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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/26
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/MJA/tad
5750
15 July 1969
Ser: 003A19669

[redacted] (GROUP 4 DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 June to 30 June 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5720.2A
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) BrigO 5750.C
(d) RegtO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Battalion Landing Team 1/26 Command Chronology
a/a, Opn BOLD PURSUIT, 27 Jun - 6 Jul 69

1. In accordance with provisions of reference (a), (b), (c), and (d) enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

G. C. Kliefoth
G. C. KLIEFOTH

DISTRIBUTION:

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BRT 1/26

Jun 1969

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 June to 30 June 1969

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PART 1

ORGANIZATION DATE

1. DESIGNATION.

Battalion Landing Team 1/26	LtCol. G. C. KLIEFOTH	1-30 June 69

TASK ORGANIZATION

H&S Company (-) (Rein)	Capt. J. P. WILSON	1-16 June 69
	Capt. C. M. REGAN	17-30 June 69

Det. Hq. Bn., 5th Mar Div
Det. Hq. Co., 26th Marines (Radio Relay)
Det. 15th Dent. Co., 9th MAB

Company A (Rein)	Capt. L. C. VETTER Jr.	1-28 June 69
	1stLt. B. A. STEVENSON	29-30 June 69

Co. A
Det. H&S Co.

FO Team, Section, 81mm Mortars
Det. Comm Plt.
Sect. 4, 106mm RR Plt.
3rd Squad, 2nd Section, Flame Plt.
Det. Med. Plt.
S-2 Scout

FO Team "A" Btry 1/13
Det. 1st Plt., Co. A, 5th Engr Bn.
Det. 2nd Plt., Co. A, 5th SP Bn. (HST)

Company B (Rein)	Capt. C. M. REGAN	1-16 June 69
	1stLt. J. E. HENNESSEY	17-30 June 69

Company B
Det. H&S Co.

FO Team, Section, 81mm Mortars
Det. Comm Plt.
Det. Med. Plt.
S-2 Scout

FO Team, "A" Btry., 1/13
Det. 1st Plt., Co. A, 5th Engr Bn.
Sect. 3, 106mm RR Plt.
4th Squad, Section 2, Flame Plt.
Det. 2nd Plt., Co. A, 5th SP Bn. (HST)

Company C (Rein)	Capt. H. W. REED	1-30 June 69

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Co. C
Det. H&S Co.

FO Team, Section, 81mm Mortars
Det. Comm Plt.
Det. Med. Plt.
S-2 Scout

FO Team "A" Btry 1/13
Det. 1st Plt., Co A, 5th Engr Bn.
Sect. 1, 106mm RR Plt.
1st Squad, 1st Section, Flame Section
Det. 2nd Plt., Co. A, 5th SP Bn. (HST)

Company D (Rein)	Capt. W. W. MOORHEAD JR.	1-30 June 69

Co. D
Det. H&S Co.

FO Team, Section, 81mm Mortars
Det. Comm Plt.
Sect. 2, 106mm RR Plt.
2nd Squad, 1st Section, Flame Plt.

FO Team "A" Btry 1/13
Det. 1st Plt., Co. A, 5th Engr Bn.
Det. 2nd Plt., Co. A, 5th SP Bn. (HST)

81mm Mortar Plt. (-)	1stLt. E. P. ARNOLDS-PATRON	1-30 June 6
106mm RR Plt. (-)	GySgt. V. E. COVINGTON	1-24 June 69
	2ndLt. L. F. NASON	25-30 June 69
"A" Btry 1/13	Capt. J. B. CREEL Jr.	1-30 June 69
"W" Btry 1/11	1stLt. C. A. BELLIS Jr.	1-30 June 69
1st Plt. Co A, 5th AmTrac Bn. (Rein)	1stLt. J. T. BARTEE	1-30 June 69
1st Plt, Co A, 5th AT Bn. (Rein)	2ndLt. J. M. YAEGER	1-30 June 69
1st Plt. Co A, 5th Engr Bn. (-)	1stLt. P. J. SHEA	1-30 June 69
1st Plt, Co A, 5th MT Bn.	1stLt. L. P. MALINOWSKI	1-30 June 69
1st Plt, Co A, 5th Recon Bn.	1stLt. W. B. COE	1-30 June 69
2nd Plt, Co A, 5th SP Bn. (-) (Rein)	1stLt. J. B. QUINN	1-30 June 69
1st Plt, Co A, 5th TK Bn. (Rein)	1stLt. J. E. VOSS	1-13 June 69
	1stLt. C. S. CERTAIN	14-30 June 69

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1st Clearing Plt., Co. D, 5th Med. Bn.	Lt. R. P. KING	1-30 June 69
LSU	1stLt. W. DOMKE	1-30 June 69

2. LOCATION. a. 1-8 June - Danang RVN
b. 9-30 June - USS Cleveland

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

Executive Officer	Maj. D. B. TOWNSEND	1-30 June 69
S-1/Adjutant	Capt. J. P. WILSON	1-30 June 69
Assistant S-1	2ndLt. J. C. HOOGERWERFF	1-20 June 69
	2ndLt. M. B. GERITY	21-30 June 69
S-2	1stLt. B. P. O'CONNOR	1-30 June 69
S-3	Maj. E. C. O'BYRNE	1-30 June 69
S-3A	1stLt. M. J. ARENT	1-30 June 69
S-4	1stLt. B. A. STEVENSON	1-28 June 69
	1stLt. J. B. SHEA	29-30 June 69

4. AVERAGE STRENGTH.

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
63	1746	8	93

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 June 1969, BLT 1/26 assumed a blocking position west of the Dodge City Area and along the western portion of Go Noi Island in conjunction with Phase II of Operation Pipeston Canyon. The block was to be maintained while elements of the 1st Marines, ARVN Rangers and the ROKMC conducted an attack to the South toward Go Noi Island. The BLT maintained the effective block on routes of enemy egress until 08 June 1969 when a tactical withdrawal was conducted to assigned ARG Shipping to prepare for further operations.

While embarked, an extensive training program was initiated. Emphasis was placed on training in mine and boobytrap warfare, a major cause of casualties during Operation Pipeston Canyon. Every effort was made to increase the operational effectiveness of the BLT.

On 27 June 1969, Barrier Island once again became the scene of BLT Operations. In a combined helicopter and amphibious surface assault, the BLT landed on Barrier Island to conduct thorough search and clear missions as part of Operation Bold Pursuit. As in previous operations in that area, only minor enemy contact was encountered and elements of the BLT concentrated their activities on searching inhabitable areas for caches, bunkers, and information of military value and denying the enemy access into the area.

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PART III

LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. MISSIONS/OPERATIONS.

a. Major Operations: The Battalion Landing Team participated in three (3) Major Operations during this reporting period.

(1) Pipestone Canyon Phase II: 1 - 8 June 1969.
(2) Gallant Leader II: 8 - 9 June 1969.
(3) Bold Pursuit: 27 - 6 July 1969.

b. Command Relations.

(1) Throughout Operation Pipestone Canyon, Battalion Landing Team 1/26 was OpCon to the 1st Marine Division, 1 - 8 June.

(2) From 8 - 30 June, the BLT was OpCon to CTG 79.4.

c. Combat Missions Assigned,

(1) Pipestone Canyon Phase II. In close coordination and cooperation with ARVN and ROKMC forces conduct Phase II of Operation Pipestone Canyon to find, fix, and destroy enemy forces, harbor sites and fortifications; to open Route 4 from Dien Ban west to the intersection with the railroad berm at (AT 992587),

(2) Gallant Leader II, Conduct heliborne and surface backload of BLT 1/26 to prepare for further operations,

(3) Bold Pursuit. BLT 1/26 will execute a heliborne and surface amphibious assault in AOA. Conduct search and clear operations in AOA. Locate, kill or capture all enemy forces, Locate, capture or destroy all enemy installations and caches.

d. Command Control.

(1) During Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase II, the BLT rear was located at Hill 34 (AT 985715). The forward element and the Command Post was located at grid (AT 965589).

(2) On Operation Bold Pursuit, the BLT rear was embarked aboard the USS Cleveland. The Command Post was co-located with the Beach Support Area and the Fire Support Base vic. BT 230509.

e. Organic Operations. Operations Pipestone Canyon and Bold Pursuit were both characterized by extensive day light patrols and night ambushes. During Bold Pursuit, emphasis was placed on the destruction of enemy fortifications and denial of enemy infiltration routes through close observation and harassing and interdicting fires on all avenues of approach.

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2. INTELLIGENCE.

a. Enemy Situation.

(1) Operation Pipestone Canyon-Phase II. The enemy had used this area as a route and staging area to Go Noi Island. They tried to deny the area to friendly forces by setting up extensive networks of boobytraps and surprize firing devices. The enemy made no attempt to take our units under fire. Their main tactic was to withdraw to the east and seek refuge on Go Noi Island.

Operation Bold Pursuit. There were no known units operating or using Barrier Island as a base area. It is being utilized as a rest and rehabilitation area and for sapper and guerilla warfare training center by various local and main force units. It's location is ideal for hit and run operations in the southern portion of the DaNang TAOR and control over it's local population could have great political influence in and around the city of Hoi An. The area has long been used as a semi-safe heaven and supply base for local forces and main force NVA.

(2) Operation Pipestone Canyon. The enemy had the capability to attack and mass within or near our TAOR. Enemy units were able to evade direct contact with our forces during the entire operation. The VC/NVA had the ability to withdraw from the TAOR using direct routes to Go Noi Island. Due to the large number of surprize firing devices, it is believed the VC/NVA planned to deny this area to large allied units and to delay allied advancement from east to west toward Go Noi Island. This enabled VC/NVA units time to evade larger and more superior advancing allied forces.

b. Enemy Initiated Incidents/Actions.

On 271700H, on Operation Bold Pursuit, an Amtrac convoy of BLT 1/26 was unsuccessfully ambushed by enemy forces. The enemy utilized RPG rockets to initiate the ambush, followed by small arms fire. Return fire from the amtracs resulted in 10 enemy KIA's.

c. Enemy Losses.

(1) VC/NVA KIA - 45
(2) POW - 10
(3) Equipment Captured - 2100 lbs. rice; 200 lbs. corn; misc gear, clothing, documents, and munitions.
(4) Individual Wpns - 21
(5) Crew Served Wpns - 1
(6) Detainees - 698

d. Enemy Trends.

The enemy during Operation Bold Pursuit preferred to withdraw or hide in tunnels and bunkers rather than to engage friendly forces. Once Operation Bold Pursuit commenced and the enemy realized that this was

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a superior allied force operation area, they fled the immediate area. Those who were trapped in the operational block, hid in bunkers and tunnels.

e. Weather Conditions.

The weather had little effect on enemy or friendly movement throughout the area of operations this month. The maximum temperature for the month of June was 104 degrees and the low was 77 degrees. The total amount of rainfall for the month was 1.43 in the DaNang area.

3. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

a. 011730H June 1969. 3rd Platoon, Company B, while on sweep with two tanks discovered a fortified area in tree line at coordinate (AT 951563). Area had signs to guide enemy. Bravo 3 found 2 boobytrapped 106mm rounds 1 boobytrap LAAW, 6 large bunkers, 11 spider holes, and 1 trench line. Bunkers destroyed, boobytraps blown in place. Documents and other equipment forwarded to 1st Marines S-2. Also found 9 homemade boobytraps, 1 box AK-47 rounds, 200 pounds corn, 10 pounds of rice, assorted documents, 4 USA helmets, 100 rounds 7.62 machine gun ammo.

b. 020001H to 022400H June 1969.

(1) 020900H June 1969. 3rd Platoon, Company A, spotted 5 enemy in the vicinity of coordinance (AT 968569). Opened fire killing 2 NVA. Captured medical equipment. Man carrying medical equipment had only 1 arm. Also carried various documents.

(2) 022125H June 1969. 1st Platoon Company A, observed 2 enemy on a trail moving from west to east opened fire with small arms. Swept area under illumination. Tall grass prevented complete sweep until A.M.. Resulted in 1 NVA KIA and the capture of 1 AK-47.

c. 030001H to 032400H June 1969.

(1) 030005H June 1969. Company A, found 2 AK-47s, 1 .32 cal. auto. pistol, 13 CHICOM Grenades, 1 AM radio, 25 pounds of rice, 75 pounds corn, misc. canned food, 4 cartridge belts, 6 Chinese battle dressings, 5 packs, 3 ponchos, assorted cleaning gear, 3 AK-47 magazines, 2 .32 auto. pistol magazines, and medical gear.

(2) 031000H June 1969. 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company A, while on patrol found a boobytrap consisting of 2 CHICOM grenades set for sympathetic detonation. Blew in place.

(3) 031010H June 1969. 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company A found a body of 1 VC at coordinate (AT 965564). Body dead of gun-shot wound. He was shot within the last 12 hours. KIA had 1 AK-47 magazine, assorted maps, and documents, wallet with ID card and medical supplies.

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(4) 032230H June 1969. 2nd Platoon, Company A saw 2 enemy in a boat and 1 pushing at coordinate (AT 976566), from NW to SE in a stream approximately 20 meters from their position. Alfa 2 opened fire with small arms, 3 WP 60mm and 9 rounds of 60mm HE. Enemy returned fire with small arms. Check of area showed 2 bodies in water and boat sunk. All equipment and bodies sunk in river results 2 KIA unknown type.

d. 062145H June 1969. 3rd Squad, 3 Platoon, Company A heard 4 to 5 enemy moving at coordinate (AT 968569) observed 1 to the east of grid. Opened fire with small arms, 1 M-26. Swept area under illumination with negative results.

e. 071425Z June 1969. From CTG 79.4 to BLT 1/26 Operation Order 1-69 for Operation Gallant Leader II received by BLT 1/26

f. 080900H BLT 1/26 started backload to SLF/ARG Alfa Shipping.

g. 090001H to 242142H June 1969. BLT 1/26 embarked aboard ARG/SLF Alfa Shipping for training and preparations for future operations.

h. 241242H June 1969. Warning Order for Operation Bold Pursuit received from CTG 79.4. Preparations made for forthcoming operation.

i. 250001H to 262400H June 1969. BLT Staff attended conference with CTG 79.4 in conjunction with planning aspects surrounding Operation Bold Pursuit.

j. 270001H to 272400H June 1969.

(1) 270730H June 1969. Surface landing completed over Blue Beach. Companies B and D landed in specified landing zones. Negligible contact reported.

(2) 271700H Amtrac Platoon received 3 rounds of RPG fire. Returned fire with small arms and .30 cal. machine gun resulting in 10 enemy KIA.

(3) 272100H June 1969. 1st Platoon, Company C observed 3 enemy within CP perimeter. Contact resulted in 2 VC KIA.

(4) 272130H June 1969. 2nd Platoon, Company C captured 3 VC within their perimeter.

k. 280001H to 282400H June 1969.

(1) 280112H June 1969. 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company A, observed 5-10 enemy at grid BT 224514. Fired small arms, swept area finding 1 blood trail.

(2) 281300H June 1969. 2nd Platoon, Company C captured 1 VC hiding in bushes.

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(3) 281000H June 1969. 1st Platoon, Company B, position received 15-20 rounds of AK-47 sniper fire.

l. 290001H to 292400H June 1969.

(1) 290730H June 1969. 2nd Platoon, Company B, captured two enemy wounded by artillery.

(2) 290810H June 1969. 1st Platoon, Company B found and destroyed 1 enemy anti-personnel mine at grid BT 212465.

(3) 291945H June 1969. 3rd Platoon, Company D fired on 5-10 enemy at grid BT 218505 resulting in the capture of one VC POW, 2 CHICOM grenades, and personal gear.

m. 300001H to 302400H June 1969.

(1) 301030H June 1969. 2nd Platoon, Company D discovered a concealed bunker in a paddy dike at grid BT 202500. Search of the bunker resulted in the capture of 1 M-1 Carbine with magazine, 12 CHICOM grenades, 200 rounds 5.56mm, 500 rounds 7.62 link, 75 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 1 M-15 grenade launcher sight, fuzes and increments for 60mm mortar rounds and personal effects.

(2) 301300H June 1969. The search of a bunker by 1st Platoon, Company D resulted in the capture of 1 M-1 Carbine.

(3) 301510H June 1969. 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company A made contact with one enemy sniper resulting in 1 VC KIA.

(4) 301700H June 1969. Engineers from the BLT reported destroying 20 bunker and tunnel complexes.

(5) 302110H June 1969. Contact initiated by 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company D on two (2) enemy at grid BT 218495, resulted in 2 enemy KIA.

(6) 302245H June 1969. Company C, Command Post took 2 incoming RPG rounds and 50 rounds of small arms. Enemy fled the area after initial contact.

4. FIRE SUPPORT.

a. Fire Support Coordination.

(1) Alpha Battery, 1st Bn 13th Marines.

(a) Operations and missions for month of June:

(1) Pipestone Canyon - General Support of the multi-battalion operation.

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(2) Bold Pursuit - Direct Support of BLT 1/26 activities.

(2) Types of fires utilized in support of operations.

(a) Targets of opportunity.

(b) Prep fires.

(c) Harassing and interdiction fires.

(d) Counter-mortar fires.

(e) Time-on-target fires.

(f) Night defensive fires (on-calls).

(3) Alpha Battery fired a total of 73 missions during month of June.

(4) Alpha Battery fired a total of 1463 rounds during month of June.

b. 4.2 Mortar Battery, 1st Bn 11th Marines.

(1) Operations and missions for month of June:

(a) Pipestone Canyon - general support of multi-battalion operation.

(b) Bold Pursuit - reinforcing support of BLT 1/26 activities.

(2) Types of fires utilized in support of operations.

(a) Targets of opportunity.

(b) Prep fires.

(c) Harassing and interdiction fires.

(d) Counter-mortar fires.

(e) Time-on-target fires.

(f) Night defensive fires (on-calls).

(3) Whiskey Battery fired a total of 59 missions during June 1969.

(4) Whiskey Battery fired a total of 616 rounds during June 1969.

c. 81mm Mortar Platoon.

(1) Operations and missions for June 1969.

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(a) Pipestone Canyon - reinforcing fires for activities of BLT 1/26.

(b) Bold Pursuit - reinforcing fires for activities of BLT 1/26.

(2) Types of fires utilized in support of operations.

(a) Targets of opportunity.

(b) Prep fires.

(c) Harassing and interdiction fires.

(d) Counter-mortar fires.

(e) Time-on-target fires.

(f) Night defensive fires (on-calls).

(3) 81mm Platoon fired a total of 168 missions for June 1969.

(4) 81mm Platoon fired a total of 2118 rounds during June 1969.

d. Naval Gunfire.

(1) Operations and missions for June 1969.

(a) Bold Pursuit - direct support of BLT 1/26.

(2) Ships on station - USS Rowan (DD 857) 5" 38 Guns.

(3) USS Rowan fired 39 missions.

(4) USS Rowan expended 2100 rounds.

5. AIR SUPPORT.

During Phase II of Operation Pipestone Canyon, Air Support was provided by the 1st MAW. HMM 265 provided Support for the remainder of the reporting period. Helicopter statistics are as follows:

a. Sortie 1720
b. Tasks 256
c. Hours Flown 395.6
d. Persons Carried 4389
e. Cargo (tons) 99.1
f. Medevacs 78

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6. PERSONNEL

(a) Combat Losses

WIA	OFF	ENL
Evac	1	26
Minor	0	5
KIA	0	10
MIA	0	0

(b) Non-Combat Losses

Injured	OFF	ENL
Evac	0	27
Minor	0	7
Killed	0	1

(c) WIA's Returned to Duty

Twenty-seven (27)

(d) R&R Trips - 92

(e) Personnel Rotated PCS - 7 OFF - 84 ENL

(f) Replacements Received - 7 OFF - 44 ENL

7. ADMINISTRATION

(a) Personnel Accounting

On 8 June 1969, the Battalion S-1 along with all company/battery administrative sections and supply elements for the Battalion moved aboard ARG shipping as part of the back load phase of the current float phase for the BLT. The move was completed on the evening of the 8th. Company/Battery administration remains intact with close supervision from cognizant Battalion Staff. The entire administration of the Battalion was centrally located in order to expedite due process of administration.

(b) Awards

1 - Bronze Star
9 - Purple Hearts

(c) Promotions

1 to Captain
1 to Master Sergeant

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5 to Staff Sergeant
21 to Sergeant
83 to Corporal
48 to Lance Corporal
16 to Private First Class

(d) Significant Events

No significant events transpired other than those mentioned above.

8. LOGISTICS

(a) Supply and Resupply

The operational capabilities of the battalion were restricted during Operation Bold Pursuit due to the shortage of a M49A2C Fuel Truck Tanker. Lacking their refueling tanker, Amtracs, the primary means of resupplying the combat unit ashore, were forced to adopt awkward and time consuming refueling procedures at sea with ships of ARG.

(b) 1. During phase II of Operation Pipestone Canyon the battalion rear consisting of all company and battery administration section, battalion supply operating stocks and battalion motor transport was maintained at Hill 34. A forward supply point was maintained at Hill 55 consisting of the Shore Party platoon and personnel from the S-4. All Class I, III, and V were drawn from the LSA on Hill 55. Supplies of Class II and IV were called for from Hill 34 and delivered to Hill 55 by organic trucking. Resupply of all company positions and the battalion CP was accomplished by truck. Backload of the BLT was completed on 17 June with the last of the vehicle and Class I, III, and IV from FLC Danang, being loaded aboard ship of the ARG 79.4 at Tien Sha Ramp and Bridge Ramp Danang.

(b) 2. Battalion supply operating stocks were set up aboard the USS IWO JIMA and USS CLEVELAND. During Operation Bold Pursuit, two days of classes I, III, and V were maintained in a BSA ashore. HMM 265 and surface craft from ARG shipping were used to resupply the BSA ashore. Amtracs from A Co. 5th Amtrac Bn provided transportation for resupply from the BSA to the company position. FLC Danang provided resupply of class I and V transportation from Tien Sha Ramp to the BSA ashore was provided by ARG shipping.

(c) 1st Force Service Regiment (FSR) provided this unit with the necessary support in repairing deadline combat essential equipment and we are still in a state of C-1 Operational Readiness. We are presently awaiting the return of several pieces of combat essential equipment deadlined for 3rd and 4th echelon repair at FSR.

9. NEW TECHNIQUES

Not applicable in this reporting period.

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10. TRAINING

(a) A total of forty-two (42) newly joined personnel attended Indoctrination Class.

(1) A total of two (2) personnel attended formal schools as follows:

a. Officers embarkation - 1 - Camp Hansen, Okinawa
b. Basic Infantry Weapons Repair - 1 - Camp Hansen, Okinawa

(2) The above is in addition to the weekly training schedule which is being conducted on Company level. No training handouts were distributed to the Companies.

(3) On 8 June 1969 the Battalion embarked aboard SLF ARG Shipping and continued training as required, these classes consisted of:

a. Helicopter emplaning, deplaning and emergency drills.
b. Map and Compass.
c. Field Sanitation.
d. Patrolling and Ambushes.
e. Landmine and Boobytraps.
f. Tank Drill.
g. Radio Procedure.
h. First Aid.
i. Fortified Positions..
j. Current Events.

(4) On 18 and 19 June 1969 a Comm Class on KAC QAL Code System was held aboard the USS Cleveland LPD-7. A total of one hundred personnel attended classes.

(5) From 26 June through 28 June 1969 a Quick Kill Team from Division School was scheduled to conduct classes. Classes were postponed due to Operational Commitments.

11. COMMUNICATION

(a) Radio. 1 to 8 June Operation Pipestone Canyon. Communications were maintained with 1st Marine Regiment on regimental TAC #2, #3, and #4. The SLF TAC Net was entered on 8 June upon the return of ARG shipping. Backload was accomplished on 8 June on BLT TAC and BLT TAC LOG circuit. On 8 June comm guard was changed from 1st Tank Battalion to USS Cleveland. The SLF TAC circuit, LOG/Admin circuit, and TAC LOG circuit was established on the USS Cleveland to the USS Iwo Jima. These circuits remained intact the entire month. On 27 June a BLT TAC net was established to facilitate the landing for Operation Bold Pursuit. Once the BLT was established ashore all circuits were manned with the SLF B from the USS Cleveland and ashore.

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(b) Radio Relay. From 1 June to 8 June 1st Marines attached a PCC-1 team to 1/26 in an attempt to establish a 4 channel shot with 1st Marines from the 1/26 CP ashore. This system could never be fully utilized due to frequency and antenna problems. A two channel system was finally established and maintained for 24 hours on 5 June. This failed after a short distance move of the CP.

(c) Wire. Internal wire communications was maintained throughout Operation Pipestone Canyon and Operation Bold Pursuit.

(d) Maintance/Supply. A tech shop was maintained on Hill 34 throughout Operation Pipestone Canyon. After the BLT returned to ARG shipping the tech shop and all technicians were moved aboard the USS Iwo Jima. There, all second echelon maintenance was performed on all equipment. All company radios were called in and peaked. All wire equipment was inspected. No supply problems were encountered until the first few days of Operation Bold Pursuit. At this time there was an acute shortage of BA-386's resupply. This problem was solved as resupply was improved.

(e) Significant Events. None

12. MEDICAL/DENTAL SUPPORT

(a) Medical.

(1) Location of the BAS: 1 June 1969 to 7 June 1969 (Hill 34)
8 June 1969 to 30 June 1969 (USS Iwo Jima, LPH-2)

(2) Number of Doctors/Corpsmen: 01 Dental Officer
02 Doctors
63 Corpsmen
01 Dental Tech

(3) Casualties/Injuries treated:

(a) Combat: 7
(b) Non-Combat: 656

(b) Dental

(1) Location of Dental Clinic: 1 June 1969 to 30 June 1969 (USS Iwo Jima LPH-2)

(2) Number of personnel treated: 244

(c) Significant Events: None

13. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

(a) Personnel: Lt. W. A. WILL U.S.N. Chaplain
Pfc T. V. WILSON Chaplain's Asst.

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(b) Religious Activities:

(1) Services:

a. Sunday: 11 Services; 327 attended

b. Weekday: 36 Services; 431 attended

c. Communions given: 645

d. Memorial Services: 3 Services; 1200 attended.

(2) Counselling Contacts: 71 personal contacts were made with members of the BLT during this reporting period.

(3) Hospital Visits: 54 patients were visited during 13 Hospital visits.

(c) Significant Events.

(1) Over 6,000 paperback books were obtained and distributed.

(2) Catholic coverage was obtained for all units.

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PART IV

NIF- SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Unit Journal

2. Operation Frag Order

3. Photographs

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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/26
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/MJA/tad
003A18969
8 July 1969

SECRET - NOFORN

From: Commander, BLT 1/26
To: Commander, Task Group 79.4

Subj: Combat After Action Report, Operation Bold Pursuit.

Ref: (a) CTG 79.4 Operation Plan 120A-(YR)
(b) BLT 1/26 Operation Plan 120-(YR)

Encl: (1) BLT 1/26 Combat After Action Report, Operation Bold Pursuit
(2) Operation Overlay, Operation Bold Pursuit

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following Combat After Action Report is hereby submitted.

G. C. KLIEFOTH
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

51 Copies to CTG 79.4

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BLT 1/26 3/O. Ops Bold Pursuit 27 Jun - 6 July 69

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COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT, BOLD PURSUIT

1. NAME OF OPERATION. BOLD PURSUIT

2. INCLUSIVE DATES AND LOCATION OF OPERATION. Operation Bold Pursuit 270730H June 1969 to 061600H July 1969. Map reference, Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series 7014 Sheet 6640. The assigned force beachhead was in the northeast corner of Quang Tin Province from BT 243487 southwest to 217463, north along the Truong Giang River to BT 170494 and east along the Quang Tin Province/Quang Nam Province boundary to the beach at BT 229523.

3. COMMAND HEADQUARTERS.

Command Task Group 79.4 embarked aboard SLF/ARG Alfa Shipping. Commander Battalion Landing Team 1/26 embarked aboard USS Cleveland while afloat. Command Post ashore vic BT 230509. BLT 1/26 OpCon to CTG 79.4.

4. TASK ORGANIZATION.

a. Task Group 79.4 — Col. W. C. DOTY

BLT 1/26 — LtCol. G. C. KLIEFOTH

HMM 265 — LtCol. R. L. GRAY Jr.

b. Reference (b).

5. INTELLIGENCE. (SLF Intelligence estimate for Operation Bold Pursuit)

a. Enemy Situation.

General. No specific unit uses the area as a permanent base of operations. However, the enemy utilizes Barrier Island as a rest and rehabilitation area. Further, the location of the island poses it as a potential staging area for attacks against DaNang or Hoi An. Hostile forces known to be operating in or near the AOA are listed in paragraph 5b. The enemy has fortified the area with well constructed fighting holes, trenches, bunkers and tunnel complexes, which are generally oriented to repel attacks from the north.

b. Enemy Order of Battle.

(1) The following list of enemy units are known to be operating in or near the area of operation.

UNIT	AKA	TYPE	EST STRENGTH	PROB LOCATION
72nd Bn	X72:H.13: H.48 33rd Bn; Trong Son Chu Ding; 103rd; 300 Hoi Chang 15; 103rd Bn	LF	190	BT 2932

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UNIT	AKA	TYPE	EST STRENGTH	PROB LOCATION
76th Sapper Bn	K.55;C.75; Flying Tiger V.16 Bn	LF	125	BT 3127
70th Bn	35th Bn; Phi Doi 2009; Cuu Song 70; Troung Song; Inter my White Tiger Bn; F-07; 103 Qunh Gia	MF	140	BT 1523
409th	Cong Try; L-68; X-409 Back Son Worksite K-20; 575th Bn; A.58 409A Bn; K-5 Sapper Bn Bac Hien	MF	220	BT 2232
Q.80th Bn	Hoi An Co; X.62 Co; 72nd Co; Q.12; 44th Bn F.10 Co;	LF	75	BT 1758
Q.81st	Duy Xuyen Co. Q.13th Co; 103rd Co; 73rd; Q.13B	LF	85	BT 1053
36th NVA Regt	Unit 1016	NVA	725	BT 0050
3rd Regt	64th Regt; Bac Ha; Worksite 3; Factory 10; 46th Regt; 51st Regt; Ham Ha; 323rd Regt; Ap Nam; 3rd Regt; 31st Regt.	NVA	695	BT 1317

c. Operational Effect on Enemy. The enemy has the ability to attack, at anytime or place on Barrier Island or to defend well concealed and reinforced bunkers; also to evade direct or sustained contact with our forces. The enemy also has the ability to withdraw or conceal his forces utilizing the waterways for withdrawal or using prepared tunnels and bunker complexes for concealment of troops, supplies and equipment.

Due to the combat support and superior fire power of BLT 1/26, it was expected that once the enemy realized that an operation was in progress he made every attempt to evade and hide from our units until the operation was completed. The enemy did, however, conduct small scale sniper attacks and probes of friendly night defense positions to cover withdrawal routes and to divert friendly units away from his base area.

6. MISSION.

BLT 1/26 will execute a heliborne and surface amphibious assault in AOA. Conduct search and clear operations in AOA. Locate, kill or capture all enemy forces. Locate, capture or destroy all enemy installations and caches.

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7. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.

Commencing at H-Hour on D-Day conduct a one Company surface assault, establish artillery and mortar FSB and minimal BSA, and secure LZ Rattler. At L-Hour execute a two Company helo assault into the northern portion of the AOA and secure Landing Force Objective Alfa. Conduct thorough search and clear operations, kill or capture all enemy forces located therein. Locate, capture, or destroy all enemy equipment/installations and at L plus four hours, conduct a one Company helo assault into the southern portion of the AOA. Prevent enemy exfiltration southward out of the AOA. Screen civilians exiting the AOA. Operate in cooperation/coordination with Tam Ky Province Civic Action Teams. Provide and designate a Landing Force Reserve of one Platoon (Rein) embarked aboard the USS Cleveland.

8. EXECUTION.

The Warning Order for Operation Bold Pursuit was received from CTG 79.4 at 242142H June 1969. The BLT immediately began its planning phase in preparation for the forthcoming operation.

On 25 June 1969, the BLT Staff attended a conference with CTG 79.4 in conjunction with the planning aspects surrounding Operation Bold Pursuit.

The initial Landing Plan called for a surface landing over Blue Beach at H-Hour on D-Day (270730H June 69) and helicopter assaults were scheduled in LZ Cobra and LZ Krait, by Companies B and D. As the initial force landed over Blue Beach they began clearing LZ Rattler and the area selected for the Fire Support Base/Beach Support Area. Company D began search and clear operations immediately after being inserted into their zone of action. Company C, after landing in LZ Rattler, secured Landing Force Objective "Alfa". The maneuver was accomplished by armored column. After Landing in LZ Krait, Company B began its mission of establishing a block across the southern portion of the AOA. This included the denial of the river crossing in the vicinity of BT 2246 and a cordon south of Ha Tay Ville, vicinity of BT 2348. Once the southern block was established, Companies C and D moved south in their zones of action searching the inhabitable areas for caches, bunkers, and information of military value. As the AMTRACS returned from their joint mission with Company C they received seven RPG rounds. They returned fire resulting in 10 enemy KIA. At 2100H on 27 June, 1st Platoon, Company C observed three enemy moving within their perimeter. The contact resulted in two VC-KIA's. Approximately one-half hour later, at 2130H, the 2nd Platoon, Company C, made contact with one enemy who took shelter in a bunker. Search of the bunker resulted in two VC POW's.

The early morning hours of 28 June were marked by two contacts with the enemy. At 0150H 2nd Platoon, Company A, observed 5-10 enemy north of their position. They opened fire on the enemy and swept the area finding two blood trails. At 0530H, Company C came in contact with one enemy inside their perimeter. The enemy soldier wounded one Marine and escaped into thick brush near the Company position. The Companies continued their search and clear mission throughout the day. Company B

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destroyed 10 bunkers near their Command Post. At 1430H, the 2nd Platoon, Company C captured 1 enemy with one M-26 in his possession. At 2140H on 28 June, the 1st Platoon, Company B reported light probes around their perimeter and intermittant sniper fire. The entire area was the object of extensive H & I fires throughout the night.

On 29 June, the Companies continued their extensive search and clear mission. Company B destroyed 11 bunker complexes and discovered and destroyed one VC antipersonnel mine. Missions by Naval Gunfire resulted in the capture of one enemy armed with 2 CHICOM grenades.

As the Companies approached their southern boundaries on 30 June, 1969, intelligence information indicated the requirement for operations in two additional target areas: the Ha Tay Ville complex (vic BT 2348), and the berm area east of the Truong Giang River south of Hill 11 (vic BT 1948). To accomplish this the entire western portion of the AOA was assigned to Company C to allow them to search and clear the berm area. Company B was tasked to sweep east in their new zone of action to a cordon position on the west side of the Ha Tay Ville complex. Company A swept the area the following day. At 1120H on 30 June, the 2nd Platoon, Company D, discovered a bunker concealed in a paddy dike. Search of the bunker resulted in the capture of the following materials: 2 RPG rounds with boosters, 3 bangalore torpedoes, 1 M-1 Carbine with magazine, 12 CHICOM grenades, 120 lbs of shape charges, 200 M-16 rounds, 75 AK-47 rounds, 500 rounds 7.62 link, 1 lens for a sighting device, 1 M-15 grenade launching sight, 2 primers and 2 fuzes and increments for a 60mm mortar, 1 pair of wire cutters, and assorted web gear and packs. Company A in a brief contact killed one VC. At 1700H, BLT Engineers destroyed 20 bunkers and cave complexes. At 1755H on 30 June, 1st Platoon, Company B observed one enemy rifleman at BT 212468. B1 opened fire on the enemy with small arms on 106 RR and sent a small activity to search the contact area. The patrol received fire from 4 enemy concealed in the contact zone, seriously wounding one Marine. A reaction force was dispatched to serve as a base of fire for the sweeping force. The sweep netted negative results. The 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company D killed two enemy attempting to maneuver across their ambush site at BT 218495. A wallet on one of the enemy was found to contain a small amount of NVA money.

During the first six hours of 1 July only one enemy contact was reported. The Company C Command Post received two RPG rounds and approximately 50 rounds of small arms and after a sweep of the area, found no evidence of enemy casualties. At 1100H on 1 July, the 3rd Platoon, Company B suffered three nonserious casualties due to a 60mm mortar short round. The injured Marines were all medevaced. During the afternoon of 1 July, 2nd Platoon, Company D found a well concealed bunker in a paddy dike. Upon searching the bunker, a cache consisting of 21 82mm mortar rounds, 11 cans of increments, and one can of fuzes was found. The bunker and captured material were destroyed. Three enemy initiated incidents were reported during the evening of 1 July. The contacts resulted in three VC KIA's and the following materials captured: 1 M-16 rifle with six magazines, 2 CHICOM grenades, 1 M-26 grenade, 2 green uniforms, and 1 web belt.

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One Marine suffered wounds due to the enemy contact.

At 021018H, 2nd Platoon, Company C suffered four casualties when they detonated a booby trap at BT 209469. An hour later, at 1114H, a Marine from Company D tripped a booby trap which consisted of an M-26 grenade with the pin pulled and the spoon secured under a basket. The injured Marine was medevaced. During the afternoon of 2 July, Company B reported processing 144 detainees. Company A found and destroyed 76 bunkers, 2 105 HE rounds, 2 81mm HE rounds, 1 106mm HE round, 1 punji pit, and one bunker booby trapped with a CHICOM grenade. At 021915H Company C observed three enemy moving along the river at BT 220459. Scout snipers were employed resulting in 1 enemy KIA. The remaining two enemy fled to a near by bunker and Company C used 106mm RR to neutralize the enemy.

At 031000H, Recon Team, Blue Rebel, captured 2 enemy in a previously cleared village. The prisoners were brought to the BLT CP area for interrogation. At 1115H on 3 July, 1st Platoon, Company C, found a bunker complex at BT 207473. The search and destruction of the bunker resulted in three POW's and one VC KIA. CIT personnel classified the three POW's as follows: One Viet Cong Guerilla, one Viet Cong Tax Collector, and one member of an unidentified subversive civilian military organization. The prisoner revealed that the mission of his organization was to provide protection for the hamlets in the area. As Company C continued to search and clear bunker and tunnel complexes, they reported two additional enemy killed and the destruction of 28 family type bunkers and seven concealed tunnels. Operations by the Provisional Rifle Platoon for 3 July resulted in the destruction of one bunker and the capture of 300 lbs of rice, 50 lbs of salt, one M-1 Rifle, one M-26 grenade, two U.S. claymore mines, personal documents, and assorted medical supplies.

An Army Cavalry Unit working in conjunction with Operation Bold Pursuit ran an armored patrol in an area where Company C had previously directed fired on enemy sniper activity. The Army Unit found nine VC KIA's with packs and rifles. At 031955H Recon Team, Blue Rebel, made point contact with 13 enemy at BT 215517. The enemy had heavy packs and carried AK-47's. Blue Rebel broke contact and the enemy fled southwest. Heavy artillery was latter concentrated in the contact area. At 032345H, 3rd Platoon, Company A, took RPG rounds in their CP perimeter. The 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon observed the enemy contact from their ambush site and returned fire wit small arms and M-79. They later swept through the area under illumination and found two NVA KIA's. Prior to the arrival of medevac helicopters at the 3rd Platoon, Company A position, the platoon perimeter received 12-16 rounds of 60mm mortar. The enemy fire was neutrallized prior to the arrival of the helicopters.

On 4 July, the 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company A suffered five casualties from a command detonated 105 round. At 041240, 3rd Platoon, Company A, while sweeping along the berm near their position, observed ten enemy with weapons at BT 206473. After the initial contact the enemy fled northwest. As they swept the contact area, A3 suffered four casualties from a surprise firing device. The following items were captured in the Platoon contact: 1 AK-47, 4 CHICOM grenades, 2 M-26 grenades, 1 wallet with

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documents, 5 lbs of rice, 2 bags of cookies, 1 salt block, and 1 can of milk. Later, that same afternoon, the 3rd Platoon, Company A suffered another casualty when they took sniper fire in their position. An artillery mission was directed on the enemy producing one secondary explosion.

On the evening of 4 July, Company C received intense small arms and 82mm mortar fire from BT 204477 and BT 222461. Artillery and "Spooky" were employed against the enemy. Spooky reported three large secondary explosions. Three Marines from Company C were mortally wounded during the enemy contact.

On 5 July at 0930H, Company C observed 15-20 enemy at grids BT 224477 and BT 230457. Artillery was called on both grids with unknown results. Later that same day, the 3rd Platoon, Company C found a VC satchel charge and Engineers attached to the Platoon destroyed it in place. Two Marines were injured by fragmentation and medevaced. C3 again suffered a casualty when 30 AK-47 rounds poured into their position late that afternoon.

On 5 July, 1969, an order was received from CTG 79.4 which established the requirements for the backload of the BLT. Preparations began immediately.

At 0700H on 6 July, the BLT began a tactical withdrawal from Operation Bold Pursuit. The backload was accomplished by 1500H by combined helo and amphibious craft withdrawal. Negligible enemy contact was encountered. Operation Bold Pursuit was terminated at 061600H July 1969.

Prior to and throughout the operation, continuous and close planning and liaison was conducted with pertinant commanders. On 28 June, Major General RAMSEY, the Commanding General of the Americal Division visited the BLT CP ashore and on 30 June, Brig. General CLEMENTS, the Assistant Division Commander of the Americal Division visited the CP.

A Battery 1/13 fired in direct support of the BLT during Operation Bold Pursuit with mortar Battery 1/11 and the 81mm Mortar Platoon reinforcing with priority of fires to Companies C and D respectively. Naval Gunfire support was provided by the USS Rowan (DD 857) and the USS Meridith (DD 890).

Statistics for Operation Bold Pursuit are as follows:

	A 1/13	W 1/11	81mm Mortar Plt	NGF
Missions	198	115	110	106
Total Rounds Expended	3147	1569	1328	5469

In additions to destroyer support 719 81mm mortar rounds were expended by the Coast Guards' WPB.

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Communications were established IAW CTG 79.4 COI dated 25 June 1969. Prior to landing the following circuits were activated aboard the USS Cleveland for communication with accompanying ARG Shipping.

SLF TAC
LOG/ADMIN
TAC LOG
Artillery Conduct of fire
BLT TACP NET

Communication guard for teletype messages remained aboard the USS Cleveland. The SLF TAC maintained continuous crypto capability.

A limited amount of communication breakdwon was experienced during the first days of the operation. The major problem encountered was that of the distance separating ARG Shipping and the Landing Force. All problems were overcome with extensive configuration and equipment changes.

9. RESULTS.

a. Enemy.

KIA - 34	Secondary Explosions - 17
POW - 9	Secondary Fires - 9
Detainees - 720	Base Camps Destroyed - 2
IWC - 19	Structures Destroyed - 88
CSWC - 1	Rice Captured - 600 lbs.
Bunkers Destroyed - 67	Salt Captured - 50 lbs.

b. Friendly.

KIA - 3	KNBC - 1
DOW - 2	NBCE - 27
WIAE - 30	NBCNE - 1
WIANE - 7	Heat - 2

10. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS.

Problems encountered and lessons learned on Operation Bold Pursuit were negligible. Therefore, the Commander's Analysis is omitted for this report.

11. LESSONS LEARNED. Negative for this report.

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