

Parents -

5 MAR 69

Here I am surveying the tactical situation from one of the eleven bunkers my platoon occupies here on Fire Support Base Cates, named for a former Marine Corps Commandant. On the peak sits an Army artillery battery - 6 105 mm guns ~~is~~ helilifted here, as in everything else. We marines are charged with base defense. During day we improve positions & it's mostly backbreaking dredging. At nite we stand line-watch. The birds are pretty jumpy & there's much to hear - apes, tigers, weird-sounding jungle-type birds. Couple nites ago we injured a tiger with a grenade & he's been prowling back since each nite. Last nite a listening post saw two gooks & fired, but no bodies. They were probably 2 scouts for a unit in the area. We actually are spread too thin here - only 80 people holding a line 400 meters long and our other

platoon on an adjacent hill. There
weren't enough troopers over here to do
the job as it should be done & you civilians
won't send over any more so we're learning
to improvise in the best American
traditions.

Rumor has it we're slated to move
out tomorrow to go on an operation
over near the Laotian border. For
being in some hairy areas we haven't
seen much action. Khe Sanh is in
view & a Fire Support Base named
Russell got overrun a week ago - it's
5 miles away, I guess they're out there
but I haven't seen them yet.

Do not send anything I'd want to
save or keep for any length of time, as
I live off of whatever I can carry & can't
hump much more.

Time goes extremely fast here. Must
hit rock now so can check lines thru
the route.

LT. C.

LT. C.R. ANDERSON 0105003
1/3 3rd MARDIV, B' Cos, 3 plt.
FMF PAC

5 MAR 69
Free



Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Anderson

Elgin, Illinois
USA



AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL

[Redacted area]

DATE AND TIME MUST BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

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