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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/AF/lrl
005750
28 Sept 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 August 1968

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

Encl: ✓(1) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Command Chronology

- In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
- The security classification of this document is downgraded at three (3) year intervals and declassified after twelve (12) years.

A. Fernandez
A. FERNANDEZ
by direction

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIB 5200.10

1st BN. 9th MAR
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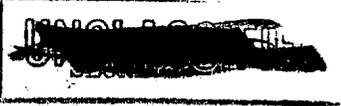
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1ST BN/9TH MAR

CMD CHRON

AUG 1968



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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1-31 ~~September~~ 1968
AUGUST
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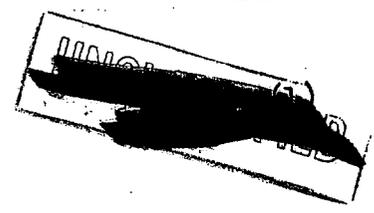
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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

H&S Company

Company A

Company B

Company C

Company D

DEPT 1

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

H&S Company

Company A

Company B

Company C

COMMANDERS

LtCol Francis X. COLLETON
1-31 August 1968

Capt T.P. MEEKER
1-27 August 1968
Capt P. DUNN
27-31 August 1968

Capt J.S. STROTNIAK
1-31 August 1968

1stLt S.E. STACY
1-26 August 1968
Capt T.H. MEYER
27-31 August 1968

1stLt K.L. HARMON
1-31 August 1968

Capt F. BRADLEY
1-21 August 1968

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Capt J.S. STROTNIAK
1-31 August 1968

1stLt S.E. STACY
1-26 August 1968
Capt T.H. MEYER
27-31 August 1968

1stLt K.L. HARMON
1-31 August 1968

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2. LOCATION: From 1-17 August 1968, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was located at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE, with Company A at CA LU (YD 008458). The battalion was responsible for the defense of the perimeter of VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE and CA LU.

From 17-25 August 1968, 1st Battalion 9th Marines was operating in northern ICTZ. Two areas were worked in this operation; both were south-west of CON TRIEN and north of CAMP CARROLL.

On 26 August the battalion assumed a relaxed posture at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE.

From 27-31 August 1968, 1st Battalion 9th Marines was employed in an operation to the west of the ROCKPILE.

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Major W.W. DINGGAR
 1-31 August 1968

S-1

1stLt W.M. PELTO
 1-31 August 1968

S-2

1stLt G.M. COSTELLO
 1-31 August 1968

S-3

Major A. FERNANDEZ
 1-31 August 1968

S-4

1stLt P.F. JENNINGS
 1-31 August 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
	38	1038	2	51

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 August 1968, 1st Battalion 9th Marines had received the mission of base perimeter defense of VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE and CALU. Company A (Rein) was located at CALU, Companies B, C, D(-) and H-S were at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE. Company D provided a platoon for defense of Signal Hill. On 1 August, at 1720, Company D observed suspected enemy mortar flashes at YD 966485 and XD 946494. They also observed flashes on the Rockpile. Artillery and 81mm mortar missions were fired with unknown results. At 2345, a company LP, heard digging and movement at XD 979476; 4x60mm HE rounds and 2x60mm Illumination mortar rounds were fired with unknown results. Digging and movement were no longer heard.

On 2 August 1968, at 0900, Company D observed one bunker which was later found to be an old fighting hole. At 1600, at Company C's position, one man was seriously injured while burning trash, resulting in one NPO medevac. At 2330, Company D heard movement along the outer wire of their perimeter; they fired pop-illumination and spotted one person running away from the wire at YD 013468. 81mm mortar illumination, 100mm M-79 rounds, 12x60mm mortar HE and artillery illumination were fired with excellent coverage of target, but unknown results.

On 3 August 1968, at 1600, a patrol from Company A was crossing the Quang Tri River at XD 997445. One man slipped and panicked. Efforts were made to rescue him, but the man was lost from sight and not seen again.

Two UH-1Hs helicopters conducted an aerial search of the river with negative results. At 1720, Company D spotted two enemy rocket sites at XD 974518 and called a fire mission with good coverage of target. At 2030, Company D spotted movement in their wire, 6xM-79 rounds were fired at the movement and 1xM26 grenade was thrown, a man on watch received a shell fragment in the left eye from an M-79 round. The Marine was medevacated to Delta Med. At 2345, Company C suspected movement in front of their lines. Small arms, M-79's and 60mm mortar illumination were fired and the movement stopped.

On 4 August 1968, at 1100, Company A observed 8 clean-cut Vietnamese in the field, one individual had soft hands, and papers stating that he was a 13 year old wood-cutter. Also, two women and a man in an ARVN uniform, were observed in a tree line. Search efforts were continued for the missing Marine (see C31600F Comp A) with negative results. At 2200, Company C at XD 997490, spotted lights and two suspected figures. Small arms were fired with good coverage and negative results. At 2240, Company D from Signal Hill, observed what appeared to be a flashlight moving toward their position. The light ceased after a 60mm mortar mission had been fired.

On 5 August 1968, at 0725, Company C spotted movement in the bushes to the front of their position. M-79's were fired and the area was checked with negative results.

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At 1115, Company D was hoisted to YD 081411. They began preparations for Fire Support Base HENDERSON. A platoon from Company B replaced the platoon on Signal Hill. At 1120, Company A found the body of the missing Marine lost in the Quang Tri River on 3 August. The body was found at YD 024456. At 1515, Company D observed one NVA in a tree line at YD 076415. The enemy disappeared into the heavy tree line before he could be taken under fire.

On 6 August 1968, There were no significant events.

On 7 August 1968, at 2140, Company F heard noises, talking and digging, at XD 973478. After 30 minutes a fire mission was called. The noises ceased, and a patrol discovered two destroyed bunkers. The bunkers were 3'x5'.

On 8 August 1968, there were no significant events.

On 9 August 1968, At 1915, Company F heard digging and observed suspected enemy positions at XD 973474. An artillery mission was requested but called off since target was in a position that was difficult to bring effective fire upon. At 2340, Company F at XD 978479, reported 3 artillery rounds of unknown size landing at XD 973477. Attempts were made to locate the source of the rounds with negative results.

On 10 August 1968, there were no significant events.

On 11 August 1968, at 1900, Company C at XD 997516, spotted approximately 30 troops who appeared to be setting in. The troops were taken under 81mm mortar fire with unknown results.

On 12 August 1968, at 0130, Company A observed small light and heard a dog barking. Light was observed with aid of night observation device. One 81mm mortar round was fired with negative results. At 1800, Company A at YD 031472, observed one enemy at YD 034147. 81mm mortar mission was fired with unknown results.

On 13 August 1968, Company D returned to VANDEGRIFF COMBAT BASE, and assumed perimeter security with Companies B(-) and C. At 2205, Company D observed movement at YD 003482, while searchlights were being used. 2xM-16 rounds and 2xM-79 rounds were fired with negative results. At 2215, Company B spotted enemy movement to the west of their position (XD 977479), in the defensive wire. 1xM-79 and 5x81mm mortars were fired with negative results.

On 14 August 1968, at 2315, Company C fired 81mm mortar mission on a possible avenue of approach to VANDEGRIFF COMBAT BASE at XD 973505. During adjustment rounds with WP, screams were heard from the area of impact.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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On 15 August 1968, at 1300, Company A at YD 981541, spotted 2 NVA at XD 961537, carrying a mortar tube. A fire mission was called but adjustments were slow and difficult and the mission was ended. At 1430, Company B at XD 999472, spotted 2 NVA digging at XD 972463. An artillery mission fired 8 rounds with negative results. At 2220, Company B heard movement in their wire, 1xM26 grenade was thrown and the movement ceased.

On 16 August 1968, there were no significant events.

On 17 August 1968, at 1000, 1st Battalion 9th Marines was helilifted to operate in the vicinity of YD 0966. Company patrol base camps were established and extensive patrolling commenced. Company A at 093659, was reinforced with tanks, from Company A, 3d Tank Battalion. At 1745, a platoon of Company C at YD 094668, found approximately 28 bunkers in good condition, with tunnels from each bunker. Bunkers and area appeared to have been vacated in a hurry. All bunkers made of sticks, wood, and dirt, were blown. At 2350, the battalion CP at YD 093661, received one friendly artillery round. There were no casualties and check fires were called.

On 18 August 1968, at 0900, the tanks attached to Company A, returned, due to rains making movement from area at a later date difficult. At 0910, 1st Platoon, Company C, found one dud 155mm round, which engineers blew in place. At 0955, 1st Platoon, Company C, at YD 090675, discovered a partially destroyed complex of 12 to 15 bunkers 2'x2'x4'; overheads consisted of sticks and dirt. All remaining bunkers were destroyed. At 1000, Company A at YD 092655, found one bunker 5'x8'; bunker was destroyed. At 1000, Company D found 15 bunkers 4'x5'x4' at YD 102650. Most of the bunkers were destroyed from bombing, the others were then destroyed. The remains of a body were also found. At 1125, Company A, at YD 095655, found 3x82mm mortar rounds and 5 bunkers 6'x4'x4'. The bunkers and 2 rounds were destroyed. One round was brought back to the Company CP. At 1130, 2nd Platoon, Company D, found an automatic weapon and miscellaneous gear at YD 087667. At 1220, 3d Platoon, Company D, found 8 bunkers 4'x4'x6' with sticks and dirt as overheads, and 3 one man fighting holes, 3'x3", at YD 099670. The bunkers and fighting holes were destroyed. At 1315, a patrol from Company A, at YD 095655, found 20 bunkers, 67x82mm rounds, 3x60mm rounds, 1x75mm round and 3 boxes of 82mm mortar fuses. The bunkers and ordnance were blown. At 1330, the patrol from Company A found 5x50 caliber cases (empty), 1 medal the size of a quarter, made of copper with a star on a red background, believed to be a VC medal, a plastic cigarette case with cigarettes and lighter, 2 mortar pits approximately 10 feet apart with bunkers on each side. At 1420, Company C, at YD 092682, received 6-8 mortar rounds near their perimeter. Mortar fire was returned with good coverage of target. An NVA observed enemy movement, ran one flight of fixed wing on YD 105675, and observed one destroyed mortar position.

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At 2215, on 18 August 1968, an LP from Company C, spotted 5 figures to their front. Small arms, M-26 grenades, and 81mm mortars were employed with negative results.

On 19 August 1968, at 0815, Company A, at YD 094664, located 2 bunker complexes, both were destroyed. At 1200, a patrol from Company C found 2 sniper holes, 1 bunker 5'x8'x5', 5x82mm mortar rounds, 5xRPG rounds, 1xChiCom grenade and 3 powder charges. Positions and ordnance were destroyed. At 1230, a patrol from Company A found 5 bunkers and a dud 500 lb. bomb at YD 092655, remains of an old plane without identifying markings at YD 092654, a 175mm round at YD 092651. All above were destroyed. At 1400, a Company B patrol, made contact with 4-6 enemy at YD 087653. Received 2 grenades and 10 rounds of small arms. They returned small arms and M-79 fire. The enemy broke contact. A fire mission was called in on enemy. A subsequent patrol checked area with negative results. On return to perimeter, the patrol received one sniper round. At 1630, Company D at YD 097662, discovered 1 bunker 4'x5'x3' with in their perimeter containing 10x82mm fuses, 3 claymores, 9 RPG rounds, 4 cases of 7.62 linked and 12x82mm rounds. All ordnance was destroyed.

On 20 August 1968, Companies A and B displaced to Company Patrol Bases in the vicinity of the YD 0964 grid square.

On 21 August 1968, at 1300, 1st Battalion 9th Marines conducted a heliborne operation to vicinity of YD 0364. Companies A and H&S were located at 036646, Company F at YD 013643, Company C at 035641 and Company D at 023652. At 1400, approximately 15 rounds of unknown size impacted in the vicinity of 039649 resulting in one USMC WIAE. At 1600 the lead elements of Company A received sniper rounds at 033648, resulting in one USMC WIAE. At 1625, Company D at 023652, found 3 small bunkers containing 1 case of .50 caliber machine gun ammunition; all was destroyed. At 1800, Company C found 3 bunkers (2 with sleeping facilities, one with a tunnel system), 3 bunkers, 3 slit trenches, 8x60mm rounds, and 2 NVA stamps. All positions and ordnance were destroyed.

On 22 August 1968, at 1025, a patrol from Company B found 8 bunkers, one of which was booby trapped with 2 grenades, and recently used sniper holes. On a recently used trail, a new AK-47 round was found. The bunkers were destroyed as were the grenades. At 1105, a patrol from Company A found one dud 500 lb. bomb. At 1145, at YD 027647, the patrol received 6 rounds of sniper fire. Fire was returned with negative results. 1 USMC WIAE resulted. At 1500, Company C, at YD 028633, found 7-3 man holes (7'x5'x4') made of logs and bamboo with aluminum air vents. In them were 23x60mm rounds, 30x60mm warheads, 800xAK-47 rounds, 50x37mm rounds, 1 helmet, 1 pair of sandals, 3 entrenching tools, with 2 covers, 2 canteen pouches, 3 Opium cans open and discarded, 1 tray and 1 pair of trousers, all gear was disposed of. At 1530, a patrol from Company A, at YD 028641, found 2x152mm rounds, 1 ship flare (U.S. made) also found 5 grass huts, caves and 3 bunkers at 029642. All positions and ordnance was destroyed. At 1545 a patrol

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from Company B made contact with an estimated "V" company at YD 008642. The patrol received small arms automatic weapons and 60mm mortar fire. A small arms and 81mm mortar fire were returned. As casualties were being evacuated to the Company B CP (YD 019643), 2nd Platoon of Company B became pinned down by intense enemy fire near YD 010643. Air provided napalm and rockets in support. Due to the approaching darkness and heavy volume of enemy fire, 2nd platoon Company B was unable to return to the Company Patrol Base, and established a hasty perimeter at YD 013643. Artillery suppression fires were fired throughout the night and a flare ship provided illumination until first light. Casualties for the contact numbered 24 WIA, 8 KIA (7 not yet retrieved), one MIA and 1 NBC.

On 23 August 1968, at 0800, a platoon from Company C was dispatched to reinforce Company B. At 0900, one platoon from Company B moved to assist the 2nd Platoon of Company B in recovering of the casualties and to enable the platoon to return to the patrol base. Air support was erroneously utilized and one bomb landed near the relief force resulting in 5 casualties including the company commander. Casualties were evacuated and Company B returned to the Base Camp. Still missing were 7 KIA and 1 MIA. At 1035, Company A at YD 041654, found 50-75 loose .50 caliber rounds in a pit 8'x3' deep with a dirt mound in the center. The rounds were destroyed. At 1340, Company A at YD 029645, found 2 caves (1 "A" frame type), 4 grass huts, and 5 - 3 man holes, all were well concealed from the air and all were destroyed. At 1430, Company C found what appeared to be a battalion size assembly area. In this area they found trenches and bunkers encircling the hill from top to bottom. Also found were ropes, ladders, grenades, picks, 13x82mm mortar rounds, cooking utensils, stoves, bandages, food, canned milk made in China, gas masks, slit trenches, 10 helmets, NVA clothing, rifle cleaning equipment, bottles of pills, tennis shoes, radio batteries, and M-16 magazines. Bandages and socks with dried blood were found in one bunker. Some of the digging had been recent. At 1610, Company A, at YD 034645, found an "L" shaped sleeping hut (10'x3'x4') and destroyed it. At 1730, a small Battalion command group moved to Company B's position at YD 018647. At 1750, the CP at YD 018647, took about 10 rounds of artillery near their position. Artillery and 81mm mortars were fired with unknown results. At 1845, Company D at YD 032625, received approximately 14 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Counter fire was employed. Casualties numbered 1 USMC KIA. At 1845, Company D began displacing to Company B's position and set in near YD 022649, for the night.

On 24 August 1968, at 0720, Company B YD 026660, took approximately 15 rounds of 82mm mortar fire and fired counter mortar mission with unknown results. At 0730, Company D resumed move to join Company B. At 0730, Company C began a displacement to YD 035687. Company A, at 0900 began a displacement to YD 023643. At 1500, elements of Company B (rein) began to retrieve the bodies from the contact of 22 August.

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At 1515, this unit received 3x60mm mortar. 6 counter mortar missions were fired with unknown results. At 1600, Company D's CP received 4 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from estimated position YD 005655. Counter mortar fire and artillery were employed with good coverage of target but unknown results. At 1700, while firing mortar suppression fires, the CP at YD 019648, observed several small secondaries. Artillery fires were repeated and a huge secondary sending a fireball 300'-400' in the air was observed. AO reported a destroyed bunker with a huge hole in it in area of secondary. At 1730, a Marine while carrying a body, tripped and the safety of his M-79 disengaged resulting in the discharge of one M-79 round. The man was wounded in the face and legs. All bodies were recovered (the MIA was located and included in the KIA count). The last elements of Company B returned to the perimeter at 2100.

On 25 August 1968, at 0855, Company B received 1x60mm from YD 019648. a 60mm mortar mission was fired with good coverage of target. At 1000, a troop lift was begun to move the Battalion back to VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE, at 1200, Company B and 2nd Platoon Company C began receiving 82mm fire in the area. An AO was on station, fixed wing and artillery were employed. 27 rounds of 82mm were taken, resulting in negative casualties. The lift to VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE was completed by 1400.

On 26 August 1968, there were no significant events.

On 27 August 1968, at 1600, 1st Battalion 9th Marines conducted a helicopter operation in conjunction with operation Lancaster Trousdale. Company Patrol Pases were established with Company A in the vicinity of XD 928528, Company B with the Battalion CP at XD 919520, Company C at XD 890515, Company D at XD 913529. At 1635, the battalion CP observed an active enemy rocket site fire 2 volleys of 5 rounds each. A fire mission was called but ended due to closeness of friendlies.

On 28 August 1968, at 1000, Company A found a well used trail leading northwest from XD 918529. At 1230, 3d Platoon, Company C found 12 fighting holes at XD 875506. At XD 870500, the platoon observed a "W" cut into a tree along a trail this mark was noticed every 150 meters leading to a possible base camp at XD 877502. An artillery mission was requested on the area with unknown results. At 1530 Company D, at XD 910529, found a possible rocket site with command detonating booby traps. 20x2.75 inch rockets were found, 10 of which were partially destroyed by ARC LIGHTS, the other 10 were piled and rigged for command detonation. Also in that area were 3 bunkers 6'x4'x4', constructed of logs and dirt, 8 - 2'x3'x2' fighting holes. Positions and ordnance were destroyed. At 1900, Company C received 5 rounds of 82mm mortar fire at XD 890515. Only 3 rounds of the 5 rounds detonated.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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[REDACTED]

On 29 August 1968, Company D at XD 917526, found approximately 100 feet of multi-strand electrical wire. At 1105, Company A found 8 old fighting holes overlooking the stream at 919532. The holes were 2'x3'x4'. At 1530, Company D at XD 909518 found 20 bunkers along a trail running east to west along the ridge line. The bunkers were 7-14 days old. 4'x3'x4' with logs and dirt overhead comm wire connected the positions. 3 suspected rocket positions 8'x12'x3' were found in the same area. In the position were 3 holes in a triangular position. These appeared to be where a tripod had been placed front hole was 7 feet from rear holes tripod was pointing on a 1400 mill azimuth. Also in the positions were found a plastic lid for a canister of unknown size, a canvas fuse pouch, and document. The positions were destroyed.

On 30 August 1968, at 0900, a patrol from Company A, found 2 dud 2.75 in rockets and a 250 lb bomb in the vicinity of XD 920537. All was blown. At 1315, a patrol from Company D, found 2 bunkers 6'x3'x5' about 1 week old covered with dirt and logs. Bunkers were 25 meters apart with 6 guage comm wire running between them. The bunkers were destroyed. Several trails leading to a water point in the vicinity of XD 209531 were located. At 1310 the patrol from Company D found 2 documents about 25 meters from the trail. At 1330, the patrol found 11 bunkers 3'x5'x5' with dirt and logs overhead and destroyed them. At 1350, a patrol from Company C found a possible heavy weapons site at XD 89501. [REDACTED]

On 31 August 1968, at 2250, Company B had one marine accidentally wounded and the man was medevaced.

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ENCLOSURE (1)
[REDACTED]

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F. COMMAND RELATIONS: From 1-31 August 1968, the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was under operational control of the 9th Marines.

G. EQUIPMENT:

(1) ORGANIZATIONAL DATA (MOTOR TRANSPORT SECTION)

- (a) Locations: QUANG TRI, VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE
- (b) Period Covered: 1-31 August 1968
- (c) Officers and staff: 1stLt J.T. CLAW MTO. Gysgt W.T. IRVINE MR Chief
- (d) Average monthly strength:

<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
1	23

(2) GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

- (a) Organic motor transport has been primarily engaged in resupply, administrative, and message runs.

(3) SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: None

H. LOGISTICS: During the month of August logistical problems were of a minimum. The Battalion was based at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE for most of the month and the main problem at that position was a lack of sledge hammers and gloves for the building of the VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE. Resupply in the field went well and there were no problems.

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PART III
 SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

I. A. COMPAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED. During this reporting period the Battalion was employed on the following missions:

- (1) Providing defense for VANDERGRIFT COMBAT BAST and CALU from 1-17 August 1968.
- (2) From 17-25 August 1968, the Battalion was employed in operations in the northern IOTZ, where a series of company sized patrol bases were established. With extensive patrols and OPs.
- (3) From 27-31 August 1968, the Battalion was employed in an operation, to seek out and destroy the enemy, his supply caches and infiltration facilities while concurrently evaluating the effectiveness of AIRCRAFT Strikes.

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED. The battalion was engaged in two major operations during the month of August. The first operation was in the vicinity of the C-2. The second operation was in the vicinity of the ROCKPILE, consisting of a search and destroy mission.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY.

<u>KIA(CONF)</u>	<u>KIA(PROF)</u>	<u>POW</u>
612	0	0

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED.

USMC KIA	11	USN KIA	0
USMC WIA	35	USN WIA	0

E. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED. None

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I. CIVIC ACTION: Civic for the month of August consisted of the taking of 4 boxes of clothes and toys to people of CAM LO REFUGEE VILLAGE. 100 School Kits were taken to District Headquarters to be distributed at the start of school, on 16 August.

While we were there we talked to the head of the medical team about MedCaps. We discussed times, locations throughout CAM LO and necessary security force needed.

We gave assistance to a mother and her 2 children we had entered into the QUANG TRI HOSPITAL. Such as things they needed while in the hospital and in returning home to CAM LO.

We talked to people of HROU VILLAGE, YD 0444, about them using the trash dump, by way of collecting usable items out of it. It was decided they could enter no more than 15 people between 1000 and 1200 hours each day.

J. ADMINISTRATION. Nothing significant to report.

K. PERSONNEL. The following people were transferred from this command.

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>		<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>

The following people were joined this command:

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>		<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>

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L. INTELLIGENCE. During the month of August, 1st Battalion 9th Marines participated in operations near the DMZ and ROCKPILE area. Enemy forces in the Battalions area of operations were composed primarily of one division (the 320th), the 7th Battalion of the 64th Regiment and an unknown unit. Supporting the above infantry units were the 164th Artillery Regiment, 84th Artillery Regiment, and the 54th Artillery Regiment.

From 17 August - 25 August the Battalion was on an operation West of C-2. Numerous contacts and sightings were made during the operation (largest contact was a Battalion). Approximately 126 bunkers were discovered and enemy equipment and munitions captured included the following: 1x500 lb bomb, 1x175 Howitzer round, 1x155 artillery round, 2x152 artillery rounds, 1x75mm round, 50x37mm rounds, 14xRPG's, 110x82mm rounds, 34x60mm rounds, 4xChiComs, 3xClaymores, 3 boxes fuses, 1 case x .50 cal rounds, 800xAK-47 rounds, and 4 cases 7.62 rounds. One dead body was also found during the operation.

From 27 August - 31 August the Battalion took part in an operation southwest of the ROCKPILE. During the operation no significant ground contact was made. 5 rounds of incoming 82mm mortar fire was received throughout the operation. Bunkers (approx 65) and quantities of enemy munitions were found. Enemy ammunition captured included 22x2.75 inch rockets and 1x250 lb bomb. During the operation 7 trails were found.

M. WEATHER. Temperatures ranged from the low 70's during the evening to the low 80's during the day. Winds ranged from 0 - 45 knots. Occasional showers occurred throughout the month.

N. COMMUNICATIONS: During the month communications for the battalion remained stable. The advent of the monsoon season did cause minor problems, particularly in the failure of radio handsets, and resupply of dry cell batteries, neither of the above problems reduced the battalions communicability to any marked degree.

The KY-38 and PRC-77 equipment was introduced into the battalion, but except for one brief period, was utilized solely on the regimental radio net. This equipment was excellent in communicability, maintainability, and reliability. Having but KYK-28 proved a distinct disadvantage in that coding the company cipher units daily would be, at best, impractical.

Some minor instances of frequency conflict and frequency override due to mutual interference were encountered, none of which lessened the units capability to perform the assigned missions.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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O. ARTILLERY. On Operation Lancaster II, arty, on the spur of the moment, fired between 800 - 900 rounds in prep of the LZ's and likely enemy positions. For the first seven days of the operation, contact being light, a regular program of H&I's and TOT's were fired along with regular missions during the day.

On the 23rd and 24th artillery support came into play. In support of Company B artillery was slow in reacting with the exception of one 8" Battery which fired all night long in support of a platoon that was surrounded. The next day artillery fired over 3000 rounds to support units of Company B that went out to retrieve 8 MIA's artillery was credited with one .50 cal machine gun, one huge ammo cache, and between 400 - 500 troops. All day long smoke missions to cover the friendly units were fired along with mortar suppression fires, as a consequence of these fires, no more serious casualties were sustained.

Earlier in the month of August 1st Battalion 9th Marines was assigned the mission of the defense of VANDERGRIFT COMBAT BASE. Over 20 night defensive fires were shot in and a "check" round was shot on these replot grids periodically to check out their effectiveness. Also during this period a very heavy and extensive program of H&I's and TOT's were fired.

F. AIR. 1st Battalion 9th Marines, left on August 17, 1968 for Lancaster II. L/9 landed in LZ SATURN, 093666, and commenced operations immediately. On 19 August air operations consisted of 3 TRQ missions and two air strikes in the 0967. Company C had an AO work the 1066 - 67 grids for them on 19 August. There was 1 routine medevac from Company D, Company A, Company B each.

20 August: Air operations consisted of 3 air strikes on bunker positions in Company C's AO, and 3 medevacs.

21 August: 1st Battalion 9th Marines lifted from LZ SATURN to LZ FALCON EAST, JUNIOR and VULTURE. The lift was successful and put all units into their proper LZ's.

22 August: 6 TRQ missions were submitted as air operations increased in L/9's new AO air observers worked with various companies for 5 hours. A patrol from Company B made contact and air observers spotted 3 .50 Cal guns in the patrol's area. A flare ship was used for the patrol for the entire night. 2 air strikes were run for the patrol under the flares.

23 August: 11 TRQ missions were submitted and the light CP was lifted to the Company B CP around 1730. There were 11 routine medevacs.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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24 August: Air Observers worked for Company P the entire day and discovered 20 - 25 bunkers in the 0267 grid and mortar position with large troop concentrations in 0165 - 0565.

25 August: Air strikes numbered around 18 as Companies D and P and CP prepared to lift out of LZ JUNIOR. Air was on station all day and totaled at least 250 KEA during the past 3 days. All of 1/9 was air lifted back to VANDEBILT COMBAT BASE.

On 27 August 1st Battalion, 9th Marines lifted out to kick off Operation SCOTLAND TROUSDALE. From this time until the end of the month all air operations were normal with no air strikes and routine resupply and medevacs.

C. ACTIVATION/DEACTIVATION/REDESIGNATION. None

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

Frag Order 29-68

1. No change.
2. No change.
3. (a) Company A continue thorough search activities in ZOA. Conduct Oklahoma from Texas U 0.5 to California U 0.5 R 1.0 to Kansas R 2.0 U 1.0. Do not go any further to the Alabama than the above. Be prepared for rapid deployment to reinforce any of the other pinks.
 - (b) Company B continue thorough search activities in your ZOA.
 - (c) Company C continue thorough search activities in your ZOA with emphasis placed on grids 0967, 1067, 0968.
 - (d) Company D continue thorough search in your ZOA. Limit activity to insure ability to reinforce where needed in Red AO and to provide security for the CP.
 - (e) No change.
4. No change.
5. No change.

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Tab A

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, 96602

Frag Order 30-68

1. No change.
2. No change.
3. (a) Company A continue assigned mission. Be prepared on order, to displace to Texas R 0.9 U 0.9 Establish company patrol base in this vicinity.

(b) Company B continue assigned mission. Be prepared to order to displace to from Hawaii U 1.1 Establish patrol base in that vicinity.

(c) Company C continue assigned mission.

(d) Company D continue assigned mission and conduct thorough search of immediate area/inner perimeter.

(e) No change.
4. No change.
5. No change.

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

CAM LO, RVN
201830H August 1968

Frag Order 31-68

1. Situation: No change.
2. Mission: Conduct heliborne assault from present AO and conduct company sized clearing ops assigned AO.
3. Execution: A. Company A (Rein)--Conduct heliborne Op to LZ Falcon east and establish Company patrol base vicinity obj. A Provide security for CP.

B. Company B (Rein)--Conduct heliborne Op to LZ Junior and establish Company sized patrol base vicinity of Obj B. Provide screen on high ground for En Ops south of your ~~pos~~ obj.

C. Company C (Rein)--Conduct heliborne Op to LZ Vulture and establish Company Patrol Base vicinity of obj C.

D. Company D (Rein)---Conduct heliborne op to LZ Falcon East and establish Company Patrol Base vicinity obj. D.

E. Coordinating Instructions:

(1) Op overlay -, Note Companies AO's.

(2) H-hr 1000 D-day 21 Aug 68

(3) Lift sequence

LZ

B.

Junior

C

Vulture

A

Falcon East

H&S (CP)

"

D

"

(4) Current thrust points in effect.

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(5) Op duration--2-3 days.

(6) Pick up LZ's will be present locations. (H&S and D same).

(A)

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(7) Move to obj's immediately after landing. Company A clears LZ but waits for CP prior to move to obj A.

W

4. Admin & log:

A. Expect resupply 211500H Aug 68.

B. Return water cans to LZ's for evaluation within 60 min of receipt.

5. Command & Communications: No change.

By command of Lt Col COLLETON

A. Fernandez
A. FERNANDEZ
Major USMC
Operations Officer

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(A)

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, 96602

Frag Order 32-68

1. No change.
2. No change.
3. Commence clearing patrol operations from present locations. Maintain maximum operation effort. Use canines to maximum limit patrol to extent of capability to reinforce in one hour mutually supporting patrols satisfy this condition.
4. No change.
5. No change.

A. Fernandez
A. FERNANDEZ
Major USMC
Operations Officer

DECLASSIFIED

A

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

Frag Order 40-68

1. No change.
2. No change.
3. (a) IB Alpha continue detailed clearing operations on Montana of valley. Search and clear Alabama slope in AO, generally along 53 Grid line, between 92 and 94 grids on order. Be prepared to continue operations to California of 89.
- (b) IB Bravo continue clearing operations in assigned AO. Be prepared to secure FSB generally in vicinity of LZ Earth. On order be prepared to continue operations to California of 89 grid line.
- (c) IB Charlie continue clearing operations in assigned AO. On order be prepared to continue operations to the California of 89 grid line. Be prepared to secure FSB generally vicinity of LZ Moon.
- (d) IB Delta continue clearing operations in assigned AO. On order be prepared to continue operations to California of 89 grid line.
4. No change.
5. No change.

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HEADQUARTERS
 1st Battalion 9th Marines
 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco, 96602

Frag Order 41-68

1. No change.
2. (a) Continue present mission and conduct clearing operations oriented towards hill vicinity 927548.
 (b) Assume opcon of 7-Up Lima at 311000H Aug 68;
3. (a) Company A extend patrol activity to new northern limit of Bn AO and 54 Grid line on east.
 (b) All other companies continue assigned mission. Company C be prepared to lift or march to new AO on Bn east flank on order.
 (c) New Bn boundary from present boundary at XD 910535 to 914548 to 918538 to 926547 to 932557 to 947570 effective 310600H Aug 68.
 (d) New company AO overlays to be promulgated first available transportation.
4. No change.
5. No change except 7-Up Lima on Bn net.

A. Fernandez

A. FERNANDEZ
 Major USMC
 Operations Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

Frag Order 42-68

1. No change.
2. No change.
3. (a) Continue assigned mission. IB Charlie continue movement at 1st light to assigned AO.
4. No change except: (a) Coordinating Instructions: Add following area to 2/9 AO, from present boundary at 918538 to 930540 to present boundary at 940570. Permanent boundary change add to 2/9 AO, from present boundary at 880543 south to 8853 east to 9053 north to present boundary at 900435. Both changes effective 312400H Aug 68.
5. No change.

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Operation Order 9-68

(a) Maps: 1:50,000 AMS Series: VTMA, 47-11 8, 11, 11

(b) 9th Marines Op O 8-68 (Op SECTANG AT FAU)

Time Zone: HOTEL

BACK ORGANIZATION: No change except:

1. 3d Plt, Co B, 3d Inf Bn - 1/3 Co A.
2. 1st Plt, Co C, 3d Inf Bn - 1/3.
3. Det, Scout-Sniper Plt, HqCo, 9th Marines.
4. Det, Scout-Sniper Plt, HqCo, 3d MP Bn
5. PST, 3d SP Bn
6. Det, 7th INT - if avail.
7. Det, 15th INT - if avail.

1. SITUATION:

a. Enemy Forces. Annex A, INTSUMS, and PERIPHERALS.

b. Friendly Forces.

- (1) 9th Marines conducts clearing operations in the JONG valley and ridge-lines to the North and South of the valley to destroy enemy forces, caches, and installations and disrupt infiltration routes while simultaneously establishing fire support bases (FSB) and HLT's for this and future operations in the JONG valley.
- (2) 3d Bn, 9th Marines develops FSB at ^{VP 110632} and attack control JONG valley in coordinated group ^{airborne} assaults to establish Combat Operating Bases (COB) in Zone of Action.

c. Attachments and Detachments.

- (1) S-2 Scouts and PI's attached to each rifle company - effective immediately.
- (2) Scout - Sniper Team attached to each company - effective immediately.

Tab B

SECRETc. Attachments and Detachments (Continued)

- (3) Scout - Dog Team attached to each company - effective immediately.
- (4) Helicopter Support Team attached PRS's when available.
- (5) Squad, Co C, 3d Engr Bn - attached Co A when available.
- (6) Plt (-), Co C, 3d Engr Bn - attached Co B 0/1 D-1.

2. MISSION. At H/Hour on D-Day, the 1st Bn, 9th Marines attacks western portion of the LAICU Valley in a coordinated infantry/bank and heliborne assault to establish COP's in ZOA. The Battalion will be prepared to begin development of a FSP (Vic YD 082411) on/or about D-DAY. Upon completion of FSP, provide one company security for 105mm howitzers positioned there.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of Operations. At H/Hour on D-Day the 1st Bn, 9th Marines with two companies conducts a ground/heliborne assault into the central portion of its AO and executes a cordon and search of the village via YD 082450. One company will be prepared to reinforce, or be inserted on the north or south ridge-line to establish a COP. A fourth company will be employed on D-Day to conduct a heliborne assault in the vic YD 082411 and commence development of the FSP at that location.

b. Co A (Rein)

- (1) At H-Hour on D-Day conduct a coordinated tank/infantry sweep to Obj C and complete the west portion of cordon of village.
- (2) Be prepared to conduct search operations of the village in conjunction with PSYOPS, CIT, and ITT personnel.
- (3) Provide security for CP and 106mm RR Plt.

c. Co B (Rein)

- (1) At L-Hr on D-Day conduct heliborne assault to Obj C and cordon east side of village.
- (2) Be prepared on order to assist in conduct of search.
- (3) On order, attack and secure Obj 10 and be prepared to continue to Obj 1 and reinforce Company D.

d. Co C (Rein)

- (1) On D-Day and on order conduct truck move to Obj to be designated.

SECRETd. Co C (Rein) (Continued)

- (2) Be prepared to assist in Gordon and Search of Obj C.
- (3) Be prepared to establish COB on either north or south ridge of FA LONG Valley in AC.

e. Co D (Rein)

- (1) On D-1, provide one platoon to be helilifted to Obj 2 for preliminary defense and development.
- (2) On D-Day, conduct a heliborne assault to FSP HENDERSON (Obj 2) and establish COB in order to develop FSP.
- (3) Provide security for FSP HENDERSON when established.

f. 81mm Mort Plt

- (1) Provide G/S to Bn.
- (2) At H-Hour on D-Day move two (2) Sections w/Co A and maintain 2 Sections (2 guns) at CA LU.
- (3) Be prepared to attach one section (2 guns) to Co D for Helilift on D-DAY.

g. 106mm RR Plt

- (1) Provide G/S to Bn
- (2) At H-Hour on D-Day move with Co A to Obj C.
- (3) Be prepared to provide D/S to Co B, on order.

h. In Reserve

- (1) Company C (Rein)
 - (a) On D-Day, be prepared to assume mission of any of the assault companies.

i. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) Annex P (Operation Overlay)
- (2) D-Day 6 Aug, H-Hour 0700H, I-Hour 0630H.
- (3) Assault companies be prepared to be extracted and committed in other Battalion Zones of action.

SECRET1. Coordinating Instructions (Continued)

(4) Duration of operations approx 7 to 8 days.

(5) Numbered Objectives in Annex C are for control purposes, adaptable for PLZ's, and for development of COB's. Lettered Objectives are Tactical and represent probable enemy positions.

4. ADMINISTRATION and LOGISTICS

a. In SOP and Annex D.

b. All water will be treated with iodine tablets allowing 15 minutes minimum contact.

c. Malaria pills will be taken on Sundays and Dapsone tablets daily under the supervision of corporals.

5. COMMAND and COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

a. In SOP and Annex E.

b. Report CP's when established.

Francis X. Colleton
 FRANCIS X. COLLETON
 Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
 Commanding

ANNEXES

- ✓ A- Intelligence
- ✓ B- Operations Overlay
- ✓ C- Fire Support
- ✓ D- ADMIN/LOG
- ✓ E- COMM/ELECT

Distribution:

9th Marines - 1	S-1 - 1
2d Bn, 12th Marines - 1	S-2 - 1
2a Co (1) - 4	S-3 - 2
2b Co - 1	S-4 - 1
	FSE - 1

Copy 1 of 2
 1st Bn, 9th Marines 3d Div
 c/o FPO San Francisco 96602

ANNEX A (INTELLIGENCE) TO OPER TIME ORD # 9-68

References:

- (a) Maps: Viet Nam, 1:50,000 PS series LV014, sheets 6342 II and 6442 III
 (b) 1st Bn, 9th Marines Order P2000.1, SOP for Intelligence

TITLE CON&H

1. SUMMARY OF ENEMY SITUATION

- a. See appendix 3
 b. See Intsums and special intelligence reports as issued.

2. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

- a. What are the identifications, strengths, dispositions and intentions of enemy forces disposed in the area of interest?
 b. What and where are the enemy's installations?
 c. Determine the extent of enemy infiltration.
 d. Determine if the enemy will defend along the infiltration route. If so, in what strength?
 e. What installations has the enemy established? Include arms caches, supply facilities, base camps, training areas, CP's and OP's.
 f. Determine location of potential enemy ambush sites, choke sites, avenues of approach and withdrawal routes.

3. INTELLIGENCE ACQUISITION TASKS

- a. Orders to subordinate and attached units.
- (1) Capture prisoners
 - (2) Debrief after operations
 - (3) Submit reports as set forth in reference (b) to this headquarters.
 - (4) Report ASAP the location of enemy headquarters, installations, camps, rest areas, training areas, special cultivation areas, supply points and weapons and ammunition storage area.

(1)

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b. Requests to higher, adjacent and supporting units.

(1) 9th Marines

(a) Provide information as obtained on:

1. Enemy forces within the zone of operations.
2. Enemy forces located in those areas within 48 hours reinforcement distance from the zone of operations.
3. Movement of additional enemy forces into the zone of operations.
4. Helicopter landing zones in the zone of operations.
5. Enemy rocket, mortar, artillery and anti-aircraft capabilities in the area of operations.
6. Provide required aerial photography in support of the operation.
7. Provide aerial observation in the zone of operation as required.
8. Provide CIT and IIT teams as required.

4. MEASURES FOR HANDLING PERSONNEL, DOCUMENTS AND MATERIAL

a. Captured personnel

(1) Captured personnel will be referred to as detainees until classified by IIT personnel and will be turned over to the S-2 for processing IAW reference (b).

(2) Handling of detainees will be firm at all times, but will not involve force beyond that necessary to defend against or subdue resisting detainees. All detainees will be searched, segregated, tagged and evacuated through the intelligence as expeditiously as possible. All material and documents will be evacuated with the detainees.

(3) Battalion S-2's will accomplish the initial screening and then expeditiously evacuate detainees to Regimental headquarters. Wounded detainees will be evacuated through medical channels except walking wounded not requiring hospitalization who, after initial treatment will be processed through normal intelligence channels for interrogation and disposition. It is imperative that all possible information concerning the time, place and circumstances of capture be recorded on the POW tag prior to forwarding to S-2.

b. Captured documents

(1) Captured documents relating to communications, including operating instructions, codes, mess ges, fire agency list and call signs, will be tagged and evacuated without delay. Under no circumstances will plain language transmissions be made to report the capture of enemy communications and security material.

(2) Documents captured at communication installations will not be separated from the equipment unless recapture is imminent or evacuation of the equipment is impossible. Such documents and equipment will be tagged and evacuated together without delay.

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5. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

a. The enemy has been found to use ARVN uniforms and also U.S. uniforms to gain passage through FIMAF areas. Caution is in order when isolated individuals or groups of ARVN soldiers are noticed in your respective areas. Check of their ID card will enhance your ability to determine their identity.

b. Enemy capabilities include interception and translation of information when transmitted over insecure communication equipment.

6. REPORTS

a. Report significant intelligence information by spot reports. Include best estimate where exact information is not available.

b. Submit shell reports and mortar reports to Battalion S-2 ASAP.

7. TARGET INFORMATION / See appendix 4

By Command of Lt. Col. FRANCIS K. COLLETON

F. M. Costello
G. M. COSTELLO
1st Lt. USMC
S-2

Appendixes:

- ✓ 1. Terrain Study
- ✓ 2. Weather Study
- ✓ 3. Summary of enemy situation
- ✓ 4. Target acquisition List with Tab. (Target Overlay)
- ✓ 5. SIGR's
- ✓ 6. Astronomical Data
- ✓ 7. Passwords

DISTRIBUTION A

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Appendix 1 (Terrain Study) to ARMSKRM (Intelligence) to Operation Order 9-68

Ref: (a) Maps, Vietnam AMS Series L7014 sheets 6342 II and 6442 III 1:50,000

1. General. See (3-3 Overlay of O) for Study Area

2. Description of the Area of Operation

a. Relief: Two distinctive topographical regions are represented in the Study Area: 1. Rolling plains and low hills which cover most of the top portion of the area and 2. Rugged intermediate high mountains throughout the majority of the area.

b. Rolling Plains and Low Hills. Across the top of the study area, rolling plains, hills and isolated mountains are found. The elevations range from approximately 50-300 meters. The ground slopes range from 10 to 30% and commonly are as large as 50%. The topography is coarse textured, the streams are generally 3 to 4 kilometers apart so that in the rolling plains and low hills the topography offers large areas for dispersion. The hills become increasingly higher to the south, particularly to the southwest.

c. Intermediate to High Mountains. To the south and notably the southeast the elevations increase and the topography becomes extremely rugged. Steeply sloped mountains occupy most of the southwestern corner of the study area. The mountains are aligned in a northwest to southeast axis with the central spines being pieced by several intermittent and perennial streams flowing in deep valleys flanked by high relief.

3. Drainage

a. General. The area is drained by a combined Da Krong - uang Tri River system. It empties into the Gulf of Tonkin outside the study area. In the southwestern quadrant, the mountain streams flow due south to southwest and due west into the Da Krong River while the watershed feeds into the uang Tri River, often flowing due north. The Da Krong River enters the study area at YD931 and empties into the uang Tri River to the west. The uang Tri River commences at XD9241 and flows in an easterly direction.

b. Principal Streams. While comprising actually one drainage system the Da Krong and uang Tri Rivers should be considered separately because of their configuration. In the area (TDL440 to 2040) the river expands from 90 to 240 meters, depending with the season. At mean water, its depth is 1 meter as it flows through a bed composed of sand interspersed with rock and gravel. Navigation is limited to small craft and sampans. In the final stretch, extending to the border of the study area, the width measures 120 to 900 meters with a depth of 3.2 meters at mean water to 3.5 meters at high water. Lighters and river launchers may pass at mean to high water while sampans are unrestricted all year long. The banks of the river consist of general gradients throughout its whole length.

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4. Vegetation

a. Rolling Plains and Hills. Varying undergrowth forest with brushwood interspersed is the prevalent type of vegetation. The brush wood areas consist of moderate undergrowth and vegetation that normally does not exceed 3 meters in height on the slopes of hills and mountains. The 20-40 foot high tree canopy is sufficient to provide good to excellent concealment from aerial observation. On level terrain, the canopy is usually broken.

b. Mountains. Almost the entire high country is covered by dense undergrowth forest with mostly continuous canopy 150 to 200 feet high. On the ridge lines, the canopy is shorter with less undergrowth. The steep gullies are filled with thick secondary growths of vines and elephant grass.

5. Cultural Postures. The population in the study area is primarily in villages and hamlets along the banks of the Quang Tri River.

6. Military aspects of the area

a. Observation and Fields of Fire

(1) In the lowlands, observation is good in the paddy dikes except where broken by hedgerows and stands of brushwood. Moving into hills, it becomes difficult to see because of the canopy and secondary undergrowth. In the mountains long range observation is possible but limited by the high canopy and very dense underbrush.

(2) Fields of fire for flat trajectory weapons will be good in the plains and the river valleys but rapidly turns poor in the canopy area. Indirect fire target coverage will be reduced in effectiveness due to the canopy, secondary undergrowth and in the mountains by the steep slopes.

7. Cover and Concealment. In the lowlands, cover will be limited to irrigation ditches, paddy dikes and streams and river banks. Moving into the forested areas concealment becomes better with some cover provided by the underbrush. Concealment in the undergrowth is fair to good on the plains with the steep slopes of hills allowing excellent cover and concealment.

8. Obstacles

(1) Natural: In the lowlands the foot movement through the rice paddies is impeded and channelizes along the dikes in the rainy season. Tracked vehicles and wheeled vehicles must avoid areas. The river and many of the streams and canals are usually too deep to be forded. In the plains and low hills, the undergrowth restricts movement in many locations to existing trails. The mountainous area limit travel to the stream valleys because of the perpendicular pattern of the major ridges. Combined with this terrain, the dense vegetation severely channelizes movement to a few existing trails. These can be very slippery in the wet season with crossing of streams extremely difficult because of depth and velocity.

(2) Artificial. The notable artificial obstacles in the area would result from the destruction of existing bridges along the two ~~BRIDGE~~ routes (556 and 557) as well as deterioration of the road bed.

9. Key Terrain

- a. Hill 813 at YD096377 and Hill 824 at YD018396 dominate the area between the Da Krong and Ba Long Valleys.
- b. Hill 660 at YD096444.
- c. Hill 908 at YD941311.
- d. Hill 691 at YD926443.

10. Avenue of Approach

(1) The major avenue of approach into the study area is the Quang Tri (Trach Han) River Valley which runs generally east to west.

(2) The Da Krong River Valley crosses the southwest corner of the area on the northwest to southeast axis.

11. Zones of Entry. Helicopter Landing Zones are scattered throughout the flatlands and within the Quang Tri River Valley. Several locations are available in the mountains for one or two aircraft drops. Available landing sites are indicated in Annex C (Fire Support).

11. Lines of Communication

a. Two roads of significance exist within the study area. Route 556 was once a fair weather road with a width of 3-4 meters. It generally runs parallel to the Quang Tri (Trach Han) River crossing the waterway by means of fords at YD157406 and YD113418. The second route, 557 traverses the northern portion of the study area through gently rolling hills. Its last reported condition was an all-weather roadbed of 3-4 meters in width. The surface is crushed stone and gravel.

b. Numerous trails are found throughout the study area.

9. 11. 11. 11.
G. M. CASTELLO
1st Lt. USMC
S-2

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Appendix 2 (Weather Study) to Annex A (Intelligence) to Operation Order 9-68

1. Climate. The southwest monsoon continues in full force over all of Southeast Asia during August and into the middle of September.

a. Precipitation. The number of days with precipitation averages 15 days for August. Most precipitation occurs in afternoon and evening showers or thunderstorms.

b. Clouds. During the month of August convective clouds form over most regions during the late morning. Afternoon ceilings of 2000-4000 feet are common throughout the country. Stratus ceilings are common in the early morning, often below 1000 feet (obscuring mountain tops).

c. Visibility. Early morning fog in interior valleys restricts visibility to less than 3 miles.

By Command of Lt. Col. FRANCIS L. COLLETON

G. M. Costello
G. M. COSTELLO
1st Lt. USMC
S-2

SECRET

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Appendix 3 (Summary of Enemy Situation) to Annex A (Intelligence) to Operation Order 9-68

1. ENEMY FORCES.

a. The area of operations encompasses a section of an enemy infiltration route. As such, his strength in the area fluctuates greatly on an irregular basis. As of this writing there are indications that the enemy is principally disposed to the Southwest (Da Krong Valley) of our area of interest. As of this writing there are no reported large enemy forces currently employed in the area of operations. Some sightings (AO and recon) have been reported (See Appendix 4, Tab A) in the AO. However, as a major infiltration route the possibility of enemy units operating in the area remains feasible.

b. Infantry units within the AO can be reinforced with up to regimental sized forces from within the DMZ and unknown size units from the Da Krong Valley area.

2. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

a. The enemy has the capability to defend prominent terrain features from within fortified positions in our AO.

b. The enemy has the ability to attack by fire any target of opportunity.

c. The enemy has the capability to reinforce and counterattack with unknown size forces.

d. The enemy has the capability to withdraw along his infiltration routes into established Base Camp areas.

3. PROBABLE COURSES OF ENEMY ACTION.

a. The enemy will try to inflict maximum casualties by attacking by fire any lucrative target of opportunity.

b. The enemy will utilize small delaying actions, exfiltrating the major portion of his troops unless an opportunity presents itself whereby he can inflict maximum casualties in a rapid ground engagement.

c. The enemy will commit larger forces only when he feels it is to his advantage.

By Command of Lt. Col. FRANCIS X. COLLATON

G. M. Costello
G. M. COSTELLO
1st Lt. USMC
S-2

SECRET

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Appendix 4 (Target Acquisition List) to Annex A (Intelligence)

TARGET LIST

<u>COORDINATE</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>DATE</u>
967503	50-2 Mun foxholes	5Jun68
966500	75 Foxholes in a circle	29May68
967502	Foxholes (Co size area)	5Jun68
966500	Large base camp	12Jun68
976480	Base Camp	29May68
972506	35 Foxholes	29May68
984475	Light Arty Position	23Jun68
984491	AA/AW Position	18Jul68
999432	Foxholes	31May68
998435	25 Bunkers and 14 AW Pms	7Jun68
998437	Foxholes	11Jun68
999431	20 Foxholes	11Jun68
996443	Strong Point	11Jun68
998441	Foxholes	11Jun68
019417	Fighting holes	1 Jul68
015444	Strong Point	22Jun68
015502	Suspected Assembly area	3Jul68
020433	Possible storage area	22Jun68
025455	Fortified Ville	Apr68
076422	7 Foxholes	27Jun68
035440	1 AA/AW Position	27Jun68
033444	Possible bunker	27Jun68
041409	Foot Bridge on Trail	23Jul68
044435	21 Foxholes/6 Bunkers	27Jun68
042445	AA/AW Position	27Jun68
048444	AW Position/trench	Apr68
052402	Foot Bridge on Trail	23Jul68
058420	3 Small Bridges	19Jun68
052460	60 Foxholes	3Jul68
052495	10 Camouflaged Bunkers	16Jul68
066406	Small Bridge	11Jun68
062403	.50 cal Position	24Jun68
066407	Foot Bridge on trail	23Jul68
060435	Trail	4Jun68
060430	3 Small bridges	21Jun68
063447	2 Hooches	10Jul68
068442	6 Fighting holes	10Jul68
067469	Camouflaged Positions	2Jun68
067464	New Trail	9Jun68
072411	Foot Bridge	11Jun68
072411	Foot Bridge	23Jul68
083475	AA Position	6Jun68
082470	AA Position	30May68

By Command of Lt. Col. FRANCIS X. COLLIERON

G. M. Costello
G. M. COSTELLO
1st Lt. USMC

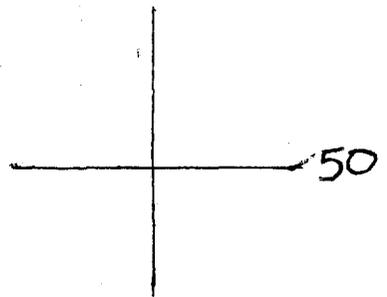
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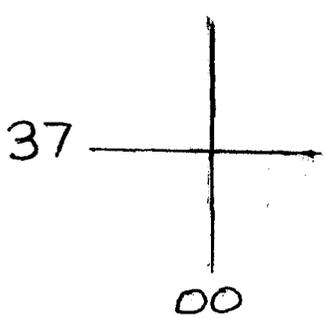
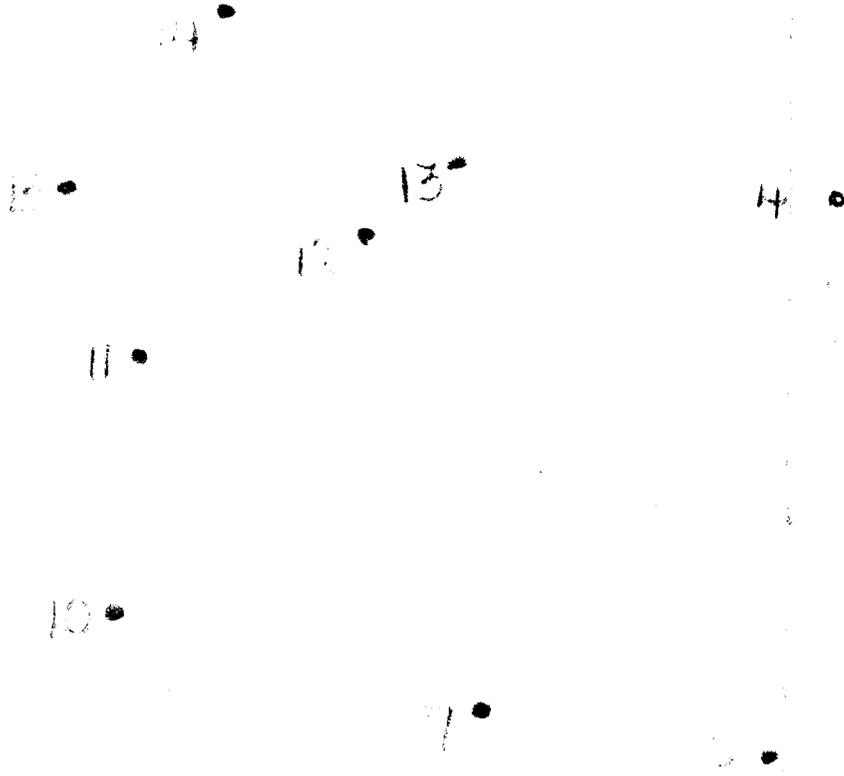
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Tab A (Target Overlay) to Appendix 4 (Target Acquisition List) to Annex A (Intelligence) to Operation Order 9-68



1. AA Position - 6 June 68
2. Camouflaged Position - 2 June 68
3. New Trail - 9 June 68
4. Fighting Holes - 7 July 68
5. Foot Bridge - 23 July 68
6. .50 cal Position - 24 June 68
7. Foot Bridge - 23 July 68
8. .50 cal Position - 12 July 68
9. Bunkers - 2 June 68
10. Fighting Holes - 1 July 68
11. Storage Area - 22 June 68
12. AA/AV Position - 1 July 68
13. AA/AV Position - 1 July 68
14. Fortified Village - April 68
15. Strong Point - 22 June 68

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Appendix 5 (SICR's) to Annex A (Intelligence) to Operation Order 9-63

I. Captured Material and Documents

(1) Material

(a) Captured weapons and equipment will be inventoried by the Battalion S-2 and evacuated to Regimental Headquarters for intelligence evaluation and forwarded to Task Force Hotel G-2. Explosive ordnance munitions will be evacuated through EOD channels. All captured material must be tagged to show time, place, and circumstance of capture prior to evacuation. Explosive ordnance which cannot be evacuated due to the tactical situation will be destroyed in place after the best possible description and number of rounds, etc. have been obtained.

(b) The following munitions are on Special Intelligence Collection Requirements of higher headquarters and must be evacuated where possible:

- 7.62mm cartridges (short)
- 9mm and 10mm cartridges
- 12.7mm cartridges
- 14.5mm cartridges
- 23mm projectiles
- 37mm projectiles
- 57mm projectiles
- RPC-7 anti-tank rockets
- 82mm mortar projectiles (in unopened original containers)
- 107mm rockets
- 122mm rockets
- 140mm rockets
- 130mm artillery projectiles
- 152mm artillery projectiles
- 160mm mortar projectile
- mines (anti-vehicular, anti-tank, anti-helicopter, anti-aircraft and U.S. type modified by the enemy)
- all case ammunition

In addition to the above, any new or unidentified munitions introduced in country by the NVA/VC are considered to be of significance and will be evacuated in so far as possible.

By Command of Lt. Col. COLASTON

G. M. Costello
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1st Lt. USMC
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Appendix 7 (Passwords) to Annex A (Intelligence) to Operation Order 9-68

1. The following is a list of effective code numbers and passwords for the month of August 1968.

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Challenge</u>	<u>Password</u>
07	BURN	TURKIP
18	BABY	CRAB
52	WOMEN	SUDS
95	LUSTY	POND
98	LAUNDRY	MOTION
38	TENT	BOAT
31	GRASS	LAMP
16	GR. MEN	SHADE
06	GALLOW	NATURE
40	LEMP	FLIES
74	LOAD	SENSE
45	LETTER	LIVER
52	BANK	BRAIN
05	JACKET	ADNAX
39	BUTTON	TWIG
97	BLUE	BRANCH
26	BLANKET	LIST
81	CRIME	PLANK
70	SIMPLE	PLEAD
57	SEAT	BEAN
69	RAID	CARROTS
01	LAST	BESTS
11	PICK	LETTUCE
10	SOCKET	CARROTS
23	MERCURY	NICKEL
38	ROAST	LEAD
64	SAGE	SAND
17	PAPPER	SHAKE
29	GLASS	GLAND
85	RAGE	TAHR

By Command of Lt. Col. FRANCIS X. COLLETON

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ANNEX C (FIRE SUPPORT) TO OPERATION ORDER 9-68

1. GENERAL:

a. Enemy forces: Annex A and INTSUMS

b. Friendly forces:

- (1) 1st MAF provides helicopter and fixed wing support.
- (2) 7th Air Force provides Tactical Air Support.
- (3) 12th Marines provides GS Arty.

2/12 provides close and continuous fire support to maneuver elements, with air support assets on an on-call basis.

2. ARTILLERY:

a. Concept of artillery employment.

- (1) 2/12 DS of 9th Marines
- (2) Arty support initially from positions at CA LU and south of Qua Valley.

b. Arty coordinating instructions:

- (1) Counter Battery - GS and DS Arty's policy active (units receiving incoming, report ASAP).
- (2) Counter mortar - DS Arty - policy active.
- (3) Target lists and target numbers to be announced O/A D-1.
- (4) Fire in NDF's prior to darkness.
- (5) When contact is made, maximum use of supporting arms shall be made and fire superiority achieved prior to initiation of the assault.
- (6) Boundaries serve as fire coordination lines between converging battalions.
- (7) All artillery fires in A/C to be cleared through 9th Marines FSCC.
- (8) Air and artillery representatives make maximum effort to coordinate at lowest echelon simultaneous air/ARTY activities.
- (9) Companies firing 60mm mortars will clear with battalion, if a mission plots within 500 meters of a battalion boundary.
- (10) FO's maintain an air sentry when firing. Check fire when A/C observed in a danger zone.
- (11) Smoke and illumination will not be fired within 2000 meters of another battalion boundary without Regiment's clearance.
- (12) Use following techniques as required:
 - (a) "At my command" method of control by FO's.
 - (b) High angle fire.
 - (c) Restrictive fire plans.
 - (d) Employment of spotting rounds as required for new aids.
- (13) A pre-L-Hour prep of LZ's will be executed by Gas and Arty, as planned by higher headquarters.
- (14) 2/12 FDC located south of Qua Valley initially.
- (15) 7th Marines FSCC at LZ CWD initially.
- (16) Rgs reports every half hour will be coordinated with FSCC.

Each FO will plot other units in our AO to facilitate coordination between these adjacent units.

- (17) Each FO will shoot in at least one NDF; if possible two or more.
- (18) When a priority mission is being fired, all other FO's not in contact or not receiving incoming will stay off the COP net. Upon completion of such a mission that FO will then ~~send~~^{send} his traffic.
- (19) Illumination, On-calls, and WFFs will be worked up by each FO in consideration of other friendly units in the area.

Air support coordinating instructions:

- (1) Medevac - two helicopters on 15 minute alert.
- (2) Flare-plane available for troops in combat or emergency medevac. Expect 45 minute to one hour delay.
- (3) Spooky - available for troops in contact at night or emergency medevac. Expect 45 minute to one hour delay.
- (4) Aerial Observers - normally airborne at first light until darkness and 15 minute alert at night.
- (5) Sparrow Hawk - Reinforced Rifle Platoon on 30 minute alert during daylight hours at Quang Tri. Request must be approved by CC, 3d Mar Div.
- (6) Emergency assembly - one hour alert during hours of darkness - must be approved by Regimental CO.
- (7) OH - 16 Gunships available on request.
- (8) CAS aircraft
 - (a) Pre-planned strikes
 - (b) Snake, Napalm and Ami rockets available on alert at Chu Lai - expect 45 minute delay.
- (9) Air support priorities and procedures:
 - (a) Priority to units in contact. Others determined by Battalion Commanding Officer.
 - (b) TPO requests for each night and the next day will be submitted prior to 1100 that day.
 - (c) Pre-planned fixed wing for the next day will be submitted prior to 1400.
 - (d) All helicopter LZ's for resupply and medevacs should be carefully selected and policed so as to avoid ~~damage~~.
 - (e) Insure that all units have adequate smoke and colored air panels to mark lines.
 - (f) Include all tactical air support received on unit reports.

FRANCIS X. COLLIFTON
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING

OFFICIAL:

A. FERNANDEZ
MAJOR USMC
OPERATIONS OFFICER

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ANNEX D (ADMINISTRATION and LOGISTICS) TO OPERATION ORDER 0-68

Ref: 3D Mar Div FO2000.23 (COY)

Time Zone: HOTEL

1. SUPPLY:a. GENERAL:

(1) The source of supply for 1/9 for classes I, II, III, and IV is LZ STUD.

(2) Source of supply for classes II is FUEL Pong Na.

b. Supplies and equipment available:

Class I - MCI
 Trioxane

Class V - Resupplied daily as required from LZ STUD.

c. Control and distribution:

(1) Resupply will be coordinated and controlled by the S-4 in the field. Resupply will be on a basis of 3 per day initially. It is planned that water will be resupplied twice daily.

d. Prescribed loads:

- (1) MCI-3 meals
- (2) Water-3 canteens
- (3) Ammunition-B/A plus one (1) MCA

e. Resupply:

- (1) Helicopter resupply from LZ STUD is the primary source.
- (2) S-4 Actual will be located in the field.
- (3) Submit to S-4 Actual MLT 1000 daily resupply requirements for the following day:
- (4) Emergency resupply of Class I, V, and water will be stored at LZ STUD.

6. Captured material: See Annex 4

7. Captured personnel: See Annex A

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SECRET2. Evacuation and Hospitalization:

- (a) Standard medevac procedure will be followed.
- (b) Senior man on the LZ is responsible for the following:
 - (1) No explosive ordnance (grenades, etc.) will be loaded aboard the helicopter with the casualty.
 - (2) The casualty's weapon will be loaded on the same helicopter which evacuates the casualty.
 - (3) All 782 gear will be loaded on the medevac helicopter.

3. Transportation:a. Vehicle:

- (1) Required transportation will be made available as situation requires.

b. Air:

- (1) Constant police of LZ will be emphasized. LZ will be kept clear of trash, loose equipment, and any matter which can be swept into helicopter rotors.
- (2) Helicopter director in LZ will wear air panel or other colored apparel as distinguishing device.

4. Communications:

- a. HST team will man regimental helicopter logistics LZ control.
- b. LSV, LZ STUD display card giving call sign and frequency of receiving unit will be given to each pilot by S-4 personnel at LZ STUD. This is in addition to information passed by radio.

5. Miscellaneous:

- a. All companies will expedite return of water cans and other water containers to LZ STUD from their respective LZ's.
 - b. All companies will insure that slines and nets are returned expeditiously to LZ STUD.
- c. Companies will submit to S-4 Actual by 1300 daily a weapons density and on position class V (WE) report as follows:

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- Line 1 - a) 60 mm rounds, number on hand
b) HE rounds 60 mm, number on hand
- Line 2 - a) 81 mm rounds, number on hand
b) HE rounds, 81 mm, number on hand
- Line 3 - a) 90 mm rounds, number on hand
b) HE rounds, 90mm, number on hand
- Line 4 - a) 106 mm rounds, number on hand
b) HE rounds, 106mm, number on hand

BY COMMAND OF LT COL F. X. COLLETON

A. Fernandez
A. FERNANDEZ
MAJOR, USMC
OPERATION OFFICER

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ANNEX E (COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS) TO OPERATION ORDER 9-68

Ref: (a) 3D Mar. Div. FO2000.2G (COI)

Time Zone: Hotel

1. SITUATION:

a. Enemy Forces. ANNEX A (Intelligence)

(1) The enemy has the capability to conduct all forms of electronic warfare, especially intercepting or jamming of radio circuits.

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) Command Post

9th Marines

LZ SNVD

1/9

To be established

2/9

To be established

3/9

To be established

2. MISSION: Commencing on D-Day, communications elements of this command in staff, operate, and maintain continuous communications to support the battalion.

3. EXECUTION:

a. Battalion Communications Platoon:

(1) Operate and maintain communications for command and ~~control~~ **CONTROL** in AO.

(2) Test and evaluate FY-38 and PRC-77.

b. Air Support Communications: See Appendix F (Radio Plan).

c. Artillery Communications: See Annex C (Fire Support) and Appendix F (Radio Plan).

d. Coordinating Instructions:

(1) Radio:

(a) A limited supply of RC-292 antennas is to be staged at

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LZ STUD for use by company's, as required.

- (b) The Command net on M-53 is for the exclusive use of Commanding Officer, S-3, and Company Commander's traffic.
- (c) Radio operators will carry spare power supply.
- (d) Company radio operators will have in their possession the current authentication and numerical codes (See (2) below).
- (e) A relay station on the Battalion administration^{net} net will be established on Signal Hill in the area of LZ STUD.

(2) Wires:

- (a) Sufficient wire will be carried by the Battalion Communications Platoon for the rearing of radio equipment and for CP telephonic requirements.

(3) Authentication and Numerical Codes: The effective edition of the code is KAC-Qag 505.

(4) Operation Code: The effective edition of the code is KAC-Pag 5.

4. Administration and Logistics:

- a. See Annex D (Administration and Logistics) to On Order 9-68.
- b. Limited repair facilities are available for electronics equipment at 9th Marines CP, LZ STUD. All unserviceable/inoperative electronics equipment will be evacuated through the Battalion CP.
- c. The following equipment in limited amount will be staged at LZ STUD for resupply:
 - Antenna RA-386
 - Wire WD-1/TT (one mile reels).
 - Battery BA-386

BY COMMAND OF LT COL F. X. COLLETON

A. Fernandez
A. FERNANDEZ
MAJOR USMC
OPERATIONS OFFICER

APPENDICES:

- 1 - Radio Plan
- 2 - Radio Call-signs and frequencies
- 3 - Thrust points

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APPENDIX 2 (RADIO CALL SIGNS AND FREQUENCIES) TO ANNEX E (COMM-MLTC) TO OPERATION ORDER 9-68

1. Radio Call Signs:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VOICE CALL</u>
9th Marines	COFFEE CUP
1st Bn., 9th Mar	DALLAS GIRL
1st Bn., 9th Mar Relay	DALLAS GIRL X-RAY
1st Bn., 9th Mar (Rear)	DALLAS GIRL REAR
1st Bn., 9th Mar (S-I)	DALLAS GIRL STUD
2d Bn., 9th Mar	FANCY DAN
3d Bn., 9th Mar	SIDE DISH
12th Marines	SAND FOX
2d Bn., 12th Mar	WHITE FISH
3d Tank Bn.	AIR MINDED
3d Eng Bn	PAZAAR

2. RADIO FREQUENCIES:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>FREQ</u>	<u>DESIG</u>
<u>9th Marines</u> Regt TAC #1	(P) 45.25 MHZ	M-614
	(S) 46.55 MHZ	M-1019
	39.4 MHZ	M-817
	51.8 MHZ	M-715
<u>1st Bn., 9th Mar</u> Bn. TAC #2	(P) 60.45 MHZ	M-53
	(S) 56.2 MHZ	M-1020
<u>2d Bn., 9th Mar</u> Bn. TAC #2	(P) 65.05 MHZ	M-7
	(S) 59.65 MHZ	M-934
<u>3d Bn., 9th Mar</u> Bn TAC #2	(P) 37.05 MHZ	M-554
	(S) 62.6 MHZ	M-635
<u>12th Marines</u> Regt PD #1	(P) 42.95 MHZ	M-387
	(S) 57.35 MHZ	M-922
	35.75 MHZ	M-124
<u>2d Bn., 12th Mar</u> Bn C&S Bn PD	(S) 65.4 MHZ	M-1101
	(S) 60.1 MHZ	M-1157
	(A) 70.4 MHZ	M-547

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<u>G Co., 3d Eng Bn</u> Co CMD	70.25 MHZ	M-55
<u>A Co., 3d Tank Bn</u> Co CMD	66.85 MHZ	M-896
<u>1st Plt, A Co., 3d Tank Bn</u> 1st Plt CMD	67.75 MHZ	M-327
<u>3d Plt, B Co., 3d Tank Bn</u> 3d Plt CMD	45.25 MHZ	NONE

BY COMMAND OF LTCOL P. X. COLLETTON

A. Fernandez
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OPERATIONS OFFICER

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APPENDIX 3 (THRUST POINTS) TO ANNEX E (COM-ELEC) TO OP O 9-68

BEERS	0641	ENLISTED RANKS	9943
BOYS	1543	FISH	1839
BIRDS	9934	FURNITURE	0234
CARS	1846	GIRLS	1437
CIGARETTES	1041	MONTHS	0544
COLORS	1046	OFFICER RANKS	1636
CIGARS	0938	SEASONS	0741
CITIES	0538	SPORTS	1942
CLOTHING	0534	STATES	0744
EGGS	9736	WEEK DAYS	0443

BY COMMAND OF LTCOL P. K. COLLINGTON

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 MAJOR USMC
 OPERATIONS OFFICER

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