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310668

HEADQUARTERS

3d Battalion, 4th Marines
3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force
c/o FPO, San Francisco, 96602

3/RKY:clb
5750
Ser: 003A10168
10 Apr 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (AO3D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF
(2) Commanding General, III MAF
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMF acO 5050.8
(c) DivO 5750.1

S&C FILES
HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Rein)
680139
10 APR 1968
1 of 15

3 RDBM/4 TH MAR

CMD CHRON

17 MAR 1968

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, March 1968

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

Lee R. Bendell
LEE R. BENDELL

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Rein)

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1. Designations/Locations

- a. 3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Reinf). **UNCLASSIFIED**
- b. Can Lo Artillery Position (C-3), Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.
- c. C-2 (Command Group Bravo), Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

2. Period Covered in Report. 1-31 March 1968.3. Billet Assignments

a. CO	1-31 March 1968	LtCol LEE R. BENDALL
b. XO	1-31 March 1968	Maj J. E. MEAD
c. S-1	1-31 March 1968	1stLt J. A. PARKER
d. S-2	1-31 March 1968	Capt R. W. KALM
e. S-3	1-31 March 1968	Maj R. K. YOUNG
f. S-4	1-31 March 1968	Capt S. E. THOMAS
g. S-5	1-31 March 1968	1stLt J. G. DAY
h. CommO	1-31 March 1968	Capt A. A. JANSSEN
i. CO H&SCo	1-31 March 1968	1stLt W. S. SELLERS
j. CO Co "I"	1-31 March 1968	Capt M. A. SEXTON
k. CO Co "K"	1-31 March 1968	Capt E. O. LEROY
l. CO Co "L"	1-31 March 1968	Capt J. L. MCLAUGHLIN
m. CO Co "M"	1-31 March 1968	Capt W. N. FAUSTA

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~~SECRET~~SECTION IIS-1 & PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

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1. Replacements Received

- a. USMC Enlisted - 43
- b. USMC Officers - 0
- c. USN Enlisted - 3
- d. USN Officers - 0

2. Personnel Rotated

- a. USMC Enlisted - 51
- b. USMC Officers - 1
- c. USN Enlisted - 0
- d. USN Officers - 0

3. Other Personnel Lossesa. Transfer by Service Records

- (1) USMC Enlisted - 31
- (2) USMC Officers - 1
- (3) USN Enlisted - 1
- (4) USN Officers - 0

b. Wounded in Action

- (1) USMC Enlisted - 64
- (2) USMC Officers - 0
- (3) USN Enlisted - 3
- (4) USN Officers - 0

c. Killed in Action

- (1) USMC Enlisted - 14
- (2) USMC Officers - 1
- (3) USN Enlisted - 0
- (4) USN Officers - 0

d. Humanitarian Transfer

- (1) USMC Enlisted - 1
- (2) USMC Officers - 0
- (3) USN Officers - 0
- (4) USN Enlisted - 0

e. Non-battle Casualties

- (1) USMC Enlisted - 6
- (2) USMC Officers - 0
- (3) USN Enlisted - 0
- (4) USN Officers - 0

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f. Intra Division/Regiment Transfers

- (1) USMC Enlisted - 22
- (2) USMC Officers - 1
- (3) USN Enlisted - 0
- (4) USN Officers - 0

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4. Number of R&R Trips - 85

5. Average Monthly Strength

- a. USMC Enlisted - 1070
- b. USMC Officers - 39
- c. USN Enlisted - 59
- d. USN Officers - 2

6. Personnel Shortage

a. Officers - Rank	MOS	<u>Number Needed</u>
Capt.	0202	1
Capt.	0400	1
Lieut.	0302	3

b. Enlisted - Rank	MOS	<u>Number Needed</u>
E-5	0141	2
E-5	0311	38
E-4	0311	17
E-5	0331	17
E-5	0351	7
E-3	0351	26
E-6	0369	8
E-1/2	2531	9

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SECTION IIIINTELLIGENCE1. Cam Lo Complex

a. See Command Chronology, February 1968.

2. Helicopter Landing Zones. Helicopter Landing Zones are numerous throughout most of the AO. The terrain that parallels the Cam Lo River and the paddy systems throughout the area offer many level areas. The drawback to the use of many of these areas lies in the fact that they are bordered by heavy brush and hills that parallel them and consequently leave them open to enemy visibility and possible enemy small arms, artillery, rocket and mortar fire. The following are preferred LZ's:

YD 1962	YD 1559	YD 1362
YD 1961	YD 1561	YD 1363
YD 1960	YD 1562	YD 1364
YD 1959	YD 1461	YD 1365
YD 1862	YD 1460	YD 1164
YD 1860 (east)	YD 1361	YD 1163
YD 1762	YD 1360	YD 1357
YD 1661	YD 1260	YD 1358
YD 1659	YD 1159	YD 1258
YD 1558	YD 1160	

3. Weather

During March the weather in the Cam Lo AO was generally favorable. Temperatures tended to rise at the beginning of the month and leveled at a mean of 80°. The March mean relative humidity is 84%. As the Northeast monsoon diminished the frequency of showers increased. Thunderstorm activity also increased with several violent storms accompanied by gusty winds during the middle of the month. Generally cloudiness decreased and visibility averaged 5-7 miles. Tractionability throughout the area is judged to be fair.

4. Daily Intelligence Summary. On 1 March 3/4 elements found and buried 30 x 82mm fuze caps at YD 131589.

On 3 March, "L" Co discovered 25 fighting holes and graves made into fighting holes at YD 140591. All were destroyed. "M" Co located 24 fresh fighting holes and 2 automatic weapons positions vicinity YD 167607. CAC reported the NVA had laid a land-line in a triangular pattern at YD 078625, YD 075605 and YD 094598.

On 4 March a 3/4 mine sweep discovered 4 AT mines at YD 132625. Lima Company while on patrol received 30 rds of 82mm mortars at YD 107605. When arriving at an LZ to med-evac WIA's they received mortar rocket and artillery rounds at YD 111598.

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On 5 March, a duster on a minesweep struck an unknown type AT mine at YD 132624. The duster was towed to C-3. At 1310 friendly civilians were prohibited from entering the area at YD 107603 to recover bodies from the Co "L" operation of 4 March.

On 6 March, Co "K" received 27 rounds of 82mm mortar at CAP #3 (YD 178587). A Co "I" ambush received two rounds of incoming at YD 135625. Intelligence reports stated there were 500-800 new fighting holes at YD 0760 and YD 0860 and new heavily travelled trail running from YD 0961 to YD 0667.

On 9 March, Co "L" tower received eight rounds of small arms fire from vicinity YD 123591. Co "K" received three rounds of unknown caliber artillery fire from a unknown location.

On 10 March, 3/4 roadsweep discovered three TM-41 AT mines and a booby trap made of a "C" Ration can filled with TNT at YD 131625. A Co "I" patrol discovered and destroyed one bunker, 70 fighting holes and one 155mm dud round at YD 110625. Co "I" reported six enemy at YD 135610. Small arms and tanks fired with unknown results.

On 13 March, Co "K" at CAP #3 reported firing and movement at YD 176584. A 3/4 operation which recovered four bodies at YD 107604 received approximately 20 rounds mixed artillery, rockets and mortar fire. At 1615H, CAP #3 reported an enemy automatic weapon firing on Route 9 from vicinity YD 196597.

On 14 March, three personnel (two Antrac, one engineer) were killed while removing a mine at YD 123590.

On 15 March, on roadsweep at YD 220635 a duster struck an unidentified AT mine.

On 16 March, 3/4 elements discovered two NVA mortar primer shells at YD 168611 and three new fighting holes at YD 124616. At 1223, Co "I" patrol received two 82mm mortar rounds from YD 139616. At 2110, a 3/4 squad at YD 133625 moving to ambush position heard movement to front. Filled small arms and M-79, received small arms fire. Found two NVA I, with 3-A7 and one TM-41 mine. At 2345, elements at YD 133624 ambushed three NVA moving south on MSR (Route 561). Resulted in one NVA KIA, one SKS and one TM-41 mine.

On 18 March, 3/4 ambush at YD 130626 received several rounds of mortar from unknown location. At 2015, three detainees picked up at YD 137624 were released by CIT.

On 20 March, Co "L" received four rounds of 60mm mortar at YD 127589. Co "I" patrol detained three suspects at YD 130608. Released by CIT as innocent civilians. At 1122H, C-3 received 10-12 rounds of small arms fire from YD 145615.

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On 21 March, 3/4 elements at YD 137605 reported Nat. Pol captured 1 female suspect with information and papers. Suspect said she would lead Nat. Pol to other suspects. (Classified as VC returnee)

On 22 March, 3/4 elements conducted sweep east of C-3 bridge. Received SAF at YD 183605. Destroyed 1 large bunker and burned Thon Dinh Ha village.

On 23 March, 3/4 assumed OPCON of C-2. At 1214H 2 female suspects detained by 3/4 elements at YD 144610. Released by CIT as innocent civilians. At 1440 H C-2, 3/4 elements received 11 rds 60 and 82mm mortar fire. At 1530H 3/4 elements at C-2 received 10 rds of unk cal. arty and at 1715H received 5 rds est 120mm mortar.

On 24 March, a "M" Company LP observed 4 NVA vicinity YD 146608. 81mm missions fired with negative results. C-3 tower at YD 129644 observed rocket being fired 1600 mils approximately 3500 meters. Arty mission fired with unknown results. At 1150H, C-2, received 3 rounds estimated 82mm mortar rounds from YD 112635. At 1730H C-2 received 1 round estimated 152mm arty from unknown direction.

On 25 March, 3/4 elements at C-2 discovered and destroyed 7 fighting holes and 1 mortar position at YD 176595.

On 26 March, Road sweep discovered and destroyed one TM-41-AT Mine at YD 217702. Army unit operating in 3/4 AO detained 1 suspect, at (YD 114589). Detainee sent to District HQ and released as innocent civilian.

On 27 March, 3/4 elements discovered and destroyed 1 Whip Type Booby Trap with bamboo spikes at (YD 124579). At 1100 Dist HQ received 3 rounds estimated 82mm mortar from vicinity YD 116603. C-3 received 2 rounds estimated 82mm mortar from 4880 mils, distance unknown. C-2 received 4 rounds estimated 82mm mortars from 4620 mil azimuth and range 2000 meters.

On 28 March, a 3/4 patrol discovered 2 fresh and numerous old fighting holes and 2 NVA graves marked 37/27 Bn and 38/27 Bn. Dug up graves and found only bones and decayed uniforms. At 1145H Cam Lo Dist HQ received 8-10 rounds 82mm mortar from YD 116634, arty mission fired with unknown results. At 1400 a Hunter-Killer Team received sniper fire at YD 107637. Returned SAF and Arty mission called resulting in 1 NVA KIA confirmed. At 1545 Dist HQ received 3 rounds estimated 120mm mortar. Arty mission fired with unknown results. At 2200H PPS-6 at C-3 picked up movement at YD 153615. Mortars fired, movement ceased.

On 29 March, a 3/4 patrol discovered approximately 100 fighting holes in vicinity of YD 151629. Area was marked for H & I arty and mortar fire. At 1405 C-3 received 6 rounds 120mm mortar and estimated 107mm re-

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ceiless gun fire from vic YD 096623. At 1555 C-3 received 1 round 120mm mortar fire. At 1250, road sweep at YD 221675 received 26 rounds of unknown cal from azimuth of 5200 mils. Arty was fired with unknown results. At 1405, C-3 position received 6 rounds estimated 120mm mortars from YD 096623. Mission fired with unknown results. At 1555H, C-3 received 1 round 120mm mortar from azimuth of 5100 mils. Mortar mission fired with unknown results.

On 30 March, 3/4 elements travelling East on Hwy 9 received sniper rounds from vicinity YD 164587 and at 1850 a "K" Co patrol detained 2 suspects at YD 118581. Turned over to Dist HQ and released as innocent civilians.

On 31 March, 3/4 elements at YD 106629 found one 82mm mortar pit, increment cans, 25 covered fighting holes, 25 spider holes and 1 82mm mortar canister. An AO reported new fighting holes at YD 150656. A 3/4 patrol checked the area with negative results. At 2030H Kilo reported a P F unit in contact with estimated VC platoon at YD 128600 with negative results. At 2124 3/4 elements spotted 10 personnel moving East to West at 135602. Engaged with SAF. Was checked at 1st light with negative results.

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SECTION IV

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING~~SECRET~~

1. The following training was conducted by 3d Battalion, 4th Marines during the period 1-31 March 1968.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HOURS</u>
H&S Co.	Mapping	10
	Care & Cleaning M-16	108
	Compass	2
	Care & Cleaning 106's Gun	50
	Firing of Flame Throwers	10
	Care & Cleaning 81's Mortar	40
	Care and Cleaning of Flame Gear	31
	Class on 106's	6
	Field Fortifications	134
	Field Sanitation	50
	First Aid	80
	Med-Evac Procedures	:20
	81's Gun Drill	20
	Physical Training	2
	Functioning and Operation of the NOD	2
	Scouting and Patrolling	5
	Language Training	10
	M-72 LAAW firing and classes	2
	Care and cleaning of the 45 Cal.	1
	Enemy Weapons recognized	4
	Combat Intelligence	11
	POW Handling	2
	Radio Procedures	1
Care and Cleaning of the .50 Cal M.G.	1	
Co "I"	Construction of fortifications & wire laying	130
	Radio procedure	6
	Radio preventive maintenance	10
	Artillery forward observation procedures	5
	Installation employment of beehives, fuggasse	5
	Mapping procedures	10
	Care and cleaning of individual weapons & equipment	60
	Familiarization firing of the M-16, M-60, Laaw, .45 Cal. pistol, .50 Cal. m.g.	20
	Instruction in ambush patrols	3
	Patrolling (ambush, security, reconnaissance, search and destroy)	60
	5 paragraph order class and patrol leader's order	3
	Spot report techniques & med*evac procedures	3

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UNIT

NUMBER
OF HOURS

	Night compass and day compass marches (techniques)	3
	60mm mortar gundrill	120
	60mm mortar classes (on firing, aiming, nomenclature, ammunition, etc.)	56
	FAA firing of 60mm mortars	3
	Classes on the AN/PPS-5 (6½ a day) (March 20-27)	45
	Employment of explosives such as claymores, grenades, pom poms, gas, white phosphorous, starlight scope, NOD	10
	Handling of POW's	2
	Searching techniques of a village	4
	Field Sanitation	2
	Gas warfare	2
	Demolitions	2
Co "K"	First Aid	4
	Med-Cap	3
	Patrolling	6
	FAC	1
	Mortar Empl.	6
	Weapons Safety	2
	Map Reading	4
Co "L"	Patrolling	30
	Ambushes	20
	First Aid	6
	FAA Firing M-60, M-16, .50 Cal., .30 Cal.	12
	Field Sanitation	5
	Personnel Hygiene	6
	Field Messing	7
	PPS-5 & PPS-6 Instruction	15
	Use of NOD & Starlight	10
	Radio Instruction	4
Co "M"	Radio Procedure	5
	Weapons Safety	10
	Supporting Arms	8
	Scouting & Patrolling	10
	Tracked Vehicles	8
	Demolitions	4
	Field Fortifications	8
	First Aid, Combat	4
	Field Sanitation	4
	3.5 Rocket, Care and Cleaning	2
	M-60, MG Drills	4

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50 Cal., Care, Cleaning and Operation
NCO leadership

2
4

2. In addition to the above, all individual Marines fired their weapons for "zero", prior to assignment to a unit in the field.

3. All replacements were given indoctrination lectures prior to joining their units by the Commanding Officer, Sergeant Major and their Company Officers.

4. Command and Control

On 03Mar68: 3/4 assumed defensive OPCON of Det Task Force ROBBIE (4) gun tanks, 1 flame tank, 2 ontos and engineer sweep team) subject to employment by Task Force ROBBIE outside of perimeter positions.

On 09Mar68: Co "M" 3/4 chopped from 3/4 OPCON to 4th Marines for an operation with 2/9.

On 10Mar68: Co "M" 3/4 chopped from 4th Marines OPCON to 3/4.

On 23Mar68: 1stSec, 1st SL Btry (1 light) chopped from 2/1 OPCON to 3/4.

On 24Mar68: Co "L" 3/1 chopped from 3/1 OPCON to 3/4.

On 24Mar68: One platoon of Co "L" 3/1 chopped from 3/4 OPCON to 1/4.

On 26Mar68: 1st Plat, Co "A", 1st Bn, 502d Inf, 2d Brig, 101st U.S. Airborne chopped from 9th Marines to 3/4.

On 29Mar68: 1st Plt, Co "A", 1st Bn, 502d Inf, 2d Brig, 101st U.S. Airborne chopped from 3/4 to 9th Marines

These were task organized as follows:

Cam Lo Artillery Position (C-3) (1-23 March)

H&S co (-) Bn CP

Co "I" (-) (Reinf)

Det Btry "I", 3/12 (FO)

2dPlat, Co "M", 3/4

3dSec, 106 RR Plat, H&S Co, 3/4

2dPlat, Btry "B", 1-44th

1stSec, OTTER Plat, 3dMTBn

Det, H&S Co, 9th Mar (Interpreters and Kit Carson Scouts)

CAP #3 (1-23 March)

Co "K" (-) (Rein)

Det, Btry "I", 3/12 (FO)

1stSqd, 1stSec, 106 RR Plat, H&S Co, 3/4

Det, H&S Co, 9th Mar (Scout Snipers)

Cam Lo District Headquarters (1-23 March)

Co "L" (-) (Reinf)

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Det, Btry "I", 3/12 (FO) **UNCLASSIFIED**
 2dSqd, 1stSec, 106 RR Plat, H&S Co, 3/4
 Det, H&S Co, 9th Mar (Scout Snipers)
 Cam Lo River Bridge (C-3A) (1-23 March)

Co "M" (-) (Reinf)
 Det, Btry "I", 3/12 (FO)
 4thSec, 81mmMtrFlat, H&S Co, 3/4
 2dSec, 106 RR Plat, H&S Co, 3/4
 Det Co "A", 3dTKBn (2 Tks)
 Det, 1stSrchrLtBtry (1 Lt)

3d Bn 4th Mar (Reinf) CP Alpha C-3 (23-31 March)

H7S Co (-) Bn CP
 Det "I" Btry 3/12 (Arty LNO)
 2dSEC + 6thSqd 3dSec 81mm Mort Flat (3 Mortars)
 Co "L" (Reinf)
 3dPlat Co "I" 3/4
 1st & 2dPlat "B" Btry 1/44, USA (4 twin 40mm SP)
 1stSec 106 RR Plat, H&S Co 3/4 (2 106 RR)
 1stSec Otter Flat 3dMTBn (6 Otters)
 Det "I" Btry 3/12 (FO TM)
 Det "C" Co 3d Engr Bn (Minesweep TM)

Cam Lo River Bridge (C-3A) (23-31 March)

Co "M" (-) (Reinf)
 2dSec 106 RR Plat H&S Co 3/4 (2 106 RR)
 4thSec 81mm Mort Plat H&S Co 3/4 (2 Mortars)
 Det "I" Btry 3/12 (FO TM)
 Det 1st SL Btry (1Light)
 Det "A" Co 3dTKBn FMF (2 M-48 Gun)
 Det 3dEngr Bn (Water Point)
 Det H&S Co 9thMar (Interpreter & Kit Carson)
 1st Plat "M" Co employed at CAF #3
 5th Sqd 3dSec 106 RR Plat H&S Co 3/4 (1 106 RR)

Cam Lo Dist HQ (23-31 March)

Co "K" (-) (Reinf)
 6thSqd 3dSec 106 RR Plat H&S Co 3/4 (1 106 RR)
 Det H&S Co 9th Mar (Interpreter)
 Det Sniper Plat H&S Co 9th Mar (2 TMS)
 1st Plat Co "K" employed at Dong Ha

G-2 CF Bravo (23-31 March)

Det H&S Co 3/4 (CMD Grp) (3 Mortars)
 1stSec & 1Sqd 3dSec 81mm Mort Plat H&S 3/4
 Co "I" (-) (Reinf)

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1st Sec 1st SL Btry (1 Light)
 1Sqd (Comp) H&S Co 3/4 (1 Gun 2/1)
 Det Sniper Plat H & S Co 9th Mar (Interpreter
 Co "L" (-) (Reinf) 3/1
 1Sqd (Comp) H & S Co 3/4 (1 Gun 2/1)
 Det 11th Mar (FO TH)
 Det FAC H & S Co 3/1

Dong Ha (1-31 March 1968)

Det H&SCo
 Det Co "I"
 *Det Co "K"
 Det Co "L"
 Det Co "M"

* Include one rifle platoon for reaction and road sweep/convoy security missions.

5. Close Combat

a. Battery "D" 2/12 was in direct support of 3/4 during March. General support fires were available from the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP), "F" 2/12, "E" 2/12 and "K" 4/13.

b. At the Cam Lo Artillery Position, the Battalion operated with one company (reinf) plus one platoon at the Cam Lo Artillery Position, one company (-)(reinf) at the Cam Lo River Bridge site, one company (-) (reinf) at the Cam Lo District Headquarters, and one platoon at the CAP #3 position on Route 9, with a platoon at Dong Ha to provide road sweep security for Route 9. Road sweeps of Route 561 and Route 9 in the assigned AO are run at first light. After the road sweeps are completed, 3/4 coordinates the flow of convoy traffic north on the MSR (Route 561), maintaining a convoy control net with the C-2 position. OP's are manned at the tower on OP #1 at the Cam Lo Artillery Position and the high ground between Cam Lo and C-2 while convoys are on Route 561. Co "M" provides sentries to keep vendors off the MSR and south of the Cam Lo River. On 23 March 1968, 3/4 took OPCON of C-2 Artillery Position, defending the position with two companies (-) (four platoons) under the control of Command Group Bravo.

c. Continuous improvement of defensive positions is emphasized and considerable progress has been made toward completion of the new District Headquarters position. All companies conducted daily patrols and established night time IE's/ambushes as directed by the CO 3/4 daily fragmentary orders. Other significant events of a non-combat nature have been included in the chronological summary for historical and record purposes.

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1Mar: Four platoon patrols, one squad (reinf) patrol, one squad (reinf) OP, three fire team OP's, seven squad (reinf) night ambushes and eight fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided as road sweep and engineer security. At 010950H, a Co "L" patrol was dispatched with a TD-15 (Bulldozer) to fill in fighting holes at YD 131589. In one of the holes, the patrol found 30 fuze caps that had not been there three days previously. The holes were filled in and the fuze caps buried. At 011150H, Co "L", at District Headquarters, received two rounds of small arms fire from the village to the north. District Headquarters informed Co "L" that it might be stray rounds from RF's fam firing. At 011625H, a dog caused an explosion in the northwestern section of the minefield at District Headquarters, resulting in two minor ear concussions. The sympathetic detonation of numerous mines will be investigated by 11th Engineer Battalion.

2Mar: Four platoon patrols, one squad (reinf) patrol, one squad OP, three fire team OP's, seven squad (reinf) night ambushes, and five fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided as road sweep and engineer security. From 021718H to 021735H, 16 rounds of incoming 60mm and 82mm enemy mortar fire were received at G-3 from vicinities YD 107622, YD 109630, YD 124608 and YD 154616. Fire was returned as follows: 29 105mm rounds at YD 107622 and YD 109630 (suspected 60mm mortar position); 51 81mm rounds at YD 107622 and YD 109630; 71 81mm rounds at YD 124608; 110 60mm rounds at YD 154616 (suspected 60mm mortar position). Target coverage was good and the mortars stopped firing.

3Mar: Four platoon patrols, one squad (reinf) patrol, one squad OP, three fire team OP's, eight squad (reinf) night ambushes and six fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 031030H, a Co "L" patrol found 25 fighting holes about 50 meters south of Route 9 at YD 140591. The holes were in an L-shaped formation with the open end toward the road. At YD 125589, four fresh graves, which appeared to have been dug into fighting holes, were found. Also found was a six foot deep artillery crater, which had been only two feet deep one week previously. Positions were investigated with negative results and marked for destruction. At 031300H, a Co "M" patrol located 13 fighting holes at YD 130598. There were two L-shaped machine gun holes and 11 rectangular holes $3\frac{1}{2}'$ by $1\frac{1}{2}'$ by $2\frac{1}{2}'$ facing north. Half the fighting holes were in a position to cover a crossing point in the Cam Lo River. At 031707H, a PF stationed at Cam Thai Village brought in two suspected NVA, who were picked up at the Cam Lo Refugee Center. The detainees were turned over to 7th ITT at District Headquarters. At 032049H, a message was received from 9th Marines S-2 to the effect that an enemy offensive would begin on 3 March. The enemy activity was to be widely spread, intense interdiction of bases in the 3d Marine Division area with possible ground action. Due to the intelligence report and the desire to have elements of Task Force Robbie south of the Cam Lo River, a detachment from Task Force Robbie was sent to District Headquarters (2 gun tanks, 1 flame tank and 2 twin 40's) and to Cam Lo River Bridge (2 gun tanks, 2 ontos and 1 engineer sweep team) OPCON to 3/4 (The twin 40's were subsequently returned to G-3).

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4Mar: One company (-) patrol, two platoon patrols, one squad OP, three fire team OP's, six squad (reinf) night ambushes and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 040940H, Co "L" (-), while on patrol, sighted six NVA near YD 109600 and engaged them with small arms and machine guns. At 041016H, Co "L" (-), at YD 107605, received approximately 30 rounds of 82mm mortar fire and four rounds of unknown caliber artillery fire, initially reporting 16 WIA's med-evac (3 emergency and 13 priority) and one KIA. Btry "D" 2/12 fired counter mortar fire and an AO on station adjusted an additional mission by Btry "F" 2/12. At 041030H, the mine sweep found four AT mines on the side of the road along the MSR (Route 561) at YD 132625. The mines were destroyed in place. At 041130H, Co "L" (-) moved to YD 111598, established an LZ, completing the emergency med-evacs at 041155H. During the med-evacs, eight rounds of estimated 82mm mortar fire was received. Another attempt to establish an LZ was made at YD 107597 but incoming was again received (2 rounds of 82mm mortars). Co "L" (-) returned the casualties overland to District Headquarters being met by trucks on the south side of the Cam Lo River all elements at District Headquarters by 041350H. The results of the Co "L" action were one KIA, 45 WIA evac (including minor wounds), and six KIA - bodies not recovered (These were subsequently recovered on 13 and 14 March.). At 041325H, 9th Marines directed 3/4 to take action on a report that the Headquarters of the 27th Independent Battalion was operating near YD 143600. At 041415H, a Co "M" platoon with a FF platoon began to sweep north from YD 143597 with a Co "I" platoon (reinf) in a blocking position from YD 133607 to YD 131600. At 041809H, the Co "M" platoon and Co "I" platoon linked up and the sweep ended. A total of 40 persons were detained; 29 were known male residents and were released; one woman and two men were processed through District Headquarters; eight young men (along with the six persons apprehended by the hunter/killer team) were processed through U. S. channels at District Headquarters. At 041530H, a Co "I" hunter/killer team vicinity YD 155620 received a heavy volume of estimated 82mm mortar fire from vicinity YD 174628. Artillery and 81mm mortar missions were called resulting in three enemy KIA's confirmed and one 82mm mortar tube destroyed confirmed by the AO. The hunter/killer team moved to vicinity YD 150620 where they spotted six persons apparently observing C-3. The persons were apprehended and returned to C-3. At 042150H, Co "L" relayed a report of an NVA battalion crossing the river at YD 126599 and requested continuous 81mm illumination and an artillery mission. The mission was fired with negative sightings. At 042200H, two Co "L" LP's reported activity to the front and around the village. The two activities were pulled in and illumination was fired. No further movement was observed. At 042213H, Co "M" spotted movement of one person moving into a tree line at YD 115597 with a NOD. An 81mm mortar mission was called and ended by District Headquarters after only one round. At 042230H, Co "L" spotted four persons 20 meters east of the perimeter at District Headquarters. Small arms were fired by selected riflemen and one man fell. The area was checked at first light with negative results.

5Mar: One platoon (reinf) patrol, three platoon patrols, one squad OP,

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one fire team OF, eight squad night ambushes and five fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 051030H, efforts were made in cooperation with the District Chief to recover the Marine bodies from Co "L"'s contact of 4 March. Friendly civilians were to attempt the recovery. At 051230H, the civilians returned and reported a platoon to a company size enemy unit had prepared an ambush site and would not allow removal of the bodies. An artillery mission and an 81mm mortar mission were called on the area at 051235H. 46 rounds of 81mm mortars and 25 rounds of 105mm artillery were fired with good target coverage. One NVA killed was confirmed by the 40. At 051055H, a twin 40 from the road sweep hit a mine at YD 132625, at a point previously swept, resulting in one minor WIA. The twin 40 was inoperable and was retrieved by two tanks and returned to G-3 for repair. At 052030H, the tower spotted movement through a NOD at YD 113603. 30 rounds of 81mm mortar HE were fired with good target coverage. The results are unknown.

6Mar: Four platoon patrols, one squad (reinf) patrol, one squad OF, two fire team OF's, nine squad night ambushes and five fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided as road sweep and engineer security. At 060905H, the road sweep found an AF mine on the MSR (Route 561) at YD 145614. The mine was destroyed in place. At 061015H, Co "K", at CAP #3, received 30 to 35 rounds of estimated 85mm to 100mm artillery from an azimuth of 5900 mils. An artillery mission was fired and one secondary explosion was observed. At 061540H, a Co "I" squad OF observed two rounds of unknown caliber incoming artillery impact at YD 128625 and YD 134626. The OF was relocated 50 meters and continued its mission. At 061745H, Co "K" apprehended two VC suspects when they were observed clearing the area of civilians prior to incoming artillery. The suspects were turned over to District Headquarters. At 062100H, a Co "I" squad ambush spotted and fired upon three people near YD 136625 while moving into the ambush site. The enemy returned fire with small arms and ten grenades. The area was checked at first light with evidence of seven or eight people found.

7Mar: Three platoon patrols, one squad patrol, one squad OF, four fire team OF's, eight squad (reinf) night ambushes and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 081350H, a Co "I" platoon patrol found an NVA platoon size complex of camouflaged fighting holes one to two weeks old, with signs of recent occupancy, at YD 128625. The holes had rear exits but were without overhead cover. The area was searched with negative results. The holes were destroyed. At 081500H, Co "K" found two ChiCom serrated type AF mines at YD 202594. The mines were lying in the open and were not armed. The mines were blown in place.

9Mar: One platoon patrol, three squad patrols, four fire team OF's, six squad night ambushes and five fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 090300H, Co "M" 3/4 was chopped from 3/4 OFCON to 4th Marines

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for an operation with 2/9 vicinity YD 135552. At 091745H, the tower at District Headquarters received two rounds of sniper fire from a tree at YD 123591. The area was swept with negative results. At 091940H, the tower at District Headquarters received six more rounds of sniper fire from the same area and from north, south and west of the perimeter. Fire was returned by snipers on suspected enemy positions. The area was swept with negative results. At 092220H, Co "K", at CAP #3, received three rounds of unknown caliber incoming artillery or rockets from an unknown location.

10Mar: One company (-) patrol, two platoon patrols, one squad patrol, four fire team OP's, four squad night ambushes, and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 100915H, Co "M" 3/4 was chopped from 4th Marines OPCON to 3/4. At 101130H, the road sweep north of the MSR (Route 561) found three AT mines and two booby traps vicinity YD 131625. The mines were Russian made TM-41's. The booby traps were constructed of C-Ration cans rigged to 1/2 pound blocks of TNT with pull fuzes, designed to detonate if the cans were kicked or picked up. The mines and booby traps were destroyed in place. At 100930H, a Co "M" squad provided security for retrieval of a 2/12 truck which had turned over at YD 148585. The truck was recovered and returned to Dong Ha. At 102100H, a Co "I" squad ambush en route to its night time position spotted six enemy vicinity YD 135610. The enemy was engaged with M-79 rounds, 60mm mortars, M-42 (twin 40's) and tanks with good target coverage. The enemy ran into a house. The area was checked at first light with negative results.

11Mar: Three platoon patrols, one squad patrol, one squad OP, three fire team OP's, six squad night ambushes and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 111805H, an FO observed one person at YD 128617 sniping at vehicles on Route 561. An artillery mission was called and 14 rounds were fired with good target coverage. The sniping ceased.

12Mar: One squad OP, three fire team OP's, six squad night ambushes and four fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 120210H, two trip flares on the perimeter wire at C-3 went off at YD 137613. Two grenades and five rounds of small arms were fired. No movement was sighted. At 121045H, a two company body recovery operation (Operation Order 5-68) was postponed due to adverse weather. At 121920H, CAP #3 received four to five rounds of sniper fire from the north side of the Cam Lo River. The fire was returned with two rounds of 3/5 fire (one WF, one HE) and 22 rounds of artillery (HE) with good target coverage and unknown results. At 122030H, a Co "K" squad ambush spotted an estimated platoon size enemy force at YD 176584, moving toward CAP #3. An artillery mission was called. 26 rounds of mixed HE, VT, and WF and two rounds of illumination were fired with good target coverage. Screams were heard during the fire mission. The area was checked; no bodies or weapons were found, but drag marks were observed. At 122200H, three males (12-15 year) were detained and turned over to District Headquarters. They were classified as innocent civilians and released to the National Police at District Headquarters.

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13 Mar: Three fire team OP's, seven squad night ambushes, and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. Two company tank-infantry body recovery operation was conducted in accordance with 3/4 Operation Order 5-68. At 130950H, Co "K" recovered four Marine bodies, from Co "L"'s contact of 4 March, at YD 106603. Search of the area did not reveal the other two bodies. The bodies were sent to "D" Med. Co "K" received eight suspected incoming rockets from YD 095615 and four rounds of 82mm mortar fire and eight rounds of unknown caliber artillery, one minor WIA was sustained. 38 rounds of counter-battery fire were fired by Btry "D" 2/12 with unknown results. At 131615H, automatic weapons at YD 196597 were detected firing on a vehicle on Route 9. A 60mm mortar mission was fired with good target coverage and unknown results.

14 Mar: Two platoon patrols, one squad patrol, four fire team OP's, six squad night ambushes and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 140825H, three male persons, ages 17, 18, and 19, were detained. One had an ID, two had papers. The three persons were turned over to District Headquarters. The persons were identified as college students and were released to the National Police. At 141130H, during removal of mines at District Headquarters, one mine exploded killing three persons, one from 11th Engineer Bn, and two from 1st Antrac Bn. At 142050H, Co "L" spotted two suspected enemy in the open. The area was taken under fire with six rounds of 60mm mortar HE with good target coverage. The area was checked at first light with negative results. At 142125H, Co "K", at CAP #3, received 25 rounds of estimated incoming 60mm mortar fire that fell short of the perimeter wire. An artillery mission was called in. 25 rounds of HE were fired with good target coverage and unknown damage. At 142305H, a Co "K" ambush detected movement of approximately seven enemy in the vicinity of YD 177583. A 60mm mortar mission was adjusted onto the target area. The area was checked at first light with negative results.

15 Mar: Three platoon patrols, one squad patrol, three fire team OP's eight squad night ambushes and five fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 151337H, a Co "I" patrol found distinct sneaker footprints of four or five persons heading west on the tank trail vicinity YD 124626. The area was checked with negative results.

16 Mar: Two platoon patrols, two squad patrols, one fire team OP, nine squad night ambushes and five fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 161100H, a Co "M" patrol found two shells, apparently primers for mortars, at YD 168611. At 161223H, C-3 received two rounds of estimated 82mm mortar fire from an unknown position. At 161450H, a Co "I" patrol found three freshly dug fighting holes 1 1/2' deep, 4' long and 1' wide at YD 124616. The area was checked out with negative results. At 162110H, a Co "I" ambush en route to the ambush site at YD 133625, heard movement to the front and opened fire with small arms and M-79 rounds and received return fire. The ambush moved on line and swept through the spotted the suspected enemy in the open. The area was taken under fire with six rounds of 60mm mortar HE with IV-10

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enemy position, resulting in two NVA KIA confirmed, and two AK-47's and miscellaneous equipment captured. At 162345H, a Co "I" ambush spotted three persons coming down Route 561 from the north to check out the bodies from the previous ambush. The ambush was sprung. A search team went out and received one chicon grenade. The area was searched producing one NVA KIA confirmed and one SKS carbine captured.

17Mar: Two squad patrols, two fire tea, OP's, nine squad night ambushes, and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 172015H, as a Co "I" ambush was moving to its night time position they were erroneously fired upon by a second Co "I" ambush that was already in position at YD 129621. One friendly KIA non-hostile resulted. An investigation was initiated.

18Mar: One platoon patrol, one squad patrol, one hunter/killer team, three fire team OP's, eight squad night ambushes and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 180830H, District Headquarters reported having one female GVN Propaganda Team member at their position with her throat cut in six places. Relatives reported that the VC entered the An Huang hamlet during the night, placed an "execution tag" on the woman, cut her throat and left her for dead. An emergency med-evac was requested and completed. At 181246H, five suspects were spotted among a herd of cows, apparently observing C-3, at YD 135625. The suspects were taken to District Headquarters for interrogation, where they were released to the National Police as innocent civilians. At 182125H, a Co "I" ambush, located at YD 130626, received several rounds of suspected enemy mortars around their position from an unknown direction. They remained in position and continued their mission.

19Mar: One platoon patrol, one platoon (-) patrol, two squad patrols, three fire team OP's, ten squad night ambushes, and five fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 191000H, CAP #1, personnel observed several Vietnamese carrying bundles on poles. When approached, the Vietnamese fled leaving the bundles behind. The bundles contained two badly decomposed bodies which were sent to Dong Ha graves registration. The bodies were identified as the remaining bodies from Co "L"'s contact of 4 March. 4000 \$ VN was paid through the village chief for recovery of the bodies, since coordination had been made through the District Chief to encourage such an endeavor.

20Mar: Three platoon patrols, one squad patrol, three fire team OP's, nine squad night ambushes, six fire team night OP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 200100H, CAP #1 received four rounds of 60mm mortar fire from YD 121593. The rounds impacted approximately 50 to 100 meters outside the perimeter. Co "L" fired 42 rounds of 60mm HE, six rounds of 60mm illumination with very good target coverage and unknown results. At 200820H, a Co "I" patrol detained three male civilians age 20 who did not possess ID Cards.

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The detainees were turned over to CIT and released as innocent civilians. At 201050H, 10 to 12 rounds of sniper fire and one WP round were received at C-3 from right of C-3 vicinity YD 145618. An 81mm mission was fired with good target coverage and unknown results. A patrol was sent to check out the area (negative results) and to establish a day OP. At 202050H, a Co "L" Marine was wounded by an accidental discharge while on an LP. A med-evac was requested and completed at 202220H.

21Mar: Two platoon patrols, three squad patrols, two fire team OP's, eight squad night ambushes and five fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 220430H, Co "M" (Reinf), along with Command Group "B", departed on a company (Reinf) search and destroy operation south of Can Vu (YD 1862). At 220700H, Co "M" (Reinf) heard small arms fire vicinity 183605. The area was swept with negative results. At 220713H, Co "M" (Reinf) found several living bunkers at YD 183605. One of the larger bunkers was blown and Co "M" (Reinf) continued its mission. At 221000, all houses and shelters in Thon Dinh Xa (YD 181595) were burned. At 221045H, all units involved in the operation had returned to their positions. At 221800H, an FO in the tower at C-3 called an artillery mission on seven suspected NVA at YD 117612. The area was checked with negative results. At 222115H, an FO in the tower at C-3 spotted suspected enemy movement at YD 113615. An artillery mission was called and ten rounds of HE were fired with good target coverage and unknown results. At 222158H, an FO in the tower at C-3 spotted suspected enemy movement at YD 102605. Eight rounds of 105 illumination were fired with negative sightings.

23Mar: Two platoon patrols, three squad patrols, two fire team OP's, two squad night ambushes and four fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 231200H, 3/4 took over operational control of C-2 from 2/1. At 231214H, two suspects ages 15 and 21 were apprehended by the 3/4 road patrol at YD 148617. The suspects were taken to District Headquarters where they were released by the National Police as innocent civilians. At 241410H, C-2 received 11 rounds of incoming 60mm and 82mm mortars from YD 084657. Counter mortar artillery was fired with good target coverage and unknown results. At 231530H, C-2 received ten rounds of unknown caliber incoming artillery, from a 6000 mil azimuth, resulting in four WIA's. Artillery was fired with unknown results and an AO was requested. At 271530H, a sweep of the sampan village west of the Can Lo River Bridge, in an area where there is believed to be illicit commerce, was conducted by a Co "M" platoon and the National Police. It is believed that the civilians were warned of the sweep because no contraband was found. Civilians were interrogated and warned that the sale of U. S. goods in that area were illegal.

24Mar: Two platoon patrols, three squad patrols, three fire team OP's, seven squad night ambushes, and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 240200H, a Co "M" LP observed four personnel

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moving toward their position, coming within 200 meters. Illumination was fired and no further movement was observed. At 240720H, the north tower at C-2 spotted enemy rockets being fired from vicinity YD 171646. An artillery mission was called with unknown results. At 241150H, C-2 received three rounds of estimated 82mm incoming mortars from vicinity YD 112635 resulting in one WIA non-evac. An artillery mission was called with a reaction time of four minutes. 28 rounds of 105mm HE were delivered and adjusted by the towers at C-2 and C-3 with good target coverage. The incoming was suppressed. At 241730H, C-2 received one round of estimated 152mm artillery from an unknown direction. The towers at C-2 and C-3 were notified. At 241920H, 9th Marines reported a downed helicopter at YD 191589. At 241925H, Co "M" sent two squads from CAP #3 to provide security for the downed helicopter. At 241940H, 9th Marines reported that elements of 12th Marines were at the downed helicopter and would link up with the Co "M" squads. At 242045H, the link-up between the Co "M" squads and 12th Marines elements was completed. The units remained as security for the downed helicopter through the night. At 241845H, 3/4 assumed OPCON of Co "L" 3/1 and chopped one platoon of Co "L" 3/1 to 1/4 at the C-2 Bridge position, keeping the remainder of the company at C-2.

25Mar: Two platoon patrols, two squad patrols, six fire team OP's, seven squad night ambushes, and six fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 251350H, a Co "M" patrol found seven fresh fighting holes and one 60mm mortar pit at YD 176595. The holes were filled in.

26Mar: One platoon patrol, four squad patrols, six fire team OP's, six squad night ambushes and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 261000H, 1st Platoon, Co "A", 1st Bn, 502d Inf, 2d Brig, 101st Airborne patrol apprehended one VC suspect at YD 114589. Suspect was taken to District Headquarters and released as an innocent civilian.

27 Mar: Co "K" platoon operation (Operation Long Jump, See Documentation), three platoon patrols, four squad patrols, one hunter/killer team, five fire team OP's, six squad night ambushes, and seven fire team night LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 270800H, a Co "K" patrol found a whip type booby trap with bamboo spikes at YD 124579. The booby trap was destroyed with one M-26 grenade. At 271100H, Co "K" received three rounds of estimated 82mm mortar fire from 5300 mils. Four rounds of 105mm HE were fired at YD 116603 and 18 rounds at YD 105602 with good target coverage and unknown results. At 271535H, two rounds of estimated 82mm mortar fire was received at the LZ west of C-3. Counter mortar was fired by 81mm mortars and artillery with good target coverage and unknown results. At 271540H, a 101st Airborne patrol apprehended one VC suspect about 17 years old. The suspect was taken to District Headquarters and released as an innocent civilian. At 271720H, C-2 received four rounds of estimated 82mm mortar fire from a 4640 mil azimuth.

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28Mar: Two platoon patrols, one squad patrol, one hunter/killer team, five fire team OI's, six squad night ambushes, and eight fire team night OI's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 281040H, a hunter/killer team found two freshly dug fighting holes at YD 099638. They also found an OI in a tree with excellent observation of C-2 and two graves marked 37/27 Bn and 38/27 Bn. At 281145H, C-2 received ten rounds of incoming 82mm mortar fire from YD 116634 resulting in 5 WIA's med-evac. An artillery mission was fired with good target coverage and unknown results. At 281145H, District Headquarters received eight to ten rounds of 120mm mortar fires resulting in five WIA's med-evac and one WIA non-evac. Artillery was fired with good target coverage and unknown results. At 281400H, a hunter/killer team received sniper fire from YD 107637. Fire was returned resulting in one enemy KIA confirmed and artillery was fired with good target coverage. At 281545H, District Headquarters received three rounds of 120mm mortar fire resulting in two KIA's and five WIA's med-evac. Artillery was fired with good target coverage and unknown results. At 281708H, C-2 received five rounds of estimated 82mm mortar fire from YD 112631. 46 rounds of HE were fired with good target coverage. One secondary explosion was observed. At 282145H, a Co "I" Marine has an accidental discharge while cleaning his pistol resulting in facial wounds. The Marine was treated at the BAS. An investigation was initiated. At 282200H, a FFS-6 picked up movement at YD 153615. An 81mm mortar mission was fired with good target coverage. Movement ceased.

29Mar: One platoon patrol, one squad patrol, one hunter/killer team, five fire team OI's, six squad night ambushes and seven fire team night LI's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 281050H, a Co "I" patrol found a company size perimeter consisting of approximately 100 fighting holes at YD 151629. The holes appeared to be one to two weeks old. The area was marked for H&I fire. At 291405H, C-3 received six rounds of estimated 120mm mortar fire from YD 096623 resulting in one KIA, three WIA's med-evac and one WIA non-evac. Counter mortar was fired by artillery and 81mm mortars with good target coverage and unknown results. At 291555H, C-3 received one round of estimated 120mm mortar fire from an azimuth of 3100 mils resulting in two WIA's med-evac and three WIA's non-evac. Artillery was fired with good target coverage and unknown results.

30Mar: Two platoon patrols, three squad patrols, one hunter/killer team, five fire team OI's, seven squad night ambushes and six fire team night LI's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 301130H, a Co "L" 3/1 Marine was hit in the arms and face by fragments from a defective 3.5" rocket round. The Marine was treated at the BAS and returned to 3/1 LST. An investigation was initiated. At 301705H, Co "M" personnel on Route 9 received sniper fire from YD 164584. At the same time, approximately ten women with children were observed carrying two baskets of beans and six sacks of rice toward the area from which the fire came. At 301710H, a Co "K" patrol apprehended four male civilians who did not possess ID Cards. The personnel were taken to District Headquarters, where they were released as innocent civilians.

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31 Mar: One platoon patrol, four squad patrols, six fire team OP's, five squad night ambushes and six fire team LP's were conducted. One platoon and one squad were provided for road sweep and engineer security. At 31300H, a hunter/killer team found the following vicinity YD 106629: one 82mm mortar pit with a clear impression of base plate four to five days old; five empty 82mm fuze cans; five empty chicom increment cans; 30 black fuze covers; 25 half covered bunkers, 6' long, 4' deep, 2' wide; 25 spider holes; one empty 82mm cannister. The area was checked with negative results. At 311025H, an AO spotted what he believed to be freshly dug fighting holes at YD 150656. A patrol was sent and checked out the area with negative results. At 312030H, Co "K" reported PF elements in contact with an estimated VC platoon at YD 128600. Co "K" fired 81mm illumination and HE and 60mm illumination, resulting in three VC KIA confirmed. At 312124H, a Co "M" ambush spotted an estimated ten personnel moving west to east vicinity YD 135602. The ambush engaged the personnel with M-26 fragmentation grenades and small arms. The area was checked under illumination with negative results. The ambush moved to a secondary ambush site.

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SECTION VLOGISTICS1. General

a. The battalion remained in the C-3, C-3 Bridge, Cam Lo District Headquarters, and CAP #3 positions during March. On 22 March the C-2 position was added to the battalions area of operations, and L 3/1 from the SLF was placed OPCON to the battalion.

b. Daily resupply was conducted over the road to the C-3 position of supply Classes I, III, IV, and V. The supplies were further distributed from that point to the using units by the S-4 FWD.

2. Supply

a. The overall supply support during this period was considered satisfactory.

b. Some critical shortages of supplies existed and were reported in the Logistic Summary Report:

Antenna, AT-271A
Motor Transport Repair Parts
Mattress, Pneumatic

Lamp, Incand (81mm mortar)
Rocket Launcher 3.5
Rifle, 106mm

c. Other shortages include:

Claymore mines

8' Stakes

3. Transportation

a. Motor Transportation support from 9th Motors was fair to satisfactory. Toward the latter part of March vehicle support was minimal due to maintenance problems and loss of US Army truck support to 9th Marines.

b. The deadline rate for the M-422A1 in this reporting period is forty five per cent; of eighteen (18) M-422A1 vehicles, eight were deadlined. Seven (7) of the eight (8) vehicles are down for 3d echelon repairs. One other vehicle is down for 2nd echelon, and parts have been dropped from our account. Two others have been placed on order to replace them. Two M-422A1's have been code X by FLSU and have been dropped from our account.

c. There are 5 communications vehicles in the battalion of which one (1) is deadlined. One (1) M-38A1 is deadlined for work on the electrical wiring and is in FLSU at this time.

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d. The battalion has 30 M-274A2 vehicles of which four (4) are deadlined. Three are down for parts which have been placed on order and one (1) is in FLSU for repairs from an accident.

e. The battalion has four (4) M-3701 vehicles; three (3) are operational and one (1) is in FLSU for a new engine.

f. There is one luber and one Steam Jenny in the battalion. Both are deadlined for parts that are on order.

g. Two (2) of the six (6) M-107 water-buffaloes are deadlined for parts which are on order. It is not known how long it will be before these parts will arrive.

h. The Motor pool has been split into two (2) shops; one (1) in the rear at Dong Ha and one at C-3. There are eight (8) enlisted at both positions with both positions having the same maintenance capability. There has been some success in acquiring mule parts from Army units in Quang Tri. This is the only source available for these parts.

4. Miscellaneous

a. Laundry Service by FLSG-B was reported poor in the March Logistic Summary Report. Much clothing has been lost and much of it is returned dirty. Often the laundry is not ready for pick-up on the designated days.

b. Ice for messhalls and clubs was also reported as being inadequate in amounts and availability. This could become a problem with the hotter weather.

c. The battalion started submitting the new MARES Reports on unit supplies and equipment readiness. The supply and equipment status of the battalion remained in the C-1 category during March.

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SECTION VI
COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS

1. Radio

a. The Battalion maintained station on the following radio nets while on field operations during this period:

Regt	TAC #1	(FM)
Bn	TAC #2	(FM)
Bn Admin		(FM)

b. Additional stations manned at the base camp position at Cam Lo Artillery Position included:

Regt	TAC #2	(FM)	(RC - 292)
Convoy Control		(FM)	(RC - 292)
GAP	TAC	(FM)	(RC - 292)

c. At the Battalion forward CP position at C-2, the Battalion maintains the following stations:

Bn	TAC #1	(FM)	(RC - 292)
Regt	TAC #1	(FM)	(RC - 292)
Convoy Control		(FM)	

d. The Battalion Rear at Dong Ha maintained a station on the Battalion Administration.

e. Supporting arms circuits for air and artillery were employed utilizing FM equipment.

2. Wire

a. The Battalion Rear at Dong Ha maintains wire communications for administrative purposes and provides two trunks to the 9th Marines.

b. The Battalion maintains an extensive CP wire system at Cam Lo Artillery position, Cam Lo River bridge, and C-2 including lateral trunks, and connecting trunks with C-2 Bridge.

3. Radio Relays

a. Provides two common user circuits between Cam Lo Artillery position and 9th Marines for exclusive use of this Battalion, although 9th Marines' end of circuit has been inoperable a majority of the month. Radio Relay provides two common user trunks between C-2 and 9th Marines for exclusive use of this Battalion.

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4. Power

a. Power for the Battalion Rear, Cam Lo Artillery position and C-2 provided by the 11th Engineers.

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SECTION VIIARTILLERY SUPPORT

1. During the month of March, while 3/4 was operating in the Cam Lo Complex and the C-2 area, direct support artillery was provided by 2/12. Calls for fire during this period were answered by "D" Btry 2/12, "E" Btry 2/12, "F" Btry 2/12, "H" Btry 3/12. Calls for fire were also answered by "L" Btry 4/12, "M" Btry 4/12, and 1st 8" How Btry. These batteries were assigned general and/or reinforcing support missions as appropriate.

2. While operating in the Cam Lo Complex and the C-2 area, forward observers in support of 3/4 called in a total of 334 fire missions expending 4,032 rounds. An additional 4,750 rounds were expended on 897 H&I targets.

3. During the month of March, as the positions within the 3/4 AO began to experience sporadic incoming mortar or artillery, steps were taken to improve our fire support. Principal goals were to shorten response time, conduct preplanned suppressive fires, and follow with on call destructive fires. To achieve these goals, emphasis was given to the following areas:

a. The use of tanks to provide immediate fires on preplanned targets when incoming is taken.

b. Improvement and updating of preplanned target lists in the counter-rocket and counter-mortar plans.

(1) Better target intelligence through expanded training in crater analysis.

(2) Direct cooperation between 2/12 and 3/4 in providing analysis of shell fragment or fins.

c. Improved radio procedures.

(1) Correct transmission practices.

(2) Inclusion of statement that incoming is being taken when calling fire mission.

(3) Better description of targets to include long axis, direction of movement, and terrain and vegetation characteristics.

d. Assistance from CMR's (under operation of 2/12) when consistency in a fire source is detected.

4. The following is a summary of artillery support during the month of March:

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Battery

Fire Missions

Rounds Expended

"D" 2/12 (105)
 "E" 2/12 (105)
 "F" 2/12 (105)
 "H" 3/12 (105)
 "L" 4/12 (155)
 "M" 4/12 (155)
 1st 8" How

190
 38
 34
 56
 6
 7
3
 334

2136
 586
 467
 604
 75
 121
43
 4032

Battery

H & I's

Rounds Expended

"D" 2/12 (105)
 "E" 2/12 (105)
 "F" 2/12 (105)
 "H" 3/12 (105)
 "L" 4/12 (155)
 "M" 4/12 (155)
 1st 8" How

228
 165
 142
 137
 85
 100
40
 897

1238
 820
 790
 672
 450
 540
240
 4750

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SECTION VIIIAIR SUPPORT

During the month of March 1968, 3d Bn, 4th Marines was assigned the defense of the Cam Lo area, requiring a minimum of air support. Weather during this period was favorable for all air mission requested.

3d Battalion, 4th Marines requested a total of 22 med-evacs and 3 VR's during this period, these were carried out with a minimum delay. During this period 3/4 was also given the missions of lifting 2d Bn, 1st Marines from C-2 artillery position and the lifting of units of the 101st Airborne. These were carried out with a minimum of delay and were controlled by 3/4 personnel.

During this period 3/4 requested 25 AO's to make VR's of patrol routes and to recon our area of operation, AO's again proved valuable in spotting enemy positions, and in controlling airstrikes and artillery missions against these positions.

The following is a summary of the air support given to 3d Bn, 4th Marines during the month of March.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Fixed Wing	1	Requested by AO's on targets of opportunity. Total BDA for all fixed wing strikes our area was 3 Bunkers destroyed, 4 Bunkers damaged, 20 fighting holes destroyed, 1 secondary.
AO's aircraft	25	Spotted enemy positions and controlled artillery and air strikes.
Resupply	None	None
Medevacs	22	
Troop Lifts	4	Lifted out 2/1 from C-2. Lifted units of 101st Airborne and VR from C-3 and C-2.
SAR	None	
TPQ's	130	30 conducted in support of 3/4.

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SECTION IXMEDICAL AFFAIRS

1. During the month of March a rear BAS was maintained at Dong Ha. A forward BAS functioned at C-3, supervised by the Battalion Surgeon. On March 23d another BAS was established at C-2 with three corpsmen, a two man BAS was initiated at Cam Lo River Bridge position for purposes of Med-Cap in the nearby villages.

2. Shortly after the beginning of the month, Med-Cap's were begun. These were conducted by the battalion surgeon at Cam Thai, Father Co's Catholic Mission in the Cam Lo Refugee Village, and in the Montagnard Refugee Village. Corpsmen conducted a daily Med-Cap in Cam Thai. As of March 25, 361 Vietnamese patients were seen by the Battalion Surgeon and 185 by the corpsmen for a total of 646. A total number of 102 civilians were vaccinated against cholera.

3. Common problems encountered by the Medical Department were:

a. Occasional rats have been reported, but the problem is less since the institution of rat traps.

b. About the middle of the month the possibility of a cholera epidemic in the Refugee Village arose; although these were no proven cases, updating of cholera vaccination was initiated for 600 troops.

c. Many of the heads are being repaired, primarily by screening and replacement of missing boards.

4. There were 4 WIA corpsmen during March.

5. The personnel situation is as follows:

a. Personnel Transferred	0
b. Personnel Received	0
c. Number of Personnel on Board	59 Enlisted 1 Officer

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SECTION X

CIVIL AFFAIRS

1. Relations between 3d Battalion, 4th Marines and the village and hamlet officials of Cam Lo and Cam Thai continued to be excellent. Military and civil affairs activities are coordinated between the command and the Senior Army Advisor, Cam Lo District, and the Cam Lo District Chief.

2. Civil Affairs Activities. Med-Caps were conducted by the Battalion Surgeon and coordinated with the Cam Lo District Headquarters. The Cam Lo District Medical Officer, six PF corpsmen and two Vietnamese Catholic nuns aided the USMC personnel in med-caps and were given detailed explanations on diagnosis, and proper treatment of unusual cases. This type of Civil Affairs activity in proving to be the best received project in this area. On several occasions, information was gathered about VC activity in the Cam Lo Refugee Village during the med-cap. To insure that med-cap activities were not duplicated in the Cam Lo Refugee Village all med-caps were coordinated with S-5 4th Marine Regiment. As a result of the talks, the 4th Marine Regiment will med-cap in the Cam Lo Refugee Catholic Sector and the An Ca Montagnard Village. Cooperation and joint efforts will continue between 3/4 and 4th Marine Regiment with the goal of achieving a better Civil Affairs program for the Cam Lo Refugee Area.

Toward the end of March intelligence and agent reports showed an increase of NV/VC activity around the Cam Lo Refugee Village. Also 3/4 received incoming at Cam Lo District Headquarters, and at Cam Lo Hill. These two factors hampered greatly med-caps and other Civil Affairs activities as the Battalion Surgeon, and corpsmen, and other Marines were needed in their regular roles. However, as the tactical situation permits Civil Affairs activities will continue as a major part of the 3/4 activities in the Cam Lo Complex.

At the beginning of March coordination was effected with CIT personnel at Cam Lo District Headquarters, to screen several prospective barbers. After the screening three barbers were selected and issued passes identifying them as persons eligible to cut hair for 3/4. Barbers operate concessions at small fenced in barber shops located near the gates at Cam Lo Bridge (C-3A) and Cam Lo Hill (C-3). The price of 30 \$ VN has been set for a haircut, and the system has proven to be very satisfactory.

On 12 March the Battalion resumed its AID program to pay civilians for filling sandbags. A total of 15,000 \$ VN were paid to Cam Thai villagers, at the rate of 1 \$ VN per sandbag filled. On 17 and 21 March, S-2 scouts held classes on the English language at the Cam Lo Resettlement Village (Catholic sector). The classes were given to first and second grade students and were very well received. On 19 March materials were obtained and a project initiated to repair a Montagnard school house which

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was damaged by artillery fire during the TET offensive. This project is currently underway with An Cu villagers (Montagnards) supplying all the necessary labor. On 21 March the Battalion was able to improve control on the selling of goods to USMC personnel. Working with the Can Lo District Chief, a market place was established in a fenced area just to the south of the Can Lo Bridge. Control is exercised by 3/4 sentries and visits by Can Lo National Police.

After the market place had been established the Can Lo District Chief and the Can Thai Hamlet Chief passed the word that it was the only authorized selling place. Coordination was then effected between Can Lo District Officials and 3/4, and several raids were conducted on other vending sites. During the joint (USMC and National Police) raids all whiskey and beer was confiscated and villagers were told that the unauthorized vending would stop or they would be arrested. In order to further control selling a roving patrol was established with the approval of Dai Uy Rao, Can Lo District Chief, on the road from C-31 to C-3. Their mission is to stop all roadside selling to U. S. personnel and to keep villagers away from vehicles.

Catholic services were held for 3/4 personnel at Can Lo Artillery position and Can Lo District Headquarters on 17 and 24 March by Father Co, a Vietnamese priest from the Catholic resettlement village. The Father was delighted to help and 3/4 was grateful for his services. On 19 March two Marine bodies were recovered by civilians of Can Lo Refugee Village. The Battalion showed its appreciation by rewarding each of the eight villagers 2,000 \$ VN and expressing our sincerest thanks. The villagers had to risk their lives in order to recover the bodies and showed their sincere concern for USMC forces. These bodies had not been found in a previous sweep through the area and a search by civilians had been encouraged, working through the District Chief.

Combined military/civil affairs meetings were held at the Can Lo District Headquarters and Can Lo Hill (G-3) between Lt. Col Bondell, Commanding Officer 3/4; Major Hannon, Senior Army Advisor; and Dai Uy Rao, Can Lo District Chief. The discussions centered on: (a) problems involving civilian sales activities along the MSR, (b) Med-caps, and other Medical needs, and (c) military activities and employment of combined forces in the Can Lo area.

3. Significant Events. Vietnamese vendors along the MSR during the first few weeks of March were openly selling numerous black market items including alcoholic beverages and marijuana. These activities have been stopped or greatly reduced through raids (conducted by USMC personnel and National Police), and the opening of the authorized, controlled market.

On 18 March, the Can Lo District Chief and USMC personnel removed a pig from a house yard inside the perimeter at Can Lo Bridge. The pig had been kept at the house after the house had been vacated. However, secur-

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ity prohibits civilians from entering the perimeter to feed the pig. The head of the house was given a sufficient amount of barbed wire and four engineer stakes to rebuild his pen and the pig was removed with no apparent repercussions.

A continuing problem of keeping children and Vietnamese civilians out of the trash dump exists. Sentry posts have been established and interpreters have warned the people to stay away with some success.

As clothing is sent to the battalion chaplain by churches and individual in the states, goods are disbursed among those in greatest need through the 3/4 AID program. Packages of clothing and toys are given to hamlet chiefs and are then distributed by them to those who are most in need. This program has concentrated on the An Ca Montagnard Village as many children in this area have nothing to wear. Recently 3/4 was joined in this program by Task Force Robbie personnel and to date more than 100 articles of clothing and toys have been distributed.

The average Vietnamese attitude toward the military in the Cam Lo, Cam Thai area remains passive and hard to judge at times, but an atmosphere of friendship has always prevailed in this area on the surface. Relations were definitely strained during the TET offensive; however, it is believed that no lasting gains were made by the Communists. A sound working relationship with the Cam Lo District Chief, National Police Chief, and the Cam Thai Hamlet Chief has prevented serious incidents and created what is hoped to a lasting friendship.

The Cam Lo area is undergoing changing times and indigenous personnel demonstrate varied feelings. The long established residents of Cam Lo look upon refugees as intruders, and reject them in social and religious circles. This is a major problem as attempts are made to unify the people under one cause behind the Republic of Viet Nam. A further segregation of villagers has come about through a constant and ever increasing influence of Montagnard tribesmen who are a very independent people. All of this is further complicated by the reported nearby presence of several NVA Companies. The people are divided, confused, and afraid. Every day, however, through the effort of U. S. Civil Affairs projects and GVN support of housing and food needs we are making strides toward a unified community. All 3/4 civil affairs activity is closely with the MACV advisors, and COMUSMACV officers at Cam Lo District Headquarters, coordinated.

4. Psychological Warfare Activities. On 9 and 11 March, the Armed Propaganda team broadcast five hours of psychological messages pertaining to the TET offensive. Villagers were told the truth about the enemies losses and told that the Government of Vietnam was the real winner. On the same occasion as well as during all med-caps, 3/4 interpreters told the people of rewards being offered for arms and enemy information and emphasized that the government can help them only if they help the Government.

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SECTION XIPROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND LESSONS LEARNED1. Field Operations

a. Use of otters was found very effective in river crossings. Their mobility provided for rapid river transit; e.g. using four otters, a company (-) (reinf) plus 103 Vietnamese detainees were transported across the Cam Lo River in approximately 30 minutes. Their .50 caliber machine guns can also be used to advantage. Using units must ensure secure river heads on both sides of the crossing site.

b. When using tanks in coordinated tank-infantry operations and moving from covered assembly areas, move troops out first independently of the armor and deploy in preplanned formation then bring up the tanks. This technique permits continuous tank movement, thus maintaining the momentum of the attack.

c. Most villages are segmented by squared plots of land, fences and hedgerows thereby necessitating a flexible formation to properly accomplish the mission.

In sweeping through a village, rather than having squads on line, it was found advantageous to deploy the lead platoon in a wedge formation with squads in column, maintaining visual contact. Unit integrity and security are maintained in case of contact. Of course, the swept area must be thoroughly searched out; the use of phase lines assists in coordinating search and resumption of movement forward.

d. Constant attention to accountability while on patrol is mandatory -- starting with fire team and squad leaders. When casualties are incurred, the small unit leader must know which of his men have been evacuated, which are walking wounded, and effectives remaining. Accurate lists of those evacuated by helicopter must be maintained; this required designation of one person solely responsible for this function in the LZ.

e. Twin 40's and tanks were used as an "immediate response" base of fire. By prior planning, their fires can be shifted from target to target in coordination with troop movement. The fires can be increased or decreased in intensity to fully complement preparation artillery and mortar fires.

2. Ambushes

a. An ambush can extend its security by employing a starlight scope on each of the security posts.

b. When sending out a search team for purposes of checking the killing zone it is advisable that they fix bayonets as they are apt to encounter the enemy at close quarters.

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c. Continuous emphasis on detailed planning of ambushes is necessary. The use of check off lists, sample orders, and pre-patrol inspections should be strongly encouraged.

d. Coordination of ambushes is mandatory. Such coordination for each defensive position is a responsibility of the perimeter commander -- not that of a platoon commander manning just one section of the perimeter, even though the ambush may originate from that platoon.

3. Communications

More use should be made of radio silence and deceptive transmissions. For example, when a unit moves out on an operation at an early hour, continue to call "all secure" perimeter situation reports within the unit and to higher authority, so as to make it appear to any monitor that the unit is still in place. Such planning must be coordinated in advance, of course.

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