

1ST 155MM GUN BATTERY (SF)  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

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3 May 1967

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 30 April 1967

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPac 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 1st 155mm Gun Battery (SF) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*E. D. LITZENBERGER*  
E. D. LITZENBERGER

Copy to:  
4thBn, 12thMar  
12thMar

1st 155mm Gun Btry  
CMD CHRON

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Copy 2 of 10

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1ST 155MM GUN BATTERY (SP)  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 April to 30 April 67

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- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF  
SIGNIFICANT
- PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP)  
 4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
 3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF

Major E. D. LITZENBERGER  
 (1-30 April)

ATTACHED UNITS

1st Sqd 3rd Section 2nd Plt  
 Delta Btry, 1st Bn 44th Arty  
 3 155mm Guns (SP) 1st 8" HowBtry

(1-30 April)

(22-30 April)

DETACHED UNITS

8" Howitzer Platoon FK 17  
 8" Howitzer Platoon Shawnee

(1-21 April)

(21-30 April)

2. LOCATION

1-30 April: Phu Bai, RVN (YD 893126)  
 8" Howitzer Platoon 1-21 April: FK 17 RVN (YD 648277)  
 8" Howitzer Platoon 21-30 April: Shawnee AO (YD 4827)

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
6	156	0	3

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## PART II

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the early hours of 6 April, 2 Companies of the 800th Battalion along with the C112 Sapper Unit attacked the ARVN & USMC camp at PK 17 YD (647277) with a mortar barrage and ground attack. After overrunning the ARVN portion of the camp, the Viet Cong turned on the 8" Howitzer Platoon. Using small arms, automatic weapons, grenades and the direct fire of the 8" Howitzer the Marines held the perimeter for 3 hours before the Viet Cong withdrew. The platoon lost 1 USMC KIA, 1 USN KIA, 8 USMC WIA and one 8" Howitzer out of action due to a direct hit with a mortar round. The enemy losses were 20 KIA (Conf) and 40 KIA (Prob).

The platoon was taken under mortar attack on the 7th and 17th. Counter mortar fire was brought down on the positions using 155mm Howitzer fires from the Bighorn AO and direct fire from the 8" Howitzer. Negative USMC WIA in either encounter.

On 21 April the platoon displaced to Bighorn AO for further displacement to Shawnee AO. On 23 April the 8" Howitzer Platoon was placed Opcon under 1st 8" Howitzer Battery.

During this period the battery's training program included GMS classes in the M-60 machine gun, first aid (Heat Casualties) 50 caliber machine gun, small unit tactics, and mine warfare. This training was supplemented with FAM fires in the .45 pistol, M-60 machine gun, 50 caliber machine gun, and .45 caliber submachine gun. Two formal classes and demonstrations were given in direct fire of the 155mm Gun.

At 0130 on the 28th the Phu Bai combat base was taken under mortar attack from vic. YD (891116). An outpost spotted the flashes and the battery was the first in the

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Phu Bai perimeter to take the enemy position under attack, firing 50 caliber machine guns and the M42 Army 40mm A.A. gun. During this time the battery fired counter-rocket plans as directed by 3rdBn, 26th Marines. A morning patrol revealed the battery's counter-mortar fire netted 7 KIA. This battery had only 2 minor WIA.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. a. Combat Missions Assigned

1 April 1967 - 1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP) continues G/S Phu Bai AO.

## b. Significant Operations Concluded

1-4 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon - Operation CHINOOK II

5-21 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon - Operation BIGHORN

22-30 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon - Operation SHAWNEE

## c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy

KIA (Conf)

23

KIA (Prob)

47

## d. Casualties Sustained

6 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon sustained 2 KIA and 8 WIA during a mortar/ground attack.

## e. Logistics

1. General. During this period the battery remained Adcon/Opcon of 4th Battalion, 12th Marines.

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2. Supply. The overall supply is satisfactory. The major items on loan are:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
a. AN/PRC 25	2	4thBn, 12th Marines
b. TA 312/EEB	3	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF
c. TA-1/PT	2	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF
d. RC 292	3	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF
e. Cot folding, canvas	18	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF
f. Insect bar, Cot	9	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF
g. Pole folding, cot (set)	9	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF
h. Can, water	2	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF
i. Truck, 1/4 ton, M38A1	1	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF
j. Truck, 3/4 ton, M37	1	HqBn 3dMarDiv(Rein)FMF

3. Maintenance. The maintenance section has continued to improve the working area. A Scavenger compressor was replaced on a 155mm Gun. During this month a "Q" service was started on a 155mm Gun, belonging to 1st 8" Howitzer Battery.

4. Food Services. The battery mess hall is now completed and in full operation. Plans are being made to put a concrete deck in the cooking area.

5. Cantonement. During this period the battery cantonement was completed.

6. Borders and Perimeter Security. Minor harrassment by the Viet Cong continues. The battery is constantly changing and improving the defenses.

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7. Water. The battery continues to truck water from the Division Water Point.

f. Civic Action.

Plans are being formulated for the battery's part in 4th Battalion, 12th Marines Civic Action program.

g. Administration. This battery is Adcon 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

h. Personnel.

Number of replacements received: 1 officer, 10 enlisted

Number of personnel rotated: 1 officer, 7 enlisted

Number of personnel lost through attrition other than rotation:

1 USMC enlisted KIA

1 USN enlisted KIA

1 USMC enlisted WIA - Med Evac

Promotions: 1 to 1st Lieutenant; 9 to Sergeant E-5; 7 to LCpl; 9 to Cpl

i. Fire Support.

This battery furnished fire support as follows:

General Support/Rein 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

Direct Support designated recon patrols

j. Recapitulation of Fire Missions.

Phu Bai Area 1-30 April 1967

	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&amp;I</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>ILLUM</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
155mm Gun	27	92	125	242	440	32	40	512
8" Howitzer	2	23	1	26	62	--	--	62

Chinook-Bighorn-Shawnee 1-30 April 1967

	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&amp;I</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>ILLUM</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
8" Howitzer	13	5	121	139	393	-	-	393

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## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following entries were taken from the computer records and spot reports:
  - 042115H April - Post spotted 3 people moving 200 meters outside of wire. People sat down; fired M-79. One man observed running south, other two disappeared.
  - 051705H April - Fired 12 rounds HE from 155mm Gun at suspected Viet Cong Battalion (YD 72 133). No surveillance; mission in support of 3/26.
  - 060100H April - 8" Howitzer Platoon YD (647277) was taken under attack by mortars and troops. Net results Friendly - 2 KIA, 8 WIA. Enemy casualties 20 KIA (Conf), 40 KIA (Prob).
  - 062240H April - Fired 23 rounds HE 155mm Gun in support of ARVN, (YD 740160) Negative surveillance.
  - 072230H April - 8" Howitzer Platoon YD (647277) received approximately 50 rounds 82mm mortar. Platoon also received several B-40 rockets. No casualties. Platoon called Artillery Mission. Rounds on target.
  - 091330H April - Battery received 3 sniper rounds vicinity of main gate from (YD 901129).
  - 161630 April - Fired 9 rounds 155mm Gun, HE, at 10 Viet Cong with automatic weapons. (YD 838007) Good coverage; mission for Nightsticker I.
  - 170030 April - 8" Howitzer Platoon YD (647277) received approximately 30 rounds 82mm mortar fire. called Artillery Mission, rounds on target. ARVN patrol on 17 April found 1 82mm mortar round where Artillery Mission was fired. Fired direct fire with 8" Howitzer.
  - 181918H April - Fired 5 rounds 155mm Gun HE at 4 Viet Cong (711136). Unable to observe. Mission for Reconnaissance.
  - 241826H April - Fired 24 rounds 155mm Gun HE at 2 squads Viet Cong (813021) Negative surveillance; mission for Donahue I.
  - 280130H April - Outpost observed mortar flashes in vicinity (891115) fired automatic weapons, twin-40's and 155mm Guns, firing stopped.
  - 301355H April - Fired 9 rounds 155mm Gun HE at 3 Viet Cong in stream bed (787057). Excellent target coverage; mission for Primness I.

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LST 155mm GUN BATTERY (SP)  
1st Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FWP  
APO San Francisco 96502

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 April to 30 April 67

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

1st 155 Gun Battery (SP)  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF

Major E. D. LITZENBERGER  
(1-30 April)

ATTACHED UNITS

1st Sqd 3d Section 2d Plt  
Delta Btry, 1st Bn 44th Arty  
3 155mm Guns (SP) 1st 8" How Btry

(1-30 April)  
(22-30 April)

DETACHED UNITS

8" Howitzer Platoon PK 17  
8" Howitzer Platoon Operation SHAWNEE

(1-21 April)  
(21-30 April)

2. LOCATION

1-30 April: PHU BAI, RVN (YD 893126)  
8" Howitzer Platoon 1-21 April: PK 17 RVN (YD 648277)  
8" Howitzer Platoon 21-30 April: SHAWNEE AO (YD 4827)

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
6	156	0	3

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

In the early hours of 6 April, two companies of the 800th Battalion along with C112 Sapper Unit attacked the ARVN & USMC camp at PK 17 (YD 547277) with a mortar barrage and ground attack. After overrunning the ARVN position of the camp, the Viet Cong turned on the 8" Howitzer Platoon. Using small arms, automatic weapons, grenades and the direct fire of the 8" Howitzer the Marines held the perimeter for 3 hours before the Viet Cong withdrew. The platoon lost 1 USMC KIA, 1 USN KIA, 7 USMC WIA and one 8" Howitzer was put out of action due to a direct hit with a mortar round. The enemy losses were 20 KIA (est) and 40 KIA (Prob).

The platoon was taken under mortar attack on the 7th and 17th. Counter mortar was brought down on the positions using 155mm Howitzer fires from the BIG HORN AO and direct fire from the 8" Howitzer. One USMC WIA was sustained on 7 April.

On 21 April the platoon displaced to BIG HORN AO for further displacement to SHAWNEE AO. On 23 April the 8" Howitzer Platoon was placed OPCON under 1st 8" Howitzer Battery.

During this period the battery's training program included GMS classes in the M-60 machine gun, first aid (Heat Casualties), 50 caliber machine gun, small unit tactics, and mine warfare. This training was supplemented with FAM fires in the .45 pistol, M-60 machine gun, 50 caliber machine gun, and .45 caliber submachine gun. Two formal classes and demonstrations were given in direct fire of the 155mm Gun.

At 0130 on the 28th the PHU BAI combat base was taken under mortar attack from the vicinity of (YD 891116). An outpost spotted the flashes and the battery was the first in the PHU BAI perimeter to take the enemy position under attack, firing 50 caliber machine guns and the M42 40mm A.A. gun. During this time the battery fired counter rocket plans as directed by 3d Bn, 26th Marines.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**UNCLASSIFIED**

## 1. a. Combat Missions Assigned

1 April 1967 - 1st 155 Gun Battery (SP) continues G/S PHU BAI AO.

## b. Significant Operations Concluded

1-4 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon - Operation CHINOOK II

5-21 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon - Operation BIG HORN

22-30 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon - Operation SHAWNEE

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## c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy

<u>KIA (Conf)</u>	<u>KIA (Prob)</u>
20	47

## d. Casualties sustained

6 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon sustained 2 KIA and 7 WIA during a mortar/ground attack on PK 17.

7 April 1967 - 8" Howitzer Platoon sustained 1 WIA during a mortar attack on PK 17.

## e. Logistics

1. General. During this period the battery remained APOW/OPCON of 4th Battalion, 12th Marines.

2. Supply. The overall supply is satisfactory. The major items on loan are:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
a. AN/PRC 25	2	4th Bn, 12th Marines
b. TA 312/EEB	3	Hq Bn 3d MarDiv (Rein) FMF
c. TA-1/PT	2	Hq Bn 3d MarDiv (Rein) FMF
d. RC 292	3	Hq Bn 3d MarDiv (Rein) FMF
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i. Truck, 1/4 ton, M38A1	1	Hq Bn 3d MarDiv (Rein) FMF
j. Truck, 3/4 ton, M37	1	Hq Bn 3d MarDiv (Rein) FMF

3. Maintenance. The maintenance section has continued to improve the working area. A Scavenger compressor was replaced on a 155mm Gun. During this month a "Q" service was started on a 155mm Gun, belonging to 1st 8" Howitzer battery.

4. Food Services. The battery mess hall is now completed and in full operation.

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5. Cantonment. During this period the battery cantonment was completed.
6. Bunkers and Perimeter Security. Minor harassment by the Viet Cong continues. The battery is constantly changing and improving the defenses.
7. Water. The battery continues to truck water from the Division Water Point.
- f. Civic Action. Plans are being formulated for the battery's part in the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines Civic Action Program.
- g. Administration. This battery is ADCON 4th Battalion, 12th Marines.
- h. Personnel.

Number of replacements received: 1 Officer, 10 Enlisted  
 Number of personnel rotated: 1 Officer, 7 Enlisted  
 Number of personnel lost through attrition other than rotation: 1 USMC enlisted KIA  
 1 USN enlisted KIA  
 1 USMC enlisted WIA -- Med-Evac

Promotions: 1 to 1st Lieutenant; 9 to Sergeant; 7 to ICpl; 9 to Cpl.

i. Fire support.

This battery furnished fire support as follows:  
 General Support/Rein 4th Battalion, 12th Marine  
 Direct support designated recon patrols.

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j. Recapitulation of Fire Missions.

PHU BAI Area 1-30 April 1967

	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&amp;I</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>ILL</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
155mm Gun	27	92	125	242	440	32	40	512
8" Howitzer	2	23	1	26	62			62
Total	29	115	126	268	502	32	40	574

CHINOOK-BIG HORN-SHAWNEE 1-30 April 1967

	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&amp;I</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>ILL</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
8" Howitzer	13	5	121	139	393			393
Total	13	5	121	139	393			393

Grand Total	42	120	247	407	895	32	40	967
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## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following entries were taken from the computer records and spot reports.
  - 042115H - Post spotted 3 people moving 200 meters outside the wire. People sat down; fired M-79. One man observed running south, other two disappeared.
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  - 091330H - Battery received 3 sniper rounds vicinity of main gate from (YD 901129).
  - 161630H - Fired 9 rounds 155mm Gun, HE, at 10 Viet Cong with automatic weapons. (YD 838007) Good coverage; mission for NIGHTSTICKER I.
  - 170030H - 8" Howitzer Platoon (YD 647277) received approximately 30 rounds 82mm mortar fire. Called artillery mission, rounds on target. ARVN patrol on 17 April found 1 82mm mortar round where artillery mission was fired. Fired direct fire with 8" Howitzer.
  - 171435H - Fired 27 rounds 155mm Gun HE for Recon Patrol DONAHUE I on unknown number of Viet Cong. 7 Viet Cong KIA (Prob).
  - 182918H - Fired 5 rounds 155mm Gun HE at 4 Viet Cong (YD 711136). Unable to observe. Mission for Reconnaissance Patrol.
  - 241826H - Fired 24 rounds 155mm Gun HE at 2 squads Viet Cong (YD 813021) for Recon Patrol DONAHUE I.
  - 250330H - Outpost observed mortar flashes in vicinity (YD 891115) fired automatic weapons, twin 40's and 155mm Guns; firing stopped.
  - 301355H - Fired 9 rounds 155mm Gun HE at 3 Viet Cong in stream bed (YD 787057) Excellent target coverage; mission for PRINCESS I.

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