

HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/27
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California, 96602

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
3/CWG/waw
5750
Ser: 0080-68
2 September 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 27th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 -- 31 August 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFracO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B
(d) Map: Vietnam; 1:50,000

Encl: (1) Battalion Landing Team 1/27 Command Chronology

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

K. J. Skipper
K. J. SKIPPER

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AUG 1968

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1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO, San Francisco, California, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 August 1968 - 31 August 1968

INDEX

- Part I - ORGANIZATION DATA
- Part II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- Part III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- Part IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

~~SECRET~~PART I

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ORGANIZATION DATA

- | <u>1. Designation</u> | <u>Commanders</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1st Battalion, 27th Marines | Maj K. J. SKIPPER
1-31 August 1968 |

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1stLt J. A. HAND 1-7 August 1968
	Capt M. T. FARMER 8-31 August 1968
"A" Company	1stLt J. F. BOULDIN 1-2 August 1968
	Capt W. O. MOORE Jr. 3-31 August 1968
"B" Company	Capt D. D. WEBER 1-31 August 1968
"C" Company	Capt R. J. GRUENBERG 1-30 August 1968
	1stLt R. A. PINEDA 31 August 1968
"D" Company	1stLt R. A. BARIBEAU 1-31 August 1968

2. Location

a: 1-31 August 1968: Danang, Republic of Vietnam

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Maj C. W. GIBSON Jr. 1-31 August 1968
S-1	Capt J. C. PANTHER 1-31 August 1968
S-2	1stLt P. G. SCHUTZ 1-2 August 1968
	1stLt J. F. BOULDIN 3-31 August 1968

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S-3

Maj C. W. GIBSON, Jr.
1-31 August 1968

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S-4

1stLt T. D. WIENER
1-31 August 1968

S-5

1stLt S. E. SHORE
1-31 August 1968

Communications Officer

1stLt G. D. SCHWARTZLOW
1-31 August 1968

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt T. D. WIENER
1-31 August 19684. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
32	987	2	47

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the entire reporting period the Battalion operated in the northwestern sector of the 27th Marine Regiment TACR (See TAB A).
2. The period of 1 - 22 August 1968 found the Battalion executing the same mission as that reported for the later part of the July reporting period; Conduct saturation patrol activities of the areas defined as the "Rocket Belt" and "Mortar Belt" to prevent attacks by fire and enemy infiltration against Danang. In addition two other factors were of operational significance. First, the need to be prepared for the enemy's initiation of his "Third Phase Offensive" which was expected to commence at any time during the month of August. Second, the command received orders to begin planning and initial preparations for its return to the 1st Marine Brigade. No major contact with enemy forces was made during this period.
3. The period of 23 - 31 August 1968 was dominated by the commands reaction to the enemies long awaited "Third Phase Offensive". The magnitude of the offensive was not as great as expected but never the less forced all tactical efforts to be directed towards countering it. At 230300H two PzB's located (AP970697) and (AP973642) received coordinated attacks by fire, followed by ground assaults. It was felt these enemy initiated actions were diversions executed to tie down the Marine forces and center the commands attention away from the enemy's true objectives. At approximately 230530H word was received via regimental Headquarters that the southern end of the vital Cam Le Bridge (BT016715) had fallen to the enemy. The command was directed to immediately exert maximum effort to the regaining of the bridge. Due to extensive patrols activities the command was forced to employ a convergence of forces scheme of attack. A platoon of Company "A" was directed to move from BT036722 to the bridge and establish the enemy's strength and location on the ground. This element approached to within 150 meters of the enemy positions before being pinned down. It remained in this status until 231500H when Company "A"(-) supported by three (3) tanks from 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines pushed through moderate enemy resistance on Route 1 south of the bridge, and assaulted the enemy positions. An infantry platoon of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines also supported Company "A". The results of the Company "A" movement to contact and assault were: 22 VC KIA, 2 USMC KIA, 4 USMC WIA. Company "A" remained in control of the bridge until elements of 1st MP Battalion and an ARVN Ranger Group arrived to re-assume responsibility for the bridge. While Company "A" had moved directly toward the bridge objective Company "D"(-) had conducted a sweep of Phong Le (2) (BT003703) and Cam Nam (BT011702) in order to destroy enemy elements reported to be located there. Moderate contact was made in Cam Nam with results of 16 USMC WIA, 1 USMC KIA, 3 VC KIA. A security patrol of H&S Company elements made contact at 231405H in vicinity BT003668, killing 5 VC with

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1 USMC WIA. on 24 August 1968 a Company "C" squad patrol drew very heavy fire in the same vicinity and withdrew to allow 1st Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment forces to react. On 25 August 10 enemy bodies surfaced in the area of the Can Le Bridge as a result of the Company "A" action on 23 August. These were previously unreported on the initial encounter. This action ended on 26 August with the near annihilation of the VC Main Force V-25 Battalion. The ARVN Ranger Group withdrew on 26 August and the command renewed activities in the Lo-Giang/Tung Lam area. For the remainder of the reporting period the command continued routine patrol activities while simultaneously maintaining a high state of alert due to possible continuation of enemy offensive operations.

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PART III

SPECIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) Casualties suffered during this reporting period:

USMC						USN					
KIA	WIA	MIA	NH	DOW	DAI	KIA	WIA	MIA	NH	DOW	DAI
6	55	0	4	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0

(2) The Battalion Joined the following during this reporting period:

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
5	98	0	8

(3) The Battalion presently has 60 billets filled with personnel in the following non-rated MOS's:

<u>0121</u>	<u>0251</u>	<u>0844</u>	<u>1121</u>	<u>1141</u>	<u>1161</u>	<u>1300</u>	<u>1316</u>	<u>1345</u>	<u>1371</u>	<u>1372</u>	<u>1391</u>
1	2	2	6	2	2	1	1	14	7	1	4
<u>1411</u>	<u>1443</u>	<u>1811</u>	<u>1833</u>	<u>2841</u>	<u>3042</u>	<u>5591</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>				
4	2	6	2	1	1	1	60				

(4) The Battalion presently has the following significant shortages in MOS's, as indicated:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>0122</u>	<u>0141</u>	<u>0251</u>	<u>0311</u>	<u>0331</u>	<u>0351</u>	<u>0369</u>
ML/CB	1/0	22/13	1/0	567/375	108/80	145/96	34/31
<u>0441</u>	<u>0848</u>	<u>2531</u>	<u>3041</u>	<u>3051</u>	<u>3371</u>	<u>8421</u>	<u>9999</u>
2/1	1/0	33/19	8/4	4/1	18/5	1/0	6/5

b. Enemy, Weather, and Terrain(1) Danang TAOR (Vietnam)(a) Summary of enemy activity

1. During this reporting period there was a drastic increase of enemy activity throughout the 1st Battalion, 27th Marines TAOR. The VC/NVA "Third General Offensive" became a reality on 22 - 23 August 1968 when elements of three (3) VC/NVA Battalions committed themselves to all out ground attacks against ARVN and USMC positions with the hope of gaining a temporary foot hold in Danang City itself. All of these attacks were stopped with light friendly casualties. The enemy Battalions in contact were the R-20 Battalion, the 402 Sapper

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Battalion and the 25 Battalion. The enemy at this time appears to have suffered heavily with regard to KIA's and WIA's. At this writing the VC/NVA have given the impression of avoiding contact and have broken into small groups to infiltrate the TAOR.

(b) Weather

1. Average temperature: DAY - 85 to 100 degrees
NIGHT - 70 - 75 degrees

Overall weather: Hot and clear with occasional showers in the late afternoon.

(c) Terrain

1. Majority of the terrain in this area is flat with rolling hills. This TAOR contains many well populated villages and hamlets. The northeastern portion of the TAOR is interlaced with streams and canals with a depth of one foot to eight feet. All villages and hamlets have numerous treelines, hedgerows, and foot paths. Most of the paddy lands in this TAOR were wet during the reporting period with a depth of approximately six inches. No map corrections or changes to be reported at this time.

c. Training

(1) During the reporting period, continued emphasis was placed on giving personnel the opportunity to attend schools designed for the purpose of increasing professional proficiency. Schools attended are as follows:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>NO. OF PERSONNEL ATTENDING</u>
Officer Leadership School	2
SNCO Leadership School	2
SGO Leadership School	3
Division Embarkation School	1
Fiscal Clerk School	1
KI 28-36 Maintenance Training Course	1
Projectionist School	2
Basic Ammo Tech Course	1
Basic Infantry Weapon Repair School	1
Organic Supply Accounting School	1

(2) During this reporting period each member of this command received one hour of instruction per week on weapons safety and personal response. In addition each company executed a weekly training program which averaged six hours of instruction per week.

(3) A daily inspection of individual weapons was performed on a platoon/section level when possible (smaller units in the field also performed this inspection on a daily basis).

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d. Logistics, Equipment, and Supply

(1) During the month of August 1968 the Battalion was in garrison at Daong Son II. Battalion Supply was engaged in providing support for units participating in Operation "ALLENBROOK", and subsequently, salients established within the TAOR.

(2) From the second of the month until the seventeenth material excess to the needs of the command were redistributed locally or invoiced to the Force Logistic Command.

(3) A preliminary pre-deployment inspection by the Embarkation Officer was conducted on the sixteenth. Modes and methods of shipping and packing were discussed and recommendations received.

(4) On 18 August the Regimental Supply Officer inspected the Battalion in the logistical area. All phases of supply operation were satisfactory, however, the inspection showed a need for a more complete and accurate adjustment of stock records and items in stock at Battalion Supply.

(5) 20 August saw the commencement of a wall to wall inventory which resulted in a satisfactory improvement in the aforementioned area.

(6) The period 24 - 26 August saw the Battalion actively engaged with the enemy in the immediate vicinity of the encampment. Battalion Supply continued to support the infantry companies while packing and preserving materials and equipment and manning the perimeter throughout the night on a 100% basis.

(7) On 31 August Battalion Supply submitted tentatively final reports on Special Devices, and Combat Losses due to tactical relief being imminent.

(8) During the Month of August time was spent in the preparation of the Battalion for re-deployment to Hawaii. Materials were palletized, banded, and marked for shipment. Inspections were conducted of all companies/sections of this battalion to ascertain their readiness for deployment and to render any assistance needed. Insecticide was inserted in all boxes to insure that no disease carrying bugs or rodents were transported to Hawaii.

(9) Fiscal Situation

(a) As of 31 August 1968, the fiscal posture of the Battalion stands as follows:

Program Code Obligations:	\$103,115.66
Available Balance:	8,984.34
Total Obligations (ASA)	3,756.95

(b) On 30 August the Deputy Division Comptroller inspected the fiscal records, declaring that they were indeed the best kept and most accurate that he had yet encountered.

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2. Chronological Listing of Events

- 1 August Conducted routine patrol activities throughout TAOR.
- 2 August Company "B", squad combat patrol located AP983691 found three VC in bunker. Fired one M-72 resulting in 3 VC KIA (C).
- 3-9 August Continued routine patrol activities throughout TAOR.
- 10 August Company "B" with detachments from 1st Engineers detected seven (7) surprise firing devices (blown in place) while clearing village vicinity AP9868. One surprise firing device tripped resulting in 1 USMC WIA.
- 11-17 August Company "B" OPCON to 1st Marine Regiment.
- 12-14 August Continued routine patrol activities throughout TAOR.
- 15 August Company "A" platoon in conjunction with RD team captured nine (9) VC including hamlet chief. Sent to Hoi An for interrogation.
- Meeting held with attached units in conjunction with return to CONUS.
- 16-21 August Continued routine patrol activity throughout TAOR.
- 22 August At 222115H, Company "C", squad combat patrol vicinity AP965650 made contact with five (5) VC. Resulting in 2 VC KIA and 1 USMC WIA with two (2) enemy weapons captured.
- 23 August At 230300H, Company "B" PPB at AP970697 received ground attack supported by automatic weapons and rocket fire from estimated VC squad. Attack repulsed resulting in 3 USMC KIA, 5 USMC WIA, and 1 VC KIA.
- At 230300H, Company "C" PPB located AP973642 received incoming mortar fire followed by ground attack. Resulting in 1 USMC KIA, 14 USMC WIA (minor), and 3 VC KIA and 3 weapons captured.
- At 230915H, Company "A", platoon combat patrol located BT018717 received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from enemy held bunker and defensive position at southern end of Cam Li bridge (BT016715). Platoon pinned down, unable to move for six hours. Results: 2 USMC WIA.

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23 August Cont.

At 230920H, Company "D" (Company "D") sweep at vicinity BT007704 received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from enemy entrenched in treeline. Called Marine air strikes, resulting in 3 USMC WIA, and 1 USMC KIA.

At 231215H, Company "B", platoon attached to Company "D" for sweep at BT012705 received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from vicinity BT013705. Returned fire, assaulted enemy position resulting in 13 USMC WIA, and 3 VC KIA.

At 231405H, Company "A" platoon sweep located BT012705 received B-40 rockets and automatic weapons/ small arms fire from enemy held bunker and defensive positions from southern end of Cam Lo Bridge (BT016715). Marine tanks returned fire, unit assaulted and secured position, resulting in 2 USMC KIA, 4 USMC WIA, and 22 VC KIA.

At 231405H, Company H&S, platoon (Rein), recon patrol vicinity BT003668 made contact with unknown size enemy force resulting in 1 USMC WIA and 5 VC KIA.

At 231700H, 2 ARVN Ranger Battalion assumed responsibility for area east of MSR, north of Grid 63, west of Grid 04, and south of Grid 71.

24-25 August

Company "C", squad combat patrol made contact with large enemy force vicinity BT000632. 1st Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment reacted to contact. Action was heavy and continuous for two days. Initial reports of results are 200 VC KIA.

Remainder of Battalion continued patrol activity to secure base positions.

26 August

Various elements engaged in security patrols vicinity AT969656, made sporadic light contact with NVA forces, resulting in 3 NVA KIA, 2 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA, and 6 60mm rounds captured along with 1 AK-50.

Company "D" platoon returned from "Rough Rider" duties.

27-31 August

Units continued routine patrol activities and maintained high state of alert due to possible continuation of "Third Phase Offensive".

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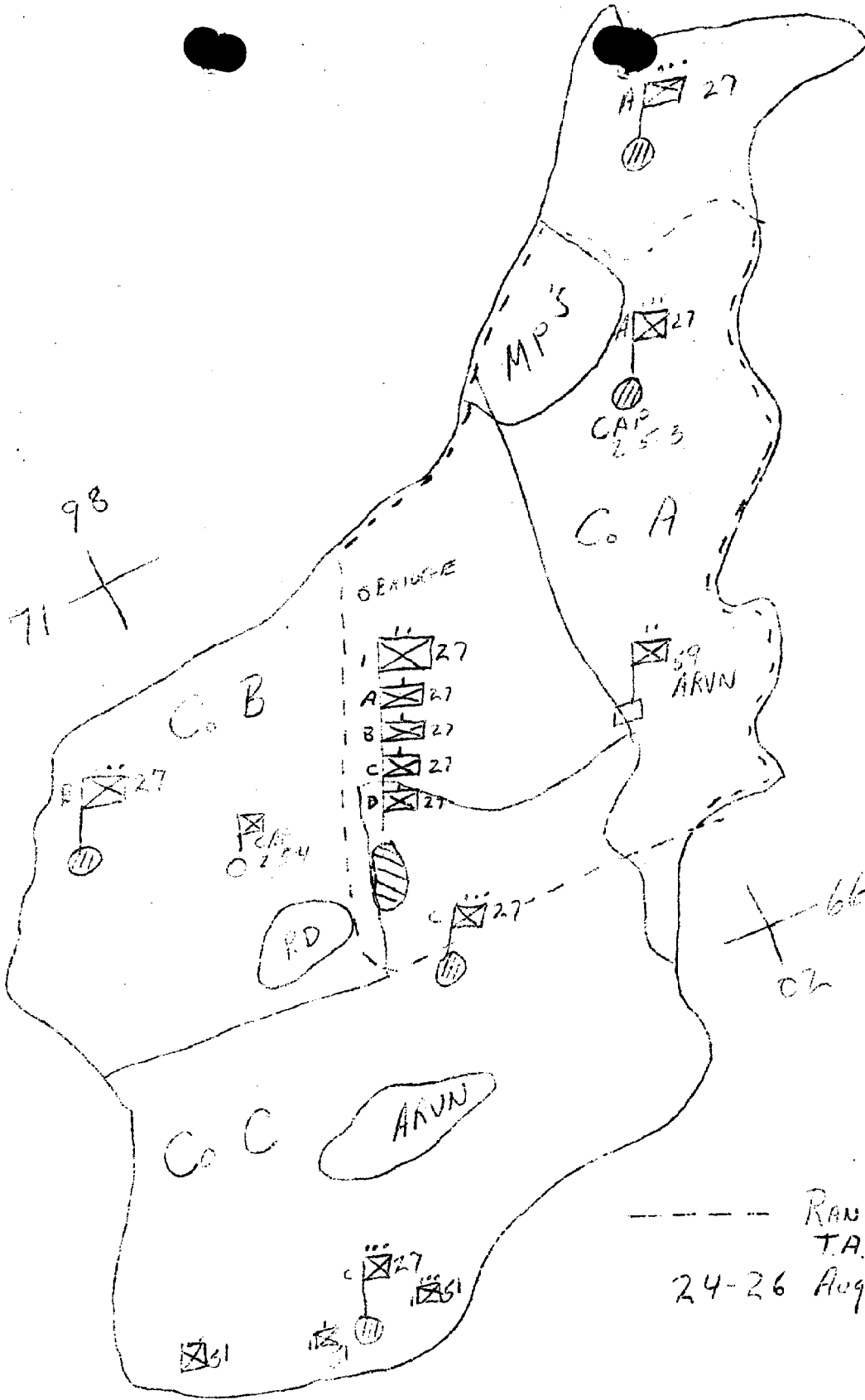
PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓TAB A - 1st Battalion, 27th Marines DANANG TAOR Period 1-31 August 1968

✓TAB B - 1st Battalion, 27th Marines Operations Unit Journal

*TAB B - Submitted with original copy only.



A-1

TAB A
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HEADQUARTERS
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

1/RWS/rlm
1320
7 Sep 1968

From: Commanding General
To: Captain M. T. FARMER 090151/0302 USMC (1stBn, 27th Marines)

Subj: Movement Order

Ref: (a) CG FMFPac 170337Z/Aug68
(b) CG FMFPac 172346Z/Aug68

1. Commencing on or about 10 September 1968, in accordance with references (a) and (b) and the embarkation schedule issued by separate instructions, the following units under your command will embark for air transportation to Hawaii from a restricted area where dependents were not authorized:

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
1stBn, 27th Marines	5	6	0	0
H&SCo, 1/27 (Rein)	4	12	0	32
Rad Rel Team, HqCo, 27thMar	0	0	0	0
NGF In Party 2/13	0	0	0	0
Btry D, 2/13	2	6	0	0
Mort Btry, 2/13	1	10	0	0
1st Plt, CoB, 5th SEBn	0	2	0	1
1st Plt, CoB, 5th EngrBn	1	0	0	0
1st Plt, CoB, 5th MIBn	0	0	0	0
1st Plt, CoB, 5th MedBn	0	0	0	10
1st Plt, CoB, 5th AmTracBn	1	0	0	0
1st Plt, CoB, 5th ReconBn	0	0	0	0
1st Plt, CoB, 5th ATBn	0	0	0	0
Det, 5th ServBn	1	2	0	0
Det, 13th DentCo	0	0	1	0
Det, HqBn, 5thMarDiv	0	0	0	0
Det, 19th CTF, FMFPac	0	0	0	0

2. These orders constitute permanent change of station orders for yourself and the organizations listed in paragraph 1, above. Certificates in lieu of orders will be furnished to all personnel involved.

3. Report to this Headquarters the number of officers and enlisted personnel requiring second dislocation allowance.

f/w
1/27

(1/27/68)

4. Travel chargeable to appropriations: 1791105.2753, MPMG-69 BCN 44690, AAA 27, CG 74120 off tvl, 74121 enl tvl, 74150 (off), 74160 (enl entl), depn tvl; 74152 (off), 74162 (enl entl), trans EHG; 74157 (off), 74167 (enl entl) DLA.

C. A. YOUNGDALE

Copy to:

CMC (AO3)

CG FMFPac (2)

CG FMFPac (Fwd) (2)

CG III MAF

CO, 1st Marine Brigade

CO, MCAS Kaneohe Bay