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HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/GSB/jrp
1 Sept 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 August 1966

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) DivO 5750.1
(c) RegtO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) Organizational Data and Sequential Listing of Significant Events from 1-31 August 1966

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

L. E. Wood

L. E. WOOD

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

NOTE: Tab A: A/A Cpn COLORADO
Tab B: TAOR General Distribution
of Forces

5TH MAR S&C FILES

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ENCLOSURE (4)

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Aug 1966

COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The month of August was an active one in several areas for this battalion.

The month began with intensive planning and preparation for Operation COLORADO. When the operation commenced and as it progressed, the battalion was helilifted repeatedly into indisputable enemy territory to assess ARC-LIGHT strike damage and to effect physical contact with an enemy force that our best intelligence had rated in excess of one division. By individual companies, as well as the battalion, the objective areas were searched; tactical blocks and operational combat bases were established; always under conditions which were inherently hazardous and isolated from major supporting arms. The operation provided a wealth of exposure to such conditions and experience which will serve the battalion well in future operations.

The month continued with the conducting of far-reaching company operations of 2 and 3 day lengths to ensure the security of ground on the extremities of the TAOR untended during the battalion's absence because of Operation COLORADO.

The battalion then settled down to three principal missions for the remainder of the month:

- a. Renewed aggressive patrolling and ambushing, saturating the TAOR with Marine activity.
- b. Vigorous work within our base camps to pursue the Regimental Base Development Plan. Since the survival of billeting and command post areas during monsoon storms was dependent upon the results, work was enthusiastic and thorough. Unfortunately, class IV supplies were not available in sufficient quantities for fulfillment during the month, so work will continue at a slower than hoped-for pace.
- c. Civil Affairs programs were intensified with MedCaps conducted on a daily basis, with more than 2,963 Vietnamese treated throughout the TAOR, and new supplies distributed to hamlets and villes.

Summarily, the month's end finds the battalion motivated and fully prepared to engage the enemy at any time and place, under favorable or adverse conditions. Intensive patrolling is conducted with initiative and imagination throughout the TAOR, and at least one plan for a battalion (-) operation in the RAOR is pending action, awaiting availability of helicopters and termination of the government election. In these fields, as in others, this battalion will continue in the future its effort to seek out the enemy and destroy him with determination.

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SECTION I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. LOCATION DURING REPORTING PERIOD

a. Chu Lai, Vietnam

2. PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT

a. 1 August - 31 August 1966

3. COMMANDERS STAFF AND PRINCIPAL SUBORDINATES

<u>BILLET</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PERIOD (if not entire)</u>
Commanding Officer	Lt Col W. MOORE	
Executive Officer	Maj. R.E. MAIDEN	
S-1	1stLt J.J. COWART	
S-2	Capt R.D. HEMENEZ	
S-3	Maj. L.E. WOOD	
S-4	Capt M.C. PEASE	11-15 Aug 1966
	1stLt J.J. ROBERTY	16-31 Aug 1966
Communications Officer	1stLt J.L. REILLY	
Supply Officer	2ndLt D.W. MONTANA	
CO H&S Company	1stLt J.T. JENKINS	1-30 Aug 1966
	1stLt A.J. BOCUTTI	31 Aug 1966
CO Company E	Capt J.L. COOPER	1-29 Aug 1966
	1stLt J. EBBERT	29-31 Aug 1966
CO Company F	1stLt G.S. BURGETT	1-29 Aug 1966
	2ndLt E.H. MATTHYS	29-31 Aug 1966
CO Company G	Capt J.M. GRUNER	
CO Company H	Capt R.D. HUGHES	

SECTION II - S-11. PERSONNEL

a. Average monthly strength. Task Organization was as shown below during the period covered.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
H&S Co	19	312	2	47
Co E	3	174		
Co F	3	171		
Co G	3	170		
Co H	3	177		

b. Casualties

<u>KIA</u>	<u>BATTLE</u>			<u>MIA</u>	<u>Serious</u>	<u>NON-BATTLE</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>WIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>Non-Serious</u>			<u>Death</u>		
3	50	2	0	9	50	2	116	

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c. The following personnel joined during the period covered.

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
4	79	1	8

d. The following number of personnel were transferred during the period covered,

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
2	60	1	2

(1) Chargeable personnel strengths continued to increase slightly over the previous period. However, there still remains a critical shortage of officers and NCO's. This will further be complicated with the rotation to CONUS of 7 Lieutenants MOS 0302 and 80 enlisted men, 4 of which are Staff NCO's and 42 of which are NCO's, Sgt/Cpl.

(2) The critical shortage of Officers and Staff NCO's is compounded by an additional shortage of NCO's who have the knowledge and experience to fill key billets.

e. Problem Areas

(1) By far, the biggest problem area continues to be lack of experienced NCO's to fill key billets.

(2) Service Records, Pay Records, and Health and Dental Records of some personnel arriving in-country have been "short Stopped" at processing and transient facilities. This creates undue burdens on companies and the personnel themselves.

(3) Administrative supplies are still too hard to obtain.

f. Discipline, Law and Order

(1) Courts-Martials tried: 1 Pending: 3

(2) Non-judicial punishment

(a) By Battalion Commander: 4

(b) By Company Commander: 10

g. Morale, PX and Postal Services

(1) Morale continues to be excellent.

(2) PX Services have been excellent to outstanding.

(3) Postal Services have been good. The only area of postal services less than adequate is the frequency of money order sales. It would be ideal to have money order sales at least twice during the first five days following a pay day, and once a week thereafter.

(4) Battalion Special Services continues to support the troops with an adequate supply of games and athletic equipment. Troops would like to have more USO shows, and more radios. An enlisted club is currently under construction and will be in operation in the near future.

h. Chaplain's Activities

(1) In the month just completed, the Battalion Chaplain has held Catholic Mass on 33 occasions, Sundays and weekdays, with 552 people in attendance. These were held in the Battalion area and in the field plus providing Mass for the 1/5 CP and the 5th Marines CP.

(2) While working with our troops in the field, services were held with the Protestant men on three (3) occasions with a total of 44 attending.

(3) The regular Sunday Worship services at the 2/5 CP were conducted by LCDR F. BAGGOTT, the Regimental Chaplain.

(4) One (1) Troop Indoctrination Lecture on the Religious/Customs of RVN was given for 21 Marines.

(5) Two (2) Memorial Services were held for deceased personnel of this Command, with 243 attending. Chaplain BAGGOTT assisted at one of these.

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SECTION III - S-2

1. GENERAL:

a. Routine intelligence processing during August was accomplished by compiling intelligence information received from 5th Marine Regiment, 1st CIT, 9th ITT, LY TIN District Headquarters, TAM KY District Headquarters and 1st MARDIV (G-2).

b. Patrol debriefing forms from 1st Recon Bn, were used.

c. Dissemination was made by Spot Reports, daily Intsum and by briefings, both at Battalion and smaller unit level.

d. Members from the 9th ITT gave a 1 hour presentation on screening of VCC/VCS.

e. EOD from FLSG-B gave a 1 hour presentation on mines and booby traps.

f. Liaison visits to 1st MARDIV, 5th Marine Regiment, LY TIN District Headquarters and TAM KY District Headquarters, were conducted.

g. S-2 Scouts manned a 48 hour OP within TAOR.

h. 16 days during this month Scout teams worked with Rifle Companies.

2. BRIEFING:

a. Briefings were held daily at 0800. These are given by the Intelligence Officer or Intelligence Chief and cover the Intelligence matter during the 24 hour period.

3. REPORTS:

a. Spot Report and daily Intsum are submitted.

b. A negative report concerning reward monies.

c. The S-2 submitted a number of national agency checks, background investigations and certificates of clearance.

4. STATISTICS

a. VC KIA (CONFIRMED)	0
b. VC KIA (PROBABLE)	0
c. VC WIA (CONFIRMED)	0
d. VC WIA (PROBABLE)	0
e. VC CAPTIVES	1
f. VC SUSPECTS	9

- g. VC-WARNING POSTER
- h. 2 - M-26 GRENADE
- i. 1 - 105 RD (DEST)
- j. 1 - 106 RD (DEST)
- k. 1 - BEAR TRAP (DEST)
- l. 1 - VC EARLY WARNING DEVICE

OPERATION COLORADO

(1) VC KIA (CONFIRMED)	13 (5 KBA)
(2) VC KIA (PROBABLE)	7
(3) VC WIA (CONFIRMED)	12
(4) VC WIA (PROBABLE)	0
(5) VC CAPTIVE	2
(6) VC SUSPECTS	34

SECTION IV - S-3

1. GENERAL. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines continued to maintain its assigned TAOR in the CHU LAI Combat Base, as well as actively participating in Operation COLORADO during the period 6 August 1966 to 15 August 1966. This commitment required Co F to assume the responsibility of the Battalion TAOR augmented by Company E, 2nd Bn, 7th Marines; and Company I, 3rd Bn, 5th Marines. These units were primarily assigned responsibility for the defense of the 5th Marine Regimental CP and 2nd Bn, 11th Marines Artillery positions in the Hill 35 area, BT435078, during that period. Elsewhere in the TAOR, the Company Combat Base established in the Hamlet of THANH MY TRUNG (1), BT447029, continued to be maintained, successfully, pacifying the area, and denying food, shelter, and information to the enemy.

The Combined Action Squad/Popular Forces unit established by the 2nd Battalion in July 1966 in the village of LY TIN (BT466083) continued to provide a capable force for aggressive patrolling and Search/Destroy missions within the TAOR. The Marine Squad provides formal training and instruction as well as practical application to the Popular Forces personnel. The success of this combined unit can be seen in the appreciation of the villagers for their presence.

The use of tracked vehicles for resupply missions continues to be utilized successfully despite some attempt by the VC to mine traffic routes. Formal training in the Battalion was held to a minimum due to operational commitments, but training in the field as related to Combat Techniques was extensively conducted.

The Troop Indoctrination Program for new personnel arriving from CONUS continued with 22 men receiving 32 hours of formal instruction and training (including 16 hours in Mine Warfare and Boobytrap School administered by 1st Engineer Battalion). The Combat Operations Center functioned effectively and efficiently during this period. Briefings on the Operational, logistical, and personnel situation were presented at 0730 daily in the COC bunker with representatives of all Companies, Sections, and attached units present. Patrols and Ambushes were coordinated for the most aggressive and complete TAOR coverage possible.

2. OPERATIONS. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) participated in Operation COLORADO during the period 6 August 1966 to 15 August 1966. A coordinated ground Reconnaissance, Search and Destroy Operation in the HIEP DUC - SONG LY LY Valley, QUANG TIN and QUANG NAM provinces with the Regiment and ARVN forces to locate capture and destroy enemy forces supplies and equipment of the 620 Division.

Although the Battalion made light contact with local force guerrillas during most of the operation, the majority of casualties received came as the result of a VC early morning mortar attack on the TAM KY Base Camp. The Battalion was instrumental in evacuating approximately 700 Vietnamese Refugees from a VC controlled area and conducted twelve helicopter insertions and extractions throughout the operational area, before it returned to its CHU LAI - TAOR on 15 August 1966. It remained in a standby status there until termination of COLORADO on 22 August 1966 (see Tab A, After Action Report OF COLORADO). On 28 August 1966 the Battalion conducted County Fair Operation "KEY CHAIN", providing two companies (-) as blocking forces in conjunction with a Company size sweep of the Hamlets KY SAHN (1) KY LONG (1), and NO NAME; by the LY TIN District Chief Popular Forces units. The 1st Division Band accompanied the sweep and presented a concert to the villagers. A Show of Force fire power demonstration terminated the Operation, no enemy contact was made.

The following was the chronological sequence of events within the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR for the period from 010001H to 312400H August 1966.

010934H, vehicles on Route #1 between BT465081 - 443096 received sporadic S/A fire from vicinity BT465097 and 450095. A patrol from the Combined Action Squad searched area. Neg/Results.

011339H, an LVT on resupply run hit a mine at BT435056 resulting in a large hole in the center of the vehicle, two push arms blown off, cargo hatches blown off, and vehicle on fire, 2 USMC WIA. WIAs were Med Evac to 1st Med Bn. Unable to distinguish fire. Salvage attempt is being made, 1 Squad from Co H, 2 LVT and engineer personnel are aiding in the salvage operation.

011100H, LVTs on resupply run at BT439045 discovered unknown type of mine covered with earth in trail. Mine blown in place by engineers.

011120H, LVTs of resupply run at BT432054 discovered exposed mine constructed from an arty fuse for a illum. rd. Mine forward to Regt. Engineers.

011315H, A Squad Search and Destroy from Co E with PF personnel attached.

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Found signs that trail at BT438034 was possibly booby trapped. Patrol doubled back over trail and tripped M-26 grenade which failed to detonate. PF personnel neutralized grenade and patrol took alternate route back to CP.

021350H, LVT on resupply run at BT441044 apprehended 3 VCS who ran after being told to stop. VCS being taken to Co E CP for screening.

021750H, LVT on resupply run at BT435056 discovered 60mm Mortar round in trail, set to detonate a larger charge, type of charge unknown. Mine was blown in place causing a secondary explosion. Mine appeared to have been implaced in the preceding 30 minutes. Apprehended 3 VCS in the vicinity. VCS brought to Battalion CP, extensively screened and released after it appeared they knew nothing about mine.

021525H resupply LVT discovered 81 HE round in road at BT443037, round blown in place.

021530H, LVT on resupply run discovered 105mm HE round on side of trail at BT444036. Round was blown in place.

032100H, a Squad Sec/Ambush from Co E at BT439046 tripped a M-26 Frag Grenade that had been booby trapped using a trip wire across trail. Resulting in 1 USMC and 1 PF WIA. Patrol returned to Co CP. WIA did not require Med Evac.

041310H, the 3rd Plt of Co F relieved Co E at THANH MY TRUNG (1) BT448028.

052145H 3rd Plt. Co F received (1) Hand Grenade, which was thrown at machine gun position. BT444032 which was defending 81mm Mortar position, Plt. Commander fired 1 81mm illum. rd. from 81mm mortar attached to them. Investigated incident with neg/results.

060400H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) commenced movement in preparation for Operation COLORADO. See Tab A, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines' After Action Report on Operation COLORADO. Company F assumed responsibility of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. TAOR, CHU LAI Combat Base Hill 69, augmented by Company E, 2nd Bn, 7th Marines, and Company I, 3rd Bn, 5th Marines. Distribution of forces. One Company (Rein) (+) 1 Plt Hill 35 area, BT435078 with outposts Hill 22 BT424091, Red Hill BT433089 and BT446078. One Plt. (Rein) in the Hamlet of THANH MY TRUNG (1) BT447029 w/outpost Hill 76 BT451038, composite Platoon H&S Co AN TAN Bridge BT497066.

082309H perimeter Defense observed 2 VC in front of position BT467073. Position received 1 round S/A fire. Fired 3 81mm illumination rounds and 8 rounds S/A, resulting in 1 VC WIA (probable) VC broke contact. Area searched at first light with Neg/Results.

100730H, a Plt. security Patrol from Co F picked up 5 VCS at BT431041, VCS did not have I.D. cards. VCS were brought to the position, then forwarded to ITT.

102140H a fire team ambush from Co F, at BT452072, received 4 rds. sniper fire from BT452074, Ambush position was compromised. Ambush returned to CP.

041110H, the 3rd Plt of Co F relieved Co E at THANH MY TRUNG (1) BT448028.

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102300H HotDog (Combined Action Squad) received approx 50 rds S/A fire into the perimeter at BTh63083. Returned fire with 250 rds S/A fire. Checked area at first light with neg. results.

112120H a fire team ambush from Co F, BTh72068, received 25 rounds of S/A fire while moving into ambush site. Returned 50 rds S/A and 1 - M-79 rd. Searched area with neg results.

141835H (2) VCS were spotted in trash dump just outside Battalion perimeter, one with rifle, when Marines went after them, VC ran. Marines fired 6 rds. over head, VC ran into wood line and returned 13 rds S/A fire. Marines returned approx 20 rds. S/A fire. VC fled area.

141400H 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) returned to Hill 69 CP Complex from Operation COLORADO.

160015H a bunker on the Battalion Defense perimeter at BTh59071 received 2 incoming Hand Grenades. Another bunker observed movement and fired 12 rds S/A, area illuminated and checked without contact.

170920H, Co F Sec/Pat FT (+) at BTh58060 received 4 rds S/A fire frm vicinity BTh65062. Patrol searched out area neg results.

181010H a Squad OP/Ambush observed 4 VC at BTh01081 appeared to be armed w/ carbines and 1 50 Cal. MG. Fired Arty mission on VC. VC fled into line at BTh02082. VC appeared to have dropped MG but search of area failed to locate it.

190100H, Tanks in support of Hill at BTh23091 received 40 to 50 rds. S/A 8 to 10 rifle grenades, and 1 rd. 57mmRR from a Northeasterly directions Resulting in 1 USMC WIA, unable to determine exact location. Fire was returned. WIA Med Evac to 1st Med Bn.

The following CP location within our TAOR are now in effect

Bn CP 464072
Co E 464072
Co F 435078
Co G 409099
Co H 448028

200900H, During Company S&D Patrol, Co G discovered Hand Grenade booby trap (M-26) on trail at BTh16086. Area possibly marked with paper on ground. Grenade was disarmed and destroyed.

201100H Co H Squad Patrol found 1 U. S. M-26 grenade w/trip wire booby trapped to punji stake. Destroyed in place.

201500H, During Company S&D Patrol, Co G Plt discovered one 106 and one 155 rd, booby trapped in a bush at BTh22093. Rds were blown in place.

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Due to Operational commitments no formal instruction was conducted during the period 15 August to 21 August.

CP Locations:

Bn CP 463071
Co E 463071
Co F 435078
Co G 403070
Co H 446029

212310H, a FT ambush from Co F at BT444063 received 1 rd. S/A from vicinity BT443071. Could not determine exact location; Area was checked w/neg. results.

221300H, 1st Plt. Co G engaged in a Co sweep of area, vicinity T445055 apprehended 4 VCS. VCS being brought to Bn CP for further screening.

Co F returned to Bn CP 221500H.

222400H, Operation COLORADO terminated.

222100H, a Fireteam ambush from Co H heard movement at BT454037. Fired 15 rds. S/A fire, resulting in 2 hand grenades in return. Neg/results.

242300H, the Co G perimeter Defense at BT445032 received 1 Hand Grenade from vicinity BT445042, resulting in 1 USMC WIA. Observed 1 fleeing VC, fired 10 rds S/A, unknown results, WIA was Med Evac. Searched area at first light, neg./results.

251115H, a FT sec. patrol from Co F located a sprung bear trap at BT423099 appeared to be booby trapped, blown in place.

260230H, a FT Sec/Ambush Patrol from Co G at BT468077 received 10 rds S/A fire from vic BT467070, unable to locate location of VC, maneuvered into area received 4 more rds S/A, searched area thoroughly. Neg./results.

261200H, Co E became OPCON, of 7th Marines.

261520H, a FT (+) Sec. Patrol tripped unknown type boobytrap, at BT457053, causing small explosion and alot of smoke, resulting in (1) WIA, (non Med. Evac). Checked out area, and continued mission.

262300H, a FT (+) Sec. Patrol received (2) rds. carbine fire from vicinity BT447061. Firing was preceded by ringing bell. No fire returned, patrol searched area. Found bell used to warn VC.

281100H Co F blocking force for County Fair Operation "KEY CHAIN", discovered 60mm round booby trapped at BT437056. Blown in place.

Training Report, Period 22 August 1966 to 28 August 1966

a. A two hour class was held during the week on operating Mine Detecting Equipment by an engineer representative for selected Company personnel. Twenty four hours of instruction/application was conducted on the Troop Indoctrination Program for 22 new personnel joined from CONUS. The Troop Indoctrination

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Program listed below was held during the reporting period for new personnel arriving from COMUS.

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Why We are in RVN	1	22
Civil Affairs Program	1	22
Handling POWs, Captured Documents	1	22
Lessons Learned (Trng Tips)	1	22
Battle, Heat Casualty Handling and Malaria Prevention	1	22
Ambush Techniques	2	22
Conduct of Patrols	1	22
Supply Discipline (Care & Maintenance of Clothing & Equipment)	1	22
Religious/Customs of South Vietnam	1½	22
Visit PF/CAS Trng site observe Typical village layout (LY TIN)	1½	22
Orientation and Information on the 2/5 TAOR, Hill 69 CP	½	22
FAM firing of Wms, plus M-79, Grenades, Flame-thrower, 3.5 Rkt, Demolitions Trng	4	22
Mine & Boobytrap School (at 1st Eng Bn)	8	22

Wrap-up Report on Operation "KEY CHAIN"

a. Operation was conducted on 28 August 1966, starting at 0600 when units started movement and ending at 1330 when participating units arrived at the starting point.

b. County Fair Operation was conducted in the Hamlet of KY SANH (1) located at coord. BT455055 and NO NAME Village located at coord. BT445055. Villagers were assembled at coord. BT443054 for screening.

c. The Blocking Force consisted of 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-) and reinforced by 1 Platoon of Tanks, light section Flame Tanks, 1 Platoon of Ontos, 3 LVTP-5 and 1 LVTC-1. Sweeping Force consisted of 1 ARVN Popular Force Company, one Combined Action Platoon, one ARVN Psywar Team, commanded by District Chief LY TIN.

d. Screening was conducted of 362 villagers, who were treated to a concert by the 1st Marine Division Band during their wait for screening, and given Medical attention by a MedCap Patrol from 2nd Bn, 5th Marines.

e. There were no friendly casualties resulting from the Operation. A Show of Force was conducted after the Operation on enemy positions, assembly areas, and routes of approach, on the Hill 270 complex. (Coord. BT421047).

f. There were no VC or VCS found during the screening. The District Chief was able to explain the coming election, and received a very enthusiastic reception from the villagers. The Med Cap Patrol treated 171 villagers. The Band was given a warm welcome and was asked to return again.

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g. The entire operation was carried out quickly and smoothly. The villagers showed no resentment toward the sweeping or blocking force. Any VC influence in the village was less after the District Chief departed.

301030H received information from Vietnamese agent on VC underground agent. S-2 Patrol apprehended VC at BT443028, VCC forwarded to ITT.

301403H 1st Flt of Co G Helo lifted to BT074063 to provide security for D Battery 11 Marines.

302300H Tank in perimeter defense at BT4123090, received 20 rds S/A fire from estimated 3 to 5 VC, returned fire with 30 rds S/A VC broke contact, area was searched at first light neg/results.

301200H, Co E, returned from OPCON 7th Marines

312400H, August 1966. End Chronological sequence.

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SECTION V - S-4 & SUPPLY

1. GENERAL

a. The month of August was marked by Operation COLORADO from 6-15 August. No significant problems were encountered by supporting units in the field.

b. During the month, Battalion Supply conducted a wall to wall inventory of approximately 2,000 line items. During the same period of time 281 requisitions were submitted, 101 were completed at a percentage 36%. 609 line items over and above the Battalion's required usage were invoiced to FLSG-B in accordance with current instructions.

c. Motor Transport reduced average daily mileage by approximately 15% by taking over the dispatching of all runs, putting the daily household 6x6 truck runs on a schedule and consolidating these runs with their mite runs. A shuttle schedule has been published to insure maximum utilization of scheduled runs made by personnel of the Battalion.

2. PROBLEMS

a. Supply. Unavailable are the following critical items: insecticides, rodent control items, mosquito repellent, lumbars for housekeeping purposes, bunker materials, 5 ft. steel posts and G.P. tents for replacement of Code X tentage.

b. Logistics. Engineer assistance is needed to put in a drainage system in the battalion area prior to the rainy season and to cut new bunkers for use as a new ammunition storage dump to replace our present storage dump.

3. TRANSPORTATION. Is adequate to support normal operations.

SECTION VI - MEDICAL AND DENTAL

1. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS. No unusual Medical problems during this month.

2. NEW DEVELOPMENTS. No new developments during this month.

3. PROBLEM AREAS. None

4. Average daily number of patients seen. 21

(a) Total number of patients seen for this month. 631

5. Number of referrals to 1st Medical Battalion. 88

6. Routine Medical Complaints.

(a) Diarrhea	40
(b) URI	27
(c) Dermatitis	138
(d) Ear disorders	40
(e) Stomach disorders	44
(f) Venereal Disease	10

7. Significant Diseases to the area.a. Malaria; cases for the month:

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| (1) Vivax Malaria | 00 |
| (2) Falciparum Malaria | 07 |

8. Number of emergencies; treatment and type.

(a) Shrapnel	14	First Aid	00	Evacuated	14
Missile	04	-do-	00	-do-	04
Laceration	08	-do-	08	-do-	00
Burns	02	-do-	02	-do-	00

9. Dental Referrals.

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SECTION VII - COMMUNICATIONS

1. Operation COLORADO was the most important event during the month of August. The greatest obstacle to communications on the operation was the distance the Battalion was removed from the Regimental C.P. At one point the Battalion was 35 kilometers inland with a large hill mass between Regiment and Battalion. The PRC-25 was not built for such long distance communications, and although relay stations had been installed by Regiment for the purpose, communications with them was not possible. The PRC-47 radio, a long range radio, has been found almost useless in providing communications with an inland unit in RVN. Consequently, communications with Regiment were poor at first and non-existent for a number of hours during phase one of Operation COLORADO. In the following phase of the operation the Battalion established its own relay stations at the RVN outposts LOC SON and QUE SON. These stations were equipped with the PRC-25 and set up to cover the valleys from which direct communications with Regiment were impossible because of distance and terrain.

2. Communications with the Battalion were good throughout the operation. The addition of the PRC-25 radio to the companies is essentially the main factor for such reliable communications.

3. From August 20th to the 27th the winterizing of the Comm. Platoon area was carried on. It still needs some touching up but is essentially completed. The finished product is being held up by lack of material.

4. On August 28th the final complement of PRC-25 radios were received; 67 PRC-25's, 7 GRC-125's (PRC-25 plus equipment to vehicular mount the same) and 2 MRC 109 radio jeeps. There are still no back up repair parts in the system.

5. Personnel: The communications elements will be short 24 personnel from T/O after those rotating in September leave.

6. Generator: The generator is working at near maximum in high usage periods. Further installation of fans and electrical equipment is impossible.

7. Preventive Maintenance: Maintenance of equipment is absolutely essential to its performance. To date, the care of the FRC-25 has been excellent. Wire equipment, however, does not seem to get the same care. There are no replacements for broken phones; justification must be made to re-order damaged equipment, which will be a long time in coming.

SECTION VIII - FIRE SUPPORT/AIR SUPPORT

1. ARTILLERY/81mm MORTARS

a. Significant Events.

(1) The most significant event during August was "Operation COLORADO". On Operation COLORADO, the 5th Marines was directly supported by 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (-)(Rein). On this Battalion's first two objectives a Battery consisting of four 4.2" Mortars was lifted in to make available artillery fire support. On the Battalion's third objective ample artillery support was available making it unnecessary to lift in the Battery of 4.2" Mortars.

(2) During the month we fired one landing zone prep consisting of 520 rounds of artillery.

(3) No Naval gunfire was used by the Battalion during the month of August.

b. Statistics:

(1) Missions fired.

- (a) Artillery: 640
(b) 81mm Mortars: 85

(1) Types of missions:

(a) Artillery

1. Observed:	30
2. Unobserved:	23
3. H&I's:	587

(b) 81mm Mortars

1. Observed:	25
2. Unobserved:	8
3. H&I's:	52

(3) Rounds Expended:

(a) Artillery

1. High Explosives:	5511
2. WP:	77
3. Illumination:	255

(b) 81mm Mortars:

1.	High Explosive:	818
2.	WP:	252
3.	Illumination:	325

c. Summary: 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (-)(Rein) furnished this Battalion with very good Artillery support during the month of August. The 4.2" Mortar Battery gave the Battalion the necessary support during "Operation COLORADO" when the Battalion was out of range of the other Artillery available.

2. AIR SUPPORT AND DEFENSE.

a. Total mission - 16

(1) Helicopter

- (a) Resupply (16,000lbs) - 3
- (b) Recon - 2
- (c) Administrative - 1
- (d) Troops (49) - 2

(2) Fixed Wing

- (a) No. TAR's - 4
- (b) No. Missions controlled by FAC - 6

(3) Total Ordnance expended

- (a) 13,250 lbs Bombs
- (b) 38 2.75 Rockets
- (c) 4 MK 79 Fire Bombs
- (d) 125 Rds. 20mm

b. Operation COLORADO

(1) At each landing zone UH - 1E's controlled LZ preps providing coverage and aerial reconnaissance. Fixed wing aircraft were providing CAS/CAP missions after LZ preps, and were on call for further assistance.

(2) A TAC(A) was utilized in many instances due to the limited access of suitable control areas for the FAC.

(3) The overall Air Support during the operation was tremendous - with the Helicopters doing an almost unbelievable job.

SECTION IX - CIVIL AFFAIRS

1. GENERAL. The Civil Affairs/Civic Action Program is making excellent progress. Extensive MedCaps have been held within our TAOR. Local nurses from KY SANH and KY KHUONG Villages have accompanied these patrols and proved very helpful.

We are distributing items such as soap to the local officials. These officials effect further distribution to the populace. This system has the effect of making the people rely on Vietnamese channels to remedy their needs.

2. MEDICAL AND DENTAL. MedCap Patrols are reaching approx 85% of the total population within our TAOR. 1st Hosp Co and 2/11 are contributing a great deal to our MedCap program. Figures for MedCap activity for this period are as follows:

	<u>MEDICAL</u>	<u>DENTAL</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Men	867	27	894
Women	937	46	983
Children	1063	23	1086
Totals	2867	96	2963

In addition, medical facilities for the Vietnamese are available in KY KHUONG and THANH MY TRUNG (1) Villages.

3. PERSONAL ASSISTANCE. Distribution of the following items to KY KHUONG and KY SANH Villages was made during the period:

- a. 10,000 lbs. of garbage and 3,000 lbs. of rolled wheat for livestock.
- b. 4,000 lbs. of scrap wood for repairs.
- c. 25 lbs. of clothing.
- d. 200 lbs of food for particularly needy families.
- e. Assorted books for use by schoolmasters.

4. EVACUATION ASSISTANCE. Four adults and four children have received medical attention at facilities other than those available through Vietnamese Aids. None of the cases were serious and all have returned home.

5. ENGLISH LANGUAGE LIAISON. Classes are being held at LY TIN Headquarters from Monday thru Friday at 1700 to 1830. Classes have been small because of Vietnamese commitments. An accelerated program is anticipated for the near future.

6. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. Wood for desks has been provided at THANH MY TRUNG (1). Cement and reinforcing rods have been provided the Village Chief of KY SANH for construction of a permanent bridge at KY PHU (3). The bridge will be constructed by the Vietnamese people. Also requisitions have gone in for pumps to be used in wells and for fertilizer to be used in the rice fields.

TAB A COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1-31 AUGUST 1966 (COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT
OPERATION COLORADO)

MODIFIED HANDLING AUTHORIZED

HEADQUARTERS
 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/LEW/ggl
 26 August 1966

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, First Marine Division (Rein)
 Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

Ref: (a) CG 1st MarDiv Frag Order 8-66
 (b) 5th Marines Operation Order 322-66
 (c) Maps: AMS Series L701, VIETNAM, 1:50,000, Sheets, 6657III
 (d) Maps: AMS Series L7014, VIETNAM, 1:50 000, Sheets 6639I, 6640II
 and III
 (e) 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Frag Order 18-66

1. CODE NAME COLORADO (Search and Destroy mission)
2. DATES OF OPERATION 060400H August 1966 to 222400H August 1966
3. LOCATION TINH QUANG TIM - (QUAN TIEN PHUOC, QUAN TAM KY, QUAN THANG BINH QUAN LY TIN) TINH QUANG NAM (QUAN QUE SON).

4. CONTROL OR COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

2nd Bn, (-)(Rein), 5th Marines	LTCOL MOORE
Company "E" (Rein)	CAPT COOPER
Company "G" (Rein)	CAPT GRUNER
Company "H" (Rein)	CAPT HUGHES

5. TASK ORGANIZATION

2nd Battalion (-)(Rein, 5th Marines)	LTCOL MOORE
H&S Co (-)	
"W" Battery, 4.2 Mortars 2nd Bn, 11th Marines	
Det, 1st SP Bn (HST)	
Plt. Co B, 1st Engr Bn	
Co "E", (Rein)	CAPT COOPER
Team (HQ Bn)	
FO Team	
FAC Team	
Eng, 1st Eng Bn	
S-2 Scout Team	
Interpreter	
Section 81's	

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Tab A

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Co "G", (Rein)

CAPT GRUNER

Team (HQ Bn)
 FO Team
 Eng, 1st Eng Bn
 S-2 Scout Team
 Interpreter
 Section 81's

Co "H", (Rein)

CAPT HUGHES

ISO (Hq Bn)
 FO Team
 FAC Team
 Eng, 1st Eng Bn
 S-2 Scout Team
 Interpreter
 Section 81's
 ISO Rep

6. SUPPORTING FORCES

a. Supporting Arms

(1) Air

(a) Medical Evacuation

1. All Med Evacs were priority requests and were requested VIA the TACP local or Battalion TAC net to the ALO. The ALO relayed the request to the FSCC at TAM KY VIA the TAR net.
2. There were a total of seven medical evacuation requests.
3. All Medical Evacuations were completed by a H-34 with a UH-1E or H-34 as escort.
4. The reaction time averaged 25 minutes. All medical evacuation requests were completed.

(b) Resupply

1. All helicopters were on call from TAM KY on an as necessary basis for resupply missions.
2. The detachment of HST personnel controlled the direct support Helicopters and all requests were made VIA the logistics net.

(c) Aerial Observers

1. There were no AO missions requested but contact was established and maintained on the assigned net.

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(d) Close Air Support

1. At each landing zone UH-1E's controlled LZ preps providing excellent coverage and aerial reconnaissance. Fixed wing aircraft were providing CAS/CAP missions after the LZ preps, and were on call for further assistance.
2. A total of four TAR'S (Tactical Air Requests) were submitted. A TAC(A) was utilized in many circumstances due to the limited access of suitable control areas for the FAC. There were six missions controlled by FAC's which resulted in the following ordnance expended:
 - a. 13,250 lbs. of bombs
 - b. 2 pods (19 each) 2.75 rockets
 - c. 4 MK 79's (1000# napalm)
 - d. 125 rds. 20mm
3. Outstanding area coverage was provided by the UH-1E's as TAC(A), and fixed wing aircraft throughout the entire operation.

(2) Artillery

(a) Employment of Artillery.

1. Initial artillery support was afforded the Battalion by four 4.2" mortars. The mortar battery was ineffective to some extent on the Battalion's first objective due to weather and terrain conditions to which they had to land. The Battery fired illumination and H&T H&T's the first night.
2. On the Battalion's second objective the 4.2" mortars proved to be very effective. The Battery fired on targets of opportunity throughout the day and H&T fires throughout the night.
3. Artillery afforded the most effective support on the Battalion's third objective. 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines supported 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines with two Batteries of 105mm Howitzers and one Battery of 155mm Howitzers. A 520 round landing zone prep fire was delivered by 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.

(b) Statistics.

1. Number of missions fired:

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a. Observed: 23
 b. Unobserved: 8

2. Number and type rounds expended.

	<u>HE</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>ILL</u>
155mm How	41	5	0
105mm How	123	43	2
4.2" Mortar	300	34	274

3. Statistics do not reflect 520 round landing zone prep and H&I fires due to the fact that these fires were controlled by 5th Marines.

(c). Summary. Because 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines first two objectives were out of range of normal artillery support the 4.2" mortar Battery proved to be very effective during these portions of the operation. 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines gave this Battalion very good support throughout the operation.

7. INTELLIGENCE.

a. VC strength in the operation area was carried by the 1st MarDiv O.B. to include 1 Division (620th), three Regts. (1st, 2nd, 21st) and support Bns, an additional Regiment (unconf)(7th NVA), one MF Bn (72) and one LF Bn (70th). In addition 4 LF COS (K-51, K-52, K-53, K-54). Each of the latter LF COS were estimated at 120 men.

b. Subsequent intelligence derived from questioning and screening suspects and indigenous personnel in all objective areas revealed that many VCMF had passed through 2 - 3 days prior to Marine forces landing in the area. Estimates ranged from groups of 10 to 800. These were described as uniformed and speaking a Northern dialect. Generally during the operation, only very light contact with local force guerrillas was made. These contacts were generally harrasing fire and never in excess of 15 min. No units were identified.

Most villages were lined by hedgerows, thick brush and surrounded by rice paddies making cover and concealment range from good to excellent. In objective area 1 (AT888233) and objective area 2 (915135) extensive trenches, tunnels and fighting holes were observed. On 141030H the final objective area was secured. This area had extensive one man bunkers at (BT167312 to BT170314), and extensive trench and tunnel complexes at (BT169210). Some tunnels were found to be 30 feet deep.

697 refugees during the 2nd day were helo-lifted from AT98-22 to TAM KY for relocation. These refugees requested that all personal property that could not be taken be destroyed. This included homes and livestock.

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8. MISSION.

a. Conduct coordinated ground Reconnaissance, search and destroy operations in HIEP DUC - SONG LY LY Valley, QUANG TIN and QUANG NAM Provinces with ARVN forces to locate, capture and destroy enemy forces, supplies, and equipment.

9. CONCEPT OF OPERATION.

a. Annex F Operation Overlay, 5th Marines Operation Order 322-66, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein), conducts ground reconnaissance, search and destroy operation in assigned zone of area of operations. Reinforced rifle Companies are helo lifted at predetermined time intervals into selected objective areas to search out and engage the enemy when contact is made, additional rifle companies (Rein) and Bn. Command group on five minute alert, with helicopters standing by, will be landed to exploit the situation. If contact is not made in any objective area within a predetermined time the Rifle Company in that area will be extracted and lifted to another selected objective area. This procedure will be repeated throughout the entire zone of action.

10. EXECUTION.

a. The initial briefing on the operation was conducted on 1 August 1966. Additional briefings were conducted daily and the Op Order was issued on 5 August 1966.

b. At L-Hour on D-Day land a reinforced rifle company in the designated LZ in objective area 1. Conduct reconnaissance and search and clear operations in the objective area with particular emphasis on the northern and eastern portions.

c. On order, (Approx L+1) land a reinforced rifle company at the designated LZ in objective area 2. Conduct reconnaissance and search and clear operations in the objective area, with particular emphasis on the northern and western portions.

d. On order (Approx L+2) extract the rifle company (rein) from objective area 1 and land it in the designated LZ in objective area 3. Conduct reconnaissance and search and clear operations in the objective area with particular emphasis in the southern portion.

e. On order, (Approx L+3) extract the rifle company from objective area 2 and land it in the designated LZ in objective area 3 to reinforce the unit located therein.

f. On order land a Bn Cmd Group in the designated LZ in objective area 3 to control the units located therein.

g. Be prepared to assume the missions of the 1st Bn set forth para 3 b (7) 5th Marine Operation Order 322-66.

h. On order, (Approx D+2), be prepared to assume the missions of the reserve Bn as follows:

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- (1) Provide security for the units located at TAM KY.
- (2) Be prepared to reinforce either of the other Bns or to exploit any advantage gained by them.
- (3) Be prepared to assume the mission of either of the other Bns.

1. Following the mission assigned 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine (-)(Rein) remained in the initial operational area until 7 August 1966, when the Battalion was extracted and returned to TAM KY assuming the security responsibility. On 9 August 1966 the Battalion was again inserted into the Operational area along the western escape routes of the SCV Hill valley, remaining there until extracted on 11 August 1966 and again returned to TAM KY. It was here on 10 August 1966 that the Battalion suffered the majority of its casualties sustained in Operation COLORADO on a early morning VC mortar barrage on the LAI base area. On 13 August 2nd Battalion was inserted along the eastern edge of the operational area to block possible enemy forces heavily engaged with ARVN units from escaping south and on 15 August 1966 the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines was extracted from the operational area and returned to TAM KY and then to the Battalion's Hill 69 CHU LAI Combat Base. It remained in a standby situation until termination of Operation COLORADO on 22 August 1966.

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 CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

060415H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein), departed hill 69 CP for TAM KY coord 290234 by truck convoy. Units consisted of the following: Battalion Command Groups, Alpha and Bravo; Co E (Rein), Co G (Rein), "W" Battery, 4.2" mortars, 2/11 (ref. 5th Marines OP Order 322-66 and 2nd Bn, 5th Marines Frag Order 18-66).

060531H, 2/5 convoy arrived TAM KY 290234 establishing an operational base camp and standing by for helo-lift into objective area.

060915H, Co H (Rein) helo-lifted from hill 69 to objective (1) (Ref: 5th Marines Operation Order 322-66).

060935H, Cass 6 Actual Airborne.

061000H, first wave Co H in LZ: Objective (1).

061015H, Co H injected into LZ coord 881225 objective (1). Commenced sweep N.E. (objective (1) as ref: 5th Marines Operation Order 322-66) received sporadic S/A fire during sweep, spotted 2 VC fleeing area coord 888233. Unable to close with enemy, numerous caves, fortification and punji stakes, in use in past month.

061015H, Co H observed air strikes on left and right of objective (1), good coverage observed, assessment of damages haven't been received at this time.

061100H, Co H continuing to sweep objective area (1) no enemy contact, have picked up 4 VCS for screening.

061140H, Co E (Rein) Helo lifted from LZ, TAM KY coord 296234 to objective (2) (ref: 5th Marines Operation Order 322-66).

061130H, 2 more VC spotted coord 890233, 2 VC KIA; captured 1 U.S. Carbine M-1, 1 shotgun, during sweep found: Medical supplies, various papers, and uniforms, khaki shirts, trousers, in many caves.

061150H, Co E (Rein) landed in LZ Objective (2); LZ secured, but received some S/A fire. No casualties. Co E (Rein) beginning to sweep objective (2).

061200H, late report due to loss of communications. Report that 6 VC w/weapons spotted in objective (1) area. Co H in pursuit of enemy, but no contact was made.

061200H, Co H now moving to LZ for pickup by choppers. Have 4 VCS, will bring to objective (3) after extraction.

061200H, CP location as of 061200H. Cass 6, Airborne; Co E, CP in obj. (2) and moving; Co H, CP in obj. (1) moving to LZ for extraction; Cass 3, w/Co H obj. (1), Cass Rear, TAM KY coord 290234. For additional information (ref: 5th Marines Operation Order 322-66) for area of operation, mission, and scheme of maneuver.

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061206H, Co E commenced sweep NW direction obj. (3) (ref: 5th Marines OPOrder 322-66) upon completion of sweep into HIEP DUC.

061230H, Co E picked up 2 VCS vicinity coord 916255; men were not cooperative.

061300H, Co E discovered 3 VCS hiding in hole vicinity 915253.

061300H, Co E observed three VC at 914253; one dropped medicine kit as they ran into bushes. Medical kit and 1 VCC (captured), later identified by villagers as guerrilla sqd leader. 1 VCC and 5 VCS will be extracted with Co E from LZ 914245 into objective (3).

061400H, Co G (Rein) helo lifted from LZ TAM KY coord 290234 to obj. (3) (ref. 5th Marines Operation Order 322-66). LZ coord 983231 received approx 25 rds 50 cal. machinegun fire from estimated 3 VC in camouflage position at coord 981233. Co G commenced sweep on enemy position, VC fled. Discovered another position at 981232. Destroyed both positions w/demos continued to sweep area. Located numerous fortifications: tunnels 30 meters long, spider traps and punji stakes coord 993225. 2 VCS picked up during sweep. Co G moved into perimeter defense 061730H, no casualties. 2 VCS.

061430H, 4 USMC heat casualties, Med Evac w/Co H 897241.

061430H, Co H picked up 4 VCS coord 897240 evacuated to TAM KY.

061430H, Co H extracted coord 897241 to LZ coord 009218 061500H obj. (3).

061800H Co H captured 3 VCS coord 016218. Two identified as VC by villagers during screening of refugees, one held for questioning.

061830H, during sweep of HIEP DUC, Co E noticed lack of villagers in area, extensive fortifications, with indications of its use as a CP area. No Arclight strike evidence from today's strike. Information from VCS indicated 10 armed VC had left area before Marines came.

061830H, Co E extracted from obj. (2) to LZ coord 009217 obj. (3). One helicopter down in LZ due to engine failure. Crew evac, 3rd Flt, Co E providing security. Co E (-) in perimeter defense coord 016218.

061830H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) in perimeter defense, Co E (-), Co G, Co H, coord 016218, all secure, no contact, approx 35 Vietnamese requesting evacuation from area. This figure will probably increase by morning - 9 VCS.

062300H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) all secure within perimeter coord 015218 3rd Flt. Co E all secure in perimeter defense coord 009217, 4.2 and 81 mortars firing night H&F's.

062300H, Co E (Rein) helilifted into LZ coord 916254 obj. (2) (ref. SitRep #1 060400H to 061200H) report as to S/A fire in LZ at time of landing of Co E was inaccurate, no fire was received according to debriefing by Co E, 06.

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070305H, Co G perimeter observed 1 VCS coord 001225 tried to halt him, VCS ran, opened fire, searched area under illumination, found pool of blood, but unable to contact VCS. Search of area will be conducted 1st light.

070600H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) Bn perimeter defense, all secure coord 016218. Have approx 65 Vietnamese requesting evacuation with this Bn. when extracted. 3rd Plt Co E perimeter around downed chopper coord 009217, all secure.

070600H, (Ref: 070305H spot report) search of area at first light revealed no signs except pool of blood; 1 VC WIA (prob).

070600H, Heavy ground fog at this time, no casualties this period, no enemy contact. 9 VCS will be extracted with Bn.

070609H, Conducting aggressive patrolling in TAOR. No enemy contact yet. Patrol will locate an appropriate LZ for mass lift from vicinity of downed bird, coord 016218.

070930H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) commenced extraction from LZ vicinity 016218 obj. (3) (Ref: 5th Marines Operation Order 322-66). Approx 697 Vietnamese evacuated from area, and 9 VCS turned over to IIT representative.

071430H, Co E (Rein) inserted LZ TAM KY. Extraction of remaining units continuing from obj (3) to TAM KY. All refugees extracted first.

071515H, Co G assigned as security Company for 2nd Bn, 11th Marines artillery position coord 226320. Departed TAM KY with two sqds Bravo Command Group as convoy security.

071730H, Co G arrived destination. Established in perimeter defense around 2/11 arty position - all secure.

071800H, All remaining units 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) extracted from obj (3) arrived TAM KY. 2nd Bn, assigned perimeter defense of LSA TAM KY.

071830H, Convoy security returned to TAM KY.

071920H, 1st Platoon Co H w/section of tanks departed TAM KY for bridge security. coord 269272.

072000H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) positions all secure, no enemy contact.

080600H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) positions all secure, no enemy contact during period 072000H to 080600H.

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081020H, 1st Plt, Co H relieved as security for bridge coord 269272 by PF/RP personnel. Departed for Bn CP TAM KY.

081122H, 1st Plt Co H arrived Bn CP TAM KY coord 290232.

081200H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) CP TAM KY coord 290232. Bn. Defensive perimeter located coords 287228 to 296238 to 299235 to 289224. Co G perimeter defense located coord 320229, providing security for 2/11 arty positions. 081200 all units 2/5 (-)(Rein) report all secure, no enemy contact and no casualties this reporting period.

081240H, Received report of possible eastward movement of 72nd Local Force Bn from BT 2622 toward this installation.

082053H, Co H Med Evac Marine banged knee on helo; to 1st Med Bn at 081730H.

082035H, Co G and (Cass E2) Convoy returned to 2/5 Bn CP.

082400H, All units 2/5 (-)(Rein) in defensive perimeter. Positions remain the same with the addition of Co G's return to TAM KY.

090600H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) perimeter Defense reports no enemy contact during period 090001H to 090600H; positions secure.

090700H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) standing by for helicopter insertions as blocking force on enemy western routes of withdrawal in the SONG LYLY River valley vicinity coord. 9429 to 9629 to 9531 to 9431.

090720H, as directed, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) commenced helilift into blocking positions astride western routes withdrawal (ref: 090700H report).

090720H, Cass 6 airborne; 1st units Co E extracted.

090800H, Cass 6 in LZ coord 958300.

090803H, 1st wave Co E in LZ 958300.

090810H, Co E all units into LZ.

090815H, Co H commenced helilift into LZ coord 958299.

090830H, First elements Alpha Command Group airborne.

090830H, First elements Co H into LZ coord 958292.

090850H, All units Co H into LZ, no enemy contact.

090905H, Co G first wave airborne.

090921H, Co E engaged 5 VC in fire fight at coord 956306. Air Strike called resulting in 5 VC KIA (confirmed).

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- 090940H, 81mm mortars called on ridge line 943298; suspected enemy positions.
- 090941H, Co E, now sweeping village vicinity 948306 toward hill 150 vicinity 948304. Trying to force enemy into pocket vicinity 951204.
- 091010H, Co E secured hill at 965308, clear of VC, moving slowly due to heat to hill 150.
- 091030H, Bn perimeter opened fire with M-60's and 81's on enemy vicinity coord 951296. 3 VC KIA (conf); 2 houses on fire.
- 091030H, 1 WIA mine non evac USMC.
- 091034H, Alpha Command Group 1 USMC WIA (Non Evac) from unk type boobytrap vicinity 958299, probable frag grenade wound, not serious. ref 091030H.
- 091046H, Co G moving to blocking position; established a patrol base vicinity coord. 950290. Movement difficult due to heat and terrain.
- 091045H, Co E located possible guerrilla camp, numerous caves with wire, 3 foreign type rocket rds, assorted pyrotechnics vicinity coord 951304. Destroying cave, will bring back rocket rounds.
- 091113H, Co E at base of 150 vicinity 951304 preparing to secure top. Movement slow due to heat and terrain.
- 091125H, Co E picked up 1 VCC w/pack and uniform, no weapons, vicinity 951304; 1 VCC.
- 091140H, Co E has secured hill 150 vicinity coord. 951298.
- 091140H, Co H moving to clear village vicinity 951298 in preparation for Co H and Command Group move to vicinity Hill 150. Estimated time of movement 1 hour.
- 091200H, Air strike being conducted on enemy escape route vicinity coord 949290.
- 091325H, pass 6 - Command Group and Co H established in perimeter defense at coord 951299.
- 091420H, Co H 1 USMC was injured by flying debris produced by VC boobytrap. Possible broken left arm, Med Evac. 1 USMC WIA.
- 091445H, Co G reports seven heat casualties due intense heat and terrain while moving into position - 7 USMC Med Evacs.
- 091430H, 3rd Plt Co G discovered 4 rds 30 cal ammo, 1 VC flag - several tunnels in small hamlet vicinity coord. 957292. Destroyed tunnels and ammo.
- 091450H, Screening of villagers in vicinity of CP indicates VC left area late last night. Screening of VCC picked up vicinity coord 951304 by Co E at 091125H with pack and rice roll, claims he last saw Main Force VC three days ago; also had safe conduct pass.

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091445H, Co G searched tunnel vicinity 954291 found business transaction between 2 Vietnamese about a water buffalo; screened and released.

091615H, Co G w/2 Plts presently deployed vicinity 184520 awaiting arrival of third platoon and mortars on hill 218. Estimate will be moving in 60 minutes.

091615H, 1 VC KIA trying to escape from Bn perimeter vicinity coord 954299 wearing khaki uniform, no weapons.

091630H, Bravo Command Group and 4.2 Mortars helilifted into Bn defensive perimeter.

091634H, (ref 091045 msg) 3 foreign rocket rds. discovered vicinity 955407. Were identified as RPG-2 1964 lot w/Russian markings.

091630H, Received report from Regt. S-2 that Vietnamese refugees indicate VC dispensary located vicinity 944305. Will investigate area.

091715H, Co G located Platoon size guerrilla base camp w/20 lbs rice, chickens, assorted clothing, cooking pots - camp destroyed.

091716H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) established in Defensive Perimeter and patrol base coord. 950295 to 955300 to 948304 to 945300 - Co G present location coord 950290. All secure, no enemy contact at this time - cumulative totals this period 9 VC KIA - 1 VCC; 2 USMC WIA 1 Med Evac.

091730H, Received report from ARVN unit that they had contact w/VC Main Force heavy weapons section. VC may be coming our direction. Units alerted - report unlikely.

091755H, Co G will establish night ambush sites vicinity coord 954293, 956292, 947287.

091800H, 2nd Bn established in two defensive perimeters established as patrol bases and blocking force on enemy routes of withdrawal - will conduct aggressive patrols, S/D operations in the immediate area.

091830H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) Command Groups Alpha/Bravo/Co E - H, 4.2 mortars established in defensive perimeter - Engineers destroying numerous tunnels, caves, fighting holes in area - no enemy contact. Coord 950295 to 945300 to 948304 to 945300.

091835H, Co G in defensive perimeter coord vicinity 950290. No enemy contact, all secure.

091840H, 1 VCS picked up in perimeter by Command Group security Plt. coord 951297. VCS was very cooperative during screening and indicates he has knowledge of past VC activity in this area - states last MF unit moved through 3/5 days ago 100 VC in khaki uniforms - helo evac to TAM KY.

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092000H, 2/5 defensive perimeter all secure, no enemy contact - Ambushes established on all avenues of approach, conducting several short range patrols, H&I and illumination fires registered, all troops dug in. Condition of personnel good, morale high.

092010H, Platoon patrol Co E checked reported VC hospital area coord 944305; could not find any evidence of same, returned to perimeter.

092100H, Bn perimeter all secure, no enemy contact, Positions remain the same.

092100H, Cass msg to Crankcase Alpha via Dislodge 3: "Have location (Creditor) unable to reach this position before dark. (Creditor) will remain in present position until first light. We have registered mortar and Artillery fires and will receive them our location tomorrow!"

092140H, Co G perimeter coord 948299 receiving S/A probing fire approx 8 rds at about 5 min intervals have not located position of prober. Perimeter alert and supporting fires standing by to support if needed.

092300H, Co G perimeter reports no further fire. All secure (ref 092140H spot report).

092300H, 2/5 perimeter all secure, no enemy contact.

092300H, Co G located coord 948299, 2/5 located coord 950295 to 955300 to 948304 to 945300.

100302H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) defensive perimeter all secure no enemy contact.

100639H, All ambush activities have returned to positions,

100700H, Bn. perimeter secure, positions remain the same - Day Patrols commencing sweeps throughout area - Heavy ground fog, no enemy contact.

100945H, Plt patrol Co G 948292 found boobytrap with 4 yellow fins. Boobytrap was round shaped butterfly bomb - destroyed in place.

101000H, Another boobytrap discovered same area, same type. Destroyed.

101000H, (Creditor) Recon P&E arrived this CP.

101001H, 2nd Plt Co E sweeping trail toward 729 hill mass coord 940308 no enemy contact although indications show VC have passed into the 729 hill mass within the past few days. Signs on trail indicated heavy use. Will continue to patrol and seek enemy contact along trails toward west.

101015H, 3rd Plt Co E sweeping River Bed and Holes at coord 955310. Moving toward hill 100, will search village in vicinity coord. 959310. Cass Echo 6 with 3rd Plt.

101030H, Plt Patrol Co G coord 945295 discovered boobytrap w/fuze setting scale 0 to 90, shape flat 5" by 12", destroyed in place.

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101045H, 3rd Plt Co E searching village near hill 100 959309, blowing several large tunnel complexes, have found what they consider a PX supply for about one Plt. consisting of condensed milk, sugar, soap, etc. No enemy contact, but can hear machine gun fire in ARVN area. Continuing to search area - another tunnel revealed several cans of gas - destroyed.

101046H, Plt Patrol Co G at 945281 found 2 caves. Could hold 3 and 12 personnel; following items found: 1 pair boots, two live 20mm rds., 65 gal containers of rice, 1 shotgun, caves have been blown. Sample of rice and shotgun will be forwarded to Cass.

101110H, Co H Plt patrol at 942285 observed 5 VC w/wps approx 500 meters away, vicinity 936282, opened fire W/M-60 5 bursts. VC returned 5 rds S/A and fled, carrying 1 VC. Lost contact. 1 VC KIA (prob).

101130H, Co E all units enroute to Hill 100.

101130H, 1st Plt Co H at coord. 941284 spotted enemy at coord. 936282. Called 4.2 mortar mission on 4 VC w/out wps (ref: 101110 spot report) possibly trying to escape and hide wps. 26 rds. 4.2 mortar fired on VC with good coverage. Estimate 4 VC KIA.

101320H, Ref conference with Dislodge 3 have reconsidered proposal. Golf Company will be ready to lift at 1630 this date.

101424H, all units have returned to Bn. perimeter, no enemy contact. Cumulative total, 4 VC KIA, 1 VC KIA (probable) no USMC casualties.

101550H, Co G ready for extraction. Rainstorm moving in.

101826H, Co G has been extracted from perimeter to TAM KY. Heavy enemy activities reported Northeast of us, will keep tight perimeter.

101855H, Cass 6 ambushes and patrols are being sent out. Bn. perimeter is tight.

102000H, H&I and illumination fires registered, perimeter secure.

102400H, Positions remain same; perimeter and ambushes secure.

110155H, Co E sector perimeter defense vicinity 946300 received approx 12 rds light A/W fire vicinity 944304 - perimeter alert, supporting arms standing by; no casualties.

110205H, Sqd ambush 2nd Plt Co E in 946305 opened fire on 2 VC on trail - 1 VC KIA, 1 VC WIA captured, later died of wounds. 2 VC KIA.

110500H, Bn perimeter secure, no contact.

110500H, 2nd Bn standing by for extraction and return to LSA TAM KY.

111000H, as directed 1st units 2/5 Bravo Command Group, 4.2 mortars, commenced extraction from defensive perimeter coord. 951282 to TAM KY.

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111045H, Extraction going as planned, no enemy contact.

111130H, One Platoon remaining in LZ will be extracted next 30 mins.

111200H, All units 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) extracted and returned to TAM KY - terminating this phase of operation.

111700H, Co E assigned security for 2/11 Arty position coord. 226320. Departed TAM KY w/3rd Plt Co H as convoy security. Arrived destination 111735H.

111800H, 3rd Plt Co H convoy security returned to TAM KY.

111830H, Co E reports perimeter secure.

112000H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines assigned reserve Battalion, and security for LSA TAM KY establishing perimeter defense - due to present location, and disposition of forces as well as terrain, prevent tight perimeter; units established at likely avenues of approach.

112400H, Perimeter secure, no enemy contact reported. Co E perimeter coord. 226320; secure.

120215H, Bn. perimeter and helicopter fuel area located 288232 started to receive 8 to 12 rds 81mm mortar, unk number of 57RR fire and approx 200 rds. S/A fire. Estimate enemy fire came from the North. Initial estimated casualties 3 USMC KIA- Co H - 22 USMC WIA Co H, 3 USMC WIA Co G.

120220H, Bn. reaction force of 2 Plts w/tanks extended perimeter and returned fire - enemy withdrew, no further contact.

120600H, Patrols from Co G and Co H with tanks commenced sweep of area to North of TAM KY in search of enemy forces.

120635H, Co G sqd working w/tanks coord. 288239 picked up 6 Vietnamese outside perimeter for questioning. Forwarded to ITT - 6 VCS.

120800H, Co G while on sweep North toward the CONG TRANG MOT River vicinity coord 279247, picked up 2 live 57mm rds and 7 casings, will bring in after completion of sweep.

120800H, Co E patrol discovered position of 2 mortar base plates, expended M-1, carbine, 45 cal casings, estimate this site of 120215H mortar attack on TAM KY.

120910H, Co H patrol sweeping North of TAM KY vicinity 280241 picked up 3 VCS. One attempted to run but was restrained by old woman, may have information on mortar attack.

120930H, Co H patrol stopped and checked large group of Vietnamese vicinity 275231. Three of the group not identified by school teacher in area. VCS brought in for questioning. 3VCS.

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121045H, Co G patrol at 243292 apprehended 6 Vietnamese for questioning; four released, 2 held as VCS.

121200H, Casualties report; results of 120215H mortar attack.

Co H - 3 KIA

- 28 WIA

- 2 DOW later as a result of attack

Co G - 2 WIA

H&S Co - 5 WIA

121300H, Co H and G patrol returned to perimeter TAM KY.

121530H, Co E returned to TAM KY.

121715H, Lightning Bolt struck Co E Bivouac position approx 50 meters from 2/5 CP area coord 290233. 2 USMC killed by lightning, 7 injured.

121800H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) remains at Ft. Besic and h&S security.

122100H, Perimeter secure, no enemy contact.

130600H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) standing by for helicopter insertion LZ 163293 to sweep in an easterly direction toward Route 1. Mission to search out and destroy enemy forces found in the operational area.

130640H, Cass 6 Airborne.

130645H, First units Co E into LZ 163293. No enemy contact, LZ secure.

130730H, All units 2/5 into LZ, commencing sweep of objective area.

130815H, Co G 3rd Plt destroyed 8 lbs rice at coord. 169297.

130845H, Co G located 2 unexploded 250 lbs. bombs coord, 170280 - unable to destroy; area marked.

130930H, Forward elements continues to sweep. Air strikes being run on all suspected enemy positions. Main elements located coord 177279.

131000H, Air strike on target located at coord. 190270 preparatory to moving further.

131015H, Bn Hq. coords 166284 observed building with sign reading "National Front Liberation SVN". Villagers in area say VC use building regularly; do not know for what purpose.

131020H, Co H 2nd Plt. vicinity coord 173282 found cave w/4 M-26 hand grenades in it. Destroyed cave w/demo, 1 USMC WIA hit by large secondary explosion. 1 USMC WIA.

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131030H, Co G uncovered 400 lbs rice at coord 179273, will bring back sample and destroy the rest.

131100H, Villagers (vicinity coord 179282) said 100 VC in blue uniforms and armed w/rifles passed through area ten days ago. VC were moving SW; rated F-3.

131320H, Present location coord 183295, established in hasty defense, waiting for completion of sweep by Co H of coord 191297. Upon completion of sweep will move into area and set up combat base, and conduct S/D patrols. Backtracking along axis of morning's advance as well as sweeping other areas.

131430H, Co G 184286 picked up VCS man identified by RF's, had spent indoctrination time in mountains. Man identified two VC supporters in his hamlet (coord same), said twenty VC came through hamlet 3 days ago from AN XA TAY (179289) weapons unk. Will send man to TAM KY and search for individuals.

131500H, Bn perimeter established vicinity coord 191297.

131700H, Patrol Co H and S-2 searched area coord 175293. Area trenched and tunneled, appears not to have been used recently - Air, artillery and bomb coverage of fortifications.

131800H, 2/5 defensive perimeter established 191297 - H&I fires being registered, positions dug in and preparing patrol and ambush sites - no enemy contact, all secure.

132100H, perimeter alert and secure; night ambushes being set in, no enemy contact.

132240H, received intelligence report from Dislodge 2 - Heavy contact between ARVN units and enemy regt this afternoon and early evening north of our present position. Enemy force identified as 21st, located grid squares 1236, 1233, 1433. Alert to possible infiltration of battle area southwest, passing close to our position - ARVN estimated 300-400 VC KIA by Air and Arty.

132300H, All ambushes in position, perimeter alert and secure, no enemy contact, positions remain the same.

140300H, Situation remains the same - Perimeter secure, no enemy contact.

140600H, Situation remains same, no enemy contact.

140700H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines as directed standing by for extraction and insertion into new operation area.

140930H, Co H helilifted into LZ 166306.

140945H, Co H coord 166307 receiving A/W fire from northern edge LZ. Air strike now being conducted on enemy positions. Enemy fire receding.

141000H, Co H coord 163302 Marine stepped on punji stake-punctured foot; will be Med Evac. 1 USMC WIA.

141030H, 2/5 CP located vicinity coord 168305. Sporadic S/A-A/W fire on edge.

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of LZ. Air strikes being run enemy position - clearing area now.

141030H, Report received indicating 300 people moving NE coord. 165318 by KLONDIKE Aircraft. 75 of this number able bodied males had weapons but hid them while KLONDIKE flew overhead - out of our immediate area of operation, aircraft, will keep under observation.

141050H, Report received from Regt. HQ indicates 2 bunkers w/VC located at 163314 - Occupied trench between 164305 - 165301 - many armed VC located in village of PHU LONG 170303 - Co H now sweeping area of reported VC bunkers and trench line sighting, will clear area. Co G standing by to sweep village of PHU LONG. 81mm mortar preparatory fires now being conducted on village.

141100H, Co H located 164306 and clearing assigned TAOR - Co E located 170308 w/one platoon sweeping hill 34 coord 175314 - Co G located 168308 w/2 platoons commencing sweep of village PHU LONG w/81mm mortar support. Two large secondary explosions observed in village 169304. Initial estimate enemy casualties from Air Strike and 81mm mortar fire, 6 VC KIA (prob), 11 WIA (prob); 1 USMC WIA (punji stake).

141200H Co G questioned old man in village 165305. Indicated 800 VCs moved through area two days ago; moving done at night. Hard Core speaking North Vietnamese dialect, Blue uniforms - following weapons: 4-120mm mortars, 60 & 81mm mortars, 22 to 25 machineguns.

141315H Command Group now moving to establish Combat base at 173313.

141315H Co E reports 2 heat casualties from bad water; will Med Evac.

141400H, Flt Co G discovered cave and tunnel network 30 feet below surface. 200 meters in length - Medical supplies and various types of shell casings - unable to check out thoroughly due to tactical situation. Returning with articles found.

141445H, (Ref. 141100msg) Estimate of VC casualties is 6 VC KIA (prob), 11 VC WIA (prob), from Air strike conducted vicinity LZ 166307 against enemy positions firing S/A & A/W fire vicinity coords 158307, 163305, 165303; and mortar fire on village PHU LONG 168303 where several secondary explosions were observed.

141453H, 2/5 CP established in perimeter defense - Combat base 173313. Co G CP 171307 with outpost covering village PHU LONG 170304 - at 173302 and 175301. Co H CP perimeter 157303 Co E CP 176314 - no enemy contact.

141520H, Co H reports Air observer has target, calling Air strike - ordnance dropped 2 mark 79, Napalm, 8 250 lbs bombs, snake eyes, and 20mm - results unk - coord vicinity 157303.

141715H Co G reports 1 USMC possible Malaria case, temp 104. Will Med Evac coord vicinity 171307.

141800H, Fireteam sec/patrol Co G while getting water from well vicinity 167307 investigated house at above coord, found tunnel under house with 4 VCS (female). PF personnel state they are VC, will bring to Cass. CP for screening and detention until evacuated.

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141830H, Hdqs personnel and engineers at 166808 to 167306 destroyed seven one man bunkers.

141900H, (Ref. 141430H Spot Report) Cave and tunnel network 30 ft. below surface 200 meters long - at 141900H Cass 2 w/engineers checked tunnel - engineers estimated it would take 500 lbs. demo to destroy.

141950H, Sqd amb/Co H enroute to ambush site 159298 received 15 rds tracer fire from unk number VC vicinity 160297. Patrol returned fire - continuing mission, 81mm mortars firing on enemy area, all units alerted.

142200H, Positions secure, perimeter alert, H&I fires registered, no enemy contact at this time. Ambushes being established.

142235H, Sqd Amb/2nd Flt Co G 169305 reports VC crossed in front of ambush site as it was being set in - Ambush opened fire w/grenades and A/W fire, VC hit. Ambush moved forward to check body. 1 VC KIA w/o weapon. While searching body ambush was fired upon w/one grenade and S/A fire - Ambush returned fire w/M-79 and S/A fire. VC broke contact and withdrew. Ambush returned to friendly position. 1 VC KIA no USMC casualties - no further contact.

142400H, Perimeters secure - Ambushes set in - position remains the same. No enemy contact.

150300H, Perimeters secure. No enemy contact.

150600H, position remain the same - perimeters secure, no enemy contact.

150900H, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) standing by to be extracted and returned to TAM KY.

150912H, Helicopters received approx 5 rds S/A fire from SW direction estimate vicinity 169297 as they were going into LZ 162302 to pick up Co H. Air strike now being directed on target area.

150930H, Co H extracted to TAM KY.

150940H, Cass Six extracted to Hill 69.

151000H, Command Group extracted to TAM KY.

151030H, All units extracted from operational area now at TAM KY. Standing by for helilift to Hill 69 CHU LAI area coord. 462073.

151035H, First elements Command Group extracted from TAM KY.

151055H, Command Group arrive Hill 69.

151400H, All units 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) returned to Hill 69 terminating this phase of operation COLORADO.

151500H, All units 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) participating in operation mastered, all personnel accounted for.

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12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. The administrative plan was adequate in all respects.

a. Communications.

(1) Operations.

(a) Communications during Operation COLORADO varies from one extreme to the other. On the first day of the operation there was negative communications between Battalion and Regiment for a number of hours during the day and for a few hours in the evening. The main problem on this first phase of the operation was distance. The PRC-25, while providing excellent communications with the Battalion, was unable to transmit out of the valleys and across the hill mass to a base camp some 25 miles away. Relay stations are absolutely essential when distance is involved. These were subsequently provided for.

(b) In phase two of the operation, relay stations were set up at QUE SON and LOC SON by personnel of the Battalion Comm. section. While at these ARVN outposts, the relay stations served both the Battalion and some Recon units. It was found in this phase that, even though effective relay was in, that more than one Regimental Tac net was necessary with three Battalions simultaneously submitting spot reports and situation reports. Consequently a separate Regimental Tac net via a 2/5 relay at LOC SON was set up with the Battalion late on the first night of phase two of the operation. Henceforth two Regimental Tac nets will be operated on Operations of this size.

(c) In phase three of the operation, communications was good. Any problems which arose were easily taken care of, once identified as a problem.

(2) Equipment

(a) There was very little equipment failure. Two of the PRC 41 UNF radios had to be evacuated but were returned and available for use when required. A third PRC-41 was sent to the LSA via the HST team and has yet to be returned to the Battalion.

(b) The PRC-25 proved to be an excellent radio; it does have two weak points. One, it cannot be carried by the antenna base for the base will break; the radio has carrying handles. The handset is very susceptible to water; it must be kept dry for maximum communications.

(3) Personnel

(a) The communications Platoon performed their mission commendably. There were a minimum number of non-battle casualties. Three men, ~~became~~ became sick with Vietnamese FLU after phase two of the operation, were evacuated.

(b) Two men were superficially wounded; one by barbed wire, the other was burned when a piece of shrapnel landed on his shoulder, but did not penetrate his skin.

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(4) Message Procedure

(a) Message traffic was often addressed from a staff officer at Battalion to a staff officer or section at Regiment and vice versa. This is to be avoided if possible. Commands send to commands. If particular attention is required by an individual it should be indicated or implied in the text.

b. Medical Evaluation. Cooperation from "Shock and Resuscitation team" from 1st Medical Battalion was very satisfactory. Only complaint: ~~that some~~ of the less severe patients sent for sick call with minor illnesses were evacuated back to medical Battalion instead of being returned to the BAS (Minor or Heat Casualties). If at all possible, minor casualties should be evacuated to Battalion Aid Station, for further evacuation if necessary, so that a patient is evacuated no further to the rear than necessary.

13. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

a. COLORADO was the first Battalion sized operation of this command in which an Airborne CP was initiated, utilizing the Command Radio net with each operating unit on the ground. This way a member of the Command Group attached to each unit was in direct communication with the Battalion Commander flying over the operational area, giving move direct control and flexibility to the Battalion Commander in exploiting any sizable enemy contact. This procedure also relieved the Battalion Commander from being tied down to one location relying on radio communication spot/situation reports, which were sent over the Battalion Tac net to the ground-located Battalion Command Group representative.

14. COMMANDER'S ANALYSTS

Operation COLORADO was a thorough test of logistics, personnel, equipment, communications, and coordination of available supporting arms to a unit remotely located in a combat situation. Repeatedly, this Battalion or one of its elements was helilifted into an objective area isolated from any physical support other than Air and/or its own weapons. In addition, weather frequently cut off air support, making the unit completely independent of assistance from friendly forces; and the Battalion was too often unable to communicate externally except by means of sporadic Airborne radio relay. All assigned missions; however, were accomplished expeditiously and enthusiastically by the Command. Reaction to contingencies was executed rapidly and smoothly, although major contact with large forces of the enemy was never made.

Logistical support from the LSA at TAM KY was effective, and the "break" at TAM KY for the Battalion between operational phases was a welcome respite.

Air support was generally superb. Both fixed wing and helicopter pilots and crews flew evacuation, emergency resupply and support missions during adverse weather and periods of darkness considered normally "impossible" conditions. Ground and Air units maintained extremely close liaison because planning and execution of operations under these conditions made such coordination imperative for success of the mission.

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Artillery support was available to the Battalion only during the last operational phase. The exception to this was the direct support of two 4.2 inch mortar platoons helilifted to the Battalion Combat Base on two occasions where the mission was a relatively static one. In these instances, the mortars were welcomed and utilized to the maximum possible extent in both illumination and destructive fire roles.

In all phases, battalion elements conducted aggressive patrol and assault activities under trying conditions of weather, lack of supporting arms, poor communications, and independent operation. The Battalion's performance was impeccable and commendatory.

Although Civil Affairs programs per se were not emphasized in the remote and hostile - oriented villages, 697 Vietnamese civilians; men, women and children of all ages; were evacuated as refugees from one area at their request. They streamed into the Battalion Combat Base from miles away on the day the Battalion was to be airlifted from the objective. They carried with them their meager belongings, pleading for evacuation and requesting that the Marines burn their homes and kill their livestock so that the Viet Cong would not use them to their own advantage. The refugees were evacuated to a screening and relocation center in TAM KY to begin new lives under programs of the Government of South Vietnam.

15. RECOMMENDATIONS. Several recommendations result from COLORADO. Conditions seldom, if ever, experienced previously by this Command, necessitate observations which should assist planning of future similar actions.

a. Plans for airborne radio relay should include continual "on station" aircraft when infantry units operate remotely from control echelons.

b. Initial infantry units helilifted into an isolated area should examine mortar requirements with a view to taking minimum number of tubes while all mortar personnel carry HE and WP rounds. Remaining mortars may be placed "on call", along with illumination rounds for night missions.

c. The Battalion Command Group should be reduced to a minimal size consistent with essential activities during an active situation. It should, however, include a sufficient security element to preclude the need for the Group's satelliting on a maneuvering company for security.

d. Command elements staged at the LSA to support operating forces should have the capability to provide better supplementary food to those forces, both in the field and at the LSA between operational phases.

e. Because of unexpectedly light enemy contact, it must be assumed that information leaks were prevalent, or that the ~~mass~~ movement of supporting and command elements to TAM KY were accurate forecasts to our intentions. Greater command attention must be given to planning security; and certainly serious consideration should be given to more covert movement to forward areas - perhaps after the initial operational assault has been made.

Walter Moore

WALTER MOORE

TAB A COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT (Overlay)

OPERATION "COLORADO"

Ref: Maps: AMS Series L701,
VIETNAM, 1:50,000,
Sheets 6657III
MAPS: AMS Series L701L,
VIETNAM, 1:50,000,

25
Sheets 6639I, 6640II
and III

TIME ZONE: H

061015H-Co "F" inserted
into LZ, coord 881225,
commences sweep N.E.

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061430H- Co "H" extracted
coord 897241 to LZ coord
009218 061500H Objective (3).

PHASE I (061015H August 1966-071800H August 1966)

061140H - Co "E" (Rein) lifted from
TAM KY to Objective (2).
Landed Objective (2) at
061150H.

061830H - Co "E" extracted from
Objective (2) to LZ
coord 009217

061400H - Co "G" inserted into LZ
coord 983231

Commenced sweep S.E.

071800H - All remaining units
2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein)
extracted from Objective (3)
arrived TAM KY. 2nd Bn assigned
perimeter defense of LS, TAM KY.

061830H - 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein)
in perimeter defense, Co E(-), Co G,
Co H coord 016218.

2nd Bn, 5th Marines
Chu Lai, VietNam
26 August 1966

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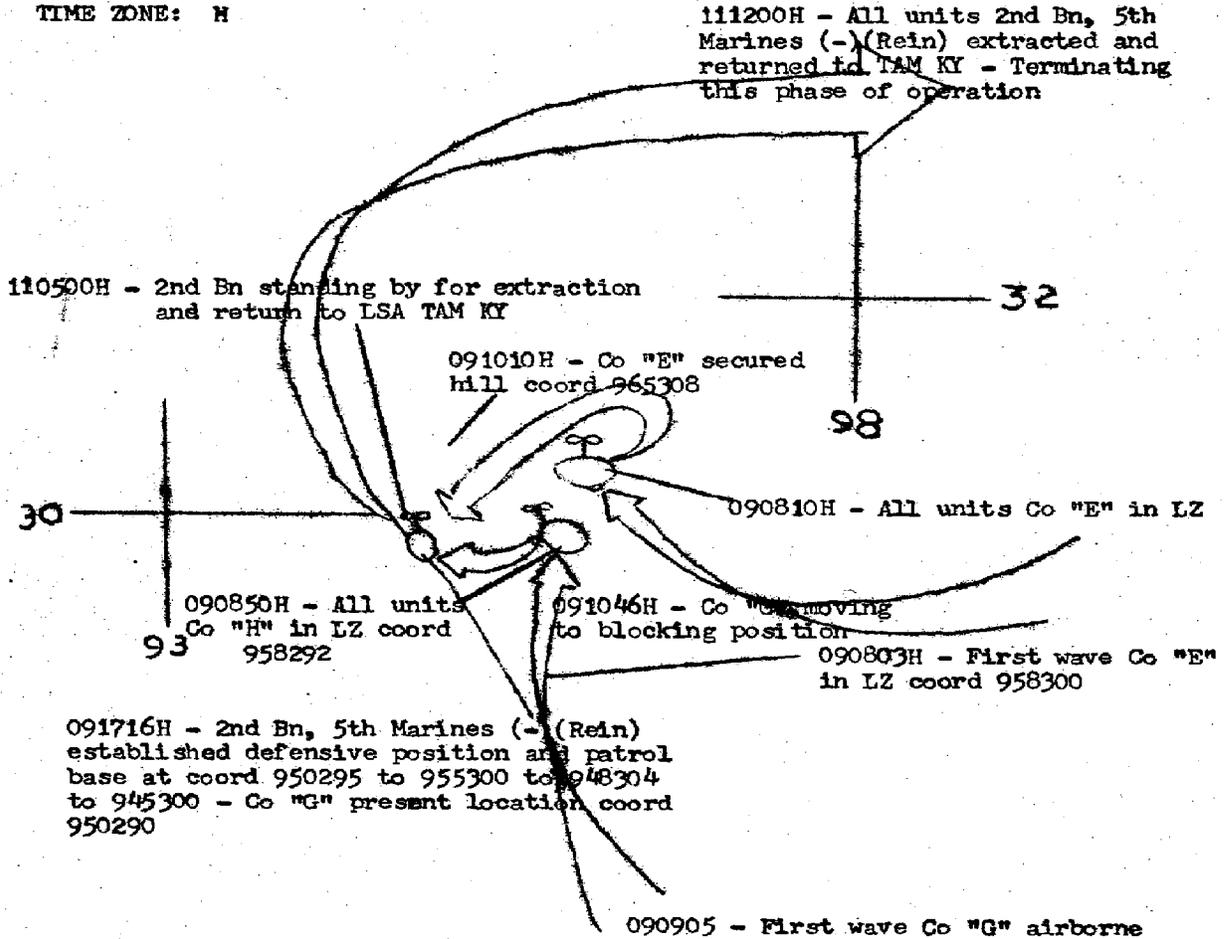
TAB B COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT (Overlay)
 OPERATION "COLORADO"

2nd Bn, 5th Marines
 Chu Lai, VietNam
 26 August 1966

Ref: Maps; AMS Series L701, VIETNAM, 1:50,000, Sheets 6657III
 AMS Series L7014, VIETNAM, 1:50,000, Sheets 6639I, 6640II and III

PHASE II
 (090720H August 1966 - 111200H August 1966)

TIME ZONE: H



TAB C COMBAT AFTER ACTION REPORT (Overlay)

2nd Bn, 5th Marines
Chu Lai, VietNam
26 August 1966

PHASE III
(130600H August 1966 - 151400H August 1966)

Ref: Maps: AMS Series L701, VIETNAM, 1:50,000
Sheets 6657III

MAPS: AMS Series L7014, VIETNAM, 1:50,000, Sheets 6639I, 6640II, 6640III

151030H - All units extracted from operational area now at TAM KY. Standing by for helilift to HILL 69 CHU LAI Area coord 462073.

TIME ZONE: H

151000H - Command Group extracted to TAM KY

150900H - 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) standing by to be extracted and returned to TAM KY

141453H - 2/5 CP established in perimeter defense - Combat base at 173313

131500H - Bn perimeter established coord 191297

141030H - Bn CP located coord 168305

130730H - All units 2/5 into LZ, commencing sweep of objective area

