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HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 7th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/FFP/org  
5750  
4 September 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology, 1-31 August 1968

Ref: (a) MEO 7570.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.2B  
(d) DivO 3480.1A

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, 1-31 August 1968

1. In compliance with reference (a), (b), (c) and (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*F. X. Quinn*  
F. X. QUINN

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3RD BN 7TH MAR

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HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 7th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
APO, San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 August 1968 to 31 August 1968

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UNIT POSITIONS 3/7 AS OF 31 AUG 68  
 " " 3/7 TAOR OVERWAY 2 AUG 68  
 " " 3/7 " " 9 AUG 68  
 " " 3/7 " " 16 AUG 68  
 " " 3/7 " " 22 AUG 68  
 " " 3/7 " " 30 AUG 68

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines

COMMANDER

LtCol R.H. BARNARD  
(1-1 Aug)

LtCol F.X. QUINN  
(2-31 Aug)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co

1stLt J.F. SMITH

Co I

Capt C.S. ROBB  
(1-17 Aug)

Capt J.G. McDONOUGH  
(18-31 Aug)

Co K

Capt J.A. SQUIRES

Co L

1stLt J.S. BRUMMEL  
(1-13 Aug)

Capt G.J. OBENDORFER  
(14-31 Aug)

Co M

1stLt G.L. FIREHAMMER  
(1-14 Aug)

1stLt R.M. JOHNSON  
(15-31 Aug)

2. Location

1-31 August 1968, Dai Loc, Republic of Vietnam, Hill 37, AT916583.

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Maj D.V. HOLLES

S-1, Adjutant

1stLt W.F. SAWYER

S-2

1stLt C. MCLELLAN

S-3

Maj F.F. POWELL

S-4

1stLt G.J. BOLDUC

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S-5

Motor Transport  
 Supply Officer  
 Air Liaison Officer  
 FAC Officer

FSC Officer  
 Communications Officer  
 Battalion Surgeon  
 Chaplain

1stLt G.N. LONG  
 (1-24 Aug)  
 1stLt C. MCLELLAN  
 (25-31 Aug)  
 1stLt A.A. HELLMAN  
 2ndLt W.J. CHAPUT  
 Capt S.C. ARGABRIGHT  
 1stLt R.E. FERGUSON  
 (1-5 Aug)  
 Capt D.F. O'BRIEN  
 (6-31 Aug)  
 2ndLt P.R. DAIGLE  
 Capt B.W. FERICH  
 Lt A.L. HOFFMAN  
 Lt I.C. STARLING

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
33	1058	3	53

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 ENCLOSURE (1)

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The 3d Bn, 7th Marines continued operating in their TAOR to find, fix and destroy the enemy.
2. Company K went under the operational control of the 1st MarDiv on 5 August as an additional security force in the Danang area due to the threat of a third enemy offensive. Company I remained on Hill 65 as fire base security and conducted heavy and wide ranging patrols in their assigned AO. Company I also had the additional responsibility of sweeping and securing Route 14 west to Hill 52 on order. On 21 August, while searching the north bank of the Song Vu Gia, 1st Platoon, Company I found one VC KIA from a previous night ambush. They also found assorted clothing and a rice cache.
3. From 3 August to 8 August, Company L worked as a Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle with A/1/9, 1st Air Cavalry. The Sparrow Hawk was inserted twice, resulting in 7 VC/NVA confirmed killed. The Bald Eagle was on standby but was never inserted. On 9 August, Company L went under the operational control of 1st Bn, 7th Marines and operated in their TAOR. Company L returned to the operational control of the 3d Bn, 7th Marines on 21 August after conducting operations south of Liberty Bridge with 3d Bn, 5th Marines. On 22 August, Company L established their CP at Seabee Bridge (AT 913587) and began extensive patrolling in that area. Company M remained at Golden Gate Bridge (AT 967605) as bridge security and conducted extensive patrolling in that area. On 23 August, Company M ambushed an enemy force that was attempting to destroy Golden Gate Bridge. The result of the ambush was one VC/NVA KIA and 40lbs. of C-4 captured.
4. On 29 August, Companies M and L were tasked with setting up a blocking force in the southwestern Dodge City area, vicinity AT 975575. While moving into position, they became engaged in heavy contact with a well entrenched enemy force. A sweep of the area resulted in 42 VC/NVA KIA, 4 IWC and 3 CSWC. The operation is continuing.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

## PART III

**DECLASSIFIED** SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Topics

a. Mission Assigned. Occupy and defend assigned Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR); conduct unilateral offensive operations and aggressive day/night patrolling and ambushing throughout the TAOR and with approval, in the RZ; maintain maximum surveillance and interdiction of waterway access/egress routes into TAOR and of possible rocket sites located therein; prepare to conduct combined and coordinated operations with GVN forces within and beyond TAOR; provide alert forces and convoy escorts from squad to company size, as a reserve/alert force for operations anywhere in RVN; launch counterattacks against enemy penetrations in TAOR; conduct concentrated and sustained Civic Action and Psychological Warfare programs in Revolutionary Development; coordinate with GVN officials to organize, train, advise and, as necessary, initially provide combat skilled leadership to the Popular Forces in the form of Combined Action Units; maintain security of vital lines of communications in coordination with GVN forces within TAOR.

b. Significant Operations Conducted. Operation SUSSEX BAY, 29 August 1968-

c. Casualties Sustained. 1-31 August 1968

U.S.	KIA	15
	WIA EVAC	104
	WIA NON-EVAC	48
	NBC EVAC	20
	NBC NON-EVAC	3
	DOW	0
	MIA	0

d. Logistics

(1) Construction

- (a) Four (4) engineer assistance requests have been submitted.
- (b) Nine (9) tent decks were completed.
- (c) A new trash pit was excavated.
- (d) One (1) ammo bunker is under repair and two (2) new ones are being built.

(2) Supply

- (a) Supply status remains satisfactory.
- (b) Starters, carburetors, oil seals and magneto repair kits for the M274A2 are on the critical shortage of repair parts list. Gas masks and AT-892 antennas are also in short supply.

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(3) Motor Transport

(a) The Motor Transport status is satisfactory.

(4) Mess Services

(a) Screening of the mess hall was initiated and is 75% complete.

(b) Rewiring of the mess hall is 40% complete.

e. Civil Affairs(1) Materials Distributed

(a) Tam Hoa (h), 3 coils of barb-wire.

(b) Tam Hoa (h), 30 8 foot stakes.

(c) Tam Hoa (h), 1 truck load of wood for school construction.

(d) Tam Hoa (h), 400 lbs. of rice.

(e) Cap 2-2-4, 2 truck loads of lumber to be distributed.

(f) Dai Loc, 1 truck load of wood for church repair.

(g) Dai Loc, 1 trailer load of dunnage for school repairs.

(2) Serious Incidents. One Serious Incident Report was filed during this reporting period, the result of a fire mission in close proximity to a friendly village.

(3) MedCaps. MedCaps increased significantly this month due to reduced field commitments. The MedCaps were held on a regular basis four times per week. A total of 625 people were treated. MedCap personnel also distributed 1,000 sanitation leaflets.

(4) Projects. No new projects were initiated during the month of August. There are still three projects progressing in the CAAOR: A well located at Dai Loc is 35% completed; a market place at Tam Hoa (h) is 45% completed; and a school house at Tam Hoa (h) is 70% completed.

f. Administration. Administrative support is satisfactory.

g. Personnel. The battalion's category of readiness is C-2/C-1 for personnel. Total strength is 32 Marine Officers, 1104 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, 55 Navy Enlisted.

h. Formal Training

(1) Orientation. All newly arrived personnel received intensive orientation and indoctrination, which included instruction in care, maintenance, safe handling, familiarization and firing of the M-16 rifle.

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(2) Personnel of the battalion, in the numbers indicated, attended the following schools:

(a) Officer Leadership Crs (1st MarDiv)	3
(b) SNCO Leadership Crs (1st MarDiv)	3
(c) NCO Leadership Crs (1st MarDiv)	6
(d) Basic Ammo Tech Crs (Okinawa)	1
(e) Embark Crs (Enl) (Okinawa)	2
(f) KY28/38 Maint Trng Crs (1st MarDiv)	1
(g) Organic Supply Acct Crs (1st MarDiv)	1
(h) Career Advisor Crs (Okinawa)	1
(i) Regimental Drivers School (7th Marines)	27

(3) An NCO school is conducted on the battalion level weekly for Lance Corporals, Corporals, and Sergeants.

#### i. Communications

(1) Communications for the month of August were satisfactory with minor radio interference. The primary cause for less radio interference this month is contributed to a change in the primary frequency.

(2) The problem with Radio-Relay operations still exists and is attributed to the overheating of generators. The loss of Radio-Relay causes this command to be without teletype capabilities.

(3) Communications Platoon convened a three day school for the purpose of training company personnel in radio procedures and operations.

#### j. Weather

(1) General. Weather conditions during the month of August did not hinder logistical support. The temperature during the month did not make troop movement difficult. Sporadic thunder showers in the late afternoon helped keep the water level relatively constant.

#### (2) Statistics

- (1) Maximum temperature: 101 degrees
- (2) Minimum temperature: 74 degrees
- (3) Mean temperature: 84.4 Degrees
- (4) Average humidity: 77%
- (5) Rainfall: 4.25 inches

#### k. Intelligence

(1) Enemy Situation, 1-31 August. Numerous low level agent reports indicate one battalion of the 31st Regiment, 341st Division operating in the foothills of the Charlie Ridge area to the west of Hill 65. A large contact involving "M" Co and "L" Co of 3/7 indicated the 1st Battalion of the 36th Regiment, 308th Division is in an area south of Hill 55 and north of Go Noi Island. It is also believed that the 38th Regiment and the rest of 36th Regiment are in an area southeast of Hill 55 and north of Go Noi Island. A POW indicated the R-20th Battalion is now located in the

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same area as the 36th and 38th Regiments. The Q-14th (IF) Company is still operating in the northeastern Arizona area. The 31st Regiment and 402nd Sapper Battalion are still believed to have their Headquarters units in the mountains above Thuong Duc.

(2) Although large VC/NVA forces are located in and around the 3/7 TAOR, most of the incidents have been carried out by small enemy units. Mine and boobytrap incidents have decreased during the month but the enemy still continues his attempts to interdict LOC's.

(3) Enemy Weapons, Equipment and Supplies Destroyed/Captured

Weapons - 9

WEAPON

SER NO

1 SKS Rifle	36405
1 M16 Rifle	990432
1 AKM Rifle	3D1618
1 M16 Rifle	990432
1 SKS Rifle	36405
1 82mm ChiCom Mortar (Complete)	34088
1 82mm ChiCom Bipod & Base plate	34088/855
1 B-40 Rocket Launcher	204188

Equipment - 11 NVA packs, assorted clothing, numerous documents, 9 ChiCom grenades, 10 lbs of medical supplies, 494 rds of 7.62 ammo, 4x60mm rounds, 10x82mm rounds, 47x82mm rounds, 2x840 rounds.

(4) Enemy Personnel Losses

- (a) VC/NVA KIA in TAOR - 161
- (b) VC/NVA KIA by 3/7 - 31
- (c) VC/NVA KIA by Recon (Arty) - 106
- (d) VC/NVA KBA - 24
- (e) Detainees - 9, 9 IC's
- (f) Chieu Hoi - 0
- (g) Refugees Evac - 0

(5) Terrain. The terrain of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines TAOR is primarily flat, laced with open rice paddies through the south-western, southcentral and eastern areas. The northwestern and north-central portions have foothills and mountains with very heavy vegetation. The southern TAOR is bounded completely by the Song Vu Gia and Song Thu Bon. The principle terrain features of the TAOR are Hills 55, 37 and 65.

1. Fire Support

(1) Artillery

(a) 3d Bn, 11th Marines continued in direct support of 7th Marines.

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(b) Battery I, 3d Bn, 11th Marines continued priority of fires to 3d Bn, 7th Marines.

(c) Battery K, 4th Bn, 11th Marines continued providing general support/reinforcing fires for 3d Bn, 11th Marines.

(d) Provisional Battery T continued providing general support/reinforcing fires for 3d Bn, 11th Marines.

(e) 3d 8" Howitzer Battery continued providing general support/reinforcing fires for 3d Bn, 11th Marines.

(f) 8th Bn, 4th Artillery, U.S. Army continued general support of 11th Marines.

(g) Battery L, 4th Bn, 11th Marines started providing general support/reinforcing fires for 3d Bn, 11th Marines 18 August 1968.

(2) Air

(a) Sixty-nine (69) fixed-wing missions were flown in support of the battalion.

(b) Sixty-one (61) Aerial Observer and Reconnaissance Flights were flown in support of the Battalion.

(c) Helicopter missions flown were as follows:

(1) Medical Evacuation (41 missions)

(a) 109 USMC

(b) 10 ARVN

(c) 15 Civilians

(2) Logistics

(a) Cargo - 250 lbs.

(b) Troops - 48

(3) Firefly (no missions)

(4) Unit Commander (2 missions)

m. Medical

(1) General. The overall health of the Marines within the battalion continues to be excellent with no major outbreak of illness.

(2) Evacuations. Casualty evacuations continue to be satisfactory.

(3) Supply. Medical supplies are adequate. Transportation for supply runs has been adequate.

~~DECLASSIFIED~~n. Chaplain.

(1) Sunday and Weekday Worship Services were conducted in the battalion and throughout the 7th Marines TAOR. Attendance at these services was 584.

(2) Eight Memorial Services were conducted with 250 attending.

(3) One hundred and nine (109) personnel were visited while hospitalized.

(4) Six (6) lectures on Customs and Culture of the Vietnamese were given with 150 people attending.

(5) The Chaplain attended four (4) Division Chaplain's Meetings.

(6) Last Rites were administered to 9 USMC KIA.

o. Command and Control

(1) The 3d Bn, 7th Marines remained under operational and administrative control of the 7th Marines.

(2) OpCon Co K (-), 3d Bn, 7th Marines passed to 1st MarDiv at 051200H August 1968.

(3) OpCon 3d Plat, Co K, 3d Bn, 7th Marines passed to 1st MarDiv at 080900H August 1968.

(4) OpCon Co L, 3d Bn, 7th Marines passed to 1st Bn, 7th Marines at 081600H August 1968.

(5) OpCon Co L, 3d Bn, 7th Marines assumed by 3d Bn, 7th Marines at 211030H August 1968.

(6) OpCon Co G, 2d Bn, 27th Marines and Co D, 1st Bn, 1st Marines assumed by 3d Bn, 7th Marines at 291830H August 1968.

(7) OpCon Co G, 2d Bn, 27th Marines and Co D, 1st Bn, 1st Marines passed to 2d Bn, 27th Marines at 311500H August 1968.

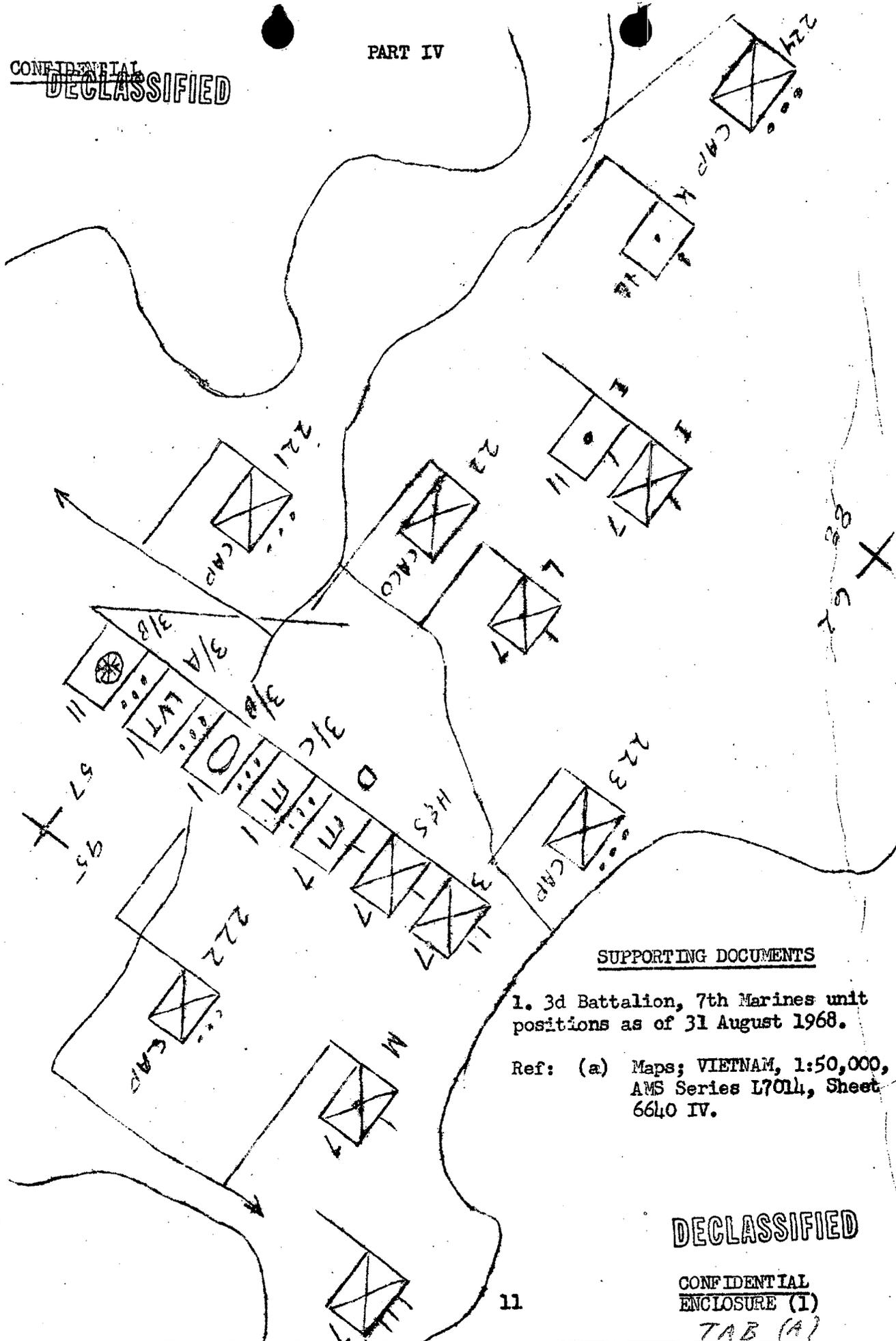
p. Psychological Operations

a. During the month of August the battalion has stressed the "Reward for Ordnance" theme. A total of 7,500 reward leaflets were passed out by S-5 personnel, the rifle companies, and vehicles traveling on Liberty Road and Route 5 North and South. The results of the reward program have been good as the following ordnance has been turned in to this command: three 60mm illumination rounds, two 60mm HE rounds, five 105mm rounds, six M26 grenades, one Claymore mine, one mortar fuze, 100 rounds 5.56mm, 400 rounds 7.62mm, one U.S. gas mask and one U.S. .45 cal pistol.

b. Sixty-two (62) PsyWar air sorties were requested during the month in order to widely distribute Chieu Hoi leaflets throughout the TAOR.

PART IV

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. 3d Battalion, 7th Marines unit positions as of 31 August 1968.

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

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TAB (A)

From: S-3, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines  
 To: S-3, 7th Marines

Subj: Positions of units within 3/7 TAOR as of 220600H August 1968

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>COORDINATES</u>
<u>3d Battalion, 7th Marines</u>	916583
Co I	878577
Co K (OpCon to 1st Mar Div)	
Co L	914587
Co M	967605
<u>Supporting Units</u>	
Btry I, 3d Bn, 11th Marines	873578
Btry K, 4th Bn, 11th Marines	881581
3d Plat, Co C, 1st Engineers	916583
Co D, 7th Engineers	916583
1st Plat, Co B, 1st Tank Bn	916583
3d Plat, Co A, 3d Amphas Bn	916583
3d Plat, Co B, 11th MT Bn	916583
<u>Combined Action Platoons</u>	
CACO 2-2	916576
CAP 2-2-1	922562
CAP 2-2-2	942582
CAP 2-2-3	928608
CAP 2-2-4	866574

FERRELL F. POWELL, JR.

TAB (E)