

BATTERY K  
4th Battalion, 13th Marines  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

RKP:jm  
005750  
30 Dec 1968  
Ser: 001A 00969

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 December 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) 1stMarDivO 5750.2\_  
(d) RegtO 5750.2\_

Encl: (1) Btry "K", 4thBn, 13thMar, Command Chronology for the subject period

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. This page is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

*Btry "K", 4/13*

*R. K. Petersen*  
R. K. PETERSEN

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005750  
30 Dec 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 December 1968  
Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines

INDEX

PART I..... Organizational Data  
PART II..... Narrative Summary  
PART III..... Sequential Listing of Significant Events

ENCLOSURE (1)

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005750  
30 Dec 1968~~SECRET~~PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation: Commander  
 Battery "K", 4th Battalion, R. K. PETERSEN, Captain  
 13th Marines, 9th Marine  
 Amphibious Brigade, FMFPac  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602
2. Location:  
 An Hoa, RVN, at 86801.7 47258.5, Dai Loc, Saet 6640 IV,  
 Series L7014, AMS
3. Battery Officers:
- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Captain R. K. PETERSEN         | COMMANDING OFFICER          |
| First Lieutenant L. E. CRAIG   | EXECUTIVE OFFICER           |
| First Lieutenant R. G. GIESEN  | ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER |
| First Lieutenant A. L. HARDING | FIRE DIRECTION OFFICER      |
4. Average Monthly Strength:
- | <u>USMC</u> | <u>USN</u> | <u>OTHER</u> |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 125         | 3          | 0            |

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005750  
30 Dec 1968~~SECRET~~  
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During the reporting period, the task organization for combat changed several times and the Battery accomplished three displacements.

On 1 December 1968, Btry "K" displaced from its static, non-operational position at Hill 34, DaNang, RVN, and conducted a Motor march to An Hoa, arriving there, at 1330, 2 December and immediately occupied a firing position at 86801.7 47258.5. The battery remained in a non-operational status, constructing firing positions, billeting and bunker facilities, utilizing hand tools due to the lack of engineer support, at 0900, 4 December, firing commenced in general support of Operation Meade River.

At 0001, 7 December, upon activation of Task Force Yankee, Battery "K" commenced firing in support of operation Taylor Common, Task organized as direct support, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines.

At 0800, 9 December, the battery became OpCon to 11th Marines, General Support, Task Force Yankee. Preparation and improvement of positions continue throughout the operation.

At 1123, 10 December, Battery "K" (-), displaced and accomplished a motor march to a position in the vicinity of Khung, arriving there at 1325. The motor march was conducted with the assistance of an engineer mine sweep team, and one Platoon, Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, as the security element. A mobile fire support base was immediately constructed at 8419 4188, and LZ Marne was established in the immediate vicinity.

At this time only four Howitzers remained operational, therefore, two Howitzers remained at An Hoa for maintenance and were dropped to the operational control of Battery "Lima Yankee".

Immediately after off-loading of vehicles at mobile FSB, all vehicles were returned to An Hoa, to bring additional Class V supplies forward, and construction of firing positions commenced immediately.

Due to the determination by 5th Marines, of the high probability of ambushes and mining of access routes to the Battery

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005750  
30 Dec 1968**DECLASSIFIED**  
SECRET

position, overland routes were closed, thereby negating the possibility of the battery accomplishing its own resupply. Throughout the occupation of this position, resupply was accomplished entirely by helicopter, resulting, at times, of critical shortages of Class I and Class V supplies. MCI's were at one point, reduced to one MCI per day.

At 1600, 10 December, Battery "K", with 2d Battalion, 11th Marines returned to OpCon, First Field Artillery Group.

The battery rear, located at 1st Battalion, 13th Marines Command Post, DaNang, completed displacement to the Battery rear position located at An Hoa.

At 0001, 11 December, Battery "K", was re-task organized as General Support, 3rd Marines, and OpCon to 1st Battalion, 12th Marines.

At 1800, 16 December, the battery again became OpCon to the First Field Artillery Group and at 1800, 17 December the organization for combat returned to General Support, Task Force Yankee.

Construction and improvement of positions continued throughout the occupation of the mobile fire support base without engineer assistance.

At 1105, 22 December, CSMO was received from First FAG, and departed mobile FSB at 1330, Arrived at 86801.7 47258.5, An Hoa at 1530, and reported operational at 1600. Commenced improvement of Battery position without engineer assistance.

Observed Christmas Truce from 1800 24 December through 1800 25 December without ~~incide~~ incident. Culminated truce at 1801 25 December with Battery TOT on a suspected enemy position.

MISSIONS FIRED DURING DECEMBER  
TO 1200, 29 December

<u>OBSERVED</u>	<u>UNOBSERVED</u>	<u>H&amp;I's</u>	=	<u>TOTAL MISSIONS</u>
96	101	82		279

4 of 7

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005750  
31 Dec 68

AMMUNITION EXPENDED - DECEMBER  
THROUGH 1200, 29 DECEMBER  
TYPE

<u>HE</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>ILL</u>	<u>FC</u>	=	<u>TOTAL</u>
3480	164	42	148		3834

ROUNDS OBSERVED	1918
ROUNDS UNOBSERVED	1532
H&I's	+ 384
TOTAL	<u>3834</u> ROUNDS

The following positive surveillance was received for missions fired during December. It should be noted that large quantities of munitions were expended on TOT's and contact missions in conjunction with other units, for which no surveillance was received. These include, but are not limited to, two, 200 NVA in open, 1, 100 NVA in open, 2, 40 NVA in open, 2, VC Company in open, etc.

<u>KIA</u>	<u>PKIA</u>	<u>MORTARS</u>	<u>STRUCTURES</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>
57	10	1(Prob)	<u>BUNKERS</u>	<u>EXPLOSIONS</u>
			6	1

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30 Dec 1968**DECLASSIFIED**PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Topicsa. Personnel Administration:(1) GAINS and LOSES

(a) Administrative Loses	28
(b) Battle KIA's	0
(c) Battle WIA's	0
(d) Battle WIANE(s)	0
(e) Battle MIA's	0
(f) Battle POW's	0
(g) Non Battle Casualties	3
(h) Replacements	28
(i) Net Losses	3

b. Intelligence:

(1) Mobile FSB: During occupation of FSB Marne, Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines provided the bulk of the perimeter security, augmented by LP's manned by Battery personnel. Direct fire was utilized for H&I of immediate vicinity on suspected approach routes, and for self-illumination. One on-call illumination was called in and maintained to supplement 81 MM and self-illumination capabilities.

(2) An Hoa: One sector of the perimeter defense on the An Hoa combat base is manned by this Battery, normally requiring 4 personnel, however, on return to An Hoa on 22 December, with the displacement of one of the Direct Support Batteries to a Fire Base, requirements have increased to 10 personnel.

(3) General: Intelligence reports are received by the Battery via First Field Artillery Group, and the collection effort is normally conducted by the security element.

c. Organization and Operation:

(1) Task Organization. At the end of this reporting

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005750  
30 Dec 1968SECRET

period, the Battery is under the administrative control of First Battalion, 13th Marines, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, and under the Operational Control of First Field Artillery Group.

(2) Operation: The Battery retains all battery level operational capabilities, including Fire Direction, Resupply and 1st and 2nd Echelon Maintenance. Limited Third Echelon Maintenance is available through Logistics Support Unit, An Hoa.

d. Training: Due to the heavy loss of experienced personnel of the Battery, through the draft of eligible personnel for the SLF, retraining of inexperienced personnel and cross-training of experienced personnel has, by necessity, assumed increased importance, continuous efforts are directed in this encounter, and are producing positive results.

Tactical operations, training including weapons familiarization is continuous. During the occupation of mobile FSP, valuable training was conducted in direct firing with the 155mm Howitzer, small arms firing and familiarization with the M-79, 40mm Grenade Launcher.

e. Logistics Equipment and Supply. At the end of the subject reporting period, the battery had 4 Howitzers operational. Two Howitzer's are non-operational for lack of a panoramic sights, due to floating recticals.

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