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FILE SUBJ.
DATE SUB-CAT.
5/68
May 1968

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PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

BLT 3/1's mission during the reported period was to keep Route #9 open within the assigned TAOR, provide reaction forces in the event convoys were attacked and provide reinforcement for Ca Lu Combat Base. From 26-31 May 68 the BLT had the additional mission of defending the Ca Lu Combat Base, and the responsibility for the operating area normally assigned to the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Marines.

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

None.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY AND WEAPONS CAPTURED

NVA KIA:	10	Blasting Caps:	4
NVA POW:	0	Gas Masks:	4
12.7mm Heavy MG DS-hk 38:	1	AK-47 magazines:	12
7.62mm Light MG RFD:	1	SA Ammunition:	298
7.62mm AK-47:	4	Claymore Mines:	30
RPG-2 rds:	6	12.7mm MG rds:	50
RPG-7 rds:	2	AT Mines:	8
7.62mm rds:	248	Mortar Propellent Cart.:	39
60mm rds:	20	TNT:	80 Lbs
82mm rds:	55	Mortar Fuzes:	122
Chi Com Grenades:	6	Enemy Bunkers Destroyed:	113
7.62mm Carbine SKS:	2	Fighting Holes Destroyed:	60

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REPRODUCED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

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D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

1. USMC

<u>Officer</u>			<u>Enlisted</u>			
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOC</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
1	4	0	19	1	114	0

2. USN

<u>Officer</u>			<u>Enlisted</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
0	0	0	0	5	0

E. NEW TECHNIQUES

None.

F. COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

BLT 3/1 remained under OPCON of the 4th Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division throughout the reported period.

G. EQUIPMENT

During the reported period twenty M-422A2, M-274A2 and M-35 vehicles were transferred to the Force Logistics Command facility at Danang, RVN for routine repairs. The non-availability of 2nd and 3rd echelon repair parts has necessitated that the BLT's Logistics Support Unit perform repair functions in Danang at FLC where a supply liaison is maintained. Electronics Maintenance Company, Maintenance Battalion, 1st Force Service Regiment continues to provide excellent support for the repair of the BLT's electronics equipment.

H. LOGISTICS

Commencing on 3 May 68 one hot meal per day was prepared in the BLT mess-hall at Ca Lu and delivered to the troops in the field by truck. re-supply was accomplished through unit distribution. The BLT truck platoon was off-loaded (under OPCON of Third Marine Division) on 8 May 68 and the BLT received its previously requested truck support on 14 May 68. There were no major logistical problems during the reported period.

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I. TRAINING

BLT 3/1 provided indoctrination training for replacement personnel during the reported period. 146 Marines received instruction from 14-18 May 68 and 52 Marines from 22-26 May 68. The training program included sighting adjustments and fam firing of the M-16 rifle. Classes were conducted in accordance with the training schedule enclosed in PART IV (Training Schedule). NVA tactics and lessons learned from past operations were emphasized. The training period was concluded with an actual security patrol.

J. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Awards

Major General Thompkins, Commanding General, Third Marine Division, presented four Bronze Stars and two Navy Commendation Medals to Marines at ceremonies conducted at Ca Lu. BLT 3/1 recommended twenty-three Marines for the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry during the period. Two Silver Star, eleven Bronze Star, seven Navy Commendation, and one Navy Achievement Medal recommendations were forwarded.

2. Legal and Discipline

Four Special Court-Martials were awarded and two were completed during the month. In one case two months confinement and 2/3 forfeiture of pay for two months were awarded. Punishment in the second case was reduction in grade to private, confinement for three months and 2/3 forfeiture of pay for three months. Non-judicial punishment was awarded in two instances. Fourteen investigations were initiated during the month.

3. Postal

For the first half of this period postal service was satisfactory. However, during the later half of the reported period the mail delivery was somewhat erratic. There was no rerouting of mail during this period.

4. R&R Quotas

BLT 3/1 received over a hundred R&R quotas. R&R cities included were Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Sidney, Taipai, Tokyo, Manila, Penang, Singapore and Okinawa.

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K. MEDICAL AND DENTAL AFFAIRS

1. Medical

During the reported period, the Battalion Aid Station (BAS forward) operated at Ca Lu Combat Base. Approximately 450 Marine and Navy personnel received treatment at the BAS. Patients requiring medical evacuation for diagnostic procedures and more extensive treatment were transported by helicopter to USS VALLEY FORGE. Minor ailments and wounds were treated in the field by the company corpsmen. The BAS (rear) operated aboard VALLEY FORGE, assisting in triage of casualties, performing BAS administrative functions and procuring supplies for the BAS (forward).

2. Disease Problem Areas

Two disease entities were prevalent during the period. Seventy-three cases of malaria (caused by Plasmodium Falciparum) were diagnosed. Several cases of non-specific gastroenteritis were also treated. On the advice of the Preventive Medicine Section the BLT increased dosage of the malaria prophylaxis tablet to two tablets weekly. Elimination of the mosquito vector in the endemic Ca Lu area proved beyond the capabilities of the Preventive Medicine Section.

3. Dental

Personnel requiring other than routine dental work were evacuated to VALLEY FORGE for treatment by the BLT dental team.

4. Sanitation

Field sanitary measures were employed and supervised by the company corpsmen. Sanitary measures in the BLT command post area were handled by the battalion police NCO and supervised by BAS corpsmen. A daily inspection of the BLT messhall revealed satisfactory handling and preparation of food. Rat poison was used in the CP area to combat the rat problem.

L. INTELLIGENCE

Moderate contacts by BLT 3/1 combat patrols during the period 1-25 May 68 indicated that enemy units of up to company size were operating in the area north of Route #9 within the BLT operations area. From 26-31 May 68 the enemy displayed a greater capacity to deliver supporting mortar and automatic weapons fire indicating that larger units of up to battalion size were deployed in the BLT's area. The 9th Regiment, 304th NVA Division and the 8th Battalion, 29th NVA Regiment have been reported operating along Route #9 between Ca Lu and Khe Sanh. Although unconfirmed, it is believed that the BLT's contact has been with elements of these units. Throughout the reported period the enemy was able to conduct rocket attacks in the Ca Lu area. Nine separate attacks were launched against Ca Lu Combat Base and one large attack against LSA Cameo just north of Ca Lu.

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Rockets were of 107mm and 122mm calibers and could have been launched by elements of the 164th NVA Artillery Regiment reportedly operating in the area.

M. COMMUNICATIONS

1. General

Communications in the vicinity of Ca Lu Combat Base were generally satisfactory. A relay was utilized when direct communications were interrupted due to terrain, unit separation or unit movement. Performance of the KY-8 covered circuit was erratic and much difficulty was encountered in its use.

2. Training

Communications instruction was conducted for BLT replacement personnel. Subjects covered included operation and maintenance of the radio set AN/PRC-25 and antenna location.

3. Supply

An inventory was held of all communications equipment and all shortages were requisitioned. Tape antennas and antenna bases for the radio set AN/PRC-25 remain in critically short supply.

4. Message Center

The BLT message center remained aboard VALLEY FORGE throughout the reported period. A courier was utilized between VALLEY FORGE and the BLT at Ca Lu.

N. WEATHER

Weather for the reported period was characteristically hot and sunny. Precipitation was limited to afternoon showers. The prevailing weather did not adversely effect the employment of air support.

O. FIRE SUPPORT

Fire support was available from 105mm, 107mm, 155mm, and 8 inch batteries under control of 1st Battalion, 12th Marines during the reported period. In general, fire support was responsive and adequate to the needs of the BLT. BLT 3/1 utilized approximately 7,500 rounds of artillery support. 210 observed fire missions were conducted. Damage assessment included five NVA KIA, three rockets, five rocket positions, and nine bunkers destroyed or damaged and four secondary explosions. Air observers frequently helped adjust these missions. 160 unobserved fire missions were called in as counter rocket fire and on areas of known enemy activity.

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P. AIR SUPPORT

1. Marine Air Support

Thirteen close air support missions were conducted in support of the BLT. Bomb damage assessment included 17 bunkers, 2 mortar sites, 1 automatic weapon position and 2 rocket sites destroyed or damaged. The BLT continued to utilize helicopters provided by CTG 79.5 from HMM 164 aboard VALLEY FORGE and in-country sources for administrative helicopter support. Medevac, resupply and administrative flights were conducted on a daily basis. Marine air observers continued to provide excellent support when available. They conducted artillery and close air support missions as well as helping to coordinate movement of ground units.

2. Support From Other Units

During the first eight days of the reported period the BLT was able to utilize UH-1B "gunships" from Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery (ARA), First Air Cavalry Division. Reaction time for these flights was usually less than ten minutes providing timely support otherwise unavailable. On 3 May 68 a B-52 strike was requested against enemy positions in the vicinity of Hill 512 (XD 955451). In anticipation of this strike a 36 grid square area was designated as a "no action zone" from 4-11 May 68. The strike was never completed due to the level of priority and when it was subsequently cancelled on 11 May 68 the target area had been unavailable for patrol for a one week period. United States Air Force aircraft flew six defoliation missions along Route #9 during the reported period. Defoliation proved very effective in clearing wooded areas adjacent to Route #9.

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BLT 3/1 TRAINING SCHEDULE

INDOCTRINATION OF NEW PERSONNEL

SUBJECT	STAFF	TIME	TYPE OF INSTRUCTION
FIRST DAY			
History of 3/1 Goals in Vietnam and Southeast Asia Conduct and discipline Accidental discharge Request mast History of Vietnam conflict Basic guides to con- duct	Bn Cmdr	0800-0900	Class - Lecture
Recent battalion his- tory Current intelligence Handling of enemy POW's Identification and capabilities of en- emy weapons Day tactics/night tac- tics Positions and fort- ifications Supporting arms cap- abilities	S-2	0900-1200	Class with field de- monstration, including NVA captured gear and munitions, and NVA tactics.
Mail Request mast Emergency leave R&R Off limits areas UCMJ Discipline	S-1	1330-1500	Class - Lecture
First aid, sanitation and hygiene, heat casualties, foot prob- lems, and VD	BAS	1500-1600	Class - Lecture
GVN organization Revolutionary develop- ment program Personal response	S-3	1600-1645	Class - Lecture

SUBJECT	STAFF	TIME	TYPE OF INSTRUCTION
SECOND DAY			
NVA and USMC explosive devices Employment of U.S. claymore	Engineers	0800-0900	Class - with demonstration
Supporting arms Call for fire Capabilities of each to include demonstration fire missions	LNO NGLO S1's	0900-1100	Class - with demonstration
Medevac procedures Use of helicopters in Vietnam	ALO	1100-1200	Class - Lecture
Religions of Vietnam Customs in Vietnam	Chaplain	1330-1530	Class - Lecture
Gas mask-How to fit properly Use of mask	Sgt Ellenburg	1530-1600	Class - with demonstration
PRC-25	Comm	1600-1630	Class - Lecture
Field safety	S-3	1630-1700	Class - Lecture
THIRD DAY			
Rules of engagement Safe handling of weapons Current tactical situation Helmets and flak jackets	S-3	0800-0930	Class - Lecture
Weapons firing Sight adjustment Care and cleaning Fam firing M-16	S-3	0930-1630	Class - Fam fire at 2/9 range
FOURTH DAY			
Patrols-Ambushes	S-3	0800-1600	Class - Lecture with actual combat patrol