

HEADQUARTERS
 Battalion Landing Team 3/26
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

3/JW/dmo
 3100
 12 Jan 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
 Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 December 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8
 (c) 1st MarDivO 5750.2B
 (d) 1st MarDivO 3480.1A

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 December 1968

- In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), (c), and (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.

J.W.P. Robertson
 J.W.P. ROBERTSON
 LIEUTENANT COLONEL, USMC

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>
3d Battalion, 26th Marines	LtCol J.W.P. ROBERTSON (1-31 Dec 68)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1stLt C. NITZCHE (1-11 Dec 68)
	1stLt G.B. MEEGAN (12-31 Dec 68)
Company I	1stLt R.E. HOOVER (1-31 Dec 68)
Company K	Capt F.L. FOX (1-31 Dec 68)
Company L	1stLt G.B. MEEGAN (1-11 Dec 68)
	1stLt C. ALLEN Jr. (12-31 Dec 68)
Company M	Capt J. TURRIETTA (1-11 Dec 68)
	1stLt D.E. CRAWFORD (12-31 Dec 68)

ATTACHED UNITS

DET. A Co, 5th Shore Party Bn	(1-31 Dec 68)
DET. A Co, 5th MT Bn	(16-31 Dec 68)
DET. A Co, 5th Recon Bn	(16-31 Dec 68)
DET. C Co, 5th Tank Bn	(16-31 Dec 68)
DET. B Co, 5th Intrae Bn	(16-31 Dec 68)
DET. A Co, 5th Engineers	(16-31 Dec 68)
DET. A Co, Engineers	(1-9 Dec 68)
DET. Scout/Sniper Flt HqCo, 70th Mar	(1-9 Dec 68)
DET. Scout Dog Flt, 3d MP Bn	(1-9 Dec 68)
DET. ACO, 1st Bn 7th Marines	(1-9 Dec 68)
DET. 2nd Bn, 5th Marines	(1-9 Dec 68)

STAFF OFFICERS

E_xO

Maj H.W. JENKINS Jr.
(1-17 Dec 68)**UNCLASSIFIED**

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S-1/Adjutant	Maj W.T. MACY (18-31 Dec 68) 1stLt F.D. TYSON (1 Dec 68) 1stLt D.D. VISNICK (2-31 Dec 68)
Personnel Officer	1stLt F.D. TYSON (1 Dec 68) 1stLt D.D. VISNICK (2-31 Dec 68)
S-2	1stLt B.M. EVERETT (1-31 Dec 68)
S-3	Maj J.D. BENNETT Jr. (1-31 Dec 68)
S-3A	1stLt J.N. SAULSBURY (1-11 Dec 68) 2ndLt J.H. WEST (12-31 Dec 68)
S-4	1stLt W.M. MILLER (1-11 Dec 68) Capt J. TURRIETTA (12-31 Dec 68)
S-5	1stLt B.M. EVERETT (1-31 Dec 68)
CommO	1stLt G. DUBAN (1-5 Dec 68) Capt D.C. HON (6-31 Dec 68)
SupO	Capt J.S. CONDRY (1-31 Dec 68)
MedO	Lt J.A. MARTINEZ (1-31 Dec 68)
Chaplain	Lt R.L. HENSLEY (1-31 Dec 68)

AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
40	1229	2	57	0	0

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

A. During the first nine days of December this battalion was engaged in Operation "MEADE RIVER". The mission of the battalion, was to set up along Route 4 in the southwest sector of the Regimental cordon, and capture or destroy enemy within the vicinity of the cordon. The battalion also had a mobile reserve mission within the area of operation.

The enemy in the area of "DODGE CITY", were extremely well dug in. Bunkers were found with reinforced concrete decks, and overheads made of railroad ties, rails and covered with six feet of dirt. This made it very hard to destroy the enemy with supporting arms. In most cases it took a direct hit with delayed fuzes to destroy the enemy's fortifications. It was found that the enemy had to be ferreted out by individual Marines, using tactics similar to those used during World War II during the Island Campaigns.

As the cordon was slowly being closed the enemy's tactics became evident. They would set up their ambushes with mutual supporting bunkers, in the treelines and hedge rows that criss-cross the terrain. Our units would prep-fire the areas well before moving, but this would do practically nothing to the enemy's well fortified positions. After the prep-fires were completed the enemy would come back out of their bunkers and set up their ambushes. These ambush sites were set up in areas where there were open rice paddies in front, or natural barriers such as streams. Fire discipline of the enemy was very good. They would wait until the last moment before executing their ambushes.

On the second and third of December, while the battalion was moving to close the cordon, they discovered numerous articles of enemy equipment and food. The battalion was moving toward one of the last strongholds of the enemy in the cordon. It was later found that this area was the enemy's command center. On the fourth day India Company was taken under fire from an enemy entrenched in a treeline in front of them. This resulted in 2 Marines KIA and 7 WIA. On the fourth of December Alpha Company 1/7, which was OPCON to the Bn, captured 11 VC/NVA prisoners. On the fifth of December, India Company captured 7 POW's, one was a Chieu Hoi. Numerous enemy equipment and bodies were found on the sixth of December.

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By the morning of the seventh the enemy was cornered into an area about the size of a grid square. They had been gradually pulling back to this area to make their last stand. Every time an attempt to move into this area was made it was quickly repelled by the enemy. Many veterans of other wars stated that this was the fiercest fighting they had ever seen. The fire was so intense that it was difficult to recover some of our wounded. On the night of the seventh volunteer parties went out to recover the bodies. Armored personnel carriers were brought in on the morning of the eighth. That morning they made a drive into the enemy positions killing 130 enemy. This seemed to break the enemy's resistance. That afternoon and night a concentrated bombardment of the area was conducted. This was done to soften the area up for the final drive on the ninth. The last push on the ninth was marked by heavy combat. Each bunker and hole had to be checked for enemy. Bunkers were found with enemy bodies stacked in them. An unknown number of enemy were buried beneath the bomb craters and blown up bunkers. Marines crawled down into the tunnels and found both live and dead enemy. It didn't take long to make the final sweep, because we had the momentum and the enemy was on the run. By mid afternoon the battalion was ready to go home after a job well done.

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On the ninth of December, the battalion was helilifted out of the Dodge City area. Immediately upon arrival back at the "Rock Crusher" the battalion commenced getting ready to go afloat. People with less than six months left in country as of 1 January, were transferred out of the battalion and replaced with new men. A vigorous program of training was initiated to prepare the battalion for the BLT. On the 20th of December, we were designated administratively BLT 3/26. We continued rehabilitating our equipment to bring us up to TE. A great deal of work was involved in crating, paletizing and banding all of our equipment. At the same time that we were preparing for the BLT we continued to operate in our AO. Company Kilo and Company Lima were deployed into PPB's. Patrols were run from these PPB's every day and Killer Teams were run at night. Particular attention was given to make sure the Rocket Belt surrounding Danang was well covered not only by patrols and Killer Teams but also by supporting arms. The battalion also had a company "BALD EAGLE" and a platoon "SPARROW HAWK". These were put on sixty and thirty minute standby respectively. On the 20th of December, Mike Company (-) was moved into PPB's to counter an increased threat of attack to Danang. Continuous liaison was made with elements of 2/7 to effect the transfer of our AO to them. On the 27th of December, 2/7 moved two companies in, to replace two of our companies, operating out of PPB's. At 1200 on the 28th of December, 2/7 assumed the responsibility for the AO. On the 29th of December, an advanced party, to act as guides for the battalion, were helilifted to designated ships assigned to SLF Bravo. Afterwards the rear elements of the battalion completed the move, on 31 December 1968.

B. ADMINISTRATION: During the period 1-28 December 1968, the S-1 administration was set up in the Danang area, established at Camp Perdue; this included the Battalion S-1, Sick Bay Administration and the Company Offices. On 12 December 1968, the Battalion began the initial stages of reorganizing into a Battalion Landing Team. There was a 50 percent turnover of personnel during the next ten days. All attached units were joined on the rolls of the battalion on 15 December 1968. The Battalion was designated a Battalion Landing Team on 20 December 1968, and the task organization was changed.

1. PERSONNEL

No.	Officers Joined.....	(16)
No.	Enlisted Joined.....	(670)
No.	Officers Transferred.....	(10)
No.	Enlisted Transferred.....	(527)

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1. From 1-9 December in the 3/26 "MEADE RIVER" AO the enemy situation was 150-350 NVA/MFVC and 70 local VC. The strength figure was predicated on 1 Battalion and local units operating in the AO. Enemy forces operating in the AO consisted of: elements of the 38th Regiment and local forces of the Quang Da Spec Sector. Elements of the 38th Regiment operating in the AO were the R-20 Battalion, (vic) BT034609, and support elements of the T-89 Sapper Battalion. The Q-82 Company, VC local force, and the X-16 Company, (vic) BT000606, had also been reported in the AO. From 10-31 December in the 3/26 Danang AO there were no major incidents and no large enemy troop concentrations.

2. ENEMY MISSION From 1-9 December in the "MEADE RIVER" AO the enemy mission was to attack U.S. and allied units in and around the area known as "DODGE CITY", also, to support rocket attacks on Danang and Hoi An and support village and hamlet infrastructures. From 10-31 December in the Danang AO the mission of the enemy seemed to be of a passive nature. The enemy had avoided major contact and relied upon minor harrassing tactics with a few isolated perimeter probes. Though we are sure he had capabilities, the enemy seemed content not to use them.

3. WEATHER The maximum temperature for this period was 82° degrees. The low was 71° degrees and the mean temperature was 77° degrees. Average relative humidity was 78% and precipitation totaled 1 inch. The winds were variable at 6 knots.

4. TERRAIN From 1-9 December in the "MEADE RIVER" AO the terrain encountered was mainly flat, fertile lowlands covered by cultivated rice fields. These rice fields are generally double cropped causing them to be inundated the majority of the year. Soils consist of light to heavy clay and there was one dominant terrain feature - an old railroad berm on Route #1. From 10-31 December the Battalion was back in the Dai La Pass cantonment. The terrain in this area consisted of an irregular ground with an average elevation of about 800 meters. The vegetation consisted of very thick brush and elephant grass. There were many types of trees ranging in height from 4-30 feet. Water is plentiful in the lowlands but scarce in the highlands.

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5. AVENUES OF APPROACH From 1-9 December in the "MEADE RIVER" AO these avenues of approach were the best afforded; the valley at (vic) ZC1764, the Song Vu Gia River running west to east and the Song Thu Ban River (vic) AT9253 which ran in a northeasterly direction to the operation AO. From 10-31 December, in the Danang AO the best avenues of approach were; "HAPPY VALLEY" (vic) ZC1366 running east to west, the "LITTLE ELEPHANT VALLEY" (vic) AT8585 running west to east-southeasterly and "MORTAR VALLEY" (vic) AT8467.

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY: cont.

Totals: From 1-9 December	From 10-31 December
VC/NVA KIA -61	VC/NVA KIA -0
POW's -11	POW's -0
DETAINEES -0	DETAINEES -0
CHIEU HOIS -1	CHIEU HOIS -0
IWC -22	IWC -0
CSWC -4	CSWC -0

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D. Civil Affairs: The S-5 along with coordinating units, conducted a MEDCAP on 23 December.

E. Psychological Operations: There were no PSYOPS conducted during the period. however, leaflet drops as pre-planned were conducted in the Danang AO.

F. Fire Support: In the Hieu Duc AO, supporting arms were used offensively during the month. Extensive nighttime and daytime H&I's were plotted daily. Naval Gunfire was used in a general support role as a supplement to artillery for CAP units in the AO and ARVN engineering teams constructing rocket barriers.

1. Total Expenditure for December

a. 105mm	12,587
b. 155/8"	4,217
c. 4.2	1,159
d. 81mm	1,268
e. NGF	649
f. TPQ	_____

G. Logistics

1. General. Logistical support was hindered due to lack of equipment in supply. Transportation and food service were satisfactory.

a. Transportation was furnished by 1st Motor Transport Battalion with satisfactory results.

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b. Resupply and troop movements have been accomplished by 1st Motor Transport Battalion and helicopters during the month of Dec.

c. Maintenance support was furnished by FLC and 1st FSR, Danang. Maintenance support has been adequate during this reporting period.

d. Ordnance support was furnished by ASP-1 and ASP-2 satisfactorily.

e. The Battalion subsisted on "A" and "C" rations for the month of Dec. Food service was satisfactory.

H. COMMUNICATION

1. Message Center. During the first part of December, messages were picked up from and delivered to the 26th Marine Regimental Communications Center. Pick-up was made three times daily except when priority traffic was received. On Operation "MEADE RIVER", 1st Marine Regiment provided a courier service from the field.

A message center for BLT 3/26 was established aboard the USS Tripoli on 29 December 1968. Messages are picked up every two hours from the SIF Message Center and from the SIF Tac Log, unless notification of priority traffic calls for a more hasty delivery.

2. Radio. During most of December, radio nets terminated in the COC. The COC was also up on the Regimental Tac Net. The radio section established a relay site on Hill 55 during Operation "MEADE RIVER", and operated on 1st Marine Regimental Tac and on an administration net between the fire base and 3d Battalion, 26th Marines. On 28 December 1968, the SIF Tac Log was activated for displacement to the USS Tripoli.

3. Wire and Radio Relay. The wire lay-out for the Rock Crusher area was left intact for the convenience of Battalion 2/7 and BLT 3/26 received like item replacements for electrical fixtures left in place.

Radio Relay was set-up during Operation "MEADE RIVER" from 1st Marine Regiment's Alpha CP to the fire base of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines.

4. General. In recent operations in our AO it was found that relay stations were often required to maintain communications with units in the field. It can be expected that this situation will occur any time the battalion has an area of operations in mountains or thick canopy.

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I. MEDICAL_DENTAL

1. Personnel The Battalion Aid Station has a total of 56 personnel; consisting of 53 Hospital Corpsman, two Medical Officers and one Chaplain. In addition, for the deployment, the Battalion Aid Station also has a total of 15 Hospital Corpsman attached to supporting units.

2. Capabilities This Battalion Aid Station was capable of treating all minor medical and surgical problems. Patients requiring more extensive care were evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion, NSA Danang, and the USS Repose. At the present time, the BAS is utilizing spaces aboard the USS Tripoli (LPH10) for sickcall, administration, and berthing. Our supplies are being drawn from our 10 day mount out blocks. On the beach, the BAS was utilizing one hardback and one tent for Medical Supply, which were adequate. The BAS is responsible for evacuating seriously injured or ill patients from the operation site.

3. Training The Hospital Corpsman received classroom training and on-the-job training under supervision of the Battalion Surgeon and the Chief Hospital Corpsman on field medical techniques and most diagnostic procedures.

4. Dental The Dental facilities were provided for by the 1st Dental Company. On board were one Dental Corps Officer and one Dental Technician.

5. Malaria Prophylaxis Chloroquine-Primaquine tablets were taken once a week.

6. Sanitation Sanitation reports were submitted to Battalion Commander on a weekly basis with recommendations for improvement.

7. Statistics The following statistics for the month of December are:

DIAGNOSIS	H&S	INDIA	KILO	LIMA	MIKE	OTHER	TOTAL	LAST REPORT
CONCUSSION	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
STOMACH PROBLEMS	06	02	02	01	03	00	14	09
LACERATIONS	11	04	03	08	06	02	34	29
DIARRHEA	04	03	02	04	06	01	20	21
EAR PROBLEMS	05	06	03	03	02	00	19	16
DENTAL	06	07	04	02	04	00	23	39
EYE PROBLEMS	04	03	08	06	04	00	25	15
UPPER RESP INF	05	05	07	06	08	00	31	23
FEVER UNK ORGIN	02	01	07	06	04	00	20	05
LEG PROBLEMS	05	03	03	06	02	00	19	13
FOOT PROBLEMS	11	09	06	12	07	00	45	58

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ARMS PROBLEMS	02	00	00	01	02	00	05	22
INFECTIONS	23	13	15	19	16	02	88	47
INJECTIONS	45	50	35	27	31	11	119	594
VENEREAL DISEASE	10	03	04	07	05	01	30	17
SCHRAPNEL WOUNDS	00	02	01	00	00	01	04	04
MALARIA	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
BLISTERS	00	04	02	02	03	00	11	08
IMMERSION FOOT	01	04	02	03	02	00	12	10
HEAT EXHAUSTION	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
HEAT STROKE	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
RETURN VISIT	37	41	23	32	23	03	159	99
OTHER	40	53	54	43	62	00	258	47

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J. Training. The following training was conducted during the month of December.

1. Replacements received by the battalion were thoroughly indoctrinated, in accordance with existing directives and battalion SOP for troop indoctrination. In addition, they all fired their weapons for familiarization.

2. Formal and informal classes were conducted on general military subjects on a company level.

3. Hospital Corpsmen received classroom and on-the-job training under the supervision of the Battalion surgeon and the Chief Hospital Corpsman, on field medical techniques and diagnostic procedures.

K. Casualties.

1. KIA - 23
2. WIA - 67
3. NBC - 16

L. Battalion Chaplain

During the month of December 14, worship services were conducted. Attending the services were 635 men.

a. A special worship service was conducted on Christmas Eve, which included the reading of the Christmas story and singing of carols. The service was followed by a Christmas party for the men and a gift was given to each of them by Santa Claus.

b. Catholic mass was conducted on Christmas Eve by Chaplain O'ROURKE and the Christmas Day Mass conducted by Chaplain HORVAT. These two Chaplains provided Catholic coverage for the battalion during the month. Catholic and Protestant services were provided to CAP units 2-1-1 and 2-1-6.

c. A Memorial Service for 30 KIA from "MEADE RIVER" operation was held 10 December with 750 men attending.

d. Hospital visits were made to all 3/26 patients at 1st Med and NSA Hospitals.

e. The brig prisoners were visited during the month, and gifts of health and welfare items were given them Christmas Day.

f. The Division Chaplain's meetings were attended weekly.

g. Counseled with ten men in the office and others as they were met in the field.

h. The local orphanage at Phu Thuong Than was visited several times. Items like salt and sugar were provided. A jeep and trailer was supplied for a rice run to Danang.

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

02 December 1968

At 0755H, while on a sweep, India Company discovered 2 bunkers and a tunnel in vic of BT008673. Continuing to sweep the area, India discovered a hooch in vic of BT005575. The tunnel, bunker and hooch were destroyed.

At 0800H, Lima-2 discovered a bunker, in vic of AT995573, which was constructed of railroad ties, railroad rails and engineer stakes. It also contained the entrance to a tunnel complex with a reinforced concrete deck. Later in the day at 1000H, Lima-3 found the casing of a 500lb bomb which had been stripped of its internal parts and explosive. The casing was booby trapped and engineers were called to destroy it.

At 1115H in (vic) of BT004576, India found 03 Tunnels and 01 bunker reinforced with steel and 01 hooch. Within the complex they found 02 blasting caps, 2 3/4lbs of C-4, approximately 700lbs of rice, a South Vietnamese I.D. card, a USMC I.D. card and a Geneva Convention card (U.S. type). The complex and all gear were destroyed.

Continuing to sweep between coordinates BT007576 and BT005577, India discovered the following gear during the remainder of the day: 12 rockets still in their containers; 03 bullet rounds; 01 USMC helmet; 02 warneaus for a 75mm recoilless rifle; 01 khaki uniform, 01 pair of utility trousers; 01 civilian suit; 01 pair of sunglasses; 01 parachute; 01 frying pan; 01 mosquito net; 01 raincoat; 01 scrub brush; 01 bandolier of M-16 magazines; 01 M-26 booby trap and 02 gas masks.

At 1230H, the battalion found the following in vic of AT997577: 03 demolished houses with reinforced bunkers, 06 bottles of peas, 01 AK magazine, 13 M-16 magazines, 01 M-16 bipod, 01 pack and 01 flak jacket.

03 December 1968

At 0120H, 01 VC attempted to cross in front of Kilo's position and was spotted through a starlight scope. The enemy was brought under small arms fire and grenades. Results: 01 VC KIA (C).

At 0215H in (vic) BT001579, Kilo spotted 2 VC by using a starlight scope. They opened fire on the two VC with small arms and 01 VC fell. Checking the area out at first light, the body of 01 VC was found.

At 1040H, Alpha tripped a ChiCom booby trap in (vic) of AT997587, wounding 02 USMC personnel.

At 0630H in (vic) of BT001679, Kilo discovered 01 bunker containing approximately 100lbs of rice. The rice and bunker were destroyed.

04 December 1968

At 0950H, India began receiving sniper fire from a tree line. Results: 02 USMC KIA; 07 USMC WIA.

At 1400H, Alpha, while searching out a bunker, located in vic of AT996584, received 04 rounds of small arms fire. One CS grenade was thrown into the bunker and 06 people came out. Results: 06 detainees; 03 pistols captured.

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04 December 1968

At 1620H, Alpha, while searching a bunker in vic AT995586, captured 05 VC/NVA. Results: 05 weapons and 01 ChiCom captured.

05 December 1968

At 0730H, India received 01 Chieu Hoi in vic of ^{BT} AT014585.

At 1000H, Lima, conducting a search of the area in vic of BT005591, captured and found the following: 07 POW's; 02 bodies; 01 ChiCom machinegun; 01 pouch of documents; 08 bunkers and 1100lbs of rice.

During the period between 1300H and 1700H, 07 bodies of USMC personnel were found by India in vic of BT011584. Also found were: 01 AK-47 and two magazines; 02 ChiCom grenades; 01 case of SKS ammunition and 02 bodies of enemy soldiers in graves. Documents and weapons were sent to S-2; rice and bunkers were destroyed.

At 1630, Hotel was checking a bunker in vic of BT005585 and found 02 VC hiding there. One VC tried to escape and was shot; the other VC was taken prisoner.

At 1900H, Alpha received 05 sniper rounds from the southwest to their rear. One USMC was seriously wounded.

06 December 1968

At 0815, Kilo, while on a sweep in vic of BT011584, found electrical equipment for lighting and comm system equipment. This included 01 voltage regulator, 01 coil, 01 amp meter and 01 electrical switch. Also found was the body of 01 female VC.

At 0930H, India, while searching a bunker complex, found: 01 bag of rice, 02 pair of black trousers, 01 LAAW, 03 womens blouses, 01 khaki pair of trousers, 02 60mm mortar rounds, 03 RPG rounds, 01 M-16 and 17 VC bodies.

At 1030 to 1700, India, while searching out a bunker complex in the vic of BT013587, found 03 LAAW's, 03 sets of documents, 02 ChiCom grenades, 09 VC bodies one of which was a medical officer and medical gear.

At 1600H, Lima, while on a search and sweep in vic of BT008596, captured 01 VC with 01 AK-47. The man was taken into custody and held until removal from the area.

07 December 1968

At 0700H, Delta spotted 02 VC moving toward their perimeter in vic of BT012588 and opened fire on them. A check of the area revealed large amounts of blood and a enemy light machinegun in excellent condition.

At 0830H, a fire team size patrol from Alpha made contact with an enemy force of unknown size armed with a machinegun and an M-79. A reaction force was sent out to reinforce the fire team and they got pinned down. Artillery was called in and maintained to suppress the enemy fire. Results: 8 USMC KIA; 17 USMC WIA; 16 NVA/VC KIA (C).

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07 December 1968

At 1015H, Delta came under heavy automatic, semi-automatic, and B-40 rocket fire. Fire was returned with organic weapons and artillery until the enemy fire was suppressed. Results: 06 USMC WIA.

At 1137H in vic of BT010594, 01 USMC personnel was hit in the left leg by a stray round from a fire fight to the northwest.

At 1000H, Hotel received sniper fire from an unknown number of enemy. Fire was returned with 3.5 rockets. Results: 01 VC KIA(C)

At 1150H, India found 02 VC bodies in vic of BT023602.

At 1445H, 01 USMC personnel was shot and killed by a sniper round through the neck. This occurred in the vic of BT009607.

At 1540 to 1800, Hotel received heavy automatic weapons and small arms weapons fire from enemy dug-in bunkers and spider holes in the vic of BT001598 to BT006604. 60mm mortar fire, 3.5 rocket fire and small arms weapons fire was returned. Results: 04 USMC WIA; 06 VC/NVA KIA(C) 01 AK-47 and 02 M-60 machineguns.

At 1830H Hotel spotted a bunker in vic of BT001598 and fired 03 rounds of 3.5" rocket fire at it. Two enemy ran from the bunker and were brought under fire. Results: 01 VC/NVA KIA(C).

At 1940H, Hotel received 01 incoming grenade. Fire was returned with small arms. Results: 01 USMC WIA.

At 2345H, Kilo took 03 female VC prisoners in vic of BT009601. Prisoners were transported to S-2 for disposition.

08 December 1968

At 0030H in the (vic) of BT005601, while in a defensive position one of India's personnel was hit in the left side of the chest. Results: 1 USMC WIA;

At 0200H, Hotel observed enemy movement near bunkers in the vic of BT005600. Hotel brought the enemy under fire and searched the area out at first light. Results: 02 NVA KIA(C); 01 B-40 rocket launcher; 02 B-40 rockets; 19lbs of rice.

At 1300H in the vic of BT008604, Kilo, while in a defensive position, began to receive enemy small arms fire. They were unable to return fire because of friendlies in the area. Results: 01 USMC WIA.

At 1400H, Alpha, while sweeping north in the vic of AT998598, discovered twelve reinforced bunkers. Seven bunkers contained 19 enemy dead; a continuation of the sweep revealed 16 more enemy dead due to small arms. Also found were 30 spider traps and fighting holes. A missing radio and M-16 were found. During the sweep, Alpha recovered all of their KIA's and MIA's.

From 1120 to 1630H, Hotel sweeping in the vic of BT003599 to BT003605 received heavy small arms fire and automatic weapons fire from enemy dug-in bunkers and spider holes. Fire was returned with organic weapons and fixed wing air support was called in. Results: 05 USMC KIA; 14 USMC WIA; 31 VC/NVA KIA (C); 01 Detainee; 04 M-16's captured.

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08 December 1968

At 1640H in the vic of BT005605, while moving north in the attack, Lima received fire from an estimated 8 to 10 VC/NVA in a hooch and the surrounding area. Fire was returned and Lima maneuvered toward the enemy. Results 05 USMC KIA; 09 USMC WIA; 05 VC/NVA KIA(C); 01 AK-47 captured; and various items of 782 gear.

At 1935H in vic of BT007605, while in night defensive position, Kilo-2 received 01 round of friendly incoming. There was a check fire called. Results: 03 USMC WIA.

At 2310H in vic of BT005605, Lima Company CP detected movement of 03 VC/NVA. They took enemy under fire and threw 02 M-26's. 01 VC/NVA was seen flying through the air, the other two ran. Results 01 VC/NVA KIA(C).

09 December 1968

At 0020H in vic of BT005606, Lima-1 spotted 02 VC/NVA moving to their north. They took the enemy under fire. Results 01 VC/NVA KIA(C).

At 0800H in vic of BT005606, Lima-1 was hit by friendly air strike. Results: 04 USMC WIA.

On 09 Dec at 0830 H in vic of BT009607, PRU's with India deployed. Results: 02 VC/NVA KIA(C); 06 M-16; 01 radio captured.

At 1130H in vic of BT009607, Kilo, while sweeping north, uncovered and took under fire an unknown size enemy force. The area was checked thoroughly. Results: 30 VC/NVA KIA(C); 01 POW, 02 SKS rifles; 02 U.S. .45 Cal pistols, 01 9mm NVA pistol, 01 M-79, 01 M-16, 01 AK-47, 01 ChiCom assault weapon, 25 ChiComs, 782 gear and numerous documents.

At 1215H in vic of BT009607, India started on sweep. Results: found 07 of India's MIA's.

At 1230H in vic of BT002608, Hotel engaged 08 enemy in trench-lines and spider holes and fired small arms and hand grenades. Results: 02 USMC WIA; 09 NVA KIA(C); 03 AK-47's; 01 SKS; 7 AK magazines; 630 AK rounds; 07 ChiComs and various documents captured.

At 1300H in vic of BT005608, Lima-3 received fire from their direct front from 02 VC. They returned fire with M-16 and M-60. Results: 02 USMC WIA; 01 VC KIA(C); 01 VC POW.

At 1310 in vic of BT007608, India found 02 VC making booby traps. They were taken under fire, causing them to trip their own booby traps. Results: 02 VC/KIA(C).

At 1530H in vic of BT005606, a man was shot by a sniper. Marines were unable to direct fire on the sniper due to friendlies in immediate area. Results: 01 USMC WIA.

At 1700H, Barkeep located 05 U.S. personnel who were KIA. These personnel were not from Barkeep and appeared to have been killed several days prior. I.D. could not be verified but it is believed that the 05 were USMC personnel from Wonder Why Echo. The area of recovery coincided with the last known position reported by WWE.

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1300

12 Jan 1969

09 December 1968

At 1730H in vic of BT005606, Lima-3, while in defensive position, saw 01 VC coming towards their perimeter. Lima-3 opened fire with M-16's. Results: 01 VC KIA(C).

At 1830H in vic BT009607, India, while on a sweep looking for MIA's, came under fire from both .30 and .50 cal. India returned fire and pulled back casualties. Results: 04 USMC KIA; 10 USMC WIA; 07 USMC MIA.

At 2200 to 0300H in vic of BT003605, Hotel observed a small group of enemy approaching their lines. Hotel fired small arms and threw 05 M-26's. Results: 04 NVA KIA(C); 02 AK-47's w/bayonets, 04 AK magazines, 14 M-16 magazines, maps and documents captured.

10 December 1968

Between 10-15 December 1968, the battalion was reorganizing for designation Battalion Landing Team 3/26. Companies continued to patrol AO during this time. No contacts were made with the enemy. No significant events took place.

16 December 1968

At 110H a recon insert within Bn AC observed 5 VC/NVA moving NE across a ridgeline in vic of AT814795, wearing green utilities shirts, bush covers, and packs. An AO was called and worked over the area. Results were unknown.

At 1900H a KT from company L in vic AT893746 heard movement to their front. The movement continued around to a position to their rear. KT detonated a claymore mine and opened up with S/A fire. Search conducted at first light revealed 02 soft covers, and 02 hand grenades.

21 December 1968

At 1530H a patrol from Company L discovered wreckage of an F-4 Phantom Jet in vic of AT872741. Wreckage was scattered over an area of 100 meters. Patrol found 01 parachute in trees not completely unpacked, 01 flight terminal map dated 25 Oct 68 to 25 Nov 68, and 02 aircraft manuals. These items were not burnt. Manuals and maps recovered. There was no ordnance nor human bodies in site of wreckage.

22 December 1968

At 0925, a patrol from company "L" heard sporadic firing in (vic) AT931731. Also observed a CH-53 taking ground fire from just south of above grid. Area was swept w/neg results.

At 1445H a patrol from Company L came under intense S/A fire from Vill in vic IT 925726. Enemy was estimated to be of platoon size. While attempting to maneuver on enemy the patrol was also taking rounds from friendly CAP unit and had to withdraw. Results of contact were 01 KIA, USN.

Page 10 of 21 pages

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1300
12Jan69

25 December 1968

On the evening of 25 December 1968, in. vic of AT887767 BKK₃ observed enemy forces, and took them under fire with M-16, M-79, and M-26's, 81mm illumination was called in. Visual check of area produced neg results. Sightings were reported again at 2205H and taken under fire by same means. Results: Negative.

26 December 1968

At 1000H received reports from villagers' vic AT924768 that many VC had entered their Village the previous night between 2400 and 0400H. The villagers reported chasing the VC away. BK₂ was notified.

At 1545H BK₂ heard movement in thick bush vic AT866794. The patrol challenged movement then opened up on the area with S/A. Due to the density of bush, search of the area was difficult and produced negative results.

28 December 1968

At 0200H on 28th December 1968, 2/7 took over the Battalions AO.

29 December 1968

Advance party went aboard ships to act as guides for the rest of the Battalion Landing Team.

31 December 1968

The rear elements completed the move aboard ships.

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~~SECRET~~1300
12 Jan 1969PART IV
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Encl

	FMFPacO 5750.8A
NIF	CG, 1st MarDivO 34.80.1A
	CG, 1st MarDivO 301-68
	26th Mar FragO 35-68
2-#1	26th Mar FragO 36-68
2-#2	26th Mar FragO 37-68
2-#3	26th Mar FragO 38-68
2-#4	26th Mar FragO 39-68
2-#5	26th Mar FragO 40-68
NIF	1st Mar OpOrder 315-68 (Meade River)
4	3d Bn, 26th Mar OpOrder 2-68 (Meade River)

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PAGE THREE RUMHLA SECRET

YA 271200H OCT 68.

- (5) BE PREPARED TO ESTABLISH BLOCKING FORCE AS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT 3D BN 26TH MAR OPNS. 9
 - (6) BE PREPARED ON ORDER TO REASSUME RESPONSIBILITY PRESENT A.Q. RESPONSIBILITY PRESENT MISSIONS, AND OPCON A.Q. C. 3D BN 26TH MWR (-) (REIN)
 - (7) CONDUCT RECON IN FORCE OPNS COMMENCING 28 OCT 68 TO FIND, FIX AND DESTROY ENEMY FORCES, MATERIALS, AND CACHES WITHIN 33 SQ TIZIPORARYHA Q.
 - (8) ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY FOR RI[#] 1 WND HAI VAN PASS, FROM AT 4938834 TO AT 900956, O/A 271200H OCT 68.
 - (9) ASSUME OPCON OF A CO 1ST BN 26TH MWR EFFECTIVE O/A 271200H.
 - (10) BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE REACTION FORCE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE LAAM BATTERY VIC AT 924920.
 - (11) BE PREPARED ON ORDER TO REASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESENT A.Q. RESPONSIBILITY PRESENT MISSIONS, AND OPCON OF ALL ORGANIC UNITS.
- D. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS.
- (1) 3D BN 26TH MWR TEMPORARILY ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE O/A

PAGE FOUR RUMHLA SECRET

271200H OCT 68 FROM 1ST MWR DIV/XXIV CORPS SOUTH EAST TO
 SOUTHEAST TO AT 841900 THEN SOUTHWEST TO AT 800885
 EAST TO AT 852860 THEN EAST TO AT 865856 THEN
 THEN EAST TO AT 893840 THEN NORTHEAST TO AT 914
 EAST TO AT 945885 THEN FOLLOW COASTLINE NORTH
 POINT INTERSECTS 1ST MARDIV/XXIV CORPS BOUNDARY
 THEN SOUTHWARD W/RT ALONG THE BOUNDARY TO
 ADJUST PROPOSED 1/26-3/26 BOUNDARY COORDINATE
 TO REF A ACCORDINGLY

1. NOTIFY THIS HEADQUARTERS DATE AND ALLEGIANCES OF
 2. NOTIFY THPS HEADQUARTERS DATE DATE RESPONSIBILITY
 3. ASSUMED OR RELINQUISHED

4. DER LAUTH ALCON

5. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS CHANGE
 6. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS. MTC

10-4
 12

ENCLOSURE (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

#3

~~SECRET~~

00
DE RUMMLA
ZNY-SSSSS
O 020535Z 00F 68
FM TWENTY SIX MAR
TO FIRST BN TWENTY SIXTH MAR
THIRD BN TWENTY SIXTH MAR
INFO CG FIRST MARDIV
FIRST BN THIRTEENTH MAR

NR 004 / 020620Z 00F 68
@N 4/1

BT
SECRET
FRAG 037-68 (BOUNDARY CHANGED)
A. TWENTY SIXTH MAR FRAG 036-68 SET MSG 016 261245Z OCT 68
I. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS: CHANGE EFFECTIVE 021500Z NOV 68
THIRD BN TWENTY SIXTH MAR TEMPORARY AO ESTABLISHED BY REF AS
FOLLOWS: DELETE PRESENT 1/26 - 3/26 BOUNDARY FROM AT 9148 2
NORTH EAST TO AT 945885. ESTABLISH NEW 1/26 - 3/26 BOUNDARY
FROM AT 914870 EAST TO AT 945870.

GP-4
BT

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Enclosure

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E
OO RUEA
ZNY SSSSS
O P 001500Z NOV 61
FM TWENTY SIX MAR
TO FIRST DEPARTMENT SIX MAR
THIRD DEPARTMENT MAR
FIRST DEPARTMENT MAR
INFO CG FIRST MAR DIV

*Third
Mar
First*

BT

~~SECRET~~

FRAG. CASE OF BOUNDARY CHANGES
A. THE
COORDINATE
THIRD DEPARTMENT MAR
BY REPAIRS CHANGED AS
BOUNDARY FROM VIC AT85206 EAST TO THE
OF AT900844 ESTABLISH NEW 1/20-0000
AT852882 SOUTH TO INTERSECT NORTH
VIC AT852855 THEN EASTWARD
SONG CODE TO VIC AT900844
TO INTERSECT PRESENT BOUNDARY

GP-4
BT

PAGE 24

NNNA

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13

13

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ENCLOSURE (2)¹³

BY RUMHLA
BY SCHEP
C 081944L
M TWENTY SIX MAR
TO FIRST BN TWENTY SIX MAR
THIRD BN TWENTY SIX MAR
INFO CG FIRST MARDIV
CG NINTH MAB
FIRST BN THIRTEENTH MAR

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021
CEN - 101
HAS BEEN SENT

BT
SECRET
(CC-045)

FRAGO 39-68 (OPERATION NICOLLET BAY)

- A. 26TH MAR FRAGO 36-68 (SEC MSG DTG 261245Z OCT 68)
- B. 26TH MAR FRAGO 37-68 (SEC MSG DTG 020635Z OCT 68)
- C. 26TH MAR FRAGO 38-68 (SEC MSG DTG 051340Z OCT 68)

1. TASK ORGANIZATION:

- *26TH MARINES (-)
 - HQ CO 26TH MAR
 - FIRST BN 26TH MAR (-) (REIN)
 - K CO 3RD BN 26TH MAR
 - 3RD BN 26TH MAR (-) (REIN)

S-3	E
S-3A	R
FSC	H
ALC	RA7

watch off

PAGE TWO RUMHLA 101 SECRET
A CO 1ST BN 26TH MAR

2. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. D-DAY 7 NOV H-HOUR 1800
- B. NICKNAME: NICOLLET BAY
- C. REF A, B, C.

GP-4

BT

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ENCLOSURE(2)*

~~SECRET~~

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REVISED 10/21/68
903
Has Been Sent

OP 031643Z NOV 68
FM TWENTY SIXTH MARINES
TO FIRST BN TWENTY SIXTH MAINES
THIRD BN TWENTY SIXTH MARINES
INFO CG FIRST MARDIV
CG NINTH MAB
SEVENTH MAR
FIRST BN SEVENTH MARINES
FIRST BN THIRZEENTH MARINES

BY
S E C R E T
(CC-046)

FRAG O 40-68 (OPCON CHANGE)

- A. 1ST MARDIV FRAG O 431-68 (SEC MSG DTG 080925Z NOV 68)
- B. TELCON 26TH MAR CAPT REED/7TH MAR CAPT KRULAK OF 8 NOV 68.
- 1. EXECUTIBN.

- A. CONCEPT OF OPERATION. SEVENTH MARINES CHOPS ONE COMPANY TO 26TH MAR IAW REFA. 26TH MAR SIMULTANEOUSLY CHOPS COMPANY TO 1ST BN 26TH MAR TO RELIEVE K CO THIRD BN 26TH MAR. K CO REVERTS TO OPCON 3RD BN TWENTY SIXTH MAR.
- B. 1ST BN TWENTY SIXTH MAR.

PAGE TWO RUMHLL 103 S E C R E T

- (1) ASSUME OPCON SEVENTH MAR COMPANY UPON ARRIVAL 1726AG.
- (2) CHOP K CO 3RD BN 26TH MAR TO 3RD BN 26TH MAR AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER ARRIVAL SEVENTH MAR COMPANY.

C. 3RD BN 26TH MAR.

- (1) ASSUME OPCON K CO 3RD BN 26TH MAR UPON ARRIVAL 3/26 AG.
- 2. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS.
- A. 7TH MAR TO ASSIGN D CO 7TH MAR OPCON 26TH MAR AS INDICATED BY REF B.
- B. DIRLAUTH ALCON.
- C. REPORT DTG OPCON CHANGES EFFECTED.

GP-4
LBI

S-3 *Z*

S3A *P*

FSC *K*

ALO *PAI*

Watch Off

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ENCLOSURE (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

DKU DE EME NR 010 010 010

Supporting Command for Command

ZNY SSSSS
OO 261245Z OCT 68
FM TWENTY SIXTH MAR
TO ZEN/FIRST BN TWENTY SIXTH MAR
ZEN/THIRD BN TWENTY SIXTH MAR
INFO CG FIRST MWRDIV
ZEN/FIRST BN THIRTEENTH MAR
FIRST EN GR BN
FIRST MP BN
THIRD AMIRAC BN

261510Z | OIP
OCT 29 1968 | [initials]

"HAS BEEN SENT"

SECRET

FRAG 036-68(26TH MAR OPNS)

A. 26TH MAR SEC LTR 3/GME/RLW SER 0014268 BID 22 OCT 68

1. SITUATION.

A. ENEMY. CURRENT INITIUMS AND PERINTREPS

B. FRIENDLY:

- (1) 1ST MAW PROV FW AND HELO SPT AS REQ
- (2) 3D MP BN PROV SCOUT DOG SPT AS REQ
- (3) 1ST EN GR BN PROV PLI (-) D/S 26TH MAR EFFECTIVE 241600H OCT 68

BN PROV RECON FORCES D/S 26TH MAR,

PAGE TWO RUMHLA SECRET

(4) 3D AMIRAC BN PROV 2 LVIP-CMD AND 8 LVIP-5 EFFECTIVE

251300H OCT 68

(5) 1ST BN (-) (REIN) THIRTEENTH MAR PROV D/S 26TH MAR

(A) "W" BTRY 1ST BN 1TH MAR PROV D/S 3D BN 26TH MAR.

2. MISSION. ESTABLISH COMBAT BASE IN FLD OPERATING AREA VIC AT 929887 IN ASSIGNED AO AND CONDUCT HRF OPNS TO FIND, FIX AND DESTROY ENEMY FORCES, MATERIALS AND CREWEL.

3. EXECUTION.

A. CONCEPT. ONE BATTALION (-) ESTABLISHES COMBAT BASE VIC AT 929887 IN NE PORTION 26TH MAR AO AND CONDUCTS RECON IN FORCE OPN TO LOCATE AND DESTROY ENEMY FORCES AND INSTALLATIONS, REF A APPL PCA ELE

B. 1ST BN 26TH MAR (-) (REIN)

(1) CONTINUE ASSIGNED MISSION UNLESS IN CONTACT WITH REIN.

(2) BELIEVE 3D BN 26TH MAR OF RESPONDS FOR PRESENT AT

EFFECTIVE O/A 210000H OCT 68

(3) ASSUME OPCON OF 3B BN 26TH MAR OPERATING UNITS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED SECURITY MIDDLE BRIG 2ND LG 2ND BRIG 2ND BRIG ENGINEER BRIG VIC A1H871762, 3 BATTERY 1ST BN 13TH MAR, 1ST BATT 324 VTC AT 884747 EFFECTIVE O/A 270000H OCT 68.

(4) CHOP A CO 1ST BN 26TH MAR 10430 SR 26TH MAR EFFECTIVE

3D AMIRAC BN

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Self 16

30-68

ENCLOSURE (2)