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

3/SJS/am
5750
6 August 1968
02F-6F

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July 1968 to 31 July 1968
Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2B
Encl: (1) 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology
1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

O.K. Steele
O. K. STEELE

2nd BN / 5TH MAR
EMJ d+r

2nd BN 5th MAR
SAC # *0515-6F*
COPY 3 OF 8

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5TH MAR SAC FILES
0492-68
COPY *102* OF *7*

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JULY 1968

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1968 to 31 July 1968

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01-25 July 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES JULY 1968

I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

A. Location: 1-27 July 1968 Plei Bai, RVN
28-31 July 1968 An Hoa, RVN

B. Commanding Officer, Staff Officers, and Company Commanders

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Commanding Officer | LtCol E. C. CHERATHIAN | 1-24 Jul 1968 |
| | Maj O. K. STEEBLE | 25-31 Jul 1968 |
| Executive Officer | Maj O. K. STEEBLE | 1-24 Jul 1968 |
| | Maj E. G. DYER | 25-31 Jul 1968 |
| Adjutant | Capt R. E. STONER | 1-31 Jul 1968 |
| S-1 | 1stLt H. NAGAI | 1-31 Jul 1968 |
| S-2 | 1stLt E. T. ALTON | 1-23 Jul 1968 |
| S-3 | Maj E. G. DYER | 1-24 Jul 1968 |
| | Capt G. D. HENDRICKSON | 25-31 Jul 1968 |
| S-3A | 1stLt T. A. KEENE | 1-19 Jul 1968 |
| | 1stLt P. R. MCCONNELL | 24-31 Jul 1968 |
| | 1stLt T. D. MARTIN | 30-31 Jul 1968 |
| S-3B | 1stLt C. B. M. WALKER JR. | 30-31 Jul 1968 |
| S-4 | 1stLt R. C. HORNER | 1-31 Jul 1968 |
| S-5 | Capt R. E. STONER | 1-31 Jul 1968 |
| CommO | Capt D. J. POWERS | 1-16 Jul 1968 |
| | 1stLt MURPHY | 17-31 Jul 1968 |
| SupplyO | 1stLt D. T. WALSH | 1-31 Jul 1968 |
| MFO | 1stLt G. A. ZURENDA | 1-31 Jul 1968 |
| ACO | Capt R. L. TRACKER | 1-31 Jul 1968 |
| FAC | 1stLt J. O. SANDERS | 1-31 Jul 1968 |
| CO, HAS | 1stLt T. D. MARTIN | 1-1 Jul 1968 |
| | 1stLt A. A. DORNBACH | 2-31 Jul 1968 |
| CO, CoE | Capt H. R. HEINZ | 1-30 Jul 1968 |
| | 1stLt P. R. MCCONNELL | 31-31 Jul 1968 |
| CO, CoF | 1stLt C. W. FULFORD | 1-7 Jul 1968 |
| | 1stLt T. D. MARTIN | 8-29 Jul 1968 |
| | Capt T. D. BROWN | 30-31 Jul 1968 |
| CO, CoG | 1stLt D. A. DOVE | 1-14 Jul 1968 |
| | 1stLt H. J. POOLE | 15-31 Jul 1968 |
| CO, CoH | Capt G. D. HENDRICKSON | 1-24 Jul 1968 |
| | 1stLt S. R. BROWN | 25-30 Jul 1968 |
| | Capt F. W. VANDERBERG | 31-31 Jul 1968 |

C. Average Monthly Strength

| USMC | | USN | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|
| OFF | ENL | OFF | ENL |
| 29 | 974 | 3 | 53 |

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II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY.

Throughout the early part of July and until the termination of Operation HOUSTON, the 2nd Battalion continued its mission of providing security for the Division MSR in a TAOR which extended from the village of Cao Hai to the southern slopes of Hai Van Pass. The mission was accomplished by maintaining strong holding positions at vital installations and along key terrain, combined with aggressive patrolling to interdict known enemy approach routes and lines of communications. On 24 July, Companies E and F were detached and placed under the operational control of the 7th Marines. Both units were immediately helilifted to An Hoa and became in effect the advanced echelon of the 5th Marines general movement into its new operating area. On 25 July, after being relieved in place by the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines, the 2nd Battalion (-) displaced south and arrived at the An Hoa combat base in the late afternoon of the 26th. Company E was then in contact and the Battalion immediately asked for and was given operational control of all its subordinate units. By 1800 on 26 July, Companies E, F, and H were committed to offensive operations to seek out and destroy NVA/VC forces known to be located in the Phu Nhuan Village complex north of the An Hoa combat base. Company G occupied defensive positions in the north and south approaches of Liberty Bridge. Coincident with the same mission described above, on 28 July the 2nd Battalion began participation in Operation MARSHLUKE THRUST II.

III. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.A. Personnel and Administration

1. The Battalion joined 9 Officers and 173 enlisted during July. The Battalion transferred 8 Officers and 85 enlisted during the same period. Casualties suffered during the month were:

| <u>Battle</u> | | | | <u>Non-Battle</u> | | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| <u>KIA</u> | <u>WIA</u> | <u>DOW</u> | <u>WIANE</u> | <u>NBD</u> | <u>NBC</u> | |
| 16 | 102 | 3 | 41 | 2 | 20 | 184 |

2. Discipline, Law and Order: NJP was awarded 7 times in the battalion; one by the Battalion Commander and six by subordinate Company Commanders. Five Marines are currently serving sentences at the III MAF Brig Facility, DaNang.

3. Morale: Morale remained at a high level throughout the battalion. A Band Concert by the 1st Marine Division Band played at all company positions and was well received by the troops. Maximum use of R&R quotas, both in Country and out of Country, were utilized to enhance morale and provide a break from the continuing routine.

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Postal Mail was distributed daily by both surface and helicopter means. \$4,000 worth of money orders were sold to the troops in the field.

5. Awards Nine members of this Battalion were awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry by the Vietnamese Government. Fifteen awards for heroism and meritorious service were processed during this period.

6. Chaplain's Activities Pastoral visits and religious services conducted this month were the principal concern of the Chaplain. There were 26 services conducted by the Battalion Chaplain at which 522 men took part. These were services in which all the men were invited and they took the character of general services and were followed by Catholic services. The Chaplain from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted five Protestant services. There were two lay leader services conducted at B Company by their Protestant lay leader. Five Memorial services were conducted at the Company areas.

Men from the battalion in the hospital were visited weekly by the Chaplain. Twenty-eight men were visited in hospitals in DaNang and Phu Bai. Brig visits were made on two occasions, and two men were seen. During the month 28 men came to the Chaplain for counselling.

Other related activities were the distribution of Special Services writing folders and also pocketbooks obtained from Special Services and other private sources. The response to receiving books in the field was gratifying and indicative of the value of such projects.

Rosaries were given to all the children (100) who made their Confirmation in the Church of Loan Ly. At the request of the Priest of Thua Lu, about 100 rosaries were given to him. The Chaplain delivered a small amount of cement to the Catholic Sisters at Lang Co and at Thua Lu. This cement went for building and repairing damaged or unfinished schools.

B. Intelligence

1. Sources: In addition to the utilization of all normal intelligence sources available to an infantry battalion, the CAP units, 35th Engineers, U. S. Army, and the civilian populace of Phu Loc District contributed information of intelligence value.

2. General Situation: Although the enemy somewhat decreased his mining activity along the Main Supply Route, an increase in sniping incidents, harassing fire and mortar fire was evident when compared with the previous month.

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Reacting on intelligence gained from Chieu Hoi's on the possible location of an enemy aid station, the Battalion operated in the vicinity of Hill 592 (ZD 1404). On 15 July Company G killed 7 VC, captured two female POW'S (WIA), and twelve individual and crew served weapons. Further sightings and intelligence by the Red Devil Reconnaissance Teams and other unrelated sources revealed a possible enemy wounded evacuation route in which the wounded are transported by boat to vicinity ZD1206. Here they are assisted by a guerrilla force of undetermined size and move by land to Canh Duong Hamlet (ZD194047). From Canh Duong they move south, crossing Highway #1 in the Bowling Alley area and into the mountain region.

On 18 July Company H captured two wounded VC in vicinity of ZD165050. While en route to the company command post the squad came under small arms fire which killed one of the POW's. It appeared that the VC were trying to kill the POW's. The remaining POW reported to be a member of the G-2 Company of the Phu Loc Main Force Unit, based in vicinity ZD164053.

On 20 July an estimated four enemy ambushed a Marine convoy with automatic weapons fire and one B-40 round in the Hai Van area (AT924923). Three Marines from the convoy security group were killed, four wounded and one vehicle destroyed.

3. Villagers of Lang Co reported that between 2400 and 0400 on 20 July a detail of 10 VC/NVA armed with AK-47's entered the village intending to assassinate the village officials. Failing in their mission, the enemy left the area, leaving behind anti-ARVN and anti-American propaganda leaflets.

4. Statistics of Casualties and Equipment:

| | |
|-------------|----|
| VC/NVA KIA | 63 |
| VC POW | 4 |
| AK47 | 6 |
| SKS | 4 |
| BAR's | 2 |
| PPSH | 1 |
| M-16 | 1 |
| M-1 Carbine | 2 |
| M-2 Carbine | 1 |
| MAT 49 | 1 |
| MK-50 SMG | 1 |
| KRM Pistol | 1 |

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| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 60mm Rounds (ChiCom) | 6 |
| M-26 Grenades | 10 |
| ChiCom Grenades | 12 |
| Mines | 7 |
| Friction type detonation devices | 10 |
| AK47 Ammc | 500 rounds |
| Packs | 4 |
| Cartridge belts | 5 |
| Canteens | 5 |
| Magazine pouches | 5 |
| First Aid Packs | 2 |
| Grenade pouches | 5 |
| Assorted Medical Gear | |
| Assorted Clothing | |
| Assorted Documents | |

C. Training

1. Seventy-five Marines completed the Battalion/Regimental Indoctrination Course.

2. The Mobile Training Team of Division Schools conducted training for 350 Marines of this battalion.

3. Division and higher level formal school training was as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| a. Division Leadership Schools | 10 |
| b. Movie Projectionists School | 1 |
| c. Basic Weapons Repair | 2 |
| d. Embarkation School (Okinawa) | 3 |
| e. Registered Publications School | 1 |

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| | |
|---|----|
| f. Communication Crypto Security School | 1 |
| g. Landmine Warfare School | 16 |
| h. Career Advisory School | 1 |
| i. Basic Ammo Tech School | 1 |

D. Special Operations.

1. From 1-3 July 1968 Company G conducted a search and clear operation in an SOA bounded on the East by the ZD 20 grid line and on the West by the AT 83 grid line.

2. On 13 July 1968 the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed operational control of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. During the period 13-16 July, 2nd Battalion (-), consisting of Companies D and G conducted a search and clear operation in the vicinity of ZD 1506. The operation succeeded in destroying several harbor sites along with the capture of various weapons and equipment. Results: 7 VC KIA (CONF).

E. Close Combat.

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines continued its participation in Operation HOUSTON with the primary mission of providing security for the Division MSR in its assigned AO. The majority of action was by platoons or smaller units engaging enemy forces attempting to interdict National Route #1.

On 250830H July 1968 Operation HOUSTON was terminated and on 281200H July 1968 the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines commenced Operation MAMELUKE THRUST in the An Hoa area of operations.

F. Fire Support.

1. The return to offensive combat saw a significant increase in the use of supporting arms. Three batteries provided direct support for the battalion. Battery B, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, from 1 July to 18 July. Battery Y, a provisional battery from 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, on 19 July. Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines from 20 July to 25 July.

2. General support was furnished by Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.

3. The battalion received additional fire support in the northern sector of the AO from the USS PROVIDENCE and the USS O'BRIEN.

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4. Battery B fired 178 missions: 352WP, 27 Illum, 1635 HE, HE Quick, VT, Etc.
5. Battery Y fired 3 missions: 68 HE
6. Battery D fired 2 missions: 1 WP and 7 HE Quick
7. Battery E fired 400 missions: 324 WP, 209 Illum, and 4541 HE.
8. Battery F fired 65 missions: 1074 HE.
9. Significant Fire Support Events:

a. During the month a limit of 57 rounds per 105 tube, and 20 rounds per 155 tube per day was placed on all batteries in support of the battalion.

G. Air Support.

1. Tactical Air Support. A total of 99 tactical air support missions, consisting of 224 sorties were flown in support of the Battalion.

a. Close Air Support The Battalion requested and controlled 40 missions consisting of 50 sorties of fixed wing. Seven missions (14 sorties) were controlled by A0's with 5 missions (6 sorties) controlled by the TACP.

b. Assault Helicopter Operations Two helicopter assaults (28 sorties) were executed.

c. Aerial Observation and Visual Reconnaissance Regimental Command and Control aircraft were provided for 16 visual reconnaissance.

2. Administrative and Logistics Support Fifty-one administrative and logistics support missions were flown in support of the Battalion consisting of 112 sorties.

a. Administrative Troop Lifts The Battalion utilized 2 administrative troop lifts consisting of 32 sorties.

b. Medical Evacuations A total of 28 missions were utilized by the Battalion. There were 30 emergency, 45 priority and 35 routine medical evacuations.

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H. Logistics.

1. Resupply for the Battalion continued to utilize the helicopter support teams attached to each of the letter companies. In the latter part of the month two of these teams were taken from the battalion; the two letter companies from which these teams were taken continued to use the helicopter support team frequency on one of their own radies to call in all resupply requests and ammunition counts.

2. The Battalion forward messhall provides a daily average of 400 morning meals and 925 evening meals of the "A" ration variety. 60 evening meals were provided for the CAG Marines in the Battalion TAOR. Fresh meat, produce, ice cream and an average of 750 pounds of ice were obtained from FLC DaNang daily.

3. During the period 24-26 July the combat elements of the Battalion commenced movement to the An Hoa AO. The Battalion's logistical train returned to Phu Bai where supplies and equipment were staged for the administrative phase of the move.

a. Supply.

(1) Early in this reporting period a Command Material Management Team provided by Division Supply, made a "courtesy" inspection of this Section and reported findings to the Battalion Commanding Officer. All discrepancies reported have been corrected.

(2) Two M274 Mules and two M151 Jeeps were picked up on this account from Force Logistic Support Group-Alpha to replace two mules evacuated to Okinawa and two jeeps destroyed in a motor vehicle accident.

(3) From 17-19 July a contact team visited the forward area to inspect weapons and instruct personnel on first echelon maintenance. Overall findings were satisfactory.

b. Motor Transport.

(1) During this reporting period two (2) schools were conducted on M151 Jeeps. Approximately twelve (12) drivers attended the classes and became qualified to operate that vehicle. Due to the size of the classes it was possible for each driver to receive individual attention.

(2) A number of replacement vehicles were received during this month. Two (2) M274A1 were received to replace two (2) which were on Red Ball in Okinawa. Replacements for the Two (2) M151 involved in an accident were received. Also one (1) MRC-87 Radio jeep, plus two (2) M-101 trailers for the total of nine (9) vehicles.

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c. Medical.

(1) There were two cases of Malaria during the month.

(2) Venereal disease consisted of ten (10) cases of gonorrhea. Half of these were acquired on R&R. The remaining five (5) cases were contracted at Hai Van Pass, Lang Co and Phu Loc, and the establishments incriminated were destroyed.

(3) Two patients were bitten by rats while sleeping in bunkers in the forward and rear areas and were given Anti-Rabies vaccine.

(4) Seventy-five (75) patients were treated in the field for gastroenteritis secondary to drinking contaminated water while on a field operation and twenty-five (25) of these did not require treatment at the BAS.

(5) On 6 July 1968, the Forward BAS held a Med Cap at the new refugee hamlet near Lang Co. Using two (2) medical Officers and five (5) corpsmen, well over two hundred Vietnamese patients were seen.

(6) The illnesses ranged from two cases of tuberculosis and one congenital aortic stenosis to the numerous cases of various skin disorders.

(7) Dentists visited the Forward BAS twice during the month of July and did emergency and temporary dental work of the men from all companies.

(8) A total number of patients seen at both Aid Stations was 669. The Average number of patients seen per day was 22.

(9) Routine Medical Complaints:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Gastroenteritis..... | 136 |
| Diarrhea..... | 31 |
| Dermatological complaints..... | 117 |
| Urinary Tract infections..... | 23 |
| Ophthalmologic complaints..... | 14 |
| Ear disorders..... | 20 |
| Orthopedic problems..... | 22 |

I. Communications.

1. During this reporting period, there were no large scale operations which would hinder maintenance at the 1st through 3rd echelon level. The communications section received two AN/PRC-77's and two KYB-38's from regiment for testing in the field. The initial testing proved satisfactory and is continuing.

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2. A CW circuit with regiment using an AN/ PRC-47 was set up as a drill circuit for one hour each day from 1-14 July. This program was initiated to improve the proficiency of personnel of MOS 2533.

3. One AN/ MRC-87 was received by this battalion. One, M-151 was received so that componets of an M-109 could be installed.

J. Civic Action.

1. General. During this reporting period, civic action programs were centered primarily on improving the health standards of the civil populace in the CAAOR. As a part of this program, four semi-permanant heads were constructed in the village of Loc Hai. Approximately 116 refugees were relocated in the CAAOR, with an appropriate ceremony marking the event. The ceremony was attended by the Commanding Officer and members of his staff as well as District Officials. The 1st Marine Division band provided music for the ceremony.

2. The PSY-OPS section has made maximum use of leaflet drops, HB, team and face to face communication to bring the people closer to the G. V. N.

3. Medical Assistance: The following is a breakdown of the treatment administered.

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| a. An Cu Tay Hamlet | 200 treated |
| b. Trung Kien Hamlet | 135 treated |

DentCaps

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| a. An Cu Tay Hamlet | 40 |
| b. Lu Tu Village | 46 |
| c. Lang Co Hamlet | 55 |
| d. Lung Ly Hamlet | 63 |

Personal Assistance:

2900 Lbs. of rice
 36 bags of bulger
 40 cans of salad oil
 4000 Lbs of food
 70 bags of cement

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12 loads of lumber

1 box of clothing

Public Improvements:

Since the last report on Public Improvement, 116 homes have been completed in the Hamlet of An Tu Tay, One school was remodded in the Hamlet of Phung Hung, One information booth was constructed in the Village of Loc Hai, Ten wells are under construction in our CAAOR.

Psychological Operation:

| <u>Target Audience</u> | <u>Theme</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| VC/NVA | Chieu Hoi |
| VC/NVA | Peace talks |
| Local Populace | Peace talks |
| Local Populace | Peace talks |
| Local Populace | VC Steal your rice |
| Local Populace | Rewards |

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

2nd Bn 5th Mar
SIC # 0505-65
COPY 2 OF 13

3/SJH/am
3480
26 July 1968
SER: 035

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation HOUSTON

Ref: (a) Maps: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS series 17014 Sheets 6541 I, II, III, and IV; Sheets 6641 III and IV
(b) 1st MarDiv OpO 301-68
(c) 5th Marines OpO 301-68
(d) 5th Marines AdminO 01-68
(e) 5th Marines Frag Orders to OpO 301-68

1. Code Name: Operation HOUSTON
2. Dates: 010001H July 1968 to 250830H u 1968
3. Location: Phu Loc District, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam

4. Control of Command Headquarters:

2nd Bn (Rein), 5th Marines

010001H-232400H July 68
240001H-250830H July 68

LtCol. E. C. GELATHIN JR.
Major O. K. STABLE

Co. E, 2/5 010001H-250830H July 68
 Co. F, 2/5 010001H-072400H July 68
 080001H-250830H July 68
 Co. G, 2/5 010001H-172400H July 68
 180001H-250830H July 68
 Co. H, 2/5 010001H-242400H July 68
 250001H-250830H July 68

Capt. H. R. HEINZ
 1stLt. C. W. FULLFORD
 1stLt. T. D. MARTIN
 1stLt. D. A. DOVE
 1stLt. H. J. POOLE
 Capt. G. D. HENDERICKS
 1stLt. S. R. BROWN

5. Task Organizations:

2nd Bn, 5th Marines

H&S Co.
Co. E
Co. F
Co. G
Co. H

Det, EST, 1st Shore Party Bn.
Det, 2nd Plat., Co. B, 1st Engr. Bn.
Section 1st pl toon, Battery B, 1st MA Bn 44th Artillery (USA)

5TH MAR 505 FILES

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TAB-A

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6. Supporting Arms:a. Fire Support.

(1) Battery B, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (1 July to 18 July), Battery Y, a provisional battery from 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (19 July), Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (19 July to 25 July), were in direct support of the operation.

(2) Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in general support of the operation, providing close and continuous fire support for the western portion of the battalion's AO.

(3) The USS PROVIDENCE and the USS O'BRIEN furnished additional fire support for Operation HOUSTON.

(4) Significant fire support events:

a. All batteries in support of the operation were limited to 57 rounds per 105 tube and 20 rounds per 155 tube per day.

b. Air Support.

(1) Tactical air support consisted of fixed wing direct air support utilizing both hard and soft ordnance. Rotary wing was utilized for medical evacuations, passenger and supply lifts and visual reconnaissance missions. There was one company size helicopter assault.

7. Intelligence.

a. G-2, Task Force X-Ray and S-2, Fifth Marines carried the Fourth NVA Regimental Headquarters, and two subordinate battalions, the K4B and K5, in the Area of Operation throughout the month of July. In addition to these enemy units, an unidentified Sapper Company, reported by an ARVN source, and the guerrilla forces within the Area of Operation were expected to continue in their attempts to interdict Highway One and to harass friendly units and installations.

b. Although the enemy avoided significant contact for the month, he increased his sniping incidents, as well as harassing fire and mortar attacks. On 20 July a convoy in the Hai Van area (vicinity AT 924923) was ambushed by an estimated four VC/NVA with automatic weapons fire and one B-40 round. Three Marines were killed, four wounded, and one vehicle destroyed.

Information gained from Chieu Hois' and reports from other unrelated sources on the possible location of an enemy aid station led to a battalion operation in vicinity of Hill 592 (ZD 1404). On July 15 Company G accounted for 7 VC KIA, two female POW's, and twelve individual and crew served weapons captured. Another POW on 18 July reported that his unit (the C-2 Company of the Phu Loc Main Force Unit) was based in vicinity ZD 164053.

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The enemy continued to mine Highway 1 and booby trap likely areas of Marine patrols throughout the Area of Operation. On 16 and 20 July Company G Marines found and detonated a total of five M-16 "Tomato Can" mines on Hill 88 (AU 807017).

c. Villagers of Lung Co reported that between 2400 and 0400 on 20 July a detail of 10 VC, N/A entered the village armed with AK-47's with the mission of assassinating the village officials. Failing in their mission, the enemy left the area, leaving behind anti-ARVN and anti-American propaganda leaflets.

8. Mission: Ensure the protection of the MSR by defending Route #1 and its vital links such as bridges, culverts and passes; to conduct offensive operations to destroy enemy forces, materials, and positions.

9. Concept of Operations: The battalion accomplished its mission by occupying defensive positions on vital bridges and passes and by vigorous patrolling and ambushing the adjacent areas.

10. Executions:

On 011100H, a platoon from Company H, located at ZD 187052, received 30-40 rounds of automatic weapons fire from an unknown size enemy force at ZD 182057. The platoon returned 80-100 rounds of small arms and automatic weapons fire and called an artillery mission of 16 rounds HE and 1 round WP, 155mm. A water barrier prevented a complete search of the enemy area. Results: 3 USMC WIA Evac.

On 011420H, the same platoon from Company H, on a search and clear mission at ZC 207053, detonated a booby trapped M-26 frag grenade concealed by a C-ration can. Results: 2 USMC WIA Evac.

From July 1-3, Company G conducted search and clear operations near Nuri Tren which terminated with the area classified as a "free fire zone" on July 4th. Contact during the operation was light but the company succeeded in permanently denying that area to the enemy as a supply and harboring site.

On 021815H, a squad from Company F was checking a culvert at AT 901957 when an explosive device was detonated. The device was fragmentary and utilized a trip wire. Results: 2 USMC WIA Evac.

On 030815H, a Company G platoon on a search and clear mission detonated a booby trapped 60mm round at AU 812049. The area was searched for other explosive devices with negative results. Results: 3 USMC WIA Evac.

From July 11 to July 17, Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, were under operational control of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, engaging in search and clear operations.

From July 13 to July 16, Company G and Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, plus the Command Group engaged in counter-guerrilla operations in the vicinity of ZD 1606. Utilizing small unit aggressive patrols, several enemy harboring sites were found and an enemy patrol was annihilated with the capture of 12 weapons and various equipment and documents.

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On 150930H, a platoon from Company G, at ZD 135049, observed 15 enemy along a trail at ZD 139050. One platoon from Company G set up a blocking force at ZD 138054 while two other platoons from Company G pursued the enemy to the northeast until contact was lost at ZD 140056. Results: 2 USMC WIA Evac, 7 VC KIA (Confirmed), 2 female POW's and capture of 2 AK-47's, 2 SKS's, 2 BAR's, 1 PPSH submachine gun, 2 M-1 carbines, 1 M-2 carbine and 2 light machineguns plus 500 rounds AK-47 ammo, eight M-26 frag grenades, 8 Chicom grenades, six 60mm rounds, and various other equipment and documents.

On 151805H, a marine from Company H detonated a booby trapped Chicom grenade at ZD 204008. Results: 1 USMC WIA Evac.

On 161645H, a marine from Company G detonated a "Tomato Can" mine at AU 807015, after the area had been swept once with a mine detector. The area was again thoroughly searched finding one addition mine with Chicom grenade on it. Results: 1 USMC KIA, 4 USMC WIA Evac, and 14 USMC WIA NonEvac.

On 180800H, a platoon from Company H at ZD 165046, observed 3 enemy at ZD 165050. As the platoon maneuvered towards the enemy, they received 5 rounds of small arms fire. The platoon returned five M-79 rounds, eighty 7.62 rounds, also 150 rounds of 5.56. Sweeping through the area, the platoon captured 2 wounded enemy and a weapon. Results: Capture of 2 POW's, 1 SKS, one M-16 anti-personnel mine, and other papers and military equipment.

On 181105H, a squad from Company H, sent to bring the POW's in, at ZD 164037 came under fire from 5 enemy at ZD 164038. The enemy appeared to be attempting to kill the POW's. The squad returned fire while the other platoon maneuvered to a blocking position. The enemy broke contact and a search produced negative results. Results: 1 USMC WIA Evac, 1 VC DOW, 1 POW, and capture of 1 SKS and a M-16 anti-personnel mine.

On 201355H, a squad from Company F on patrol responded to an attack on a marine convoy under attack at AT 924923. The squad fired 30 rounds 106mm and 31 rounds of 81mm on enemy positions and swept the area finding 3 VC KIA dressed in green utilities, at 201930H continuing the sweep of the enemy positions the squad observed 2 enemy at AT 922926 and maneuvered towards them. The squad came under fire from an unknown number of enemy but continued to attack with automatic and small arms fire. A search of the area produced 3 additional enemy bodies. Results: 6 VC KIA (Confirmed), capture of 1 AK-47, six AK-47 magazines, 1 cartridge belt and 2 canteens.

On 202030H, a marine from Company G detonated an unknown type explosive device at AU 806016. A Med-Evac was called and the area was searched for other explosive devices with negative results. Results: 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA Evac, and 4 USMC WIA NonEvac.

On 221845H, a squad combat patrol from Company F, at AT 935896, received 1 sniper round from 1 enemy at AT 931889. The squad returned 40 rounds small arms fire and searched the area with negative results. Results: 1 USMC WIA Evac.

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Special Operations:

a. On July 1-3 Company G conducted a search and clear operation in an SOA bounded on the East by NS grid line ZC02, on West by NS grid line ZD15 and on South by EW grid line 04. This area was cleared of all inhabitants in an effort to prohibit its use as a harboring site for enemy units.

b. Between July 13 and 16 Company G and Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, with a Command Group operated in the vicinity of ZD 1506. The counter-guerrilla operation succeeded in destroying several harboring sites and in a successful ambush resulting in 7 VC KIA (Confirmed) and capture of various equipment and weapons.

11. Results:a. Friendly.

4 USMC KIA
16 USMC WIA (Evac)
25 USMC WIANE
2 MBD
4 NBC

b. Enemy:

18 NVA/VC (Confirmed)
3 VC POW
3 AK-47's captured
4 SRS captured
2 BAR's captured
1 K-50 SSG captured

12. Administration and Logistics:a. Supply

(1) Resupply for the battalion continued to utilize the Helicopter Support Teams attached to each letter company. The battalion's primary supply point was the LSA at CAO DOI. The primary means of transportation was the battalions six 6x6 trucks which were supplemented by helicopter air delivery. Battalion supply continued their forward supply point at the PHU GIA Battalion Command Post. Two armorers at that position performed limited field maintenance and repair of all weapons organic to the battalion.

b. Messing

(1) Two mess halls in the battalion forward area provided a daily average of four hundred morning meals and eight hundred and seventy-five evening meals of the "A" ration variety. These meals were prepared in the mess halls, and then delivered

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to each of the letter companies deployed along Route #1.

c. Motor Transport.

(1) Motor Transport provided three mechanics to the Battalion Forward Command Post to perform second echelon maintenance on the battalion's vehicles in the field.

d. Treatment of Casualties and Hospitalization.

(1) The Battalion Medical Section continued to operate two Battalion Aid Stations, one in Phu Bai and one at the forward CP at Phu Gia Pass. BAS strength for the month consisted of 2 Medical Officers, one chief hospital corpsman and 53 hospital corpsmen. The rifle companies were maintained at 7-8 corpsmen per company.

(2) Malaria cases dropped to two during July which is a significant decrease. Venereal diseases remain at an average of ten cases a month. Rabies vaccination was required for two Marines due to rat bites while sleeping in bunkers.

(3) On 6 July 1968, the forward BAS held a MEDCAP at the new refugee hamlet near Lang Co. Two Medical Officers and five corpsmen treated over 200 Vietnamese civilians.

(4) One Dental Officer and one Dental Technician visited the forward BAS on three occasions conducting DENTCAPS for the local populace. Approximately fifty Marines were administered temporary dental treatment. The Dental company furnished one Dental Officer for the narcotics control board for the month of July.

e. Communications.

(1) This phase of Operation HOUSTON provided excellent opportunities for second echelon maintenance of communications-electronics equipment. Thirty-six PRC-25 radios were calibrated and aligned. Seven PRC-25's are awaiting third echelon maintenance.

13. Commander's Analysis:

The battalion's primary mission during the fourth phase of Operation HOUSTON was to protect the Division MSR in its area of operations. During this reporting period the command successfully accomplished its mission. The battalion accomplished its mission by employing combat patrols and small unit ambushes to deny the enemy access to Route #1, keeping him off balance and preventing him from massing his forces, and by maintaining defensive positions on key bridges.

Efforts to maintain an offensive disposition were hindered by the tactical mission of providing security for three key bridges and other fixed installations in the area of operations.

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14. Recommendations:

That added responsibility be given to ARVN and/or CAG units for bridge security in the AO. This would enable USMC units to free additional units for participation in offensive operations against enemy base areas and lines of communication.

P.H. Stule
D. K. S.M.L.

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