'S AT LZ LEMON.

B. BLT 2/4: BEGINNING O/A 221530H JAN THREE RIFLE COS (REIN), BTRY W/3/12, AND ALFA COMMAND GROUP ARE HELICOPTER-BORNE INTO LZ LEMON AT CAMP EVANS. BTRY H/2/12 PREPARED TO BE HELICOPTER-BORNE INTO LZ LEMON ON ORDER.

C. HMM-361: PROVIDE HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR MOVEMENT OF BLT 2/4 AND REQUIRED SELF ALFA COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT/PERSONNEL.

D. CO F/2/4 (REIN) DESIGNATED PART OF III MAF RESERVE. PREPARE FOR EMPLOYMENT AS ORDERED.

E. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) REF B

(2) MAP GRID DESIGNATOR YANKEE DELTA

(3) AIR OPERATIONS IAW ANNEX G REF B AND THE FOLLOWING:

(A) HELO APPROACH AND RETIREMENT LANES

1)) PRIMARY (FLORIDA) FROM DEPARTURE POINT MIAMI (YD 900410) TO PENETRATION CONTROL POINT TAMPA (YD 633459) TO INITIAL POINT



DECLASSIFIED  
 1/20/75  
 1/20/75

////////////////////// FLARE FOLLOWS. ////////////////////////

VV UAK581

\*\*\*\*\*Z RUMHQA RUMHBA RUMSMA RUMHMA RUJMSA RUHQA RUMHQA RUMHQA

RUMHVP RUMHAP RUMHBA RUMHBA RUHQA RUHQA RUHQA RUHQA

DE RUYEUAE 024 000000

FM RUMHQA

TO RUMHQA

TO RUMHQA

TO RUMHQA

TO RUMHQA

TO RUMHQA

INFO RUMHQA/CINCPAC

RUMHBA/CINCPACFLT

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUMHMA/CG FMVPAO

RUJMSA/COMUSMACV

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMHQA/CG III MAF

RUMHQA/CG FIRST MAJ DIV

RUMHVP/CG THIRD MAJ DIV

RUMHAP/CG FIRST MAJ

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUMHQA/CG THIRD MAJ

RUMHQA/CG FIRST MAJ

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

RUMHQA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

PAGE TWO RUYEUAE 024 000000

RUMHQA/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE

RUMHQA/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

BT

SECRET

FRAG ORDER NR. ONE FOR OPERATION BALLISTIC ARMOR (U)

A. MAP: VIETNAM AMS SERIES L7014 1/50,000 SHEETS 6442I; 6542III;

6641I AND 6541IV

B. CTG 79.4 OPLAN 120A-67

C. COMSEVENTHFLT 152318 DEC 68

D. CTG 76.4 OPLAN 101A-68

TIME ZONE: HOTEL

SCOPE: THIS IS CTG 79.4 FRAG ORDER ONE SUPPLEMENTING REF (B) FOR

HELICOPTER-BORNE AMPHIBIOUS LANDING IN OPERATION BALLISTIC ARMOR.

IT IS DERIVED FROM REFS (C) AND (D).

TASK ORGANIZATION

CTG 79.4

LTJ 2/4 (-) LTCOL WEISE

MM-361 LTCOL WILSON

DET UK-1E

DET CM-1E

//////////////////////////////////FLASH FOLLOWS//////////////////////////////////

..... VV YEA892VV FPAS30VVZVA 957P OIKVV PVB251

ZZ RUMFUAK  
DE RUMHVP 1262D 0221446

ZNY SSSSS

Z 221446Z JAN 68

FM CG THIRD MARDIV

TO FIRST MARINES

IN RUMWAA/CG III MAF

RUMFUAK/CGT SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

BT

SECRET

A CG III MAF 220740Z JAN68 (S)(NOTAL)

1. EF A REQUESTED DESIGNATION OF IN COUNTRY COMMANDER WHO WILL  
CONTROL SUPPORTING ARMS DURING OPN BALLISTIC ARMOR.

2. FIRST MARINES HEREBY DESIGNATED TO CONTROL SUPPORTING ARMS DURING  
OPN BALLISTIC ARMOR.

3. DIRLAUTH.

GP-4

BT

NNNN

221446Z

VV UAK601

OO RUMHVP RUMMWAA RUABQL RUHGUU RUMFCR RUMFUL RUMHLA RUMHAW RUMSMA  
 RUMSAL RUHHHQA RUHHBRA RUHFMA RUWJMSA RUYEUAE  
 DE RUYEUAK 093 0221543

VY SSSSS

U 221526Z JAN 68 ZYO RUYE

FM CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR ✓

TO RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV

INFO RUMMWAA/CG III MAF

RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUHGUU/CTF SEVEN SIX

ZEN/TG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR ✓

RUMFCR/TG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

RUMHLA/CG FIRST MARDIV

RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUMSAL/SEVENTH AF

RUHHHQA/CINCPAC

RUHHBRA/CINCPACFLT

RUHFMA/CG FMFPAC

RUWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC

ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR ✓

RUMHLA/FIRST MARINES

JAN 22 15 05 '68

NON

ZEN

YEA903U

OO RUEUAK

DI RUMWAA 2425 0221544

ZNY SSSSS

O P 221544Z JAN 68

FM CG III MAF

INFO RUEUAK/CTF SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

ZEM/CG THIRD MARDIV

INFO RUEUAK/COMUSMACV

INFO SBI/COMSEVENTHFLT

ZEN/CG FIRST MARDIV

ZEN/CG FIRST FAW

FM 33/CTF SEVEN SIX

SEVEN/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUEUAK/CTG SEVEN FIVE PT FIVE

RUEUAK/CTH SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE

RUEUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

ZEN/CG FOURTH

INFO SBI/CTF SEVEN SIX PT FIVE

BT

SECRET

SUBJ: OPCON BLT 2/4

1. FOR CTG 70.4: WHEN BLT 2/4 ELM (2/4(-)) FIRMLY ESTABLISHED  
 AS REQUEST YOU PASS OPCON TO CG III MAF.

PAGE TWO RUMWAA 2425 SECRET

2. FOR CG 3RD MARDIV: CG III MAF PASSES OPCON BLT 2/4 ELM (2/4(-))

TO CG 3RD MARDIV SAME TIME.

BT-4

BT

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22 1544Z

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VV AKA029

00 RUMFUL RUMWAA RUMHVP RUABQL RUMGUV RUMHLA RUYEOR

DE RUYEUAK 027 0230305

ZNY SSSSS

RUYEOR ZOK PFN

O 230305Z JAN 68 ZFD ZYO RUYE

FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

TO ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

INFO RUMFUL/CONSEVENTHFLT

RUMWAA/CG III MAF

RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMGUV/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUMHLA/FIRST MARINES

BT

SECRET

OPERATIONS BALLISTIC ARMOR (CU)

1. BLT TWO SLANT FOUR (-) HAS COMPLETED LANDING AND IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ASHORE AS OF 231121H. 1ST MARINES CONTINUES TO CONTROL AND COORDINATE SUPPORTING ARMS.

GP-4

BT

NNNN

FILE

700 / Rums-T-  
 0655g

JAN 24 10 05 00

a-44

*new A / R O N A*

*Jan 23*

00 RUMHAA RUMFUL RUMHUV RUYEUA RUMHVP RUABQL RUMHLA RUYEOR  
DE RUYEUAK 025 0230315  
ZNY SSSSS

RUYEOR ZNY TFM  
O 230315Z JAN 68 CG III MAF  
FM CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
TO RUMHAA/CG III MAF  
ZEE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
INFO RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
RUMHUV/CTF SEVEN SIX  
RUYEUA/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
ZEN/FLT TWO SLANT FOUR  
RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
RUMHLA/CG FIRST MARINES

BT

SECRET

BALLISTIC ARMOR CHOP (U)

- A. COMSEVENTHFLT 152318Z JAN 68
- B. CG III MAF 221544Z JAN 68 (NOTAL)
- C. CTG 79.4 221826Z JAN 68 (NOTAL)
- D. COMSEVENTHFLT 221444Z JAN 68 (NOTAL)

1. REF A IS INITIATING DIRECTIVE BALLISTIC ARMOR. REF B IS CG III MAF REQ FOR PASS OPCON ELEM SLF ALFA TO CG III MAF WHEN FIRMLY

PAGE TWO RUYEUAK 025 SECRET

ESTABLISHED ASHORE, REF C DESIGNATES FIRST MARINE REGT AS COMMAND CONTROLLING SUPPORTING ARMS IN AOA.

2. IN VIEW FIRM ESTABLISHMENT ASHORE OF SELECTED ELEMENTS SLF ALFA AND CONTROL OF THE ARMS AREA IN AOA BY FORCE WAS REEF. CHOP AGREES TO CHOP REQUEST REF B AND CHOPS (CHG OF OPCON) REQD ELEMENTS OF SLF ALFA TO CG III MAF AT 231130H0 RPT 231130H0.

3. UPON CHOP OF SELECTED ELEMENTS OF SLF ALFA TO CG III MAF, ARG ALFA WILL REMAIN IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS ASHORE.

4. FOR CTG 79.4: REQ YOU CHOP REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF SLF ALFA IAW REF B AND REMAIN IN SUPPORT OF OPS ASHORE.

GP-4 (C) 1 FEB 68

BT

DEWA / WDN / R

JAN 23 11 14 '68

UV UAK656

OO RUMMWAA RUMYDL RUMNUP RUMZOL RUMGUV RUMMLA RUYECR

DE RUYEUAK 028 0230344

ZNY 00000

RUYECR ZOK FFN

1 230344Z JAN 68 EYO RUYE

FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

TO RUMMWAA/CG III MAF

INFO RUMFOL/CG SEVENTHFLT

RUMNUP/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUMZOL/CTG SEVEN NINE

RUMGUV/CTG SEVEN SIX

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUMMLA/FIRST MARINES

BT

SECRET

1. CTG 76.4 230315Z JAN 68

2. CG III MAF 221544Z JAN 68

1. IAW REF A AND B CHOP OPCOM ELEMENTS OF BLT TWO SLANT FOUR

TO CG III MAF AS OF 231130H

BT

BT

F  
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230344Z

NNNN





ZNY 85555  
 0 241345Z JAN 68  
 FM CG FIRST MARDIV  
 TO ZEN/CG FTF XRAY  
 INFO RUMMWAA/CG III MAF  
 ZEN/XOM MARINES  
 RUMHVP/CG FIRST AIRCAV DIV  
 RUYSUAK/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUYSUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

BT

S E C R E T

OPCOM FIRST MARINES

A. CG III MAF 221640Z JAN 68

3GMJNRCHRD MARDIV 224030Z JAN 68

1. IAW REFS A AND B THIS HQ ASSIGNS AND PASSES OPCON FIRST MARINES

(-) REIN INCLUDING SELECTED ELMS BLT -9/6 TO CG IF XRAY

EFFECTIVE 252001H JAN 68.

GP-4

BT

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BEST  
#27 / 242000Z JAN 68

NNNNAGALL NR8015  
O 241540Z JAN 68  
FM CG III MAF  
O RUYEUAK/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
RUMHLA/CG FIRST MARDIV  
INFO RUNSHA/COMUSMACV  
RUMFUL/CONSEVENTHFLT  
RUMGUL/CTG SEVEN SIX  
RUABOL/CTG SEVEN NINE  
RUYEUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
RUMFCR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE  
ZEN/FIRST MAF  
ZEN/CG FORLOGCMD

BT

S E C R E T

EMPLOYMENT ARG/SLF ALFA AND BRAVO.

1. EXPECT BLT 2/4 (-) TO BE RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
AMP EVANS O/A 25JAN68.

PAGE TWO RUMWAA 2724 S E C R E T

2. FOR CTG 76.4/79.4: UPON RELIEF AND REVERSION OPCON TO CTG 79.4, REQ SLF ALFA BE RECONSTITUTED AFLOAT FOR LANDING ASAP C-2 AREA (YD 134644) AND SUBSEQUENT INITIAL EMPLOYMENT IN THAT AREA. SHOULD CTG 76.4 DESIRE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS REQUEST BY AMPHIB OPN, I DEFER TO HIS JUDGEMENT, HOWEVER, SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE, DUE ENEMY CAPABILITIES LEATHERNECK SQUARE/CAMP CARROLL/THON SON LAM AND KHE SAHM AREAS.

3. FOR CTG 76.5/79.5: RECENT ENEMY ACTIVITY IN CUA VIET AREA INDICATES CONTINUATION AMPHIB OPN THAT AREA HIGHLY DESIRABLE. REQ YOU CONTINUE OPNS OF LANDING FORCE ASHORE IN CUA VIET AREA, AND EXPAND MISSION TO INCLUDE BOTH RIVER BANKS. REQ YOU ADVISE CG THIRD MARDIV OF ANY NECESSARY EXPANSION OF AOA TO ACCOMPLISH REDEFINED MISSION.

4. FOR CG THIRD MARDIV: REQ YOU COORDINATE WITH CTG 76.5/79.5 TO MAXIMIZE EXPANDED AOA, TAKE ACTION TO OBTAIN LOCAL ARVN APPROVAL FOR SUCH AOA, AND ADVISE THIS HQ.

5. FOR CG FIRST MARDIV: PAR 7B CG III MAF 221640Z JAN 68 APPLIES.

GP-7A

GUSA 2R41234

C 251 251 251 251 251

C 251 251 251 251 251

10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

RUYSUAN/CTF SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

RUKGUV/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUABGL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMSNA/COMUSMACV

RUMSBB/COMNAVFORV

RUMFIRE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE

RUMBUZ/CTF SEVEN THREE

RUMFKRD/CTS SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RUMHWA/CR III MAF

INFO RUMHHQA/CINCPAC

R

RUMHQA/CINCPACFLT

RUMHQA/COMHIBPAC

RUMHQA/CS JTFPAC

RUMHQA/CS JTFPAC (FWD)

RUMHQA/CS FIRST MAW

RUMHQA/CTF ONE ONE FIVE

RUMHQA/COMSEVENTH AIR FORCE

PAGE TWO RUMFIA 2368 S E I R E T

RUYECH/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT ONE

RUMFUE/CTF SEVEN SEVEN

RUMFUE/CS THIRD MARDIV

RUMFUE/CS

FIRST MARDIV

RUYECH/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE

RUYECH/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

RUYECH/CTG SEVEN THREE PT FIVE

RUMFUE/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE

RUMFUE/CTG ONE ONE FIVE PT ONE

RUYECH/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT TWO

BT

S E C R E T

CTE 70.2.1.1 PASS ADVANCED COPY TO COMUSMACV

FORTRESS ATTACK INITIATING DIRECTIVE (U)

N. NY OYLAN 181-67

1. SITUATION. CR III MAF HAS REQUESTED THE EMPLOYMENT OF

IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS IN THE I CTZ. CONSEQUENTLY WILL PROVIDE TO  
 US. 6/29/64 AND SUCH OTHER FORCES AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THIS OPER-  
 ATION. INITIATING DIRECTIVE IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. THE OPERATIONS  
 WHEN EXECUTED, WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A.  
 2. MISSION. WHEN DIRECTED, CMTF CONDUCT A SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION.

PAGE THREE RUNFUL 2306 S E C R E T  
 1. THIS OPERATION COORDINATES JOINT FORCES IN AMPHIBIOUS OBJECTION IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE OF L CITY OR OTHER OPERATIONS AS AGREED UPON WITH CG III MAP OR HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE.  
 2. CGS 762R (COMPANION THREE) EMBARKED IN USS IVO JINA (LPH 2) DESIGNATED COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE (CATF).  
 3. CGS 79.4 (COMMANDER SLF ALFA) EMBARKED IN USS IVO JINA DESIGNATED COMMANDER LANDING FORCE (CLF).  
 4. COMMAND RELATION SHIP IAW PARA IX(2) AND (3) OF REF A.  
 5. COMUSMACV WILL PROVIDE ANTI-INFILTRATION/EXFILTRATION PATROL CRAFT FOR THIS OPERATION AND WILL PROVIDE CAS AND OTHER SUPPORT AS AGREED UPON WITH CATF IAW PARA I.B(1) OF REF A.  
 6. AMPHIBIOUS OBJECTIVE AREA (AOA) WILL BE PROMULGATED SEPARATELY BY CATF.  
 7. NICKNAME FOR THIS OPERATION WILL BE FORTRESS ATTACK. D-DAY TO BE DETERMINED DEPENDING TO TACTICAL SITUATION. H AND L HOURS TO BE DETERMINED ON CATF AND D-DAY CONFIRMED BY CATF. UPON DETERMINATION OF CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS AND WHEN ALL FORCES ARE PREPARED CATF REPORT TO ORIG STATE OF READINESS, FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING D-DAY, H AND L HOURS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THIS OPERATION. COMMAND OF EXECUTION WILL BE BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. SUBMIT

PAGE FOUR RUNFUL 2306 S E C R E T  
 FORMAL REQUEST FOR EXECUTION AS EARLY AS PRACTICABLE TO ALLOW FOR COMMUNICATION DELAYS. IF ORIGINATOR EXECUTE MSG NOT RECEIVED AT RECOMMENDED TIME FOR EXECUTION, ASSUME APPROVAL, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY, INFORMING ALCON.

9. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

- A. WHEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ASHORE, AND WHEN MUTUALLY AGREED BY CATF AND CG III MAP, REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF SLF CHOP TO CG III MAP.
- B. UPON CHOP OF REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF SLF TO ONCON OF IN-COUNTRY COMMANDER, CATF REMAIN IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS ASHORE.
- C. WITHDRAWAL IAW ANNEX B TO RXH A.
10. TERMINATION IAW ANNEX B TO REF A.
11. PUBLIC AFFAIRS IAW ANNEX V TO REF A.
12. ACTION ADDRESSES ACKNOWLEDGE.
13. DOWNGRADE TO CONFIDENTIAL (C) UPON TERMINATION OF OPERATION.

SP-4

BT

M  
(F)

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25160

NNNN

GALL NR 8558  
 O 251662Z JAN 68  
 FM CG III MAF DNG  
 TO RUYEUAK/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUYEUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 INFO RUYMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLEET  
 RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 EN/CG THIRD MARDI  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUMHVP/CG FIRST AIR CAV DIV PHU BAI  
 ZEN/CG FLC  
 HGUV/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 GBQL/CTF ASEVEN NINE  
 YEUAH/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
 RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
 RUMFOR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE  
 BT  
 S W E C R E T  
 EMPLOYMENT ARG/SLF ALFA  
 A. CG III MAF 241540Z JAN 68 NOTAL

PAGE TWO RUMMWAA 2857 S W C R E T  
 1. BLT 2/4 (-) TO BE RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAMP EVANS  
 261220H JAN 68. CG III MAF PASSES OPCON BLT 2/4 (-) TO SIG 22.4  
 SAME DTG.  
 2. PROVISIONS PARA 2, REF A APPLY. REQ LANDING BE EFFECTED EARLIEST  
 OUR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO CG THIRD MARDIV. DIRLAUTH ALCON.  
 BT

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NNNNVVVVVV

J FOR FLASH

JAN 25 07 00 00

ZCZC105 FFD315 H0585

ZZ RUYSUAK

ZNY SSSSS

ZITSZYUW RUMM4GA2916 0267750-SSSS--RUYSUAK.

ZNY SSSSS

Z 260750Z JAN 68

FM CG III MAF DANANG

TO RUYSUAK/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUYSUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

INFO RUMFUL/COMSEVENTH FLT

ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUHGUL/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

BT

SECRET

EMPLOYMENT OF ELEMENTS BLT 2/4 CUD

Re CG III MAF 220400Z JAN 1968

1. REQUEST YOU LAND TANK PLAT AND AMTRAC PLAT SLF ALFA CUA VIET  
 ASAP AND CHOP TO THIRD MARDIV. UPON ARRIVAL BLT 2/4 KENTUCKY AD  
 POSITION C-2 IAW REF A THIRD MARDIV WILL PROVIDE NOT LESS THAN  
 FIVE GUN TANKS INNDIR SUPPORT. COORD WITH CG THIRD MAR DIV FOR OC-  
 CURED LANDING AREA AND BEACH SECURITY.

4

NNNN

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a-#22

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Jan 27 11 58 AM

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RUHNEHO RUHREBO RUHSEBA RUHHEMA RUHFIL RUHJISA RUHJWAA RUHOLA RUHVAE  
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#001867 JAN 69 ZNY ZYD RUYE

ALL THE OTHERS WILL BE FOUR

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2738 2739 2740 2741 2742 2743 2744 2745 2746 2747 2748 2749 2750 2751 2752 2753 2754 2755 2756 2757 2758 2759 2760 2761 2762 2763 2764 2765 2766 2767 2768 2769 2770 2771 2772 2773 2774 2775 2776 2777 2778 2779 2780 2781 2782 2783 2784 2785 2786 2787 2788 2789 2790 2791 2792 2793 2794 2795 2796 2797 2798 2799 2800 2801 2802 2803 2804 2805 2806 2807 2808

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CONFIDENTIAL

## APPENDIX C

TRANSITION/CONTINUITY

UNHQA/CEPAC

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

RUJAWA AGG 111 HAF

RUHLA/CG FIRST MARDIV

YUNHVP/CG THIRD NARDIV

REDAW/CS FIRST MAN

**RUMBLAGE TASK FORCE MEAN**

UNSUB/COMM/AV/GRV

BUREAU OFF SEVEN SIX

UNBOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

ALYSSA/2076 SEVEN SIX TWO FOUR

PAGE TWO REFERENCE 106 S E C R E T

BUYERDA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

**CURRENT MONTH MAR INESBT**

SECRET

PAGE TWO OF TWO

3 WHEN DUT 560 RELAY REQUEST, HE ASSIGNS COF NET ON WHICH SUPPORTING BTRY WILL FIRE MISSION.

ONCE MISSION HAS COMMENCED BJT F2C WILL MONITOR MISSION ON COF. UTILIZING INFO NET TO PASS ANY CHECK FIRES IF REQUIRED.

(C) COORDINATION OF ALL SUPPORTING FIRES WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1STN MAR SOP AND THE FSOIC 9TH MAR.

(6) SGT ALFA LIAISON TEAM WILL BE REASSIGNED WITH SGT 2.3 AND  
NINTH MARINES.

OTO UPON RECEIPT OF REPORT OF THE LAST ELEMENTS OF SLP RETURNING  
CLOSING LZ AREA, OTO YOLA WILL RECOMMEND DROP OF BLE 2.4 TO 0700Z-08  
00Z HRS.

Table 1. *Continued*

091 BUREAU WORTH 100 TO ON END HARRY? VICTIM OF AND AFTER SHOT  
ON.

# THE FIRST PRINCIPLES

**000000**

1354

**RESEARCH**

151

Q-#23

## (C) CASUALTY REPORTING

(1) IAW TG 79.4 ORDER P3040.1A (SOP CASUALTY HANDLING)

(2) CASUALTY LIAISON REPS TO BE POST AT IN-COUNTRY MED FACILITIES LISTED PARA 26A (1) ABOVE TO COLLECT INFO ON MED EVACS FOR FORWARDING TO 9TH MAB CRCC ALPHA ON 1PH FOR REPORTING.

PAGE SIX RUYEUAK 104 S E C R E T

(D) CIVIC ACTION TO BE CONDUCTED AS TACTICAL SITUATION PERMITS

(E) ISO. TG 79.4 PHOTO/JOURNALIST TO ACCOMPANY THE BLT ASHORE WITH COMPANY AS DESIGNATED.

## B. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS

A. COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE IAW ANNEX L REF B AND THE FOLLOWING:

(1) COI (PASEP) (NOTAL) WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL VOICE CALL SIGN ASSIGNMENTS:

1ST PLT "A" CO 5TH ANTI TANKS-----"DAILY DIP"

1ST PLT "A" CO 5TH TANKS-----"EVEN BREAK"

1ST PLT "D" CO 5TH MED BN-----"SOCIAL SIDE"

AIR OBSERVER-----"BUILDER"

THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF TASK GROUP 79.4 REMAIN:

CTG 79.4 "PLUGHOLE"

BLT 2/4 "DIXIE DINER"

HMM 361 "STARCH"

(2) COMMUNICATION MESSAGE CENTER WILL BE MAINTAINED AFLOAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH NAVY COMM. CTG 79.4 GUARDS FOR BLT 2/4 AND HMM 361.

(3) CTG 79.4 ENTERS 3RD MARDIV TAC2 ON 56.05 MHZ (NESTOR)

(4) CTG 79.4 ENTERS III MAF CMD NET 2 (RAT 60WPM, GRESTES)

(5) CTG 79.4 ESTABLISHES A NET WITH BLT 2/4 ASHORE (SLF TAC 1).

CTG 79.4 ESTABLISHES COMMUNICATION FROM THE USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2) TO A

PAGE SEVEN RUYEUAK 104 S E C R E T

LIAISON TEAM AT DONG HA "PLUGHOLE 24" (AN/MRC 110, NESTOR) AND A TEAM WITH THE BLT, "PLUGHOLE 24A" AND WITH A MED REP AT "D" MED DONG HA "PLUGHOLE 24B".

(6) A NET WILL BE ESTABLISHED AMONG ALL SHIPS OF THE ARG. (LOC CENTER, NET NOS BLT 2/4).

## B. COMMAND POSTS

(1) AFLOAT

CTG 76.4, CTG 79.4, BLT 2/4, HMM-361, USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2).

(2) ASHORE

REPORT LOCATIONS TO INCLUDE BLT/CO/BTRY CP'S WHEN ESTABLISHED.

GP-4  
BT

JNN



AIRLINES

CARS

STATES

1971

1973

1975

1977

1979

1981

(11) LOCATIONS OF LANDING ZONES: PRIMARY, ASH YD 134653; ALTERNATE, FIR YD 144608.

(12) REPORTS IAW ANNEX J REF (B). TIMELY SPOT REPS AND SIT REPS PASSED VIA GLF ALFA LIAISON NET ARE ESSENTIAL THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF OPNS.

INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED ANNEX K REF (B) (SLF A OPLAN 120A-67)

APPLY EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:

(1) SUPPLIES

(A) PRESCRIBED LOAD AVAIL FROM OPERATING STOCK AND LFORM CUNTING IMPROVED IN ARG SHIPPING.

(B) 87A AMMO FOR M/3/12 TO BE PRE-POSITIONED FROM IN-COUNTRY

PAGE FOUR RUYEUAK 104 S E C R E T

ASSETS AT DESIGNATED FIRING POSN BY 2/12. NO 105 MM AMMO TO BE OFFLOADED WITH ENTRY.

(C) COMMENCING D-DAY SUPPLIES WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FROM LSA, DONG HA. CLASS I, II CONSUMABLE ITEMS ONLY, III, IV, AND V PROVIDED. CLASS II NON-CON-SUMABLE ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM OPSTOCKS AFLOAT.

(D) TAC-LOG. PRIMARY TAC-LOG GROUP TO BE EST ABOARD LPH. TAC-LOG REF TO BE POSITIONED ABOARD PCS. LSU REPS ABOARD EACH SHIP ASSIST TAC-LOG IN PROCESSING SUPPLY REQMTS.

(E) RESUPPLY.

1. FROM EST LSA. BLT SHORE PARTY DET TO AUGMENT DESIGNATED LSA D-DAY TO PROCESS IN-COUNTRY SUPPLY SUPPORT FOR BLT.

2. EMERGENCY RESUPPLY NOT AVAIL LSA AND CLASS II NON-CON-SUMABLE ITEMS TO BE REQUESTED FROM BLT LOG CTR (LPH) VIA SHORE PARTY CMD NET BY SHORE PARTY DET.

3. WATER RESUPPLY AVAIL FROM DESIGNATED LSA.

4. HELO SUPPORT PROVIDED FM USS IWO JIMA AND AS AVAIL FR SRD MARDIV.

(F) DISPOSITION OF CAPTURED PERSONNEL, DOCUMENTS, WEAPONS AND EQUIP TO BE PROVIDED BY 9TH MAR.

(2) EVACUATION AND HOSPITALIZATION.

PAGE FIVE RUYEUAK 104 S E C R E T

(A) EVACUATION

(1) LPH DESIGNATED PRIMARY CASUALTY EVACUATION RECEIVING SHIP (PCRS) FOR BLT 2/4 PERSONNEL. ALTERNATE EVACUATION RECEIVING STATIONS D MED, DONG HA, A MED PHU BAI, ASSIGNED HOSPITAL SHIP.

(2) ALL KIA'S RETURNED TO PCRS IF FEASIBLE, FOR IDENTIFICATION AND PROCESSING.

(3) ROUTINE MED EVAC REQUEST INITIALLY TO PRIMARY TAC-LOG. BLT LOG CTR TO RECEIVE REQUEST VIA SHORE PARTY CMD NET WHEN TAC-LOG DEACTIVATED. PRIORITY AND EMERGENCY REQUEST FASTEST MEANS.

(4) MED EVAC HELO'S AVAIL FROM LPH AND AS DIRECTED BY 9TH MAR.

(5) CIVILIAN AND DETAINEE CASUALTY EVAC AS DIRECTED BY 9TH MAR.

(B) HOSPITALIZATION. AS PRESCRIBED BY PCRS OR IN-COUNTRY MED FACILITY.

JAN 26 11 53 '89

VV UAK002

OO RUHHHQA RUHHBRA RUMSMA RUHMHHA RUHFUL RUHMSA RUMWAA RUHMLA RUHVA  
 RUMHAW RUMSBE RUABQL RUYEUAE RUMGV  
 DE RUYEUAK 104 0261422

ZNY SSSSS

O 261350Z JAN 68 ZYO RUYE  
 FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 TO ZEN/BLT TWO SLANT FOUR  
 ZEN/HMM THREE SIX ONE

INFO RUHHHQA/CINCPAC

RUHHBRA/CINCPACFLT

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUHMFMA/CG FMFPAC

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

JWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC

RUMWAA/CG III MAF

RUMHLA/CG FIRST MARDIV

RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW

JMHMA/CG TASK FORCE XRAY

JMSBB/COMNAVFORV

JHGVV/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE

RuyE/1650/1

Comm Notes

"CORRECTED COPY"

CORR PORTION UNDER-  
LINES

Per CTG 79.4...

PAGE TWO RUYEUAK 104 S E C R E T

RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

RUMHVP/NINTH MARINESPA

S E C R E T

SECTION TWO OF TWO

3 WHEN BLT FSC RELAY REQUEST, HE ASSIGNS COF BTRY ON BLT  
 SUPPORTING BTRY WILL FIRE MISSION.

4 ONCE MISSION HAS COMMENCED BLT FSC WILL NOTIFY MISSION  
 ON COF, UTILIZING THIS NET TO PASS ANY CHECK FIRES IF REQUIRED.

(C) COORDINATION OF ALL SUPPORTING FIRES WILL BE IN ACCORD-  
 ANCE WITH 12TH MAR SOP AND THE FSC 9TH MAR.

(6) SLF ALFA LIAISON TEAMS WILL BE POSITIONED WITH BLT 2/4 AND  
 NINTH MARINES.

(7) UPON RECEIPT OF REPORT OF TWO LAST ELEMENTS OF 12TH MARINE  
 CLOSING LZ ASK, CTG 79.4 WILL RECOMMEND SHOT ON BLT 2/4 IN ACCORD  
 III MAF.

(8) TENTATIVE L-HOUR 0800H, TENTATIVE D-DAY 20 JAN 68.

(9) SUBMIT OPSTAT MSG TO CG 5RD MARDIV WITHIN 24 HRS AFTER CLOS-

OF OPCON.

(10) THRUST POINTS

GIRLS	1364
MONTHS	1461

PAGE THREE RUYNDAK

PAID'S	1967
CITIES	1969
BEERS	1971
BOYS	1973
ANIMALS	1975
CARS	1977
STATES	1979

(11) LOCATIONS OF LANDING ZONES: PRIMARY, ADM YD 134653; ALTERNATE, FIR YD 144608.

(12) REPORTS IAW ANNEX J REF (B), TIMELY SPOT REPS AND SIT REPS PASSED VIA SELF ALFA LIAISON NET ARE ESSENTIAL THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF OPN: ASHORE.

## 4. ADMIN AND LOGISTICS

A. INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED ANNEX K REF (C) (SELF A CPLAN 120A-67) APPLY EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:

## (1) SUPPLIES

(A) PRESCRIBED LOAD AVAIL FROM OPERATING STOCK AND LFORM SUPPLIES EMBARKED IN ARG SHIPPING.

(B) B/A AMMO FOR H/3/12 TO BE PRE-POSITIONED FROM IN-COUNTRY

PAGE FOUR RUYNDAK 104 S E C R E T

ASSETS AT DESIGNATED FIRING POSN BY 2/12. NO 100 MM AMMO TO BE OFFLOADED WITH BTRY.

(C) COMMENCING D-DAY SUPPLIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM LSA, LONG HA. CLASS I, II CONSUMABLE ITEMS ONLY. III, IV, AND V PROVIDED CLASS II NON-CON-SUMABLE ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM STOCKS AFLOAT.

(D) TAC-LOG. PRIMARY TAC-LOG GROUP TO BE SET ABOARD LPH. TAC-LOG REP TO BE POSITIONED ABOARD LPH. LPH TO BE LOADED EACH SHIP ASSIST TAC-LOG IN PROCESSING SUPPLY REPORTS.

## (2) RESUPPLY.

1. FROM EST LSA. BLT SHORT PARTY DUE TO AUGMENT DESIGNATED SA D-DAY TO PROCESS IN-COUNTRY SUPPLY REPORTS FOR BLT.

2. EMERGENCY RESUPPLY NOT AVAILABLE LSA AND CLASS II NON-CON-SUMABLE ITEMS TO BE REQUESTED FROM BLT TO BE DELIVERED VIA SHORE PARTY AND NET BY SHORE PARTY DUTY.

3. WATER RESUPPLY FROM LPH OR DESIGNATED LSA.

4. HELICOPTER RESUPPLY PROVIDED BY 100 MM LPH APS AS AVAIL FR 3RD MARDIV.

(E) DISPOSITION OF CAPTURED PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, WEAPONS AND EQUIP TO BE PROVIDED BY 3RD MARDIV.

## (2) EVACUATION AND HOSPITALIZATION

PAGE FIVE RUYNDAK 104 S E C R E T

## (A) EVACUATION

(1) LPH DESIGNATED TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVACUATION RECEIVING SHIP (PCNS) FOR BLT 2ND MARDIV. ALL SHIP EVACUATION RECEIVING STATIONS B MED, DONG HA, H REC PAN BAY, ATTACHED MEDICAL SHIP.

(2) ALL KIA'S RETURNED TO FORS IF FEASIBLE, FOR IDENTIFICATION AND PROCESSING.

(3) ROUTINE MED EVAC REQUESTS WILL BE MADE TO PRIMARY TAC-LOG. BLT LOG CTR TO RECEIVE REQUESTS VIA SHORE PARTY AND NET. TAC-LOG DEACTIVATED. PRIORITY MED EVAC REQUESTS WILL BE HANDLED BY BLT.

(4) RESUPPLY OF AMMO AND EQUIP TO BE PROVIDED BY 100 MM LPH APS AS AVAIL FR 3RD MARDIV.

MAR

120 CASUALTY LIAISON REFS TO BE SET AT IN-COUNTRY MED FACILITIES LISTED PHRA 2.0 (1) ABOVE, TO COLLECT INFO ON MED EVACS FOR FORWARDING TO 9TH MAB CRCC ALPHA ON LPM FOR REPORTING.

PAGE SIX RUYEUX 104 S E C R E T

RUVEUAX 104 S E C R E T  
(D) CIVIC ACTION TO BE CONDUCTED AS TACTICAL SITUATION PERMITS.  
(E) ISO. TG 29.4 PHOTO/JOURNALIST TO ACCOMPANY THE BLT ASHORE

(E) ISO, TG 79.4 PHOTO/JOURNALIST TO ACCOMPANY THE BLT ASHORE

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS

COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS  
A. COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE IAW ANNEX L REF B AND THE FOLLOWING:  
1. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL VOICE

A. COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:  
(1) COI (PASEP) (NOTAL) WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL VOICE CALL  
SIGN ASSIGNMENTS:

ASSIGNMENTS: 1ST FLT "A" CO 5TH ANTI TANKS "DAILY DIP" "BURN BURN"

1ST FLT "A" CO 5TH ANLT TANKS "EVEN BREAK"  
1ST FLT "A" CO 5TH TANKS "SPECIAL SIDE"

1ST PLT 01A CO 5TH TANKS  
1ST PLT 01D CO 5TH MED BN

1ST PLT "D" CO 5TH MED BR - "BUILDER"

AIR OBSERVER  
THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF TASK GROUP 79.4 REMAINING

CTG T9.4 "PLUGHOLE"

BLT 2/4 "DIXIE DINER"

MM 361 "STARCH"

(2) COMMUNICATION MESSAGE CENTER WILL BE MAINTAINED AFLOAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH NAVY COMM. CTR 79.4 GUARDS FOR BLT 2/4 AND HMM 361.

(3) CTG 79.4 ENTERS 3RD WARDIV TAC2 ON 58.05 MHZ (NESTOR)  
OBESTES

(3) CTG 79.4 ENTERS 3RD MARDIV AREA ON 38.00 HZ (CREESTES)  
(4) CTG 79.4 ENTERS III 045 ONE NET 2 CRAT GROUP, ORESTES)

(5) DTG 79.4 ESTABLISHED A NET WITH NLT 2/A ASHORE (SLF TAC 1).

CTG 79.4 ESTABLISHES COMMUNICATION FROM THE USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2) TO A

PAGE SEVEN RUYELAK 100 S E C R E T

PAGE SEVEN RUEYUAN 104 S E C R E T  
LIAISON TEAM AT DONG HA "PLUGHOLE 24" (CAN/MRC 118, NESTOR) AND A TEAM  
WITH THE BLT, "PLUGHOLE 24A" AND WITH A MED REP AT "D" MED DONG HA  
"PLUGHOLE 24B".

"PLUGHOLE 24B".  
(6) A NET WILL BE ESTABLISHED AMONG ALL SHIPS OF THE ARS. (LOC  
CENTER, NET NOS BLT 2445.

P. COMMAND POSTS

CO AFLOAT

AFLOAT  
CTG 76.4, CTG 78.4, DEL 244, RHH-361, USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2).

(2) ASHORE

ASHORE REPORT LOCATIONS TO INCLUDE BLT/CG/ENTRY CP'S WHEN ESTABLISHED.

GP-4

127

00 RUMWAA RUMAGL RUMGUV RUMAHAE RUMHVP RUABGL  
 01 RUYWUAK 045 0270759  
 ZNY 05395

7 240730Z JAN 68 EVO RUYE  
 TO CIG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 TO RUMWAA/CG III MAF  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 INFO RUMGUL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUMGUV/CTG SEVEN SIX  
 RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
 RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 ZEN/BLT TWO SLANT FOUR  
 RUABGL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUMHVP/NINTH MARINES

SECRET

OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK CHOP (C)

A. COMSEVENTHFLT 251604Z JAN 68 (NOTAL)

B. CIG 79.4 270654Z JAN 68 (NOTAL)

C. CIG 76.4 261020Z JAN 68 (NOTAL)

1. REF A IS INITIATING DIRECTIVE OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK. DFT 3 NINTH  
 SELECTED ELEMENTS OF SLF ALFA ARE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ASHORE. REF C  
 STATES SUPPORTING ARMS WILL BE CONTROLLED BY NINTH MARINES IN THE LAND

PAGE TWO RUYWUAK 045 SECRET  
 WARD AOA.

2. IN VIEW FIRM ESTABLISHMENT ASHORE OF SELECTED ELEMENTS SLF ALFA AND  
 CONTROL SUPPORTING ARMS BY NINTH MARINES, CIGT AGREES WITH CG III MAF  
 ON CHOP, AND CHOPS SELECTED ELEMENTS OF SLF ALFA TO CG III MAF AT  
 241000HRS DFT 011000HRS

3. UPON CHOP OF SELECTED ELEMENTS OF SLF ALFA TO CG III MAF, ARS ALFA  
 WILL REMAIN IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS ASHORE.

4. FOR CIG 79.4: REQ YOU CHOP REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF SLF ALFA TO CG III  
 MAF INSTRUCTIONS AND REMAIN IN SUPPORT OF OPS ASHORE.

SP-4 (C) 28 JAN 68

CT

F  
 M

SY

070700

a-24

JAN 27 1968

VV UAK088  
 OO RUMMWUA RUMHVP RUMGUL RUMGUV RUABQL  
 DE RUYEUAK 062 0271205  
 ZNY 55555  
 O P 271205Z JAN 68 ZYU RUYE  
 FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 TO RUMMWUA/CG III MAF  
 RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 INFO RUMGUL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUMGUV/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RuyC/1226-10

BT

SECRET

CHOP OPCON ELEMENTS BLT TWO SLANT FOUR (U)

A. CTF SEVEN SIX PT FOUR 270736Z JAN 68

B. CG III MAF 260904Z JAN 68

1. IAW REF A CTF SEVEN NINE PT FOUR CHOPS OPCON SELECTED ELMS BLT TWO SLANT FOUR TO CG III MAF EFFECTIVE 271500H JAN 68.

2. FOR CG THIRD MARDIV: IN ACCORD REF B, CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR CHOPS FIRST PLAT, CO A, FIFTH TK BN AND FOURTH PLAT, CO B, FIRST AMTRAC BN TO CG THIRD MARDIV AS OF 262345H. JAN 68.

GP-4

BT

M  
(F)

NNNN

J

271205Z

NNNNVV YEA426VV HQ4347 VV FNC8740314

PP RUYEUAK

ZNY SSSSS

PTTSZYUW RUMMWAA3120 0280224-SSSS--RUYEUAK.

ZNY SSSSS

P 280224Z JAN 68

FM CG III MAF DANANG

TO ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV.

INFO RUYEUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

BT

SECRET

CHOP ELEMENTS BLT 2/4 (ID)

CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR 2-260Z JAN68.

1. REF A REFERS. ELEMENTS BLT 2/4 CHOPPED TO CRTTHIRD MARDIV

271500H JAN68.

GP-4

BT

A-47

JAN 29 09 13 '68

280224Z

a-26

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CTG 79.4

0063-68

COMMANDER  
SPECIAL LANDING FORCE  
ALFA  
SEVENTH FLEET



TG SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA 79.4

AFTER ACTION REPORT  
BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II  
22-26 JANUARY 1968

UPGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS  
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D DIR 5200.10

Copies

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*CTG 79.4* *with ballistic armor*  
*NEOSHO II*

*22-26 Jan 1968*



DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/GFW/der  
SER: 0049-68  
16 February 1968

SECRET-NOFORN - Unclassified upon removal of enclosures (1) through (4)

From: Commander  
To: Commander, Task Group 79.4

Subj: Combat After Action Report, Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II.

Encl: (1) - Commander Task Group 79.4, After Action Report, Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II, 22-26 Jan 68  
(2) - BLT 2/4, After Action Report, Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II, 22-26 Jan 68  
(3) - HMM-361, After Action Report, Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II, 22-26 Jan 68  
(4) - Operations Overlay, BALLISTIC ARMOR

1. Enclosure (1) contains the Commander Task Group 79.4's After Action Report for Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II.

2. Enclosures (2) through (4) amplify enclosure (1).

*Bruce F. Meyers*  
BRUCE F. MEYERS

DISTRIBUTION:

TG 79.4 Cmd Chronology	Copy #
CG 9th MAB	1-15
CTG 76.4	16-40
COMNAVFORV	41-43
CTG 79.5	44
HMM-361	45
CG 38th Div	46
CG 1st Mar Div	47
S&C File Copy	48
	49
	50

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COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT, OPERATION BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II

Map reference: VIETNAM, 1:50,000 AMS Series L7014 Sheets  
6442 I, 6542 III, 6641 I and 6541 I.

1. GENERAL

a. Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR was a unilateral amphibious operation using helicopters to land the Landing Force. The operation included support of a follow-on "in country" operation. Inclusive dates of BALLISTIC ARMOR were 22-26 January 1968. The operation was conducted in accordance with NWP-22(B).

b. Operation NEOSHO II was a continuing search and destroy operation being conducted by the 1st Marines in THUA THIEN Province northwest of the city of HUE. BLT 2/4(-) was under the operational control of the CO 1st Marines during their participation in this operation. BLT 2/4(-) was given a mission of providing security for CAMP EVANS (vic YD534315) while one company remained in I Corps Reserve, embarked aboard ARG/SLF shipping.

c. Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II was conducted in the PHONG DIEN District of THUA THIEN Province.

d. The operation commenced with the landing of BLT 2/4(-) by helicopter at 221530H. Operational Control of BLT 2/4(-) was passed to CG III MAF at 231130H.

e. The Commander, Task Group 79.4, embarked aboard ARG/SLF shipping, retained operational control of HMM-361 and provided helicopter, medical and limited logistic support for BLT 2/4 during operation NEOSHO II.

f. Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR was terminated by the Commander, U. S. Seventh Fleet on 26 January 1968.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION

## a. Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR

Task Group 79.4

Colonel B. F. MEYERS

BLT 2/4

LtCol W. WEISE

HMM-361

LtCol D. M. WILSON

ENCLOSURE (1)

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SECRET-NOFORN

## b. Operation NEOSHO II

Task Group 79.4

Colonel B. F. MEYERS

HMM-361

LtCol D. M. WILSON

3. INTELLIGENCE

a. Terrain. The Amphibious Objective Area (AOA) is located in the rolling hills and flat plain south and west of the Song O (Long) River. The Song O Lau River runs west to east through the middle of the AOA. Drainage is from the west to the east on the flat plains. The hills are covered with short elephant grass to secondary forest in the AOA and the area immediately surrounding the AOA. The most prominent terrain feature in the vicinity is Hill 674 which overlooks the AOA.

b. Enemy Situation.

(1) General. Intelligence prior to the operation indicated that there were no large enemy units in or around the immediate area that the BLT was to occupy. Combined strength of the enemy units in the general area was 8000 to 10,000 NVA troops with supporting elements.

(2) Order of Battle.

UNIT	LOCATION	STRENGTH	WEAPONS
5th Regt	Base Area 101	2,500	Unknown
6th Regt	Base Area 114	2,500	Unknown
9th Regt	Base Area 101	2,500	Unknown

4. MISSION.

a. BALLISTIC ARMOR. As directed by COMSEVENTHFLT 152318Z Jan 68 (Initiating Directive), the mission assigned to CATF and CLF was to "conduct a search and destroy amphibious operation against VC/NVA forces in the amphibious objective area in QUANG TRI Province of I CTZ or other operations as agreed upon with CG III MAF or his designated representative."

b. NEOSHO II. As mutually agreed between CATF and CG III MAF, selected elements of SLF ALFA were chopped to CG III MAF. CATF remained in support of operations ashore.

5. CONCEPT OF OPERATION.

a. Operation PALLETIC ARMOR was to be a unilateral amphibious operation conducted against VC/NVA forces located near CAMP EVANS (vic 534315) northwest of the city of HUE.

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(see operations overlay, enclosure (4) to the basic letter).  
The operation was to be conducted in two phases.

(1) Phase I was to consist of a helicopter-borne amphibious landing of three rifle companies (3rd, 4th, 5th) W/3/12, and the Alpha Command Group into LZ Lemon (YD534315) and be prepared to effect the relief of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines and to assume responsibility for the security of CAMP EVANS. The remaining units of the BLT were to be prepared to land by either helicopter or assault craft as directed.

(2) Phase II was to be an amphibious withdrawal of BLT 2/4(-) from RVN soil to the ARG/SLF shipping.

b. TG 76.4/79.4 were to provide helicopter and limited logistic support to BLT 2/4 during any follow-on operations ashore.

## 6. EXECUTION.

### a. BALLISTIC ARMOR.

(1) Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR was executed in accordance with CTG 76.4 Operation Order 317-68 and CTG 79.4 OP PLAN 120A-(YP) supplemented by CTG 79.4 frag orders for operations in the amphibious objective area.

(2) The Initiating Directive was issued by COMSEVENTHFLT prior to a specific objective being assigned in order to allow the ARG/SLF to assume a quick reaction posture. This quick reaction capability was specifically required during the tense period just prior to the TET (Vietnamese New Year) Celebration.

(3) At 221245H CATF and CLF received a request for a proposed amphibious landing of ARG/SLF ALFA at CAMP EVANS.

(4) CATF, in coordination with CLF, promulgated a proposed AOA for the operation at 221330H.

(5) At 221419 concurrence was received from COMSEVENTHFLT on the proposed amphibious operation.

(6) At 221420H CATF, in coordination with CLF, submitted the concept of operations and requested that an "in country" commander be designated to control all supporting arms in the AOA.

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(7) The first helicopter wave departed the USS IWO JIMA at 221505H and touched down in the landing zone at 221530H.

(8) Helicopter operations were secured at 222237H due to excessive flying hours for the pilots coupled with darkness and receipt of enemy small arms, automatic weapons and 50 caliber machine gun fire.

(9) Helicopter operations were resumed at 230730H and the remainder of BLT 2/4(-) was landed at CAMP EVANS.

(10) BLT 2/4(-) was chopped to CG III MAF at 231130H, and TG 76.4/79.4 remained in support of operations ashore.

b. NEOSHO II. During this "in country" operation, TG 79.4 provided helicopter, medical, and limited logistic support for BLT 2/4(-).

c. Phase II of Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR commenced at 261315H. The amphibious withdrawal was completed and all BLT 2/4 units, less one security squad were aboard ARG/SLF ALFA shipping by 261830H. HMM-361, supported by four CH-46 helicopters, lifted two rifle companies, a separate platoon, and the Alfa Command Group to ARG/SLF ships while one company (-), a mortar battery and three 106mm recoilless rifle sections were withdrawn from RVN by assault craft.

7. RESULTS. See enclosures (2) and (3).

8. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS. This analysis is limited to matters at the TG 79.4 level. The BLT and HMM Commander's analyses are included in their reports, enclosures (2) and (3) respectively.

a. Planning.

(1) On 13 January 1968, CG III MAF requested that ARG/SLF ALFA cut short their training/rehabilitation period and proceed to RVN as soon as possible. COMSEVENTHFLT concurred with the request and CTG 79.4, with planning staff and representatives of CTG 76.4, returned to RVN in order to attend briefings and planning conferences on 14 Jan 1968.

(2) The "in country" situation was tense and CTG 79.4 was informed to prepare for possible employment at any one of a number of possible areas.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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(3) Concurrent planning was conducted by TG 79.4 and TG 76.4 staffs in order to accomplish as much advance planning as was possible without being assigned a specific objective.

(4) CTG 79.4 and various members of his staff made daily liaison visits with members of the 3d MAR DIV staff for updating of the situation as it existed ashore prior to the operation.

(5) Due to the nature of situation and the uncertainty of a specific area of employment, no special arrangements were made for area studies, special intelligence studies and aerial photographs. Current intelligence information was acquired on a daily basis by attending 3d MAR DIV intelligence briefings.

(6) Radio frequencies were obtained on a tentative basis but the Communication Operating Instruction (COI) was not published prior to the operation.

(7) Tentative arrangements were made for augmented helicopter support in the form of armed UH-1H's for helo escort and CH-53's or CH-46's for heavy lift requirements.

(8) Due to the rapid reaction requirement, no prior logistics liaison was conducted. CTG 79.4 OP PLAN 120A-(YR) provided immediate logistic instructions for use during the operation. The CAMP EVANS LSA had been used by SLF BLT's in previous operations and it was determined that resupply support would originate from there.

(9) Arrangements were made with the 1st Marines to assume responsibility for fire support coordination during the amphibious operation.

(10) The AOA was discussed, agreed upon, and command relationships were finalized.

(11) Establishment of a SIF liaison team with the "in country" commander who would advise O'CON of BLT 2/4 was discussed.

(12) Additional planning conferences were attended by CTG 79.4 and various staff officers throughout the period during Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NOFORN II.

b. Command Relationships.

(1) Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR was a unilateral

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amphibious operation with command relationships in accordance with NWP-22(B). Responsibility for control and coordination of supporting arms was passed to an "in country" commander during the ship to shore movement. CLF reported the Landing Force firmly established ashore on 23 January. OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) was chopped to an "in country" commander during the operation.

(2) At 231130H CTG 79.4 chopped OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) to CG III MAF (CTG 79.4 220344Z Jan 68). CG III MAF simultaneously passed OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) to CG 3d MAF DIV (CG III MAF 221544Z Jan 68) and CG 3d MAR DIV chopped OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) to the CO 1st Marines concurrently. OPCON of HMM-361 remained under CTG 79.4 during Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NEOSHO II. Operation BALLISTIC ARMOR was terminated on 26 January and OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) was returned to CTG 79.4 at 261200H (CG III MAF 251626Z Jan 68).

c. Enemy Contact. There was no significant contact during the amphibious landing of BLT 2/4(-) into the CAMP EVANS area. HMM-361 helicopters received light to moderate small arms, automatic weapons and .50 caliber machine gun fire during the hours of darkness on 22 January.

d. Supporting Arms.

(1) Two UH-1E (armed) helicopters provided approach and retirement lane escort during the troop lift. No other supporting arms were planned for or used during the ship to shore movement.

(2) All supporting arms were the responsibility of the 1st Marines FSCC.

e. Logistics.

(1) To provide the necessary coordination of supply support for the BLT, the Shore Party Detachment was assigned to the CAMP EVANS ISA under the supervision of the 1st Marines.

(2) The three rifle companies, 106mm RR Plt, 81mm mortar plt and the 4.2" mortar battery landed with a class V prescribed load of B/A plus 1-DOA. This quantity of ammunition proved to be excessive for the operation. An adequate class V supply was already on hand in the CAMP EVANS ISA.

(3) No major logistic problems existed.

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(4) The USS IWO JIMA was designated the Primary Casualty Evacuation Receiving Station.

(5) No maintenance problems were incurred during the operation.

f. Casualty Reporting. Casualty reporting was conducted in accordance with current directives. The 9th MAB CRCC-ALFA was located aboard the USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), which was designated the Primary Casualty Evacuation Receiving Ship. BLT 2/4 and TG 79.4 casualty representatives were positioned at "A" Co. 3d Medical Bn, Phu Bai, SVN to collect and pass on to the 9th MAB CRCC-ALFA, information of Special Landing Force ALFA casualties.

#### Casualty Recapitulation

##### a. Friendly

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>WIANF</u>	<u>NON-HOSTILE</u>
BLT 2/4	0	3	1	0
HMM-361	0	0	0	0
ADMITTANCE	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	3	1	0

##### b. Enemy\*

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA(Probable)</u>	<u>PW</u>	<u>DETAINEES</u>
6	7	0	1

g. Civic Action. No civic action program was conducted due to the area of operation and the operational commitments.

h. ISO. A photographer and journalist were sent ashore with BLT 2/4 to provide informational services coverage.

##### i. Communications.

(1) Communications were established in accordance with CTG 79.4 22 Mar 120-67 and with the COI issued separately. A message center was maintained afloat in conjunction with the USS IWO JIMA Naval Communications Center with CTG 79.4 assuming communications guard for BLT 2/4 and HMM-361. The following nets were entered or established during operation BALLISTIC ARMOR/NFCSHO II.

(a) III MAF TAG #2  
CTG 79.4 entered this net (RATT, Orestes, 60 WPM) and maintained direct communications with III MAF and 3d Mar Div.

\* All enemy casualties were reported to the 9th MAB CRCC-ALFA and the 3d Mar Div. and the 3d Mar Div. and the 3d Mar Div.

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(b) 3RD MAR DIV TAC #1  
CTG 79.4 entered this net maintaining covered (Nestor) communications with 3rd Marine Division.

(c) SLF TAC #1  
 (1) CTG 79.4 established a net with liaison personnel in the field. An AN/MRC-110 radio jeep with a secure voice capability was placed at CAMP EVANS which relayed traffic to battalion personnel and to a Med Rep located at Alfa Med, Phu Bai. This net was used for situation, spot, casualty and administrative reporting, as well as being used for Med-Evac requests.

(2) During the initial landing a number of problems were encountered with the frequencies allocated. One of the problems was mutual interference, as frequencies assigned to TG 79.4 were being used by units operating in the same area. Most problems were encountered because of the urgency of the landing, which precluded proper frequency assignment and coordination. Communications during the operation ranged from very good to fair.

9. The following comments are included on the subordinate commander's combat after action reports:

a. BLT 2/4 After Action Report (enclosure 2):

(1) Paragraph 13 concerns the establishment of an "emergency radio frequency block" that would be available for each area that was being considered for BLT employment. Operationally the recommendation is sound and would alleviate many of the problems encountered during the initial stages of this operation. However, in reality, the VHF frequency spectrum is so crowded throughout I CTZ that no frequencies exist that are available for assignment to the recommended "emergency block". Mutual interference among radios and frequency coordination continue to be major problem areas for SLF operations.

b. HMM-361 After Action Report (enclosure 3). None.

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SECRET-NOFORN

CTG 79.4

0086-68

SECRET/NOFORN

0014097

COMMANDER  
SPECIAL LANDING FORCE  
ALFA  
SEVENTH FLEET



TG SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA 79.4

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1-29 FEBRUARY 1968

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS  
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED  
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322 19 17

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**SECRET / NOFORN**

HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/RGL/der  
SER: 003A08568  
25 March 1968

SECRET-NOFORN - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

From: Commander  
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 through 29 February 1968  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8  
(c) Brigo 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4 Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with references (a) through (c).

  
BRUCE F. MEYERS

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CTG 79.5	7
RLT-26 (Rear)	8
MAG-15	9
BLT 2/4	10
HMM-363	11
ProvServBn	12
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COMMANDER TASK GROUP 79.4

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 February 1968 through 29 February 1968

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- PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

SECRET-NOFORN

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation  
Task Group 79.4

Commander  
Colonel B. F. MEYERS  
1-29 February 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

BLT 2/4  
1-29 February 1968

LtCol W. WEISE  
1-29 February 1968

HMM-361  
1-10 February 1968

LtCol D. M. WILSON  
1-10 February 1968

HMM-363  
10-29 February 1968

LtCol F. E. ALLGOOD  
10-29 February 1968

ATTACHED UNITS

NONE

2. Location  
1-29 February 1968

USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2)  
1-29 February 1968

USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)  
1-29 February 1968

USS COMSTOCK (LSD-19)  
1-29 February 1968

USS WEXFORD CTY (LST-1168)  
1-29 February 1968

3. Staff Officers  
Executive Officer

LtCol P. H. SIMPSON  
1-29 February 1968

Adjutant/S-1

1stLt J. C. SMITH  
1-29 February 1968

S-2

Capt W. N. FOWLER  
1-19 February 1968

Capt B. J. BORCHELT  
20-29 February 1968

Asst S-2/Aerial Observer

Capt J. A. HATCHETT  
1-29 February 1968

S-3

LtCol J. ERWIN  
1-29 February 1968

Asst S-3

Maj G. F. WARREN  
1-17 February 1968Maj R. G. LEIDICH  
18-29 February 1968

Air Officer

Maj J. M. BARNHART  
15-29 February 1968

Fire Support Coordinator

Maj R. M. BLACK  
1-29 February 1968

S-4

Capt P. J. SAMUELS  
1-29 February 1968

Communications Officer

Capt L. M. ZWICK  
1-19 February 1968Maj W. B. LUDWICK  
20-29 February 19684. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Hq, Task Group 79.4	10	26	0	0
BLT 2/4	63	1652	8	88
HMM-361	45	156	1	3
HMM-363	45	162	1	3

SECRET-NOFORN

SECRET-NOFORN

## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

As the month of February began, the majority of BLT 2/4(-) (Command Group ALFA, Companies E, F, and G) were OPCON to the Fourth Marines participating in Operation LANCASTER II. H/3/12 was located at Dong Ha and W/3/12 was located at A-3. Both artillery batteries were under OPCON of 2/12. Co H and 1st Plt, Co A, 5th AT Bn were OPCON to the Ninth Marines participating in Operation KENTUCKY. 1st Plt, Co A, 5th Tank Bn was OPCON to BLT 3/1 participating in Operation SALINE. 4th Plt, Co B, 1st AmTrac Bn was OPCON to 1st AmTrac Bn participating in Operation NAPOLEON. HMM-361 continued in support of CTG 79.4.

The month of February was characterized by marginal weather conditions causing reduction in the amount of helicopter support which could be provided.

During the evening hours of 6-9 Feb the IWO JIMA acted as Helo Haven for Marble Mountain CH-53's. During the period when the IWO JIMA was absent from the vicinity of the Cua Viet River mouth med evac responsibility for BLT 2/4(-) was assumed by CG Third MarDiv.

On 10 Feb the exchange of HMM-361 to Marble Mountain and HMM-363 to CTG 79.4 began. The move was completed on 11 Feb. HMM-363 began day and night pilot carrier quals on 11 Feb.

During the month of February BLT 2/4(-) provided security for the Khe Gio Bridge and the bridge at YD 043566; conducted road security along Route Nine between Khe Gio Bridge and YD 043566; provided a reactionary force for the defense of Camp Carroll; and conducted extensive patrolling and ambush activities to deny the enemy access to the area south of the Cam Lo River.

Helicopter recap for the month of February is as follows:

## A. HMM-361 (1-9 Feb)

<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Passengers</u>	<u>Cargo(tons)</u>	<u>Tasks</u>	<u>Medevac</u>
524	188.7	991	33.1	171	38

## B. HMM-363 (10-29 Feb)

<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Passengers</u>	<u>Cargo(tons)</u>	<u>Tasks</u>	<u>Medevac</u>
1623	690	2894	130.5	846	63

## C. TOTAL (1-29 Feb)

<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Passengers</u>	<u>Cargo(tons)</u>	<u>Tasks</u>	<u>Medevac</u>
2147	878.7	3885	163.6	1017	101

During the month of February 1968 HMM-361 and HMM-363 flew in support of BLT 2/4 in Operations FORTRESS ATTACK, LANCASTER II, KENTUCKY, SALINE and NAPOLEON.

ARG/SLF ALFA remained in support of operations ashore during the month of February 1968.

SECRET-NOFORN

## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 10 Feb 1968 HMM-361 completed offloading at 1105 and OPCON chopped to CG First MAW effective 101200H Feb 68. Elements of HMM-363 (Commanded by LtCol F. E. ALLGOOD) reported aboard IWO JIMA for duty with TG 79.4 at 1345. OPCON chopped from CG First MAW to CTG 79.4 at 101200H Feb 68.
- Ref: CTG 79.4 101336Z FEB 68  
HMM-363 101444Z FEB 68  
CTG 79.4 110125Z FEB 68
- 12 Feb 1968 Maj R. G. LEIDICH reported for duty as relief for Maj G. F. WARREN, Asst Operations Officer.
- 13 Feb 1968 Capt B. J. BORCHELT reported for duty as relief for Capt W. N. FOWLER, Intelligence Officer.
- 14 Feb 1968 MajGen R. McC TOMKINS visited CTG 79.4 aboard the IWO JIMA.  
LtCol W. R. JOHNSON, 9thMAB Supply Officer, aboard in connection with supply matters.
- 15 Feb 1968 LtCol W. R. JOHNSON departed.  
Maj W. B. LUDWICK reported for duty as relief for Capt L. M. ZWICK, Communications Officer.  
Maj J. M. BARNHART reported for duty as Air Officer.
- 17 Feb 1968 Liaison/Advance Party personnel exchanged between H/2/4 at Cam Lo and L/3/9 at Ca Lu.
- Ref: CTG 79.4 161005Z FEB 68
- 18 Feb 1968 Exchange of H/2/4 and L/3/9 delayed due to inclement weather.
- 19 Feb 1968 One platoon and Command Group exchanged between H/2/4 and L/3/9 before inclement weather suspended troop shuttle. Commenced SAR for CH-53 helo presumed lost at sea 20 miles east of Hue/Phu Bai radial 092.
- 20 Feb 1963 SAR cancelled with negative results.
- 25 Feb 1968 Exchange of H/2/4 from Cam Lo to Ca Lu and L/3/9 from Cau Lu to Cam Lo completed. Fourth Marines assumed OPCON of H/2/4 from Ninth Marines effective 251300H. Fourth Marines passed OPCON of H/2/4 to Third Battalion, Ninth Marines effective 251300H.
- Ref: Fourth Marines 250738Z FEB 68  
Ninth Marines 250831Z FEB 68



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1stLt T. E. TANZEY, member 9thMAB Inspector party, aboard for administrative inspection of BLI 2/4 and HMM-363.  
Maj J. R. CATON, 9thMAB EMBARKO, aboard for liaison visit.

26 Feb 1968 Maj J R. CATON departed.

28 Feb 1968 LtCol G. H. BENSKIN, 9thMAB ACofS G-1; Maj R. C. HAGERTY, CO, HqCo, 9thMAB; and Capt H. W. HIGGINS, 9thMAB Adjutant, aboard for liaison visit.  
Operation NAPLOEON/SALINE terminated. Operation SALINE II commenced.

Ref: CG Third MarDiv 2900830Z FEB 68

29 Feb 1968 LtCol T. H. BURKE, CO, ProvServBn, 9thMAB, aboard for liaison visit.  
LtCol G. H. BENSKIN, Capt H. W. HIGGINS, and 1stLt T. E. TANZEY departed.

SECRET-NOFORN

PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

TAB A           CTG 79.4 101336Z FEB 68  
                 HMM-363 101444Z FEB 68  
                 CTG 79.4 110125Z FEB 68  
                 CTG 79.4 161005Z FEB 68  
                 FOURTH MARINES 250738Z FEB 68  
                 NINTH MARINES 250831Z FEB 68  
                 CG 3D MARDIV 290830Z FEB 68  
  
TAB B           BLT 2/4 COMMAND CHROLOLOGY 1-29 FEB 1968  
  
TAB C           HMM-363 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 11-29 FEB 68

NEWH

DON

FEB 10 14 25 '68

VV UAK355

OO RUMHAW RUMHAWL RUMHFWA RUMMWAA RUMJMWAA RUABQL RUGUV RUAUDB

DE RUEUAK 001 0411336

ZNY SSSSS

O P 101336Z FEB 68 ZYC RUYE

FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

TO RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW

INFO RUMHAW/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMHFWA/CG FWPAC

RUMMWAA/CG IIS MAW

RUMJMWAA/COMNAVIAIRPAC

RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUGUV/CTF SEVEN SIX

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUAUDB/MAG ONE FIVE

RUMHAW/MAG ONE SIX

RUMHAW/HMM THREE SIX ONE

BT

SECRET

HMM THREE SIX ONE OPCON (U)

A. CTG 79 180911Z JAN 68 (NOTAL)

P. CTG 79.4 021147Z FEB 68 (NOTAL)

1. CTG 79.4 CHOPS OPCON OF HMM-361 TO 1ST MAW EFFECTIVE 101200H

FEB 68 IAW REF A AND B.

GP-4

BT

M  
F

D

101336Z

RUMHAW

NEWA

NON

Feb 10

10 04 68

VV UAK359

OO RUABQL RUAUDB RUHMFMA RUMMWAA RUMHAW RUMGUV

DE RUYEUAK 090 0411444

ZNY SSSSS

O P 101444Z FEB 68 ZYC RUYE

FM HMM THREE SIX THREE

TO RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUAUDB/MAG ONE FIVE

ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

INFO RUMMFMA/CG FMFPAC

RUMMWAA/CG III MAF

RUMHAW/CG FMF

RUMGUV/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUAUDB/CTG SEVEN NINE PT THREE

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUMHAW/MAG ONE SIX

BT

S E C R E T

A. CG FIRST MAW 020049Z DEC 67

B. CG FIRST MAW 010746Z FEB 68

C. CTF SEVEN NINE 130711Z JAN 68

1. IAW REFS A AND D CO HMM-363 REPORTS TO CG 9TH MAB FOR COMMAND AT 101200H FEB 68.

2. IAW REF C, CO HMM-363 REPORTS TO MAG ONE FIVE FOR COMMAND LESS OPCON AND TO CTG 79.4 FOR OPCON AT 101200H FEB 68.

GP74

BT

F

m

101444Z

NNNN

*for Page*  
 FEB 11 01 35 '68  
*Vol 35*

VV UAK385  
 OO RUABQL RUMGUL RUHHFMA RUMWAA RUWJMUA RUMHAW RUMFUV RUAUDB  
 DE RUYEUAK 007 0420125  
 ZNY SSSSS  
 O P 110125Z FEB 68 ZYO RUYE  
 FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 TO RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 INFO RUMGUL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUHHFMA/CG FMFPAC  
 RUMWAA/CG III MAF  
 RUWJMUA/COMNAVAIRFAC  
 RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUMFUV/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUAUDB/MAG ONE FIVE  
 RUMHAW/MAG ONE SIX  
 ZEN/HMM THREE SIX THREE  
 RUAUDB/CTG SEVEN NINE PT THREE  
 BT  
 S E C R E T  
 HMM-363 OPCON (U)  
 A. CTF 79 182711Z JAN 68  
 B. HMM-363 101200H FEB 68  
 1. IAW REFS A AND B, CTG 79.4 ASSUMES OPCON OF HMM-363  
 EFFECTIVE 101200H FEB 68.  
 GP-4  
 BT

*M*  
 (F)  
 NNNN

*2*

*110125Z*

*a-3*

NNNNZCZG-97 PV8174  
PP RUYSUAK  
DE RUMHVP 3805D 050738  
ZNY SSSSS  
P R 250738Z FEB 68  
FM FOURTH MAR  
TO ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
ZEN/NINTH MAR  
INFO RUYSUAK/BLT TWO SLANT FOUR ✓  
ZEN/THIRD BN NINTH MAR  
BT

S E C R E T

1. CHOPNOPCON L: FROM 4TH MAR TO 9TH MAR EFFECTIVE 251300H FEB 68.
2. 4TH MAR ASSUME OPCON H/1/2/4 FROM 9TH MAR EFFECTIVE 251300H FEB 68.
3. 3/9 ASSUME OPCON H/2/4 EFFECTIVE 251300H FEB 68.

GP-4

BT

m

24

250738Z

NNNN

DECLASSIFIED

FEB 25 10 05 '68

ZCZC761 HGA161VV DDKA271VV CFA413 PVR109

PP RUYSUAK

ZNY SSSSS

P 250831Z FEB 68

FM NINTH MARINES

TO ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV

INFO ZEN/FOURTH MARINES

ZEN/THIRD BN, FOURTH MARINES

RUYSUAK/SECOND BN, FOURTH MARINES

BT

S E C R E T

OPCON

1. ASSUMED OPCON CO L/3/4 FROM 4TH MARINES EFFECTIVE 251300H FEB62.

2. CHOPPED OPCON CO H/2/4 TO 4TH MARINES EFFECTIVE 251300H FEB63.

GP-4

BT

*A100*

*250831Z*

NNNNEA

T

DECLASSIFIED

*a-16*

NNNNZCZC301 RRC927VV 2FA4732VA 455VV PVR589

OO RUYSUAK

DE RUMHVP 4349D 050033Z

ZNY 050033Z

RUYSUAK T BLT TWO SLANT FOUR

O 290830Z FEB 68

FM CG THIRD MARDIV

TO RUMMWAA7CG III MAF

ZEN/FIRST AMTRAC BN

ZEN/THIRD MARINES

INFO THIRD MARDIV

BT

SECRET

SUBJ: DESIGNATED OPERATIONS

REF (A) FOR O 3121.2A

(B) FOR OPO 60-67 (OPERATION NAPOLEON)

1. EFFECTIVE 290600H FEB 68 OPERATION NAPOLEON/SALINE IS SUSPENDED AND OPERATION SALINE II WILL COMMENCE.

2. IAW REF A THE FOLLOWING INFO IS SUBMITTED:

A. OPERATION SALINE II

B. CO THIRD MARINES

C. (1) THIRD MARINES (-)(REIN)

(2) BLT THREE SLANT ONE (-)

(3) FIRST BN THIRD MARINES (-)

(4) FIRST MATRAC BN (-)(REIN)

PAGE TWO RUMHVP 4349D SECRET

D. N/A

E. N/A

F9 UNK

G. QUANG TRI YD3169

H. 290600H FEB 68 UNTIL TERMINATED

I. SEARCH AND DESTROY, CLEARING

J. TO CLEAR CUA VIET RIVER, TO ALLOW SAFE AND UNINTERRUPTED PASSAGE OF WATER LOC FROM CUA VIET TO DONG HA.

3. FOR FIRST AMTRAC BN.

A. TERMINATE OPERATION NAPOLEON/SALINE EFFECTIVE 280600H FEB 68 MARCH 68. AFTER ACTION REPORT DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS

B. UPON TERMINATION OF OPERATION SALINE II. NEW OP O WILL BE ISSUED

CP-4

BT



DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/RGL/der  
SER: 003A11368  
22 April 1968

SECRET-NOFORN - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

From: Commander  
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) BrigO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4 Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with references  
(a), (b), and (c).

*Paul R. Fields*  
PAUL R. FIELDS

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MAG-15	9
BLT 2/4	10
HMM-362	11
HMM-363	12
ProvServBn	13
S&C file	14-15

SECRET-NOFORN

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79.79.4

8761 maw

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COMMANDER TASK GROUP 79.4

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March to 31 March 1968

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- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET-NOFORN

## PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION  
Task Group 79.4

COMMANDER  
Colonel B. F. MEYERS  
1-31 March 1968

## SUBORDINATE UNITS

BLF 2/4  
1-31 March 1968

LtCol W. WEISE  
1-31 March 1968

BMM-363  
1-31 March 1968

LtCol F. E. ALLGOOD  
1-25 March 1968

Maj D. W. HOFFERT  
26-31 March 1968

## ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. LOCATION  
1-31 March 1968

USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2)  
1-31 March 1968

USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)  
1-31 March 1968

USS COMSTOCK (LSD-1)  
1-6 March 1968

USS ALAMO (LSD-33)  
7-31 March 1968

USS WELFORD CTY (LST-1168)  
1-23 March 1968

USS WASHO CTY (LST-1165)  
24-31 March 1968

3. STAFF OFFICERS  
Executive Officer

LtCol P. H. SIMPSON  
1-24 March 1968

LtCol P. R. FIELDS  
25-31 March 1968

Adjutant/S-1

1stLt J. C. SMITH  
1-31 March 1968

Intelligence Officer

Capt B. J. BORCHELT  
1-31 March 1968

SECRET-NOFORN

Asst Intelligence Officer/Aerial Observer	Capt J. A. HATCHETT 1-31 March 1968
Operations Officer	LtCol J. ERWIN 1-4 March 1968  LtCol L. C. WITT 5-31 March 1968
Asst Operations Officer	Maj R. G. LEIDICH 1-31 March 1968
Fire Support Coordinator	Maj R. M. BLACK 1-31 March 1968
Air Officer	Maj J. M. BARNHART 1-31 March 1968
Logistic Officer	Capt P. J. SAMUELS 1-26 March 1968  Maj R. T. MACPHERSON 27-31 March 1968
Communications Officer	Maj W. B. LUDWICK 1-31 March 1968

4. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>Off</u>	<u>USMC</u> <u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>USN</u> <u>Enl</u>
Hq, Task Group 79.4	10	34	0	0
BLT 2/4	57	1620	8	88
HMM-363	41	157	1	3

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

SECRET-NOFORN

## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

As the month of March began, the majority of BLT 2/4(-) were Opcon to the Fourth Marines participating in Operation LANCASTER II. H/3/12 was located at Dong Ha and W/3/12 was located at Camp Carroll. Both artillery batteries are Opcon to 3/12. 1st Plat, Co A, 5th AT Bn was Opcon to the Ninth Marines participating in Operation KENTUCKY. 1st Plat, Co A, 5th Tank Bn was Opcon to BLT 3/1 participating in Operation NAPOLEON. HMM-363 continued in support of CTG 79.4. The month of March continued to produce marginal weather conditions causing reduction in the amount of helicopter support which could be provided. On 3 March in response to a verbal warning order by CG Third MarDiv, CTG 79.4 and planning staff conducted liaison with CTG 79.5 and CO's Third and Fourth Marines to plan exchange of BLT 2/4 and BLT 3/1 AO's. On 4 March BLT 2/4 and BLT 3/1 commenced exchange of forces, Co G, H and a portion of the Comd Group moved, and exchanged positions with two companies of BLT 3/1, the remainder of BLT exchange to be completed on 5 March. Two companies of BLT 3/1 were helo-lifted by HMM-363 to Camp Carroll during the initial exchange of units and AO's. On 5 March BLT 2/4(-) continued participation in Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE II and terminated participation in Operation LANCASTER II. BLT 2/4(-) assigned mission is to clear the north bank of the Cua Viet River to allow safe and uninterrupted passage from the Cua Viet River mouth to Dong Ha, to deny the "Jones Creek" drainage system (a known infiltration route) to the enemy and to conduct search and destroy operations in the assigned AO. On 6 March between 0145H and 0420H companies E and F, in vic of YD 306650 and YD 280667, respectively, received approximately ninety rounds of mortar and artillery fire, followed by two significant enemy probes initiated utilizing S/A, RPG, and machine guns. Counter-battery fire was called for and units alerted for ground attack engaged the enemy with S/A's resulting in eleven NVA KIA and eleven weapons captured. This was the first significant contact in the new AO.

The period from 7 March - 14 March was characterized by company size search and destroy missions and sweeps, in the Lam Xuan (east), Lam Xuan (west), and Nhi Ha areas to the north and the Vinh Quan Ha, Vin Quon Thuong areas to the west of the Mai Xai Chanh combat operating base established by BLT 2/4(-) on the Cua Viet River. Significant contact was made in each of these villages and produced large quantities of arms and ammunition. The 4.2 inch mortar battery W/3/12 moved from Camp Carroll to Mai Xai Chanh and relieved in place the W/2/12 battery that was in direct support of BLT 3/1. BLT 2/4's own tank and amphibian tractor platoons were in direct support of the BLT during this period but remained under the Opcon of the First Amtrac Battalion. The 1st Plat, Co A, Fifth Antitank Battalion remained under the Opcon of Task Force "Robbie" throughout this month. Hotel Battery (H/3/12) remained under the Opcon of the Twelfth Marines during the month. During the remainder of this period BLT 2/4(-) conduct aggressive patrols and ambushes, maintained strong defensive positions, destroying enemy emplacements and caches and conducted MEDCAP within the AO.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

SECRET-NOFORN

## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 Mar 1968 LtCol T. H. BURKE, CO, ProvServBn, 9th MAB, departed.  
LtCol L. C. WITT reported to CTG 79.4 for duty as relief for LtCol J. ERWIN.

5 Mar 1968 LtCol J. ERWIN departed for duty with 9th MAB.

8 Mar 1968 Capt G. C. LARIMORE, HqCo, 9th MAB, departed.

11 Mar 1968 1stLt J. P. BRINCHECK, RLT 26 (Rear), departed.

14 Mar 1968 CTG 79.4 and Maj R. M. BLACK departed on IAD to 9th MAB.

18 Mar 1968 CTG 79.4 and Maj R. M. BLACK returned from IAD.

22 Mar 1968 LtCol P. R. FIELDS reported to CTG 79.4 as relief for LtCol P. H. SIMPSON.

24 Mar 1968 LtCol P. H. SIMPSON departed for duty with Hq, 9th MAB.

27 Mar 1968 Maj R. F. MACPHERSON reported to CTG 79.4 as relief for Capt P. J. SAMUELS.  
LtCol G. H. BENSKIN, ACofS G-1, 9th MAB and 1stLt H. F. CURTIS, PersOff, 9th MAB aboard for liaison visit.

28 Mar 1968 LtCol G. H. BENSKIN and 1stLt H. F. CURTIS departed.

30 Mar 1968 Col J. A. CONWAY, ACofS G-3, 9th MAB aboard for liaison visit.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

SECRET-NOFORN

## PART IV

## CHRONOLOGY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- TAB A
1. ✓ CG THIRD MARDIV 020428Z MAR 68
  2. ✓ FOURTH MARINES 050720Z MAR 68
  3. ✓ THIRD MARINES (FWD) 050900Z MAR 68
  4. ✓ BLT 2/4 060006Z MAR 68
  5. ✓ CG III MAF (SECT 2 OF 9) 060333Z MAR 68
  6. ✓ ADMINS SEVENTHFLT 121306Z MAR 68
  7. ✓ HMM-363 260114Z MAR 68
  8. ✓ HMM-363 260640Z MAR 68
  9. ✓ COMSEVENTHFLT 260700Z MAR 68
  10. ✓ HMM-363 270807Z MAR 68
  11. ✓ CG NINTH MAB 290758Z MAR 68

✓TAB B BLT 2/4 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-31 MARCH 1968 } *Filed*  
 ✓TAB C HMM-363 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-31 MARCH 1968 } *Sep*

TAB D ✓ CTG 79.4 COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT; OPERATION  
 FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/  
 SALINE (Copies 1-15 Only) 27 Jan - 14 Mar 68

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

IMMEDIATE 020428Z MAR68

FROM: CG THIRD MARDIV  
 TO: THIRD MARINES  
 INFO: CG III MAF  
 FIRST AIRAC IN  
 BUE THREE SLANT ONE  
 THIRD MARDIV  
 FLBG BRAVO  
 CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
 CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
 COM NSA DNG

//SECRET//

DESIGNATED OPERATIONS

A. IN OPO 292310Z FEB68

1. DELETE THE WORDS SALINE II WHEREVER THEY APPEAR REF 1 & B AND INSERT THEREIN  
 NA:OLSON/SALINE.

2. DELETE PARA 3 OF REF C IN ITS ENTIRETY & INSERT AS FOLLOWS "3. CUMULATIVE  
 TOTALS FOR SALINE AND NAPOLTON WILL BE COMBINED AND CARRIED FWD AS CUMULATIVE  
 TOTALS FOR NAPOLTON/SALINE."

3. ALL REFERENCES TO TERM/SUSPENSION & COMING IDENT REF A & B ARE TO BE  
 DISREGARDED.

GP-4

COMPO82

REL BY



MAR 9 02 06 '68

FFD3TSVV CFA10GA977 CFA846PVA940

PP RUYSUAK

DE RUMHVP 14150 0650720

ZNY SSSSS

PR 050720Z MAR 68

FROM FOURTH MARINES

TO ZEN/THIRD MARINES

INFO ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUYSUAK/TASK GROUP SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

RUYSUEE/TASK GROUP SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

ZEN/SECOND BN NINTH MAR

ZEN/THIRD BN NINTH MA

BT

SECRET

1. 4TH MAR ASSUME OPCON BLT 3/1 FROM 3D MAR EFFECTIVE 051135H

CHOP BLT 2/4 OPCON 3D MAR EFFECTIVE 051135H MAR 68.

2. THR CHOPS N/3/1 OPCON 3D BN 9TH MAR AND N/3/1 OPCON 3D BN 9TH

MAR BOTH EFFECTIVE 051135H MAR 68.

GP-4

BT

M

JL

050720Z

UNNN

Tab A' 22

NNNNZCZC421FFA249VV CFA792 PVA638

OO RUYSUAK

DE RUMHVP 1095D 065090Z

NNY SSSSS

O 050900Z MAR 68 ZFU

FM THIRD MARINES (FWD)

TO ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV

INFO ZEN/FOURTH MARINES

RUYSUAE/BLT THREE SLANT ONE

RUYSUAK/ETW TWO SLANT R R

RUYSUAK/CTG 79.5

RUYSUAK/CTG 79.4

ET

S E C R E T

PSTAT OIL AS OF 050335Z MAR 68

BLT 2/4

OPCON 30 MAR 68

LOC CUA VIET

PART II

COMMT THIRD MARINE REGIMENT ASSUMED OPCON OF BLT  
2/4 (-) AT 25115H MAR 68 AND CHOPPED BLT 3/1 (1) AT THE  
SAME DTG TO FOURTH MARINES.  
ET

MAR 01 10 11 AM '68

A-9

0 50900Z

Tab A-3

DECLASSIFIED

MAR 6 00 27 '68

VV AKA044  
00 RUMHVP RUABQL  
DE RUYSUAK 004 0660006  
ZNY SSSSS  
O 060006Z MAR 68 ZYO RUYS  
FM BLT TWO SLANT FOUR  
TO RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
INFO RUABQL/CG NINTH MAR  
ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
RUABQL/BLT TWO SIX (REAR)  
RUMHVP/FOURTH MAR  
RUMHVP/NINTH MAR  
RUMHVP/THIRD MAR  
RUMHVP/TWELVE MAR  
RUMHVP/FIRST AMTRAC BN

BT

S E C R E T

OPSTAT 009 AS OF 050335Z MAR 68 (U)

A. FMFPACO P03000.5E

BLT 2/4

PART I

OPCON THIRD MARINES

LOC VINH QUAN NA, RVN, YD278663

GP-4

BT

m

Je

0600063

NNNN

Tab A- 214

DECLASSIFIED

NNNNZCZC226 FFF9561722

OO RUYSUAK

ZNY SSSSS

OTTSZYUW RUMMMAA0662 0660742-SSSS--RUYSUAE RUYSU

Y.

ZNY SSSSS

O P 060328Z MAR 68 ZNY-2

FM 1H 111 FAN FURANOH

TO RUHFWMA/10

1.10-1

8.19 47:08 9-/020

RUAEOL/CG VNEPAC (FND)

ZEN2/CG FIRST MARDIV

ZEN2/CGHLHND MARDIV

ZE

WXXCG FIRSTINBT

ZEN2/CG FORLOSCOND

RUAEOL/CG N

YTB 045

RUAEOL/CTG SEVEN KICK PT TWO

RUYSUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

RUYSUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

ZEN2/CG AMERICAL IV

ZEN2/CGINF X-RAY

ET

SECRET SECTION TWO OF NINE

CHD ARTY: (PD/CUM) UNITS: 2/12, 1ST S"MOV BTRY (SP), MAR  
 5TH 155 GUN BTRY (SP), 1/40TH  
 ARTY (SP) USA, 8/4TH ARTY USA

PAGE TWO RUMMMAA 0662 SECRET

(1) MSNS: 198/16170

04WL RDS: 1040/2/

/SE

(1) CVCAP OF CVL UNIT OP: NO REPT RECD

(2) OF NAPOLEON-SALINE

O PEG 1) 3D MARDIV (3DINVAR(-57REINDMLLXKANT S&amp;D OP

IN QUANG TRI PROV WITH NEG CONTACT FOR PD.

SUMMARY: OF NAPOLEON-SALINE CONT W/1/3, 3/1 AND 1ST AMTRAC BN

W/CO A AND B COND S&amp;D OP TO CLEAR CUA VIET RIVER TO ALPHV

SAFE AND UNINTERRUPTED PASSAGE FM CUA VIET TO DONG HA. /1

0)-,3

: ELT 3/1 TO VAOP OLSON FM 3D MA TO 4TH MAR ON 05 MAR

68 LEAVING OP NAPOLEON-SALINE JOINING OP LANCASTER II.

ELT 2/4 TO CHOP OPCON TO 3D MAR FY 4TH MAR JOINING OP

NAPOLEON-SALINE LEAVING OP LANCASTER II ON 25 MAR 68.

CAS FOR PD 03200H TO 041200H WERE: USMC: NONE; EN: NONE.

(E) AIR SUPPORT. NONE

(C) ARTY SUPPORT. UNITS: 8/4TH ARTY (USA). 175MM GUNS FIRED NO MSNS.

(D) RES: (PD/CUM) (PD FM 040001H TO 041200H)

USM

NTAEEE

ENEMY

2/102 KIA

2/710 KIA

0/485 WIA(MEDEVAC)

0/156 DET

PAGE THREE RUMMWAA 2662 S E C R E T  
RHXQFLPSWIA(MINOR)

0/3 PM/VC

S

HYE SW

0/277 \*316 I  
0/2 CIV DEF  
CXRM IN CIV  
0/134 IMC  
0/64 CSWC

(E) CUM HEL SUPPORT:

(1) SORTIES: 334

(2) PAX: 973

(3) CARGO (TONS): 53.3

(F) CUM TAC AIR SORTIES:

(1) CAS: 60

(2) DAS: 57

(3) OTHER: 0

(G) NGF: NONE

(H) ARTY: (PD/CUM) UNITS: DET BTRY 1ST BN 12 MAR  
1ST ARMD AMPHIB CO.

(1) MSNS: 61/3649

(2) RDS: 529/51446

(1) CHANGES IN FRIENDLY COB: ADD: EFFECTIVE 051135H

PAGE FOUR RUMMWAA 2662 S E C R E T

ELT 2/4 W/CO E, F, G&H CHOPPED OPCOM TO ED MAR FM 4TH MAR JOINING  
OP NAPOLEON-SALINE.

DROP: EFFECTIVE 051135H ELT 3/1 W/CO A, B, C&D CHOPPED OPCOM FM  
3D MAR TO 4TH MAR LEAVING OP NAPOLEON-SALINE.

(J) RECAP OF SMALL UNIT OP: NO REPT RECD.

(3) OP LANCASTER II.

(4) 3D MARDIV (4TH MAR(-)(REINF)) CONT S&D OP  
IN QUANG TRI PROV WITH LIGHT CONTACT FOR PD.

SUMMARY: 4TH MAR W/2/9, 3/9 AND ELT 2/4(-) COND S&D OP IN  
AO. EFFECTIVE 051135H ELT 2/4 CHOPPED OPCOM FM 4TH MAR TO 3D

0-4 )3-;8, & 92 )-;1-534 88 -, \$ \*92, 8, & 92 , -09)39, -SALINE.

EFFECTIVE 051135H ELT 3/1 CHOPPED OPCOM FM 3D MAR TO 4TH MAR  
LEAVING OP NAPOLEON-SALINE AND JOINING OP LANCASTER II.

FM 041400H TO 041430H CAMP CARROLL RECD 7 TO 9 RDS EST 130MM  
AND 75MM ARTY: 4 USMC WIA(1 MED EVAC).

AT 042240H G/2/9 VIC (YD 295574) OESR 1 FIGURE W/  
STARLIGHT SCOPE. FIRED W716 W/UNK RES.

AT 042135H F/2/9 VIC (YD 226561) RECD 1 INCOMING RD UNK CAL  
FM UNKPOS: 2 USMC WIA(MED EVAC).

AT 051010H 4TH MAR AT CAMP CARROLL VIC YD 095576) CONVOY TO

PAGE FIVE RUMMMAA 066 3 E C R E T

DONG HA DET MINE: DAM ONE SX6 TRK, 2 USMC WIA(MEL .VAC).  
 AT 051117H 3/9 AT CA LU VIC (YD 012445) RECD 7 RDS 62MM FM  
 EN LCC VIC (XD 987446): MINOR DAM, NEG CAS. FIRED 4.2" AND  
 81MM MORT MSNS: 3 SEC EXPLD. 8703:53S 3, 19:8: (XD 998  
 150) FIRED ON W/TWIN 42MM.

CORRECTION TO CUM CAS: ADD 2 USMC WIA(MED EVAC) AND 2 USMC WIA  
 (MINOR) TO CUM CAS TO AGREE W/REPT UNIT. (CUM CAS ADJ).  
 PLANS: BLT 3/1 TO JOIN 2/9 AND 3/9 IN COND S&D OP AND  
 PROVIDING SCTY IN AO.

CAS FOR P 041201H TO 051000H WERE: USMC: 5 WIA(MED EVAC):, 3  
 WIA (MINOR); EN: NO MGHNUJ D PNOE) AIR SUPPORT. FMAW HELS FLUM 44 SORTIES TO

13.0 MRS LIFTIKGAWYSI PAX AND KRMOSGO

11VM OF CARGO.

(C) ARTY SUPPORT. UNITS: 2/94TH ARTY (USA). 175MM GUNS FIRED NO MSNS.

(D) RES: PD/CUM) (PD FM 041001H TO 051200H)

USMC

ENEMY

2/88 KIA

0/254 KIA

(ADJ) 5/354 WIA(MEDEVAC)

0/15 DET

(ADJ) 3/117 WIA(MINOR)

0/9 PW/NVA

2/1 IN CIV

PAGE SIX RUMMMAA 0660 S E C R E T

2/99 IVC

0/96 CSWC

(E) CUM HEL SUPPORT:

(1) SORTIES: 445

(2) PAX: 2332

(3) CARGO (TONS): 104.4

(F) CUM TAC AIR SORTIES:

(1) CAS: 60

(2) DAS: 422

(3) OTHER: 0

((4) NGF: NONE

(H) ARTY: (PD/CUM) UNITS: 1/12TH MAR, 2/94TH ARTY (USA)

(1) MSNS: 93/7896

(2) RDS: 72959672

(I) CHANGES IN FRIENDLY 005: ADD: EFFECTIVE 051135H

BLT3/1 W/CO A,E,G&D CHOPPED OPCOM TO 4TH MAR FM 3D MAR JOINING  
 OF LANCASTER II.

DROP: EFFECTIVE 051135H BLT 2/4 W/CO E,F,G&H CHOPPED OPCOM FM  
 4TH MAR TO 3D MAR LEAVING OF LANCASTER II.

(J) RECAP OF SMALL UNIT OP: NO REPT RECD.

ET

Om  
N2

JR

060333Z

NNNN

DECLASSIFIED

ZNY SSSSS  
P 121306Z MAR 68 ZYU RUMGCC  
FM ADMINS COMSEVEN FLT  
TO RUYSUAK/VTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
RUENAAA/CNO  
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC  
RUHHBRA/CINCPACFLT  
INFO RUYSUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
RUYSUAD/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT  
RUMFKRXXCTF SEVEN SIX  
RUABCL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
RUMSMA/COMNAVFORV  
RUMSBE/COMNAVFORV  
RUMKMAA/CG III MAF  
RUMHVP/CG THIRD MAR DIV  
RUMVHD/CTG ONE ONE FIVE PT ONE  
RUMFKRF/FIRST AMTRAC BN  
RUMFVJF/NINTH MARINES  
RUMFCR/TU SEVEN SEVEN PT SEVEN PT TWO  
RUMJMSA/COMPHIEPAC  
RUHHFMA/CG FMFPAC

MAR 12 17 03 '68

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PAGE TWO RUMGUL 0623 S E C R E T  
RUABCL/CG FMFPAC (FWD)  
RUMVHD/CTF ONE ONE FIVE  
RUMSEJ/COMDR SEVENTH AIR FORCE  
RUMFCR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT ONE  
RUMFUE/CTF SEVEN SEVEN  
RUYSOR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT TWO  
RUMFKRF/BLT 2/4  
RUMFKRF/THIRD MARINES  
RUABUS/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT THREE  
RUMFLA/CG FIRST MAR DIV  
RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAF  
RUYSNAE/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
RUYSUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN THREE PT FIVE  
RUMFCR/TU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE  
RUMFUZ/CTF SEVEN THREE  
RUMFKRE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE  
RUMHNA/COMNAVSUPPACT DANANG  
RUMHVP/FOURTH MARINES  
RUMFCR/CTF CLEARWATER

PAGE THREE RUMGUL 0623 S E C R E T  
BT

S E C R E T

CTE 70.2.1.1 PASS ADVANCED COPY TO COMUSMACV

OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK (U)

1. FOR CTG 76.4: TERMINATE OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK 141200Z.

2. FOR CNO, CINCPAC, CINCPACFLT: CANCEL NICKNAME FORTRESS ATTACK.C

GP-4

BT

(F)(M)

TH

121306Z

Taka-4

DECLASSIFIED

NNNNVV YEA053V FFBS24FA0020ZVA 96VV WAB233

PP RUMFUAK

DE RUMHAW 12730 0860114

ZNY EEEEE

P 260114Z MAR 68

FM MARMEDHELCON THREE SIX THREE

TO RUABQL/CG NINTH MAR

8 N/CG FIRST MAW

RUAUDB/CO MAG ONE FIVE

RUMFUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

SUCCESION TO COMMAND

1. MAJOR DUWAYNE W. HOFFERT 062272/7563 SUCCEEDS TO TEMPORARY  
COMMAND AS ACTING COMMANDING OFFICER OF HMM-363 VICE LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL FRANKIE E. ALLGOOD 057335/7563 WIA(E), EFFECTIVE  
260750H MAR 68.

BT



best.  
261748

NNNGUSN NR13126  
P 260640Z MAR 68  
FM MARMEDHELTON THREE SIX THREE  
TO AIG SIX ZERO  
RUHHPMA/CG FMFPAC  
RUHMWAA/CG THIRD MAF  
INFO ZE /CG FIRST MAF  
RUABQL/CG NINTH MA3  
RUMFUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
RUMFUAK/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
UAUDB/MARAIRGRU ONE FIVE  
ZEN/MARAIRGRU THREE SIX  
RUAUDB/USS IWO JIMA

BT

S E C R E T

SECRET, PPP MOVREP 260640Z MAR 68 HMM-363, 01//  
ORG RV HMMXAEYE WO UH-34D, 02//  
ETD P PHU BAI 270300Z, 03//  
ETA S IWO JIMA 270400Z, 04//  
CHG CHP 270400Z CTG 79.4, 05//  
CFN 260640Z 270300Z, 270400Z, 270400Z, 06//END  
GP-4

BT

F

M

S (ops)

260640Z

Tab A-8

WWWVU YE8004VV FPASOI NFE403VV ULD235

PP RUMFUAK

DE RUMGUL 1762 0560700

ZNY SSSSS

P 260700Z MAR 68 ZYO RUHGCS

FM COMSEVENTHFLT

TO RUMFUAK/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUYEUA/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE

RUMFUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

RUYEUA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

INFO RUHHHQA/CINCPAC

RUHHBRA/CINCPACFLT

RUHHFMA/CG FMFPAC

RUWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC

RUMMWAA/CG III MAF

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUMFUV/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

BT

SECRET

ARG/SLF SUPPORT OPS (U)

A. MY OPLAN 101-67

1. TO PROVIDE FOR EMPLOYMENT IDENTIFICATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND HISTORICAL RECORD, THE FOLLOWING NICKNAMES ARE ASSIGNED ARG/SLF

NEWA / NONIF

261859

B-34

PAGE TWO RUMGUL 1762 SECRET

CURRENT SUPPORTING OPERATIONS:

A. CTG 76.4/CTG 72.4 (ARG/SLF ALFA): NICKNAME FOR CURRENT SUPPORTING OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK II RPT FORTRESS ATTACK II.

3. CTG 76.5/CTG 172.5 (ARG/SLF BRAVO): NICKNAME FOR CURRENT SUPPORTING OPERATION BADGER CATCH II RPT BADGER CATCH II.

2. CONTINUE DAILY SITREPS. SPOT REPORTS WILL BE SUBMITTED IN ADDITION TO NORVAL SITREPS TO REPORT INFORMATION OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST. IDENTIFY SUPPORTED OPERATIONS BY DESIGNATED NICKNAMES.

3. WITHDRAWAL OF ELEMENTS OF SLF'S TO BE CONDUCTED IAW ANNEX

BRAVO OF REF A.

GP-4

BT

F  
m

JP

260700Z

TABA-9

VV UAK114  
 OO RUXHAW RUABGL RUAUD3 RUHFWA RUMWAA  
 DE RUYEUAK 043 7370207  
 ZNY SSSSS

O P 270307Z MAR 68 ZYU RUYE  
 FM MARMEDELRON THREE SIX THREE  
 TO RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUABGL/CTG SEVEN NINE  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 RUAUD3/LARAIRGRU ONE FIVE  
 RUMHAW/MARAIRGRU THREE SIX  
 INFO RUHFWA/CG FYFPAC  
 RUMWAA/CG THIRD MAF  
 RUAUD3/CTG SEVEN NINE PT THREE  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

SECRET

A. CTG 79.4 120224Z MAR 68

1. IAW REF A CO HYM-363 REPORTS TO CTG 79.4 FOR OPCON.
2. COMMAND LESS OPCON REMAINS WITH YAG-15.

GP-4

BT

MAR 27

08 45 '68

08 45

NAME

KKK  
 DE RUABQL 1472B 0890758  
 ZNY EEEEE  
 P 290758Z MAR 68  
 FM CGNINTH MAB  
 TO RUYEUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 INFO RUHHFMA/CG FMFPAC  
 RUHHAW/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUAUDB/MAG ONE FIVE  
 RUYEUAE/HMM THREE SIX THREE

29/1555Z / J2 / in count  
 KW 7-3

BT  
 C I C L A S E F T O  
 ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

A. HMM THREE SIX THREE 200114Z MAR 68  
 B. NTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR 290002Z MAR 68  
 1. IWA REF A AND B MAJ D. W. HOFFERT 062272/7563 USMC IS ASG DUTH AS  
 CO H MM THREE SIX THREE EFFECTIVE 26MAR68 VICE LT COL F. E. ALLGOOD  
 057335/7563 USMC.  
 BT

M

P

290758Z

NNNN

Tab A - 11

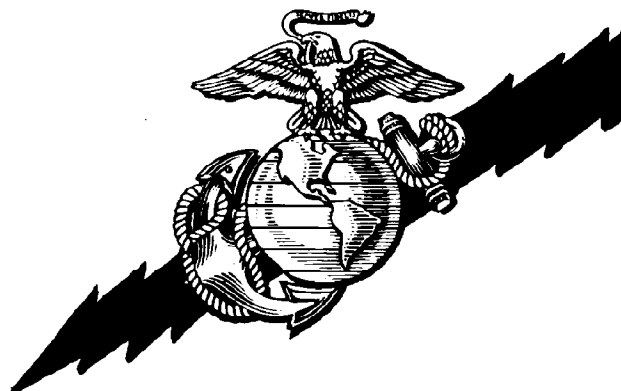
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CTG 79.4

00110-68

COMMANDER  
SPECIAL LANDING FORCE  
ALFA  
SEVENTH FLEET



TG SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA 79.4

AFTER ACTION REPORT  
FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/  
LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/SALINE  
27 JANUARY-14 MARCH 1968

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS

NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

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HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/RGL/der  
SER: 003A/1168  
20 April 1968

SECRET-NOFORN - Unclassified upon removal of enclosures (1) through (5)

From: Commander

To: Commander, Task Force 79

Subj: Combat After Action Report, Operation FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/  
LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/SALINE

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4, After Action Report, Operation  
FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/SALINE.

✓(2) BLT 2/4, After Action Report, Operation FORTRESS ATTACK, 27 Apr 68

✓(3) HMM-361, After Action Report, Operation FORTRESS ATTACK, 27 Apr 68

✓(4) HMM-363, After Action Report, Operation FORTRESS ATTACK/  
LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/SALINE, 11 Sep - 14 Oct 68

(5) Operation Overlay, FORTRESS ATTACK

1. Enclosure (1) contains the Commander Task Group 79.4's After Action  
Report for Operation FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/SALINE.

2. Enclosures (2) thorough (5) amplify enclosure (1).

*Paul R. Fields*  
PAUL R. FIELDS

DISTRIBUTION:

	Copy #
FG 79.4 Cmd Chronology	1-15
CG 9th MAB	16
CTG 76.4	17-18
COMNAVFORV	19
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HMM-361	21
HMM-363	22
BLT 2/4	23
CG 3d MarDiv	24
S&C File Copy	25

SECRET-NOFORN

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SECRET-NOFORN

COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT, OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/  
LANCASTER II/NAPOLION/SALINE

Map reference: VIETNAM, 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014 Sheets 6442 IV and 6342 I.

1. GENERAL

a. Operation FORTRESS ATTACK was a unilateral amphibious operation using helicopters to land the Landing Force. The operation included support of a follow-on in-country operation. FORTRESS ATTACK was commenced and OPCON passed to the in-country commander on 27 January 1968. The operation was conducted in accordance with NWP 22(B).

b. Operation FORTRESS ATTACK commenced with the landing of BLT 2/4 (-) by helicopter at 270903H Jan 68. Operational control of BLT 2/4(-) was passed to CG III MAF at 271500H Jan 68.

c. The Commander, Task Group 79.4, embarked aboard ARG/SLF shipping, retained operational control of HMM-361 (27 Jan - 10 Feb) and HMM-363 (10 Feb - 14 Mar) and provided helicopter, medical, and limited logistic support for BLT 2/4(-) during Operation FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/LANCASTER II/NAPOLION/SALINE.

d. Operation FORTRESS ATTACK was terminated by the Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet on 14 March 1968.

e. Operation KENTUCKY was a continuing search and destroy operation being conducted by the Ninth Marines in QUANG TRI Province north of Cam Lo. BLT 2/4(-) was under the OPCON of the CO 9th Marines during their participation in this operation. BLT 2/4(-) was given the mission of conducting an amphibious search and destroy operation against NVA forces in the amphibious objective area in the vicinity of C-2 (YD 135645) in QUANG TRI Province and other operations as ordered.

f. Operation LANCASTER II was a continuing search and destroy operation being conducted by the 4th Marines in QUANG TRI Province in the vicinity of Camp Carroll. BLT 2/4(-) was under the OPCON of the CO 4th Marines during their participation in this operation. BLT 2/4(-) was given the mission of providing the security of Khe Gio Bridge (vic YD 026562), the bridge vic YD 042566, and Route Nine between the two bridges.

g. Operation NAPOLION/SALINE was a continuing search and destroy operation being conducted by the 3rd Marines in QUANG TRI Province in the vicinity of the Cua Viet River. BLT 2/4(-) was under the OPCON of the CO 3rd Marines during their participation in this operation. BLT 2/4(-) was given the mission of securing the northwest bank from NVA interdiction and infiltration from vicinity YD 266635 to vicinity YD 310682.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION

a. Operation FORTRESS ATTACK (27 Jan - 14 Mar)

SECRET-NOFORN

Task Group 79.4	Colonel B. F. MEYERS
BLP 2/4	LtCol W. WEISE
HMM-361 (27 Jan - 10 Feb)	LtCol D. M. WILSON
HMM-363 (11 Feb - 14 Mar)	LtCol F. E. ALLGOOD
b. Operation KENTUCKY (27 Jan - 31 Jan)	
Task Group 79.4	Colonel B. F. MEYERS
HMM-361	LtCol D. W. WILSON
c. Operation LANCASTER II (31 Jan - 4 Mar)	
Task Group 79.4	Colonel B. F. MEYERS
HMM-361 (31 Jan - 10 Feb)	LtCol D. W. WILSON
HMM-363 (11 Feb - 4 Mar)	LtCol F. E. ALLGOOD
d. Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE (4 Mar - 14 Mar)	
Task Group 79.4	Colonel B. F. MEYERS
HMM-363	LtCol F. E. ALLGOOD

### 3. INTELLIGENCE

a. Terrain. The Amphibious Objective Area (AOA) is located in the northern portion of QUANG TRI Province, RVN. The specific area is bounded on the east by Highway #1, on the south by the Mieu Giang and Cam Lo Rivers, on the west by grid line YD 09 and on the north by grid line YD 71. The principal drainage media are the Mieu Giang and Cam Lo Rivers in the south. Except for the strip of rice cultivation in the southeastern portion of the AOA the landscape is characterized by gently rolling hills, these areas are open, seasonally inundated fields which are surrounded by dikes, often lined with hedgerows. The central portion is covered with dense to open broadleaf evergreen, secondary forest and brush, and some cultivated dry crops, and grassland. Towards the west, grassland and brush, with some light forest prevail. The most prominent terrain feature is Hill 158 at coordinates YD 114701.

#### b. Enemy Situation.

(1) General: Intelligence prior to the operation indicated that the 803rd Regiment, the 27th Independent MF Battalion, two unidentified units of company and battalion size and the Cam Lo LF Company were operating in the AOA. All of those units have the capability of reinforcing one another. All of the above units can be supported by the Van An Artillery Regiment located north of the Ben Hai River and the 164th Artillery Regiment located below the DMZ northwest of Con Thien. Combined strength of these forces totaled approximately 3,000.



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## (2) Order of Battle.

UNIT	LOCATION	STRENGTH	WEAPONS
803rd Regt (NVA)	YD 1070	1900	UNKNOWN
27th Indep Bn (NVA)	YD 1060	600	UNKNOWN
Cam Lo LF Co (LF)	YD 1359	125	UNKNOWN
Unidentified Bn	YD 1563	500	UNKNOWN
Unidentified Co	YD 1566	150	UNKNOWN

4. MISSION

As directed by COMSEVENTHFLT 251604Z Jan 68 (Initiating Directive), the mission assigned to CATF and CLF was commencing O/A 27 Jan 68, conduct a search and destroy amphibious operation against VC/NVA forces in Amphibious Objective Area vic C-2 position (YD 135645) in QUANG TRI Province and operations as agreed upon with CG III MAF or his designated representative.

5. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

a. Commencing at L-Hour on D-Day, selected assault elements BLT 2/4 are helicopter-borne into LZ Ash (Alternate - LZ Fir) and artillery batteries into predesignated positions provided by 12th Marines. Heavy combat support and support equipment to be surface landed as directed.

b. BLT 2/4: starting at L-Hour on D-Day, three rifle co's (Rein) and Alfa Command Group are helicopter-borne into LZ Ash. Btry W/3/12 is helicopter-borne into positions vic 172723 (A-3 position). Btry H/3/12 is helicopter-borne into positions vic YD 228598 (Dong Ha). One Co to remain as SLF reserve. Prepare for initial employment in C-2 area vic (YD 135645). Tank, antitank, and LVT plats to be surface landed on order. BLT comdr will recommend time of commitment of SLF reserve upon completion of landing of assault elements.

c. HMM-361 to provide helicopter support for movement of BLT 2/4 and required SLF ALFA comm equipment/personnel. Provide observation/fire suppression as required from avail helo augmentation.

d. Hotel Co 2/4 (Rein) was designated SLF reserve. Prepared for employment as ordered, maintain Sparrow Hawk plat, anticipate their commitment upon completion of helo lift of BLT 2/4 into LZ Ash.

6. EXECUTIONa. FORTRESS ATTACK.

(1) Operation FORTRESS ATTACK was executed in accordance with CTG 79.4 Operation Order No. 1 (DTG 261350Z Jan 68) and CTG 79.4 OP PLAN 120-(YR) supplemented by CTG 79.4 frag orders for operations in the amphibious objective area.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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(2) The Initiating Directive was issued by COMSEVENTHFLT prior to a specific objective being assigned in order to allow the ARG/SLF to assume a quick reaction posture.

(3) At 241540Z Jan 68 CATF and CLF received a request for a proposed amphibious landing of SLF ALFA units at C-2 area.

(4) CATF, in coordination with CLF, promulgated a proposed AOA for the operation at 260826Z Jan 68.

(5) At 260826H Jan 68, CATF, in coordination with CLF, submitted the concept of operations and requested an in-country commander be designated to control all supporting arms in the AOA.

(6) At 261108Z Jan 68 concurrence was received from COMSEVENTHFLT on the proposed amphibious operation.

(7) The first helicopter wave departed the USS IWO JIMA at 0900H and touched down in the landing zone at 270926H.

(8) BLT 2/4(-) was chopped to CG III MAF at 271500H Jan 68, and TG 76.4/79.4 remained in support of operations ashore.

b. KENTUCKY. During this in-country operation, TG 79.4 provided helicopter, medical, and limited logistic support for BLT 2/4(-).

c. LANCASTER II. (Same as KENTUCKY).

d. NAPOLEON/SALINE. (Same as KENTUCKY).

7. RESULTS. See enclosures (2) through (4).

8. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS. This analysis is limited to matters at the TG 79.4 level. The BLT and HMM Commanders' analyses are included in their reports, enclosures (2) through (4).

a. Planning.

(1) On 22 January 1968 CG, III MAF held an intelligence briefing at his CP for CTG 79.4 and CTF 76.4 representatives. No firm concept emerged, but the possibilities were discussed.

(2) SLF/ARG planners continued to visit Third MarDiv on a daily basis to keep abreast of the changing tactical situation.

(3) On 25 Jan 1968 CTG 79.4 and representatives of CTF 76.4 made liaison visits to Third Marine Division, 1st Marine Regiment, and 9th Marine Regiment to coordinate planning for a proposed operation in the C-2 area to commence on the 27th of January 1968. Planners returned to Third Marine Division CP the following day and the planning for Operation FORTRESS ATTACK commenced.

(4) The planning continued through the issuance of the final order on 26 January 1968. During the planning phase the following steps were accomplished:

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(a) Intelligence was obtained from current INPSUMS, area studies, and by liaison with in-country units. Maps were issued by CTG 79.4. No interpreter or interrogator/translator support was available.

(b) Radio frequencies were obtained on a tentative basis but the Communication Operating Instruction (COI) was not published prior to the operation.

(c) Arrangements were made for augmented helicopter support in the form of armed UH-1E's for helo escort and CH-53's and CH-46's for heavy lift requirements.

(d) Due to rapid reaction requirements no prior logistics liaison was conducted. CTG 79.4 OPlan 120A-(YR) provided immediate logistic instructions for use during the operation. An LSA was established within the Dong Ha Combat Base and that all resupply support would originate from there.

(e) Arrangements were made with the Ninth Marines to assume responsibility for Fire Support Coordination. This was to be coordinated by the Third Marine Division.

(f) The AOM was discussed, agreed upon, and command relationships were finalized.

(g) Establishment of a SLF liaison team with the "in-country" commander who would exercise OPCON of BLT 2/4 was discussed and finalized.

b. Command Relationships.

(1) Operation FORTRESS ATTACK was a unilateral amphibious operation with command relationships in accordance with NCP 22(B). Responsibility for control and coordination of supporting arms was passed to an in-country commander during the ship-to-shore movement. CLF reported the Landing Force firmly established ashore on 271500H January. OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) was chopped to an in-country commander during the operation.

(2) At 271500H CTG 79.4 chopped OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) to CG III MAF (CTG 76.4 270736Z Jan 68). CG III MAF simultaneously passed OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) to CG 3rd MarDiv (CG III MAF 280224Z Jan 68) and CG 3d MarDiv chopped OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) to the CO 9th Marines. OPCON of HMM-361 remained under CTG 79.4 during Operation FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/SALINE. Operation FORTRESS ATTACK was terminated 14 March 1968 (CG SEVENTHFLT 121306Z Apr 68).

c. Enemy Contact. There was no significant contact during the amphibious landing of BLT 2/4(-) into the C-2 area. HMM-361 helicopters reported three fire incidents during the afternoon resupply but no aircraft damage resulted.

d. Supporting Arms.

(1) Two UH-1E (armed) helicopters provided approach and retire-

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

SECRET-NOFORN

ment lane escort during the trooplift. No other supporting arms were planned for or used during the ship-to-shore movement.

(2) Third Marine Division provided coordination for fire support in AOA and approach and retirement lanes.

e. Logistics.

(1) Planning.

a. Prior to the commencement of Operation FORTRESS ATTACK, liaison was established with the 3rd MarDiv to coordinate logistic requirements.

b. It was determined that the 3rd MarDiv (9th M.R) would immediately assume operational control of the BLT upon arrival in-country. In-country supply sources would be available from FLSG BRAVO. The BLT LSA would be established in Dong Ha.

c. BLT 2/4 operations stocks afloat would be made available as required.

(2) Execution.

a. To provide for the necessary coordination of supply support, the BLT Shore Party Team was initially positioned at the Dong Ha LSA on D-Day.

b. During this operation (27 Jan - 14 Mar 1968) the BLT was under operational control of a number of Marine Regiments and operated from Camp Carroll northeast of Dong Ha and from the Cua Viet River region. The BLT LSA was relocated from Dong Ha to the 1st AMTRAC BN area at the mouth of the Cua Viet River when the BLT finally shifted its operation to that area. A Shore Party Liaison Team remained in the Dong Ha area to facilitate the transfer of supplies from FLSG BRAVO to the new LSA site and/or direct to the BLT position.

c. No insurmountable problems in re-supply were encountered. LFORM Class III, IV and V supplies were made available when critical needs existed.

d. The USS IWO JIMA was designated the Primary Casualty Receiving Ship (PCRS). Casualty liaison representatives from the BLT were positioned at Co D, 3rd MED BN, Dong Ha. Due to the distance involved in evacuating casualties directly to the PCRS when the BLT moved to the Camp Carroll area, the 3d Medical Bn facility was primarily utilized.

e. In-country maintenance facilities were available at FLSG BRAVO, however, both combat damage and required 3rd/4th echelon maintenance precipitated seaward evacuation, by ARG shipping to FLC, Da Nang, of one (1) M48A3 tank and two (2) LVTP5's. Numerous portable items were evacuated to FLC Da Nang where repair could not be accomplished at FLSG BRAVO.

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f. Casualty Reporting. Casualty reporting was conducted in accordance with current directives. The 9th MAB CRCC-ALFA was located aboard the USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), which was designated the Primary Casualty Receiving Ship. BLT 2/4 and IG 79.4 casualty representatives were positioned at CO "D", 3rd Medical Bn, Dong Ha, RVN to collect and pass casualty information concerning Special Landing Force ALFA personnel on to the 9th MAB CRCC-ALFA.

Casualty Recapitulation.

27 Jan - 14 Mar 68 FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/SALINE

a. Friendly

KIA	0	2	10	11
WIA	0	21	50	64
WIA NE	0	7	38	13
NON-HOSTILE	0	10	33	98
TOTAL	0	40	131	186

b. Enemy\*

KIA	0	0	41	104
DET	0	0	4	3

g. Civic Action. No civic action program was conducted due to the area of operation and the operational commitments.

h. ISO. A photographer and journalist were sent ashore with BLT 2/4 to provide informational services coverage.

i. Communications. Communications were established IAW CTG 79.4 OP Plan 120-67 and with the COI's issued separately. A message center was maintained afloat in conjunction with the USS IWO JIMA Naval Communication Center with CTG 79.4 assuming communications guard for BLT 2/4 and HMM-361/363. The following nets were entered or established during Operation FORTRESS ATTACK.

(1) III MAF Cmd #2 (HF/RATT)

CTG 79.4 entered this net (ORESTES-60 WPM) and maintained direct communications with III MAF, 3d MarDiv and CTG 79.5.

\*All enemy casualties were reported to Ninth Marines, (KENTUCKY) Fourth Marines (LANCASTER II) or Third Marines (NAPOLEON/SALINE)

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(3) 3d MarDiv TAC #2 (VHF)

CTG 79.4 entered this net maintaining covered (NESTOR) communications with 3d MarDiv, 3d Marines, 4th Marines, 9th Marines and CTG 79.5.

(3) SLF TAC #1 (VHF)

CTG 79.4 established this net with SLF ALFA liaison personnel in the field. Stations on this net were located at Dong Ha (3d MarDiv/9th Mar and Delta Med), Camp Carroll and with BLT 2/4 (at Camp Carroll/Cua Viet). An MRC-110 with KY-8 equipment was initially positioned in the 3d MarDiv/9th Marines area while AN/PRC-25's were utilized at the other positions. The MRC-110 was later positioned at the 3d Marines CP and finally in the BLT 2/4 CP to better satisfy the existing communications requirements. This net was used for situation, spot, casualty and administrative reporting as well as for Med-evac requests.

(4) SLF TAC #2 (HF)

Long range communications were needed frequently when the USS IWO JIMA moved to the Danang area to act as a Helo Haven, and also during certain Unrep conditions. An AN/MRC-83 (provided by BLT 2/4) was positioned with the AN/MRC-110 at Dong Ha and later with BLT 2/4 on the Cua Viet to provide HF communications between the ship and the in-country units. This net proved to be invaluable for backup to the VHF nets particularly so when both radios in the MRC-110 went out at the BLT 2/4 position.

Outstanding cooperation was provided by 3d MarDiv, 3d Marines, 4th Marines, 9th Marines and CTG 79.5 in relaying traffic to and from BLT 2/4 when the SLF could not contact the BLT over internal nets. Direct coordination was effected by the SLF Communication Officer with the Communication Officers of these units; the willingness of all units to give every possible assistance was outstanding.

Problems

a. Difficulties in maintaining communications were minimal but persistent. The usual VHF frequency interference was a constant problem, however, by trial and re-trial it was possible to come up with fairly consistent and reliable frequencies for both daytime and nighttime operations. Distances in excess of 20 miles between the ship and the land station make VHF communications uncertain and unreliable. KY-8 operation at this distance is impossible unless the signal is excessively strong.

b. This Headquarters was without the effective editions of the KAC-PX Operations Code during the period 11-12 March 68 due to the BLT displacing ashore and not issuing the SLF its copies prior to displacing. This problem was purely an oversight on the part of the BLT and will be closely watched on future BLT displacements from the ship. In the near future III MAF will issue all codes and keylists direct to the SLF vice 9th MAB and 3d MarDiv (via the BLT) which will preclude this same problem from happening again.

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CTG 79.4

00128-68  
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DATE

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**COMMANDER  
SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA**



COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 - 30 APRIL 1968

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*ALFA Alpha (79.4)*

**1**

*4. 7. 8*

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HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/RGL/der  
SER:003A15368  
1 June 1968

SECRET-NOFORN - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

From: Commander  
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 30 April 1968  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) BrigO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4 Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with references (a), (b), and (c).

*Alfred I. Thomas*  
ALFRED I. THOMAS

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CTG 79.5	7
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COMMANDER TASK GROUP 79.4

, COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 April 1968 to 30 April 1968

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PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION  
Task Group 79.4

COMMANDER  
Col B. F. MEYERS  
1-10 April 1968

LtCol P. R. FIELDS  
11-30 April 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

BLT 2/4  
1-30 April 1968

LtCol W. WEISE  
1-30 April 1968

HMM-363  
1-14 April 1968

Maj D. W. HOFFERT  
1-14 April 1968

HMM-362  
15-30 April 1968

Maj W. H. SHAUER, JR.  
15-30 April 1968

ATTACHED UNITS

NONE

2. LOCATION  
1-30 April 1968

USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2)  
1-30 April 1968

USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)  
1-30 April 1968

USS ALAMO (LSD-33)  
1-30 April 1968

USS WASHOE CTY (LST-1165)  
1-3 April 1968

USS WESTCHESTER CTY  
(LST-1167) 4-30 April 1968

3. STAFF OFFICERS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LtCol P. R. FIELDS  
1-10 April 1968

LtCol L. C. WITT  
11-30 April 1968

ADJUTANT/S-1

1stLt J. C. SMITH  
1-30 April 1968

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Capt B. J. BORCHELT  
1-30 April 1968

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ASST INTELLIGENCE OFFICER/  
AERIAL OBSERVER

Capt J. A. HATCHETT  
1-30 April 1968

OPERATIONS OFFICER

LtCol L. C. WITT  
1-30 April 1968

ASST OPERATIONS OFFICER

MAJ R. G. LEIDICH  
1-30 April 1968

FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Maj R. M. BLACK  
1-30 April 1968

AIR OFFICER

Maj J. M. BARNHART  
1-30 April 1968

LOGISTICS OFFICER

Maj R. P. MACPHERSON  
1-30 April 1968

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Maj W. B. LUDWICK  
1-30 April 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Hq, Task Group 79.4	10	34	0	0
BLT 2/4	55	1446	7	88
HMM-363	41	152	1	3
HMM-362	48	203	1	3

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## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During April BLT 2/4 continued its participation in Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE under the OPCON of the Third Marines. BLT 2/4(-) assigned mission continued to be to keep the north bank of the Cua Viet River clear to allow the safe flow of naval logistic traffic. Further, it is to deny the "Jones Creek" drainage system (a known infiltration route) to the enemy and to conduct search and destroy operations in the assigned AO.

As the month progressed, the mission of pacification grew in importance as thousands of Vietnamese Nationals moved back into the AO. MEDCAPS were conducted and three Popular Forces platoons trained with the BLT in general military subjects and small unit tactics.

H/3/12 was located at Dong Ha and was OPCON to the 12th Marines. W/3/12 was located at the BLT CP at Mai Xa Chanh and was OPCON to 3/12. ~~BLT 2/4~~. 1st Platoon, Co A, 5th AT Bn remained under the OPCON of Task Force Robbie. 1st Platoon, Co A, 5th Tank Bn was OPCON to BLT 2/4. 4th Platoon, Co B, 1st Amtrac Bn remained OPCON to 3d Amtrac Bn.

The first two days of April, the BLT was assigned as part of Operation TASK FORCE KILO, an operation that swept to the southern boundary of the DMZ. A night attack that involved the maneuver elements of the battalion on 27-28 April was a highlight of the month; this operation was nicknamed NIGHTOWL.

Generally, contact was light during the month until 30 April. After a three day battle (30 April - 2 May) in a village complex just outside the southwestern corner of the AO, it was realized that the enemy had been fortifying this complex for a long period.

HMM-363 and HMM-362 exchanged locations between the USS IWO JIMA and Phu Bai Air Facility on 15 April. Poor flying conditions prevailed through the first half of the month. The embarked UH-34D squadron continued to support BLT 2/4 by making admin, logistic, liaison, and medevac flights in support of Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE. Additionally, limited helo augmentation was provided to in-country commanders throughout the month.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 2 April 1968 Col J. A. CONWAY, ACof S G-3, 9th MAB departed
- 11 April 1968 Col B. F. MEYERS departed for duty as CO, 26th Marines; LtCol P. R. FIELDS assumed duty as CTG 79.4, auth 9th MAB msg 110035Z April 1968.
- 22 April 1968 LtCol P. H. SIMPSON, ACofS G-1, 9th MAB aboard for liaison visit
- 23 April 1968 LtCol P. H. SIMPSON, ACofS, G-1, 9th MAB departed  
Col J. A. ETHERIDGE, CofS, 9th MAB aboard for liaison visit
- 24 April 1968 Col J. A. ETHERIDGE, CofS, 9th MAB departed
- 29 April 1968 Capt H. W. HIGGINS, Adj, 9th MAB aboard for liaison visit
- 30 April 1968 Capt H. W. HIGGINS, Adj, 9th MAB departed

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PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

TAB A 1 CG 3d MarDiv 090152Z Apr 68  
2 HMM-363 150824Z Apr 68  
3 HMM-362 160355Z Apr 68

TAB B- BLT 2/4 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-30 April 1968

*Filed*  
TAB C- HMM-363 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-14 April 1968

TAB D- HMM-362 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 15-30 April 1968

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NNNN  
ZDK ZDK ZDK  
ZCZC033

BTAB29LV CFAR88NZVA 222VV PVAR59

PIYFUAK

RLNHVP 2271D 1000152

ZNY SSSSS

RUYFLAE T BLT THREE SLANT ONE

RUYFUAK T BLT TWO SLANT FOUR

RUMRNB T THIRD MED

O 090152Z APR 68

FM CG THIRD MARDIV

TO RUMHMA/CG PCV

OO RUMWAA/CG III MAF

FM HVR/CG FIRST AIR CAV DIV

REVT/THIRD MARDIV

FM THIRD SSG FIFTY AND CAV

BT

S O R E T

THAT IS TASK FORCE KILO (U)

AL MY 021455Z APR 68 (FRAG ORD 9-68)

THAT KISSE UK OPERATIONS TASK FORCE KILO TERMINATED 071700H  
APR 68.

AFTER ACTION REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED. ASAP.

BT

BT

APR 10 01 12 '68

A 17

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090152Z

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NNNNZC000210PA01W SHF0582 176

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PP RUMFUAK

DE RUMNAV 7830 1060824

ZNY SSSSS

P 150824Z APR 68

FM MARNEDHELTON THREE SIX THREE

TO AIG SIX ZERO

RUHSM ZXCG MYFPAC

RUMWAA/CG THIRD MAF

INFO ZEN/CG FIRST MAF

RUABQL/CG NINTH MAB

RUABQL/CTF NINTH MAB

RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFKRP/CTF SEVDF SIX

RUAUDB/CTG SEVEN NINE PT THREE

RUMFUAK/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR ✓

RUMFKRP/CTG SEVEN SIX PT NINE

RUAUDB/MARAIRGRU/ONE FIVE

ZEN/MARAIRGRU THREE SIX

RUMFUAK/USSIWO JIMA ✓

BT

S E C R E T

PPP MOMREP 150824Z APR, HMM-363, 01//

ORG RV HMM-363 21 UH-340802//

ARR P PHU BAI 150500Z1, 03//

CFN 150824Z0 150500Z1, 0243END

GP-4

BT

M  
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JH

150824Z

NNNN00

a-#2



VV AKAR2

PP RUAUDR RUHHEMA RUMWAA RUMHAW RUABOL RUMGUL

DE RUYSUAK 107 1070355

ZNY 55555

P 160355Z APR 63 7Y0 RUYS

FM MARMEDHELCON THREE SIX TWO

TO RUADU/CTG SEVEN NINE PT THREE

ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR ✓

INFO RUHHEMA/CG FMFPAC

RUMWAA/CG III MAF

RUMHAW/CG FMAW

RUABOL/CG NINTH MAB

RUMGUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR ✓

ZEN/USS IWO JIMA ✓

BT

SECRET

SECRET PPP 160355Z HMM-362 21//

ORG RV HMM-362 21 UH-34D 02//

CHG CHP 150400Z APRIL 63, CTG 79.3 FOR COMMAND LESS OFCON,

CTG 79.4 FOR OFCON, 03//

CFN 160355Z 150400Z 03//

GP-4

BT 10/OPS

F

M

NNNN

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CTG 79.4

00148-68

NUMBER

DATE

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**COMMANDER  
SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA**



COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1-31 May 1968

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*T.G. 79.4 (SLF Alfa)*

*May 1968*

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HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/RGL/djl  
SER: 003A17968  
27 Jun 1968

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From: Commander  
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 May 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) BrigO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4 Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a), (b), and (c).

*A. I. Thomas*

A. I. THOMAS

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CTG 79.5	7
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MAG-15	9
BLT 2/4	10
HMM-362	11
ProvServBn	12
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FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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SER:

003A17968

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From: Commander  
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 May 1968  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) BrigO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4 Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a), (b), and (c).

*A. I. Thomas*  
A. I. THOMAS

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COMMANDER TASK GROUP 79.4

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May 1968

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION  
Task Group 79.4

COMMANDER  
LtCol P. R. FIELDS  
1-2 May 1968

Col A. I. THOMAS  
3-31 May 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

BLT 2/4  
1-31 May 1968

LtCol W. WEISE  
1-2 May 1968

Maj C. W. KNAPP  
3-4 May 1968

LtCol L. A. RANN  
5-31 May 1968

HMM 362  
1-31 May 1968

Maj W. H. SHAUER JR.  
1-31 May 1968

ATTACHED UNITS

NONE

2. LOCATION  
1-31 May 1968

USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2)  
1-22 May 1968

USS PRINCETON (LPH-5)  
23-31 May 1968

USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)  
1-24 May 1968

USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)  
25-31 May 1968

USS ALAMO (LSD-33)  
1-27 May 1968

USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31)  
28-31 May 1968

USS WESTCHESTER CTY  
(IST-1167) 1-31 May 1968

3. STAFF OFFICERS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LtCol L. C. WITT  
1-2 May 1968

LtCol P. R. FIELDS  
3-31 May 1968

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ADJUTANT/S-1

1stLt J. C. SMITH  
1-31 May 1968

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Capt B. J. BORCHELT  
1-31 May 1968

ASST INTELLIGENCE OFFICER/AERIAL OBSERVER

Capt J. A. HATCHETT  
1-28 May 1968

OPERATIONS OFFICER

LtCol L. C. WITT  
1-31 May 1968

ASST OPERATIONS OFFICER

Maj R. G. LEIDICH  
1-31 May 1968

FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Maj R. M. BLACK  
1-17 May 1968

AIR OFFICER

Maj G. P. MURPHY  
27-31 May 1968

LOGISTICS OFFICER

Maj J. M. BARNHART  
1-31 May 1968

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Maj R. T. MACPHERSON  
1-31 May 1968

Maj W. B. LUDWICK  
1-31 May 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

Hq, Task Group 79.4

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
10	38	0	0
63	1682	7	93
45	230	1	3

BLT 2/1

HQM 362

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## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Special Landing Force ALFA participated in Operation Fortress Attack II/Napoleon/Saline from 1 May to 190001H May. The remainder of the month was spent enroute to Subic Bay, R. P. where an exchange of Amphibious Ready Group shipping took place. On 31 May, Special Landing Force ALFA embarked in ARG shipping at Subic Bay for return to the coastal waters of RVN.

On 3 May Colonel A. I. THOMAS relieved LtCol Paul R. FIELDS as Commander of Special Landing Force ALFA.

During May, BLT 2/4 continued participation in Operation Napoleon/Saline under the OPCON of Third Marines. Its mission continued to be that of keeping the Cua Viet River open to logistics traffic.

The first two days of the month found the entire BLT committed in a fierce battle that commenced 30 April outside the southwestern corner of the BLT AO in the village of Dai Do. On 2 May, the NVA launched two separate counterattacks that seriously threatened the BLT positions in Dai Do. Use of artillery, naval gunfire, close air strikes, and gun ships enabled the BLT to push the NVA out of Dai Do and reopen the Cua Viet River by 3 May.

During the critical stages of the battle on 2 May, a Sparrow Hawk platoon was formed from BLT personnel afloat and SLF personnel who augmented the BLT forces at the CP and the maneuver companies.

The CO of BLT 2/4 (LtCol William WEISE) was wounded on 2 May and the BLT Sergeant Major (SgtMaj John MAINAR) was KIA on that same day. On 16 May the BLT CP, formerly known as Mai Xa Chanh, was renamed Camp Big John in honor of SgtMaj MAINAR.

Total NVA KIA during the battle of Dai Do was 537; 3 POW were captured.

With the heavy casualties suffered by the BLT during this action and replacements arriving daily, the BLT AO was cut to approximately two grid squares during a reorganization and training period.

Significant contact occurred on 25 May at Nhi Ha 2 (YD 284714) with what was later discovered to be an NVA battalion. Artillery and air strikes were employed extensively in this 12 hour battle. The action resulted in 241 NVA KIA and 5 POW captured.

BLT 2/4 inflicted the following casualties on the NVA during May: KIA 751, 7 POW, 8 detainees.

HMM-362 continued participation in Operation Fortress Attack II/Napoleon/Saline in support of BLT 2/4. HMM-362 offloaded from the USS Iwo Jima on 18 May to Phu Bai and were chopped to the First Marine Air Wing. An average of six aircraft were provided to the First Marine Air Wing daily for augmentation purposes beginning 9 May.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

3 May 1968	Col A. I. THOMAS relieved LtCol P. R. FIELDS as CTG 79.4.
27 May 1968	Col J. A. ETHERIDGE, CofS, 9th MAB and Col M. W. SCHMIDT, ACofS G-4 aboard for liaison visit.
29 May 1968	Col J. A. ETHERIDGE, CofS, 9th MAB and Col M. W. SCHMIDT, ACofS G-4 departed.

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PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ TAB 1

1 ✓ CTG 79.4 MSG 021018Z MAY68

2 ✓ CTG 79.4 MSG 031336Z MAY68

3 ✓ CTG 76.4 MSG 161006Z MAY68

4 ✓ COMSEVENTHFLT MSG 161520Z MAY68

✓ TAB 2

BLT 2/4 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-31 MAY 1968

✓ TAB 3

HM-362 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-31 MAY 1968

✓ TAB 4

CTG 79.4 AFTER ACTION REPORT; OPERATION  
FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/SALINE

*Filed Sep*

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

VV AK4234  
 000000 ZL RIABQ  
 DE RIYUJAN 080 1231818  
 ZNY 00000  
 000000 Z 221818Z MAY 68 ZYU RUYS  
 FM CTO SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 TO CG NINEX MAB  
 BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1. LTR 100, WEISE 057754 USMC 100

1. LTR 100, WEISE, CO, BLT 244 WAS KIA 22 MAY 68 APPROX 1745H. RECEIVED WOUNDS BOTH LEGS. MAJ C.M. WAPP 055817 0000, EXECC, BLT 274

2. IN-COUNTRY OFCON COMMANDER HAS BEEN NOTIFIED.

3. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS KNOWN BY THIS COMD.

PP-4

BT

*Recd* MAY 21 1968 *JA*

*m*

*JA*

0210182

*Tab 1*

MAY 3 11 07 '68

VV AKA430  
 PP RUABQL RUHHFMA RUYNBL RUMFWAA RUMHLA RUMHVP RUMHAW RUMHFL  
 RUYNBUV RUYSUAE RUAUDB  
 DE RUYSUAK 113 1241336  
 ZNY EEEEE  
 P 031336Z MAY 68 ZYU RUYS  
 FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 TO RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 INFO RUHHFMA/CG FMFPAC  
 RUYNBL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUMFWAA/CG III MAF  
 RUABQL/CG FMFPAC (FWD)  
 RUMHLA/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUMHFL/CG FORLOGCOMD  
 RUYNBUV/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 CTG/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUYSUAE/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
 RUYSUAE/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
 RUAUDB/MAG ONE FIVE  
 RUABQL/RLT TWO SIX (REAR)  
 CTG/RLT TWO SLANT FOUR  
 CTG/NNN THREE SIX TWO  
 RUABQL/HQCO NINTH MAB

TOD/RYS.T-  
 JS/14077

PAGE TWO RUYSUAK 113 UNCLAS E F T O

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

CHANGE OF COMMAND TO 7004

LT COLONEL ALFRED L. THOMAS 345440 USMC RELIEVED LTCOL PAUL R.  
 FIELDS 049048 USMC AS COMMANDER SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA  
 (010 79.4) AT 001700H MAY 68. ALL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVES ISSUED  
 BY MY PREDECESSORS REMAIN IN EFFECT.

BT

**SECRET**

VV UAK563  
 OO RUHGUL RUMUGRA RUHHHQA RUHHERA RUMUHFA RUMUFKA RUHHFMA  
 RUMHAW RUABQL RUMHLA RUMHVP RUMSEB RUWJMSA RUMFCR RUMHNA  
 RUMHNB RUYNBUZ RUMNVHD RUMNVHE RUMFKRE  
 DE RUYEUAK 050 1371006  
 ZNY SSSSS ZYO RUYE  
 RUMFCR ZON-2  
 O P 161006Z MAY 68  
 FM CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 TO RUHGUL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUMUGRA/CG III MAF  
 INFO ZEN/TO SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 RUHHHQA/CINCPAC  
 RUHHERA/CINCPACFLT  
 RUMUHFA/COMUSMACV  
 RUMUFKA/CG SEVENTH AF  
 RUHHFMA/CG FMFPAC  
 RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUMHLA/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUABQL/CG FMFPAC (FWD)  
 RUMSEB/COMNAVFORV  
 RUWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC  
 RUMHVP/FIRST AMTRAC BN  
 RUMHVP/THIRD MARINES  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
 RUHHERA/COMNAVSUPPACT DANANG

PAGE TWO RUYEUAK 050 S E C R E T  
 RUMFCR/TU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT THREE  
 RUMHNB/CTF CLEARWATER  
 ZEN/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUYNBUZ/CTF SEVEN THREE  
 RUMFCR/CTF SEVEN SEVEN  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN THREE PT FIVE  
 RUMNVHD/CTF ONE ONE FIVE  
 RUMNVHE/CTG ONE ONE FIVE PT ONE  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT  
 RUMFCR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT ONE  
 RUMFKRE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE  
 RUMFCR/TU SEVEN SEVEN PT ONE PT TWO  
 ZEN/BLT TWO SLANT FOUR  
 RUMFCR/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT TWO  
 ZEN/COMPHIBRON SEVEN  
 BT

**SECRET**

721 1-23

**SECRET**

PAGE THREE RUYEAK 050 S E C R E T

S E C R E T

FORTRESS ATTACK II TERMINATION (C)

- A. CG II MAF 081412Z MAY 68 (NOTAL)
  - B. COMSEVENTHFLT 100512Z MAY 68 (NOTAL)
  - C. CG III MAF 100706Z MAY 68 (NOTAL)
  - D. COMSEVENTHFLT 112342Z MAY 68 (NOTAL)
1. REF A PROPOSED ARG/SIF SKED 1 MAY - 29 JUL AND WAS CONCURRED IN BY REF B. REF C PROPOSED A MODIFICATION TO REF A BY OFF-LOADING HHM-362 IN-COUNTRY ON 19 MAY AND WAS CONCURRED IN REF D. REF D FURTHER REPORTED ARG ALEA PLANNED DEPART 19 MAY VICE 21 MAY AND REQUESTED CG III MAF CONCURRENCE.
2. THE FOLLOWING FACTORS, RELEVANT TO OP FORTRESS ATTACK II, ARE PERTINENT:
- A. BLT 2/4 (REAR) WILL BE SHIFTED ASHORE 17 RPT 17 MAY.
  - B. LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF BLT 2/4 WILL TERMINATE 18 RPT 18 MAY.
  - C. HHM-362 WILL CHOP TO CG FIRST MAW 181800H8 MAY.
  - D. BLT 2/4 MEDEVAC RESPONSIBILITY WILL SHIFT TO CG THIRD MARDIV 171800H7 MAY.
3. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING AND SUBJECT CONCURRENCE CG III MAF, REQ TERMINATE OP FORTRESS ATTACK II AT 190001H1 MAY 68.

PAGE FOUR RUYEAK 050 S E C R E T

- 4. NINETY-SIX HOUR REACTION TO OPERATIONS IN I CTZ WILL BE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT SUBIC UPKEEP PERIOD AS ESTABLISHED IN REF A. TASK GROUP 76.4 UNITS TO DEPART I CTZ FOR ENR/UPKP SUBIC 19 MAY - 1 JUN 68.
  - 5. CTG 79.4 CONCURS.
- GP-4 (C) 1 JUN 68  
BT

NNNN

**SECRET**

NNNN PUSH NR06131

O 161520Z MAY 68

FM COMSEVENTHFLT  
 TO RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR ✓  
 RUMUGRA/CG III MAF  
 INFO RUHHHQA/CINCPAC  
 RUHHBRA/CINCPACFLT  
 RUMJHFA/KOMJSMACV  
 RUMUFKA/CG SEVENTH AF  
 RUHHFMA/CG FMFPAC  
 RUMHAW/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUMHLA/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 RUMHVP/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUABQL/CG FMFPAC (FWD)  
 RUMSBB/COMNAVFORV  
 RUMJMSA/COMPHIBPAC  
 RUMHVP/FIRST AMTRAC BN  
 RUMHVP/THIRD MARINES  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FIVE  
 RUMHNA/COMNAVSUPPACT DANANG  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE

16 MAY 68 1056z

BCST #39

PAGE TWO RUHGO 1207 SECRET  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT THREE  
 RUMHNB/CTF CLEARWATER  
 RUMFCR/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE ✓  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR ✓  
 RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUYNBUZ/CTF SEVEN THREE  
 RUMFCR/CTF SEVEN SEVEN  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN THREE PT FIVE  
 RUMNHVD/CTF ONE ONE FIVE  
 RUMNVHE/CTG ONE ONE FIVE PT ONE  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT ONE  
 RUMFKRE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT ONE PT TWO  
 RUMFCR/BLT HQ TWO SLANT FOUR ✓  
 RUMFCR/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT SEVEN PT TWO  
 RUMFCR/COMPHIBRON SEVEN ✓  
 BT  
 SECRET

FORTRESS ATTACK II TERMINATION (U)

A. YOUR 161206Z MAY 68

1. REF A APPROVED SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE CG III MAF.

GP-4

BT

m

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**SECRET**

CTG 79.4

0013968

NUMBER

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED  
NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

DATE

# COMMANDER SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA



## AFTER ACTION REPORT

Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/SALINE

EXCLUDED FROM REGRADING  
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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*79.79.4 (CTF 79.4) c/a FORTRESS ATTACK II / (270000 - 18 0000)  
NAPOLEON/SALINE*



DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FFO San Francisco 96602

3/RGL/der  
SER: 003A15868  
6 June 1968

SECRET-NOFORN - Unclassified upon removal of enclosures (1) through (3)

From: Commander  
To: Commander, Task Force 79

Subj: Combat After Action Report, Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/  
SALINE

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4 After Action Report, Operation  
FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/SALINE  
*filed 2-10* (2) HMM-363 After Action Report, Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II/  
NAPOLEON/SALINE  
(3) HMM-362 After Action Report, Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II/  
NAPOLEON/SALINE

1. Enclosure (1) contains the Commander, Task Group 79.4's After Action Report for Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/SALINE.

2. Enclosures (2) and (3) amplify enclosure (1).

*A. I. Thomas*  
A. I. THOMAS

DISTRIBUTION:

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COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT, OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/SALINE

Map reference: VIETNAM, 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014 Sheet 6442 IV

1. GENERAL

a. Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II commenced at 270800H March 68 upon return of ARG/SLF AREA from upkeep/rehab at Subic Bay, R. P. An amphibious landing was not conducted to commence this Operation.

b. BLT 2/4(-) continued to be chopped OPCON to Third Marines and participated in Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE throughout the period covered by Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II.

c. Commander, Task Group 79.4, embarked aboard ARG/SLF shipping, retained operational control of HMM-363 (27Mar - 15 Apr) and HMM-362 (15 Apr - 18 May) and provided helicopter, medical, and limited logistic support for BLT 2/4(-) during Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/SALINE.

d. Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE was a continuing search and destroy operation being conducted by the 3rd Marines in QUANG TRI Province in the vicinity of the Cua Viet River. BLT 2/4(-) was under the OPCON of the CO 3rd Marines while participating in this operation. BLT 2/4(-) was given the mission of securing the northwest bank of the Cua Viet River from NVA interdiction and infiltration from vicinity YD 266635 to YD 318690 and deny enemy use of rocket sites in AO.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION

Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/SALINE (27 March - 18 May)

Task Group 79.4

Colonel B. F. MEYER  
27 Mar - 11 Apr

LtCol P. R. FIELDS  
11 Apr - 3 May

Colonel A. I. THOMAS  
3 May - 18 May

HMM-363 (27 Mar - 15 Apr)

Maj D. W. HOFFERT

HMM-362 (15 Apr - 18 May)

Maj W. H. SHAUER

3. INTELLIGENCE

a. Terrain. The BLT Area of Operation (AO) was located in the northeastern portion of QUANG TRI Province, RVN. The specific area is bounded on the east by a line drawn approximately parallel to the coast of the Gulf of Tonkin about 2000 meters inland from that coast, on the west by grid line YD 26 and on the north by the southern line of the Demilitarized Zone. The landscape throughout the AO is

ENCLOSURE (1)

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characterized by rolling sand dunes interspersed with areas of rice cultivation around the villages in the area. The area is primarily open with little cover or concealment. That little concealment that is offered is provided by hedgerows in the rice growing area and small bushy areas along the Cua Viet River and Jones Creek, a small stream running north and south from the Cua Viet River to the Ben Hai River, through the villages of Lam Xuan (East And West) and Nhi Ha. The most prominent terrain feature is Hill 23 at coordinates YD 279719.

b. Enemy Situation.

(1) General. Intelligence prior to the operation indicated that the 270th Ind Regt., the 5th and 6th Battalions of the 52d Regt., 320th Inf. Division, the 3rd Battalion, 27th Ind. Regt., and the K400 Local Force Company were operating in the AO. All of these units had the capability of supporting each other and reinforcing each other and all of these units were supported by the Van An Artillery Regiment located north of the Ben Hai River through the eastern portion of the DMZ. The K400 LF Company's primary mission in this area was to act as guides and intelligence gatherers for the regular NVA units sent to operate there. One of the enemy's major infiltration routes from the DMZ south to the city of Quang Tri ran through the middle of the AO closely following the trace of Jones Creek. The combined strength of these forces was approximately 2,165 personnel.

(2) Order of Battle.

UNIT	LOCATION	STRENGTH	WEAPONS
270th Ind. Regt. (NVA)	YD 2566	710	UNKNOWN
5th Bn. 52d Regt. 320 Div.	YD 2471	545	UNKNOWN
6th Bn. 52d Regt. 320 Div.	YD 3049	510	UNKNOWN
3rd Bn 27th Ind. Regt.	YD 2670	350	UNKNOWN
K400 LF. Co.	YD 2273	60	UNKNOWN

(3) Operation's Effect on Enemy. During the month of April the enemy deployed the 320th Infantry Division composed of the 48th, 52nd, and 64th Regiments into the AO or in close proximity to the AO. The mission of these units was to interdict the protection Allied Forces were giving to the rice harvest and to cut off the shipping of supplies along the Cua Viet River thereby isolating Dong Ha. The morale of these enemy units was very high and they were well trained and equipped with exceptionally new weapons and uniforms. Once in the area, the enemy dug in well and established excellent defensive positions utilizing mutually supporting bunkers with interconnecting trenches. These bunkers were capable of withstanding air strikes, artillery and naval gunfire.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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(b) At the end of April and the beginning of May, the enemy initiated a major offensive throughout the AO. In the resulting battles the enemy suffered heavy losses of men and equipment. Since that time the enemy has gotten a high percentage of new replacements. It is unlikely that these replacements are as well trained or aggressive as the men who initiated the offensive at Dai Do. Prisoner of War interrogation reports indicate that the morale of the enemy is low and that his food supply is small.

(c) Again, on the 28th of Apr, 1968, the enemy renewed offensive action in the AO. Major units committed in this action were the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 48th Regiment. The enemy again sustained heavy losses.

(d) Neither the 270th Independent Regiment nor the 27th Independent Regiment were committed in strength during Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II. Both of these units are reported to be at full strength and could be utilized to spearhead a new major offensive in the AO.

#### 4. MISSION.

a. FORTRESS ATTACK II. COMSEVENTHFLT directed SLF/ARG ALFA to provide BLT 2/4(-) helicopter, medical, and limited logistic support during Operation NN OLEON/SALINE.

b. NAPOLEON/SALINE. Third Marines directed BLT 2/4(-) to continue the mission of securing the northwest bank of the Cua Viet River from NVA interdiction and infiltration from vicinity YD 266635 to vicinity YD 310682.

#### 5. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

a. CTG 79.4 maintained a liaison net with Third Marines and BLT 2/4(-) and made daily liaison visits to Third Marines and BLT 2/4(-).

b. The embarked squadron (HMM-363 or HMM-362) maintained a medevac standby and provided liaison, logistic, Command and Control, and admin flights. Additionally, two to six aircraft were provided daily to augment the First Marine Aircraft Wing in-country helo assets.

#### 6. EXECUTION.

a. FORTRESS ATTACK II. Due to the support nature of this operation, execution of the mission was generally an extension of procedures used during the latter part of FORTRESS ATTACK/KENTUCKY/LANCASTER II/NAPOLEON/SALINE. BLT 2/4(-) has operated in the vicinity of the Cua Viet River since 5 March.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

SECRET-NOFORN

b. NAPOLEON/SALINE. BLT 2/4(-) was assigned as part of Task Force Kilo, a multi-battalion operation that swept to the southern boundary of the DMZ, early in the month of April. As this operation terminated, BLT 2/4(-)'s mission returned to that of aggressive day and night operations and patrols within its AO.

7. RESULTS. See enclosures (2) and (3).

8. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS. This analysis is limited to matters at the TG 79.4 level. The HMM Commander's Analyses are included in their reports, enclosures (2) and (3).

a. Planning.

(1) Since Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II did not commence with an amphibious operation, no planning, as such, was necessary or required prior to initiating the operation.

(2) Throughout the operation continuous liaison was conducted with OPCON and supporting commands, particularly 3d MarDiv and 3d Marines, as well as BLT 2/4(-). Liaison officers were established, as required, at 3d Marines and a liaison team was continuously present at the BLT CP.

b. Command Relationships

(1) OPCON of BLT 2/4(-) was retained by 3d Marines during the period Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II was being conducted.

(2) OPCON of HMM-363 and HMM-362 remained under CTG 79.4 during Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II (27 Mar - 15 Apr and 15 Apr - 18 May, respectively).

c. Enemy Contact. None in Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II.

d. Supporting Arms. Not Applicable.

e. Logistics.

(1) Planning.

(a) Prior to the commencement of Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II liaison was effected with III MAF and ForLogComd to reestablish the arrangements for ARG/SIF assistance to BLT 2/4 without interference with in-country channels.

(b) BLT 2/4 was to continue under operational control of 3d MarDiv (3d Marines). The Class II supply source was to remain at ForLogComd; source of other supplies would continue to be FLSG Bravo. The BLT ISA was split between Dong Ha and Cua Viet River mouth.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET-NOFORN

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(c) Access to supplies/equipment afloat and emergency access to LFORM supplies were to become available to the BLT upon arrival of ARG shipping.

(2) Execution.

(a) During this operation BLT 2/4(-) remained under the operational control of 3d Marines and operated from Mai Xa Chanh (West) (later designated as "Camp Big John") on the north bank of the Cua Viet River at Jones Creek. Supplies were available from both Dong Ha and Cua Viet River mouth and the LSA was split between these two locations. As supply traffic on the river increased, transportation from the river mouth to Mai Xa Chanh became less readily available. Accordingly, the LSA was concentrated at Dong Ha.

(b) When the Cua Viet River was closed due to enemy mining, and when emergency resupply requirements arose, the BLT was resupplied by SIF ALFA helicopters lifting supplies from Dong Ha and/or ARG shipping.

(c) No insurmountable problems in resupply were encountered. Class III, IV, and V LFORM and rations were made available when critical needs existed.

(d) BLT 2/4 assets were used not only to supply the BLT, but also on occasion to supply adjacent U.S. Army units in the 3d Marines AO.

(e) The USS IWO JIMA was designated as Primary Casualty Receiving Ship (PCRS). Casualty liaison representatives from the SIF were positioned at Co D, 3d MedBn (Delta Med), Dong Ha. To enhance control of the flow of casualties, a system was developed for shifting Medevac helicopters and communication guard to the USS CLEVELAND whenever the IWO JIMA had to move beyond effective communication/reaction range. When the flow of casualties overloaded IWO JIMA's facilities during the period 29 Apr - 2 May, arrangements were made for USS VALLEY FORGE and USS REPOSE to receive the overflow.

(f) In-country maintenance facilities were available at FLSG Bravo, however, many major items were evacuated by ARG shipping to FLC, Danang, where parts availability and facilities were better.

f. Casualty Reporting. Casualty reporting was conducted in accordance with current directives. The 9th MAB CRCC ALFA was located aboard the USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), which was designated the Primary Casualty Receiving Ship. BLT 2/4 and TG 79.4 casualty representatives were positioned at Co "D", 3d Medical Bn, Dong Ha, RVN to collect and pass casualty information concerning Special Landing Force ALFA personnel on to the 9th MAB CRCC ALFA.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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CASUALTY REGULATION

27 March 1968 - 19 May 1968      FORTRESS ATTACK II/NAPOLEON/SALINE

## a. FRIENDLY

KIA	74
DOW	5
MIA	299
WIA	215
NON-HOSTILE CASUALTIES	104
DAI	1
TOTAL	698

g. Civic Action. No civic action program was conducted due to the area of operation and the operational commitments.

h. ISO. A photographer and journalist were sent ashore with BLT 2/4 to provide informational services coverage.

i. Communications. Communications were established IAW CTG 79.4 OP Plan 120A-(YR) and TG 79.4 COI dtd 28 Mar 68. A message center was maintained afloat in conjunction with the USS IWO JIMA Naval Communications Center; CTG 79.4 maintained message distribution responsibility for BLT 2/4 and HMM-363/362. The following nets were established/entered during Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II:

(1) 3d MarDiv TAC #2 (VHF)

CTG 79.4 entered this net establishing communications (covered/uncovered) with 3d MarDiv, 3d Marines, 9th Marines, 26th Marines, CTG 79.5 and 1st AmTrac Bn.

(2) SLF TAC #1 (VHF)

CTG 79.4 established this net with SLF ALFA liaison personnel in the field. Equipment and personnel were utilized in the same manner as for Operation FORTRESS ATTACK. Liaison stations were established in the following manner:

(a) Delta Med (Dong Ha) utilizing PRC-25 and RC-292.

(b) BLT 2/4 CP (Mai Xa Chanh) utilizing MRC-83, MRC-110, PRC-25, PRC-47 and RC-292. The MRC-110 was moved to the 3d Marines CP for approximately one week during the operation/sweep north of the Cua Viet (Task Force Kilo); this was done to facilitate more rapid transmission

ENCLOSURE (1)

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SECRET-NOFORN

of reports to the SIF Hqtrs coming direct to the 3d Marines CP from the field. The PRC-25 was utilized at the BLT 2/4 CP location whenever possible to relieve the strain on the MRC-110 radio vehicle. The MRC-110 was used extensively for passing traffic in the covered mode. This net was used for situation, spot, casualty and administrative reporting as well as for Med-Evac requests.

(3) SLF TAC #2 (HF)

This net was activated when SIF TAC #1 was non-operational due to distance factors or equipment outages. The MRC-83 assigned to the SLF liaison team by BLT 2/4 was deadlined after approximately two weeks operation and was unavailable for SIF liaison team use for the remainder of Operation FORTRESS ATTACK II. The MRC-83 used by the BLT 2/4 S-4 was available when needed for passing traffic back to the SIF Hqtrs. Repeated attempts were made to utilize the PRC-47's on this net, however, communications via this means was unsatisfactory due to the non-availability of operational BB-451 batteries.

Operations codes were used extensively for passing classified and unclassified traffic when out of range for KY-8 utilization.

Outstanding cooperation was again provided by 3d MarDiv, 3d Marines and TG 79.5 in relaying traffic to and from field units when TG 79.4 was out of voice contact with the applicable field units.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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**SECRET**

CTG 79.4  
00170-68

NUMBER

DATE

**COMMANDER  
SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA**



COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 - 30 JUNE 1968

0014666

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DECLASSIFIED

T.G. 79.4 (SLF)

0014666

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HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/JMB/pel  
003A20968  
27 July 1968

SECRET- NOFORN - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

From: Commander  
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 30 June 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8  
(c) BrigO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Commander Task Group 79.4 Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with references (a), (b), and (c).

*A. I. Thomas*  
A. I. THOMAS

DISTRIBUTION:	CG 9th MAB	1 - 2
	CG 3d MARDIV	3
	CG 1st MAW	4
	CTG 76.4	5
	CTG 79.5	6
	RIT-26 (Rear)	7
	MAG-15	8
	BLT 2/4	9
	HMM-362	10
	S&C File	11 - 12

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003A20968  
27 July 1968

COMMANDER TASK GROUP 79.4

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 June to 30 June 1968

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF EVENTS

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET- NOFORN

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET - NOFORN

003A20968  
27 July 1968PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

- 1.
- DESIGNATION
- 
- Task Group 79.4

COMMANDER  
Col A. I. THOMAS  
1 - 30 Jun 68SUBORDINATE UNITSBLT 2/4  
1 - 30 Jun 68LtCol L. A. RANN  
1 - 30 Jun 68HMM - 362  
1 - 30 Jun 68Maj W. H. SHAUER JR  
1 - 30 Jun 68

## ATTACHED UNITS

NONE

- 2.
- LOCATION
- 
- 1 - 30 Jun 68

USS PRINCETON (LPH-5)  
1 - 30 Jun 68USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)  
1 - 30 Jun 68USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31)  
1 - 30 Jun 68USS WESTCHESTER CTY (LST-1167)  
1 - 21 Jun 68USS WASHOE CTY (LST-1165)  
22 - 30 Jun 68

- 3.
- STAFF OFFICERS
- 
- EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LtCol P. R. FIELDS  
1 - 30 Jun 68

ADJUTANT/S-1

1stLt J. C. SMITH  
1 - 30 Jun 68

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Capt B. J. BORCHELT  
1 - 30 Jun 68ASST INTELLIGENCE OFFICER/  
AERIAL OBSERVER

NOT ASSIGNED

OPERATIONS OFFICER

LtCol L. C. WITT  
1 - 30 Jun 68ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET - NOFORN

SECRET - NOFORN

003A20968

27 July 1968

ASST OPERATIONS OFFICER

Maj R. G. LEIDICH  
1 - 30 Jun 68

FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Maj G. P. MURPHY  
1 - 30 Jun 68

AIR OFFICER

Maj J. M. BARNHART  
1 - 30 Jun 68

LOGISTICS OFFICER

Maj R. T. MACPHERSON  
1 - 30 Jun 68

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Maj W. B. LUDWICK  
1 - 30 Jun 68

## 4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

Hq Task Group 79.4  
BLT 2/4  
HMM - 362

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
10	35	0	0
62	1453	7	93
43	229	1	3

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET - NOFORN

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003A20968  
27 July 1968PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 2 June Special Landing Force Alfa arrived off the coastal waters of RVN from Subic Bay; HMM-362 backloaded from Phu Bai Air Facility to the USS Princeton this same day. BLT 2/4 (-) had been helilifted from Mai Xa Chanh XD 279668 area to LZ Stud XD 002483 on 31 May and chopped OPCON to Task Force Hotel to participate in Operation Scotland II.

The first 13 days of June, the BLT (-) was under the OPCON of the First Marines and participated in a series of helicopterborne assaults on a series of objectives South of National Route 9 and the Khe Sanh Combat Base.

On 14 June the BLT (-) was chopped to the Fourth Marines and immediately helilifted to a known NVA road just north of Laos/Vietnamese border. The mission was to conduct a three day search and destroy operation along the road. Attacking eastward along the road the BLT maneuver elements met little resistance but uncovered and destroyed much NVA equipment.

On 17 June two of the maneuver elements and the Alfa Command Group were helilifted to LZ Cates to prepare positions and provide security for the construction of a fire base. Companies "G" and "H" were helilifted to LZ Stud.

On 20 June Company "H" was helilifted to hill 504 XD 966467 and on 21 June, Company "G" was helilifted to hill 512 XD 954451. This gave BLT 2/4 (-) mutually supporting positions along the high ground north of route 9. The primary mission was that of preventing the interdiction of Route 9 from the north while the Combat Base at Khe Sanh was being dismantled and evacuated. The remaining assets of the BLT were deployed throughout the northern I Corps area.

HMM-362 participation in Operation Fortress Attack III/Scotland II was in support of BLT 2/4 after having been chopped from the First Marine Aircraft Wing on 2 June. An average of 7.1 aircraft were provided to the First Marine Aircraft Wing daily for augmentation purposes beginning 3 June.

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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27 July 1968

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

NONE

ENCLOSURE (1)  
SECRET - NOFORN

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET - NOFORN

003A20968  
27 July 1968

PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ TAB 1      1 ✓ CTF 76 MSG 270314Z MAY 68  
             2 ✓ FIRST MARINES MSG 140025Z JUN 68  
             3 ✓ NINTH MARINES MSG 180040Z JUN 68
- ✓ TAB 2      BLT 2/4 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1 - 30 JUNE 1968 } *Filed*
- ✓ TAB 3      HMM - 362 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1 - 30 JUNE 1968 } *Sep*
- TAB 4 ✓      CTG 79.4 Combat After Action Report Operation  
             FORTRESS ATTACK III/SCOTLAND II, 2 Jun - 9 Jul 68

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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**CONFIDENTIAL**

NNNNVV MMSHDDNCZCEM T84

RR RUYNBJC

DE RUMFCMU 2546 148023

ZNY CCCCC ZVO RUMDVK

DE RUMFKRV 569 148037

ZNY CCCCC ZVO RUMNVH

R 270344Z MAY 68

FM CTF SEVENM SIA

TO RUYNBJC/C78 SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

INFO RUMGUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUYNBJC/CIG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

RUMGUL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMGUL/CG III MAF

RUVEUAE/CTA SEVEN SIX PT FIVE

RUVEUAE/CTB SEVEN NINE PT FIVE

BT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MISSION A: SIGNMENT (U)

1. UNODIR COMSEVENTHFLT, FOR MISSION ASSIGNED OPN FORTRESS ATTACK III;

UPON ARRIVAL TG 76.4 IN RVN WATERS RECONSTITUTE ARG ALFA AND PROVIDE

SUPPORT TO SLF ALFA ELEMENTS OPERATING IN-COUNTRY.

2. CONFER WITH ARG/SLF STAFF FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND BRIEFING COVERING

TIME TG 16.4 OFF THE LINE.

CI-4

BT

T8R

MMS/06542  
A23/CC

W/U = 3860

SNO

SAC  
TACRON

DTE 270344Z

TR 1-1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**SECRET**

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R  
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REZCZC772VV FFB5412837  
OO RUYSUAC  
ZNY SSSSS  
OTISZYU/ RUMNCMV1249 1660000-SSSS--RUYSUAC.  
ZNY SSSSS  
DE RUMNJP 501A 1660025  
ZNY SSSSS  
O P 140025Z JUN 68  
FM 1ST MARINES  
TO ZEN/CG TASK FORCE HOTEL  
ZEN7/4TH MARINES  
INFO RUMHLA/CG 1ST MARDIV  
RUYSUAC/2D BN 4TH MARINES  
BT

S E C R E T

OPCON OF UNIT

1. 140720H, CHOPPED OPCON OF 24 TO CG, TF HOTEL.

GP-4/

BT

IC

TOR/2038Z  
ARL/AZ13

WU  
Z/S 4239

NNNN

TTC 2515

SIF 12

1A

140025Z

Tab 1-2  
**SECRET**

**SECRET**

ZCZC787VV FFB6190428

OO RUYSUAC

ZNY SSSSS

OITSZYUW RUMHCTA0270 1720000-SSSS--RUYSUAC.

ZNY SSSSS

DE RUMHVP 7143D 1700040

ZNY SSSSS

O 180040Z JUN 68

FM NINTH MARINES B

TO ZEN/C3 THIRD MARDIV

INFO ZEN/FOURTH MAR

ZEN/NINTH MAR

RUYSUAC/SECOND BN FOURTH MAR

BT

SECRET

OPCON

A. TELCONSTITH 3RD MARDIV 171730H JUNE 68

1. IAW REF A, ASSUMED OPCON 2ND BN 4TH MAR FM 3D MAR

DIV EFFECTIVE 171600H JUN 68

GP-4

BT

TOR	09212
KA	1143

SLF 12

NNN

IN

wa	3954
----	------

170044

Tab 1-#3

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**SECRET**

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED  
NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

NUMBER

DATE

# COMMANDER SPECIAL LANDING FORCE ALFA



## AFTER ACTION REPORT

OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK III/SCOTLAND II

EXCLUDED FROM REGRADING  
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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T.G. 79.4 (S&E)  
1/12 FORTRESS ATTACK III/  
SCOTLAND II  
(to be removed)

Tab 4

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.4  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/JMB/pel  
003A20468  
22 July 1968

SECRET - NOFORN - Unclassified upon removal of enclosures (1) and (2)

From: Commander  
To: Commander, Task Force 79

Subj: Combat After Action Report, Operation Fortress Attack III/  
Scotland II

Ref: (a) COMSEVENTHFLT 201 Plan  
(b) CTF 79 120 Plan

Encl: ✓(1) Commander, Task Group 79.4 After Action Report, Operation  
Fortress Attack III/Scotland II  
*Sited sep* ✓(2) HMM-362 After Action Report, Operation Fortress Attack III/  
Scotland II

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted in accordance with references  
(a) and (b).

*A. I. Thomas*  
A. I. THOMAS

DISTRIBUTION: TG 79.4 Cmd Chronology 1 - 12  
CG 9th MAB 13  
CTG 76.4 14 -  
COMNAVFORV 15  
CTG 79.5 16  
HMM - 362 17  
CG 3D MARDIV 18  
S&C File Copy 19

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003A20468  
22 July 1968COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT, OPERATION FORTRESS ATTACK III/SCOTLAND II

MAP REFERENCE: VIETNAM 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014 Sheets 6342I, 6342II, 6342III, 6341I and 6341IV

1. General

a. Operation Fortress Attack III commenced at 021200H June 68 upon return of ARG/SIF Alfa from upkeep/rehab at Subic Bay, R. P. An amphibious landing was not conducted to commence this operation.

b. BLT 2/4 (-) had chopped Opcon from Third Marines in the Napoleon/Saline area to Task Force Hotel at 311400H May 68. BLT 2/4 (-) was moved from Mai Xa Chanh (YD 279664) to LZ Cameo (YD 002483) in the Scotland II area. Initially BLT 2/4 (-) was chopped Opcon to First Marines; at 140720H BLT 2/4 (-) was chopped Opcon to Fourth Marines until the conclusion of Fortress Attack III at 100001 H July 68.

c. Commander Task Group 79.4 embarked aboard ARG/SIF shipping, retained operational control of HMM-362 and provided limited helicopter, medical and logistic support for BLT 2/4 (-) during Operation Fortress Attack III/Scotland II.

d. Operation Scotland II is a continuing search and destroy operation being conducted by Task Force Hotel (First and Fourth Marines) in Quang Tri Province in the vicinity of Khe Sanh. From 1 June through 13 June BLT 2/4 (-) was given the mission of securing various positions, often in a coordinated attack with 1/1. From 14 June to the operation termination BLT 2/4 (-) was given the task of keeping Route 9 open from Khe Sanh to the East by occupying the high ground to the North of Route 9. During this period the Khe Sanh Combat Base was dismantled leaving only 1/1 in the vicinity of Khe Sanh.

2. Task Organization

Operation FORTRESS ATTACK III/SCOTLAND II ( 2 June - 9 July )

Task Group 79.4

Colonel A. I. THOMAS

HMM - 362

Major W. H. SHAUER

3. Intelligence

a. Terrain. The BLT area of operation (AO) was located in the Western portion of Quang Tri Province, RVN. The BLT was constantly on the move during its participation in the operation. The general area in which the BLT operated is bounded on the North by XD 7948, on the

ENCLOSURE (1)

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003A20468  
22 July 1968

East by YD 0448, on the South by YD 0423 and on the West XD 7923. The landscape throughout the AO is mountainous, characterized by extremely steep slopes that are covered by dense undergrowth and double canopy forest. Concealment and cover is from fair to good throughout the area. The most prominent terrain features are hills: 749 (XD 865271), 663 (XD 828321), 843 (XD 893326), 908 (XD 942312), 691 (XD 927443), 512 (XD 953451), 504 (XD 967466) and 950 (XD 845455).

b. Enemy Situation

(1) General. Intelligence prior to the operation indicated that the following units were within the AO; the 304th Division with its 9th, 24th, 57th and 66th Infantry Regiments, supported by the 68th Artillery Regiment; The 95th Infantry Regiment, 101st Infantry Regiment and the 78th Artillery Regiment from the 325C Division; the 308th Division with two Regiments, the 88th and 102nd. The combined strength of these forces was approximately 20,000 personnel. All of these units were regular NVA.

(2) Order of Battle

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>WEAPONS</u>
304 Div Hq	XD 7346	500	Unk
9th Regt	XD 8240	1,850	Unk
24th Regt	XD 9144	1,850	Unk
57th Regt	XD 7346	2,500	Unk
66th Regt	XD 7541	1,850	Unk
68th Arty Regt	XD 7434	1,950	Unk
95th Regt 325C Div	XD 6839	1,735	Unk
101st Regt 325C Div	XD 8139	1,675	Unk
78th Arty Regt 325C Div	XD 8836	1,950	Unk
88th Regt 308 Div	XD 8626	Unk	Unk
102nd Regt 308 Div	XD 8737	1,850	Unk
83rd Eng Regt	XD 9229	Unk	Unk

(3) Operation Effect on Enemy

a. There were two new units employed during the operation, they were:

1. The 308 Division was introduced into the area when friendly forces threatened enemy operations south of Khe Sanh. This division conducted a brief but limited offensive with two of its regiments (the 88th and 102). The 308 Division was well trained and equipped for night operations. The 308 Division was new in RVN and was known to the NVA as one of the five "Steel Divisions". (The Steel

ENCLOSURE (1)

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003A20468  
22 July 1968

Divisions were noted as having been composed of crack, elite troops, and were organized for the defense of the homeland). This division also made use of luminous ID tags which helped greatly in night attacks. However, even with it's training and preparation the 102nd Regiment alone lost approximately 330 men in three night attacks against friendly forces. The unit deployed with outstanding control until the attacks started on the friendly positions. At this time the enemy's attacks were broken by the confusion resulting from concentrated fires from allied defensive positions.

2. The 83d Engineer Regiment was deployed during the operation. The mission of the regiment was to build a road (Route 926) from Xe Pon River (Laos/RVN Border) through RVN and link up with points further east.

b. The enemy's mission in the AO was to inflict heavy casualties on friendly forces and to use combat units to engage friendly forces, keeping them away from their road. Of this mission the enemy only managed to give the 83d Engineer Regiment time to move ahead, as friendly forces pushed along this road destroying construction equipment and cratering the road.

c. The enemy, desperate because of the upset in his plans, tried again to get a military victory at any cost. He attempted to inflict heavy casualties on friendly forces by attacking during the daylight hours, generally at dawn. These attacks resulted in the enemy suffering heavy casualties without causing excessive damage to allied forces. Friendly operations placed the enemy forces off balance to some degree, forcing him into an evasive/defensive posture. Sweeps conducted during the latter part of the operation proved this to be true for the enemy would abandon his positions without contact.

d. The BLT moved to positions on the high ground to the north of Route 9 in order to protect the allied forces from attack as they withdrew from Khe Sanh. While the BLT was at this position, the enemy shifted his tactics from avoiding contact to attacking with small units elements of the BLT in attempts to lure them from their defensive positions into the enemy's killing zones. This maneuver worked on several occasions and has resulted in the enemy being able to inflict casualties on the BLT while suffering very few himself. The enemy has not made an attempt to penetrate the BLT's screening position and attack the withdrawal of friendly units from Khe Sanh but has appeared content to harass the BLT with the above mentioned tactics.

e. Indications are that the 308 Division is to move to the south once the withdrawal is completed and construct bunkers and fighting positions on the move so that they will be ready for occupation in the event allied forces should re-enter the Khe Sanh area in strength again.



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003A20468  
22 July 1968

It is probable that the Khe Sanh area will be occupied by an enemy force of regimental size or less to act as a screening and harrassing force after the 308 Division withdraws.

#### 4. Mission

a. Fortress Attack III. COMSEVENTHFLT directed SIF/ARG Alfa to provide BLT 2/4 (-) helicopter, medical and logistic support during Operation Scotland II.

b. Scotland II. Task Force Hotel directed BLT 2/4 (-) to continue the search and destroy operations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh. On 14 June, after being chopped opcon to Fourth Marines, Fourth Marines directed BLT 2/4 (-) to deny the NVA interdiction and infiltration routes from the north to Route 9.

#### 5. Concept of Operations

a. CTG 79.4 maintained a liaison net with Third Marine Division, First Marines, Fourth Marines and BLT 2/4 (-). CTG 79.4 made daily liaison visits to Task Force Hotel, First or Fourth Marines, and BLT 2/4 (-).

b. The embarked squadron (HMM - 362) maintained a medevac standby and provided liaison, logistic, and Command and Control flights. Additionally, an average of 7.4 aircraft were provided daily to augment the First Marine Aircraft Wing in-country helo assets.

#### 6. Execution

a. Fortress Attack III. Due to the support nature of this operation, execution of the mission was generally an extension of procedures used during Fortress Attack II/Napoleon/Saline. Due to the distance from BLT 2/4 (-), medical and logistic support was limited somewhat compared to the time frame in which BLT 2/4 (-) was in the vicinity of the Gue Viet River (5 March - 31 May 68).

b. Scotland II. BLT 2/4 (-) was opcon to First Marines the first half of June and conducted search and destroy operations in the mountainous terrain around Khe Sanh. During the remainder of June and through 9 July, BLT 2/4 (-) became opcon to Fourth Marines and occupied the high ground north of Route 9 between Khe Sanh and Ca Lu to keep this road open for vehicular traffic. BLT 2/4 (-) also assisted in the construction of fire bases at their positions for USMC artillery units.

#### 7. Results. See enclosure (2)

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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SECRET - NOFORN

003A20468  
22 July 1968

8. Commander's Analysis. This analysis is limited to matters at the TG 79.4 level. The HMM Commander's analysis is included in his report, enclosure (2).

a. Planning

(1) Since Operation Fortress Attack III did not commence with an amphibious operation, no planning, as such, was necessary or required prior to initiating the operation.

(2) Throughout the operation continuous liaison was conducted with OPCON and supporting commands, particularly 3d MARDIV and Task Force Hotel, as well as BLT 2/4 (-). Communications liaison teams were established at varying points throughout the operation to maintain communications between the SLF, BLT 2/4 (-), and medical facilities.

b. Command Relationships

(1) OPCON of BLT 2/4 (-) was retained by First Marines until 140720H June 1968, when BLT 2/4 (-) was chopped opcon to Fourth Marines.

(2) HMM - 362 was opcon to CTG 79.4 during Operation Fortress Attack III.

c. Enemy Contact. None on Operation Fortress Attack III.

d. Supporting Arms. Not applicable

e. Logistics

(1) Planning

(a) At the conclusion of Operation Fortress Attack II liaison was effected with III MAF and ForLogComd to resume ABC/SLF assistance to BLT 2/4 upon commencement of Operation Fortress Attack III.

(b) BLT 2/4 was to continue under operational control 3d MARDIV (3d Mar). The class II supply source was to remain at ForLogComd; source of other supplies was to continue to be FLSG Bravo. The BLT ISA was located at Dong Ha.

(c) Helicopter support having been curtailed, BLT access to supplies and equipment afloat was to be limited to that which could be landed by surface means.

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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003A20468

22 July 1968

(2) Execution

(a) Upon return of the SLF from Subic it was determined that BLT 2/4 (-) had chopped to Task Force Hotel and was operating in the vicinity of Khe Sanh. The bulk of battalion supply had been shifted from Camp Big John to Dong Ha. A forward element of the ISA was operating at LZ Stud, receiving supplies by "Rough Rider" convoy from Dong Ha and forwarding them via available helo-lift.

(b) This relocation did not affect the degree of logistic assistance provided by the ARG/SLF, but transit times were greatly increased for both delivery and retrograde of materiel.

(c) ARG landing craft carried personnel, supplies and equipment between the ships and Dong Ha at least once each week. They were also used to complete the move of equipment from Camp Big John to Dong Ha and to evacuate BLT deadlined equipment from Cua Viet River mouth. Boat convoys ranged in size from two to four LCM-8s.

(d) No insurmountable supply problems were encountered. In-country supply sources provided essential supplies to the BLT.

(e) In-country maintenance facilities were available at FLSG Bravo; however, many major items were evacuated by ARG shipping to FLC, Danang. BLT elements were spread from Khe Sanh to Cua Viet River mouth and from Con Thien to Quang Tri, which degraded the capability to exercise maintenance control. This difficulty was partly overcome by eliciting the cooperation of Opcon commanders, notably 1st AmTrac Bn and 3d Tank Bn.

(f) The USS Princeton was designated as primary Casualty Receiving Ship (PCRS) and SLF casualty liaison representatives were positioned at Company "D" 3d Medical Bn (Delta Med), Dong Ha. The Med-evac comm guard remained with 3d MARDIV because of time/space factors, and additional emphasis was placed on evacuation of casualties from Delta Med to the PCRS.

f. Casualty Reporting. Casualty reporting was conducted in accordance with current directives. The 9th MAB CRCC Alfa was located aboard the USS Princeton (LPH-5) which was designated the Primary Casualty Receiving Ship. BLT 2/4 and TG 79.4 casualty representatives were positioned at Company "D" 3d Medical Bn, Dong Ha, RVN to collect and pass casualty information concerning Special Landing Force Alfa personnel on to the 9th MAB CRCC Alfa.

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22 July 1968CASUALTY RECAPITULATION

2 June 1968 - 10 July 1968 FORTRESS ATTACK III/SCOTLAND II

a. Friendly

KIA	18
DOW	6
WIA	163
WIANE	123
NON-HOSTILE CASUALTIES	156
TOTAL	466

g. Civic Action. No civic action program was conducted due to the area of operation and the operational commitments.

h. ISO. A photographer was sent ashore with BLT 2/4 to provide informational services coverage.

i. Communications. Communications were established IAW CTG 79.4 Op Plan 120A (YR); TG 79.4 COI dtd 28 March 1968 and TG 79.4 COI dtd 15 June 1968. A message center was maintained afloat in conjunction with the USS Princeton Naval Communication Center; CTG 79.4 maintained message distribution responsibility for BLT 2/4 and HMM - 362. The following nets were established/entered during Operation Fortress Attack III/Scotland II:

(1) 3d MARDIV TAC # 2 (VHF). CTG 79.4 entered this net establishing communications (Plain/Cipher) with 3d MARDIV, 1st Marines, 3d Marines and 4th Marines.

(2) SIF TAC # 1 (VHF). CTG 79.4 established this net with SIF Alfa liaison teams in the field. Equipment and personnel were utilized basically in the same manner as for Operation Fortress Attack II. BLT 2/4 Rear located at Dong Ha also entered this net to provide direct communications between the BLT Rear CP and SIF units afloat; This station was also utilized for relaying traffic from the ship to the BLT CP. SIF liaison team stations were established in the following manner:

a. Alfa. Initially located at Khe Sanh (1st Marines CP) and LZ Robin (4th Marines CP) for relay of traffic between BLT 2/4 and CTG 79.4. Operated directly from BLT 2/4 CP during last week of Fortress Attack III. Equipment utilized was PRC-25 and RC - 292.

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b. Bravo. Located at Dong Ha (Delta Med Bn) primarily for passing of casualty reports; this station was also used as a relay between the ship and Alfa team. Equipment utilized was MRC-110, PRC-47, PRC-25 and RC-292.

c. Charlie. Located at Camp Carroll for relay of traffic between CTG 79.4 and units in the field (primarily other SIF liaison teams and the BLT). Equipment utilized was MRC-109, MRC-83, PRC-25 and RC-292. This net was used for situation, spot, casualty and administrative reporting as well as for Med-evac requests.

(3) SIF TAC # 2 (HF). This net was activated when SIF TAC # 1 was non-operational due to distance factors between the ship and shore stations or when equipment outages occurred. Cipher operations utilizing the KY-8 were limited to the Division Tac Net due to the type of fast moving operations and remote positioning of CP's by the BLT. Portable FM equipment was utilized as the primary means of communication. Operations and numerical codes were used as required.

The Third MARDIV changed all of its call signs and frequencies on 18 June 68 creating confusion and interference problems for approximately one week. The Comm-Elec section at 3d MARDIV was extremely helpful and cooperative in attending to the frequency problems encountered by the BLT.

A week long attempt to operate the MRC-62 Radio Relay between Dong Ha and the ship proved unsatisfactory. Non-availability of good frequencies and inadequate siting of shipboard antennas prevented satisfactory and reliable operations of the radio relay equipment.

Outstanding cooperation and assistance was provided by FLC, 3d MARDIV, 4th Marines and FLSG Bravo in relaying traffic to/from CTG 79.4 and in repairing SIF communications equipment that went down during the operation.

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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