

S & C FILES
HEADQUARTERS
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FFO, San Francisco, 96602

3/RAB/waw
5750
16 April 1968
Ser:

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division
Via: Commanding Officer, 27th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 March to 31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B
(d) Map Vietnam, 1:50,000 Sheet No. 6640IV Series L7014

Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 27th Marines Command Chronology
(2) 1st Battalion, 27th Marines TAOR

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), (b), and (c), enclosures(1) and (2) are submitted.

J. E. Greenwood
J. E. GREENWOOD

180/27th Mar

End Johnson

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27th Marines S&C #00151-68
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MRP 1968

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

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 March 1968 to 31 March 1968

INDEX

- Part I - Organization Data
- Part II - Narrative Summary
- Part III - Sequential Listing of Significant Events

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ENCLOSURE (1)

PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>
1st Battalion, 27th Marines	LtCol J. E. GREENWOOD 1 - 31 March 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1stLt J. A. HAND 1 - 31 March 1968
Company "A"	Capt J. C. PANTHER 1 - 31 March 1968
Company "B"	Capt R. L. ALLEN 1 - 31 March 1968
Company "C"	Capt H. T. FARMER 1 - 31 March 1968
Company "D"	Capt P. J. KAHLER 1 - 31 March 1968

2. Location

- a. 1 - 30 March 1968 DANANG, Republic of Vietnam.
- b. 31 March 1968, 1st Battalion, 27th Marines (-) enroute north to vicinity of HUE.

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Maj F. P. ELLER Jr. 1 - 31 March 1968
S-1	1stLt K. W. SCHENCK 1 - 31 March 1968
S-2	Capt W. T. SAMPNEY 1 - 31 March 1968
S-3	Capt R. J. GRUBENBERG 1 - 28 March 1968
	Maj C. W. GIBSON Jr. 29 - 31 March 1968

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S-4

Capt M. A. HANSON
1 - 31 March 1968

S-5

2ndLt C. J. MILUM
1 - 31 March 1968

Communications

Capt R. L. ALLEN
1 - 31 March 1968

Supply

Capt M. A. HANSON
1 - 31 March 1968

Motor Transport

2ndLt S. A. ANDERSON
1 - 31 March 1968

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
39	964	3	55

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ENCLOSURE (1)

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the reporting period the Battalion took an active part in the defense of the southern sector of the DANANG TAOR. TAOR indicated in enclosure (2). A total of 505 patrols, 214 ambushes and 8 company size search and destroy operations were conducted throughout the Battalion's TAOR. Particular attention was directed to that area in the Battalion's TAOR classified as the "Rocket Belt".
2. The Battalion also provided security for the 27th Marines Command Post, which was physically co-located in the compound with the Battalion.
3. Considerable attention was directed to improvement of the existing perimeter defensive positions as well as constructing new defensive structures.
4. The Battalion successfully completed the transition from the M-14 to the M-16A1 rifle. Each Marine armed with the M-16A1 rifle received eight hours of instruction in accordance with current directives.
5. The Battalion's efforts, however, were not confined solely to offensive operations. Particular attention was directed to instituting a strong people to people program. Personal contact with local Vietnamese military representatives and local hamlet/village elders was stressed. MEDCAPS and civic action projects were initiated.
6. On 9 March 1968, Company "A" was detached and reported to the operational control of the 1st Military Police Battalion. They remained detached from the Battalion until 30 March 1968, operating in company TAOR south of Danang City. Company CP was located BT035738.
7. CG, 1stMarDiv 292349Z Mar68, directed the Battalion to displace north to vicinity of HUE and report OPCON Task Force X-Ray. The Battalion reported OPCON 311115H March 1968.

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~~SECRET~~PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) Casualties suffered during reporting period:

<u>USMC</u>					<u>USN</u>			
<u>DAI</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>NH</u>
1	0	9	0	8	0	1	0	0

(2) The Battalion joined the following during the reporting period:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
2	454	1	1

b. Enemy, Weather, and Terrain

(1) Enemy encountered during this period were small units consisting of three to eight persons.

(2) Weather 1 - 30 March 1968 (TAOR DANANG Area)

Average Temperature: Day 80 to 85 degrees
Night 65 to 70 degrees

Overall weather: Skies clear and visibility usually 15 to 20 miles. Little rain with some early morning mist for about three days.

31 March 1968 (TAOR HUE Area)

Average Temperature: Day 75 to 80 degrees
Night 60 to 65 degrees

Overall weather: Skies clear and visibility unlimited.

(3) Terrain. 1 - 30 March 1968 (TAOR DANANG Area): Mostly flat land with several areas of thick treelines and heavily populated villages. Numerous rice paddies throughout the TAOR. Area is generally dry with few streams utilized to irrigate the rice paddies and other farm land. Highway 1-A and 1-C are considered all weather roads and could be utilized as an emergency LZ, if necessary.

31 March 1968 (SAOR HUE Area): No terrain report available at this time.

c. Training: In spite of an extensive commitment of a tactical nature, the Battalion was still able to accomplish required training.

(1) The 1st Division Mobile Training Team provided a six day battery of instruction to Sergeants and above. The syllabus consisted of orientation subjects; i.e., Rules of Engagement, Mines and Booby Traps, M-16A1 rifle, Use of Supporting Arms, etc.

(2) The Battalion sent a total of 64 personnel, encompassing a cross section of company level grades, to include officers, to the 1st Engineer Battalion's Land Mine Warfare School. The Battalion sent representatives to other formal schools as follows: Leadership School, Registered Publications School, Scout Sniper School, Babarkation School, and Radar Technician School.

(3) Considerable attention was directed toward implementing a rapid turnover from the M-14 to the M-16A1. An eight hour block of instruction was presented to all personnel armed with the new weapon. Throughout the reporting period, personnel continued to receive additional instruction beyond the eight hour minimum block with the M-16A1.

(4) The Battalion established a systematic instruction program on weapons safety, rules of engagement, and personal response, in addition to general military subjects instruction.

(5) The need for assistance with night visual devices in the conduct of the Battalion's operations was immediately realized. In order to acquaint a minimum of three personnel per squad and thirty personnel from H&S Company, a Battalion level school was established to instruct personnel in their use. To successfully implement this instruction, the Battalion appointed a highly qualified officer to monitor all instruction.

(6) The Battalion conducted a 24 hour CPX on 21 March 1968. Field command post established BT021704. CPX included a tactical displacement.

(7) The Battalion has established a thorough Orientation Training Program for personnel joining the Battalion. Personnel recently joined are not allowed to participate in tactical operations or stand a perimeter security post unless they have completed the three day orientation block of instruction.

(8) A training highlight consisted of (2) eight hour periods of instruction in Tunnel Searching Techniques presented by the 51st ARVN Regiment. The instruction included a practical application period.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

(9) Respect for mines and booby traps was stressed in training. The Battalion encountered five mines/booby traps during the reporting period. Detailed records were compiled and are being maintained concerning detection means, techniques of emplacement and methods of destruction. All information gained relative to mines and booby traps is immediately promulgated.

d. Combined Action. A total of four (4) Company size search and destroy operations were conducted with units from the 2nd Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment and the 59th Regional Forces. Dates, units, and locations or areas covered, see paragraph 2 Entries.

e. Logistics, Equipment, and Supply. The month of March was one of adjustment for Battalion Supply. Upon arrival in Vietnam, reinforcing elements were detached from the Battalion. The supply section invoiced all T/E equipment to the units' new parent commands, thereby reducing the size of the formal supply account by approximately 30%, and the number of responsible unit accounts from seventeen to seven. During this period, the Battalion converted from the M-14 to the M-16A1. The M-16A1's were placed in service on 7 March 1968. The conversion went smoothly and no significant support problems have arisen. The Battalion received continuous engineer support from 1st Marine Division. Highlights for the month are as follows:

(1) The Battalion received forty tent decks and strongbacks for troop billeting.

(2) A twelve head shower unit was installed in the shower point shared jointly with the 27th Marines.

(3) A Battalion COC bunker was constructed.

(4) During March, five M35A2 trucks were attached to the Battalion. In an effort to get maximum utilization of organic transportation, Battalion assets of M422A1s and M274A2 were centrally pooled and dispatched on an as-required basis.

(5) The Battalion was allocated \$40,000 by 1st Marine Division. Highest expenditures were in the area of organizational clothing, as the Battalion was outfitted with jungle utilities and boots. Expenditures for March totaled \$85,628.

(6) On March 20th, the Supply Officer and Supply Chief attended the Division Supply Conference at 1st Division Headquarters.

f. Civic Action. A medical civic action program was conducted in three separate hamlets of our TAOR. Treatment was given to approximately 1200 persons. Assistance was given to a family whose father had been accidentally killed.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~2. Entries

1 March 1968 Company "C" with personnel from 2nd Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment conducted search and destroy operation in southern sector of TAOR.

2 - 3 March 1968 Company "C" conducted search and destroy operation with elements of the 2nd Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment in and around the village of NHON THO (2).

1 - 5 March 1968 Company "A" provided a platoon size security force for truck convoy from Danang to Phu Bai.

1 - 16 March 1968 H&S Company (-) and Company "B" provided security for 27th Marines, and 1st Battalion, 27th Marines CP's.

6 March 1968 Company "C"(-) with a platoon from 59th Regional Forces conducted search operation of PHONG LE(2).

6 - 7 March 1968 Company "D" established PPB vic BT028704.

7 - 8 March 1968 Company "A" established PPB vic BT036723.

7 - 19 March 1968 Company "C" provided a platoon size security force for truck convoy from Danang to Phu Bai.

8 - 30 March 1968 Company "D" established PPB vic BT035704.

9 - 10 March 1968 Company "D" established PPB vic BT023701.

9 - 10 March 1968 Company "C" established PPB vic BT006669.

9 - 30 March 1968 Company "A" OPCON, 1st MP Battalion.

11 March 1968 Company "C" established PPB vic BT003673.

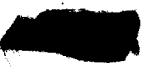
11 - 12 March 1968 Company "D" established two PPB's vicinity BT016678 and BT028704.

12 March 1968 Company "C"(-) with a platoon from 2nd Battalion 51st ARVN Regiment, conducted search and destroy mission in NHON THO (1).

13 - 14 March 1968 Second platoon, Company "D" OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines, to provide security for the TU ~~CM~~ bridge BT031648.

13 - 30 March 1968 Company "D" established PPB vic BT017682.
 16 March 1968 Company "B" conducted clearing operation in DUONG SON (3).
 16 March 1968 MED CAP conducted in THON CON DAU.
 17 - 30 March 1968 H&S Company (-) and Company "D" (-) provided security for 27th Marines, and 1st Battalion, 27th Marines CP's.
 18 March 1968 MED CAP conducted in THO TRONG LOUNG.
 18 March 1968 Company "B" established blocking position around PHONG LE(1) in preparation for sweep on 19 March 1968.
 18 March 1968 Company "C" (-) conducted search and destroy operation in QUE GIANG (2).
 19 March 1968 Company "B" with one platoon from the 2nd Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment, conducted search and destroy mission at PHONG LE(1).
 20 - 31 March 1968 Security provided for daily mine sweep of MSR south of Battalion CP.
 21 March 1968 Company "B" established PPB vic AT972662.
 22 - 24 March 1968 Company "B" established PPB vic AT970685.
 22 - 28 March 1968 Company "C" established two PPB's vicinity of AT971663 and AT964633.
 22 - 30 March 1968 Company "B" established PPB vic AT972662.
 24 March 1968 Company "D" (-) established a blocking position along the western flank of the South Vinh Dien from BT032659 to BT032693 to support an operation of the 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines.
 24 - 30 March 1968 Company "B" designated "BALD EAGLE" with 3rd platoon assigned as "SPARROW HAWK".
 25 - 30 March 1968 Company "B" established PPB vic AT968686.
 26 March 1968 MED CAP conducted at THON CON DAU
 26 March 1968 MED CAP conducted at LO GIANG and TRUNG LUONG.

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28 March 1968

Company "D" conducted a platoon size search of CO MAN.

28 - 30 March 1968

Company "C" established PPB vicinity AT972644.

30 March 1968

Company "A" released from OPCON of 1st Military Police Battalion

31 March 1968

1st Battalion, 27th Marines (-) commenced displacement north to vicinity of HUE.

3. Activities conducted

<u>Patrol</u>			<u>Ambushes</u>			<u>S&D Opns</u>	<u>IPs</u>
<u>FT</u>	<u>Sqd</u>	<u>Plt</u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>Sqd</u>	<u>Plt</u>	<u>Co</u>	
27	404	74	1	199	14	3	611

4. Casualties/Contacts.

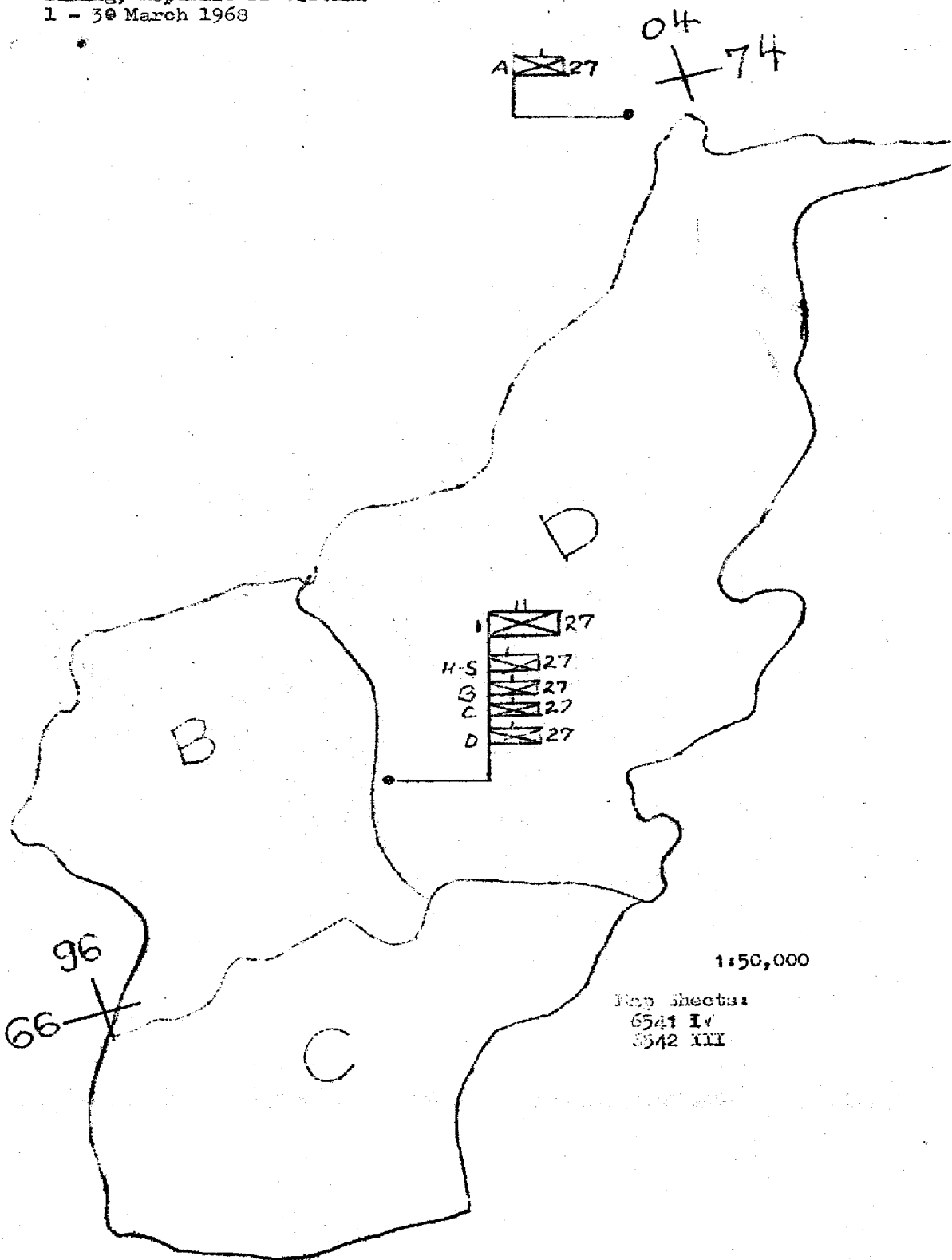
<u>Contacts</u>			<u>USMC</u>			<u>USN</u>			<u>ENEMY</u>		
<u>TOT</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>VC/NVA</u>	<u>IWC</u>
37	14	23		9			1		5		2

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ENCLOSURE (1)

Unclassified
1st Battalion, 27th Marines T.O.R
DaNang, Republic of Vietnam
1 - 30 March 1968



1:50,000

Map sheets:
6541 IV
6542 III

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ENCLOSURE (2)