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

REN;mld
5750
Ser: 001A18768
5 Jul 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: 1-30 June 1968

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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 C. McQuigg, 8 February 1968 - present.

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

d. Battery Officers:

(1) 1stLt Robert E. NEITHAMMER - Executive Officer.

(2) 2dLt Carl E. EASTWICK - Platoon Commander, 1st Platoon.

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

e. Battery Strength

USMC		USN	
Off	Enl	Off	Enl
4	98	0	2

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4. Narrative Summary:

1 June 1968. Third platoon moved one light from Khe Sanh Combat Base to Hill 558. Scond Platoon CP moved from Dong Ha to Con Thien. A 60 inch carbon arc searchlight was also moved to Con Thien.

8 June 1968. One patrol boat with searchlight was attacked by mortar fire, resulting in 1 searchlight operator MIA, and 1 WIA. The WIA was medevaced to "A" Company, 3d Medical Battalion in Phu Bai.

9 June 1968. The MIA from the river boat action on 8 June 1968 was found dead in the Cua Viet, changing his status to KIA.

14 June 1968. At approximately 2200 hours at OP# 2 Con Thien, 3 NVA were sigted with white light approximately 150 meters northeast of the position. No action was taken.

15 June 1968. At about 2200 hours 1 NVA was detected with white light about 400 meters north of OP# 2. No action was taken.

17 June 1968. A detachment of the 1st platoon moved from Dong Ha to Oceanview in support of 1st Amtrack Battalion to detect enemy heicopters operating between North Vietnam and Tiger Island.

18 June 1968. About 2300, OP# 2 at Con Thien detected with white light an unknown number of unidentified flying objects thought to be helicopters approximately 8000 meters north of their position. At CAP P-6, approximately 100 NVA were spotted moving in a southerly direction. No action was taken due to proximity of friendly villages. Two jeep-mounted searchlights and a section chief were moved to A-3, to be augmented by infantry troops from that position.

21 June 1968. At about 2100 hours, while using white light from OP# 2 at Con Thien, an unknown number of NVA were sighted approximately 40 meters fromthe outer wire. Engaged enemy with small arms fire. Blood trails were found at first light.

22 June 1968. While using white light at CAP P-6, three VC/NVA were sighted. Contact was made by elements of CAP P-6 at about 2150, lasting about 10 minutes. Negative BDA.

23 June 1968. A river patrol boat with searchlight sighted one man walking on the river bank. A request was sent to get permission to fire on him. The boat followed him for about 1200 meters, at which time he disappeared into the brush on the bank. Permission was then granted to fire with M-79 grenades. Negative BDA.

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26 June 1968. At 0015 hours, river patrol boat spotted two people and one large box on the beach of the Cua Viet River. White light was turned on them, but no further action was taken. Later, at 0230, one man and three 5-gallon cans were detected on the beach with white light. No further action was taken.

29 June 1968. Detachment of 1st platoon at CAP R-1 returned to the battery position at Dong Ha. The searchlight will be displaced to high ground immediately west of Cam Lo to interdict NVA forces moving into refugee camps.

30 June 1968. Two battery personnel were wounded when an amtrack on which they were riding hit a mine. One man was medevaced to "A" Company, 3d Medical Battalion in Phu Bai; while the other was treated at Delta Med at Dong Ha, and then released. Total number of hours of operation for the month of June was 4,500.

5. Sequential listing of Significant Events

a. Combat Missions assigned:

(1) 1st Platoon - Direct support of 3d Marine, Task Force Clearwater, Dong Ha Combat Base, and Combined Action Platoon (CAP) R-1 and 1st Amtrack Battalion.

(2) 2d Platoon - Direct support of 9th Marines, CAP 3-4-4, CAP 3-4-2.

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

b. Operations conducted:

(1) Scotland II

(2) Lancaster II

(3) Kentucky

(4) Napolean/Saline

(5) Concordia Square

(6) Highrise

c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy: None

d. New techniques of employment. Searchlights are now being used in an antiaircraft role at Con Thien to detect the use of enemy helicopters.

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e. Casualties sustained: 1 KIA, 3 WIA

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f. Equipment

(1) 39% of the searchlights are deadlined for 3d and 4th echelon repair. Seven searchlights were turned into FLSG-B and three were returned.

(2) 13% of the M-18 binoculars are deadlined for 3d and 4th echelon repair. Three M-18's turned into FLSG-B and two pairs were returned.

(3) 14% of the motor vehicles are deadlined for 2d and 4th echelon repair.

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

(1) Road miles: 1523.

(2) Personnel transported: 193.

(3) Tons of supplies transported: 47 tons.

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

	Off	Enl
Transferred	0	20
Joined	0	14

F. C. MCGUIGG

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CO, 12th Marines

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