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4thBn. 12thMar
S&C # C-3-69

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

3/MFS/rgt
5751
Ser:03A005-69
3 Jan 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
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 1-31 December 1968 (U)
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A
Encl: (1) 4th Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

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

2. This document is to be downgraded at three-year intervals and declassified after 12 years in accordance with DOD Directive 5200.10.

E. W. Bailey
E. W. BAILEY

Copy to:
CO, 12th Marine Regiment

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4THBN/12THMAR

CMD CHRON

DEC 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December to 31 December

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

4th Battalion, 12th Marines Lt.Col. E. W. BAILEY (1-31 Dec)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Battery

Capt. D. M. BUGBEE (1-31 Dec)

Battery "K"

Capt. J. B. ZIMMERMAN (1-31 Dec)

Battery "L"

Capt. S. K. SMITH (1-16 Dec)

1stLt. W. G. HORN (17-31 Dec)

Battery "M"

1stLt. J. J. BUTERA (1-31 Dec)

2. LOCATION

1-31 December: DONG HA, RVN (YD 227596)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

XO

Maj. S.H. HELMS (1-31 Dec)

SgtMaj

SgtMaj. F. VIOLETTE (1-31 Dec)

S-1

2ndLt J.V. MORRIS (1-31 Dec)

S-2

1stLt M.F. SHIELDS (1-31 Dec)

S-3

Maj. J.D. MCNAMARA (1-31 Dec)

S-3A

1stLt M.F. SHIELDS (1-31 Dec)

Capt. L.D. WALKER (1-31 Dec)

S-4

Maj. J.H. LAWSON (1-31 Dec)

MaintO

Capt. D.M. BUGBEE (1-31 Dec)

CommO

1stLt R.F. HOOGERWERF (1-31 Dec)

MTO

1stLt B.J. RENFROW (1-31 Dec)

SupplyO

2ndLt T.J. MORRIS (1-31 Dec)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
26		479	0		13

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

In the month of December, the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines consisted of the following units: K/4/12, KD/4/12, L/4/12, M/4/12, 1st ArmAmphCo (2d Plt), B/1/12, W/2/12, (-), and C/1/12. During the course of the month, the tactical and technical fire direction of as many as 9 firing units were centrally controlled in the battalion FDC located first at CAMP CARROLL and from 3 December at DONG HA.

The primary mission of the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines remained as General Support of 3d Marine Division; however, almost every firing unit had its own particular mission. At 081600H the second platoon, 1st Armored Amphibian Company located at CUA VIET became OPCON to the battalion, with the mission of direct support of 1st Amtrac Battalion. At 081600H a detachment of W/2/12 (3 tubas) became OPCON to us. Located at MAI LOC, they had the mission of direct support of Task Force Bravo. B/1/12 also came under our OPCON at the same time. Bravo was located at C-2 BRIDGE from 1-14 December, at C-2 from 14-30 December, and finally at MAI LOC thereafter. Bravo's mission changed several times; 1-12 December direct support of Task Force Bravo, 12-13 December OPCON to 3/12, 13-30 December direct support of Task Force Bravo, and now direct support of 4th Marines (2/4).

On 101645H C/1/12 located at C-2 became OPCON to 4/12 with the mission of direct support of 3/3. On 12 December they assumed the mission of direct support of Task Force Bravo. At 130800H Charlie displaced to DONG HA to be flown south and become OPCON to Task Force X-Ray. For the period 16-21 December, the 2d Platoon of 1st Searchlight Battery became OPCON to 4/12. Originally located at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE, they displaced to CAM LO and assumed the mission of direct support of Task Force B.

Our own organic units had their own missions also. The platoon of K/4/12 located at DONG HA (Kilo Delta) had a priority of fires for the QUANG TRI COMBAT BASE and direct support of Reconnaissance Training Area. M/4/12 located at C-2 had the mission of direct support of reconnaissance teams operating in the DMZ; in addition, they assumed the unofficial role of direct support of Task Force B, when B/1/12 displaced. L/4/12 located at Fire Support Base ELLIOT continued to reinforce 3/12. K/4/12 (-) located at C-1 had the mission of direct support of reconnaissance teams operating in the DMZ.

In addition to our OPCON units, the battalion had an effect on the fires of three Army firing units. For missions involving reconnaissance teams operating in the DMZ, the battalion could

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exercise tactical fire direction over Charlie 8th of the 4th located at C-2, Alpha 1st of the 40th located at CON THIEN, and Charlie 1st of the 40th located at C-1. In addition, Alpha 1st of the 40th is unofficially reinforcing Task Force Bravo. The 4th Battalion assigns them a mission, obtains their clearance, and at the same time, asks 12th Marine Regiment to obtain permission from 2030th Group to use them on the mission. For all practical purposes, the battalion is controlling a brigade of Artillery.

Our FDC setup requires a detailed explanation. The battalion maintains the capability of technical fire direction as well as tactical control of all OPCON units. Our PADAC is programmed for both the 105 howitzer and the 155 howitzer. L/4/12 located at FSB ELLIOT and B/1/12 located at MAI LOC are run as follows: their FDC's compute the missions and act as primary data in all missions that are not danger close or require fire for effect on the initial volley; in these cases the battalion FDC will employ PADAC data and the battery FDC will be a secondary check. On all missions the battalion FDC will check the initial firing data. 2d Platoon 1st Armored Amphibian Company has their FDC located at CUA VIET, and W/2/12 has theirs at MAI LOC. On their missions, their FDC's will be primary on all missions and the battalion FDC will simply run a secondary check on their firing data. For K/4/12, Delta 4/12, K/4/12, and M/4/12 the battalion FDC computes all missions and provides the primary firing data; however, a secondary check is run at each battery position, in accordance with the PCV SOP for Operations and Gunnery.

Several new procedures have been innovated. The permanent Save-A-Plane has been obtained from Division FSCC, for reconnaissance teams operating in the DMZ. If a team gets into contact, rounds can be immediately fired under the permanent Save-A-Plane. On all other DMZ missions ground clearance is obtained from reconnaissance and Division FSCC is asked for permission to fire under the permanent Save-A-Plane. The Save-A-Planes are effective for the following positions: C-1, C-2, and A-4. This system enables the battalion to mass a high volume of fire on the enemy as soon as contact is initiated.

Additionally new equipment called sensory intrusion devices have been employed where all ground movement in the scanned sector is detected, thereby generating a fire mission on the movement. Batteries have platoons laid on the scan sectors and as soon as a target is generated and the grid is cleared the batteries can commence attacking the movement. In addition an AN/TPS-25 ground surveillance radar is employed from GIO LINH and targets are generated from the radar's picking up movement. These are immediately attacked by our units with a high volume of fire.

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Considerable liaison was required to coordinate our battalion's operation and a full time liaison section was deemed necessary. The great amount of liaison work enabled our battalion FDC to accomplish its mission with a minimum of confusion, thereby enabling all our OPCON units to accomplish their mission. In other words, quick, accurate fire support was delivered over an extremely wide front to all ground forces we support. Our size enables us to mass at least 3 batteries on any target generated in our AO. Another innovation is the use of the propaganda shell. After firing a DMZ mission, we send replot data to 12th Marines FDC who then forward the grid to 1st of the 40th for firing.

Upon moving the Battalion FDC from CAMP CARROLL to DONG HA, 2 separate FDC's were established to insure that there would be continuous fire support during the move. This was accomplished with the TE equipment minus 5 deadlined AN/PRC-25 radios. No major difficulties were encountered during the move.

Using the new AS-2236 antenna, "adequate" communications were established from DONG HA to L/4/12 at FSB ELLIOT. The AN/PRC-47 (HF) has been used as a secondary back up, ensuring constant communications with the battery.

Due to the unusual number of additional OPCON units, the battalion is presently operating on a minimum of 15 radio nets (FM), compared to a normal maximum of eight. Due to the deadline of an average five RT-505 units at all times, five RT-505's have been obtained on loan from 12th Marines to fill the gap created by this current extra commitment.

As 1968 drew to a close, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines rendered direct support, general support and reinforcing fires over a front of 49,000 meters in width and 34,000 meters in depth. We coordinated or controlled the fires of 18-155 Howitzer (SP), 6-LVTM-6 Howitzer (TD), 3-4.2 mortars, 12-105 Howitzer (SP) and 4-8" Howitzer (SP).

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

1-31 December: 4th Battalion, 12th Marines (Rein) - General Support of 3d Marine Division.

2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS SUPPORTED

During the month of December, the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines participated in the following operations: HIGHRISE (1-31 Dec); SALINE II (1-9 Dec); KENTUCKY (1-31 Dec); SCOTLAND II (1-31 Dec); DAWSON RIVER (1-31 Dec); MARSHALL MOUNTAIN (9-31 Dec).

3. FIRE SUPPORT PROVIDED

a. Recapitulation of Fire Missions:

<u>TARGET</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL ROUNDS</u>
Confirmed	124	3,982
Acquired	789	11,353
Preparation	100	1,487
Special Purpose	98	880
Counterbattery	72	980
Grand Total	1,183	18,682
HE Total		17,357
Illum Total		454
M49 Total		369
WP Total		502

4. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY (OPCON UNITS)

a. KIA: 22 WIA: 13

5. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED (ADCON UNITS)

a. HOSTILE: KIA-0 WIA-6

b. NON-HOSTILE: DEATH-0 INJURY-6

6. MEDCAP VISITS

a. CAM LO Montaguard Village: 58 Patients Seen

b. CAM LO Refugee Center: 28 Patients Seen

c. DIANSIANG Village: 64 Patients Seen

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- d. CAM LO Refugee Center: 31 Patients seen
- e. TOTAL VIETNAMESE NATIONALS TREATED: 181

7. COMMAND RELATIONS

a. 4th Battalion, 12th Marines: 1-31 December; OPCON and ADCON to 12th Marines.

8. EQUIPMENT

The outfitting of the battalion with new howitzers was completed when 10 R&E 155 Howitzers (SP) were received this month. Mike battery received two on 050800Z December, one on 070800Z December and one on 120800Z December. Kilo received two on 130800Z December, and one on 170800Z December. Lima received one on 070800Z December and two on 120800Z December.

On 15 December the battalion received 13 new KY-38 voice encipherment devices which were op-checked with good results. However, the battalion does not yet have the compatible radio (AN/PRC-77) to implement use of the KY-38's.

On 20 December, the battalion received an additional 12 antennas, AS-2236. One has been given to each organic and OPCON unit of the battalion, thereby greatly enhancing communications with our far-flung units. Eventually these will replace all 292's currently in use.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following significant entries are excerpts from the S-3 Work Sheets (Record of Missions):

- 031540H - "M" fired 2 WP and 56 HE on Bunkers and Marked Road for Aerial Observer Bulldozer "A" at 100746 resulting in 12 bunkers destroyed.
- 042341H - "M" fired 4 WP and 78 HE on .50 caliber position for Reconnaissance team Deer Fern at 129502 resulting in 4 secondary explosions.
- 041200H - "M" fired 1 WP and 22 HE on old bunkers and new trails for AO League Leader "W" at 054692 resulting in 3 bunkers destroyed.
- 051600H - "M" fired 23 WP and 20 HE on camp site and CP for Reconnaissance team Deer Fern at 148507 resulting in 6 secondary explosions.
- 061130H - "L" fired 49 HE and 16 ICM on 5 NVA for AO Bulldozer "A" at 046681 resulting in 1 KIA and 2 fighting holes destroyed.
- 061724H - "M" fired 2 WP, 10 ICM, and 120 HE on Active Rockets for K/3/3 at 068595 resulting in 2 secondary explosions.
- 061732H - "L" fired 120 HE on Active Rockets for K/3/3 at 068595 resulting in 1 secondary explosion.
- 070940H - "L" fired 2 WP and 18 HE on bunkers for AO Bulldozer "W" at 034650 resulting in 2 bunkers destroyed.
- 091750H - "L" fired 26 HE on bunkers and trails for AO Bulldozer "G" at 005668 resulting in 2 bunkers destroyed and 6 to 8 bunkers uncovered.
- 101246H - "L" fired 2 WP and 20 HE on mortars and bunkers for F/2/4 at 020661 resulting in 3 bunkers destroyed.
- 101318H - "L" fired 2 WP and 95 HE on Active Mortars for F/2/4 at 026664 resulting in 1 secondary explosion.
- 101524H - "X" fired 6 WP and 36 HE on 1 NVA and bunkers for AO League Leader "M" resulting in 2 WIA's.

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- 111747H - "M" fired 3 WP and 96 HE on NVA position for AO Bulldozer "Z" at 032684 resulting in 3 bunkers destroyed and 3 secondary explosions.
- 121042H - "K" fired 3 WP and 100 HE on bunkers for Reconnaissance team Beach Boy at 194498 resulting in 7 secondary explosions.
- 131340H - "M" fired 1 WP and 89 HE on bunkers for AO Bulldozer "R" and "W" at 01156864 resulting in 6 bunkers destroyed and 12 to 15 bunkers uncovered.
- 141255H - "M" fired 56 HE on bunkers and trenches for AO Bulldozer "R" at 043697 resulting in 4 bunkers destroyed, 12 bunkers damaged and 1 .50 caliber position destroyed.
- 141812H - "M" fired 7 WP and 127 HE on bunkers for AO Bulldozer "R" at 005695 resulting in 14 bunkers destroyed.
- 151158H - "K" fired 2 WP and 22 HE on a 25 ft. sampan loaded with equipment at 248813 for AO League Leader "L" resulting in 1 sampan sunk and 1 sampan damaged.
- 151305H - "M" fired 2 WP and 61 HE on bunkers and .50 cal position for AO Bulldozer "R" resulting in 5 bunkers destroyed and 1 .50 cal position destroyed at 038690.
- 151643H - "M" fired 2 WP and 63 HE on bunkers and trails for AO Bulldozer "R" resulting in 16 bunkers destroyed and 17 bunkers damaged at 091623.
- 151715H - "L" fired 1 WP and 81 HE on bunkers and troops in tree-line for AO Bulldozer "R" resulting in 1 secondary explosion at 975625.
- 151817H - "K" fired 4 WP and 20 HE on 1 NVA in open for AO Bulldozer "L" at 25678090 resulting in 1 confirmed KIA.
- 191620H - "K" fired 3 WP and 20 HE on bunkers and 3 NVA for AO Seven-Up "O" at 199810 resulting in 2 bunkers destroyed, 1 hootch destroyed, and 1 KIA.
- 191708H - "KD" fired 2 WP and 12 HE on 3 NVA in treeline for Reconnaissance team Nurse at 184508 resulting in 2 confirmed KIA's.
- 202215H - "K" and "M" fired 213 HE on enemy contact for Reconnaissance team Spongy Tackle at 131754 resulting in 6 confirmed KIA's.

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- 281522H - "L" fired 2 WP and 53 HE on bunkers and ground fire for AO Bulldozer "Z" at 894537 resulting 2 bunkers destroyed.
- 281710H - "K" fired 16 HE on 4 NVA and bunkers for AO Bulldozer "F" at 250814 resulting in 4 KIA's, 2 secondary explosions, 10 bunkers destroyed and 10 bunkers uncovered.
- 291618H - "XD" fired 2 WP and 37 HE on 1 NVA for Reconnaissance team Belmont Tones at 162514 resulting in 3 bunkers destroyed and 3 bunkers damaged.
- 291618H - "M" fired 1 WP and 26 HE on automatic weapons and trails for AO Bulldozer "R" at 162520 resulting in 8 bunkers destroyed.
- 300059H - "K" fired 59 HE on 10 NVA for Regimental OP at GIO LINH at 249803 resulting in 10 Probable KIA's.