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1ST SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY
3d Marine Division(Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

WKL:fwl
5750
Ser: 001A25168
8 Sep 1968

[redacted]

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division(Rein), FMF
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) the following report is submitted.

2. Reporting Period: 1-31 August 1968

3. Organizational Data:

a. Designation of Unit. Reporting Unit 21503, 1st Searchlight Battery, 3d Marine Division(Rein), FMF, FPO San Francisco 96602

b. Commanding Officer. Captain William K. LAW, 31 July 1968 - present.

c. Battery Officers:

(1) 1stLt Carl E. EASTWICH - Executive Officer

(2) 1stLt James W. HILL - Platoon Commander, 3d Platoon.

d. Location of Unit: Dong Ha Combat Base, Republic of Vietnam, 29 June 1967 - present.

e. Battery Strength:

USMC		USN	
Off	Enl	Off	Enl
3	95	0	2

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4. Narrative Summary:

2 August 1968. The outpost on Hill 950 (XD 844456) was assaulted by an enemy Sapper team. The searchlight positioned there was hit by an RPG round which damaged the light and the vehicle on shich it was mounted. The attack was repulsed, and the searchlight was evacuated to Dong Ha. There were no friendly casulties.

13 August 1968. The living bunker occupied by members of the Third Platoon at LZ Sheppard collapsed during a rain storm. There were no casulties nor loss of equipment.

23 August 1968. LCPL 28, attached to TF Clearwater, struck a mine at YD 310680 and sank. The searchlight attached to the roof was recovered, however the generator was lost with the boat. There were three Marine WIA's.

24 August 1968. One Dual Blade searchlight operating with the Third Platoon was sent to Dong Ha for repair. The light was returned within three days.

26 August 1968. The Third Platoon CP moved to an area at LZ Vandergrift formerly occupied by CBMU 301. The personnel are now living in bunkers instead of tents. The Third Platoon Commander is OIC of the complex which includes detachments from 9th MT battalion, 3d MP battalion and representatives of the press.

5. Sequential Listing of Significant Events

a. Combat Missions assigned:

(1) First Platoon - Direct support of Task Force Clearwater.

(2) Second Platoon - Direct support of First Brigade, 5th Infantry (Mech), CAP 3-4-4 and CAP 3-4-2.

(3) Third Platoon - Direct support of Task Force Hotel.

b. Operations conducted:

(1) Scotland II

(2) Lancaster II

(3) Kentucky

(4) Napoleon/Saline

(5) Highrise

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c. Casulties inflicted on the enemy: none

d. New techniques of employment: none

e. Casulties sustained: 3 WIA

f. Equipment

(1) 39% of the organic searchlights are deadlined for 3rd and 4th echelon repair. Six searchlights remain at FLSG-B, one was turned in during August and has not yet come back.

(2) The battery continues to operate light Dual Blade searchlights, thereby supplementing the organic searchlights and allowing the overall readiness of the battery to be in the C2 category.

(3) 15% of the motor vehicles are deadlined for 2nd and 4th echelon repair.

g. Logistics. The overall logistice situation remains satisfactory. Motor transport statistics are as follows:

(1) Road miles: 3715

(2) Personnel transported: 1590

(3) Supplies transported: 36.46 tons

h. Personnel. The overall personnel situation is satisfactory. Statistics for the month are as follows:

	Off	Enl
Transferred	0	9
Joined	0	12

William K. Law
WILLIAM K, LAW

Copy to:
CO, 12th Marines

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