

1st 8" HOWITZER BATTERY (SP)
 3d Marine Division, FMF
 FPO San Francisco 96602

HNM:wro
 5750
 5 September 1966

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology; report of

Ref: (a) RegtO 5750.1

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is submitted:

a. Organizational Data.

- (1) 1st 8" HowBtry (SP), Da Nang, South Viet Nam
- (2) Period 1-31Aug66
- (3) Commanding Officer - Major Louis J. CAVALLO 062684 USMC
 Executive Officer - Captain Henry N. MEANS 075653 USMC
 1stSgt - 1stSgt William R. THOMPSON 980174 USMC
- (4) Officers - 9 - Enlisted 171 - USN - 3

b. Significant Events.

(1) This unit joined 14 enlisted personnel during the month of August. The battery Executive Officer continues as Acting Commanding Officer in the absence of the Commanding Officer who is temporarily assigned to the Division FSCC. Three (3) enlisted Marines were ordered TAD to Dong Hoa for an indefinite period. Through normal rotation this unit will lose eight (8) enlisted Marines and one (1) Hospitalman Chief in September leaving just two (2) Hospitalman 3d Class in the battery. Replacements are scheduled for September for enlisted Marines. Average monthly strength during 1-31 August 1966 is 9 Off, 170 Enl Marines and 3 USN Enlisted.

(2) Unit Diary forms (NAVMC 970-PD) continue to be critically short. Requisition updated on 31Aug66.

(3) Night ambushes and patrols continue daily through the Phu Hoa, Thack Nham, Phu Thoc, Cam Hoa area and along the Song Tuy Loan River with no positive contact with the enemy. The battery position was fired upon on 11 August 1966 with HE of undertermined caliber approximately 16 rounds resulting in three (3) WIANE. The water purification unit operated by 3d Engineers was slightly damaged and had to be replaced. Returned fire results unknown. Again on 23 August two (2) rounds of HE landed near an out post resulting in two (2) WIANE (Possibly 60mm Mortar) Could not be located. Returned fire utilizing artillery on suspected positions. Crater analysis indicate point detonating fuze however shrapnal appears to be that of an M-26 or similar hand grenade.

Enclosure (7)

1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)

Aug 1966

(4) The security force of this unit conducted the following training:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>No Hours</u>
Assembly & Disassembly and operation of	
a. M-14 Rifle	1
b. M-60 Machine Gun	5
c. Cal 60 HB M2 Machine Gun	2
M76 Grenade Launcher w/Assembly/M26 Frag Grenade	1 1/2
Squad Tactics/Scouting/Patrolling	6
Employment of Claymore Mines	2
Interpretation of VC Trail Signs	1
Hand & Arm Signals	1 1/2

(5) One (1) 155mm gun occupied Kilo Battery position during the reporting period. Another 155mm gun occupied Kilo Battery position during the period 7-13 August in support of Operation Roughrider. On 13 August one (1) 155mm gun displaced from Kilo Battery and occupied a position at A-1-11. On 22 August one (1) 155mm gun displaced from A-1-11 to the battery CP in support of 3d Recon Bn. The 1st Platoon occupied Hill 41 from 1-20 August. On 20 August the 1st Platoon (One (1) 8" Howitzer & One (1) 155mm gun) displaced to Hill 65. The 1st Platoon supported Operation Allegheny being assigned the mission of General Support, Reinforcing 1st Bn, 12th Marines. The 3d Platoon (One (1) 8" Howitzer & one (1) 155mm gun) continued to occupy their position on Hill 55 during the reporting period. The 3d Platoon supported Operation Swanee and had the mission of General Support, Reinforcing 2dBn, 12th Marines.

(6) None

(7) N/A

(8) Carried out normal communications with deployed platoons.

(9) N/A

(10) The battery fired the following rounds during the reporting period: 765 8" HE, 619 155mm HE and 46 155mm WP rounds for a total of 1430 rounds. Two (2) observed missions were fired with the following surveillance: 20 boats sunk, 20% destruction of VC supply point.

(11) None

(12) None

(13) N/A

(14) Two hundred and twenty-eight local civilians were treated during the reporting period.

(15) Protestant services are held each Saturday in the enlisted club. Catholics are furnished transportation each Sunday to attend mass at the 9th Marines rear command post.

(16) The school mentioned in last months report as being under construction has been completed and is in operation. There are 64 students enrolled in the first and second grades. All students were supplied with "School Kits" and a toy on the first day of school (1Sep66). Company A, 7th Engineer Battalion has offered to help in the up-keep of the road into the school. Our MedCap program is under way with an average of three (3) sick calls per week being held in Phu Hoa and Thach Nham. Our next public improvement project is under way, we are building a public information center/sick bay in the village of Phu Hoa, also we are helping the villagers to improve their market area. Food and clothing are being distributed to one hamlet of Phu Hoa and one hamlet of Thach Nham about twice per month. A different hamlet is visited each time.

H N Means
H. N. MEANS
Acting