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5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

ABT/whn
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01B06769
8 Mar 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF, FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-28 February 1969

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8
(b) BrigO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein) Command Chronology for period 1-28 February 1969

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

A. B. Thompson Jr.
A. B. THOMPSON JR.

Copy to:
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5th - 155 mm Gun Battery (SP)

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-28 February 1969

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Part I
Organizational Data

DesignationCommanding

5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)

Maj W. M. STEPHENS
1-24 February 1969Maj A. B. THOMPSON JR.
25-28 February 1969Executive OfficerCapt T. W. STEELE
1-19 February 1969Subordinate UnitsCommanderBravo Platoon (155mm Guns),
5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)Capt J. J. MULHOLLAND
1-28 February 1969Charlie Platoon (155mm Guns),
5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)1stLt W. M. MILES
1-28 February 1969Attached UnitsCommander1st Platoon, 5th 8" Howitzer
Battery (SP), (Alpha Platoon)Capt J. J. MULHOLLAND
1-28 February 1969Location

a. Battery Headquarters

1-28 February 1969 Dong Ha West

b. A and B Platoons

1-28 February 1969 Vandegrift Combat
Base

c. C Platoon

1-28 February 1969 Fire Support Base
Elliot (Rock Pile)MONTHLY AVERAGE STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
9	169

<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
0	6

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Narrative Summary

During February 1969, the 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein) remained under the operational control of the 108th Artillery Group USA and continued its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marine Regiment.

Command of the 5th 155mm Gun Battery changed with Maj A. B. THOMPSON Jr. relieving Maj W. M. STEPHENS on 25 February 1969.

On 21 February 1969 a M-151 jeep from Alpha platoon hit a land mine three miles east of Fire Support Base Elliott. SSgt V. S. SCHLICHTING and PFC P. S. TIMMERMAN were killed and Sgt D. SOLIZ was wounded in the incident. The vehicle was destroyed.

Charlie platoon received incoming rocket and mortar rounds near their position on three different occasions on 25 February 1969. There were no casualties or materiel damage.

Alpha and Bravo platoons continued to improve their position at Vandegrift Combat Base. A number of bunkers have been completed. Powder and projectile bunkers under construction by the Seabees still have not been completed.

Charlie platoon continued work on their position at Fire Support Base Elliott. To date eight projectile and powder bunkers and two personnel bunkers have been completed by the Seabees.

Alpha platoon fired a total of 760 rounds during February. Bravo fired 532 rounds and Charlie fired 928 rounds during the same period. Targets were mostly unobserved intelligence/artillery/rocket suppression fires and long range support of recon units. A large number of rounds were fired in the defense of Fire Support Bases Neville and Russell when they came under ground attacks on 25 February 1969.

The Battery's personnel status remains C-3 with 77% of essential T/O ranks and MOSs on hand. Critical MOS shortages include 0848, 1345, 2144, 2151, 2531, 2533, 3516 and 3531. Equipment status has remained C-4 for most of February. During one 24 hour period the battery was C-2. At the end of the month, there was one 155mm Gun and one 8" Howitzer operational. Deadlines were due to tube changes, breech problems, engine failures and a lack of rear split rings. Two M64 Eimco Tractors and the VTR (M51) remain on deadline.

The Battery supported operations SCOTLAND, HI-RISE, KENTUCKY and DAWSON RIVER until these operations ended on 28 February. The Battery now supports Regimental AOs within the 3d Marine Division AO.

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Part III
Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 19 Feb 1969 - Capt T. W. STEELE, Battery Executive Officer, rotated to CONUS
- 21 Feb 1969 - M-151 jeep from Alpha platoon at Vandegrift hit a land mine three miles East of Fire Support Base Elliott. SSgt V. S. SCHLICHTING and PFC P. S. TIMMERMAN were KIA and Sgt D. SOLIZ, WIA, jeep was destroyed.
- 25 Feb 1969 - Maj W. M. STEPHENS was relieved by Maj A. B. THOMPSON Jr as Battery Commander.
- 25 Feb 1969 - Charlie platoon at Fire Support Base Elliott received incoming; 6 rockets at 0430, 12 mortars at 1100 and 6 mortars at 1630, no casualties or damage.

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