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HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 7th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

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3/MWB/mar
3000
1 Jan 69
Ser. No. 003-69

2 Bn. 7th Marines
Log No. 0022-69
Copy No. 13 of 28

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Task Group 79.5
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 Dec 1968
Ref: (a) MGO 5750.2
(b) FMFACO 5750.8
(c) 9th Mar BrigO 5750.10

Encl: ✓ (1) Battalion Landing Team 2/7 Command Chronology

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

N. A. Nelson
N. A. NELSON

Copy to: CO, 7th Marines

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2/7

Dec 1968

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BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/7

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 Dec 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

DATE COVERED

1-31 Dec 1968

A. UNIT DESIGNATION

1. Battalion Landing Team 2/7

Company E

LtCol. N. A. NELSON

Capt. J. T. FRICKER

1-7 Dec 1968

Lt. P. S. MENAUGH

8-23 Dec 1968

Lt. E. R. KENNEY

24-31 Dec 1968

Capt. R. R. WEBPOTT

Lt. K. E. KRAMP

Capt. T. P. E. HOLM

1-16 Dec 1968

Lt. E. E. DELGADO

17-18 Dec 1968

Lt. G. HEATLEY

19-27 Dec 1968

Capt. T. P. E. HOLM

28-31 Dec 1968

Lt. J. H. HALSEY II

Lt. M. E. HASTINGS

Lt. P. D. O'CONNOR

Lt. E. T. CHARBONNEAU

1 Dec 1968

Lt. C. M. BEAM

2-31 Dec 1968

Lt. D. G. PATTERSON

Lt. M. E. NELSON

Lt. W. H. MCCLOSKEY

1-14 Dec 1968

Cpl R. E. HANCOCK JR.

15-31 Dec 1968

Lt. (MC) D. M. SMITH, USN

Lt. L. J. STEVENS

CWO2 W. PICKARSKI

Sgt. J. L. MCDANIELS

Company F

Company G

Company H

H&S Co (-) (Rein)

2nd Plat (Rein), Co B, 1st Tank Bn

3rd Plat (Rein), Co A, 5th AT Bn

2nd Plat (Rein), Co A, 1st MP BN

2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn

3rd Plat (Rein), Co B, 3rd Amtrac Bn

1st Plt (Rein), Co E, 1st Recon Bn

C&C Plat (Rein), Co A, 5th Med Bn

Det, 1st SP Bn

Det, Hq Bn, 1st Mar Div

Det, Hq Co, 7th Mar

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Attached Units

Battery H, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
107mm Mortar Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

Capt. J. J. JAMES
Capt. J. P. RIORDAN

B. STAFF OFFICERS

XO

S-1

S-2

S-3

S-4

Personnel Officer
Embarkation Officer
Communication Officer

Artillery Liaison Officer

Naval Gunfire Officer
Air Liaison Officer
Supply Officer

Motor Transport Officer
Chaplain
Medical Officer

Maj. H. S. LONERGAN

Lt. R. HARRELLE

Lt. J. PIPPEN

1-20 Dec 1968

Lt. G. E. WETMORE III

21-31 Dec 1968

Maj. L. J. DES JARDINES

Lt. T. LUKAWECZ

Lt. R. HARRELLE

Lt. E. E. DELGADO

Lt. T. T. DAHNEY

1-21 Dec 1968

Lt. D. E. WOOLLEN

22-31 Dec 1968

Lt. W. S. SHEAHAN III

1-20 Dec 1968

Lt. F. HENRY

20-31 Dec 1968

Lt. (JG) H. J. CULLEN, USN

Capt. R. BOSLER

Lt. W. L. SMITH III

1-14 Dec 1968

Lt. T. LUKAWECZ

15-31 Dec 1968

Lt. L. A. RAYMOND

Lt. (CHC) B. LOVEJOY, USN

Lt. J. D. REED, USN

1-14 Dec 1968

Lt. W. O. JAMES, USN

15-31 Dec 1968

C. LOCATION1. BLT 2/7

- a. 1 December - 4 December 1968: Operation MEADE RIVER, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN.
- b. 5 December: USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10)
- c. 5 -6 December 1968: AN HOA, 5th Marines Regimental Combat Base
- d. 7-26 December 1968: Operation TAYLOR COMMON, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN.

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e. 27-31 December 1968: Camp Love; 7th Engineer Battalion, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN.

2. Detachments

None

3. Attachments

- a. Co D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines: 010001H - 041730H Dec 1968
- b. Composite Company, BIII 2/26 010001H - 041730H Dec 1968
- c. Psyops, 1st Marine Division: 010001H - 021400H Dec 1968
- d. 9th ITT, 7th Marines: 010001H - 261500H Dec 1968
- e. Provincial Reconnaissance Unit 010001H - 031400H Dec 1968
- f. Co's A and C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 170730H - 181500H Dec 1968

D. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Officers</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
56	1322	7	86

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

From 1-4 December 1968 BLT 2/7 participated in Operation MEADE RIVER (See TAB A). Company H was the first unit of the BLT released from the operation. This unit reembarked aboard the USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10) on 3 December 1968.

On 4 December 1968 the remainder of the BLT reembarked aboard assigned shipping. All personal effects and organizational equipment was packed and other preparations were made for the administrative debarkation of the BLT on 5 December 1968. Company H debarked on 4 December 1968 and moved to AN HOA Combat Base.

On 5 December 1968 OPCON of BLT 2/7 (-) was passed to the 1st Marine Division. OPCON of certain elements of the BLT was passed to the 5th Marines. Companies E, F, G, and the command group were moved by helicopter to the 5th Marines Combat Base at AN HOA. The BLT Rear Echelon moved to Camp Love, DANANG, and established administrative and logistic facilities there. OPCON of some of the supporting elements of the BLT was not passed to the 1st Marine Division. These elements remained aboard ship.

From 7 December until 26 December 1968 the BLT (-) was OPCON to the 5th Marines and it participated in Operation TAYLOR COMMON. (See TAB B).

Starting on 23 December 1968 elements of the BLT were released from the operation and started to move to DANANG. On 23 and 24 December Companies E and G and part of the command group moved. On 26 December Companies F and H, 81mm Mortar Platoon, 106mm Recoilless Rifle Platoon, and the remainder of the Command Group moved to DANANG.

On 27 December 1968 OPCON of Companies E and G was passed to the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines. These units were assigned to combat bases in that battalion's TAOR. On 29 December 1968 BLT 2/7 relieved 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines and assumed responsibility for the northern portion of the 7th Marines TAOR. On 31 December 1968 the move to the new BLT CP at DAI LA PASS was completed.

During the period that the move from AN HOA to DAI LA PASS was taking place temporary billeting arrangements for the BLT were provided by ELC and 7th Engineer Battalion.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSA. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

1. During the period from 1-4 December 1968 BLT 2/7 took part in Operation MEADE RIVER in Dodge City Area in QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN. Its mission was to land along Route 1D AT968606 and conduct a sweep to railroad berm, establish a blocking position at AT994 607 to prevent enemy forces from escaping westwardly. (See TAB A).
2. During the period from 6-26 December 1968: BLT 2/7 took part in Operation TAYLOR COMMON, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN. Its mission was to land in LZ CHAMPAGNE and attack north to seize assigned Regimental Objectives, establish company blocking positions, in support of ARVN forces, and coordinate passage of BLT lines by ARVN forces, on order break blocking positions, wheel, and sweep south in trace of ARVN to LZ CHAMPAGNE conducting detailed search to locate and destroy enemy forces in area and on order, retrograde by helicopter from LZ CHAMPAGNE to AN HOA Combat Base, to be assigned the mission of maintaining security forces at designated strong points, conduct sweeps, day and night ambushes, keep Liberty Road open within the BLT AO, and protect friendly convoys by constant surveillance and interdiction of enemy threats to the road. (See TAB B).

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

1. Operation MEADE RIVER, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN - 01000ME - 04173OH
December 1968.
2. Operation TAYLOR COMMON, QUANG NAM PROVINCE - 070700 - 26100OH
December 1968.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY AND WEAPONS CAPTURED1. Personnel

a. NVA KIA	18
b. VC KIA	9
c. Detainees	19
d. Chieu Hoi	1

2. Weapons Captured

a. AK-47	5
b. SKS	5
c. Carbine	1
d. 7.62mm Pistol	1

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3. Grenades and Mines Captured

- a. ChiCom grenades 21
- b. M-26 Fuze 1

4. Ammunition Captured (by rounds)

- a. AK-47 402
- b. .45 Cal rds 14
- c. .50 Cal rds 570
- d. .30 Cal rds 50

5. Miscellaneous Equipment Captured

- a. Rice, Wheat, Corn 115,220
- b. RPG Boosters 4
- c. AK-47 Mags 4
- d. ChiCom MG Mags 5
- e. Assorted Medical gear
- f. Assorted NVA Clothing
- g. Assorted Individual Equipment
- h. Carbine Mags 3
- i. VC E-tool 2
- j. VC Pack 1
- k. VC Ammo pouch 1
- l. US Gas Mask 2
- m. US Canteen Cover 3
- n. NVA Gas Mask 3
- o. NVA Officers' belt 1
- p. Vietnamese Medical book 1

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

1. USMC

<u>Officers</u>				<u>Enlisted</u>					
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIAE</u>	<u>WIANE</u>	<u>NBCE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIAE</u>	<u>WIANE</u>	<u>NBCE</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>DOC</u>
0	1	1	0	3	30	14	36	0	1

USN

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Enlisted</u>			
None		<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>WIANE</u>	<u>NBC</u>
		1	2	1	0

E. NEW TECHNIQUES. None

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F. COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

1. 01001H - 041730H December 1968 - OI CON to 1st Marines
2. 041730H December 1968 - OI CON passed to CTG 79.5
3. 050700H December 1968 - OI CON passed to 5th Marines
4. 261000H December 1968 - OI CON passed to 7th Marines

G. EQUIPMENT

1. First and Second echelon maintenance was performed on all organic vehicles and heavy equipment.

- a. Weekly preventive maintenance was conducted.
- b. Drivers education for M-274 licenses was conducted.

2. Preventive maintenance was performed on the following items at Subic Bay, Philippines:

- a. 5 - Ontos
- b. 3 - M-35
- c. 1 - M-543
- d. 1 - M-51
- e. 1 - M-37
- f. 1 - M-151A1 w/trailer

3. The following weapons were repaired by LSU contact team at AN HOA:

- a. 6 - 106mm RR
- b. 6 - .50 cal Spotter
- c. 6 - M-92 Mounths
- d. 6 - M-27 Tripod
- e. 8 - M-60 M.G.
- f. 10 - M-79
- g. 4 - 3.5 R.L.
- h. 75 - M-16 Rifles
- i. 14 - .45 cal pistols
- j. 2 - 81mm Base Plates
- k. 3 - 81mm Tubes
- l. 3 - 60mm Bipods
- m. 3 - 60mm Base Plates
- n. 3 - 60mm Tubes

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H. LOGISTICS1. General

(a) From 1 December until 4 December general logistic support was provided by organic supporting units. On 5 December 1968 the BLT was offloaded from ARG shipping with the rifle companies and the command group going to 5th Marines' Regimental Headquarters, AN HOA, RVN, while the BLT Rear was established at Camp Love, DAN ANG, RVN. During this period the operating units were preparing for the forthcoming operation, which commenced on 7 December 1968. The battalion was committed on Operation TAYLOR COMMON from 7 December 1968 to 26 December 1968. On 14 December a messhall was opened by 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. All rations were provided by the 5th Marine Regimental Mess, with the following deficiencies noted:

- (1) Insufficient amounts of A-ration.
- (2) Insufficient covered space, tables, and benches for a battalion size mess.
- (3) No refrigeration was available.

While the units were committed on the operation the LSA at AN HOA was being operated by the 1st Shore Party for the first five days. During this time no fuel trioxane was supplied with any of the requested Class I. On the sixth day of the operation organic HST personnel commenced to support the battalion with the following classes of supplies being helielifted. Classes I, III, and V were provided by LSU and classes II, IV, and VIII by the battalion Rear:

CLASS I	MCI	933 Cases
	Water	6,500 Gals
	S.P. Packs	25
	Trioxane	3,023
	Long Range Rats	150 Cases
CLASS II	BA 386	20 Cases
	BA 30	5 Cases
	BA 1100	2 Boxes
	Haversack	5 Each
	Foncho	20
	LSA	300 Tubes
	Cleaning Solvent	100 4 oz cans

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Boots 15 Pair
 Trousers 400 Pair
 Socks 360 Pair
 Undershirts 100 Each
 Canteens 25
 Mosquito Repellent 10 boxes
 Elec Tape 5 Rolls
 Foot powder 10 Boxes
 Halizone Tablets 10 Boxes
 Helmets 2

CLASS III

Diesel 200 Gals

CLASS IV

Sand Bags 2,000
 Engineer Stakes 100

CLASS V

5.56 Tracer 2 Cases
 5.56 Ball 20 Cases
 .45 cal 500 rds
 .50 S/T 6 Cases
 40mm HE 12 Cases
 60mm HE 9 Cases
 60mm Illum 14 Cases
 106mm HEAT 18 Cases
 106mm HEPT 9 Cases
 106mm B/H 20 Cases
 Hand Grenades 20 Cases
 Smoke Grenades Gr 20 Cases
 Smoke Gren Yellow 12 Cases
 Smoke Grenade Red 5 Cases
 3.5 HEAT 6 Cases
 3.5 WP 8 Cases
 Claymores 3 Cases
 Red Star Parachute 4 Cases
 White Star Parachute 12 Cases
 Green Star Parachute 12 Cases
 Non Elect Blasting Caps 400
 Time Fuze 3,500 feet
 C-4 350 Pounds
 Det Cord 2,500 Feet
 LAAWS 8 Cases

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The 24th of December 1968 two companies were extracted from AN HOA, RVN, by helicopters and were flown to FLC, DANANG, RVN. On the 26th of December 1968 the two remaining companies and the command group were flown from AN HOA to DANANG, RVN by C-130. During the period 27 December 1968 thru 31 December 1968 logistic support was provided for the BLT by organic units. On 28 December 1968 the off-load of assigned ARG shipping commenced and was completed 31 December 1968, at which time the battalion was moved into its static position from Camp Love, 7th Engineer Battalion CF, to D I LA PASS, RVN.

2. Transportation

- a. Transportation for the BLT was provided by organic vehicles and scheduled helicopter/fix wing flights.
- b. General maintenance was performed on all vehicles to keep our operating status to its maximum.

3. Embarkation

- a. During the period of this report continued improvement of the Mechanized Embarkation Data System was performed. All of the BLT attachments MED cards were returned to the parent units on detachment from BLT 2/7.

I. CIVIC ACTION

No significant Civic Action was taken by the BLT during this reporting period.

J. ADMINISTRATION

1. Awards

None

2. Legal and Discipline

- a. NJP's 23
- b. Courts 4 Specials

3. Postal

All package mail was held in the rear and distributed upon the return of the battalion from operations during the month of December.

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4. R&R

R&R continued as normal. The battalion received and filled 114 R&R quotas during the month of December.

5. Promotions

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Meritorious</u>
Cpl	68	3
LCpl	93	4
PFC	10	0

6. Pay and Allowance

Pay call was held once during the month of December for the entire command.

7. Post Exchange

Access to exchanges on a daily bases was infrequent due to Operational commitments. At AN HOA arrangements were made for an exchange truck to come to the combat bases for the BLT. While in the field, health and comfort items were available from Sundry Packs.

8. Personnel Change

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
a. Battle Losses	0	3	0	1
b. Administrative	5	150	1	14
c. Replacements	13	165	1	11

9. Religious Services

a. Divine Services

During the month of December 15 protestant and three Catholic Services were held for the battalion, including the Christmas Services. Three hundred ninety personnel attended. These were conducted in the field areas of Operation MEADE RIVER and TAYLOR COMMON and at AN HOA. Catholic coverage was provided by the 5th Marines Chaplain. The BLT 2/7 Chaplain provided Episcopal Services for the 5th Regiment on three occasions.

b. Visitations

The First Hospital Company and Naval Support Activity Hospital were regularly visited, particularly at Christmas. Nineteen American Red Cross messages were handled.

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The Battalion Chaplain was present at one of the weekly First Marine Division Chaplain meetings, and visited briefly there with the Chief of Navy Chaplains.

K. MEDICAL AND DENTAL AFFAIRS

1. Medical

The BAS was on the USS THOLOLI (LH-10) from 1 December to 3 December 1968. Five Medevacs were received from the field, of which two were combat casualties. From 4-31 December 1968 the BAS was at Camp Love, DANANG. A forward BAS was established at AN HOA from 4-26 December 1968.

No combat casualties were treated at the Forward BAS. A total of 580 out-patients were seen during the month of December 1968. There were no unusual medical problems encountered, but a sharp rise in cases of fever of undetermined origin during the period of 29-31 December was noted.

2. Dental

Dental patients were treated by the area Dental Clinic at 7th Engineer Battalion at Camp Love, and at 1st Dental Company, 1st Marine Division.

3. Sanitation

No unusual sanitation problems were encountered during the month.

4. Medcap

Three Vietnamese children were treated in the field for poisoning and Medevaced to NSA Danang. One Vietnamese child was treated in the field for shrapnel wounds and Medevaced to Maltese Aid Society Hospital at AN HOA.

L. INTELLIGENCE

1-4 December Operation MEADE RIVER (see TAB A).

5-6 December - Battalion was staged at AN HOA preparing to jump off on Operation TAYLOR COMMON.

7-26 December - Operation TAYLOR COMMON (see TAB B).

27-31 December - During the period the S-2 section made liaison with the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines in preparing to relieve them in their TAOR. During this period the S-2 section was located at Camp Love. On 31 December the section moved from Camp Love to the combat base at DAI LA PASS.

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M. COMMUNICATIONS

The first part of December witnessed the culmination of Operation MEADE RIVER and within a couple of days the BMT was committed on Operation TAYLOR COMMON for the majority of December.

On 10 December 1968 First Lt. WOOLLEN reported to BMT 2/7 for duty as Communications Officer.

On Operation TAYLOR COMMON the cryptographic unit, KY-38 with the PRC-77 were utilized to provide a covered net to the 5th Marines. The main problem encountered in the operation of the two components was the excessive weight involved in carrying the equipment.

While in a blocking position, sound powered phones were utilized on a loop to provide internal communication with the CP. The reason for this action was to reduce the usage of spare radios. A need for a switchboard was foreseen and was effectively utilized when BMT 2/7 set in a static position northeast of AN HOA. The main concern was the land line plus back up of radio to all four strong points. This was provided and, in addition, metallic lines were laid to 5th Marines admin board, and COC. Running metallic lines to the 5th Marines switching central allowed the BMT much needed voice communications to BMT 2/7 (Rear) and to all 1st Marine Division units switching centrals.

At approximately 2000 on 15 December, the battalion CP was hit by enemy fire from a village across the road. Overhead wire lines were cut by the enemy at this time which resulted in two admin lines and one hot line being cut. Wiremen restored service immediately the following morning.

After the BMT CP moved to DANANG a temporary COC was established at 7th Engineer Battalion. Operations were controlled from here until the move to DAI LA PASS was completed. All PRC-25 radios were remoted from the vicinity of Hill 282. RC-292 antennas were utilized on all nets. The Radio Relay shot was established on 28 December with two five pair cables laid from the TRC-27 and the remoted antennas on Hill 244 to displacing communications. Communications displacement was smoothly effected.

N. WEATHER

During the month of December 1968 the weather was unseasonably dry. The monsoon failed to materialize and the month of December went on record as one of the driest in history. While the battalion spent most of December in the field, there were no adverse effects from the weather. The few rain showers that were experienced occurred mainly in the late evening and early morning.

O. FIRE SUPPORT

1. For the period 1-4 December 1968, see After Action Report for Operation MEADE RIVER (see TAB A).
2. For the period 5-6 December 1968, BMT 2/7 was in transit to AN HOA. No artillery support was necessary.

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3. For the period 7-26 December 1968, See After Action Report for Operation TAYLOR COMMON. (see TAB B).
4. For the period 27-29 December 1968, BLT 2/7 was in transit to its assigned TAOR. No artillery support was provided.
5. For the period 29 December to 31 December 1968, the 3rd Bn, 11th Marines was in direct support of the 7th Marines. Battery H, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines, was assigned to provide priority of fires to the BLT 2/7. During this period, 392 HE, two WE, and 113 illumination rounds were fired in support of BLT 2/7. The missions fired included eight observed missions which accounted for 163 rounds, and 32 H&I fires which accounted for 74 rounds. The total for the period was 507 rounds expended through 40 missions.

P. AIR SUPPORT

1. December 1-5 1968 see (TAB A) Operation MELDE RIVER.
2. December 6-7 no air activity aboard LH-10. Off loaded to AN HOA by HMM165.
3. December 8-14 see After Action Report TAYLOR COMMON (TAB B).
4. December 15-16 no air utilized at AN HOA.
5. December 17-20 see After Action Report TAYLOR COMMON (TAB B).
6. December no air activity.
7. December 22 one OV 10-A was used for approximately 20 min for a VR in the 8954 Grid.
8. December 23 three CH-53's were used to lift Echo Company to FLC.
9. December 24 three CH-53's and four CH-46's were used to lift Golf Company and sections of BLT 2/7 to FLC and Camp Love.
10. December 25 no air activity.
11. December 26 Hotel and Fox Companies plus the remainder of Alfa Command were flown from AN HOA to DANANG AIR FIELD by C-123 and C-130.
12. December 27 no air activity.
13. December 28 priority medevac was requested for Echo Company.
14. December 29 two priority medevacs were requested for Echo Company. One priority medevac was requested for Golf Company.
15. December 30 two CH-46's were requested and used for the resupply of Golf Company. One CH-46 was used for a VR mission.
16. December 31 one emergency medevac was requested for Golf Company.

Q. TRAINING

Due to the operational commitments of BLT 2/7 there was a minimum of training conducted in the month of December 1968. RVN Orientation Indoctrination Training was provided for 13 Marine Officers, 165 Marine Enlisted, one Naval Officer, and 11 Naval Enlisted replacements during this reporting period.

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PART I ARIZONA AREA

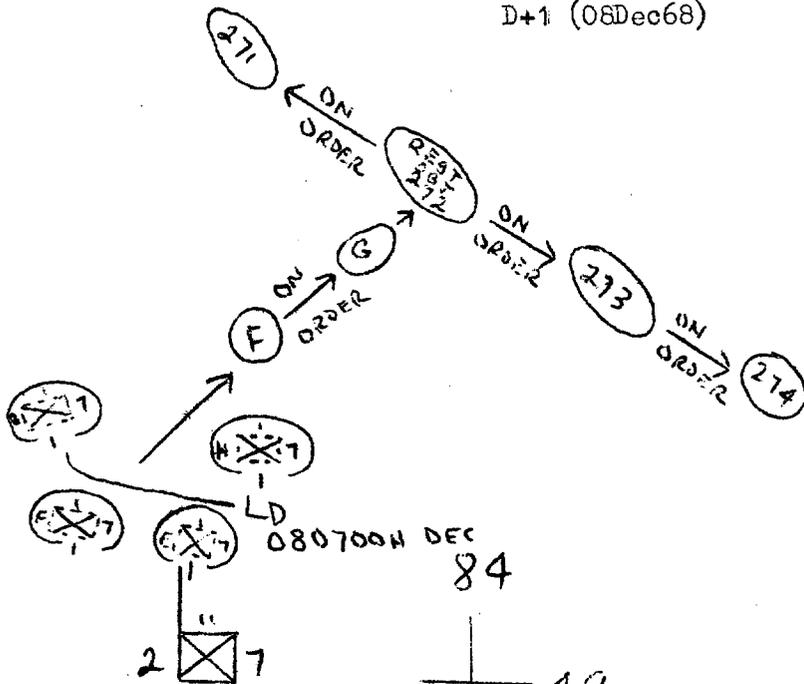
Annex C (Operations Overlay) to Frag Order 116-68

Map: Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L7014 Sheet 6640 IV

80
+ 54

PHASE III

D+1 (08Dec68)



+ 49

N. A. Nelson

N. A. NELSON
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: Annex X (Distribution) to Frag O 116-68

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Enclosure (1)

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PART I ARIZONA AREA

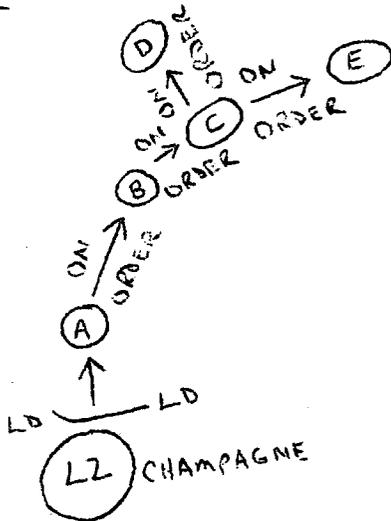
Annex C (Operations Overlay) to Frag Order 116-68

Map: Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L7014 Sheet 6640 IV

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51 +

PHASE I & II

D-Day (07 Dec 68)



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+ 49

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N. A. Nelson

N. A. NELSON
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

Distribution: Annex X (Distribution) to Frag O 116-68

L2 CHAMPAGNE

(B)

OPERATION OVERLAY MAUI PEACK

LEDGEND

VIET 1:50,000

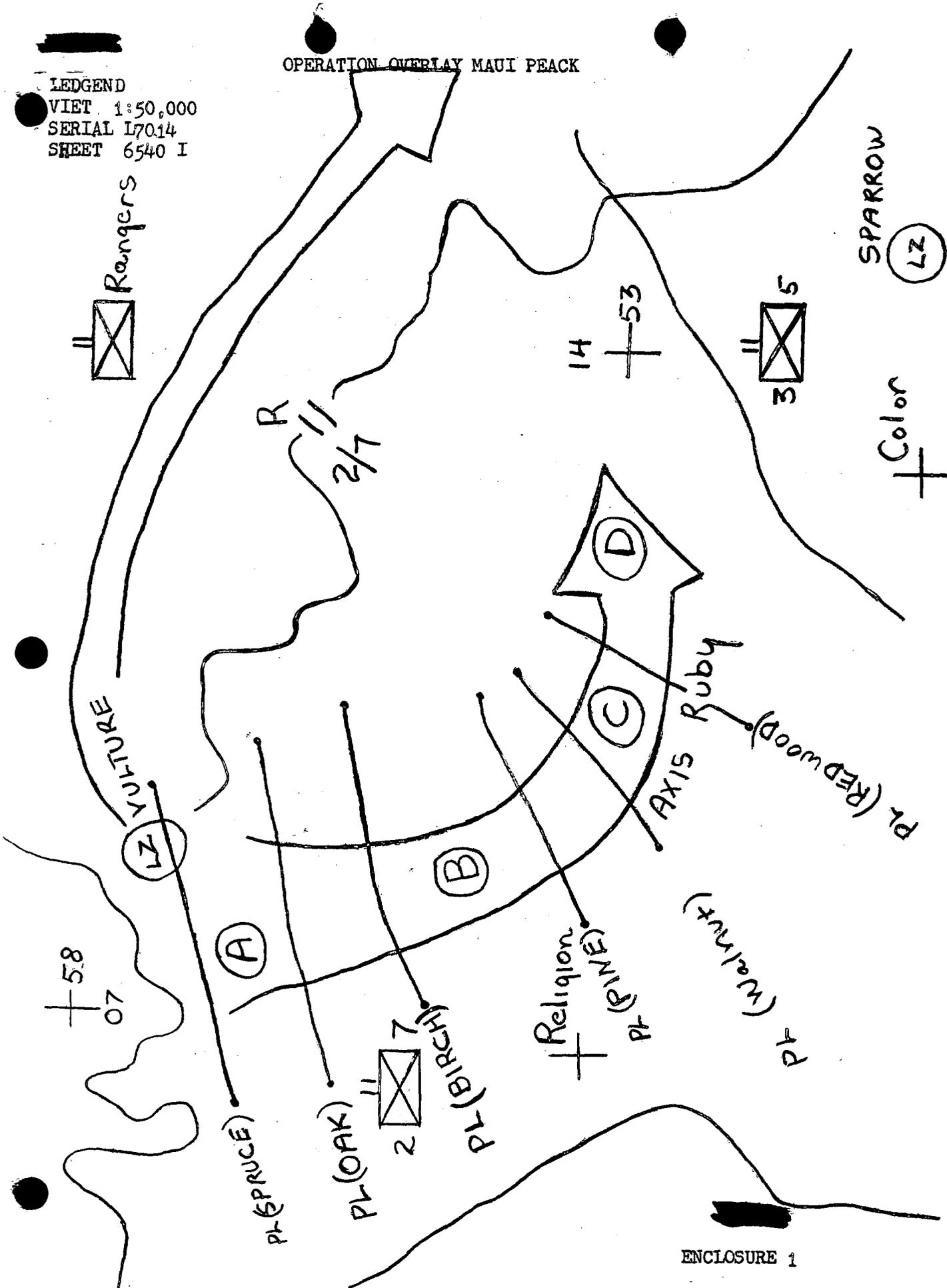
SERIAL 17014

SHEET 6540 I



Rangers

SPARROW



ENCLOSURE 1

181

OPERATION OVERLAY OF TAOR

Ledgent

VIET 1:50,000 Series L7014
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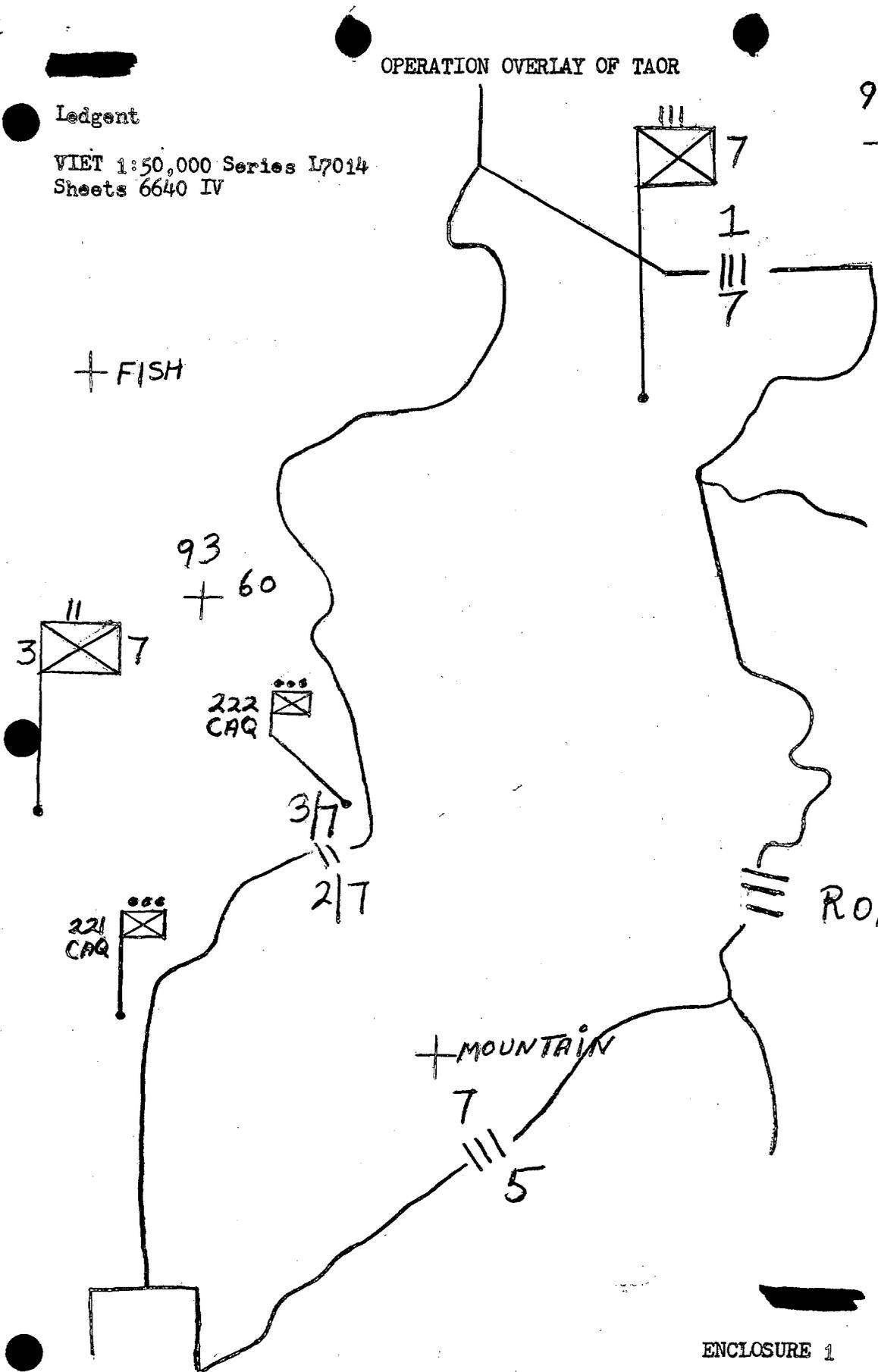
ROK

+ MOUNTAIN

ENCLOSURE 1

TAB C

TAB (C)



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HEAD QUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 7th Marines
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
APO San Francisco, California 96602
3/LJD/mar
3000
30 January 1969
Ser.No.

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Fifth Marines
Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation TAYLOR COMMON)

Ref: (a) Map: AMS VIETNAM 1:50,000 Series L7014 Sheet 6640 IV

- Encl: (1) Annex C (Operations Overlay) to Frag Order 116-68
- (2) Annex C (Operations Overlay) to Frag Order 124-68
- (3) Annex C (Operations Overlay) to Frag Order 125-68
- (4) Annex C (Operations Overlay) to Frag Order 126-68

1. Name of Operation - TAYLOR COMMON
2. Dates of Operation - 070825H December 1968 to 261000H December 1968
3. Location - Operation TAYLOR COMMON took place in the Arizona Area, the GO NOI Island Area and the vicinity of the AN HOA Combat Base in QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN.
4. Command Headquarters - 5th Marines
5. Reporting Officer - Lieutenant Colonel NEIL A. NELSON, U. S. Marine Corps
6. Task Organization

<u>BLT 2/7 (-)</u>	LtCol. N. A. NELSON
<u>H&S Co (-) (Rein)</u>	Lt. J. H. HALSEY II

H&S Co
 Det, Hq Bn, 1st Mar Div
 Det, Hq Co, 7th Mar
 Det, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
 Det, Comm Plat, Hq Co, 7th Mar
 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn
 Det, Co C, 1st SP Bn
 2nd Plat, Co A, 1st MT Bn

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TAB B

2ND BN/7TH MAR/4TH MAR

CMD CHRON

7-26 DEC 1968

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Co E (Rein)

Capt. J. T. FRICKER
7-8 Dec 1968
1stLt. P. S. MENAUGH
8-24 Dec 1968
1stLt. E. R. KENNEY
25-26 Dec 1968

Co E

Det, H&S Co
Det, Comm Plat
Det, Med Plat
FO Tm, 81mm Mort Plat
FO Tm, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
Tm, 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn
HST, Det, Co C, 1st SP Bn

Co F (Rein)

Capt. R. R. MELROTH

Co F

Det, H&S Co
Det, Comm Plat
Det, Med Plat
FO Tm, 81mm Mort Plat
FO Tm, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
Tm, 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn
HST, Det, Co C, 1st SP Bn

Co G (Rein)

1stLt. K. E. KRAMP

Co G

Det, H&S Co
Det, Comm Plat
Det, Med Plat
FO Tm, 81mm Mort Plat
FO Tm, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
Tm, 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn
HST, Det, Co C, 1st SP Bn

Co H (Rein)

Capt. T. P. E. HOLM
1-16 Dec 1968
1stLt. E. E. DELGADO
17-18 Dec 1968
1stLt. G. HEATLEY
19-26 Dec 1968

Co H

Det, H&S Co
Det, Comm Plat
Det, Med Plat
FO Tm, 81mm Mort Plat
FO Tm, Btry H (Rein), 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
Tm, 2nd Plat (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn
HST Tm, Det, Co C, 1st SP Bn

81mm Mort Plat

1stLt. D. T. BARRY JR.

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a. Artillery Support: From 6 December 1968 to 26 December 1968, Operation TAYLOR COMMON, artillery support for BLT 2/7 was fired by the 2nd Bn, 11th Marines (Rein). Thirty observed and five unobserved fire missions were conducted. Five illumination, 1511 HE and 153 WP rounds were expended for a total of 1,699 rounds. H&I fires were also fired daily on known and suspected enemy positions. In one incident on 13 December 1968, Company E received approximately eight incoming 4.2 mortar rounds fired by W/2/11. This resulted in one USMC KIA and one USMC WIAE.

b. Air Support(1) 7-14 December

(a) At 070830H December 1968 BLT 2/7 was lifted into a secure LZ which had been prepped with four flights of fixed wing prior to the lift. The lift was conducted with the support of HMM-165 and HMM-364 and was completed at 070950H.

(b) There was a total of seven flights of fixed wing run during the operation. This brought a total of eleven tons of hard ordnance used and two tons of soft ordnance. The BLT also had the support of UH-1E gunships and OV-10A's.

(c) Medevacs and resupplies were frugged through the HST. They were run with the support of HMM-364. There was a flare ship on station during the nights periodically, and flare ships were on call at all times.

(2) 17-18 December 1968

(a) At 170730H December 1968 BLT 2/7 (-) was lifted into LZ WREN (LT962552) by HMM-364. The lift was completed at 0930. The first wave of helicopters landed in a relatively hot zone and received sporadic sniper fire. Sniper fire was curtailed by two UH-1E gunships and one OV-10A. There was no more sniper fire until the last wave entered the zone. This fire was suppressed by one air strike which was run at LT955552.

(b) During the two days of the operation there were a total of five air strikes which were composed of four flights of A-4 and one flight of F-4. There was a total of 8½ tons of ordnance dropped and 12 structures destroyed plus 200 meters of tree line. The average coverage of target was good.

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(c) Visual reconnaissance was provided by OV-10A's which were on station periodically during the two days. During the night of the 17th a flare-ship was on station from 1845H until 0615H.

(d) All medevacs were run with the support of HMM-364 and were fragged through the TACP local and aided in the LZ by the HST. There were no resupplies.

(e) Tactical coordination between artillery and air liaison personnel on the BMT level during the sweep was excellent and no problems prevailed.

8. Intelligence

a. Enemy Units in Area Prior to Operation

Enemy units in the operational area prior to the operation were believed to be an unknown element of the 21st Regiment located at AT848453. The 3rd Sapper Battalion consisting of 300 men were at AT8752. The 1st Communications Battalion with a strength of 400 men were located at AT7948. Elements of the 141st NVA Regiment, possibly the 2nd Battalion were located at AT8654. Total strengths were 280. The Q-83 (IF) Battalion with a strength of 250 men were located at AT8854.

b. Enemy Strength, Mission and Tactics During the Operation

During the operation enemy contact with BMT 2/7 was light. Interrogation of civilians in the area revealed the enemy was in the area but withdrew prior to the commencement of the operation. The large amounts of rice found in the area also indicated enemy presence. Lack of contact left the missions, tactics and strength of the enemy undetermined.

c. Terrain

The terrain within the area of operation consisted of arid rice paddies. Due to the structure of the rice paddies, vehicular movement was impossible. Foot movement was restricted by swollen conditions of the rivers and streams. The treeclines encountered throughout the operational area were growing in island like groves.

d. Weather

The weather during the operation was generally clear, with a few light night showers. The BMT suffered no adverse effects from the weather.

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9. Mission: See note below.
10. Concept of Operation: See note below.
11. Execution: See note below.

NOTE: This operation consisted of three distinct phases. Each one involved a separate mission, concept, and execution. Accordingly, paragraphs 9, 10, and 11 have been combined as indicated below to allow for a more logical presentation.

Part I - 5-16 December - 1968 AN HOA Combat Base and ARIZONA Area.

Part II - 17-18 December 1968 - GO NOI ISLAND Area.

Part III - 19-26 December 1968 - Defense of the Southern Approaches to AN HOA Combat Base.

Part I - 5-16 December - 1968 AN HOA Combat Base and ARIZONA Area.

a. Mission

On D-Day at L-Hour BLT 2/7 conduct helicopterborne assault into LZ CHAMPAGNE and attack north to seize Regimental Objectives 271, 272, 273, and 274, establish company blocking positions on designated Regimental Objectives (front north) prior to sunset on D+1. On D+2 from blocking positions support ARVN attack from north to south, maintain direct and close liaison with attacking ARVN forces and coordinate passage of BLT lines by that force on D+3. On order, about D+3, break blocking positions, wheel, and sweep south in trace of ARVN to LZ CHAMPAGNE conducting detailed search to locate and destroy enemy forces in zone. On about D+6, on order, retrograde by helicopter from LZ CHAMPAGNE to AN HOA Combat Base.

b. Concept of Operation

At L-Hour on D-Day BLT 2/7 conducts a helicopterborne assault into LZ CHAMPAGNE and attacks to the northeast to establish four company blocking positions, supports ARVN forces from these blocking positions during linkup and passage of BLT lines, then wheels and conducts a detailed search to locate and destroy enemy forces in AO, and upon completion of sweep is helilifted to AN HOA Combat Base. This operation will be conducted in six phases:

(1) PHASE I. Landing and consolidation in LZ CHAMPAGNE

(a) The first company to land in the LZ will secure the northern half of the LZ.

(b) The second company will secure the southern half.

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(c) The third company to land will immediately attack through the northern company to seize, occupy and defend Objective A.

(d) The Command Group will land after the third company.

(e) The fourth company to land will occupy an attack position in rear of the company that is providing security for the northern sector of the LZ.

(2) PHASE II. Continuation of the attack on D-Day.

(a) After ELT Objective A is secured the fourth company to land will be ordered to seize, occupy, and defend Objective B.

(b) After ELT Objective B is secured the two companies in the attack will in order alternately seize, occupy, and defend Objectives C, and D.

(c) The two attacking companies will mutually support each other by fire during the attack on Objectives B, C, and D.

(d) The two companies and the Command Group will advance in trace of the attacking companies.

(e) Companies advancing in trace of the attacking companies will be prepared to support the attack by fire or maneuver.

(f) On order one of the companies advancing in trace will seize, occupy, and defend ELT Objective E.

(g) Night defensive positions will be established on ELT Objectives C, D, and E.

(3) PHASE III. Continuation of the attack to Regimental Objectives 271, 272, 273, 274 on D+1.

(a) At first light on D+1 the ELT will continue the attack employing the scheme of maneuver as on D-Day to seize, occupy, and defend ELT Objectives F and G and Objective 272.

(b) After Objective 272 is secured one company will seize, occupy, and defend Objective 273. The company on Objective 272 will support the attack by fire.

(c) While the attack is in progress one company will occupy an attack position in the vicinity of Objective 272. After Objective 273 is secured this company will be ordered to seize, occupy, and defend Objective 274. The company on Objective 273 will support the attack by fire.

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(d) While the attack is in progress the fourth company will occupy an attack position in the vicinity of Objective 272. After Objective 274 is secured the company will be ordered to seize, occupy, and defend Objective 271. The company on Objective 272 will support this attack by fire.

(e) After Objective 271 is secured all companies will establish blocking positions on their assigned objectives.

(4) PHASE IV. Blocking force on D+2 and D+3 to destroy enemy forces fleeing before RVN forces and to support RVN forces during linkup and passage of lines.

(5) PHASE V. Detailed sweep of zone from north to south to destroy enemy forces. Sweep will commence on order on D+3 and will terminate on or about D+6 at LZ CHAMPAGNE.

(6) PHASE VI. Helicopter lift on or about D+6 to AN HOA Combat Base.

See enclosure (1).

c. Execution: BLT 2/7 began planning for Operation TAYLOR COMMON on 5 December upon receipt of the 5th Marines Frag Order 115-68. On 5 and 6 December the BLT was staged at the AN HOA Combat Base. The operation started at 070825H December with a helicopter assault into Landing Zone CHAMPAGNE and was conducted in six phases.

(1) Phase I. Company H landed in LZ CHAMPAGNE unopposed at 0825 followed by Company E who assisted Company H in securing the LZ. At 0900 Company G was lifted into the landing zone and occupied an attack position to the rear of Company H. At 0920 the Command Group was lifted into LZ CHAMPAGNE followed by Company F which occupied an attack position to the rear of Company G. The entire lift was completed at 0950. Company G commenced the attack on Objective A at 071115H December. Some harassing sniper fire was received in the LZ after the landing, but no casualties resulted.

(2) Phase II. The attack and securing of Objectives B, C, D, and E proceeded as planned with Objective E being secured at 1900 by Company H. Night defensive positions were established in vicinity of Objectives C, D, and E. There was no enemy contact during this phase.

(3) Phase III. On D+1 the attack continued as planned and at 081809 December the blocking positions were established on the regimental objectives after several booby traps and small arms fire were encountered on Objective 274.

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(4) Phase IV. The blocking positions were maintained for five days. During a probe in the area of Objective 274 on the first night of this phase Company E killed a NVA Sergeant which was found the next day while searching the area out. Also, a NVA Chieu Hoi with a weapon (AK-47) was picked up in the same area. On D+4 the ARVN Rangers completed the link-up and passage of lines and Company E moved from the original blocking position to AT855496 to prevent any enemy from escaping as the ARVN Rangers started their sweep to the northeast.

(5) Phase V. The BLT's original plan to sweep in trace of the ARVN Rangers was unnecessary as their sweep was determined to be exceptionally thorough. Instead the battalion continued to conduct patrols in the vicinity of the blocking positions and was prepared to exploit any situation which may have been developed by the Rangers.

(6) Phase VI. This phase of the operation was not completed as planned due to the nonavailability of aircraft; however, the 81mm Mortar Platoon and Company F were moved by helicopter from the blocking positions on 14 December to MY SON (1). The remainder of the BLT conducted a sweep to vicinity of AT861489 where a river crossing via native boat was made across the SONG TIN YANH. All units arrived at MY SON (1) (AT901469) by 141530H December. This move completed BLT 2/7's mission to block and sweep in the ARIZONA Area.

(7) Company F manned four strongpoints in the vicinity of MY SON (1) until relieved by Company H on 16 December 1968. At this time OPCON of Company H was passed to the 5th Marines until 25 December 1968.

Part II - 17-18 December 1968 - GO NOI ISLAND Area.

a. Mission

At L-Hour on D-Day land by helicopter in LZ WREN in western GO NOI and conduct search to locate and destroy enemy forces in zone of action.

b. Concept of Operation

During the night and early morning hours prior to L-Hour on D-Day two companies will establish a blocking position in the vicinity of BAO THAY and THANH MY. At L-Hour on D-Day three companies of BLT 2/7 conduct a helicopterborne assault into LZ WREN and attack to the east then to the south-east towards the established blocking position to locate and destroy enemy forces in the SOA. Upon completion of attack in the SOA the three companies of BLT 2/7 will return to AN HOI. This operation will be conducted in 4 phases:

(1) Phase I. Landing and consolidation in LZ WREN.

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(a) The first company to land in the LZ will secure the LZ and then upon the landing of the second company the first company will secure the western half of the LZ.

(b) The second company will secure the eastern half of the LZ.

(c) The Command Group will land after the second company.

(d) The third company to land will immediately attack after firing a preparatory mission through the eastern sector of the LZ to seize, occupy, and defend Objective 1.

(2) Phase II. Continuation of the attack on D-Day.

(a) After BLT Objective 1 is secured the second company to land will move into an attack position adjacent to Objective 1. In coordination with the initial attacking company, both companies will on order seize, occupy and defend BLT Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

(b) The two attacking companies will mutually support each other by fire during the attack on Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

(c) The remaining company and the Command Group will advance in trace of the attacking companies.

(d) The company advancing in trace of the attacking companies will be prepared to support the attack by fire or maneuver.

(e) Night defensive positions will be established in the vicinity of BLT Objective 3 and 4.

(3) Phase III. Continuation of the attack towards the established blocking position.

(a) On order two companies continue the attack in a southeasterly direction towards the established blocking position.

(4) Phase IV. Upon completion of the operation and on order the BLT will return to AN HOA.

See enclosure (2).

c. Execution: BLT 2/7 began planning for this part of Operation TAYLOR COMMON upon receipt of 5th Marines Frag Order 124-68 on 15 December. BLT 2/7 (-) assaulted into LZ WREN (AT962553) via helicopter at 1708:5H December with three companies and the Command Group. Upon landing, ORCON of Companies A and C 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was passed to BLT 2/7 (-). Companies A and C had established a blocking position in vicinity of BAO AN TAY and THANH MY (AT982538 to AT980529 to AT969529) on D-1.

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(1) Phase I. Company E landed in LZ WREN at 0815 followed by Company G who assisted in securing the LZ. At 0845 the Command Group was lifted into LZ WREN followed by Company F at 0935. Company F secured Objective 1 at 1135 with no enemy contact.

(2) Phase II. The attack and securing of Objectives 2, 3, and 4 commenced as planned with only minor resistance being encountered. Objectives 2 and 3 were secured at 171715H December and the battalion consolidated around Objective 3 and established night defensive positions. Contact during the night consisted of minor probes by the enemy. At first light on D+1 Company F commenced the attack on Objective 4; no contact was made and the objective was secured at 180840H December. Company F recovered six USMC MIA's from Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in the vicinity of Objective 4. Company G closed to Objective 4, conducted a detailed search of the area and coordinated the evacuation of the six MIA's, as Company F continued to attack towards the blocking position.

(3) Phase III. The link-up by Company F at the blocking position established by Companies A and C, occurred at 181315H December. Companies E and G and the Command Group arrived at the blocking position at 181430H December.

(4) Phase IV. The movement of Companies E and G and the Command Group completed ELT 2/7 (-) operations in the GO NOI ISLAND Area. However, prior to this time orders were received from the 5th Marines for one company and the Command Group to return to AN HOA Combat Base, and that ELT 2/7 (-) was to pass OPCON of the two attached companies and two companies of ELT 2/7 (-) (Companies F and G) to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for continued operations in the GO NOI ISLAND Area. Company E and the Command Group moved by foot to Liberty Bridge and by vehicle to AN HOA Combat Base. Movement was completed at 181830H December.

Part III - 19-26 December - Defense of Southern Approaches to AN HOA Combat Base.

a. Mission

Establish a base of operations at MY SON (1) AT894466 and conduct offensive operations to destroy the enemy in the Southern AO. Provide security for daily mine sweep operations to clear Liberty Road from AN HOA to the northern boundary of the ELT AO, keep Liberty Road open within the Bn AO and protect friendly convoys by constant surveillance and interdiction of enemy threats to the road with day OPs, and night ambushes and patrols along the axis of the road. Maintain security forces at strongpoints Alpha (AT895468), Bravo (AT895466), Charlie (AT891465), and Delta (AT870465). Conduct patrols and ambushes to screen the southern approaches to AN HOA. Be prepared to provide reaction forces to assist AN HOA Combat Base, AN HOA Industrial Complex, PHU DAU refugee settlement, DUC DUC District Headquarters,

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and CAF 291 in the event of enemy attack. Maintain one rifle company prepared to deploy within one hour of receipt of order to any designated area in the Southern AO by helicopter, foot, or motor vehicle.

b. Concept of Operation

At H-Hour on D-Day ELT 2/7 at MY SON (1) occupies the assigned AO for the defense of that portion of AN HOA Combat Base and surrounding complex. Be prepared to deploy one company on order to any designated area in AO by foot, helicopter, or motor vehicle. One company on two day rotational basis will provide security to keep Liberty Road open to traffic by constant surveillance over the road by day and night time activities and security for daily minesweep operations. One company on a two day rotational basis will conduct day and night operations is assigned AO. One company as ELT reserve on a two day rotational basis will establish a strong combat base at MY SON (1).

c. Execution

(1) On 13 December 1968 Company E and the Command Group returned to the AN HOA Combat Base to provide additional support for the defense of the southern approaches to AN HOA Combat Base. On 20 and 21 December Company E in cooperation and coordination with the 707th RF Company conducted a search and destroy operation in the vicinity of THU NHUAN (6), (7) and (9) (AT835492 to AT901491 to AT908433). See enclosure (3). Company E moved into the area of operation in conjunction with a road sweep with the 707th RF Company following in trace. No resistance was encountered in the assault of the objectives by either company, however, several booby traps were detonated. Both companies remained for the night on their respective objectives and conducted night ambushes on suspected mortar sites. At 21 1535H December Company E was assigned the mission to remain in the THU NHUAN (6) area and conduct night ambushes near a suspected mortar site at AT897497. Night ambushes were conducted with negative results and Company E returned to the ELT CP at 221110H December. Throughout the area assigned Company E only old bunkers, spider holes and trench lines were found with very few indigenous personnel in the area.

(2) At 221500H December Company E was assigned the mission to establish eight (8) night ambush sites along the southern boundary of AN HOA Combat Base. These sites were manned on the following two nights (23 and 24 December) by Company F with negative results.

(3) At 211530 December Companies F and G commenced company size patrols throughout the southern approaches to AN HOA Combat Base. See enclosure (4).

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(a) At 211530H December Company G moved into the hills to the southeast. Company F at 211615H December moved to the hills to the southwest of the BLT command post at MY SON (1).

(b) Companies F and G conducted platoon size patrols and squad night ambushes throughout their assigned areas with no contacts and only old bunkers, trenchlines, spider holes and unused trails were found. However, on 22 December six VC with weapons were observed by Company G from approximately 1500 meters. They were seen near the road as the road sweep towards Liberty Bridge was being conducted. Through coordination with Company H a sweep of the area was made with negative results. Company F returned to the BLT CP at 1105 and Company G at 1355 on 23 December.

(4) OPCON of BLT 2/7 passed from 5th Marines to 7th Marines at 261000H December. The retrograde move to DANANG commenced when Company E was flown by helicopter to FLC on 23 December. The move was completed when elements of Company H and the BLT Command Group departed AN HOA Combat Base via fixed wing aircraft at 261000H December. This completed BLT 2/7's participation in Operation TAYLOR COMMON.

12. Results

a. Friendly

(1) USMC

Officers

Enlisted

WIA

WIANE

KIA

WIA

WIANE

NDC

1

1

3

28

13

24

(2) USN

Officers

Enlisted

None

KIA

WIA

WIANE

1

2

1

(3) Equipment

None

b. Enemy

(1) Casualties

- (a) NVA KIA 13
- (b) VC KIA 7
- (c) Detainees 19
- (d) Chieu Hoi 1

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(2) Weapons Captured

(a)	AK-47	5
(b)	SKS	2
(c)	SK-4	1

(3) Grenades and Mines Captured

(a)	ChiCom Grenades	2
-----	-----------------	---

(4) Ammunition Captured by Rounds

(a)	Rice	103,520 lbs
(b)	Wheat	20 lbs
(c)	Corn	680 lbs
(d)	RPG Boosters	4
(e)	ChiCom MG Magazines	1
(f)	AK-47 Magazines	5
(g)	Assorted Medical Gear	
(h)	Assorted NVA Clothing	
(i)	Assorted NVA Individual Equipment	
(j)	Carbine Magazines	3

13. Administrative Mattersa. Maintenance

(1) Maintenance of organic equipment was performed by the using units with the exception of communications equipment and weapons which were repaired by FLC contact teams at the LSA.

b. Logistics

(1) On 7 December 1968 the battalion was assigned to Operation TAYLOR COMMON. A battalion size LSA was established at AN HOA Combat Base. The LSA was operated by HSP personnel with the supporting representatives from S-4, Supply, a Communication Technician and an Ammunition Technician.

(2) The following types of resupplies were provided by the LSA

CLASS I	MCI	933 Cases
	Water	6,500 Gals
	S.F. Packs	25
	Trioxane	3,023
	Long Range Rations	150 Cases
CLASS III	Diesel	200 Gals

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CLASS V	5.56 Tracer	2 Cases
	5.56 Ball	20 Cases
	.45 Cal	500 rds
	.50 S/T	6 Cases
	40mm HE	12 Cases
	60mm HE	9 Cases
	60mm Illum	14 Cases
	60mm Wt	6 Cases
	106mm HEAT	10 Cases
	106mm HEAT	9 Cases
	106mm B/H	20 Cases
	Hand Grenades	20 Cases
	Smoke Grenade Green	12 Cases
	Smoke Grenade Yellow	7 Cases
	Smoke Grenade Red	5 Cases
	3.5 HMT	6 Cases
	3.5 WF	8 Cases
	Claymores	3 Cases
	Red Star Parachute	4 Cases
	White Star Parachute	12 Cases
	Green Star Parachute	12 Cases
	Non-Elect Blasting Caps	400 Each
	Time Fuze	3,000 Feet
	C-4	350 Pounds
	Det Cord	2,500 Feet
	LAWS	3 Cases

(3) Class II, IV and VIII was provided by the battalion rear, which was at Camp Love, D.N. NG, RVN. It was found that transportation was the biggest hindrance in this type of operation due to the distance involved. The following items were provided.

CLASS II	B1 386	20 Cases
	B1 30	5 Cases
	B1 1100	2 Boxes
	Haversack	5 Each
	Poncho	20 Each
	LSA	300 Tubes
	Cleaning solvent	100 4 oz Cans
	Boots	15 Pair
	Trousers	400 Pair
	Socks	360 Pair
	Under Shirts	100 Each
	Canteens	25 Each
	Mosq. Repel.	10 Boxes
	Elect Tape	5 Rolls
	Foot Powder	10 Boxes
	Malizone Tablets	10 Boxes
	Helmets	2 Each

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CLASS IV

Sandbags
Engineer Stakes2,000 Each
100 Each

c. Helicopter support was provided by 1st Marine Aircraft Wing for resupply and MEDEVAC missions.

d. The water resupply point at AN HOA was utilized to fill all water requirements.

e. A battalion size messhall was established at AN HOA Combat Base for a period of seven days to provide two hot meals per day supplemented with C-rations. However some difficulties were encountered due to a lack of adequate space, refrigeration, and supplies.

f. Communications.

(1) Communications in support of ELT 2/7 operated in an efficient manner during Operation TAYLOR COMMON. The ARC-25 was used extensively for all radio nets with the exception of the covered circuit.

(2) The PRC-77, a FM radio was utilized on the Regimental Tactical Net to provide a covered circuit. The weight totaled slightly more than fifty-five pounds coupled with the two BA-306's required to operate the KY-30. This created a problem for the personnel packing the gear. Batteries needed to be replaced approximately every day to afford maximum cryptographic communications.

(3) During the latter part of ELT 2/7's participation in Operation TAYLOR COMMON a switchboard was utilized effectively. Metallic lines were run to the four strong points also two administrative lines and a hot line were run to the 5th Marines. On the evening of 15 December these lines were cut by the enemy; however, wire service to the 5th Marines was restored on the morning of 16 December.

(4) During the operation a minimum amount of interference was encountered and did not significantly disrupt communications. The enemy did not use any type of effective initiative deception or frequency jamming that could be detected during the operation.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: One technique that was employed to advantage during the helicopterborne assaults was to use a 3.5 WP round to mark any targets the gunships were to take under fire.

This technique was discussed with the air representatives at the pre-assault conference. The commanding officer of the assault company said that any target that he would not attack would be marked with a WP round fired from a 3.5 Rocket Launcher. The gunships were then free to take these targets under fire without any further clearance. This system proved very effective and made allowance for a possible breakdown in communications.

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15. Commander's analysis: In general, all phases of this operation were executed smoothly and only a few items are worthy of additional comment.

a. The one factor that contributed most to the success of the two helicopterborne assaults was the pre-assault conference and visual reconnaissance. Attendees at this conference were representatives of the BLT, the helicopter squadron, the gunship squadron, the air observer, and the Tactical Air Controller (Airborne). All details concerning the troop lift and air support were discussed and settled at this time.

b. During the planning for the first helicopterborne assault it was stated that a C&C aircraft was not available for the BLT commander's use. Accordingly, no plans were made for him to be airborne during the assault. When the helicopters arrived on D-Day it was announced that a C&C aircraft was available, but the BLT was unable to use it because the necessary communications arrangements had not been previously made. A C&C helicopter was available and was utilized during the second helicopterborne assault. One problem was encountered when this helicopter had to return to MCAF, MARLE MOUNTAIN and the BLT Commander was out of contact with the assault units for approximately thirty minutes.

c. This operation emphasized again the need for thoroughness and patience while searching bunkers and houses. Over fifty-four tons of rice were found by the BLT by applying these two cardinal rules.

d. No civic action or Psychological Warfare was conducted.

e. Contact with noncombatants was limited. Medical treatment was given to only a few critically wounded or ill civilians.

f. Once again the BLT suffered casualties from friendly artillery fire when on 13 December 1968 Company 2 received eight incoming 4.2" mortar rounds.

g. During the helicopterborne assault on GO NOI ISLAND the troop ships were firing their .50 caliber machineguns as they were landing in the LZ. This is a very dangerous practice and unnecessarily endangers the lives of the troops on the ground.

h. Just prior to the assault wave landing a smoke screen was effected by two A-4 w/C. This appeared to be very effective since the zone was a "Hot zone."

16. Recommendations:

a. That a pre-assault conference be conducted before each helicopterborne assault.

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b. That provisions be made for the battalion commander to jointly employ a C&C helicopter with the commander of the squadron making the troop lift. Also provision should be made to land the battalion commander with his unit or to return him to a point from which he can readily rejoin his unit in the event that the C&C helicopter has to leave the area.

c. That after the first wave helicopters not be permitted to fire their .50 caliber machine guns while on final approach into the LZ, while landed in the LZ, and while flying over the LZ after takeoff in order not to endanger the lives of the troops on the ground.

d. That steps be taken to ensure the safety of infantry when friendly artillery is firing. This organization has suffered numerous casualties including two Marines KIA, from friendly artillery during recent operations. In addition to the obviously adverse effect on morale these needless casualties also tend to lessen the troops confidence in the supporting units.

e. That the use of smoke be considered for assault landings.

Neil A. Nelson
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