

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

3/KAD/jds
5750
4 April 1968

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

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

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2B

- 1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

O.K. Steele
O. K. STEELE
Acting

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FME
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March 1968 to 31 March 1968

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~~UNCLASSIFIED~~COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, MARCH 1968I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA.

A. Location: 1-10 March 1968, HUE, RVN
11-31 March 1968, PHU LOC, RVN

B. Commanding Officer, Staff Officers and Company Commanders:

Commanding Officer	LtCol E. C. CREATHAM JR.	1-31 Mar68
Executive Officer	Major O. K. STEELE	1-31 Mar68
S-1	Capt R. E. STONER	1-31 Mar68
S-2	1stLt W. F. HARVEY	1-31 Mar68
S-3	Capt H. F. PYLE JR.	1-13 Mar68
	Major E. G. DYER	14-31 Mar68
S-3A	1stLt T. D. MARTIN	1-8 Mar68
	Capt J. J. NORTON	9-31 Mar68
S-3B	1stLt T. D. MARTIN	9-31 Mar68
S-4	1stLt G. R. HOFMANN JR.	1-31 Mar68
S-5	1stLt R. J. LONG JR.	1-31 Mar68
CommO	Capt D. J. POWERS	1-31 Mar68
SupplyO	1stLt T. D. LEE	1-8 Mar68
	2ndLt D. T. WELSH	9-31 Mar68
MTO	1stLt G. A. ZURENDA	1-31 Mar68
ALO	Capt H. F. PYLE JR.	1-31 Mar68
PAC	Capt T. H. FINE III	1-31 Mar68
CO H&S Co	1stLt A. A. DORNBAUGH	1-31 Mar68
CO Co E	Capt P. A. DUFFY	1-31 Mar68
CO Co F	Capt M. P. DOWNS	1-31 Mar68
CO Co G	Capt C. L. MEADOWS	1-31 Mar68
CO Co H	1stLt W. F. HARVEY	1-2 Mar68
	Capt G. H. LARSON	3-17 Mar68
	Capt G. D. HENDRICKSON	18-31 Mar68

C. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
35	1107	3	57

II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY.

The Battalion carried out its primary mission of closing with and destroying NVA/VC forces in and around the city of HUE, RVN, during the first 10 days of March 1968. On 10 March 1968, the Battalion returned to the control of its parent regiment and shifted to the PHU LOC area of operations to continue search and Destroy operations as directed.

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All combat and service support units readily readjusted to field operations after their successes at street fighting in HUE. The Battalion returned to the type of terrain to which they had previously grown accustomed.

The return to field terrain saw an increase in the use of supporting arms. The number of patrols and ambushes increased with definite results. Again it was the small unit making contact with the enemy and destroying him.

III. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

A. Personnel and Administration.

1. Casualties.

<u>BATTLE</u>				<u>NON-BATTLE</u>			
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>SERIOUS</u>	<u>NON-SERIOUS</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2	27	0	0	2	8	0	39

2. Joined during March.

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
7	142	0	8

3. Transferred during March.

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
5	177	0	6

4. Narrative Summary: The average chargeable strength of the Battalion remained at 87% of manning level throughout the month. Due to the high number of casualties sustained during Operation HUE CITY there has been a 47% turnover in personnel since the beginning of February.

B. Discipline, Law and Order.

1. Courts-Martial; Tried 0 Pending 0
2. Non-Judicial Punishment 6
 - a. By Battalion Commander 3
 - b. By Company Commander 3

C. Morale, PX and Chaplain's Activities.

1. The fact that all four rifle companies have been

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continuously committed to the field since mid-January has had no adverse effect on troop morale. Contrarily, the spirit of the unit is regarded as generally higher than the norm. This is attributed to the increased tempo of the battlefield, and in addition, the fact that only a minimum number of troops are now tied down to static defensive positions.

2. Non-availability of PX facilities has not been detrimental to morale or performance. Necessary items were made available through SP packs and consolidated runs to exchange facilities.

3. In general during the month of March, the Chaplain accompanied the Battalion to the field and the Chaplain's activities were mostly in the field. In HUE City, until 10 March 1968, the Chaplain's station was with the BAS comforting and reassuring the casualties. The Sacraments of Anointing and Communion were given when needed and possible. The different company positions in HUE were visited and divine services were held. Catholic Mass was offered for a group of American Sisters who were nurses and sent to HUE to help the refugees by the Catholic Relief Services. After returning from HUE City, the Chaplain accompanied the Battalion into the TRUCI River Valley for 8 days. A communion service was held in the field which 75 men attended. There were also a few counselling interviews while on this operation. The Chaplain returned to the forward CP at the railroad tunnel and conducted his work from there, holding divine services at the tunnel, and at the company positions, namely the PHU LOC fire base, the TRUCI River Bridge, other bridges, and the Rock Crusher. Pastoral visits were made also to other units within our TAOR; CAP units, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, and the Sea Bees. The Chaplain accompanied the Battalion to BACH MA and held a service on the roof of one of the resort homes. Men from both companies, and the CP group were in attendance totaling 95 men in all. One memorial service was held at Company E on 11 March which 90 men attended. There were 20 Catholic Masses which 750 men attended, 6 Protestant services which 250 men attended and one memorial service which 90 men attended. Also during the month of March, 21 counselling interviews were held.

D. Intelligence.

1. General. Intelligence was received from the following sources during March: III MAF G-2, 1st MarDiv G-2, Task Force X-Ray G-2, 5th Marine Regt S-2, 1st Marine Regt S-2,

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AK-47 ammo	410 rounds CAPTURED
.45 Cal ammo	22 rounds CAPTURED
AK-47 magazines	9 CAPTURED
Knife	1 CAPTURED
U.S. Cartridge Belt	1 CAPTURED
Holster	1 CAPTURED
First Aid Packet	1 CAPTURED
Utilities	2 pr CAPTURED
Brown Khaki Uniform	1 pr CAPTURED
Fly Tents (U.S.)	15 CAPTURED
Assorted Medical and Supply Documents CAPTURED	

E. Training.

1. During March 1968, 156 people completed the Battalion/Regiment Indoctrination Course. Training emphasis was placed on weapon safety and personal hygiene.
2. Use of the firing range in the "F" Sector of the PHU BAI perimeter allowed all personnel to fire their weapons.
3. During March, personnel of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines attended the following formal schools:
 - a. Vietnamese Language School 2
 - b. NCO Leadership School 1
 - c. Motor Transport Maintenance Assistance Course 3
 - d. PPS Radar Training Course 1

F. Special Operations.

1. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines assumed operational control of Company F from 1st Marines on 8 March 1968.
2. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines assumed operational control of Company E from 5th Marines on 10 March 1968.

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3. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines assumed operational control of Companies G and H from 1st Marines on 10 March 1968.

4. Fifth Marines assumed operational control of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines on 10 March 1968.

5. First Battalion, Fifth Marines assumed operational control of Company B from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines on 11 March 1968.

6. On 8 March 1968, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed the responsibility for providing security for a portion of Highway Route # 1.

7. During the month of March, the Battalion conducted a reconnaissance in force of the TRUOI River Valley and BACH MA.

G. Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Warfare and Defense.

1. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines continued to carry the M-72 and CS-1 Gas Grenades for use in clearing enemy bunkers and fortified positions. To facilitate rapid employment, protective masks were carried by each man in the command.

H. Command and Control. LtCol E. C. CHEATHAM JR. commanded the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines during the month of March. The Battalion remained under the operational control of the 1st Marine Regiment until 10 March 1968, when the 5th Marine Regiment assumed operational control of the Battalion. The Battalion remained under the administrative control of 5th Marine Regiment throughout the month of March.

I. Close Combat.

1. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines continued its participation in Operation HUE CITY from 1 to 3 March 1968, at which time the operation was terminated.

a. On 1 March at 010400H, a platoon recon patrol from Company F, located at (YD781205), heard sounds of digging and observed lights indicating a large enemy force in the vicinity of (YD802248). Artillery was requested and 6 rounds of WP, 24 rounds of HE and 16 rounds of HE VT 105mm covered the target area. Results: 5 huts destroyed.

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b. On 2 March at 020135H, a defensive position manned by H&S Company, located at (YD759209), received 1 round of 60mm mortar from an unknown enemy position. Results: 2 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 021031H, Company F, located at (YD787228), received 10 rounds of M-79 fire, 2 rounds of B-40 rocket fire and small arms fire from the vicinity of (YD788230). The Company returned automatic weapons/small arms fire, 60mm mortar and 81mm mortar rounds on the suspected enemy positions. Results: 2 USMC WIA (EVAC) and 5 USMC WIA (NON-EVAC).

At 021530H, Company F, located at (YD801246), received automatic weapons/small arms fire and 4 B-40 rocket rounds from the enemy in the vicinity of (YD802246). The Company returned fire with small arms/automatic weapons, 10 rounds 60mm mortar, 20 rounds WP and 10 rounds HE 81mm mortar on the enemy position. Results: 2 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 021530H, Company F reported a Marine WIA was searched at (YD801246) by 6 NVA/VC. His weapon, an M-16 rifle, pack and a watch were taken. HUE gunships were called in to support the evacuation of the Marine. Results: 1 USMC WIA (EVAC).

c. On 6 March at 062035H, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, located at (YD781209), received 3 rounds of 60mm mortars and CS gas from an unknown enemy position to the southeast. Shortly thereafter an ARVN unit attached to Company L received 3 rounds of 60mm mortar and returned 60mm mortar fire. The enemy mortar position ceased fire.

d. On 7 March at 072310H, Company F sighted 3 canoes in the river at (YD757214), with an undetermined number of enemy personnel aboard, heading towards their position. Opening fire with 15 rounds of M-79 and 50 rounds of small arms fire, the Company caused the enemy to flee across the river. Results: 2 canoes destroyed.

e. On 8 March 1968, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines sent a command group from HUE to CAO DOI, (ZD055026), to assume operational control of Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and Companies E and F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. Company F moved from HUE to CAO DOI, vicinity of (ZD053023). On this date, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines commenced participation in Operation HOUSTON.

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At 080830H, a platoon from Company H, located at (YD 790245), observed 3 NVA/VC, with 1 carbine, dressed in green utilities and bush hats in the vicinity of (YD791245), moving in a southwesterly direction. The platoon fired 10 rounds of small arms at the enemy with negative results.

At 081600H, Company H, located at (YD791246), received 30 rounds of small arms fire and 3 M-79 rounds from the vicinity of (YD791244). A fire mission was called in and 2 WP rounds were fired, but due to the heavy vegetation between the FO and the target, no adjustment of fire could be made and the mission was terminated.

f. On 9 March at 090630H, a platoon from Company H, located at (YD79052465), sighted movement to the front of their position, and received 1 grenade from the vicinity of (YD79002465). The platoon returned 15 rounds of small arms fire. Results: 1 USMC WIA(EVAC).

At 091040H, a patrol from Company E, located at (ZD 098983), sighted 1 NVA/VC moving south. The patrol opened fire with small arms on the enemy. Results: 1 NVA/VC KIA(CONF) and the capture of 1 AK-47.

At 091100H, a Company E recon patrol received 2 fragmentation grenades from the vicinity of (ZD101979). Small arms fire was returned at the enemy position. Results: 2 USMC WIA(EVAC).

g. On 10 March 1968, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines CP, Companies G and H moved from HUE to CAO DOI, (ZD055026). Company G assumed the responsibility for the security of the TRUOI River Bridge, vicinity (YD967063), while Company H moved to the Rock Crusher area, (ZD013025).

At 101130H, Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines took charge of a VC POW who had surrendered to the Chief of a village located at (YD961040). ITT was called in to interrogate the prisoner. Results: 1 VC POW.

At 101215H, a patrol from Company E, located at (ZC103-982), received 7 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. The patrol returned 25 rounds of 81mm mortar fire at a known enemy position at (ZC106986).

At 101450H, a patrol from Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, uncovered 5 bunkers, located at (ZD020013), believed to be the site of the enemy mortar attack of 7 March. The bunkers were destroyed by use of C-4. Results: 5 bunkers destroyed.

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h. On 11 March at 111715H, a platoon from Company E, located at (ZC104969), received mortar and small arms fire from an unknown number of enemy in the vicinity of (ZC105970). The platoon returned small arms fire and called in HUE gunships to hit the enemy position. The platoon swept through the area after the air strike. Results: 2 NVA/VC KIA (CONF) and 11 fighting holes with covers destroyed.

i. On 12 March, the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group, Companies E, H and G (-) began a 7 day Search and Destroy operation as part of Operation HOUSTON. This mission took the Marines back into the field, hills and jungle terrain after nearly a month of street fighting in Operation HUE CITY. The transition back to this type of warfare was easily accomplished and small unit leadership proved excellent as heavy terrain hampered movement and communication. Although contact was light, discovery of numerous enemy trails and camp sites, along with valuable information on local terrain, made the operation profitable. In addition, many of the enemy killed were of important rank or highly skilled: an NVA supply officer and an NVA medical officer for example.

j. On 14 March at 141030H, a Company E platoon sighted 1 NVA/VC in the vicinity of (YC982963). The platoon fired an M-79 round at the enemy and pursued him. At (YC978969), the platoon discovered a site used as an assembly area with signs that it had recently been in use.

At 141145H, a perimeter guard from Company F, located at (YC989969), sighted 1 NVA/VC with a carbine, wearing black tops and khaki bottoms, proceeding south from the high ground on the west side of the river, vicinity (YC989969). The Marine opened fire with small arms on the enemy with negative results.

At 141155H, a Company E platoon observed 1 NVA/VC with a bolt action rifle proceeding east along a trail on the ridge line, vicinity (ZC008981), as the enemy walked into an ambush site. Results: 1 NVA/VC KIA (CONF) and 1 bolt action rifle destroyed.

At 141520H, a platoon from Company E, located at (YC 976972), observed 7 NVA/VC, in a small harbor site at the above coordinates, wearing green utilities and heavy packs. The patrol opened small arms fire on the

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enemy and swept through the area. They discovered 1 NVA/VC KIA and a wounded NVA/VC plus packs containing new utilities, rice and documents. The NVA/VC POW died of wounds during evacuation. Results: 2 NVA/VC KIA(CONF) and the capture of 1 AK-47 plus new utilities, rice and numerous documents.

k. On 15 March at 151305H, a squad from Company E was patrolling north up a trail at (YC972972), when an enemy opened fire with an AK-47 from the vicinity of the same coordinates. The squad returned small arms fire and attempted to maneuver on the enemy. In a search of the area, 3 expended AK-47 rounds were found and a trail of blood in a northerly direction was discovered.

At 151445H, a squad from Company E observed 1 enemy proceeding down a trail, vicinity (YC973975), wearing a brown khaki uniform. As the enemy entered the ambush site, the squad opened fire with small arms. A search of the area revealed 1 enemy KIA, assumed to have been an NVA medical officer. Results: 1 NVA/VC KIA(CONF), and the capture of 1 .45 caliber pistol, 1 holster, 1 khaki uniform, several rounds of .45 caliber ammunition, and numerous medical documents.

l. On 16 March at 161000H, a platoon patrol from Company E found a booby trap, located at (ZC097989). The booby trap was constructed from a ChiCom hand grenade with a trip wire firing device attached. Engineers were called and the booby trap was destroyed in place.

At 161030H, a point element from Company F, proceeding along a trail, encountered 4 NVA/VC at (ZC106984). The enemy armed with 1 AK-47 and 3 carbines, fired 20 rounds of small arms at the lead element. The lead element returned 30 rounds of small arms fire and 5 M-79 rounds, wounding 2 of the enemy. The enemy broke contact and fled to the southeast. A fire mission was requested on grid (ZC106982). The platoon swept the area with negative results.

At 161030H, the lead element from Company H was in the vicinity of (YC992971) on patrol when the enemy opened fire with automatic weapons. The element returned small arms fire and 1 LAAW into the enemy position. Results: 1 NVA/VC KIA(CONF) and the capture of 1 AK-47 and 1 wallet with NVA money.

m. On 17 March at 171215H, a platoon from Company F

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spotted 1 NVA/VC with an AK-47 at (ZC116974). The platoon opened fire with small arms. The area was searched and a grave was found which contained the body of a man wearing white clothes over a green uniform, dead for approximately two to three weeks. Also found were spider holes covering 500 meters of trail. Due to the dense vegetation no trace could be found of the NVA/VC with the AK-47 rifle. Results: 1 NVA/VC KIA (CONF).

At 171445H, a Company E platoon, located at (ZC004971), received 9 60mm mortar rounds and 300 rounds of small arms fire from the vicinity of (ZC005975). The platoon returned small arms/automatic weapons fire, 15 M-79 rounds, and 24 rounds of 105mm. A search of the area produced negative results.

At 171620H, a squad patrol from Company E was heading north, vicinity (ZC000394), along the river, when they received automatic weapons fire and grenades. The squad returned small arms/automatic weapons fire, 20 M-79 rounds, 13 60mm rounds, an artillery mission of 4.2" mortars, 105/155 Howitzer fire, HULE gunships and fixed wing aircraft. Results: 2 USMC WIA (EVAC).

n. On 18 March 1968, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines began a Search and Destroy mission as another phase of their involvement in Operation HOUSTON. This mission took the Battalion into rugged terrain which hampered movement and communications as well as supply. Heavy vegetation and steep hilly terrain characterized the route which the Battalion followed into the area of BACH MA, vicinity (ZC057925). The Battalion was the first Marine unit to occupy this region, which has been a NVA/VC area of control since the early 1950's. Although enemy contact was light, the occupation of the area proved several things. First it demonstrated that 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines can operate under the most difficult terrain and conditions while still maintaining a high degree of excellence in performance. Secondly, entering this area for the first time demonstrated conclusively that these Marines can go anywhere when the situation arises. This phase of Operation HOUSTON must be considered an important tactical and physical accomplishment.

o. On 22 March at 221015H, a platoon patrol from Company F, at (ZC093955), observed 1 NVA/VC in the vicinity of (ZC085946), wearing skivvy shorts with a towel and an

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M-1 rifle. A second NVA/VC appeared as the patrol opened fire, and the enemy fired 15-20 rounds of small arms fire before fleeing to the southeast. The patrol returned fire and swept the area with negative results.

p. On 24 March at 241600H, a Popular Forces patrol reported to Company H that they had discovered 2 satchel charges (150 ½ pound blocks of TNT and 2 blasting caps) near a Buddhist Temple at (YD984047). Also 2-3 enemy were observed fleeing the area, but the distance involved prevented identification of their clothing. The patrol searched the area and brought the satchel charges to the Company H CP, then forwarded to the Battalion rear CP. Results: Capture of 2 satchel charges containing 150 ½ pound blocks of TNT and 2 blasting caps.

q. On 25 March at 250415H, a squad from Company H, located at (YD985049), received 1 hand grenade from the vicinity of (YD985049). The squad returned 20 rounds of small arms fire, 50 rounds of 81mm mortar and 20 rounds of 60mm mortar. Results: 3 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 251820H, a CAP patrol from (YD973043) found 1 B-40 rocket launcher at (YD982048) and 2 dead NVA/VC at (YD973043). The dead enemy were thought to be the result of the previous night's H&I's fire. The CAP patrol reported to the Company H CP. Results: 2 NVA/VC KIA (CONF) and the capture of 1 B-40 rocket launcher.

At 251845H, a Company E recon patrol, located at (ZC 059925), discovered a quantity of equipment and an emplacement at the above coordinates, believed to be a NVA/VC camp site. At first light a complete search of the area was made. Results: 15 fly tents of U.S. manufacture, 1 NVA canvas boot, 1 syringe vial of an unknown fluid were captured and 4 one man fighting holes destroyed.

r. On 31 March at 310315H, Company G in a defensive night position at (ZC078985), received 20 rounds of 82mm mortar from the vicinity of (ZC085967). The Company returned an 81mm mortar mission on the suspected enemy location. Results: 1 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 310320H, Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, located at (ZD022022), received 25-30 rounds of 82mm mortar rocket fire from the vicinity of (YD973017). The Battery returned 21 rounds of 8" artillery fire on the enemy position. Results: 1 USMC WIA (NON-EVAC).

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At 310445H, the SeaBoes, located at (ZD022022), received 25-30 rounds of 82mm mortar and 10 rounds of 57mm RR fire from the vicinity of (YD973017). Fire was returned into the suspected enemy position by 81mm mortars and 8" artillery. Results: 5 USN KIA, 8 USN WIA (EVAC) and 3 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 310720H, a USA engineer team was sweeping Route # 1 headed west, at (ZD102009), when their vehicle struck a mine, composed of a 50 pound charge, and severely damaged the vehicle. A wrecker was called but it also detonated a mine, at (ZD102008), composed of a point detonating ChiCom claymore, and another vehicle was summoned. Results: 4 USA WIA (EVAC) and 2 CAP USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 310920H, an H&S Company road sweep vehicle was damaged by a command detonated mine at (ZD065012). A search of the area produced negative results. Results: 4 USMC WIA (NON-EVAC).

J. Fire Support.

1. Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines supported unit operations in the Battalion TAOR and the Regimental AO.
2. Additional support was provided by 2nd Gun Platoon, 3rd 8" Howitzer Battery of 1st FAG, 11th Marines.
3. Significant Fire Support Events. During the month of March, Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines displaced 2 155 Howitzers and 4 105 Howitzers to the grid area, (ZC 0798), to fulfill its mission of providing close and continuous fire support during the occupation of BACH MA as a part of Operation HOUSTON.

K. Air Support.

1. Tactical Air Support.

- a. During March, 12 air strikes, consisting of 24 sorties, were run in support of this Battalion. All sorties were controlled by an airborne FAC.
- b. Eight aerial observation missions were flown totaling approximately 25 hours on station. There were also 12 flare ship missions flown totaling approximately 50 hours on station.

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c. Two HUE close support gunship missions were flown, consisting of 4 sorties.

d. Three helo visual recon missions were flown, consisting of 6 sorties.

e. A total of 32 tactical air support missions, consisting of 54 sorties were flown in support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.

2. Logistical and Administrative Support. All resupply support was run by HST. The 5th Marines used their working helo's or requested helo's depending on the size of the resupply mission.

3. Med-evacs. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines had 14 medical evacuations in March: 4 Emergency, 9 Priority, and 8 Routine. All were controlled by TACP.

L. Logistics.

1. General.

a. The Battalion remained in HUE during the first ten days of March. Sections from the Battalion Aid Station, supply and motor transport remained in the city to support the Battalion. Major contact with the enemy had ended and logistics requirements were of a routine nature.

b. On 10 March, the Battalion moved from HUE to CAO DOI (ZD055026). The Command Post set up in a railway tunnel with the operations section at one end and the logistic section at the other. Personnel from Battalion supply and motor transport sections were sent to the Command Post and placed under direct cognizance of the S-4 Officer. The Battalion Aid Station retained its relatively independent posture coordinating operations with the S-4 when necessary.

c. An LSA was established in the CAO DOI area by the 8th Marine Regiment. It provides Class I, II (limited), III, IV and V support to the Battalion. Major Class II deficiencies at the LSA are clothing, boots and 782 gear. These items are drawn from the Battalion's organic assets in the rear and issued on an as required basis.

d. The resupply of the companies and the command group when operating in the canopy is by helicopter. Helicopter support teams have been employed on all operation with good results, coordinated with the Battalion's air

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section. When companies are not operating in the rugged mountains, they are supplied by motor vehicles.

e. Long Range Patrol Rations were introduced to the Battalion during the past month with significant success. They are light and compact and have been well received by the troops. The only drawback being each meal requires one half a canteen of water. This has not yet become a problem since Battalion is employing 2½ gallon water containers for resupply in the field.

f. On 19 March, a field mess was established at the Battalion's Command Post. One hot meal is prepared each day. Members of the command group eat at the field mess while meals are sent to the rifle companies in vacuum jugs. Currently limited "A" rations are available. The future will see an increased employment of "A" rations at the field mess.

g. The logistics section was introduced to the MARES (Marine Automated Readiness Evaluation System) reporting system during the month. Two meetings were held at the Task Force X-Ray G-4 office where the intricacies of the system were elucidated for logistics and supply officers. To date two initial reports have been made by this Battalion.

2. Supply.

a. The month of March saw Battalion supply updating Equipment Custody Records and Individual Memorandum Receipt cards.

b. As a result of Operation HUE CITY, this Battalion experienced a large turnover and exchange of both individual and crew served weapons. An inventory of these items was begun earlier in the month by individual companies to ascertain combat losses as well as newly acquired weapons.

c. Forms were delivered to each company listing serial numbers of all crew served weapons, M-79 grenade launcher and 3.5 rocket launchers held by this command prior to Operation HUE CITY. It was requested each company adjust these forms to reflect present status of listed weapons.

d. Another request to the companies asked for a roster listing serial numbers of individual weapons held by all personnel.

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e. To date, in this same regard, all company records have been updated with the exception of H&S Company.

f. The inventory completed thus far indicates a deficiency of .45 caliber pistols, with 342 authorized; 300 listed as on hand and 42 on requisition. Also shown is an excess of M-16 rifles.

g. During the month all crew served weapons have been listed as operational with the exception of 2 M-60 machine-guns which are on order. The second echelon maintenance performed by the Battalion Armory has been quite satisfactory.

h. An Ordnance team visited the Battalion and reported a satisfactory condition of the 106's and a need for tube honing of the 81mm mortars.

i. The Battalion moved south this month and this section has experienced no difficulty in resupply to the forward elements.

j. Condition of 782 gear resupply has been satisfactory with the exception of canteens which are on requisition.

k. This section reports progress in the updating of its records and is making preparations for a move to another warehouse.

3. Motor Transport.

a. During Operation HUE CITY the motor transport section worked long hours to keep its vehicles operating in support of the Battalion. When the operation terminated a program was initiated to phase all of the Battalion's vehicles through the motor transport shop at PHU BAI. This program is currently being executed. All needed repairs are being made and annuals are being performed on all vehicles.

b. When the Battalion moved from HUE to CAO DOI a section from the motor transport platoon moved with it. A dispatcher was sent to the new Command Post to control the vehicles there. He was assigned the tasks of dispatching vehicles and of insuring that proper first echelon maintenance was being performed.

c. During March, the motor transport section made improvements in its working area. A building with

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a cement deck and plywood sides was constructed in the motor transport area. One section of the building is employed as a dispatcher's office and records section, while the second section is used as the repair shop with adequate room to work on three vehicles simultaneously. This building vastly improves repair capabilities, and there is now adequate storage room for tools and test equipment.

4. Communication.

a. Tech Shop - The majority of effort this month centered on repairing and administrative work resulting from Operation HUE CITY. In addition all test equipment was calibrated and 2 PP4567/VS were received to replace battery charger PP-3240A.

b. Wire Section - Installment of internal wiring for both rear and forward CP's, plus the usual trouble shooting of lines occupied the wire section during March. Remote lines from Hill 200 to the forward CP (railway tunnel) were also laid. Preparations are underway for the Material Readiness Inspections. Training of new wiremen in both switchboard procedure and wire installation continues under the direction of the Section Chief, a Corporal.

c. Message Center - The center handled a total of 733 incoming messages, and 70 outgoing messages. All traffic is picked up and delivered to Regiment by courier. The center in the rear and forward CP's operate a separate file for all radio messages transmitted over the admin net. The center in the field handles messages transmitted to or from the forward CP, relayed through the forward CP to the jump CP engaged in the field. Daily courier runs have been established from PHU BAI to the forward CP.

d. Radio Section - The section is involved in inventoring all equipment and ordering replacements. Four more RC-292's have been ordered since the Battalion now rates these antennas. Additional personnel assigned to the section this month are: (3) 2533's, (2) 2532's to be trained and employed as 2531's. All Battalion radio operators with line companies have been rotated to provide new men with valuable field experience.

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5. Battalion Aid Station.a. Significant Events.

(1) On 9 March the forward BAS moved from HUE to the railway tunnel approximately 12 miles south of PHU BAI, at CAO DOI. The BAS has been in operation for approximately two weeks, at all times there has been a doctor and six corpsmen present. An overnight holding ward was established for the observation of patients.

(2) The BAS record office compiled immunization rosters for each company and sent a 4 man shot team to the Battalion forward areas. There were 522 men shot with a total of 1354 immunizations. A straggler list is being composed to determine the number of men who missed their inoculations. The Health Records are being checked by company roster to find missing or misplaced records. Records are being forwarded to new commands in case of transfer. Missing records have tracers out on them.

(3) On 22 March, elements of the forward BAS moved from CAO DOI to PHU LOC with the Battalion Command Group. On 23 March the Battalion Command was reinforced with 2 hospital corpsmen from BAS rear.

(4) During March the Ten Day Medical IOL was inventoried and found in excellent condition. Items that were found short and/or missing have been replaced or ordered.

b. New Developements.

(1) Since the last report the BAS has completed work on the rear tent area; such as moving and alignment. Sand bags have been walled 6 high around each of the BAS tents.

(2) In the forward BAS the railroad tracks and ties have been removed, with wooden deck added to replace the rock surface.

c. Problem Areas.

(1) The sudden need for dental appointments has been a problem this month. At present we are trying to place 23 Marines on the appointment list at the dental facility.

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(2) A rash of visual acuity has occurred, with 17 Marines referred to the Naval Support facility this month.

d. Average number of military patients seen daily...43
 Number of military patients seen this month.....1151
 Number of referrals to out patient clinics.....33

e. Routine Medical Complaints.

(1) Diarrhea.....45
 (2) URI.....9
 (3) Dermatitis.....11
 (4) Stomach Disorders....15
 (5) Visual Disorders.....43
 (6) Ear Infections.....2
 (7) Gastroenteritis.....7
 (8) FUO.....5

f. The most significant disease this month was parasitic infections.

M. Civil Affairs/Civic Action.

1. Civic Action. Due to operational commitments from 1 March to 31 March, the civic action program has been at a stand still. During this period there has been a lack of receptiveness among the Vietnamese people, due to the TET Offensive.

2. Psychological Operations. In coordination with the operations this month, leaflet drops and aerial broadcasts in NVA/VC controlled areas have been used to maximum effect. The areas of greatest concentration being TRUOI River, (YD 966063), and PHU LOC, (ZD0800 to ZD0892). Hand dissemination of leaflets and posters was concentrated along Highway Route # 1, between TRUOI River and PHU LOC. In addition to these activities, this section has progressed in teaching psychological operations on a company level.

Target Audience

Civilians

Themes

Don't be a shield for the VC
 Rewards
 What does Chieu Hoi mean to the NVA
 Rewards offered to children
 Report NVA/VC activity

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Target Audience

NVA/VC

Themes

Drive VC from your area
VC kill and mutilate civilians

Three steps to Chieu Hoi
Road to freedom: Chieu Ho
Rally and begin a family
life

Women mourning for their
dead

Rally for a better life
Death awaits you
GVN builds a better life

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S-3 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)

030001H to 032400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0100	2	Bn. CP	All Companies Secure
0200	3	Bn. CP	All Companies Secure
0300	4	Bn. CP	All Companies Secure
0400	5	Bn. CP	All Companies Secure
0500	6	Bn. CP	All Companies Secure
0600	7	Bn. CP	All Companies Secure
0700	8	Bn. CP	All Companies Secure
0843	9	Co. F	Position report YD 776232
1254	10	Co. G	Reaching bridge at coord. YD 751209
1317	11	Co. G	Requesting ITT Team
1530	12	Co. H	Received 3 S/A rnds. from enemy sniper, no casualties, returned S/A neg. results.
1610	13	Bn. CP	Convoy returning from Phu Bai
1945	14	Co. F	CP position at YD 776232 Set in
2350	15	Bn. CP	All Co.'s Secure
2400	16	S-3	Journal Closed

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S-3 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)

120001H to 122400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
1300	2	Co G	Located at YD977041
1325	3	BN. CP	Moves out for Assembly area
1335	4	Bn. CP	CP at Assembly area ZD015026
1350	5	Bn. CP	CP moving out.
1400	6	Co. G	Located at YD965034
1435	7	Bn. CP	Co.s H and E in visual contact with CP group.
1445	8	Co. H	Has Co. G in visual contact on right flank
1450	9	Co. H	Co. H, as security element, located at Hill 36, YD978004.
1458	10	Bn. CP	Bn. CP in visual contact with Co. G
1600	11	Bn. CP	Bn. CP at Hill 36, and setting in night defenses

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S-3 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)
130001H to 132400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0100	2	S-3	Bn. CP moves out: Order of march; E, CP, H, G
0150	3	Co. E	Co. E in underbrush and cutting thru
0313	4	Co. G	Co. G passed point designated as starting point, located at YD978001
0340	5	Co. E	Co. E running into heavy brush across river- advise Bn. CP to go on otherside, Co. H will take point for CP group
0515	6	S-3	Column stopping for chow and rest at base of HILL 312, YC993990.
0600	7	Bn CP	Present locations: Bn. CP: ZC010971 Co. E: ZC008970 Co. H: ZC011969 Co. G: Trace of Bn. CP
1000	8	S-3	Bn. CP leaving rest area
1515	9	S-3	Night defenses set up: Bn CP: ZC015959 Co. E: ZC012957 Co. G: ZC015957 Co. H: ZC011961 Co. F: ZC105965
1900	10	Co. E	Co. E squad reports finding elephant trail 6 ft to 10ft wide.

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date 140001H to 142400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0730	S-3	Have air support on way to Bn. CP area, no particular target but jets must drop bombs
3	0815	S-3	Air strike on Hill at ZC015010- Co. H will check out the area
4	0835	Engineer	Completed road sweep to Phu Loc, ZD085008
5	0845	Engineer	Complete road sweep to Truoi River, YD968063
6	0945	Co. E	Bn. CP located at YC980972
7	1001	Co. E	Bn. CP located at YC978971, and heading south
8	1130	Co. E	Co. E opened fire on 1 enemy
9	1145	Co. E	1 VC/NVA KIA (CONF)
10	1400	Bn. CP	Resupply choppers arrived
11	1410	Co. F	3rd Plt, Co. F returns to Bn. CP, YD985077
12	1500	Co. E	1 VC/NVA KIA (CONF) and 1 weapon captured
13	1521	Co. E	2 enemy weapons, pack and gear captured
14	1645	Co. E	POW died of wounds
15	1730	Bn. CP	Medevacs called for a Co. G NBC, Line #183
16	1845	Bn. CP	Medevac completed
17	1922	Co. F	2nd and 3rd squads from 1st Plt of Co. F are set in ambushes for the night.

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PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)

150001H to 152400H

DTG	SER NO	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0440	2	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report received
0600	3	Bn CP	All secure
0701	4	Engineers	Road sweeps started
0800	5	Engineers	All road sweeps secure
0810	6	Co. H	Co. H moves out to Regt. Obj. #26, located at YC996967
0900	7	S-3	Bn CP moving to new location
1055	8	S-3	Bn CP arrives at YC990969
1120	9	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report received
1302	10	Co. F	1st Plt, Co. F, is at CP, Z0105005, and 2nd Plt will leave at 1400 for 72 hour operation.
1345	11	Co. F	3rd Plt, Co. F, is moving around artillery battery.
1445	12	Co. G	Co. G unit found a charge of c-4 with blasting cap
1502	13	Co. E	Co. E spotted 1 NVA wearing green uniform, with 2 weapons, one of which was a 45cal.
1515	14	Bn CP	Bn Commander departed to see Regt. Commander
1855	15	Co. F	3rd Plt., Co. F, is back at CP, Z0105005
1940	16	Co. G	3rd Plt., Co. G, leaving CP, YC990968
1950	17	Co. H	3rd Plt, Co. H, leaving CP, YC989968
1959	18	Co. G	3rd Plt, Co. G, at ambush site, YC989965

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PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)
160001H to 162400H

DTG	SER NO	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0530	2	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report Received
0655	3	Engineers	Road sweep started
0815	4	Engineers	Road sweep completed, all secure
0920	5	Co. F	A patrol from 3rd Plt, Co.F, departing CP, Z/D 0105005
1035	6	Co. H	Co. H takes incoming A/W fire, 2 WIA Evac
1110	7	S-3	Bn CP gets chopper resupply
1140	8	Co. H	Co. H in contact with enemy: 1 VC/NVA KIA (CONF) and 3 USMC WIA Evac
1220	9	Bn CP	Co. H has movement to its left flank and calls an artillery mission
1250	10	Co. H	Artillery mission over, the Co. moves out
1335	11	Co. H	Co. H reports 1 Friendly KIA
1920	12	Co. H	Co. H receives incoming mortar fire

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PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)
170001H to 172400

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0000	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0200	2	Bn CP	All Secure
0645	3	Engineers	Road sweep starts
0740	4	Co. G	Co. G moves out.
0810	5	Engineers	Road sweep completed, all secure
0822	6	Co. G	Co. G at YC985972
0850	7	Co. G	Co. G at YC985980
0920	8	Co. H	Co. H receives AK-47 fire
0955	9	Co. G	Co. G at YC980985
1040	10	Co. G	Co. G at Dieu Ga
1048	11	Co. H	Co. H at YC99059695
1110	12	Co. G	Co. G at YC975985
1130	13	Co. G	Co. G at YC998995
1200	14	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report received
1315	15	Co. E	1st Plt, Co. E, reports 1 VC/NVA KIA (CCNF)
1330	16	S-3	Bn CP and 2nd and 3rd Plt, Co. E, move out.
1345	17	Co. E	1st Plt, Co. E, calls in 60mm mortars
1440	18	Co. E	Co. E receives fire
1600	19	Co. F	2nd Plt, Co. F, located at ZC100977)
1620	20	Co. E	Co. E in contact at ZC002976

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180001H to 182400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0425	2	Co. s E,F,G,H	All secure
0510	3	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report received
0630	4	Bn CP	All Secure
0700	5	Engineers	Read sweep started
0725	6	Co. E	Co. E leaves CP, ZG004971
0800	7	Engineers	Read sweep completed, all secure
0802	8	Co. H	Co. H leaving YC999969
1101	9	Co. E	Co. E back at Bn CP, ZG004971
1138	10	Co. E	Co. E moving out north
1140	11	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report received
1204	12	Bn CP	Rear element at junction near CP, YD978003
1220	13	Bn CP	CP moving out
1238	14	Co. F	2nd Plt, Co. F, returns to Co. CP, located at ZD105005
1440	15	Bn CP	2nd Bn, /5th Marines has stepped forward advance
1450	16	Bn CP	Air strike called on valley in front of Bn position, YD977003
1510	17	Bn CP	Bn CP moving out

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PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)

230001H to 232400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0245	2	Co. E	Co. E located at (ZC064967)
0435	3	Bn CP	All Bn positions secure
0515	4	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation report completed
0615	5	Bn CP	All Bn positions secure
0748	6	Co. E	Medevac for NBC completed
0750	7	Engineers	Head sweep started
0824	8	Engineers	Head sweep completed
1120	9	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report completed
1700	10	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report completed
1905	11	S-3	LP at (ZD056026) in position
2100	12	Co. F	Co. F locations: Co. F CP: ZC069941 Co. F 1: ZC069937 Co. F 2: ZC067939 Co. F 3: ZC067940
2147	13	5th Marines	Requested statement of present situation
2300	14	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report completed

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S-3 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)
240000Z to 252400Z

DTG	SER NO	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0335	2	Co. E	Co. E at (ZC060953)
0515	3	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation report completed
0625	4	Bn CP	Bn CP at (ZC057966)
0710	5	Engineers	Read sweep departed tunnel
0830	6	Engineers	Read sweep completed, all secure
1100	7	Bn CP	6 hour situation report completed
1155	8	Co. G	Co. G lead elements are in contact with Co. E in vicinity of (ZC051931).
1700	8	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation ^H report completed
1725	9	Co. F	Co. F located at (ZC046924), with 1 heat casualty.
2217	10	Co. H	1st Platoon, Co. H, receiving small arms fire from vicinity (YD986050)
2345	11	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation ^H report completed

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S-3 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)

290000H to 292400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	Opened New Journal
0150	2	Bn CP	All Bn positions secure
0505	3	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report Completed
0815	4	Engineers	Road sweep North completed
1015	5	Engineers	Road sweep South completed
1115	6	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report Completed
1255	7	Co. H	Co. H third squad of third platoon at their CP
1800	8	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report Completed
1810	9	Co. H	Co. H spotted 30 VC/NVA, vicinity(959049)
2245	10	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report Completed
2250	11	Bn CP	Bn order expected in morning concerning change in 2nd Battalion, 5th th Marines toar
2359	12	Bn CP	All Battalion positions secure

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S-3 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)

310001H to 312400H

DTG	SER NO	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0220	2	SeaBees	Under mortar attack at ZD022022
0320	3	E Battery 2/11	Under mortar attack at ZD022022
0430	4	Co. G	Requests medavac for WIA
0523	5	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation report completed
0530	6	Bn CP	All Bn positions secure
0700	7	Engineers	Roadsweep leave for north and south
0920	8	Engineers	Roadsweep south hits a mine
0921	9	Bn	Bn at 050924
0930	10	Bn	Bn at 069926
0943	11	Bn	Bn at 051931
1012	12	Bn	Bn at 067935
1050	13	Bn	Bn at 060952
1223	14	Bn	Bn at 066971
1315	15	Bn	CP returns to tunnel
1646	16	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation report complete
2325	17	Bn CP	6 Hour Situation Report completed
2400	18	S-3	Bn call sign changed to QUIZEMASTER

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