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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), MAF
APO San Francisco 96602

3/RCM/gcn
7 April 1968
Serio: 007-68
Copy 1 of 3 copies

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A05D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
(2) Commanding General, III MAF
(3) Commanding General, MAF, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March to 31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCC 5750.2A
(b) MAFpacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) Subject Command Chronology

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

2. Downgrade at 3 year intervals, declassified after 12 years, DOD directive 5200.10.

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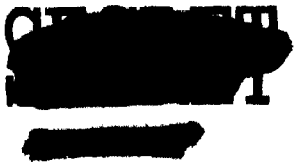
1ST BN/3RD MAB

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HEAD QUARTERS
1st Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein). FMF

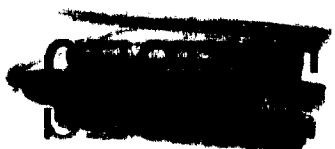
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March to 31 March 1968

INTEL.

- Part I - Organizational Data
- Part II - Narrative Summary
- Part III - Sequential Listing of Significant Events
- Part IV - Supporting Documents

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PART I

Organizational Data

1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 3d Marines

COMMANDERS

LtCol R. W. GORDALE (1-31 Mar68)

Subordinate Units

H&S Co

Capt D. W. DADISMAN (1-31 Mar68)

Co A

Capt D. H. COCK (1-31 Mar68)

Co B

1stLt G. C. NORRIS (1-31 Mar68)

Co C

Capt W. H. OSGOOD (1-31 Mar68)

Co D

Capt P. W. HENDRIX (1-15 Mar68)

1stLt K. L. ASTLE (16-31 Mar68)

2. LOCATION

1-31 Mar: QUANG BINH Airfield Complex.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj E. J. ROCHFORD (1-31 Mar68)

S-1

1stLt R. J. BARNES (1-31 Mar68)

S-2

Capt G. D. DOCKENDORFF (1-31 Mar68)

S-3

Maj R. C. MCCORMICK (1-31 Mar68)

S-4

Capt B. H. LANDELS JR. (1-31 Mar68)

S-5

1stLt G. E. MOUZAKIS (1-16 Mar68)

Capt G. D. DOCKENDORFF (17-31 Mar68)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

| USMC | | USM | |
|------|------|-----|-----|
| OFF | ENL | OFF | ENL |
| 37 | 1046 | 2 | 58 |

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PART II

Narrative Summary

From 1-31 March 1968, the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines participated in operation ~~NAPOLEON~~ BALINE within the CU, VLT River Area Complex. The Battalion's overall mission during this period was to deny the enemy access to the river area and ensure uninterrupted traffic thereon. This was accomplished by conducting systematic Company and Platoon Search and Destroy operations along the south bank of the river. Activity during this period was characterized by sightings of small groups of NVA/VC and uncovering a number of weapons and large caches of rice. The only encounters with organized NVA units occurred on 5 March 1968 in the village of DAI DO and on 7 March 1968 in the village of TRU TAI.

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PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events1. Combat Missions Assigned

Basic Mission: 1. FOLBO/S LINE

a. With assigned forces, conduct aggressive ground surveillance, Search and Destroy Operations and spoiling attacks in assigned area of operations to ensure uninterrupted traffic on the CUA VIET river and to detect and interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

b. Initially conduct systematic Search and Destroy Operations along south bank of CUA VIET River in area of operations to deny enemy direct fire capability against river traffic.

c. Be prepared, on order, to extend operations to the southern/western portions of area of operations to deny enemy's capability to deliver indirect fire against river traffic, DOIG HA, CUA VI T, and QUANG TRI.

d. Be prepared, on order, for rapid redeployment anywhere in Third Marines area of operations.

e. Maintain reaction forces as prescribed by CG Third Division Operation Order 2-68 (Sparrow Hawk).

Ref: Third Marines OpnO 2-68 (050801H Mar68)

2. Significant Operations Conducted. During the period 1-31 March 1968 1st Bn, Third Marines expended the major portion of its energies in aggressive Search and Destroy missions through the villages located near the southern bank of the CUA VIET river; to deny the enemy base camps.

On 15 March 1968 two, company size, blocking forces were established in coordination with ARVN forces in the southern edge of the assigned area of operation.

General patrolling was conducted throughout the reporting period.

Ref: Third Marines FRAG Orders 1-68 (100200H Mar68); 3-68 (140420H Mar68) and 4-68 (142045H Mar68) to 3d Marines Operation Order 2-68.

3. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy

36 VC/NVA KIA

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4. Casualties Sustained

18 USMC KIA
 74 USMC and 5 USMC KIA (Med Evac)
 21 USMC KIA (Minor)

5. Command RelationsADCON

1-31 March 1968 - Third Marine Division

OPCON

1-31 March 1968 - Third Marine Regiment

6. Logistics. During the month of March, all four rifle companies and H&S Company (-) were deployed on Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE. Class I, IV and V items were provided by the Battalion to one company which was OPCON to 1st AmTracs and was located at C-4. Resupply of this company was transported from the QUANG TRI Airfield Complex to DONG HA ramp, transferred to Landing Craft for movement down the CUA VIET, and then loaded aboard LVTP-5's for the run to C-4. The remainder of the Battalion was resupplied from an LSA established at (YD 296654). The LSA stocked three days Class I, seven days Class III, and five days Class V. The LSA stocks were replenished by supplies carried from DONG HA ramp by Landing Craft. Resupply was carried to the companies by LVTP-5 and Otter.

7. Supply. During March 224 requisitions were passed into the system, and 59 of these requisitions were filled. Twenty-one requisitions were cancelled.

8. Motor Transport. Motor Transport maintenance continued to be outstanding despite the shortage of spare parts, particularly starters for the M274A2 mechanical mule. The deadlined vehicle rate has remained at 17% throughout the month.

9. Administration

a. The usual administrative problems were encountered during this time, however, overall administration was considered to be satisfactory.

(1) Awards Recommended

1 Silver Star Medal
 6 Bronze Star Medals
 102 Purple Heart Medals
 1 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Medal

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(2) Awards Presented

- 1 Silver Star Medal
- 2 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Medals

(3) Promotions Affected

- 23 Corporals
- 1 Lance Corporal
- 13 Privates First Class

b. Postal. Mail service was considered to be satisfactory, however, mail continued to be received sporadically due to the shortage of air transportation in-country.

10. Personnela. Administrative Gains

- 4 Officers
- 96 Enlisted

b. Administrative Losses

- 5 Officers
- 162 Enlisted

11. Intelligence. During the month of March intelligence reports indicated that elements of the 803rd NVA Regiment were operating along the north bank of the CUA VIET River. Contact with this unit was made on 5 March 1968 in the village of DAI DO (YD 254528) and 7 March 1968 in the village of PHU TAI (YD 298624) after these dates the enemy avoided contact. During the balance of the month there was minor sniper activity and limited use of surprise firing devices in and around the hamlets of BO BANG (YD 335627). Liaison with the HAI LU PHONG District Headquarters enabled this organization to utilize Popular Forces in conjunction with patrols and night activities. Seven confirmed NVA POW's were apprehended during the first 4 days of the month. There were 4 interpreters and six "KIT CARSON" Scouts attached to this Battalion during the month of March 1968.

12. Fire Support. From 1-31 March 1968, the following units fired in support of the 1st Bn, Third Marines:

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Btry G, 3d Bn, 12th Marines | (YD 306552) |
| Btry I, 3d Bn, 12th Marines | (YD 315544) |

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Missions Fired

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Observed | 21 |
| Navigation | 2 |
| Registration | 18 |
| Prep | 2 |
| H&I | <u>439</u> |
| TOTAL | 482 |

Ammunition Expended

| Type | No. Fired |
|-------|-----------|
| HE | 3,176 |
| WF | 69 |
| Illum | 66 |
| Smoke | <u>15</u> |
| TOTAL | 3,326 |

13. Air Support. During the period 1-31 March 1968, 1st Bn, 3d Marines was supported by elements of the First Marine Aircraft Wing. Fixed and Rotary Wing Aircraft performed the following missions:

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Flareship | 3 |
| Med Evacs | 27 |
| C&C | 21 |
| Gunship | 7 |
| AO | 9 |
| Fixed Wing | 23 |
| TRC | <u>2</u> |
| TOTAL | 92 |

14. Communicationsa. General

(1) There were no major maintenance problems during the month of March. Minor repairs were done on sight or sent to the Battalion rear for repair and returned to the using units.

(2) Radio relay was not utilized or wire installed during this period. The communication center remained in the Battalion rear and functioned as normal. Messages were picked up from the Division communication center and delivered to the S-1 for record purposes and distribution.

b. Radio. Radio was the major means of communication with higher, supporting; and adj cent elements. On 8 March 1968 the KY-8 (speech enciphering equipment) was employed using an AMTRAC as the source of power. This capability allowed an uninterrupted flow of classified traffic to be transmitted and received from this organization in a short period of time.

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15. Training

a. Objectives. To maintain and improve the high state of combat efficiency of the Battalion, training was conducted on a formal and individual basis.

b. Highlights.

1 March - One enlisted member attended the Infantry Weapons Repair School conducted at Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

Ref: CG 3d MarDiv msg 191448Z Feb68

11 March - One enlisted member attended Vietnamese Language School conducted at Camp Butler, Okinawa.

Ref: CG 3d MarDiv msg 080300Z Mar68

18 Mar - One enlisted member attended Infantry Weapons Repair school conducted at Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

Ref: CG 3d MarDiv msg 130350Z Mar68

24-28 March - One Officer and one enlisted member attended a motor transportation maintenance course conducted in Dong a.

The Battalion Chaplain conducted 9 classes on Moral Guidance during the month of March.

In-country Troop Indoctrination was conducted by Headquarters elements prior to personnel being sent to their assigned companies located in the field.

During the reporting period all companies conducted FAM firing and zeroed weapons in their positions within the CUA VLET River Area Complex.

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PART IV

SUP. OPTING DOCUMENTS

There are no supporting documents attached this reporting period.



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