

HEADQUARTERS  
3D BATTALION, 12TH MARINES (REIN)  
3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF  
c/o FPO, SAN FRANCISCO 96602

3/FRA/jb  
5750  
1 May 67

**From:** Commanding Officer  
**To:** Commanding Officer, 12th Marines  
**Subj:** Command Chronology

**Ref:** (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) DivO 5750.1  
(c) RegtO 5750.1  
(d) Map: VIETNAM 1:50000 AMS Series L701 6460 I;  
6461 II; 6559 I,IV; 6560 II,III

- Encl:** ✓(1) Organizational Data Sheet  
✓(2) Daily Chronological Report of Significant Events  
✓(3) S-1 Matters  
✓(4) S-2 Matters  
✓(5) S-3 Matters  
✓(6) S-4 Matters  
✓(7) Communications-Electronics Matters

1. In compliance with References (a) through (c), the April 1967 Command Chronology is hereby submitted as Enclosures (1) through (7).

*J. L. Miles*  
J. L. MILES

3RD BN/12TH MAR

CMD CHRON

APR 1967

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA SHEET

1. Designation and Location

- a. 1-30 April 1967  
HEADQUARTERS (FWD)  
3d Battalion, 12th Marines

Location: Coordinates YD 539318, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam

- b. 1-31 March 1967  
HEADQUARTERS (Rear)  
3d Battalion, 12th Marines

Location: Coordinates YD 865137, Phu Bai Base Camp

2. Period Covered: 1-30 April 1967

3. Battalion Commander and Staff:

a. 3d Battalion, 12th Marines

- (1) Lieutenant Colonel J. L. MILES, 046209/0802/2070/6704 USMC, Battalion Commander
- (2) Major J. E. TOWNSEND, 050185/0802/6704 USMC, Executive Officer  
1-15 April 1967  
Major K. D. HOLLEN, 052068/0802/0805, USMC Executive Officer  
16-30 April 1967
- (3) WO W. G. JACOBSON, 089212/0030, USMC S-1/Adjutant, Personnel Officer

- (4) First Lieutenant C. D. COOKSEY, 091152/0802, USMC S-2
- (5) Captain R. A. FURTADO 077663/0802/0430 USMC S-3 1-14 April 1967  
Major F. R. ALLEN, 069777/0802/3010 USMC, S-3 15-30 April 1967
- (6) Captain J. P. JOHNSON, 087863/0802 USMCR, S-4
- (7) Captain R. A. LISH, 085430/0802/2502, USMC, Communication Officer 1-6 April 1967, Captain L. M. MAXTED, 089710/2502, USMC, Communication Officer, 9-30 April 1967
- (8) First Lieutenant G. W. DAVIDSON III 092539/3502 USMC Motor Transport Officer 1-26 April 1967  
First Lieutenant J. R. HALL Jr. 092106/3502 USMC Motor Transport Officer 27-30 April 1967
- (9) First Lieutenant M. M. DUFFY, 092190/3002, USMCR, Supply Officer 1-16 April 1967
- (10) First Lieutenant R. L. PORTER, 087133/0802 USMC Survey Officer 11-12 April 1967, Second Lieutenant A. A. FINLEY, 094691/0802 USMCR Survey Officer 13-30 April 1967
- (11) GySgt W. F. TAYLOR Jr. 1117393/2131/0441/1811, USMC Ordnance Officer

b. Battery Commanders

- (1) Headquarters Battery, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines, First Lieutenant G. K. MYRUS 090980/0802 USMCR 1-30 April 1967
- (2) Battery "D" (2dBn, 12thMar) ADCON/OPCON 1-27 April 1967 Captain L. T. GUNDLACH 078621/0802/0805 USMC
- (3) Battery "E" (2dBn, 12thMar) ADCON/OPCON 1-27 April 1967, Captain W. R. HART, 081816/0802 USMC
- (4) Battery "B" (1stBn, 13thMar) ADCON/OPCON 12-30 April 1967, Captain J. L. LATHROP 077838/0802/0240, USMC
- (5) Battery "H" (3dBn, 12thMar) ADCON/OPCON 28-30 April, Captain B. F. WESTFALL, 089903/0802, USMCR

Officer

Enlisted

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At 1615H Battery "E" expended 32 rounds of HE on VC snipers firing from YD 597265. Excellent effect on target was reported, and sniper fire silenced.

At 1604H an AO, TR IL-35, observed a platoon of VC at YD 400-325. A tank from "C" Company, 3d Tank Battalion fired 3 rounds of 90mm HE in adjustment, but fire was discontinued because the gathering dusk and dense jungle made observation impossible.

### 3 April

Between 1235 and 1305H Batteries "D" and "E" fired 459 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT on a diversionary preparation fire for the 4th Marines. Grid Squares covered by fire were YD 5423, 5523, and 5623 ( LZ Dove - YD 552238 ); 5124 and 5223 ( LZ Eagle - YD 512245 ). Artillery fires were coordinated with air strikes and diversionary helicopter landings.

At 1625H a tank with "C" Company, 3d Tank Battalion fired 4 rounds of 90mm HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission reported by 4th Marines FSCC at YD 478210.

Throughout the remainder of the day, the Battalion fired various reconnaissance by fire missions in support of elements of 2/9.

### 4 April

At 1106H elements of 2/9 reported that they were receiving sniper fire from YD 586261. Battery "E" fired 18 rounds of HE and 4 of WP, silencing the sniper.

At 2015H elements of 2/9 reported receiving mortar fire from YD 545264. Batteries "D" and "E" expended a total of 84 rounds, fuzes Quick and VI. The mortar fire was suppressed as a result of the mission.

At 2100H Batteries "D" and "E" again fired the counter-mortar plan for Hill 51, saturating an area southeast of the hill with 223 rounds of HE. Mortars were silenced, but there was no additional surveillance.

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ENCLOSURE (2)

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~Daily Chronology1 April

At 0309H Battery "E" expended 4 rounds of WP and 10 of HE, fuzes VT and Quick, in a reconnaissance by fire mission at YD 537267. Rounds were reported on target by the FO observing this mission for 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (2/9).

From 1232H to 1340H Battery "E" expended 36 rounds of HE, fuzes VT and Quick, and 10 WP while firing in three defensive concentrations for elements of 2/9. Target locations were YD 572278, 575267, and 578282.

At 1413H the Battalion Commander, accompanied by the S-3 and the SgtMajor departed the Battalion CP on an area motor reconnaissance in the vicinity of Pho Trach. The party returned at 1510H.

From 1510H to 1530H Battery "D" expended fifty rounds of HE, fuzes VT and Quick, on two suspected VC positions at YD 581278 and 575267.

From 1715H to 1825H Battery "D" expended 12 HE and 14 WP on two recon by fire missions at Grids YD 581264 and 597278. Rounds were reported on target on these missions fired in support of 2/9.

2 April

Between 0041H and 0255H Battery "D" expended 10 rounds of illumination as orientation rounds for elements of 2/9. Rounds were fired over grids 4933, 4734, 5032, and 5031.

At 1206H Battery "E" expended 59 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, and 6 WP on a VC position at YD 600260. Rounds were reported on target on this mission fired in support of 2/9.

At 1300H Battery "E" fired two rounds of WP and 65 of HE on VC in jungle growth at YD 606270. Excellent effect on target was the surveillance.

At 1400H elements of 2/9, meeting with continued resistance from snipers in this area of dense vegetation called 4 rounds of WP and 8 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, at YD 597265. Battery "E" fired the mission, and rounds were reported target.

At 1410H elements of 2/9 again suspected VC movement at YD 578282. Battery "E" expended 2 rounds of WP and 10 HE, fuzes VT. Rounds were on target, but there was no other surveillance.

From 1510H to 1530H Battery "D" expended fifty rounds of HE, fuzes VT and Quick, on two suspected VC positions at YD 581278 and 575267. Rounds were reported on target on these missions fired in support of 2/9.

At 1430H Battery "D" fired 8 rounds of 155mm WP and 8 of HE on 6 VC spotted at YD 433272 by elements of 2/9. There was no surveillance.

From 1715H to 1825H Battery "D" expended 12 HE and 14 WP on two recon by fire missions at Grids YD 581264 and 597278. Rounds were reported on target on these missions fired in support of 2/9.

ENCLOSURE (2)

COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS

New communication officers joined the Battalion on 10 April 1967:

The Communications section conducted normal field operations in support of the Battalion during Operation BIG HORN. Presently a large amount of equipment is on temporary loan. An example of this is the Air Naval Gunfire Team, which has the largest amount and is not physically located with the Battalion. Thus this equipment is not available for periodic inspections and operational checks; nor can proper maintenance or repair at our authorized echelon be done. The equipment on hand is in good shape and a maintenance program is functioning. Small items missing or broken are on order. Adequate personnel are on hand to meet operational commitments. Adequate stock of consumable items are on hand and replacement quantities are on order.

During Operation SHAWNEE a relay site had to be positioned in the mountainous terrain between the FO teams and the Battalion FDC. Retransmission cables were tried with PRC-25's but proved inadequate and fire missions were manually relayed. This arrangement proved to be satisfactory for the operation. Difficulties were experienced with radio Communications from the forward position to the rear area, a distance of about 5 miles over slightly hilly terrain, none over 40 meters high. Fading was the largest single problem especially between Battalion FDC and Regimental FSCC. A radio relay shot was installed with equipment and personal from 4th Marines. This provided trunk and hot lines circuits to the rear area. With the exception of generator failure and minor equipment adjustments this worked satisfactory and was a great help.

ENCLOSURE (7)

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5 April

At 0800H Battery "D" displaced to YD 529343 to support 1st Battalion, 9th Marines(1/9), which was on a sweep in that area.

At 1021H Battery "E" expended 8 rounds of HE, fuze VT, and 2 of WP on suspected VC at YD 574247. There was no surveillance on this mission fired in support of 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (2/9).

At the same time, the Battery conducted a reconnaissance by fire for elements of 2/9 at YD 583263. Rounds were reported on target, and 12 rounds of HE were expended.

At 1200H elements of 2/9 reported taking sniper fire from YD 533263. Battery "E" fired 2 rounds of WP and 24 of HE on the target, and in-coming rounds ceased.

At 1209H the same FO with 2/9 reported in-coming sniper fire from a ridgeline at YD 592271. Battery "E" expended 6 rounds of WP and 12 of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on the target. Good effect on target and silenced sniper fire was the surveillance.

At 1325H Battery "E" expended 22 rounds of HE on 3 VC moving in a treeline at YD 528267. Good effect on target was the surveillance on this mission fired in support of 2/9.

At 1400H elements of 2/9 reported 1 VC in brush at YD 529266. Battery "E" fired 6 rounds of HE on the target, with excellent effect and 1 KIA(probable) as surveillance.

At 1450H Battery "E" fired 26 rounds of HE on 2 VC spotted coming out of a bunker at YD 529266. Rounds were on target, but no additional surveillance was available on this mission fired for 2/9.

At 1625H elements of 2/9 reported in-coming fire from YD 587259. Battery "E" expended 4 rounds of WP and 12 of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on the target. The observer reported target area well covered and firing silenced.

At 1740H Battery "E" expended 4 rounds of WP and 12 of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on VC firing on a helicopter from YD 596258. Rounds were reported on target on this mission observed by elements of 2/9.

At 1826H Battery "E" fired 18 rounds of WP and 18 HE silencing the sniper fire coming from YD 583263. The mission was fired in support of 2/9, and there was no surveillance.

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6 April

At 0131H the 1st Provisional 155mm Howitzer Battery, located at PK-17 (YD 648276) reported VC attacking their position first with approximately 100 rounds of 81/82mm mortar and 57mm recoilless rifle fire, then with a ground attack. Battery "P" at the Battalion position expended 155 rounds of illumination during the attack as well as 31 rounds of HE fired as defensive concentrations, counter-mortar fire and interdiction fire on grids YD 640270, 645276, 630-271, 633233, 640275, 640275 and 640278. USMC casualties were 1 KIA, 3 WIA and 1 KIA(USN). At least 6 VC were killed within the USMC perimeter, and 1 VC was CIA. An 82 howitzer was knocked out of action during the attack.

At 0945H Battery "D" fired 2 rounds of WP and 38 of HE on 5 VC on a ridgeline at YD 593274. Surveillance was 5 KIA(probable) on this mission fired in support of 2/9.

At 1237H Battery "E" expended 4 rounds of WP and 24 of HE on a group of VC in a tree line at YD 579255. The target was first reported as 5, then 18 VC. No surveillance was given on the mission.

At 1315H the same FO with 2/9 spotted VC on a bridge at YD 556-247. Battery "E" expended 156 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT on this mission. An AO, SACRED CHARLIE, was called to make a damage assessment, and he called in 20 more rounds of HE on the target. No surveillance was received on this mission.

At 1545H elements of 2/9 observed 7 VC in the open at YD 577257. Battery "E" fired 41 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on the target, but no surveillance was given.

At 2034H Battery "E" fired 30 rounds of HE on a battalion of VC reported at YD 600260 by ARVN intelligence. The mission was unobserved.

At 2141H and 2213H Battery "E" fired 20 and 24 rounds of HE, respectively, as a counter-mortar plan drill in defense of Hill 51.

At 2333H Battery "P" expended 6 rounds of illumination in support of ARVN forces who had spotted VC in the vicinity of a bridge on Highway #1 at 621303 over the Song Bo.

7 April

At 1000H Battery "E" fired 17 rounds of WP on VC snipers firing from YD 586280. Firing ceased on this mission fired for elements of 2/9.

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At 1340H elements of 2/9 reported a column of 20 VC at YD 580-280. One round of WP and 72 of HE, fuze VT, were expended on this mission. The column was reported dispersed by the rounds, which were on target; however, no casualties were reported.

At 1818H Batteries "E" and "F" expended 15 rounds of 105mm and 12 of 155mm HE on an intelligence report from USMC forces at PK-17 of a VC battalion massing at YD 602255 and 602251. The mission was unobserved.

At 2230H elements of Battery "P" at PK-17 reported in-coming mortar rounds at their position, and fifteen minutes later they reported that ARVN forces in that position were under ground attack. The 8" howitzer at that position was employed as a direct fire weapon for counter-mortar fire, and Battery "P" at the Battalion position fired 16 rounds of WP and 12 of HE on YD 655268 at suspected enemy positions. Battery "P" also fired 18 rounds of illumination over the position between 2230 and 2400H. There were no USMC casualties.

#### 8 April

At 1650H Battery "E" expended 8 rounds of HE on 1 VC spotted at YD 575249 by elements of 2/9. Rounds were on target, but there was no other surveillance on the target.

At 1800H Battery "E" expended 40 rounds of HE on possible rice collection points reported by 4th Marines FSCC in Grid YD 5024. The missions were unobserved.

#### 9 April

At 0600H Battery "E" fired on three rice collection points in Grid YD 5024, expending 30 rounds of HE on these unobserved missions reported by 4th Marines FSCC.

At 1020H Recon patrol AMBRIDGE observed VC in a wooded area at YD 595264 firing small arms at a helicopter. Battery "E" expended 5 rounds of WP and 69 HE on the target with excellent effect, silencing the fire.

At 1212H Battery "E" fired 5 rounds of WP and 12 of HE on 5 VC spotted at YD 496333. Elements of 2/9 observing the mission reported good effect on the target and could not detect any further movement.

At 1750H Battery "D" returned to the Battalion position from its position at YD 529343.

At 1754H Battery "E" expended 62 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on 8 VC in a treeline at YD 527276, one of whom was carrying a

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mortar tube. Elements of 2/9 reported good coverage of target and were to sweep the area later.

At 2005H elements of 2/9 reported in-coming sniper fire from YD 546260. Battery "E" fired 13 rounds of HE on the target, and the firing ceased.

At 2045H Battery "E" extinguished enemy lights observed at YD 525280 with 9 rounds of HE on a mission fired in support of 2/9.

10 April

At 0800H the Battalion assumed operational control of the 1st Provisional 155mm Howitzer Battery, Battery "F" (4/12), which includes the 1st Platoon of the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP).

At 1413H Recon patrol AMBRIDGE spotted a small group of VC moving east toward PK-17 on a trail near YD 600269. Battery "D" was alerted for a fire mission and stood easy on the guns while it was decided at 3d Reconnaissance Battalion whether the target was of sufficient size to disclose to the VC that a friendly patrol was in the area by firing on them. However, by 1425H a total of 56 VC had been spotted, and Battery "D" expended 76 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on them. Rounds were reported "on the button", and 2 VC KIA were immediately observable. Brush and dense vegetation prevented further surveillance.

At 1457H 28 more VC were spotted entering the impact area of Battery "D"'s last mission, indicating that the initial target had been hit hard enough and dispersed so that word had not been passed to the next unit of the artillery threat. An artillery ambush was planned, and Battery "D", firing at AMBRIDGE's command, shot 24 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT on the target. 12 VC were killed instantly on the first volley, but smoke and vegetation prevented further accurate surveillance. Air strikes hammered the area after end of mission was given to Battery "D", and at 1605H the area was saturated with 24 rounds of HE again. No movement was observed.

At 1715H an AO, SACRED HOTEL, saw approximately 20 more VC in the same area at YD 603253, also heading east toward PK-17. Battery "D" fired 30 rounds of HE on them with a surveillance of 4 KIA (confirmed) and 5 KIA (probable).

At 1845H AMBRIDGE called for another artillery ambush at YD 600269 on 20 or more VC. Battery "D" fired 39 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on the mission with a surveillance of 20 KIA (probable).

In summary: During the course of the afternoon an estimated 120 VC or more had been spotted, all heading east toward PK-17.

sufficient size to disclose to the VC that a friendly patrol was in the area by firing on them. However, by 1425H a total of 56 VC had been spotted, and Battery "D" expended 76 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on them. Rounds were reported "on the button", and 2 VC KIA were immediately observable. Brush and dense vegetation prevented further surveillance.

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Of this potential strike force a total of 18 (confirmed) and 25 (probable) were KIA, and the rest were dispersed and disorganized, severely disrupting any VC plans for an attack on PK-17 that night.

At 1850H Battery "E" expended 72 rounds of HE covering the extraction of a Recon unit at YD 472262 that had received small arms fire. The mission was unobserved.

11 April

At 1138H Batteries "D" and "E" expended 251 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on preparation fires prior to the insertion of elements of 2/9 in Grid Squares YD 5924, 5824 and 5925. From their OP on the ridgeline overlooking the impact area, Recon patrol AMBRIDGE observed 3 VC KIA (confirmed) by artillery at YD 584247.

At 1425H Battery "E" expended 36 rounds of HE on suspected VC at YD 521265. This unobserved mission was reported by 4th Marines FSCC.

At 1555H Battery "E" fired 24 rounds of HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission emitting from YD 563383. The mission was reported by 4th Marines FSCC and was unobserved.

At 1800H Battery "E" expended 36 rounds of HE on suspected VC at YD 521265. This unobserved mission was also reported by 4th Marines FSCC.

12 April

At 0001H 4th Marines FSCC reported VC attacking the bridge over the Song O Lau (YD 509348) and its ARVN guard detachment with small arms fire and satchel charges. Battery "E" fired 24 rounds of HE as interdiction fires against the fleeing Viet Cong at Grids YD 513346, 513348, 510349, 507346 and 509349. There was no surveillance on these missions.

At 2215H Battery "D" expended 150 rounds of HE on a VC battalion reported by USMC forces at PK-17 to be on a road between YD 610394 and 640377. Surveillance was to follow; however, it was never reported to this activity.

13 April

At 1413H Battery "E" expended 2 rounds of WP and 12 of HE on VC in the open at YD 518273. There was no surveillance on this mission fired in support of 2d Battalion, 26th Marines (2/26).

At 2100H Battery "P" at PK-17 reported an accidental shooting of a member of their battery, LCpl S. M. FREDSTI. The Marine was part

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of a listening post that was fired upon by friendly troops when one of the LP tripped a flare in the outer wire of the perimeter. FREDSTI was wounded in the right thigh and hip; he died of wounds the next day after evacuation by helicopter.

14 April

At 0730H Battery "D" displaced from the Battalion position to YD 470384 to support elements of 1/9 sweeping in that area.

At 0845H Batteries "E" and "P" (PK-17) expended 16 rounds of HE and 4 of WP, 105mm, and 12 rounds of HE and 3 WP, 155mm, on preparation fires for the insertion of a Recon patrol. Grids fired were YD 515220 and 565186.

At 1200H Battery "B", 1/13 arrived at the Battalion position and occupied the area vacated by Battery "D".

At 1410H the 8" howitzer at PK-17 fired 18 rounds of HE on an enemy campsite at YD 632176. The mission was observed by Recon patrol SPRING WHEAT, but there was no surveillance.

At 1800H a USMC patrol from PK-17 found 10 fighting holes at YD 641276 and 18 holes, some freshly dug, at YD 649277. Also found were numerous empty 60mm carrying cannisters and 2 60mm rounds. Increased security at the compound and intensive patrolling of the area was planned.

15 April

At 0720H Recon patrol SUMMER SAIL reported smoke in a treeline at YD 449277. Battery "B" expended 24 rounds of HE on the target with a surveillance of excellent coverage.

At 0827H a campfire was observed by SUMMER SAIL in the same area. Battery "B" fired 9 rounds of HE at the target, but there was no surveillance.

At 1110H Battery "P" expended 6 rounds of 155mm HE on an enemy unit reported by 4th Marines FSCC at YD 451205. The mission was unobserved.

At 1205H the 8" howitzer at PK-17 expended 20 rounds of HE at YD 726306 and 734326, where ARVN intelligence reported a VC Battalion assembly area and command post. There was no surveillance.

At 1615H Battery "P" fired 30 rounds of HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission reported at YD 524414 by 4th Marines FSCC.

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[REDACTED]16 April

There were no significant missions fired during this 24 hour period.

The Battalion received a Spot/Rep from Battery "P" at PK-17 that a patrol had found 23 fighting holes at YD 649266. Most were one-man holes; two were horseshoe-shaped; and there was one large position that had directional stakes around the main hole. The compound was alerted to a possible mortar attack that night.

17 April

At 0100H Battery "P" at PK-17 reported taking at least 30 rounds of 81/82mm mortars at their position. Several airburst were observed at uniform height above the ground -- the second time that that position has had air bursts during mortar attacks. There were no USMC casualties. The 8" howitzer and 155mm howitzer shot direct fire as counter-mortar fire, and a 155mm howitzer from the Battalion position fired 14 rounds of HE, fuzes Quick and VT at YD 645267. 13 rounds of illumination were also expended to counter against a suspected ground attack; however, no attack developed.

At 1000H an ARVN patrol from PK-17 found one 82mm round at YD 645262, and results of effective counter-mortar fires were in evidence. PK-17 reported good shooting by Battery "P" from the Battalion position.

At 1235H Battery "E" expended 4 rounds of WP and 48 of HE on anti-aircraft fire from YD 515265. Rounds were on target, and ground fire ceased on this mission reported by an AO, RED MARKER.

At 2150H Battery "B" fired 54 rounds of HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission reported at YD 539217 by 4th Marines FSCC.

18 April

At 0815H Battery "P" expended 11 rounds of HE on 4 VC with weapons observed at YD 608231 by Recon patrol DATELINE. 4 KIA (probable) was the surveillance.

At 0935H an AO, SACRED HOTEL, observed a VC truck on a valley trail at YD 492253. 4 rounds of HE and 2 of WP were fired on the truck before the mission was cancelled due to air traffic in the area.

At 1225H Battery "P" expended 4 rounds of HE on 2 VC at YD 603-233 who were moving toward Recon patrol DATELINE's position. Rounds were right on target, and the patrol reported 2 VC KIA (probable).

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ENCLOSURE 121

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At 1620H another AO, SACRED WHISKEY, observed for Battery "E", which fired on the truck attacked earlier at YD 492253. 40 rounds of HE and 8 of WP were expended on the mission, and surveillance was that the truck was badly damaged.

At 1940H Battery "P" fired 10 rounds of 155mm HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission reported by 4th Marines FSCC to be at YD 499201.

19 April

At 1228H Battery "E" expended 8 rounds of WP and 44 of HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on 6 VC on a trail at YD 518243. 6 more VC appeared coming down the trail during the adjustment phase, which was prolonged due to the hilly terrain and the inexperience of the FO, who was a member of Recon patrol AMBRIDGE. The 12 VC disappeared into dense vegetation before fire-for-effect; however, the FO brought a volley in on their estimated position. There was no surveillance.

At 1345H Battery "E" fired 22 rounds of HE on 6 VC in a treeline at YD 578275 spotted by elements of 2/26. There was no surveillance on the mission.

At 1150H Battery "B" moved from its position in the Battalion area to YD 466375; and at 1455H the battery reported laid and ready to fire.

At 1450H Battery "D" returned to the Battalion position.

At 1520H Recon patrol AMBRIDGE spotted anti-aircraft fire coming from YD 518243. Battery "E" expended 20 rounds of HE on the target. Only moderate coverage was reported, but the anti-aircraft fire ceased.

At 1637H Battery "P" expended 3 rounds of 155mm HE and 3 of WP on in-coming small arms fire reported by Recon patrol STAIN SPOT to be coming from YD 446214. VC firing ceased, and end of mission was given by the patrol.

20 April

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At 1500H Battery "D", 2/12 displaced from the Battalion position to return to Dong Ha. It was replaced by Battery "H", 3/12.

At 1600H the Battalion assumed operational control of Battery "L", 4/12, and 5 of the Battery's 155mm howitzers(SP) arrived on position that afternoon. They were not emplaced, however.

At 1840H the Battalion received word from 4th Marines FSCC of some 800 VC with mortars and recoilless rifles, also with parties of civilian stretcher-bearers, located in the Co Bi/Thanh Tan Valley. (2)

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Batteries "E" and "H" expended 390 rounds of HE on assembly areas through the valley at Grids YD 599265, 540255, 565265, 565240 and 506231. At 1915H an AO, who had been called into the area for observation was damaged by ground fire from the vicinity of YD 5926. Batteries "E" and "H" expended 322 rounds of HE.

At 2015H Battery "E" expended 36 rounds of HE as reinforcing fires for ARVN artillery firing on a suspected VC battalion at YD 606394.

At 2225H Battery "E" expended 117 rounds of HE on anti-aircraft fire directed against a flare ship coming from YD 557247. The mission was unobserved.

21 April

At 0805H Battery "H" fired 33 rounds of HE and 39 rounds of WP on VC snipers at YD 596274. Surveillance was excellent target coverage and sniper fire silenced.

At 1115H the Battalion Commander departed the Battalion position on a reconnaissance of a forward artillery position in conjunction with the up-coming Operation SHAWNEE. The position is located at YD 4527.

At 1120H Recon patrol AMBRIDGE reported sounds of construction and laughter at YD 515202. Battery "P" expended a total of 2 WP and 28 HE on two missions fired into that area, but there was no surveillance other than good coverage of target due to heavy canopy.

At 1245H an AO, TRAIL-35, reported 5 VC in the open at YD 535397. Battery "H" expended 6 WP and 30 HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on the target with a surveillance of 1 KIA (confirmed).

At 1245H the Battalion Commander returned from the forward position reconnaissance to the Battalion CP.

At 1500H the Battalion Commander again departed the CP for the new position.

At 1700H one 155mm (towed) from Battery "P" arrived at the forward position in the vicinity YD 450270 and was emplaced there.

At 2136 elements of 2/9 located on Hill 51 to the south of the Battalion CP reported a secondary explosion from an H&I fired from the Battalion position. Battery "H" fired 12 rounds of HE on YD 554238, but there was no additional surveillance.

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ENCLOSURE

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22 April

At 0900H technical control of Batteries "E", 2/12 and "B", 1/13 was assumed by Battery "E", and the Battalion FDC began its move to the forward area (YD 486257). Batteries "E" and "B" remained at YD 538322.

At 1200H the command group from Headquarters Battery displaced forward to YD 486275 along with four 155mm Howitzers (SP) from "L", 4/12, four 155mm Howitzers (TD) from "P", 4/12, six 105mm Howitzers (TD) from "H", 3/12 and two 81 Howitzers (SP) of the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery.

The Battalion assumed tactical and technical control of the Batteries at the forward artillery position at 1700H. The 8" retained their own technical control.

At 2035H Battery "E" expended 289 rounds of HE on a company of VC located at YD 493237. The target reported by 4th Marines FSCC was unobserved.

23 April

At 0840H Battery "B" fired upon a suspected VC ambush site located at YD 536267. There were 56 rounds of HE fuzes VT and Quick expended on the mission fired in support of 2/9 elements. Good coverage of the target area was reported.

At 0940H Batteries "H", "P", and "L" expended 143 rounds of 105mm HE, fuzes Quick and VT, and 124 rounds of 155mm HE, fuzes Quick and VT, on a Landing Zone preparation at grids YD 4420 and 4722. The missions were unobserved.

At 1255H Battery "P" fired 30 rounds of WP and 30 rounds of HE on a VC firing at a helicopter from YD 508213. Excellent coverage of the target was reported and the anti-aircraft fire ceased. The mission was fired for the Recon patrol, AMBRIDGE.

At 1430H the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (-) (SP) fired 9 rounds of HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission reported by 4th Marines at YD 371179.

At 1600H the command group and two additional guns of 1st 8" arrived at the forward position.

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24 April

At 1400H Battery "H" fired 162 rounds of HE on a suspected VC position at YD 466193, 473198, and 430190. The mission was fired on reports from 4th Marines FSCC were unobserved.

At 1417H Battery "H" fired 18 rounds of HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission reported by 4th Marines FSCC at YD 409276.

At 1455H Battery "H" expended 24 rounds of HE fuzes Quick and VT on 21 VC spotted at YD 579258 by the Recon patrol PRIMNESS I. One adjusting round brought a surveillance of 1 KIA (confirmed), but further observation was denied by heavy foliage.

At 1605H Battery "H" was alerted for a mission on the same group of VC who had appeared at YD 579258. The VC disappeared into the heavy foliage before clearance was obtained, and no rounds were fired.

25 April

At 0255H 3/12's radio relay team located atop Hill 674 (YD 515219) reported 7 rounds of in-coming 60mm mortar fire. Counter-mortar fires were begun by Battery "H" at YD 495230 and continued through the early morning. A total of 26 rounds were expended on possible mortar positions in the area of Hill 674. Two members of the USMC infantry security unit were reported WIA in the attack.

At 0800H Engineers sweeping the road from the Battalion's forward position to the 4th Marines CP/LSA area at YD 529312 uncovered a land mine at YD 517296. The mine consisted of an M1A1 anti-tank mine with a 105mm round attached, rigged for pressure detonation.

At 1430H the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery fired 9 rounds of HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission reported by 4th Marines FSCC at YD 271179.

At 1650H an AO, SACRED LIMA, called a mission on suspected VC snipers at YD 569245. Battery "L" fired 37 rounds of HE on the target but there was no additional surveillance.

At 1715H Battery "M" fired 12 rounds of HE on a VC/NVA radio transmission reported by 4th Marines FSCC at 409211.

At 1920H Battery "B" fired 8 rounds of WP and 25 rounds of HE, fuzes VT, on a VC in a tree line at YD 566270. There was no surveillance.

ENCLOSURE (2)  
CONFIDENTIAL

Battery "L" expended 30 rounds of HE and 8 WP rounds in a defensive concentration for elements of 2/4. All rounds were reported on target.

At 2150H Battery "L" fired 18 rounds on a VC who was carrying a 57mm recoilless rifle at YD 444168. The mission fired for elements of 2/4 could not be observed due to darkness.

28 April

At 0200H the Battalion rear at Pim Bar. (YD 885127) received approximately 30 rounds of in-coming enemy mortar fire. 8 WIA USMC casualties were taken by 3/12, but none were critical.

At 0642H Battery "P" expended 2 rounds of HE and 5 rounds of WP firing in a defensive concentration for the Recon patrol, GREAT DIVIDE at YD 524154. The patrol reported good coverage of the target.

At 1200H Battery "L" fired one round of HE for a defensive concentration for the Recon patrol, AMBRIDGE 2, at YD 393222. The rounds were reported on the target.

29 April

At 0900H Battery "L" fired 17 rounds direct fire on 4 suspected VC at YD 460254. The target was reported by an OP at 3/12's Battalion position. Rounds were reported on target but no casualties were observed.

At 1200H Battery "B" fired 46 rounds of HE fuse VT on 2 VC atop a ridge-line at YD 573287. Elements of 2/3 reported 2 enemy WIA (probable).

At 1225H elements of 2/3 sighted a VC company at YD 533233. Battery "B" expended 105 rounds of HE fuses VT and Quick. There was no surveillance because the VC disbursed into heavy foliage.

At 1930H 3/12's Battalion position located at YD 483276 received approximately 50 rounds of 81/82mm mortar in-coming. There were 22 friendly WIA's, however none were critical. Battery "H" fired counter-mortar plans and Battery "L", Battery "P", and 8" fired direct fire on suspected VC mortar positions. The 8" expended 40 rounds, Battery "P" expended 20 rounds, Battery "L" expended 82 rounds and Battery "H" expended 800 rounds, all Batteries fired HE.

Between 1950H and 2030H Batteries "E" and "B" expended 556 rounds of HE fuses Quick and VT on various Counter-mortar plans fired in support of the Battalion forward position (YD 483276).

Battery "L" expended 36 rounds of HE and 8 WP rounds in fire support for elements of 2/4. All rounds were reported on target.

At 2155H Battery "L" fired 18 rounds on a VC who was carrying a 57mm recoilless rifle at YD 444168. The mission fired for elements of 2/4 could not be observed due to darkness.

28 April

At 0200H the Battalion rear at Pim Bai (YD 885127) received approximately 30 rounds of in-coming enemy mortar fire. 8 WIA USMC casualties were taken by 3/12, but none were critical.

At 0642H Battery "P" expended 2 rounds of HE and 5 rounds of WP firing in a defensive concentration for the Recon patrol, GREAT DIVIDE at YD 524154. The patrol reported good coverage of the target.

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UNCLASSIFIED

26 APRIL

At 0757H Batteries "H", "I", and "P" expended 12 rounds of 105mm HE and 16 of 155mm HE on a VC battalion assembly area reported by 2/4 F3CC. The mission was unobserved.

At 1033H the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery fired 13 rounds of HE on an unknown number of VC reported by the Recon patrol SUMMER SAIL at YD 405155. There was no surveillance.

At 1114H SUMMER SAIL again called for 8", this time on approximately a squad of VC, who were trying to surround the patrol. 65 rounds of HE were fired by 1st 8". Excellent coverage of the target was reported, but there was no other surveillance.

At 1225H Battery "L" fired 31 rounds of HE on a bunker and VC activity at YD 508150. Good coverage of the target was the surveillance on this mission fired for the Recon patrol GREAT DIVIDE.

At 1700H Battery "L" fired 2 rounds of HE for a defensive concentration adjustment. The mission was fired at YD 542183 for the Recon patrol SPICE BERRY.

At 1715H Battery "L" expended 6 WP rounds for another defensive concentration at YD 545189. This mission was also fired for SPICE BERRY.

At 1935H Battery "L" expended 16 HE rounds on a VC harboring area at YD 517150. There was no surveillance on this mission fired for the Recon patrol GREAT DIVIDE.

At 2005H Battery "E" expended 149 rounds of HE fuses Quick on a VC company located at YD 520275. The mission was reported by the Battalion Operations Officer. There was no surveillance.

At 0740H the 8" Battery fired 6 rounds of HE on suspected VC movement at YD 405155. Because of the low ceiling observation was obscure and no surveillance was given by the Recon patrol SUMMER SAIL.

At 0953H Battery "P" expended 10 HE rounds on a well used VC trail at YD 75226. Excellent coverage of this target was the surveillance. The mission was called by av 40, GAT KILLER 20.

At 1225H Battery "L" fired 31 rounds of HE on a bunker and VC activity at YD 508150. Good coverage of the target was the surveillance on this mission fired for the Recon patrol GREAT DIVIDE.

At 1700H Battery "L" fired 2 rounds of HE for a defensive concentration adjustment. The mission was fired at YD 542183 for the Recon patrol SPICE BERRY.

UNCLASSIFIED  
ENCLOSURE (2)

S-1 MATTERS

1. Personnel and Administration

This Battalion has maintained an operating level at approximately 89% of its authorized T/O strength during the month of April.

	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Officer	44	34	77.3
SANVO's	32	36	112.5
Enlisted	502	516	102.8

This battalion joined 8 Officers and 33 Enlisted personnel of various ranks and MOS's while rotating 7 Officers and 31 Enlisted to CONUS. Transferred 1 Officer and 1 Enlisted out of the battalion to other units of 3d Marine Division. This battalion further had 2 Enlisted KIA's and 2 Officers and 26 Enlisted WIA during the month of April.

2. Morale and Discipline

The state of Morale remained at a high level consistent with the conditions under which the unit has served. The R&R program continues to be a great morale booster, however there is still a few problems with manning the marines at the R&R Center in Danang. This I believe is due to the fact that the R&R Quotas are always given to the battalion at the end of each month thereby not leaving much time for proper control. The R&R Center has been contacted and they have stated that they are working on the problem and are going to try to get the quotas out by the 15th of each month. The PX in the Operation area is limited as to what it carries and there is still a shortage of different brands of cigarettes. The supply of beer and soda was adequate. Ice for cooling the beer and soda or for cold water was inadequate. There were two office hours conducted during April for violation of Article 109 and Article 113 respectfully. There were no court-martials conducted. Two visits were made to visit the sick or wounded. No Medical Doctor nor Chaplain was assigned to this battalion for April.

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2. Morale and Discipline

The state of Morale remained at a high level consistent with

ENCLOSURE (3)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

S-2 MATTERS  
INTELLIGENCE

The first five days up until the 5th of April the S-2 was involved in Operation CHINOOK II. The INTELLIGENCE Chief daily procure from S-3 of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines a daily report of friendly troop movements and from the S-2 of that command a report of the enemy situation.

The 15th of April marked the start of Operation BIG HORN which lasted until the 21st of April and the onset of Operation SHAWNEE. During Operation BIG HORN and Operation SHAWNEE the S-2 section was firmly involved keeping a close watch on enemy activity.

Operation SHAWNEE was a search and destroy operation of Base Area 114. Enemy contact was negligible but large base areas, supplies and uniforms were destroyed. Artillery S-2 was mainly concerned with establishing counter mortar plans and reconnaissance of the area for mortar positions.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

MISSIONS FIRED	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
H&I'S	154	115	147	118	233	133	188	154	176	277
FPE	21	17	26	14	23	16	26	20	17	28
Total Unobs	175	132	173	128	306	149	214	174	193	305
Obs	17	13	2	9	19	19	13	14	21	17
GRAND TOTAL	192	145	175	137	325	168	227	188	214	322

AMMO EXPENDED										
105 HE	364	509	767	696	707	684	687	404	546	832
WP	83	30	7	33		73	72	37	12	4
III	19	10	1	1		12	3	2	13	11
155 HE										101
WP										7
III										7
90mm HE	101	118	63	131	113		18		102	98
8" How HE										6
GRAND TOTAL	567	667	838	868	875	769	780	443	673	1090

SURVEILLANCE										
KIA (C)										18
KIA (P)					1	5				25

MISSIONS FIRED	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
H&I'S	188	142	216	178	171	292	318	321	338	189
FPE	30	22	14	29	25	27	26	38	33	35
Total Unobs	218	164	230	209	196	319	344	359	371	224
Obs	6	6	11	6	3	6	7	8	12	3
GRAND TOTAL	224	170	241	215	204	325	351	367	383	227

AMMO EXPENDED										
105 HE	661	595	188	314	461	505	625	378	528	128
WP	1		2	7		12	4	24	14	8
III	2	49	18	2	2	2	1	3	7	8
155 HE	44	182	191	315	157	169	115	118	139	126
WP	1		3					2	4	4
III	19	4	21	8		2				7
90mm HE	26						15	59	36	32
8" How HE	11	19	7	58	10	13	15	35	4	4
GRAND TOTAL	705	649	421	699	638	691	765	584	763	132

SURVEILLANCE										
KIA (C)	3									7
KIA (P)									6	102

GRAND TOTAL	367	567	838	868	875	769				
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SURVEILLANCE

KIA (C)

KIA (P)

ENCLOSURE

	1st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th
MISSIONS FIRED										
H&L	274	280	272	352	352	152	80	191	171	
FFE	22	14							8	
TOTAL UNBS	301	87							109	171
OBS	14	8							11	15
GRAND TOTAL	315	95	301	278	368	303	172	85	120	186
AMMO EXPENDED										
105 HE	654	668	439	611	426	236	70		1631	169
WP	52	7	31		14					4
ILL	26									6
155 HE	106	71	176	122	355	227	120	55	116	89
WP	2		1		21	15	13	5	0	7
ILL										16
90mm HE	90									
8" HOW HE		0	6	6	102	246	196	37	74	119
GRAND TOTAL	930	746	647	744	718	868	402	431	1822	500
SURVEILLANCE										
KIA(C)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
KIA(P)										5

MISSIONS FIRED	TOTALS
H&L	6152
FFE	566
TOTAL UNBS	6718
OBS	304
GRAND TOTAL	2922
AMMO EXPENDED	
105 HE	16587
WP	530
ILL	310
155 HE	1235
WP	62
ILL	16
90mm HE	870
8" HOW HE	780
GRAND TOTAL	23415
SURVEILLANCE	
KIA(C)	27
KIA(P)	42

ENCLOSURE (5)

Chronology for April

## S-4 Section

A. Logistics. The overall logistics situation remains fair and the supply situation remains fair. There are 2576 requisitions outstanding. Of these 63 are priority two and 270 priority five. During April 388 requisitions were filled giving a 16% level of requisitions filled.

B. Maintenance.

1. The maintenance situation has apparently improved during the month of April since the percentage of deadline has dropped from 32% at end of the month to 4% at the end of April. In actuality this is not a reflection of improvement but rather the result of the change of control of certain Batteries.

During April 3/12 gained control of Bravo Battery 1/13 and Hotel Battery 3/12 both of which have no vehicles on deadline and lost control of Echo Battery 2/12 who had a very high deadline rate.

These control changes result in 3/12 presently having 54 prime movers of which 1 is on second echelon deadline for tie rod ends and 2 are on third echelon deadline, 1 waiting for a new engine the other waiting for a new differential.

Although this Battalions present deadline rate is extremely low this does not dispose of the maintenance problem areas which were elaborated on in last months report and which are reproduced here.

(e) The primary causes of equipment failure are:

(1) A requirement for continuous support of extended field operations which on occasion precludes scheduled preventive maintenance.

(2) Lack of technical knowledge on the part of OJT mechanics assigned to the motor transport sections of Batteries.

(3) The fact that some Batteries are below their T/O strength of 3516's.

(4) The fact that authorized vehicular wash points are nonexistent in the Phu Bai area. This makes both under-carriage repair and lubrication difficult and time consuming.

(5) The unavailability of second echelon repair parts, particularly DK items such as torque rods and brake shoes.

(6) The unavailability of third echelon repair parts, such as engines, transmissions and differentials necessitating long periods of deadline for vehicles sent to FLSC-A.

C. Food Service. Rations served during this reporting period have been approximately 65% A rations, 20% B rations and 15% C rations. C rations are being used by the Battalion forward position on Operation Shawnee.

D. N/A

E. N/A

F. N/A

G. Water. Water is being received by the forward CP from the LSA Water Point in the Operation Shawnee area and by the rear CP from the Phu Bai Water Point.

H. Motor Transport. The motor transport status is good and is elaborated on in paragraph B above.

I. Embarkation. Up to date embarkation data continues to held at Battalion level.

J. Hospitalization and Evacuation.

1. There were 275 treatments of military personnel rendered at the Battalion Aid Station during April.

2. There were 28 WIA's and no KIA's in this Battalion during April. The names of the personnel wounded in action are listed else where in this chronology.

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## COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

The communications section conducted normal field operations in support of the Battalion during the month of May. This period covers the concluding days of Operation SHAWNEE and the present Operation CHOCTAW.

Since the conclusion of Operation SHAWNEE, all equipment has been complete PM'd, work orders have been made up on all items needing repair, and a complete inventory accounting for all equipment was held. The inventory was aided by the return to the Battalion of one NGF team which held the largest amount of equipment on temporary loan.

The following equipment requested by the 12th Marines for a composite artillery battery was invoiced to them.

2 AN/PRC - 25 and 3 TA - 312

The following number of personnel have been transferred out of the Comm Section.

1	Radio Operator	2531	to 12th Marines
2	"	"	2533 to "B", 1/13
3	"	"	2531 to NGF Team, 3/12

However, adequate personnel are on hand to meet operational requirements. Adequate stocks of consumable items are on hand, and replacement quantities are on order.

Operation SHAWNEE, Phase II of the operation was much the same as the first. However, a greater distance was involved between the forward artillery position and the Regimental FSCC, which made communications between the two completely inadequate at various times. Clearance for fire missions had to be relayed, which took entirely too much time. A possible solution to this problem when the operating Battalion and artillery are so far removed from the Regiment is to have the FSCC come to the field with the artillery units.

ENCLOSURE (7)