

285968

4th Bn, 12th Mar
S&C-258-68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS
4th Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) MAF
APO San Francisco 96602

UNCLASSIFIED

3/FJM/rgt
5750
Ser: 03A157-60
5 June 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
VIA: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 May 1968 (U)

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Incl: (1) 4th Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

- In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
- This document is to be downgraded at three year intervals and declassified after 12 years in accordance with DOD Directive 5200.10.

J. F. Stewart
J. F. STEWART

Copy to:
CO, 12th Marines

UNCLASSIFIED

Copy 1 of 12 copies

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PROBABLE TRIP

COB CHRON

MAY 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS
4th Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMP
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May

INDEX

- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III- SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(1)

Enclosure (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PART I
ORGANIZATION DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER4th Battalion(-)12th Marine B. Maj. B. F. STEWART (1-31 MAY)
3d Marine DivisionSUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Battery	1st Lt. R.P. FOSTER (1-31 MAY)
Battery L	Capt. P.B. GALLOR (1-3 MAY)
	1st Lt. J.H. TATE (3-31 MAY)
Battery M	Capt. H.W. KERN (1-19 MAY)
	Capt. W.D. JONES (19-31 MAY)
Battery B, 1st Battalion	Capt. J.C. UECKER (1-31 MAY)
13th Marines	
Battery K, 4th Battalion	1st Lt. G.W. WOOD (1-31 MAY)
13th Marines	

2. LOCATION

1-31 May: DONG HA, RVN (YD 214597)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

XO	Maj. G.O. KENNEDY JR. (1-31 MAY)
Sgt Maj	SgtMaj. M. C. McMANUS (1-31 MAY)
S-1	1st Lt. A.L. THORNTON (1-31 MAY)
S-2	1st Lt. F.J. McGRATH (1-31 MAY)
S-3	Capt. D.G. PURDY (1-31 MAY)
S-3A	Capt. F.R. FRANZEN (1-18 MAY)
	1st Lt. F.J. McGRATH (1-31 MAY)
S-4	Capt. W.D. JONES (1-19 MAY)
	Capt. F.R. FRANZEN (19-31 MAY)
CommO	Capt. B.F. METCALFE (1-31 MAY)
MTO	2nd Lt. B.J. RENFROW (1-31 MAY)
MaintO	1st Lt. R.P. FOSTER (1-31 MAY)
SupplyO	1st Lt. H.J. RADOW (1-31 MAY)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>Officer</u>	<u>USMC</u>		<u>Officer</u>	<u>USN</u>	
		<u>Enlisted</u>			<u>Enlisted</u>
32		541	0		13

(2)

Enclosure (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the initial week of May, the 4th Battalion, in performing its mission of general support of the 3d Marine Division/reinforcing the 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines, fired an unusually large number of prep fires, rolling barrages, and observed fire missions. These were fired in support of U.S. Marine, U.S. Army, and ARVN units in the field. Aerial observers continued to call in a significant number of observed missions.

The 1st Platoon of Battery "M" replaced the 1st Platoon of Battery "L" at Die Marker site C-1 (YD 299673) in early May. It remained in position for the duration of the month. K/4/13 (OPCON to 2/12) remained at Die Marker site C-2 (YD 1364). B/1/13 (formerly OPCON to 4/12, 1/13, 3/12, and now to 2/12) moved from CA LU to QUANG TRI. On the 29th of May they moved to DONG HA for further displacement. Battery "L" (ADCON, OPCON 4/12) was chopped OPCON to Task Force Hotel on 26 May, as a general support/reinforcing unit to said Task Force. Area of operations is presently KHE SANH.

Construction continued on the perimeter bunker system. One post and one M-109 received hits from an RPG-2, B-40 rocket launcher. The attack occurred at 0030 on 11 May. No injuries resulted. The M-109 remained operational. Battery "M" area received several rounds of 130mm artillery at 0530 on 10 May. Again no injuries were sustained. No appreciable damage resulted.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

1-31 May: 4th Battalion(-), 12th Marines - general support of 3d Marine Division - reinforcing the 2d Battalion, 12th Marines.

2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS SUPPORTED (OPCON Units)

During the month of May, the 4th Battalion participated in the following operations: LANCASTER II (1-31 May); KENTUCKY (1-31 May); HIGHRISE (1-31 May); SALINE II (1-31 May); RICE (1-17 May); CONCORDIA SQUARE (9-17 May); LEATHERNECK SQUARE-NE QUANG TRI-PHASE I (8-17 May).

3. FIRE SUPPORT PROVIDEDa. Recapitulation of Fire Missions (OPCON Units)

<u>TARGET TYPE</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL ROUNDS</u>
CONFIRMED	261	4366
ACQUIRED	227	1268
COUNTERBATTERY	67	303
PREPARATION	379	3486
HARASSING AND INTERDICTION	412	910
SPECIAL PURPOSE	67	607
SUPPORT OF ARVN	(3)	(12)
GRAND TOTAL	1416	10952
HE TOTAL		9957
WP TOTAL		338
ILLUM TOTAL		443
M449 TOTAL		214

b. The 4th Battalion supported numerous patrols of the 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, and provided reinforcing fires to the following direct support artillery battalions: 2d Battalion, 12th Marines; 3d Battalion, 12th Marines; 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery (U.S.A.); and 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery (U.S.A.).

4. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY (OPCON Units)

a. KIA: 498 (Note: Figures reflect total casualties resulting from missions fired by 4/12. In some instances, other units fired on the same targets.)
 b. WIA: 75

5. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED (ADCON Units)

a. Hostile - KIA, 0; WIA, 13
 b. Non-Hostile - Death, 1; Injury, 1

6. COMMAND RELATIONS

a. 4th Battalion(-) (Rein), 12th Marines
 1-31 May: OPCON/ADCON to 12th Marines
 INTERDICTION(4)

Enclosure (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~7. EQUIPMENT

Major items of T/E equipment received during May included the two replacement M109 155mm howitzers required to give M/4/12 and L/4/12 their full allowances of six each. The weapons were depot rebuilt models and were received with a complete issue of section equipment.

Two additional M109 155mm howitzers were made available as "float" replacements for the 4th Battalion by the U.S. Army. These weapons, due for rebuild, were temporarily loaned to allow additional flexibility in the maintenance program and to maintain a high level of operational readiness in the M109 howitzer batteries.

As the month closed, the battalion was awaiting receipt of an initial allowance of 29 M151 1/4-ton trucks to fill T/E shortages.

8. LOGISTICS

During mid-May the available supply rate (ASR) for 155mm howitzer HE ammunition was reduced from 34.7 to 27.8 rounds per weapon per day. The heavy ammunition expenditure early in the month resulted in several temporary shortages of ammunition, particularly HE, green bag propellant, primers, and PD fuzes. By month's end, the situation had been brought back into balance except for a continuing shortage of PD fuzes.

The flow of repair parts for the M109 continued to grow during the month, and an overall improvement in the maintenance status resulted in spite of the increased firing. Motor transport maintenance was also satisfactory, even though rolling stock was more heavily committed than in previous months.

Water continued to be trucked from the 12th Marines water point in DONG HA, but other sources are being investigated.

UNCLASSIFIED

(5)

Enclosure (1)

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following significant entries were taken from the S-3 Work Sheet (Record of Mission) and the Artillery Counterfire Information Form for May:

- 010001H - 4th Battalion began to fire a large series of prep fires in support of units in SALINE AO and KENTUCKY AO.
- 011244H - YD 217624 Battery "M" fired on 10 NVA in village, observed by American Beauty "G". 5 KIA (c) and 3 structures destroyed. 27 rounds expended.
- 020620H - YD 255625 Battery "M" fired on confirmed enemy movement, observed by Dixie Diner 64. There was negative surveillance due to SAF. 125 rounds were expended.
- 030630H - YD 250630 Batteries "M" and "L" fired a mission on 150 NVA, observed by Dixie Diner 63. A surveillance of 137 KIA (c) and 7 POW's given. A total of 201 rounds expended.
- 050100H - YD 260720 4th Battalion fired on a reinforced company of NVA, observed by Early Flower Bravo 63. He gave "Excellent job, excellent shooting." 36 rounds expended.
- 050810H - YD 255715 Batteries "M" and "L" fired a mission on NVA in village, observed by American Beauty "D". Four bunkers destroyed, M49 looked very good. Seven M49, thirty HE expended.
- 051350H - YD 210646 Battery "M" fired on unknown number of NVA in the open, observed by Early Flower 13. 62 rounds expended.
- 070612H - YD 245783 1st Platoon of Battery "L" fired on 2 NVA in the open. 1 KIA (c) or 50% casualties inflicted.
- 071840H - YD 255714 Batteries "M" and "L" fired a mission on 150 NVA in the open, observed by Pinpoint 51. Excellent coverage and 155 KIA (c) given. Rounds expended: 1 WP, 74 HE, 33 M49.
- 080900H - YD 255741 Battery "M" fired on a bunker complex for Helix 15. 55 rounds expended with 100% of rounds in target area.

UNCLASSIFIED

(6)

Enclosure (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

- 091443H - YD 243693 1st Platoon of Battery "L" fired a mission in support of Birth Control 48.
- 100545H - The 4th Battalion area at DONG HA received 7 incoming 130mm. gun rounds from azimuth 5300 mils. Negligible damage resulted.
- 102250H - YD 250705 4th Battalion fired blocking fire for Birth Control 22. For all firing units a count of 21 KIA (c) given.
- 121258H - YD 249668 4th Battalion fired a mission on NVA in fortified positions, observed by Birth Control 16. 188 rounds were expended.
- 121740H - YD 230778 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired a mission on NVA in bunkers, observed by American Beauty "C". AO gave one bunker destroyed, two damaged.
- 130942H - YD 164802 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 8 NVA in the open, observed by American Beauty 62. 1 hooch destroyed, 1 hooch damaged, 1 KIA (c).
- 140014H - YD 253691 Battery "L" fired an illumination mission for Birth Control 29. 55 rounds were expended.
- 140350H - YD 253691 Batteries "M" and "L" fired continuous illumination for Birth Control 17. 149 rounds were expended in this 2 hour and 10 minute mission.
- 141837H - YD 192788 1st Platoon, Battery "M" fired on a boat with 2 NVA, observed by American Beauty 62. The boat was destroyed and the enemy dispatched. 7 rounds expended.
- 170600H - YD 237800 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 5 NVA on river bank. 3 KIA (c) and 2 KIA(p). 6 rounds were expended.
- 171140H - YD 253720 Battery "L" fired on NVA in the open, observed by American Beauty "B". 2 KIA (c) and excellent coverage given. Southern Delta also observed.
- 190612H - YD 238774 1st Platoon "M" fired on 4 NVA in the open, observed by American Beauty 62. 2 KIA (c) given.
- 191730H - YD 105757 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 5-6 NVA in open, observed by American Beauty "B". 2 KIA (c) given.
- 191941H - YD 192788 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 5 NVA on river bank. 1st round target hit. 5 KIA (c).

(7)

Enclosure (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 210940H - YD 205717 Battery "L" fired a mission on a suspected assembly area. It was called in by Fighting Mad 64. 38 rounds were expended.
- 221932H - YD 165785 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired a mission on active artillery. 15 rounds were expended. Two secondaries were observed.
- 230955H - YD 119769 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 5 NVA in treeline. 19 rounds expended. Were adjusted by American Beauty "C". 1 KIA (c).
- 251110H - YD 245669 Batteries "M" and "L" fired on NVA and bunkers for Early Flower "C" 62. 50 rounds were expended. Results: 5 KIA (c) and 2 POW's.
- 260015H - YD 25057282 Battery "L" fired for Early Flower Bravo 63 on NVA infiltrating. 60 rounds were expended. Results: 15 KIA.
- 260335H - YD 24826512 Battery "M" fired for Fighting Mad 24. He was taking small arms fire. We expended 31 rounds.
- 261030H - Battery "L" chopped OPCON to Task Force HOTEL and displaced to KHE SANH.
- 261130H - YD 241660 Battery "M" fired on NVA in contact with friendlies. Fighting Mad 64 and Southern Delta observed. 78 rounds were expended.
- 271810H - YD 247657 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on Heavy NVA movements. We fired 100 rounds, with five KIA (c).
- 290855H - YD 247663 Battery "M" fired on NVA in bunkers. 45 rounds were expended; several bunkers damaged.
- 291130H - YD 250665 Battery "M" fired on a bunker complex. 41 rounds were expended. 3 bunkers were destroyed, 1 secondary explosion, excellent coverage.
- 291600-2200H - Battery "M" adjusted in on a bunker complex for Fighting Mad 24A. These same targets were fired again during the night.
- 310936H - YD 18788132 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on personnel in the open for Belmont Tones 63. 10 rounds expended, 7 KIA (c).

(8)

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~