

**SECRET**COPY No. 3 ~~419~~

## HEADQUARTERS

## 1ST SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY

**UNCLASSIFIED** 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
c/o FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

JMC:rhb  
5750  
Ser: 0002-67  
4 Aug 1967

376167

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)  
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 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPac O 5750.8  
(c) 3dMarDiv O 5750.1A

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), the following report is submitted.

2. Reporting Period. 1 June 1967 - 31 July 1967.

3. Organizational Data:

a. Designation of unit. Reporting Unit 21503, 1st Searchlight Battery, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF, c/o FPO, San Francisco, California 96602.

b. Commanding Officer. Captain Victor E. SNIDER - 31 January 1967 - present.

c. Location of unit. Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam - 29 June 1967 - 31 July 1967.

d. Battery Officers:

(1) 1stLt Joseph HANCHARICK, Jr., - Executive Officer

(2) 2ndLt John M. CONYERS - Liaison Officer

(3) 1stLt Michael T. PIERSON - Platoon Commander, 1st Searchlight Platoon

(4) 1stLt Thomas J. STACK - Platoon Commander, 2nd Searchlight Platoon

(5) 1stLt James C. UECKER - Platoon Commander, 3rd Searchlight Platoon

DOWNGRADED AT 5-YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIS 5200 10

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
**SECRET**

1st Searchlight Btry

and more

June-July 1967

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e. Average Monthly Strength:	USMC		USN	
	Off	Enl	Off	Enl
(1) June 1967	6	113	0	3
(2) July 1967	6	110	0	3

4. Narrative Summary. First Searchlight Battery (-) departed the continental limits of the United States on 31 May 1967 aboard the USS PAUL REVERE (APA 248). An advance party consisting of one officer and three enlisted men departed 9 June 1967 from MCAS, El Toro, California to establish liaison with Headquarters, Third Marine Amphibious Force, Third Marine Division and Twelfth Marine Regiment respectively. The Battery's strength at this time was six officers and 115 enlisted men. On 27 June 1967, the USS PAUL REVERE arrived in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. Debarcation of Troops and equipment was accomplished and embarkation upon LCUs for further transportation North began. At 0530, 28 June 1967, the Battery departed Da Nang for Dong Ha which was to be the location of the Battery Headquarters. On 29 June 1967, the Battery arrived at Dong Ha and occupation and improvement of the Headquarters area began. Approximately three days later, orders were received from higher headquarters for the employment of the Battery's three platoons. Immediately, the Light Platoons were deployed in support of established perimeters. Lights were positioned in a total of seven areas within Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces. Although the various platoons and sections have been used primarily for perimeter defense, they have also been used in support of six major combat operations with excellent results. At this time, the Battery continues with its operations involving perimeter defense. Through the enthusiastic acceptance of the searchlights by the supported units and the daily experience being gained by the Battery personnel, the value of the Xenon Searchlight is being realized.

5. Sequential Listing of Significant Events:a. Combat Missions Assigned:

## 1st Platoon

Light 1, 1stSec, 1stPlt - Perimeter Defense at Con Thien (Quang Tri Province) in support of Echo Btry, 2ndBn, 12th Marines.

Light 2, 1stSec, 1stPlt - Perimeter Defense at Qua Viet (Quang Tri Province) in support of 1st LVTN.

2ndSec, 1stPlt - Perimeter Defense at Khe Sanh (Quang Tri Province) in support of Alpha Btry, 1stBn, 12th Marines.

3rdSec, 1stPlt - Perimeter Defense at Gio Linh (Quang Tri Province) in support of Composite Artillery Battalion.

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## 2nd Platoon

- 1stSec, 2ndPlt - Perimeter defense at Dong Ha (Quang Tri Province) in support of 12th Marines.
- 2ndSec, 2ndPlt - Perimeter defense at Cam Lo (Quang Tri Province) in support of 2ndBn, 12th Marines.
- 3rdSec, 2ndPlt - Perimeter defense at Camp Carroll (Quang Tri Province) in support of 1stBn, 12th Marines.

## 3rd Platoon

- 1stSec, 3rdPlt - Perimeter defense at Phu Bai (Thua Thien Province) in support of 4thBn, 12th Marines.
- 2nd and 3rdSec, 3rdPlt - Perimeter defense at Camp Evans (Thua Thien Province) in support of 3rdBn, 12th Marines.

b. Significant Operations Conducted. The Searchlight Platoons/Sections of the Battery were used to support the following operations:

- (1) Operation CHOCTAW (Thua Thien Province)
- (2) Operation FREMONT (Thua Thien Province)
- (3) Operation CIMARRON (Quang Tri Province)
- (4) Operation BUFFALO (Quang Tri Province)
- (5) Operation HICORY II (Quang Tri Province)
- (6) Operation KINGFISHER (Quang Tri Province)

c. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy. Although the mission of Searchlights is confined to illumination, a total of eleven enemy probable KIAs on the assigned perimeters have been attributed to the Battery.

d. Casualties Sustained. None.

e. New Techniques Employed. The use of Marine snipers in conjunction with the searchlight (infra-red) has been used at Con Thien (Quang Tri Province) and Cam Lo (Quang Tri Province), significantly increasing the range and effectiveness of the snipers.

f. Command Relations. Command relations are considered to be very good.

g. Equipment. At the present time the equipment of the Battery, with the exception of the searchlights themselves, is below ten per cent deadline status (see Item h. below).

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h. Logistics. The overall logistics situation within the Battery is considered satisfactory. The spare parts on hand are at approximately sixty per cent of operating level; however, no spares have been received for the searchlights. Due to the effect of climatic conditions and operational commitments on the lights, there is a total of five deadlined at this time. All but one of these could be operational within 24 hours if spares were available.

V. B. SNIDER

Copy to:  
CO, 12thMarRegt

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RTTUZYUW RUHHFMA0144 3070435-UUUU--RUEOFIA.  
ZNR UUUUU  
R 030435Z NOV 70  
FM CG FMFPAC  
TO RUEOFIA/CMC  
INFO RUWJNWA/CG FIFTH MAB

**HD** AM  
A03  
AA  
AG

BT  
UNCLAS //N05750//  
CMC FOR CODE HD

- 1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY; INFO CONCERNING
- A. CMC 141834Z/OCT70
- 1. AS REQUESTED BY REF A, SUBJ INFO FOLLOWS:
  - 1JUN69-14JUL69 - 1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY SUBORDINATE TO 3D MARDIV WITH ELEMENTS DETACHED THROUGHOUT MR-1
  - 14JUL69 - 1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY CADRED AT 0 STRENGTH AND CHOPPED TO 9TH MAB
  - 14JUL69-14AUG69 - 1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY CADRED AT 0 STRENGTH WITH 9TH MAB
  - 14AUG69 - 1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY CHOPPED TO 5TH MARDIV
  - 14AUG69-PRESENT - 1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY MAINTAINED IN CADRE STATUS (0 STRENGTH) WITH 5TH DIVISION, 5TH MEB, 5TH MAB.
- 2. ALTHOUGH UNCONFIRMED, IT IS BELIEVED THAT SUBJECT UNIT WAS PAGE TWO RUHHFMA0144 UNCLAS
- COMMANDED BY 2 OFFICERS DURING THE PERIOD 1 JUN - 14 JUL 69. THESE OFFICERS, IDENTIFIED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED WITH THEM, ARE 1STLT JAMES D. SELIM 0103030 AND CAPT KAY C. KALBFLEISCH 084123.

BT  
#0144  
NNNN  
IN 01457/307/70 /ACK

307 0810 70

1st Searchlight Battery

Jan - 14 Dec 1969

030435