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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3/RCM/gen
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of Marine Corps (Code A05D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
(2) Commanding General, III MAF
(3) Commanding General, FMF, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period of 1 May to 31 May 1968

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

Encl: (1) Subject Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c) enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Downgrade at 3 year intervals, declassified after 12 years, DOD Directive 5200.13.

C. V. Jarman
C. V. JARMAN

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division, (Rein), MAF

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

PART I

Organizational Data

1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 3d Marines

COMMANDERS

LtCol C. V. JARMAN (1-31 May6)

Subordinate Units

H&S Co

Capt W. H. OSGOOD (1-31 May6)

Co A

Capt D. W. DADISMAN (1-31 May6)

Co B

1stLt G. C. NORRIS (1 May68)

1stLt T. A. BROWN (2 May68)

1stLt G. S. FORD (3-31 May6)

Co C

Capt G. D. DOCKENDORFF (1-31 May6)

Co D

Capt K. E. FOX (1-31 May6)

2. LOCATION

1-31 May: CUA VIET Waterway Complex, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj E. J. ROCHFORD JR. (1-31 May6)

S-1

1stLt R. J. BARNES (1-31 May6)

S-2

1stLt W. C. BEBRULER (1-27 May6)

S-3

GySgt R. C. KUNSAITIS (28-31 May)

S-4

Maj R. C. MC CORMICK (1-31 May6)

S-5

Capt T. V. RICHARDSON (1-31 May6)

1stLt W. C. BEBRULER (1-27 May6)

SSgt P. H. MOHR (28-31 May6)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
30	1063	2	60

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PART IINarrative Summary.

From 1-31 May 1968 the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines participated in operation NAPOLEON/SALINE within the Cua Viet River Area Complex. The Battalion's overall mission during this period was to deny the enemy access to the river and ensure uninterrupted traffic on the river. This was accomplished by conducting systematic Company and Platoon Search and Destroy operations along the south bank of the river within the Battalion AO on a recurring basis and Battalion Search and Destroy operations within the Regimental AO. During the period 3-9 May 1968 a Battalion Search and Destroy operation was conducted through Dia Do (YD 2530), Huong Do (YD 247634) and Truc Kinh (YD 389645). Due to the rapidly changing tactical situation north of the Cua Viet River the Battalion was redeployed by helicopter to an LZ in the vicinity of Mai Xa Thi (YD 279664), given OPCON of Company F, 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and Company A, 1st Bn, 9th Marines, and conducted a Search and Destroy operation to the north through Lan Xuan (YD 269700), Pho Con (YD 250708) and the southern limits of Lai An (YD 247732). This operation terminated 31 May 1968 and the Battalion returned to its' operating base at Giao Lien (YD 291644).

Activity throughout the period was characterized by negative enemy contact on the south bank of the Cua Viet River and heavy contact against NVA Forces while operating to the north of the river. Numerous caches of enemy ordnance were located and destroyed and a large quantity of enemy weapons and equipment was captured.

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PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events1. Combat Missions Assigned

Basic Mission: NAPOLEON/SALINE

a. With assigned forces, conduct aggressive ground surveillance Search and Destroy operations and Spoiling Attacks in assigned area of operations to ensure uninterrupted traffic on the CUA VIET River and to detect and interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.

b. Initially conduct systematic Search and Destroy operations along south bank of CUA VIET River in area of operations to deny enemy direct fire capability against river traffic.

c. Be prepared, on order, for rapid redeployment anywhere in Third Marines area of operations.

d. Be prepared, on order, to extend operations to the southern western portions of area of operations to deny enemy's capability to deliver indirect fire against river traffic, DONG HA, CUA VIET, and QUANG TRI.

e. Maintain reaction forces as prescribed by CG Third Division Operation Order 2-68 (Sparrow Hawk).

Ref: Third Marines OpnO 2-68 (050801H Mar68)

2. Significant Operations Conducted

a. During the period 1-31 May 1968 1st Bn, 3d Marines expended the major portion of its energies in aggressive Search and Destroy Missions through the villages located near the southern bank of the CUA VIET River to deny the enemy base camps.

b. During the period 3-9 May 1968 the 1st Bn, 3d Marines (-) executed a passage of lines through 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and continued to conduct a Battalion size Search and Destroy operation in the vicinity of Dai Do (YD 253628) Thuong Do (YD 247634) and Xonsoi (YD 248648). On 5 May 1968 1st Bn, 3d Marines were given OPCON of Company I and Company M, 3d Bn, 4th Marines.

c. During the period 25-31 May the 1st Bn, 3d Marines (-) conducted a two Company Search and Destroy operation in the vicinity of Thanh Hoi (YD 389645). Due to change in the situation the Battalion was redeployed north of the CUA VIET River and given OPCON of "F" Company, 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and

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"A" Company 1st Bn, 9th Marines. 1st Bn, 3d Marines then conducted a Search and Destroy operation to the north in vicinity of Lay Xuan (YD 269700) Pho Con (YD 250708) and Lan An (YD 247732) against large organized NVA Forces.

d. General patrolling was conducted throughout the reporting period.

3. Casualties Inflicted On The Enemy

421 VC/NVA KIA

4. Casualties Sustained

44 USMC KIA
 4 USN KIA
 190 USMC WIA (Med Evac)
 24 USMC WIA (Minor)
 9 USN WIA (Med Evac)

5. Command Relations

ADCON

1-31 May 1968 - Third Marine Division

OPCON

1-31 May 1968 - Third Marine Regiment

6. Logistics. During the month on May, the Battalion Rear was relocated within the Quang Tri Combat Base. The Battalion Logistic Support Area (LSA) established at (YD 296654) in March continued to function. The LSA stocked three days Class I, seven days Class III (gasoline), and three days Class V. Class II and IV items were provided upon request from the Battalion Rear. Supplies were transported from Quang Tri Combat Base and PLSG-B at Dong Ha Combat Base to the LCU Ramp at NSAO Dong Ha bby truck, and on the Cua Viet Waterway by LCM-8's, multi-purpose barges, and fire team assault crafts. Resupply was effected from the LSA by LVTP-5's and OTTERS. During the periods 3-7 May and 25-31 May operational commitments north of the Cua Viet Waterway necessitated effecting resupply for part of the Battalion by helicopters. During these periods all resupplies were provided directly from the Battalion Rear for those units north of the Cua Viet Waterway while those units south of the Cua Viet Waterway continued to receive their supplies from the LSA as outlined above.

7. Supply. During the month of May 202 requisitions were submitted. Of these, 119 were filled.

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8. Motor Transport. The deadline rate for May was 17%. On 21 May twenty M151A1's were received, and four M151A1's were operational by the end of the month. All M422's were retained and continued in operation.

9. Administration

a. The usual administrative problems were encountered during this time, however, overall administration was considered to be satisfactory.

(1) Awards Recommended

1 Navy Cross
 5 Bronze Star Medals
 258 Purple Heart Medals
 2 Navy Commendation Medals
 2 Navy Achievement Medals
 23 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Medals

(2) Awards Presented

1 Silver Star Medal
 1 Bronze Star Medal

(3) Promotions Effected

1 Gunnery Sergeant
 1 Staff Sergeant
 72 Corporals
 105 Lance Corporals
 22 Privates First Class

b. Postal. Mail service was considered to be satisfactory, however, mail continued to be received sporadically.

10. Personnel

a. Administrative Gains

2 Officers
 152 Enlisted

b. Administrative Losses

2 Officers
 189 Enlisted

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11. Intelligence. During the month of May two heavy contacts with NVA units took place north of the QUA VIET Waterway. The first occurred from 3-9 May in the vicinity of Dai Do (YD 254649) and Som Soi (YD 248648). Heavily fortified positions consisting of bunkers, trench lines, and spider holes strengthened by concertina wire and claymore mines were defended tenaciously. Among 189 weapons captured were (2) 82mm recoilless field guns, (4) 82mm mortars, (2) 60mm mortars, and (2) heavy machine guns, as well as 27 individual weapons in one cache. Our units inflicted 338 KIA's and captured 6 PW's.

There were three individual significant incidents. First, on 21 May 2 NVA transportation soldiers were captured after swimming south across the Qua Viet Waterway vicinity (YD 258615). Second, one of our units in conjunction with the River Assault Group Boats seized 10 individual weapons from 2 sampans on the Qua Viet Waterway vicinity (YD 263626). Finally, 2 detainees were taken on 25 May vicinity Thau Hoi (YD 385645) and sent to regiment.

The second heavy contact took place from 27-31 May in the vicinity (YD 249712). On 27 May the Battalion (Rein) moved through 2/9's positions, receiving heavy mortar, recoilless field gun and small arms fire from the heavily fortified enemy bunkers, trenches, and spider holes in addition to artillery rounds from North Vietnam. After intensive air, artillery, and mortar preparation on 29 May the Battalion (Rein) seized most of the enemy positions. Early on 30 May the rest were occupied; 78 NVA KIA's confirmed; 6 PW's captured; 3 ChiCom radios, a ChiCom phone with a land line leading north, and a U.S. Army radio and 30 weapons taken. The Battalion (Rein) was directed to push forward to Lai An (YD 247723) before turning south, and 2/9 was given the mission of policing and collecting enemy equipment and getting enemy body counts.

During the month 1 ARVN liaison Officer, 5 interpreters, and 8 Kit Carson Scouts served the Battalion effectively.

12. Fire Support. From 1-31 May 1968 the following units fired in support of the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Btry I, 3d Bn, 12th Marines	(YD 302558)
Btry A, 1st of the 40th (U.S. Army)	(YD 313544)
Btry C, 1st Bn, 11th Marines	(YD 347694)
5th 155 Gun Btry	(YD 323494)
Btry C, 1st of the 40th (U.S. Army)	(YD 215673)
3d Plt (Rein) 1st Armored Amphib, 11th Marines	(YD 344699)

Missions Fired

Observed	22
Navigation	2
Registration	10
Prep	3
H&I	282
Total	<u>319</u>

Ammunition Expended

<u>Type</u>	<u>No. Fired</u>
HE	4268
WP	116
Illum	50
Smoke	88
Total	<u>4522</u>

3. Air Support. The month of May was highlighted by two periods of Field Operations which accounted for most of the air support received by the Battalion. The period of 1-10 May was the first Field Operation, and required mostly medevacs and resupplies, and a large troop lift. During the action of 23-31 May the Battalion, in conjunction with 2nd Bn, 9th Marines and units of 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and 1st Bn, 9th Marines OPCON to the Battalion utilized many medevacs and trooplift missions, also numerous A.O. and Fixed Wing missions were utilized extensively. Weather in May was good for Air Support with the exception of 28 and 29 May when low ceilings hampered Fixed Wing support for part of each day.

MedEvacs	210
PAX	65
Resupply	38
Troop Lifts	95
V. R.	3
O & O	1
Gunships	9
A. O.	60
Fixed Wing (CAS)	40
TPQ	10
Flareships	4
Spooky	1
PsyWar	

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14. Communications

a. General. No unusual difficulties were encountered during the month of May.

b. Radio Sec AN/PRC-25. The Handset H-189 is found to be more susceptible to water than was the H-138. Waterproofing the H-189 with the plastic bag from Battery BA-386 is a solution.

15. Training

a. Objective. To maintain and improve the high state of combat efficiency of the Battalion.

b. Highlights

6 May - One enlisted member attended Basic Organic Supply Accounting School held at Camp Brooks, Da Nang, RVN.

Ref: CG 3d MarDiv msg 250627Z Apr68

7 May - One enlisted member attended the 13th, Division Personal Response Course held at 3d MarDiv (Admin) CP Quang Tri, RVN.

Ref: CG 3d MarDiv msg 250851Z Apr68

11 May - Two Enlisted members attended NCO Leadership School held at Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

Ref: CG 3d MarDiv msg 020045Z Apr68

13 May - One enlisted member attended the Com Sec/Crypto School held at Yokosuka, Japan.

Ref: CG 3d MarDiv msg 141435Z Apr68

HART IV

Supporting Documents

- 1. 3d MarDiv msg 021141Z Mar68 (S) *missing*

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