

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS  
DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

HEADQUARTERS  
2nd Battalion, 7th Marines  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/SRM/mar  
3000  
1 Oct 1968  
Ser. No. 0043-68

2 Dn. 7th Marines

Log No. 00169-68

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commander, Task Force 79.5

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-30 Sep 1968

Copy No. 1 of 70

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8  
(c) 9th Mar BrigO 5750.10

Encl: (1) Battalion Landing Team 2/7 Command Chronology

\* Added Encl (2)

2/7 C/A Rpt, DODGE CITY AREA, 15-22 Sep 1968

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

2. This letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (c)

\* 3. Tab A, Combat After Action Report (Operation in Dodge City Area 15-22 September 1968) to enclosure (1), will be submitted separately. This document requires review by the Commanding Officer, who because of operational commitments is not available.

*L. J. Des Jardines*  
L. J. DES JARDINES

By direction

200BN/714MHR

CMD CHRON

SEP 1968

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/7  
C O M M A N D C H R O N O L O G Y

1 - 30 Sep 1968

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND MUSEUMS,

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS,

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

UNCLASSIFIED

BEST AVAILABLE COPY  
TABLE OF CONTENTSPART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

- A. Unit Designation
- B. Staff Officers
- C. Location
- D. Average Monthly Strength

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARYPART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- A. Combat Mission Assigned
- B. Significant Operations Conducted
- C. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy
- D. Casualties Sustained
- E. New Techniques Employed
- F. Command Relations
- G. Equipment
- H. Logistics
- I. Civic Action
- J. Administration
- K. Medical/Dental Affairs
- L. Intelligence
- M. Communications
- N. Weather
- O. Fire Support
- P. Air Support
- Q. Training

PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A. Combat After Action Report (Operation in DODGE CITY Area  
15-22 Sep 1968)
- B. OP Rep
- C. Overlay of BLT TAOR 1-14 Sep 1968

UNCLASSIFIED

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATAPERIOD COVERED

1-30 Sep 1968

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF

DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

A. UNIT DESIGNATION

## 1. Battalion Landing Team 2/7

Interim Commanding Officer appointed  
by Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Company E

Company F

Company G

Company H

H&amp;S Co (-) (Rein)

2nd Plat (Rein), Co B, 1st Tank Bn  
3rd Plat (Rein), Co A, 5th AT Bn  
2nd Plat (Rein), Co A, 1st ME Bn  
2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn  
3rd Plat (Rein), Co B, 3rd Amtrac Bn  
1st Plat (Rein), Co E, 1st Recon Bn  
C & C Plat (Rein), Co A, 5th Med Bn  
Det, 1st SF Bn  
Det, Hq Bn, 1st Mar Div  
Det, Hq Co, 7th Mar  
Det, LSU, For Log Cmd

## 2. Attached Units

Btry H, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
Mortar Btry, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

LtCol. L. E. WATSON

1-19 Sep 1968

LtCol. C. F. BUNNELL JR.

20-23 Sep 1968

LtCol. N. A. NELSON

24-30 Sep 1968

Capt. J. T. FRICKER

1-19 Sep 1968

Lt. R. S. MENAGH

20-22 Sep 1968

Capt. J. T. FRICKER

23-30 Sep 1968

Lt. G. W. HUMPHREY

1-19 Sep 1968

Capt. R. R. WELPOTT

20-30 Sep 1968

Capt. A. V. LATORRE JR

Capt. T. P. E. HOLM

Capt. R. R. WELPOTT

1-19 Sep 1968

Lt. J. H. HALSEY II

20-30 Sep 1968

Lt. M. E. HASTINGS

Lt. D. L. BROWN

Lt. E. T. CHARBONNEAU

Lt. D. G. PATTERSON

Lt. M. E. NELSON

Lt. W. H. MCCLOSKEY

Lt. (MC) D. N. SMITH USN

Lt. I. J. STEVENS

CWO 2 W. PICKARSKI

Sgt. J. L. KAVANAUGH

Lt. J. E. MCDANIELS

Capt. J. J. JAMES

Lt. C. E. THOMAS JR.

1-14 Sep 1968

Capt. J. P. RIORDAN

15-30 Sep 1968

ENCLOSURE (1)

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS  
 HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

UNCLASSIFIED

B. STAFF OFFICERS

XO	Maj. L. J. DES JARDINES
S-1	Lt. J. M. CARTER
S-2	Lt. J. R. PIPPEN
S-3	Maj. E. M. DUNN
S-4	Lt. P. S. MENAGH 1-6 Sep 1968
	Lt. T. LUKAWECZ 7-30 Sep 1968
S-5	Lt. C. J. HASDOVIC 1-24 Sep 1968
Personnel Officer	Lt. R. HARRELLE
Embarkation Officer	Lt. E. E. DELGADO
Communication Officer	Lt. T. T. DABNEY
Air Liaison Officer	Capt. R. H. MCKINNIS 1-6 Sep 1968
	Capt. J. J. JAID 7-30 Sep 1968
Forward Air Controller	Lt. W. L. WRASSE II
Supply Officer	Lt. R. W. DODSON 1-17 Sep 1968
	Lt. W. L. SMITH III 18-30 Sep 1968
Motor Transport Officer	Lt. L. A. RAYMOND
Chaplain	Lt. (CHC) B. LOVEJOY, USN
Medical Officer	Lt. (MC) M. R. NAPONIC, USN 1-14 Sep 1968
	Lt. J. D. REED, USN 15-30 Sep 1968

C. LOCATION1. BLT 2/7

- a. 1-14 Sep 1968: Dai La Pass, Danang, RVN
- b. 15-22 Sep 1968: Operation in DODGE CITY Area, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN
- c. 23-30 Sep 1968: Dai La Pass, Danang, RVN

2. Detachments

- a. Co E, BLT 2/7 281630H Aug to 091200H Sep 1968 to 1st Marine Division (Southern Sector Defense Command).
- b. Co F, BLT 2/7 281800H <sup>0918</sup> to 081200H Sep 1968 to 1st Marine Division (Southern Sector Defense Command).

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

c. Co G, BMT 2/7 281630H Aug to 071200H Sep 1968 to 1st Marine Division (Southern Sector Defense Command).

d. Co H, BMT 2/7 281800H Aug to 120800H Sep 1968 to 3rd Bn, First Marines.

3. Attachments

None

D. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
59	1467	4	63

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 UNCLASSIFIED DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
 HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

PART II

NARRATIVE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

During the period 1-11 September 1968 BLT 2/7 was committed to operations in the Danang area. The ALF1 Command Group, along with Company "F" was under OPCON of 7th Marines. The BLT command post was established at Dai La Pass (AT939748). Company "E" and Company "G" were under OPCON of the 1st Marine Division from 1-9 September. These two companies were given the mission of augmenting the defenses within the Southern Sector Defense Command. Company combat bases were established in the vicinity of Hill #70 (AT955725) and aggressive day and night patrols were conducted to find and destroy enemy forces.

At 101245H September a ~~153A2~~ Wrecker, belonging to the BLT, hit a 50 lb box mine in the vicinity (AT900722) destroying the wrecker and wounding the driver and assistant driver. The wounded were medevaced, one to the USS SANCTUARY and one to 1st Hospital Company.

Company "H" was under OPCON of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines until 120800H September and was established at Hill #60 (AT886773). Battery "H", 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines was established on Hill #60 (AT88673) from 1-18 September and provided direct artillery support to the BLT. Mortar Battery, 3rd Battalion, Eleventh Marines was established from 1-12 September in the HOA CAM Training Center (AT985727) providing direct artillery support to the BLT.

At 071200H September Company "F" came under OPCON of the 1st Marine Division and was moved to Hill #70 (AT955725) where it rotated with Company "G" who moved to Dai La Pass (AT939748). Company "E" and Company "F" came under OPCON of the BLT at 091200H September, Company "E" moving to Dai La Pass (AT939748) replacing Company "G" who moved to Hill #22 (AT903718). At 120800H September Company "H" returned to OPCON of the BLT and moved to Dai La Pass, Company "E" moved to Hill #60 (AT886773). Also at 121600H September Mortar Battery, 3rd Battalion, Eleventh Marines moved from THOA CAM Training Center (AT985727) to Hill #22 (AT903718). The activity of the entire BLT during the period from 1-11 September can best be described as one of providing augmentation to the defenses of the Danang Vital Area. During the period 12-17 September BLT 2/7 was assigned a TAOR (see TAB C).

At 131240H September first platoon, Company "F", while on a sweep, made contact at coordinates (AT870735). An estimated four to five enemy fired small arms and a B-40 rocket at members of Company "F" resulting in five USMC WIA. First Platoon requested an 81mm Mortar mission and then swept the area and found fighting holes, trenches and bunkers and uncovered one ChiCom 60mm Mortar, 12x60mm rounds, 3 ChiCom grenades, one canteen, one radio antennae, and assorted individual combat gear.

ENCLOSURE (1)

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS, **DECLASSIFIED**

On the afternoon of ~~HEAD~~ <sup>HEAD</sup> September 7th Marines ordered the BLT ~~to be prepared to provide one company within a one hour period as a Bald Eagle to go into the Dodge City Area (AT96570) to assist Company "L" 3/7 then heavily engaged with an enemy unit. On the evening of 14 September the Commanding Officer of the BLT and the S-3 Officer were summoned to Headquarters, 7th Marines where a verbal order was given requesting that two companies and a command group proceed to the vicinity of coordinates (AT96570) by helicopter on the morning of 15 September to assist 3rd Bn, 7th Marines. On 18 September Company "E" and Company "G" were inserted into the Dodge City Area, BLT rear staying at Dai La Pass (AT939748).~~

On 23 September the entire BLT had returned to Dai La Pass (AT939748) and was not given an area of responsibility. Instead, the BLT was ordered to be prepared to defend any part of the Damang TAOR from enemy attack or to counter-attack against strong enemy forces as required. The BLT formulated a series of 24 separate blocking and counter-attack plans for probable areas that the enemy would chose as an avenue of approach to the Damang vital area. These plans included tank-infantry defense, reaction to critical areas on foot, by vehicle, or by helicopter. At 230700H September, after 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and 1st Battalion 7th Marines had been informed, Second Platoon (Bein) of Company "G" was helilifted to Hill #324 (AT883742) where it maintained an OE until 29 September (See TAB E). The remainder of the battalion set up a training program to include all military subjects. Organic weapons of the BLT were fired for familiarization and to make technical analysis of their condition for employment in combat. Also, one day was allotted to each company for a unit party at Red Beach. At 261354H September Company "E" and Company "H" were transported in Rough Rider Convoy of 12 M35 trucks to Hill #55 (AT967616) and on 27 September both companies participated in a one day sweep of the area immediately around Hill #55 (AT967616) to ensure security for the visit of the President of the Republic of Vietnam to Hill #55 (AT967616) 271210H September. Company "H" spotted 3 NVA heading in a southwesterly direction, established a hasty ambush, and killed one NVA and captured one pair of binoculars. At 261530H September an M35 truck belonging to the BLT hit a 50 lb box mine in the vicinity of (AT898720) destroying the truck and wounding the driver and assistant driver. The wounded were medevaced by Company "C", 1st Battalion 7th Marines. A reaction force including a wrecker, an engineer sweep team, and two squads from Company "F" departed to retrieve the truck; however, the truck was too badly damaged to be retrieved before dark on 26 September. The reaction force returned on the morning of 27 September and pulled the vehicle back to Dai La Pass.

On the evening of 28 September the Battalion defenses were doubled and Company "G" was set up as a reaction force as a result of an intelligence report from 7th Marines indicating that the 3rd Bn, 31st NVA Regiment would attack Dai La Pass area. No contact developed with the enemy on that night.

At 300900H September BLT 2/7 commenced operation TALLEDEGA CANYON when Company "E" was helilifted to Hill #502 (AT856663). However, landing was impossible because the landing zone was in the center of a large, well fortified area and the helicopters received heavy resistance when they tried to land. The helicopters returned and the landing of troops was set back one day, while Landing Zone Eagle underwent a much more intense artillery and air bombardment.



UNCLASSIFIED

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS  
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,

## PART III

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

1. During the period from 1-14 September 1968 BLT 2/7 was given the following mission: To deploy forces throughout the assigned Tactical Area of Responsibility, to provide defense of the Da nang Vit al Area with emphasis on routes of approach to possible rocket/mortar positions to include waterways, to locate and destroy enemy forces, and installations within the Tactical Area of Responsibility, to locate and interdict infiltration routes into Tactical Area of Responsibility, and to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance within the Tactical Area of Responsibility. (See Tab C)

2. During the period from 15-22 September BLT 2/7 took part in an operation in the Dodge City Area. The mission was to find, fix and destroy all enemy forces, materials, and fortifications in the area.

3. During the period from 23-29 September the BLT was given the mission of being prepared to block Dai La Pass and Engineer Pass, or establish a blocking force in the vicinity of (AT9379) with one battalion. Also, the battalion had to be prepared to conduct counter attacks in the Da nang Area.

4. On 30 September the BLT began Operation Talledega Canyon in the Sherwood Forest area to the southwest of Da nang. Its mission was to move into the Area of Operation, and conduct a deliberate sweep and search of Sherwood Forest to capture or destroy all enemy forces, material, fortifications and caches.

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

1. Operation in Dodge City Area, Quang Nam Province, RVN, 150800H-221530H.

2. Operation Talledega Canyon, Quang Nam Province, RVN, 300900H.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY AND WEAPONS CAPTURED1. PERSONNEL

a. NVA KIA 69

b. VC KIA 14

c. Detainees 25

d. Chieu Hoi 0

2. WEAPONS CAPTURED

a. One 60mm Mortar

UNCLASSIFIED

- b. One 1891/30 sniper rifle w/scope
- c. Two AK-47

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
 HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

(3) GRENADES AND MINES CAPTURED

- a. Two firecracker; pressure type
- b. Five Chi Com grenades
- c. Two Bangalore torpedoes, AP Surprise firing devices; trip wire type

(4) AMMO BY ROUNDS

- a. One 12.7mm round
- b. One 122mm rocket motor
- c. Two hundred AK-47 rounds

(5) MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT CAPTURED

- a. Miscellaneous individual combat gear
- b. Miscellaneous clothing and uniforms
- c. Assorted cooking utensils
- d. Assorted documents and maps
- e. Assorted medicines
- f. 3275 lbs of rice
- g. 35 lbs of corn
- h. 24x10cc Ampules of Vitamin B-12
- i. One wooden boat
- j. Two NVA Banners and two NVA flags
- k. One 12.7 mm Gun sight
- l. One Russian SKM gas mask
- m. One radio antenna
- n. One pair binoculars

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

1. USMC

Officer				Enlisted						
KIA	WIAE	WIANE	NBOE	KIA	WIAE	WIANE	NBOE	DOW	DAI	
0	7	0	0	24	111	26	127	2	1	

2. USN

Officer				Enlisted			
KIA	WIAE	WIANE	NBOE	KIA	WIAE	WIANE	NBOE
0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4

UNCLASSIFIED

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF

DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

E. NEW TECHNIQUES

None

F. COMMAND RELATIONS

- a. 071200H Assumed OPCON Co G, BLT 2/7
- b. 071200H Chop Co F, BLT 2/7 to CG, First Marine Division
- c. 091200H Assumed OPCON Co E, BLT 2/7
- d. 091200H Assumed OPCON Co F, BLT 2/7
- e. 120900H Assumed OPCON Co II, BLT 2/7

G. EQUIPMENT

Equipment turned into FSR for repairs during the month of September consisted of: two 81mm Mortar tubes, two Tanks, five M-60 Machineguns, two M-79 Grenade launchers, and three IWT's. All items were repaired and returned to the parent unit.

H. LOGISTICS1. General

Logistic support was provided by organic and attached supporting units while the BLT was employed in its assigned TAGR. All of the following items were accomplished during the 1-14 September 1968:

- a. Improved fortified positions, fighting holes, and bunkers.
  - b. Operated field mess supporting all companies with at least two hot meals per day.
  - c. Set up a shower unit at the BLT Command Post.
  - d. Improved all living facilities.
  - e. Constructed new COC bunker, drainage pits, heads.
2. For the period of 15-22 September 1968, the battalion was committed on operation in the DODGE CITY Area with Logistic support being provided by 7th Marine Regiment. All classes of supplies were furnished by the supporting Unit with exception of Class IV which was provided by organic supply. A Battalion size LSA was established at Hill #55 at coordinates (AT971621) being operated by HST personnel with representatives from the following sections; S-1 Section, Supply Section, Ammo Technician, Ordnance Section, and a Communications Contact Team.

ENCLOSURE (1)

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS

DECLASSIFIED

DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

3. During the period of 22 September 1968 to 30 September 1968 the battalion was moved to its combat base at Dai La Pass. Logistic support was provided by organic and attached supporting units. All equipment was given a Limited Technical Inspection after the operation, and preparations were made for future employment of the BLT.

2. Transportation:

- a. Transportation for the BLT was provided by organic vehicles and assigned helicopter supporting units.
- b. Maintenance on all vehicles was performed during this period to keep vehicles in a ready status.
- c. A M-543 A2 wrecker and an M-35 Truck were destroyed by enemy action. The wrecker was immediately replaced by the Force Logistics Command, Danang, RVN.

3. Embarkation:

- a. During the period covered by this report the following items were off loaded from assigned ARG shipping.

Six M-35 Trucks, three M-1050A2 trailers, two M-107-A1 water trailers, one M-543-A2 wrecker, and one generator.

- b. The BLT Executive Officer and BLT Embarkation Officer visited assigned ARG shipping to insure that living and working conditions were adequate.
- c. Loading plans for the USS OGDEN LPD-5 and USS MONTICELLO LSD-35 completed during this period.
- d. Mechanized Embarkation Data System constantly being worked on to update and improve Embarkation capabilities of BLT 2/7.

I. CIVIC ACTION

No significant Civic Action was taken by the BLT during this reporting period; no Civic Action projects were initiated or completed. The BLT was OPCON to 7th Marines and 1st Marine Division during the month of September and was moved from one AO to another and was unable to be established in an area long enough to establish a program of Civic Action.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF

DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

J. ADMINISTRATION1. Awards

Two Bronze Stars

2. Number of NJPS and Courts awarded during September

Five NJP's      No Courts

3. Postal

No problem with mail delivery during month of September. Packages were kept in the rear until troops returned from operations and then were distributed.

4. R&R

There were 123 R&R quotas distributed during September.

5. Promotions

<u>Regular</u>		<u>Meritorious</u>	
1/Lt	5		
SSgt	3	Cpl	1
Cpl	113	LCpl	3
LCpl	85		
PFC	8		

6. Pay and Allowances

Pay call was held once during the month of September for the entire command.

7. Post Exchange

Ship's store provided ample exchange items. Personnel from BLT 2/7 made runs to the Freedom Hill Exchange on a daily basis. While in the field, health and comfort items were available from Sundry Packs distributed on a regular basis.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
 HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

8. Personnel ChangeA. Battle LossesAdmin Losses

<u>USMC</u>	<u>Off</u>	7	8
	<u>Enl</u>	137	67
<u>USN</u>	<u>Off</u>	0	1
	<u>Enl</u>	1	4

B. Replacements

<u>USMC</u>	<u>Off</u>	8
	<u>Enl</u>	165
<u>USN</u>	<u>Off</u>	1
	<u>Enl</u>	11

9. Religion servicesA. Divine Services

Eleven Protestant Services were conducted with 393 in attendance. Five Catholic Services were conducted with 130 present.

Three Memorial Services were conducted with 1,011 present.

Eighteen American Red Cross messages were handled.

B. Counselling

The Chaplain held 76 personal counseling interviews. Patients in Naval Support Activity Hospital, First Hospital Company and USS TRIPOLI were visited weekly.

The Brigade Chaplain visited this command 26 Sep 1968; First Division Chaplain visited and celebrated Mass 29 Sep 68. The First Division and Phibron Staff provided Catholic coverage for the BIC.

K. MEDICAL AND DENTALA. Medical

The DLS was divided into three sections during the month of September. One section was with the CP at Dai L. Pass and the second remained on the USS TRIPOLI. A third section was at Hill #70 from 1 September to 11 September

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

and at Hill #22 from 11 September to 18 September. There were 131 patients were seen at Hill #70 and Hill #22, none of which were combat casualties. 636 patients were seen at Dai La Pass, with only one combat casualty seen. The BAS on the USS TRIPOLI treated 233 routine patients. A total of 79 Medevacs were received, of which 10 were combat casualties. There were four personnel from the Battalion who were hospitalized with Scrub Typhus. Preventive measures consisting of using insect repellent on exposed skin and garment openings were recommended. No other peculiar medical problems were encountered.

B. Dental

Dental patients were treated by the Dental Department on the USS TRIPOLI. No peculiar dental problems were encountered.

C. Sanitation

Sanitation on the USS TRIPOLI was handled by the ship's Medical Department. No unusual sanitation problems were encountered. No sanitation problems were encountered at Hill #70 or at Hill #22. At Dai La Pass, the sanitation problems consisted of inadequate and overcrowded billeting areas and an insufficient number of urinals for the number of personnel garrisoned there.

D. Medcap

No MEDCAP services were rendered during the month of September.

I. INTELLIGENCE

1. For operational period 15-22 Sep 1968, see TAB A.
2. Prior to being committed to the DODGE CITY area enemy activity in BLT 2/7's TAOR was very small. Indications were that the enemy would attack the Danang area. The enemy did not increase his activities in BLT 2/7's TAOR and with the light encounters showed that he would continue to be evasive. No identification or determination of the enemy's composition could be made nor were there any indications that the enemy would do more than continue his harassing tactics against friendlies in the area.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

M. COMMUNICATIONS:

For the month of September 1968 communications were good. All radios used in the COC were remoted and all communication wiring was accomplished using 5 pair cable. The Battalion received 3 of the new AS 2236 directional antennas and they have improved communications markedly when maneuver elements were located at a distance from the CP. No frequency changes were necessary. PRC-29a are used on all nets with the exception of the SLF TAC Net which utilizes a MRC-109 for the higher power output. Cypher capability with Regiment and Division is maintained using a KY-8, RT-524 combination.

N. WEATHER

Weather for the reporting period showed an increase in precipitation, but the weather had no adverse effects on troop movements.

O. FIRE SUPPORT

1. For the period 1-14 September 1968, fire support was adequate and responsive to the needs of the BLT. In addition to BLT 2/7's organic 81mm Mortar Platoon and two attached artillery batteries, 107mm Mortar Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines, and Hotel Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines, fire support was available from Golf Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines. From 1-14 September 1968, artillery support consisted of 19 observed missions, 1 unobserved mission, 5 registration missions, and 91 H&I missions. A total of 763 HE, 27 WP, and 15 illumination rounds were expended for a grand total of 805 rounds fired. H&I fires were delivered on areas of known enemy activity and in response to intelligence information passed from higher echelons.
2. For the BLT Operation in the DODGE CITY Area 15-22 Sep 1968 see TAB A.

ENCLOSURE (1)



UNCLASSIFIED

3. For the period 23-29 September 1968 fire support was responsive and adequate to the needs of the BLT. In addition to BLT 2/7's organic 81mm Mortar Platoon and two attached artillery Batteries, Mortar Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines, and Hotel Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines fire support was available from Golf Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines, A Battery, 8", Field Artillery Group. From 23-29 September 1968, artillery support consisted of 16 observed missions, 24 unobserved missions, 2 registration missions, and 323 H&I missions. A total of 2,219 HE, 115 WP, and 98 illumination rounds were expended for a grand total of 2,432 rounds fired. H&I fires were delivered on areas of known enemy activity and in response to intelligence information passed from higher echelons. Naval gunfire support was provided by the destroyer USS RICH, which fired one observed mission using 2 HE, and 8 WP rounds for a total of 10-5" 38 rounds expended.

4. On 30 Sep 1968, BLT 2/7 commenced Operation TALLEDEGA CANYON. The fire support on that day was adequate and responsive to the needs of the BLT. In addition to BLT 2/7's organic 81mm Mortar Platoon and two attached batteries, Mortar Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines, and Hotel Battery, 4th Bn, 11th Marines, and Alpha Battery, 8", Field Artillery Group. On 30 September 1968, artillery support consisted of 5 observed missions, 2 unobserved missions, 2 registration missions, and 406 H&I missions. A total of 602 HE and 23 WP were expended for a grand total of 625 rounds fired. H&I fires were delivered on areas of known enemy activity and in response to intelligence information passed from higher echelons. The BLT, 2/7, was supported by Golf Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines, A Battery, 8", Field Artillery Group.

P. AIR SUPPORT

1. TACP functions for period of 1-14 September were conducted by the Command Group operating from Hill #70 (AT955725) and were routine consisting of resupply, medevac and administrative helicopter flights, from HMM 165 off of the USS TRIPOLI. No fixed wing support was requested or controlled during this period. H&I fires were delivered on areas of known enemy activity and in response to intelligence information passed from higher echelons.
2. From the period 15-22 September when the BLT was on an operation in the DODGE CITY area, see TAB A, and 23-29 September, see TAB B, and 10-5" 38 rounds were expended.
3. TACP functions for the period 23-30 September were routine consisting of resupply for OP Reno, medevacs and administrative helicopter flights, from HMM 165 off of the USS TRIPOLI.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

4. On 30 September at 0915 the first assault elements of BLT 2/7 was helilifted to LZ EAGLE on Hill #502 (AT 33659). There was a half-hour aerial bombardment of the landing zone prior to the insertion of assault elements, and gunships accompanied the helicopters from HMM 165 where aboard the USS TRIPOLI to the Landing Zone. Due to the intense enemy fire directed towards the helicopters as they attempted to land on Hill #502 (AT 33658) the helicopters returned to the landing zone at Dai La Pass (AT 937750). Two flights of fixed wing that prepped the area of Landing Zone EAGLE prior to 0900 dropped 24-500lb bombs, 8 canisters of napalm and fired 36 2.75 rockets.

Q. TRAINING

Due to operational commitments through the month of September 1968, the following training was accomplished. Each Marine in the BLT received the following instructions:

	Hours
a. General Military Subjects	1
Map and Compass	1
Attack of Built Up Area	1
Tank/Infantry Coordination	1
Conduct of Operational Sweeps	1
M-79 Grenade Launcher	1/2
M-60 Machine Gun	1
Mines and Booby Traps	1
M-26 Hand Grenade	1/2
Field Firing	2
Care and Cleaning of TO Weapons	3
Radio Procedure	1
Field Sanitation	1
First and Buddy Aid	1
TOTAL	15

- b. BLT 2/7 provided RVN orientation indoctrination training for 4 Marine Officers, 55 Marine Enlisted, 1 Naval Officer and 12 Naval Enlisted replacement personnel during this reporting period.

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ 1. TAB A: Combat After Action Report (Operation DODGE CITY Area 15-22 September 1968).
- ✓ 2. TAB B: Activities of Reinforced Platoon Insert
- ✓ 3. TAB C: Overlay of TAOR 1-14 September 1968. (NIF)

ENCLOSURE (1)

0015103

HEADQUARTERS  
Task Group 79.5 (TG 79.5)  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/CLM/mjl  
5750  
26 November 1968

~~██████████~~-NOFORN (Downgrade to unclassified upon removal of Enclosure (1) )

From: Commander  
To: Distribution List (September Command Chronology)  
Subj: After Action Report, September Command Chronology; forwarding of  
Ref: (a) Para (3), Cover letter to BLT 2/7 September Command Chronology  
Encl: (1) Combat After Action Report (DODGE CITY AREA).  
Copy 1 of 90

1. In accordance with the information stated in reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded for inclusion to CTG 79.5's September Command Chronology.

*C. L. McElheny*  
C. L. MCELHENY  
By direction

2/7  
4/2  
DODGE CITY AREA  
15-22  
1/10 68

TAB (A)

22#2

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND DOCUMENTS,  
 HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

HEADQUARTERS  
 2nd Battalion, 7th MARINE BRIGADE, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380  
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

DECLASSIFIED

3/SRM/mar  
 3000  
 24 Sep 1968  
 Ser. No. 0045-68

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commander Task Group 79.5  
 Subj: Combat After Action Report (DODGE CITY AREA)  
 Ref: (a) CTG 79.5 Operation Plan 120A-67  
 (b) Map: AMS Vietnam 1:50,000 Series L7014 Sheet 6640 IV  
 Encl: (1) Overlay of area of operations, DODGE CITY AREA

2 Bn, 7th Marines  
 Log No. 00189-68  
 Copy No. 1 of 90

1. OPERATION DODGE CITY AREA
2. Date and Location:
  - a. DODGE CITY AREA, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN began on 15 September 1968 and terminated on 22 September 1968.
  - b. The Operation executed under OPCON of the SEVENTH MARINES.
3. Command Headquarters: 150800H - 221530H Seventh Marine Regiment Combat Base Hill #55 (AT 967616), #55
4. Task Organization

BLT 2/7

Interim Commanding Officer appointed by  
 Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

H&S Co (Rein)

LtCol. L. E. WATSON  
 1-19 Sep 1968  
 LtCol. G. F. BUNNELL JR  
 20-21 Sep 1968  
 LtCol. N.A. NELSON  
 22 Sep 1968  
 Capt. R. R. WEIPOTT  
 15-19 Sep 1968  
 1st Lt. J. H. HALSEY II  
 20-22 Sep 1968

Det, Hq Bn, 1st Mar Div  
 Det, Hq Co, 7th Mar  
 Det, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 Det, Comm Plat, Hq Co, 7th Mar  
 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn  
 Det, ISU, For Log Cmd  
 Det, Co C, 1st SP Bn  
 2nd Plat, Co A, 1st MT Bn

DECLASSIFIED

## EXTRACTED &amp; REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF

DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,

Co E (Rein)

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

Capt. J. T. FRICKER  
 15-19 Sep 1968  
 1stLt. A. S. MENAUGH  
 20-22 Sep 1968

Co E

Det, H&S Co  
 FAC Tm  
 FO Tm, 81MM Mortar Plat  
 NGF Spot Tm  
 Det, Btry H, (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 Tm, 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn  
 HST Tm, Det Co C, 1st SP Bn

Co F (Rein)

1stLt. G. W. HUMPHREY  
 15-18 Sep 1968  
 Capt. R. R. WELPOTT  
 19-22 Sep 1968

Co F

Det, H&S Co  
 FAC Tm  
 FO Tm, 81MM Mortar Plat  
 NGF Spot Tm  
 Det, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 Tm, 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn  
 HST Tm, Det Co C, 1st SP Bn

Co G (Rein)

Capt. A. V. LATORRE

Co G

Det, H&S Co  
 FAC Tm  
 FO Tm, 81MM Mortar Plat  
 Det, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 Tm, 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn  
 HST Tm, Det 2nd Plat, Co C, 1st SP Bn

Co H (Rein)

Capt. T. P. E. HOLM

Co H

Det, H&S Co  
 FO Tm, 81MM Mortar Plat  
 Det, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 Tm, 2nd Plat, Co C, 1st SP Bn

Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

Capt. J. J. JAMES

Mortar Btry (Rein), 3rd Bn 11th Mar

Capt. J. P. RIORDAN

81MM Mortar Plat

1stLt. D. J. MCMAHON

2nd Plat, Co B, 1st Tank Bn

1stLt. M. E. HASTINGS

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORD

DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS 2nd Lt. M. E. NELSON

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380 1st Lt. W. H. MCCLOSKEY

2nd Lt. E. T. CHARBONEAU

5. Intelligence

a. Enemy Strength Prior to the Operation was undetermined. Initial reports received indicated that units of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines had made heavy contact with an unknown but sizeable enemy force in the Dodge City Area.

b. Enemy Strength, Mission and Tactics During the Operation. Enemy forces reported to be in area of operation were the 11th, 12th and 13th companies from Group 44 Headquarters-Transportation Organization. Other enemy units reported were elements of the 31st, 36th and 38th NVA Regiments, from the 308 Division also a part of Group 44. Separate Companies from Group 44 were used primarily to transport rice obtained from isolated villages to other enemy units. Reports stated that these units were composed of men who were not fit for combat. Other enemy forces in the area were infantry units having the mission of carrying out counter sweep operations against American and Vietnamese forces operating in the area. Enemy forces in the area had been able to build substantial bunkers, trenches and fighting holes. Due to the fortified positions the enemy often chose to man his emplacements and wait for FVMAF sweep forces and at very close range, employ small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket fire in an effort to inflict maximum casualties on FVMAF forces. Sniper fire was also used in an effort to hamper movement of friendly units that became impaled in his defenses. Morale appeared high as demonstrated by his stiff resistance on 18-20 September even though he was under heavy enemy fire, artillery and air attack. Two NVA propaganda banners were captured from a Bunker Complex the inscriptions reflected pride in their unit and "cause". Interrogation reports received stated that the men had little food. POW's also stated that their training had not been adequate for combat situations, and the POW's believed many men would Chieu Hoi if they were afforded the opportunity. The enemy had (3) radios and occasionally employed these to monitor ARVN communications. The 2nd Bn, 36th NVA Regiment reportedly suffered 90 KIA & 63 WIA's from encounter with this BLT on 18-20 Oct 68. POW's also reported that an additional 10% of that unit were non effective due to Malaria and other maladies.

c. Terrain. The terrain in the area of operations was characterized by lowland areas consisting primarily of land under rice cultivation, both flooded and dry. Shrubs and treelines running parallel with villages dominated the area. Terrain limited vehicular mobility to tracked vehicles only.

d. Weather. The weather had no adverse effect on the operation but due to intense heat, movement of troops was often slowed to prevent heat casualties. The weather was predominately hot and sunny with a low overcast during early morning hours.

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORD OF  
DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,

6. Mission

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

The mission assigned to BLT 2/7 during the operation was to conduct search and destroy operations, find and fix, and capture or destroy all enemy forces, materials, locations, and fortifications in the area.

7. Execution

a. Summary

On the evening of 14 September 1968 the BLT was ordered to prepare two companies for insertion into an operation in the DIDGE CITY area at first light on 15 September to assist a Task Force of the 51st ARVN Regiment reinforced with a Ranger group and the 3rd Battalion 7th Marines who were in heavy contact a sizeable enemy force. Company "F" and Company "H" with a small command group constituted the force to be employed. The BLT (-) was inserted at first light on 15 September into the southern portion of the DODGE CITY area in vicinity AT 948567 and at AT 949561. After landing the BLT (-) conducted a sweep operation west to an area at vicinity of AT 957557 where the BLT (-) established night defensive positions. At first light on 16 September the BLT (-) began a sweep to an area at vicinity of AT 960526 and held that position until the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines made physical contact with the BLT (-). Both organizations then swept towards the southeast, establishing night defensive positions in the vicinity of AT 965519. On the morning of 17 September the BLT (-) extended its position to vicinity of AT 960556 and from that position a two battalion sweep was launched with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines on the left and the BLT (-) on the right. That afternoon the BLT was ordered along with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines to move to an assembly area on Liberty Road at vicinity of coordinates AT 968585. Upon arrival at the assembly area the BLT Commander and S-3 Officer were ordered to report to Commanding Officer, 7th Marines to receive further orders. The result of this meeting was that BLT 2/7 and 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines were to set in for the night at vicinity coordinates AT 973577. On the following morning, 18 Sep. 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines was to be withdrawn and returned to its Combat Base while Companies "E" and "G" of BLT 2/7 and command group augmentation were to be inserted. At first light on the morning of 18 September the planned events took place with the simultaneous helicopter withdrawal of 3rd Bn, 7th Marines and the helicopter insert of BLT 2/7 units. The lifts were concluded at approximately 1000 and the BLT commenced a sweep east-southeast with three companies up and one in reserve. The mission assigned was to conduct sweeps to find, fix and destroy the enemy in the area of operations. The only certain information at this time was that ARVN forces of the 51st ARVN Regiment (Rein) Task Force were in heavy contact with a "large" NVA force north of the BLT AO, in Grids AT 5998 and 5898. At 1430 the BLT was ordered to establish defensive positions and accept resupply. Upon completion of resupply, BLT was to continue attack to phase line Tangerine. Upon reaching phase line Tangerine the BLT was to establish a blocking position along phase line Tangerine. At 1830 the BLT commenced to sweep towards phase line Tangerine. Due to an large water barrier encountered after dark orders were changed so that Company "G" moved to and set up a defensive position on phase line Tangerine and Companies "E", "F", and "H" and the Command Group established defensive positions in vicinity AT 985579.

At first light on 19 September BLT continued the attack to phase line Tangerine. At about 0730 Company "E" encountered an NVA squad, killing four in a heavy tree line vicinity AT 974576. By 0940 all companies were on phase line Tangerine establishing positions to accept resupply. Company "F" moved



small units forward to establish OP's to the front of BLT defensive positions. These OP's were to be established beyond a tree line about 250 meters to the BLT front. This tree line covered three fourths of the BLT front and was characterized by trees 10 to 20 feet in height, scattered clumps of bannana trees, elephant grass and thick undergrowth leading to and in the immediate vicinity of the tree line. When the OP's and their security reached a position about 15 meters from the tree line they came under heavy enemy small arms and RPG fire. Due to the heavy growth it was difficult to estimate the size of the enemy force, it was thought to be a platoon but as the battle progressed it became clear that it was a much larger force, at least two Companies, perhaps a battalion. The enemy was well entrenched with snipers on both flanks where clumps of the tree line extended about 20 meters closer to friendly lines than did the length of the tree line itself. The battle raged throughout the 19th of September. Companies "E", "G" and "H" being committed to relieve pressure from Company "F" who fought into the enemy positions. The greatest problem encountered this day was one of fire support coordination, as the BLT could exercise no control over ARVN aircraft supporting the ARVN effort to the north, these aircraft continually flew through BLT air space causing frequent check fires of mortar and artillery and making coordination of Marine air support difficult in the extreme. Additionally, until Company "F" could break contact all supporting fires delivered had to be eastward, beyond the enemy positions engaged by friendly ground troops. In the late afternoon contact was broken sufficiently and fire support coordination effectively established with the ARVN so that accurate air, artillery and mortar fire could be brought to bear on the enemy.

Late in the day 3rd Battalion 7th Marines was helilifted to a blocking position along SUOI CO CA river at vicinity AT 008575. Contact with the enemy was completely broken by 1900, the BLT reformed on the most defensible terrain, along a line AT 992575 to AT 992573 and prepared to continue the attack. At first light Companies "G" and "H" swept through the site of the previous days battle with Company "F" in support, Company "E" held a position at vicinity of AT 992573 in order to sweep the BLT right flank and/or maneuver from the area as the situation required. By 0900 the Command Group and Company "F" established in the site of the previous days battle, Companies "G" and "H" swung north-eastward and made contact with a large enemy force at vicinity of 006576. The two Companies linked up and delivered small arms and mortar fire on the enemy force and called artillery and air on the area. Meanwhile a search of the previous days battle area by Company "F" revealed a strongly fortified area with intricate communications and fighting trenches connecting strong points, sniper positions and fourteen covered fighting holes, oriented to the BLT's front of the previous day, numerous other positions were found in a northern direction as well. Three grave sites were uncovered and some equipment. Personnel effects of the enemy dead revealed them to be members of the 2nd Battalion, 36th NVA Regiment.

By early afternoon Companies "G" and "H" had tightened their hold on the area and the enemy had withdrawn to a complex of tree lines at vicinity AT 000577. At 1530 an enemy bunker was sighted vicinity of AT 000577 flying an NVA flag. Stiff resistance was encountered in this area. Company "E" had been moved at 1300 to link up with Company "F" in vicinity of the BLT Command Post, which itself had been under intensive small arms fire since 1215. Throughout the day the ARVN to the north had been in heavy contact with the NVA and had pushed him east towards vicinity 995582. By 1130 the ARVN began to swing south pushing the enemy into BLT 2/7. The enemy was now being pushed from the north by ARVN, from the west by BLT 2/7 and buffeted against 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines blocking along the river to the east. This pressure plus accurate air and artillery ordnance deliveries in the areas of resistance began to take their toll by late afternoon.

By 1600 when coordinated air and ground attacks were strongest in the bunker area and following a mixed flight of 500lb bombs and napalm the enemy was seen to flee from the bunker area into the surrounding tree lines, in groups of twenty and thirty. They were taken under fire and air and artillery concentrated more intensely on the area. Resistance was still very stiff from the bunker area. Companies "G" and "H" began to encounter anti-personnel mines and booby traps. As dusk set in Companies "G" and "H" established a perimeter at vicinity AT 998576. Companies "E" and "F" and the Command Group moved under cover of darkness to defensible ground in vicinity AT 992575.

Throughout the night artillery and mortar fire was delivered on known and suspected enemy positions. At 2145 a strong odor of marijuana was reported as coming from the vicinity of the enemy held bunker complex and tree lines.

At first light on 21 September the BIF continued the attack into the bunker area and surrounding treelines. After disarming and removing numerous booby traps and anti-personnel mines, companies "G" and "H" uncovered an extensive, well prepared network of trenches, fighting holes and positions and bunkers. The latter produced large quantities of food, equipment, weapons, and documents much of the latter was of a classified nature. This entire area was suggestive of a battalion or larger size command post area. It was later revealed that document analysis and POW interrogations showed this to be the main position of the 2nd Battalion, 36th Regiment with the 36th NVA Regimental Command Post and elements of Group 44 located there, additionally it was revealed that BIF 2/7 had encountered the 2nd Battalion, 36th and other elements of the NVA 36th and 38th Regiments during the preceding two days battle. And further that these units were on a counter-sweep operation seeking battle with BIF 2/7. Three POW's were taken when larger rooms and tunnels were discovered in levels below the surface. Companies "E" and "F" uncovered grave sites in tree lines to the east and south of the bunker area. In all, 69 enemy KIA were confirmed by body count. POW interrogations revealed that BIF 2/7 had killed at least 80 enemy and wounded at least 63 from 2nd Battalion, 36th NVA Regiment alone. Included in the dead was the assistant Battalion Commander of the 2nd Battalion, 36th Regiment. On 21 September occasional NVA were sighted fleeing eastward and then southward at various times during the day both by BIF 2/7 and 3rd Battalion 7th Marines units. The day was devoted to searching and clearing the battle area. In the late afternoon 3rd Battalion 7th Marines was helolifted to a blocking position along a line AT 983546 to AT 994546. At dusk Companies "G" and "H" established defensive positions in the enemy defensive complex, the remainder of the BIF moved, as directed, to new position vicinity AT 991570 for an attack south towards 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines blocking position.

At first light on 22 September Company "G" moved to the BIF attack position, while Company "H" continued to search and commenced destruction of the enemy defensive complex. At 1000 the sweep south began, however at about 1130 the BIF received orders to halt present sweep and on order to move to an assembly area at vicinity AT 968584 for pickup by trucks and return to BIF Base Camp at DAI LA PASS. Company "H" was relieved of the search and destroy operation in the heavy defensive complex by elements of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. The BIF arrived at the designated assembly area and entrucked at 1530 on 22 September 1968, arriving at DAI LA PASS at 1700.

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF

DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

DECLASSIFIED

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MEMS,  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

b. Significant Events

The following is a summary of significant events and contacts made with the enemy.

1. 151330H Company "F", while executing a sweep, moved into an area finding NVA equipment including medical supplies, an assortment of packs containing rice, one AK-47 rifle, and a pair of "Ho Chi Minh" shoes. All equipment was collected and the rice destroyed.
2. At dusk on 15 September, the BLT(-) established night defensive positions and conducted aggressive night patrols and ambushes in an attempt to locate the enemy for the next day's operations. One ambush at AT957557 captured two NVA soldiers attempting to escape by swimming across the river. The POW's were evacuated to 9th ITT on Hill 55 AT967616 for interrogation.
3. 161200H Company "F" fired a 60mm concentration on two VC at AT957557, then sent a squad into the area to check the results and found a blood trail which was followed up to AT960556 where it was lost in the river. One NVA boot and an 11 foot dugout log rowboat were found. The boat was destroyed.
4. 162030H A listening post from 1st Platoon Company "H" AT951560 heard and then spotted four enemy. The listening post registered with illumination and the fired 6 rounds of 60mm HE with unknown results. At first light the listening post swept the area of enemy movement, but it found no trace of enemy casualties.
5. 170615H Company "H" found 24-10cc Vitamin B12 at AT952561 in a bunker. Medicine was turned in and the bunker was destroyed.
6. 171520H Headquarters 7th Marines sent BLT 2/7 a warning order to receive Companies "E" and "G" into the area.
7. 180750H Second Platoon Company "H" found one Chi Com grenade, green utilities, assorted clothing, 35lbs of rice, 25lbs of corn at AT964573. The assorted clothing was brought in and the rice and corn was destroyed.
8. 182020H Battery "H" 3rd Bn, 11th Mar moved from Hill 60 AT886772 to Hill 55 AT962603.
9. 190800H Company "E" while sweeping in vicinity AT974576 made contact with an estimated squad of NVA resulting in four NVA kills with three AK-47 captured without taking any friendly casualties.
10. 191000H - 191900H The BLT while sweeping battle area from AT992582 to AT992570 received heavy volume of small arms, automatic weapons, grenades and RPG fire from an enemy unit of unknown size. The enemy was in fortified trenches, fighting holes. Company "F" made the initial contact with the enemy at AT995575. At 0900 Company "F" received a heavy volume of grazing fire including B-40 Rockets, automatic weapons, small arms and grenades, about 42 friendly casualties resulted in the initial contact and several more were wounded or killed in the process of evacuating the original casualties. Company "H" was committed to the left flank of Company "F" and Company "G" to the right to

DECLASSIFIED

(A)

- press home the attack. Company "E", the BLT reserve was committed to the attack and moved to Company "F"'s position, allowing Company "F" to withdraw and consolidate in order to continue the attack. Companies "G" and "H" pressed the attack by pushing through the flanks. On order all Companies reformed at phase line Tangerine to allow more effective air and artillery bombardments of the area. A frag order came from the 7th Marines to deploy south along Phase Line Tangerine. In moving to the specified area Company "E" personnel tripped a booby trap. Companies began receiving small arms fire from the north as a Battalion of the 51st ARVN pushed VC/NVA towards the BLT. Altogether the BLT suffered 14 KIA and 54 WIA's.
11. 200800H Company "G" attempting to move and link up with 3/7 made heavy contact in vicinity AT001577 with large size enemy forces believed to be in a battalion size CP area. Company "G" disengaged and called in air and artillery bombardment into the area. Company "G" received 5 KIA's and 19 WIA's set up a base of fire while Company "H" assaulted using a left envelopment. Company "G" then evacuated casualties and equipment to the rear.
  12. 200900H LtCol. WATSON was replaced by LtCol BUNNELL, temporary Commander of BLT 2/7 pending arrival of new BLT Commander from 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade.
  13. 200845H The Second Squad, Second Platoon, Company "H" found an enemy mortar pit with empty ammunition containers and bamboo aiming stakes at coordinates AT005566.
  14. 211030H While sweeping the battle area AT001577 Company "G" attempted to approach and search an enemy CP bunker and encountered heavy booby traps and anti-personnel mines. Two of the mines were detonated causing two WIA's. The mines were identified as box mines of unknown size. Attempts were made to detonate other mines in the area with air strikes. Company "G" went on to search the suspected area and uncovered extensive, reinforced bunkers and trench complexes suggesting a battalion size or larger CP area. These complexes stretched southeast from 001579 to 005575. NVA uniforms and equipment were found in the area.
  15. 211600H Second Platoon, Company "H" found 15 fighting holes and five bunkers at BT001577. The bunkers were searched finding one NVA body, a brief case and documents including maps, ten packs, fifty ammo cans, various pieces of clothing, 250lbs of rice and 200 rounds of AK-47 ammo three wallets, three gas masks, one NVA flag and two propaganda banners. At the same time the Third Platoon which was searching a different part of the same area discovered thirteen additional fighting holes, two more bunkers and four tunnels. In searching out the area the third Plt. found two NVA bodies and capture one NVA soldier. They found one NVA flag, seven ammo cans of documents, and miscellaneous clothing. This POW revealed himself to be twenty years old and an NVA soldier with the 2nd Battalion, 36th Regiment, 308th NVA Division. He stated that on 19 Sep. his 2nd Battalion suffered 80 KIA and 60 WIA's, and that the Assistant Battalion Commander (named BA) was killed by bombs from an air strike. His unit carried their wounded and dead to a new position on the slopes of the DAI LOC Mountains. He also said that he knew of three Regiments in the area, the 36th and the 38th of the 308th NVA Division, and one unknown Regiment.

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
 HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380  
 DECLASSIFIED

16. 211400H While on a sweep, lead elements from Company "E" spotted one NVA at coordinates AT999577 wearing green utilities, helmet and carrying a rifle fleeing to the east. The lead element pursued by fire and continued to sweep finding fresh graves containing NVA bodies.
17. 211430H Continuing on a sweep Company "E" found an M-79, Ser. No. 108224 and 30 M-79 rounds, one NVA pack, a dud 105mm round, a dud 155mm round, one 60mm mortar round, and four fresh graves containing NVA bodies at AT998577. The rounds were blown in place and the equipment turned in.
18. 211500H While sweeping, Company "G" in area of BT001518 found an ammo carrying pack, three dud 105mm rounds, one NVA E-tool and one NVA body, and 9 women and children. The people were turned over to S-2, and the hut where the equipment was found was destroyed by fire resulting in four secondary explosions.
19. 220930H In the area of BT001578 Company "H" found two NVA (POWs) carrying documents on their persons to indicate they were from the 2nd Battalion, 36th Regiment. Also found in the area was a 122mm rocket motor, and 500lbs of rice. LtCol. NIEL A NELSON assumed Command of BLT 2/7.
20. 221530H BLT 2/7 was extracted from the area of operation and brought back to DAI LA PASS AT939748. Extraction was completed approximately 221900H.

### C. Supporting Arms

- (1) General. During the period from 14 September to 22 September 1968, BLT 2/7 received artillery support from two 105mm Batteries, "H" Battery BLT 2/7 and "I" Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, two 155mm Batteries; "K" Battery 4th Battalion, 11th Marines and "L" Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, and "A" Battery Field Artillery Group, an 8 inch Battery. Also, the 81mm Mortar Platoon of BLT 2/7 was in direct support.
- (2) Artillery. The 105 Batteries fired a total of 2379 high explosive, 91 white phosphorous, and 61 illumination rounds. This was accomplished through 62 observed missions and 339 H&I missions. The 155 Batteries fired 698 high explosive, and 21 white phosphorous rounds including 51 observed missions and 60 H&I Missions. The 8 inch Battery fired 216 high explosive rounds with 19 observed, 15 H&I and 1 destruction mission. In addition there was extensive H&I and preparatory missions fired under the direction of the 7th Marine Regiment, firing in direct support of BLT 2/7 during this period. Some of the problems encountered during this period are as follows: The inability of the air support to provide the artillery liaison section with an accurate estimation of ETA of air missions resulted in artillery fire being placed in check fire from five to twenty minutes before the air strike was run, thereby restricting the effectiveness of both arms. Another problem was the lack of effective coordination with the helicopter units. This resulted in many artillery missions being placed in a check fire status in the middle of a mission by the unexpected arrival of a MEDEVAC or resupply helicopter. One more major problem area was the close proximity of friendly troops to enemy targets.

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS, 9-

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

This resulted in the cancellation of some missions and in some cases increased the delay time for clearing contact missions. In summary, there was more than ample artillery support available but the lack of effective coordination of other support elements and the close proximity of friendly troops to the target area severely limited the number and effectiveness of the missions fired.

(3) Naval Gunfire. Naval Gunfire was not employed during the BIF operation in the Dodge City Area.

(4) Air Support.

- a. CAS: During the period from 15-22 September close air support was called by BIF air controllers. The BIF utilized fixed wing from Marine Air Groups 11, 12, 13 and support was given by the 366 Tactical Squadron at Danang. There were 18 flights of soft ordnance dropping 4.5 tons of napalm, 352 - 2.75 rockets and 20 - 20mm pods. There were six flights of hard ordnance including 12 tons of 500lb bombs, 135 - 2.75 rockets and 20mm gun pods. Bomb damage assessed for the period was 9 structures destroyed, 4 structures damaged, 300 meters of trench line destroyed, and numerous enemy killed in action.
- b. TPQ-10: No TPQ-10s were employed due to proximity of targets to friendly forces.
- c. Flareships: For their needs at night BIF 2/7 had Spooky (C147) aircraft on call with flares and mini-guns for the support of the Battalion. An accurate account of rounds expended was not given. Also, the flare ships from H and MS 11 and VMGR 152 at Danang were used on four different occasions. On 20-21 September a flare ship was used for BIF units so that they could observe areas around them.
- d. AO's: Flying in direct support of the BIF were Air Observers from MAG 16 at Danang. These AO's flew directly over ground units observing and were in front of the units searching for trenchlines, bunkers, and fortified positions. The AO's were most helpful during the progress of the Close Air Support mission. There were a total of 19 AO's utilized by the BIF. These aircraft carried 2.75 rockets for air support and WP rounds for marking targets.
- e. Medevacs: For the Battalion sweep the BIF continued its use of helicopters from HMM 165 aboard the USS TRIPOLI. Also, a number of helicopters were called from in-country sources HMM 164 and UH-34 MEDEVAC Helicopters from MAG 16 at Danang for the most serious cases such as head wounds.

d. Logistics

- (1) A Battalion TAC-Log Net was established on 14 September 1968 at the Battalion rear and continued to operate through 22 September 1968. Its main function was monitoring resupply requests between the units in the field and the ISA.

- (2) A Battalion size ISA was established on 14 September 1968 at Hill 55, 7th Marines Regimental Headquarters, it was operated by HST personnel with representatives from the S-1 Section, Supply Section, Ammo Technician, Ordnance Section, and Communications Contact Team until the close of the operation on 22 September 1968. There were no significant resupply problems. The total weight of resupplies for the period concerned was 54,471lb. Class I 49,150, Class II 1,161 and Class V 4,160 lbs.
- (3) HMM 165 supported BLT 2/7 through the 7th Marine Regiment for resupplies and Medevacs.
- (4) All classes of supplies were available at the ISA to the supporting unit with the exception of Class IV which was supplied by the Battalion's organic supply which consisted of 280 water cans, 15 cargo nets/slings for external resupply.
- (5) The water resupply point on Hill 55 was utilized to fill the requests/requirements thru HST personnel at the ISA.
- (6) Maintenance of organic property was performed by LSU Contact Teams with the exception of work requested by "W" Battery 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines for repairing their sight and recoil mechanism on Howtars which qualified personnel capable of performing the work were not available, assistance was required from 1st FSR maintenance Battalion and the Contact Team was sent to Hill 22 to execute the repairs required. Eleven M-60 Machine Guns were repaired by the LSU Ordnance Contact Team.
- (6) Transportation for the ISA was provided by Organic Vehicles which included one (1) M-35 and two (2) M-274-A2.

e. Communications

Communications on the operation were very good and there was little difficulty maintaining radio contact with all units, however the REGT'L TAC NET and Artillery nets were mutually interfering due to frequencies which were separated by less than one megacycle. The BLT Rear had some problems with its communications link to the USS TRIPOLI which were due to range and atmospheric conditions. The PRC-25 was used exclusively and proved effective and efficient. The maneuver elements relied on tape and whip antennas exclusively while the BLT Rear used the new RC-2236 antenna. This directional antenna was also used on the SLF TAC NET and has proven very effective for long distance radio shots. The air net also used the PRC-25 with no problems. One PRC-25 was damaged by small arms fire and one by fragmentation.

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
 HEADQUARTERS U.S. MARINE CORPS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

-11-

SECRET

(4)

8. Results

## A. Friendly

## (1) USMC Casualties:

## a. Officer:

KIA	0
WIA	7
WIANE	0
NBCE	0

## b. Enlisted

KIA	23
WIA	95
WIANE	8
NBCE	77

## (2) USN Casualties:

## a. Officers: None

## b. Enlisted:

WIA	3
-----	---

## (3) Equipment Damage: None

## B. Enemy

## (1) Personnel:

(a) NVA KIA	:	69	( Confirmed by Body Count )
(b) VC KIA	:	2	( Confirmed by Body Count )
(c) Detainees	:	25	
(d) Chieu Hoi	:	0	

## (2) Weapons Captured:

(a) One 1891/30 Rifle with Scope
(b) One AK-47

## (3) Grenades and Mines Captured

(a) Two Fircracker AP mines; pressure type
(b) Two Chi Com Grenades
(c) Two Bangalore torpedos, rigged as AP surprise firing devices, trip wire type.



EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
 HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

4. Ammo captured by rounds:

- (a) one 12.7 mm round
- (b) one 122 mm rocket mortar
- (c) 200 AK 47 rounds

5. Miscellaneous Equipment Captured (in large quantities where not specifically stated).

- (a) Miscellaneous individual equipment
- (b) Miscellaneous clothing and uniforms
- (c) Assorted cooking utensils
- (d) Assorted documents and maps
- (e) 3275 pounds of rice
- (f) 35 pounds of corn
- (g) Assorted medicines
- (h) 24 x 10cc ampules of Vitamin B-12
- (i) One wooden boat
- (j) Two NVA flags
- (k) Two NVA banners
- (l) One 12.7 AS gun sight
- (m) One Russian SKM gas mask.

9. Commanders Analysis

The encounter of BLT 2/7 with a sizable NVA force in the DODGE CITY AREA produced a number of valuable lessons the most important of which are:

- a. The NVA unlike the VC is not "sweepable". Every tree line must be approached as an objective and treated as though it contains a large enemy force. Effective preparatory fires must be delivered and a tactic of fire and maneuver of troops employed.
- b. There must be unity of command when different units are operating in the same area, e.g. ARVN, BLT 2/7 and 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. The lack of a clean cut Commander results in a break down in coordination which in turn results in check fires at critical moments because of violations of air space, operational boundaries etc.
- c. Qualified interrogation-translation personnel must be on the spot and a feed back from follow-up interrogations and translations of documents must be timely. The BLT did not become fully aware of the magnitude of the enemy encountered, or damage that they had inflicted upon him until after its return to Base at DAI LA PASS. Without timely information of this nature the Commander cannot make valid plans nor can he make informed recommendations to his Commander.
- d. The NVA can not be underestimated, because he had not stood and fought in a particular area before does not mean that he will not do so. When he does, all must be ready to react, especially supporting arms, which because the NVA usually opens fire at point blank range, require exceptional coordination to be effective.

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
 DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
 HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

It is most reasonable to conclude that the enemies stand against BIT 2/7 on 19 and 20 September was prompted by two considerations one being the threat that the BIT posed to the flank and rear of major NVA forces engaged with the ARVN task force to the north of the BIT AO. The other being that the BIT was fast closing with a major enemy command and communications center.

In the final analysis the Operation in the DODGE CITY Area was eminently successful, enemy strong holds were destroyed, many of his plans and secrets revealed, one of his battalions badly damaged, large quantities of food stuffs, equipment and weapons captured and his units pursued and hurried in their retreat. In the type of warfare we are faced with, in this part of I Corps this certainly spells out a resounding success of arms, though it may not be all that is desired, it has been found that this enemy is not cooperative when it comes to the exploitation phase and the final and complete destruction of his forces.

*Neil A. Nelson*  
NEIL A. NELSON

EXTRACTED/REPRODUCED FROM RECORDS OF  
DIVISION OF HISTORY AND MUSEUMS,  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS,  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

UNCLASSIFIED

CONCEPT BEHIND HILL #324 INSERT

Upon returning from the BLT operation in the DODGE CITY Area the BLT was given the mission of being prepared to block Dai La Pass and Engineer Pass or establish a blocking front in the vicinity of (AT9379) with one battalion; also the BLT had to be prepared to conduct counterattacks in the Danang area. The BLT was not given a definite TAOR, but was left as a mobile force that had to be prepared to fight in any area of the Danang TAOR. Although the BLT had no AO it felt that to accomplish the mission assigned it felt it would be necessary to insert an CP on Hill #324 (AT883742); for from it all movement into the Danang TAOR could be observed. Therefore the BLT requested from 1st Bn, 26th Marines and was granted permission to insert a reinforced platoon on Hill #324 (AT883742).

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. 230855-231035 - Insert of OP Reno into area at coordinates (AT885746) was completed during this period except for two pallets of gear which were flown in later the same day.
2. 231045 - OP Reno sighted one squad of well camouflaged NVA running from northeast to southwest at coordinates (AT880746) and called in a fire mission upon the enemy with unknown results.
3. 231347 - OP Reno observed a NVA force in excess of 25 personnel moving northeast at coordinates (AT879711). The OP called for an AO, which arrived on station but could not make sightings on the enemy force.
4. 241205 - OP Reno observed 20 enemy running to the northwest at coordinates (AT883715) and called in a fire mission, but could not determine the effect of the artillery fire on the enemy.
5. 241900H - OP Reno sighted an enemy rocket battery being fired from grid coordinates (AT883695) and called in a fire mission on rocket position after firing 9 106 recoilles rifle rounds at the enemy. The results of the counter-rocket fire were not determined.
6. 242355H - OP Reno reported that at least one or two enemy had been detected probing the area. To counter this 3 M-26 grenades and 7 60mm mortars were fired but the results of this action was unknown.

UNCLASSIFIED

7. 251343H - OP Reno spotted a Marine Corps vehicle going around a bend on route 5B at (AT867752) travelling in a southwest direction when it hit a mine. The OP also saw three Vietnamese run across rice paddies into the brush. Native Bird 14 called in a medevac for the wounded personnel.
8. 261340H - OP Reno reported that there were seven or eight Vietnamese wearing black PJ's and white hats working in rice paddies near mining incident.
9. 261530H - OP Reno reported seeing the first M-35 truck in a three truck convoy travelling south in the vicinity of (AT893720) hit a mine and burn. The OP saw Vietnamese running from the area.
10. 271445H - OP Reno spotted a congregation of approximately 40 people in black pajamas and white hats. They dispersed and went in different directions. OP Reno could not see if these people carried weapons.
11. 291630H - OP Reno was abandoned and all fortifications on Hill #324 (AT88372) were destroyed.

TAB B

OVERLAY  
TAOR

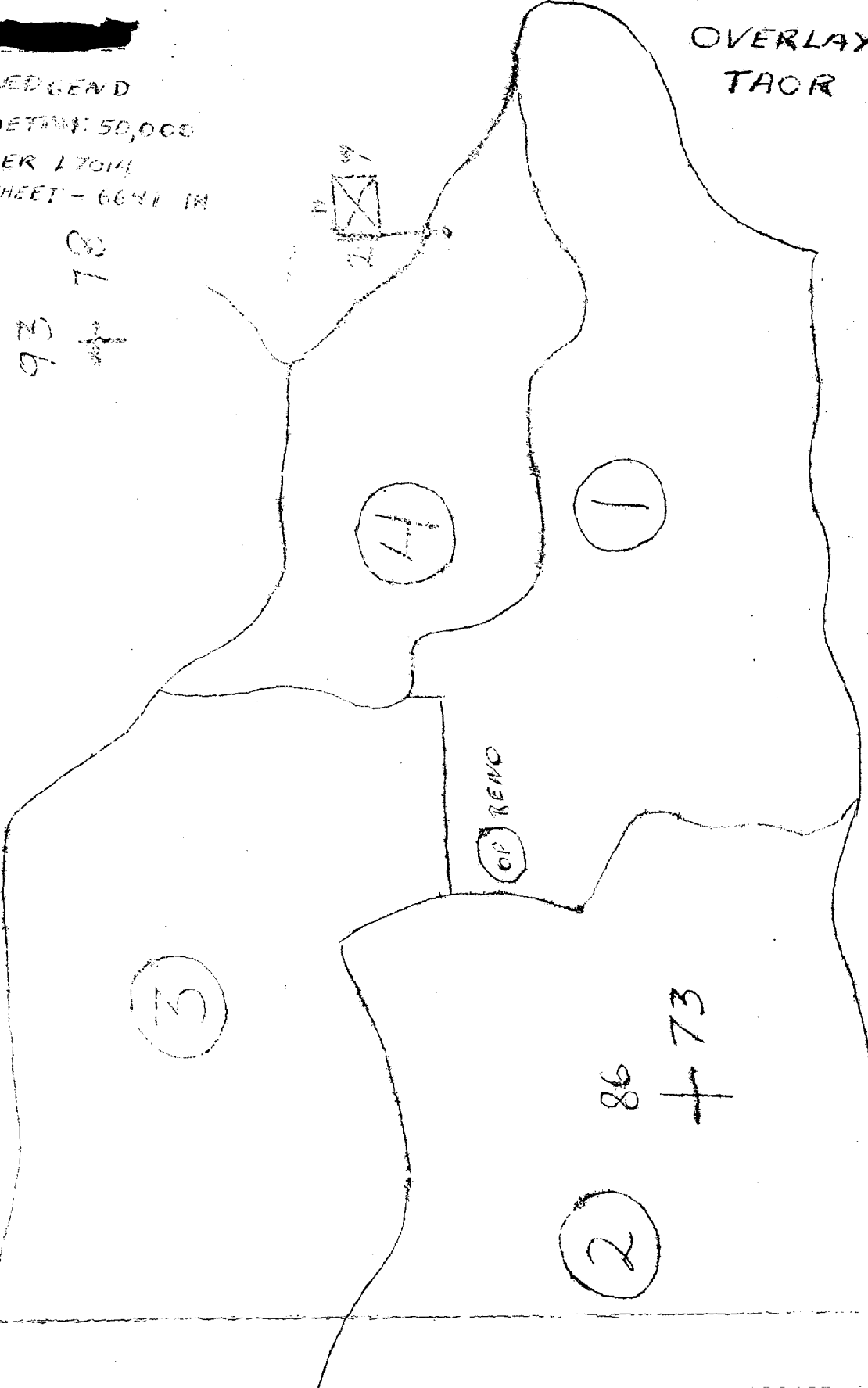
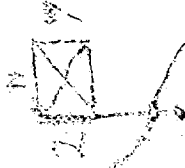
LEGEND

VIETNAM 50,000

SER 17014

SHEET - 6641 IM

93  
+ 78

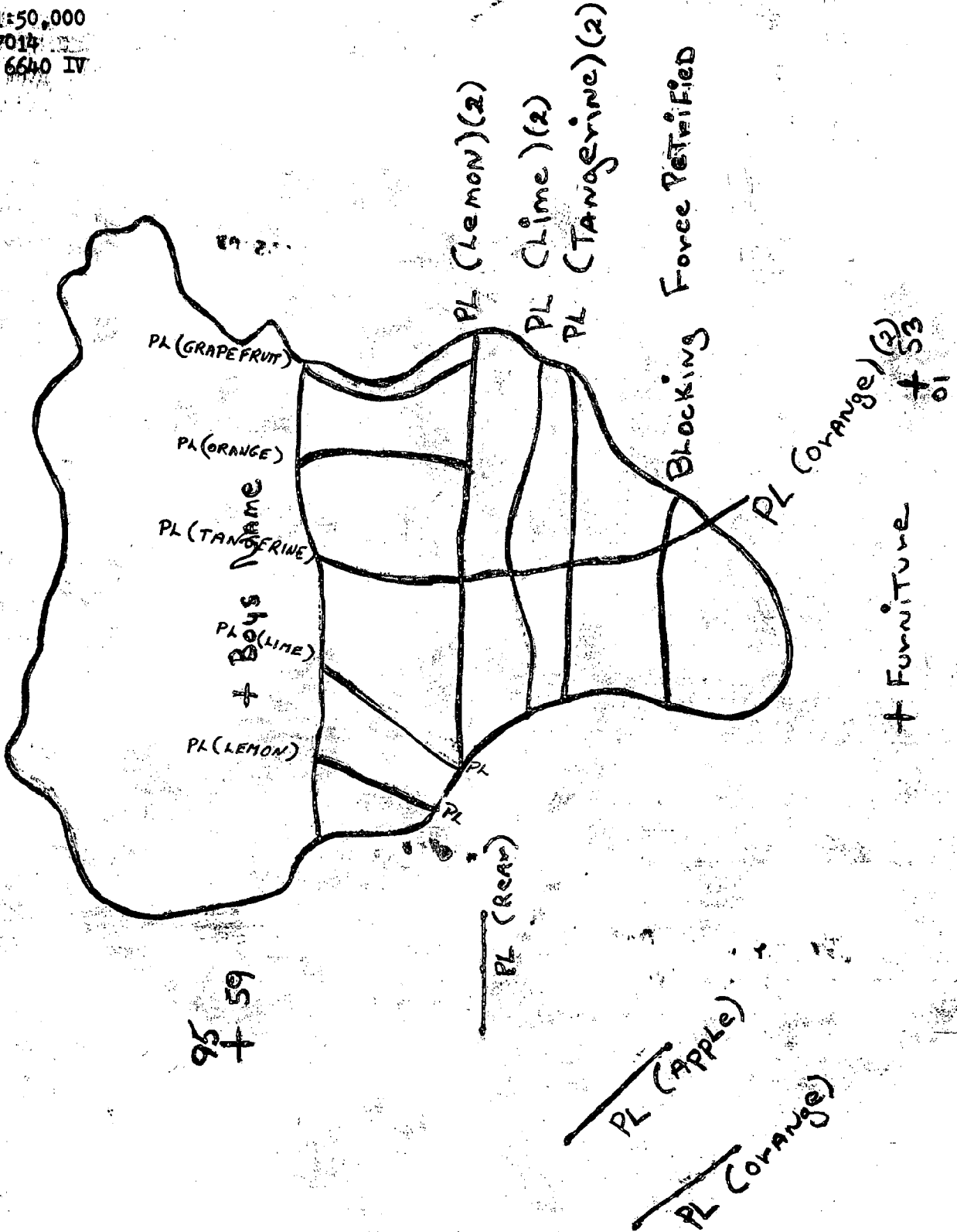


DECLASSIFIED

LEDGENT  
VIET 1:50,000  
SER L7014  
SHEET 6640 IV

OPERATION OVERLAY  
RODGE CITY AREA

ARVN TAOR



TAB B

DECLASSIFIED  
TAB (B)

(A)