

SLT Control No. 65-68  
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1ST SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY  
3d Marine Division(Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

CEEsild  
5750  
Ser: 001A22269  
9 Aug 1968

**3D MARDIV S&C FILE**  
**BT#477268**

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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 July 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 Frederick G. McQuigg, 8 February 1968 - 31 July 1968.

c. Battery Officers:

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

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

(3) Captain William K. LAW - Battery Officer.

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

e. Battery Strength:

USMC		USN	
Off	Enl	Off	Enl
4	97	0	2

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1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY

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**4. Narrative Summary:**

1 July 1968. First Platoon received incoming at Naval Support Activity, Cua Viet.

2 July 1968. Third Platoon helilifted from Khe Sanh Combat Base to Landing Zone Stud. Liaison effected with 4th Marine Regiment.

5 July 1968. A River Boat of River Section 543 sighted two campers at YD 627272; LCPL 21 with white light provided illumination for search of native craft. Third Platoon helilifted two searchlights to Landing Zone Shepard and one searchlight to Hill 950.

6 July 1968. One searchlight from Third Platoon returned to Dong Ha for further redeployment.

10 July 1968. A demonstration of the capabilities of the 23 inch Xenon Searchlight in the visible and infrared modes was conducted for the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, by 3rd Platoon.

11 July 1968. Members of the 2nd Platoon, 1st Searchlight Battery and 1st Platoon, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines spotted with white light enemy movement located approximately 300 meters southeast of C-2 Bridge.

12 July 1968. Third Platoon acquired Dual Blade searchlight from 4th Marines.

14 July 1968. Enemy movement of the same nature as on 11 July 1968 was again sighted with a searchlight southeast of C-2 Bridge. An artillery mission was called on the activity and a platoon sweep the following day found no evidence of kills.

16 July 1968. The 2nd Platoon displaced one searchlight from Dong Ha one searchlight each from CAP 3-4-4 and CAP 3-4-2 to Con Thien to aid in the support of the 9th Marines. The Fire Dire Direction Center of 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines acted as the Light Direction Center.

17 July 1968. Used four searchlights of the 2nd Platoon at Con Thien for providing white light H&I illumination at grids YD 095686 and YD 092690.

18 July 1968. Infrared light was used in support of Project Have Fear, located at OP 1 at Con Thien Usefulness marginal due to heavy ground haze. Four or more NVA located approximately 125 meters

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southeast of C-2 Bridge were sighted with a searchlight. An artillery mission was called on the enemy positions. A subsequent sweep found no kills.

19 July 1968. The 1st Platoon received incoming artillery at the Naval Support Activity, Cua Viet. A searchlight demonstration was conducted by the 3rd Platoon for the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. During the demonstration three searchlights were employed in connection with the twin 40mm cannon (Duster) and 106mm recoilless rifles. Enemy movement was spotted with a searchlight from the 2nd Platoon approximately 900 northwest of C-2 Bridge. The target was not engaged due to proximity of friendly troops.

20 July 1968. The 2nd Platoon at Con Thien supported with infrared light Project Have Fear at OP 1. An enemy position northwest of OP 1 was located, and engaged with artillery. No BNA was attained.

21 July 1968. The 2nd Platoon supported with infrared light Project Have Fear at OP 1 at Con Thien. Enemy position northwest of OP 1 was engaged with artillery. No BNA was attained.

22 July 1968. One NVA to the northwest of C-2 Bridge and moving north was sighted by observers of the 2nd Platoon, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines. Target was illuminated with white light and engaged with 81mm mortars. A squad size d sweep found no evidence of a kill. The 3rd Platoon acquired another Dual Blade searchlight from the 3rd Marines at Camp Carroll.

23 July 1968. LCPL 25 with searchlight spotted 5 people on shore near an old house at grid YD 298654. Four M-79 warning shots were fired, which resulted in drawing a crowd of 30-50 people. The boat returned after 30 minutes and fired on the crowd with M-79, wounding three people. The Popular Forces were called and boat retired.

25 July 1968. First Platoon received incoming at Naval Support Activity, Cua Viet.

26 July 1968. LCPL 25 equipped with a searchlight sighted two people in a deserted village. When permission to fire was granted the people had disappeared. Area was reconnoiter by fire with M-79.

##### 5. Sequential Listing of Significant Events

a. Combat Missions assigned:

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(1) 1st Platoon - Direct support of 1st Marines, Task Force Clearwater, Dong Ha Combat Base, and 1st Amtrack Battalion.

(2) 2nd Platoon - Direct support of 1st Marines, CAP 3-4-4, and CAP 3-4-2.

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

b. Operations conducted:

- (1) Scotland II
- (2) Lancaster II
- (3) Kentucky
- (4) Napoleon/Saline
- (5) Thor
- (6) Highrise
- (7) Highrise/Thor

c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy: none

d. New techniques of employment. The 2nd Platoon operated for the first time under the control of a Light Direction Center located in the Fire Direction Center of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines.

e. Casualties sustained: 1 WIA

f. Equipment:

(1) 33% of the searchlights are deadlined for 3rd and 4th echelon repair. 4 searchlights were turned into FLSC-B and 2 were returned.

(2) 12% of the M18 binoculars are deadlined for 3rd and 4th echelon repairs. 3 pair M18 binoculars turned into FLSC-B and 2 were returned.

(3) 13% of the motor vehicles are deadlined for 2nd and 4th echelon repairs.

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

(1) Road Miles: 1,425

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(2) Personnel transported: 1695

(3) Supplies transported: 34 tons

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

	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
Transferred	1	5
Joined	1	8

*William K. Law*  
William K. Law

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CO, 12th Marines