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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Headquarters
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/JWN/wfm
5750
5 September 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 August 1967 to 31 August 1967
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.

G. C. McNaughton
G. C. McNAUGHTON

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01002-67
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 August 1967 to 31 August 1967

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH AVIATION BN, 1967I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

A Location: 1-31 August 1967, An Hoa RVN

B Commanding Officer Staff Officers and Company Commanders:

Commanding Officer	LtCol G. C. McNAUGHTON	1-31 Aug67
Executive Officer	Major A. T. FISHER	1-31 Aug67
S-1	1stLt L. D. ORLANDO	1-31 Aug67
	2ndLt J. J. FORNAK	1-21 Aug67
S-2	2ndLt E. G. MEINERS	1-31 Aug67
S-3	Major F. R. CAREW	1-31 Aug67
	Capt. R. W. LAYER	1-31 Aug67
	Capt. J. H. COMMAN	1-31 Aug67
	1stLt J. W. NEWTON	1-31 Aug67
S-4	2ndLt R. A. CARDELL	1-2 Aug67
	2ndLt G. R. HOFMANN, JR.	3-31 Aug67
S-5	2ndLt W. F. NIXON	1-31 Aug67
	2ndLt K. I. LEE	1-31 Aug67
CommO	Capt. D. J. POWERS	1-31 Aug67
SupplyO	1stLt T. D. LEE	1-31 Aug67
CO H&SCo	Capt. G. F. DICICCO	1-31 Aug67
CO CoE	Capt. J. D. KINDER	1-31 Aug67
CO CoF	Capt. F. J. LENNARTZ	1-31 Aug67
CO CoG	Capt. R. W. MARSDEN	1-29 Aug67
	1stLt M. B. TUTTLE	30-31 Aug67
CO CoH	Capt. G. W. POWERS	1-31 Aug67

C Supporting and Attached Units:

Det Hq Co 5th Mar (Radio Relay)
 2nd Plt CoB, 1st Engr Bn
 Det Rad Rel and Const Co, 7th Comm Bn
 Det Comm Co Hq Bn 1stMarDiv
 2nd Plt CoA, 1st Tank Bn
 2nd Plt CoB, 1st AT Bn
 Det ARVN Liaison Team
 5th AA Plt, 29th CA Co USA
 Btry E, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar
 Det W Btry, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar

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Det 11th MT Bn
 Det 1st Dental Co
 LSU 1st FSR FLC
 Const Bn Maint 301 PW BSM
 Det Serv Co Hq Bn, 1stMarDiv (Exchange)
 Det Hq Co Hq Bn, 1stMarDiv (Post Office)
 Det 15th Aerial Port Squadron USAF
 Det 1st Radio Bn FTF
 1st Plt 3rd 8" HOW Btry
 Det 7th Engr Bn

1) Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN		OTHER		
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	
37	1084	3	55	15	385	USMC
				2	48	USN
				2	6	USA
					4	USAF

II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

With enemy activity increasing on the Liberty Road between AN HOA (AT875475) and the PHU LAC (6) Combat Base (AT926527), 2/5 operations focused on the saturation of the area both east and west of the road. In addition, the road was kept under continual surveillance through the employment of outposts and ambushes. Platoon sized combat/security patrols traveled the road daily keeping mining and sniping incidents along the road to a minimum.

Search & Destroy Operations were conducted in the area north of AN HOA. Sniper contact remains continual and although supporting arms silenced the sniper, close combat with the enemy was difficult to achieve. The enemy's ability to remove all indications of killed and wounded, prohibits Marines from making an accurate estimate of enemy losses.

A County Fair was conducted in PHU DA (1) (AT866492). Company G provided the cordoning force while elements of the 369th RF Company and PF platoons provided the sweeping force. A highly successful Med Cap/Dent Cap was conducted during the fair, and large amounts of food supplies were distributed to the villagers. Movies were shown nightly during the fair and although entertaining, in the light of the pending elections, overtones were political in nature. Following the political theme, the fair took on airs of an old fashion barnstorming campaign as the III MAF Band opened the fair with a parade through the village to the fair site. At the termination of the fair, CAP N-3 was inserted into PHU DA (1) and is presently establishing its position. (Part IV, # 1)

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III. SEQUENTIALLY LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY RELATE TO:

A Personnel and Administration:

a. Casualties

BATTLE

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>SERIOUS</u>	<u>NON SERIOUS</u>	<u>DEATH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
16	15	0	0	11	27	2	91

b. Joined during August:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
3	94	1	6

c. Transferred during August:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
6	118	2	10

Narrative Summary: Chargeable strength remained above 90% of the Manning level for the month of August; present strength is 93.6% of the Manning level. Critical shortages in the enlisted ranks; 1 SSgt 0369 and 100 Enl 03. Present critical shortages are as follows: 1 Capt 0202 and 1 Capt 0402, 1 WO 0130 and 4 Lt's 0302.

e. Problem Areas:

- (1) Administrative supplies remain in short supply. The Battalion presently, has a limited supply of fitness reports, VA insurance forms for SGLI and ID Tag Blanks.
- (2) Office machines, especially typewriters and the mimeograph machines, are in poor condition. The time required to repair these machines is excessive.

B Discipline, Law and Order

- a. Court Martials Tried 4 Pending 4
- b. Non Judicial Punishment 27
 - (1) By Battalion Commander 11
 - (2) By Company Commander 16

C Morale, PX and Postal Services:

- a. Morale, is considered excellent.
- b. The Marine Corps Exchange located in AN HOA provides excellent service. All necessities are available.

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c. **Chaplains Activities:** Catholic and Protestant services were held during the month. Protestant Sunday services totaled 15 with an attendance of 339. Catholic Sunday masses totaled 5 with an attendance of 244. The Chaplain held 2 lectures on Religion in Vietnam with 78 attending. 3 visits were made to Companies in the field. The Chaplain made 22 hospital visits: 7 visits were made to 1st Medical Battalion and 15 to Naval Support Activity Hospital. Twenty-five professional counseling interviews were held during the month of August.

D. Intelligence

1. General. Routine intelligence received from 1st Marine Division (G-2), 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st CIT, 3rd and 9th ITT, AN HOA and NONG SON Industrial Complex Security Force was processed by the 2/5, S-2.

a. Careful study of 1st Recon Battalion reports enabled 2/5 to extract from them an apparently new VC trail networks. The nightly H&I fires have been extended to cover these new trails thus restricting their trafficability.

b. Dissemination of intelligence was accomplished thru the utilization of spot reports, daily intsums and daily briefings. On occasion, 2/5 gained information of immediate value to commanders. In these cases radio messages were transmitted to outlying commanders.

c. The S-2 Section provided a total of ten hours instruction to Marines joining the Battalion. The classes included Historical/Political Situation in Vietnam, Terrain and Weather, Enemy Situation and Capabilities, Detainees and PW's Kit Carson Scouts, and Weapons Used By the VC. In addition, classes were given to the S-2 scouts on Prisoner Handling, Map Reading, Foreign Weapons and the AN/TFS-21.

d. Close contact was maintained with Duc Duc District, AN HOA and NONG SON Industrial Complex Security, and Special Forces Project Delta by frequent liaison visits. These visits often yielded intelligence information to 2/5 and tended to cultivate the friendship of the Vietnamese.

e. S-2 Scouts were utilized in an intelligence gathering capacity with companies in the field. In addition to their regular watches and patrols, the scouts maintained S-2 functions at NONG SON and PHU LAC (6). The primary purpose of these S-2 Scouts is to screen detainees, documents and information in the field and expedite the forwarding of important information or personnel for further processing.

f. Kit Carson Scouts were employed an average of 25 days with the companies in the field. The scouts continually proved their value by pointing out booby traps on trails and contributing their knowledge of VC methods of operation.

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The Scout's knowledge of spider holes resulted in one VC KIA during the month.

2. Briefings on current intelligence situations were held daily as a minimum and as required by the tactical situation. The briefings were conducted by the Intelligence Officer or Intelligence Chief, and, in addition, special briefings were conducted on enemy methods of operations as determined. Briefings included information on major enemy operations such as the Danang rocket attack.
3. Spot reports, Daily Intsums, Kit Carson Scout reports (daily and monthly) and the Reward Fund Report were submitted. Special detailed after action reports were compiled and submitted. These included reports on the NOKIA SSM attack and the Company E ambush on the night of 10 August.
4. Statistics

CASUALTIES AND GEAR

KIA'S (CONF)	25
KIA'S (PROB)	95
DETAINEES	56
INNOCENT CIVILIANS	52
CIVIL DEFENDANTS	4
AK-47	1
MAGAZINES, AK-47	6
CHICOM GRENADES	6
CARTRIDGE BELT	1
M-26 GRENADES	4
BOATS	19 DESTROYED
BAMBOO CANTEENS	3
MINES/BOOBY TRAPS	12
FUEL	1 CAN
GAS MASK	1
PACKS	2
.30 CALIBER MACHINE GUN	1 DESTROYED (ARTY)
SUBMACHINE GUNS	4 DESTROYED (ARTY)
81MM MORTAR	1 DESTROYED (ARTY)
MEDICAL KIT	1
MEDICINE	10 VIALS VITAMIN B1
	145,000,000 UNITS PENICILLIN
	10 VIALS STRYCHNINE
CAVES	4 DESTROYED
BUCKERS	3 DESTROYED

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E. Training

1. Informal - During the latter portion of the reporting period, the decision was made that each Marine would be issued a protective gas mask. This created a minor training problem concerning the testing of each mask and a basic refresher course for each 2/5 Marine. The S-3 training section responded with several improvised methods, and conducted the training required.

The S-3 training section, noting the number of kills in relation to the number of rounds expended, took steps to insure that each M-16 rifle was properly zeroed, by utilizing a twenty-five meter range. In addition, the S-3 training section schooled at least one representative from each company in the use of the 25 meter range, enabling each unit to zero its M-16 rifles on a continuing basis.

2. Company Training Reports

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>NO. MEN</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
a. <u>Company E</u>		
FO Procedures	87	1
Ambushes	84	63
Scouting and Patrolling	134	126
Perimeter Defense	94	2
Discussion Hunter Killer Teams	15	1
M-16 Inspections	138	31
Care and Cleaning M-16	138	31
FAM Firing M-16	138	62
LP & OP OJT	45	240
Field Fortifications	42	93
First Aid	59	1
Tank Infantry Tactics	63	1
Tank Infantry, S&D	136	48
Convoy Security	47	124
b. <u>Company F</u>		
FAM Fire the M-16	175	6
Care, Cleaning and Maintenance of M-16	175	3
Map & Compass Reading	175	1
Demolitions	175	1
Radio Procedure	13	1
FAM Fire 3.5, M-79, M-60 and 60MM mortar	175	2

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<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>NO. MEN</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
Small Unit Tactics	175	2
M-16 Rifle Inspections	175	32
Field Fortifications	120	40
Patrolling	120	960
Ambushes	120	960
Parades & Ceremonies	60	4
c. <u>Company G</u>		
Radio Procedures	38	1
Scouting and Patrolling	42	1
Promotion Ceremonies	150	9
Firing 1000" Range (Battle Zero)	150	9
60MM Mortar Wonen. & Funct.	13	1
FO Procedures	53	1
Med-Evac Procedures	40	1
Ambushes	140	2
M-17 Gas Mask & Gas Chamber	138	2
LVT's & Plat Tactics	40	1
Map Reading & Compass	63	1
Claymore Mines & M-26's	45	1
Use of LAAW	45	1
Civil Affairs	41	1
Booby Traps	45	1
60MM Mortar Gun Drill	18	1
Parades & Ceremonies	151	2.5
d. <u>Company H</u>		
.45 Caliber Pistol	40	1
Care & Cleaning of M-16	140	16
FAM Fire M-16 Rifle	140	4
Zeroing M-16 Rifle	140	4
Map & Compass Reading	12	1
M-17 Gas Mask & Gas Chamber	40	1
FAM Fire with M-17 Mask	40	1
M-16 Rifle Inspections	140	31
Parades & Ceremonies	40	8
Patrolling OJT	40	300
Ambushes OJT	15	300
Squad Tactics	39	1
e. <u>Company H&S</u>		
(1) <u>Flame Section</u>		
M-16 Rifle Inspection	15	31
.45 Cal Pistol Inspection	15	31
Zeroing of Weapons	15	15
M-17 Mask & Gas Chamber	15	1

<u>SUBJECTS</u>	<u>NO. MEN</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
(2) <u>106 Platoon</u>		
M-16 Care & Cleaning	6	31
M-16 Rifle Inspections	6	16
Care & Cleaning of 106	6	24
(3) <u>Bn Supply</u>		
T/A, T/O, T/E	11	1
Preparation of Requisitions	13	1
Care & Cleaning of M-16	20	1
Location, Marking & Storage	16	1
(4) <u>81 Platoon</u>		
M-16 Care & Cleaning	40	31
M-16 Rifle Inspections	40	31
FAM Fire M-16	30	2
M-2 Aiming Circle	25	4
Radio Procedures	20	2
M-10 Plotting Board	20	1
Care & Cleaning of 81's	25	4
FDC Class	20	2
Gun Drill	25	6
FO Procedures	20	3
81 Ammo	30	2
(5) <u>S-2</u>		
Care & Cleaning of M-16	7	2
M-16 Rifle Inspections	7	15
FAM Fire M-16	7	3
(6) <u>S-3</u>		
Care & Cleaning of M-16	7	16
M-16 Rifle Inspections	7	16
Military Courtesy	8	4
T/M Fire & Zero M-16	7	3
(7) <u>S-4</u>		
Care & Cleaning of M-14	9	2
Care & Cleaning of M-60	8	1
Rifle Inspection	9	7
FAM Firing	8	4

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<u>SUBJECTS</u>	<u>NO. MEN</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
(8) <u>Motor Transport</u>		
Safe Driving	21	1
Rifle Inspections	11	15
Care & Cleaning of Rifle	8	6
(9) <u>Bn Comm</u>		
Rifle Inspection	60	20
M-17 & Gas Chamber	60	1
EAM Fire & Zero M-16	60	8
Care & Cleaning of M-16	60	20
M-16 Rifle	60	2
.45 Cal Pistol	10	2
PRO-25	30	4
Switchboard Procedures	10	2
Wire OJT	15	38
Radio OJT	32	67
Message Center OJT	7	43

3. Indoctrination: During the month of August, the S-3 training section reorganized the troop indoctrination and orientation course. The re-vamped training schedule allows for emphasis to be placed on instruction, in addition to those subjects required by higher headquarters, considered of utmost significance to field Marines. An entire morning of the course is now dedicated to rudimentary map reading, land navigation and the compass. Maps which Marines will be employing in the field are utilized as training aids. This practice also provides excellent "area orientation." A brief appraisal concerning incoming personnel, indicates a common lack of knowledge in basic map reading. In fact, it is rare when one third of a class is sufficiently competent in map reading skills. Because of the general lack of knowledge and proficiency displayed by incoming personnel in land navigation; and because of the drastic importance of a good grasp of the subject, the training schedule was modified to insure that each man obtains a basic knowledge of elementary map reading prior to field assignment. Also included in the land navigation phase of the training schedule, is a period of instruction on artillery adjustment. It is anticipated that the Marines produced by the modified training schedule will be better prepared for engaging the enemy. Another subject which receives emphasis is weapons; including the IAAW, M-79 grenade launcher, hand grenades, M-60 machinegun and M-16 rifle. The majority of the emphasis is naturally on the M-16 rifle and includes the zeroing of each rifle on the one thousand inch range. This is followed by extensive familiarization firing of all weapons. A portion of this firing is conducted wearing a protective gas mask. During the month of August, a total of 138 Marines completed the troop indoctrination course.

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4. Training Plans

Training plans for the next several months include continuation of the NBC and zeroing refresher courses.

Plans are underway to construct a permanent twenty-five meter range within the AN HOA Combat Base. This range will also include an extensive area for known distance familiarization firing of numerous weapons. Various locations have been selected and it is anticipated that the new range will be available for use by 15 September.

The publication of a monthly training bulletin is being implemented. This document will comply with directives from higher headquarters and will serve as a guide for the subject material to receive emphasis during the month. The bulletin will also require a monthly report and an individual training record card for each Marine.

Sufficient formal school quotas have been requested to ensure that an adequate number of Marines attend the available schools, thus augmenting the ratio of indoctrinated personnel.

F. Special Operations

1. Reinforced squad and fire team patrols were conducted around the NONG SON Outpost (AT814383) on a continuous basis effecting a maximum security screen. Daily squad sized patrols were conducted, with emphasis on the many avenues of approach and concealed positions on the mountain. In addition, patrols, ambushes and outposts were employed in positions that allowed interdiction of illicit river traffic.
2. Abandonment of the MI LOC (2) Platoon Outpost (AT912513) allowed units positioned at the PHU LAC (6) Outpost (AT925526) to operate with larger units in the field effecting a greater saturation of the surrounding area. Fire team/squad outposts/ambushes were employed along the Liberty Road affording effective control over enemy mining activity.
3. Squad and Platoon combat patrols continuously worked the area around the AN HOA Combat Base, while several selected outposts were alternately manned; a technique which has proved effective in confusing enemy ambush attempts.

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4. Hunter-killer teams of fire team size were employed during hours of daylight around the PHU LAC (6) area. Moving into position prior to first light, these guerrilla teams proved effective in confusing and interdicting enemy movement. The highly mobile teams successfully saturate a large area with a minimal personnel commitment. This mobility, coupled with the ability to call in devastating supporting fires on unsuspecting enemy has more than justified Hunter-killer team employment.

5. Combat patrols, listening posts and platoon patrol bases/ambushes were employed on a continual basis adjacent to all three combat bases. Stealth was emphasized, as, for the first time within this organization, flak jackets and helmets were left behind. The technique of setting in prior to darkness and displacing to an alternate position after dark, on several occasions rendered enemy probing attempts ineffective.

6. Engineer sweep teams, working with platoon combat/security units swept the road daily from AN HOA to PHU LAC (6) proving effective in decreasing enemy mining and sniping activities. On those days when convoys were inbound to AN HOA from DANANG, the road was swept twice. Mine sweeps from AN HOA to NONG SON were conducted only when convoys followed.

7. Company F conducted a (1) day Search and Destroy Operation in the area north of AN HOA, west of the Liberty Road, and east of the SONG THU BON on 4 August.

8. Company F conducted a (1) day Search and Destroy Operation in conjunction with the 369th RF Company in the CHAU PHONG area (AT9349) on 8 August.

9. County Fair 5-18 was conducted in PHU DA (1) (AT866492) from 22-23 August. Company G conducted the cordon of the fair site while the local authorities and GVN Forces implemented the required inner activities (see Part IV #1).

10. Company E conducted a (2) day Search and Destroy Operation in the area north of AN HOA, west of the Liberty Road, and east of the SONG THU BON from 27-28 August.

11. Company G conducted a (2) day Search and Destroy Operation in the CHAU PHONG area (AT9349) and points east on 27-28 August.

12. On 29 August Companies E and G conducted coordinated Search and Destroy Operations along the Liberty Road from the PHU LAC (6) Combat Base to the AN HOA Combat Base in conjunction with the rotation of the two companies. Company G assumed the mission of the PHU LAC (6) Combat Base, while Company E served as the maneuver company.

13. On 31 August, a Waterway Control Plan was released by the S-3 to subordinate units for immediate implementation. (see Part IV, #2)

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G. Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Warfare and Defense

1. CS Grenades, M7A2 and CS-1 Grenades, M25A2 were utilized to clear tunnels, caves and bunkers during company and platoon sized operations conducted during the month. With one man in each squad carrying a gas mask, enemy fortifications were quickly cleared and searched with minimal time sacrificed.
2. The CS family grenades were also useful in contaminating enemy fortifications and thus limiting re-entry and further usage by the enemy.
3. The S-3 NBC section, working in conjunction with Battalion Supply, supervised the issuance of protective gas masks to all 2/5 personnel. This issue is still in progress. In addition, steps were taken to insure that all resident units in the AN HOA Combat Base were equipped with protective gas masks. Complete issue to all hands will allow the implementation of the pending defensive gas plan.
4. 2/5 personnel actively participated in gas training, conducted by the S-3. The objective of the training was; to insure that all masks were properly fitted and, to create confidence in it's effectiveness. This objective was obtained through lecture and practical application, i.e., gas chamber.

H. Command and Control - LtCol G. C. McNAUGHTON commanded the battalion during the month of August. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines remained under the administrative control of the 5th Marine Regiment and the operational control of the 1st Marine Division.

I. Close Combat

1. Combat patrols from the three 2/5 Combat Bases frequently engaged the enemy in heated battle. Again and again, the 2/5 Marines' desire to close with and destroy the enemy resulted in significant close combat.
 - a. On 2 August, an engineer mine sweep team with reinforced squad security, while moving north from AN HOA to PHU LAC (6) in the vicinity (AT909481), came under intense enemy small arms, automatic, and 57 Recoilless Rifle fire from an estimated 50 VC well entrenched in concealed positions on either side of the road. Supporting artillery fires were immediately brought to bear on the enemy positions while a platoon strike force was alerted and dispatched to the beleaguered Marine unit. By the time of the arrival of the strike force the VC had broken contact leaving 15 USMC KIA and 1 USMC WIA behind. Although enemy casualties were undoubtedly considerable, all evidence had been removed making an accurate estimate of enemy casualties difficult. A thorough search of the area by the Company G strike force, however, yielded (1) VC KIA confirmed and numerous blood trails.

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b. On 5 August, a Company H fire team patrol, operating on the slopes of NONG SON Hill vicinity (AT816380) located the decomposed remains of (1) VC KIA. Indications were that the KIA was the result of the 3-4 July action at that outpost. Later that afternoon another fire team patrol located an additional highly decomposed body in the vicinity of (AT814923). This second body was attributed to the same action.

c. On 5 August, a tank from the Company E PHU LAC (6) position, providing convoy security, detonated a mine in the vicinity of (AT909481), indicating the stepped up VC harassment attempts along the Liberty Road. While being towed back to the PHU LAC (6) position, the already damaged tank struck and detonated a second mine. Both incidents resulted in (1) USMC WIA Evac and 3 USMC WIANS total.

d. On 6 August, a Company G platoon (-) was deployed with one ortos and two amtracs in reaction to an intelligence report from the AN HOA Security Police. Ten VC with weapons had been observed swimming in a stream in the vicinity (AT899453). The Company G unit maneuvered toward the reported enemy in an attempt to gain contact, but the VC had moved out of the area prior to the Marine unit's arrival.

e. On 7 August, the AN HOA Security Police reported 2 VC companies in the vicinity (AT912518-935520-924507) and (1) NVA Battalion in the vicinity (AT9450) and (AT9449). Reacting to this information, Company E dispatched one reinforced platoon and a section of tanks to conduct a tank/infantry sweep of the area, vicinity (AT926503). While moving in the vicinity (AT925505) one Vietnamese male jumped up and started running from the advancing Marines. Marines quickly took the fleeing VC under fire wounding him. Continuing on the sweep, the interrogation of a Vietnamese woman residing in the vicinity of (AT925505) revealed that 50 VC had moved south toward (AT925505) rather than stand and fight the sweeping Marine force. The woman indicated that they were carrying weapons and equipment, but she was unable to identify the type of either. Driving on after the withdrawing enemy force, the Marines discovered a 250 pound bomb concealed under a thatched covering. A thorough search of the area surrounding the bomb resulted in the discovery of no less than 15 punji traps, all of which were confiscated. As the sweeping force returned to the PHU LAC (6) combat base, an AO was called on station to observe the area along both sides of the Liberty Road between AN HOA and PHU LAC (6).

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f. On 8 August an engineer sweep team located a 25 lb box mine, pressure type, on the Liberty Road, in the vicinity of (AT908497). The mine was blown in place. It is noted that 9 out of every 10 box mines located, are located visually as electronic sweeping equipment fails to detect their presence.

g. On 8 August, DUC DUC DISTRICT Headquarters reported one VC Company on the western bank of the SONG THU BON, in the vicinity of (AT853482). As the report was being received by 2/5, DUC DUC received 4 small arms rounds from the area of suspected enemy movement. E/2/11 fired 48 rounds of 105 HE, which were observed and adjusted onto the target by DUC DUC. Target coverage was outstanding, but, because of the natural barriers, results were unknown.

h. On 9 August, an M-48 tank escorting a convoy to the AN HOA Combat Base, detonated an estimated 30 pound pressure type box mine in the vicinity of (AT913495). While the convoy continued south, the damaged tank was returned to the PHU LAC (6) Combat Outpost. Later in the day a Company E Marine tripped a booby trapped M-26 grenade. A 360 degree perimeter was quickly established and the wounded Marine medevaced.

i. On 9 August, a Company G squad observed 20 VC moving out of a tree line onto the Liberty Road in the vicinity of (AT917494), the site of many mining incidents. Several VC appeared to be digging in the road. The squad called in and adjusted a 36 round artillery fire mission, moved into the vicinity of the siting, and searched the area. Although oncoming darkness hindered the search for evidence of enemy casualties, many foot prints in the area were observed.

j. On 10 August, a Company E platoon, while moving into a blocking position in the vicinity of (AT937512), received 50-60 rounds small arms fire from LA THAP (1) (AT947515). The platoon maneuvered into the area but the elusive enemy had broken contact. While searching LA THAP (1), several new bunkers and concealed fighting holes were located and destroyed. Continuing on with the mission, the platoon moved into the blocking position. While observing the operational area, the platoon spotted 4 VC fleeing from the closing Marines at (AT940500). One squad from the blocking force maneuvered to establish contact with the enemy. The squad challenged the enemy, but one of the group attempted to escape. He was quickly taken under fire and killed. The action resulted in 3 detainees and one VC KIA (Conf).

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k. On the night of 10 August a Company E fire team patrol/ambush on the Liberty Road in the vicinity (AT915510) observed movement along the road and quickly joined forces with a second fire team. Both teams set in along the road and waited. The ambush observed 3 VC come to the road, recon both north and south and return. Nine more VC came to the road and moved north out of sight. Shortly after, a VC column, moving from east to west, started moving across the road. The ambush unit held fire and counted 30 VC crossing before the column broke off. Minutes later, another VC appeared and a second column started across the road. Sixty more VC had been counted when the ambush was sprung. The fearless Marines put a tremendous volume of small arms fire and grenades into the unsuspecting enemy, observing 4 fall. The VC returned one grenade and attempted to consolidate for an attack on the Marines position, but it was too late. Having inflicted maximum casualties, the Marines took advantage of the enemy's confusion and withdrew to the PHU LAC (6) position. As soon as the squad had cleared the ambush site, communications were established and supporting fires were directed into the suspected area. Concurrently a Spooky aircraft was called on station. Search of the area at first light on 11 August, by a Company E patrol revealed blood pools and drag marks indicating heavy casualties. The patrol also apprehended 9 young males in the area. These young males were forwarded to Bn S-2 for interrogation. Marines suffered only 4 minor casualties during the action.

l. On 11 August, a Company G platoon combat patrol observed (1) VC with weapon approaching a fire team position. The VC was taken under fire and the fire team deployed. Although the Marines could hear voices to their front they were unable to establish significant contact. A thorough search in the area of the siting led to the discovery of a wallet containing several documents. S-2 inspection of the captured documents indicated that the owner was an NVA squad leader.

m. On the night of 11 August a CAP N-2 ambush observed (1) VC run into a banana grove (AT595478) and simultaneously received several incoming small arms rounds from the vicinity of the siting. The combined patrol took the suspected enemy position under fire and immediately received a heavy volume of fire from several concealed enemy positions. During the next hour of close combat, the unit received over 500 rounds of small arms fire. Shortly after returning to the CAP N-2 Base at MAU CHANH (2) (AT883473) a group of villagers reported that 2 VC had been killed during the action.

n. On 12 August, a Company H platoon combat patrol in the vicinity of the NONG SON combat base observed a small group of Vietnamese run from a village as they approached. Marines

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called for the Vietnamese to halt but their challenges went unheeded. The fleeing VC were quickly taken under fire and one was observed to fall. Sweeping through the area of the contact, the body of (1) VC KIA was located.

o. On 12 August 2 mines of an estimated 40 lbs size were detonated by a USMC truck and a Vietnamese truck on the Liberty Road between AN HOA and PHU LAC (6).

p. On 13 August, a Company E Hunter-Killer Team, operating in vicinity of the PHU LAC (6) Combat Base observed (1) VC walking out of a house in the vicinity of (AT925504). The Marine sniper operating with the unit took the VC under fire and killed him. While maneuvering to the body, the unit came under fire from two concealed enemy positions. Artillery and air strikes were conducted on the suspected enemy positions, while one platoon from Company E moved to reinforce the embattled team. As soon as the air strike lifted, the unit commenced the search. While sweeping the area, the unit received 40 rounds enemy small arms fire from the vicinity (AT913494). The Marines closed on the suspected enemy positions under the cover of 60MM mortar fire in an attempt to gain contact but the enemy had left the area. Continuing the search, clothing, a transistor radio, a BA-386 and a VC gas mask were discovered.

q. On the night of 14 August, a Company G squad ambush on the Liberty Road (AT907495) came under intense enemy small arms/automatic weapons fires as well as rifle grenades, while moving into position. Returning small arms and 60MM mortar fire, the squad quickly consolidated its position with an adjoining squad and assumed a defensive posture. While artillery was being called in and a Spooky aircraft worked over the area, three VC were observed dragging off VC bodies. They were immediately brought under fire with unknown results. Throughout the night, VC movement in the area of Company G ambush activities was frequent. At one point, 150 VC were reported moving from east to west between two ambush sites in the vicinity of (AT907495-910486). Artillery fire was brought to bear, and a Company (-) strike force was committed to an LOD vicinity (AT906474). The AN HOA Combat Base came to 100% alert and remained so for the rest of the night. The action resulted in 2 USMC WIA (Evac), 6 VC KIA, and 3 VC KIA (Prob). One AK-47, 2 packs containing penicillin, and 7 loads of rice were captured. (Complete list see 160001H-162400H sit rep).

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r. On 16 August, a Company E fire team patrol observed one VC with weapon, through field glasses, as he emerged from a tree line. The VC was taken under fire and seen to fall. For the next hour the Marine patrol maintained surveillance on the VC; no movement was observed.

s. On 17 August, the point element of a Company E platoon moving into an ambush site on the Liberty Road vicinity (AT918511) came under intense enemy fires which included small arms, automatic weapons and hand grenades. In the initial burst of close range fires, the 9-man Marine point suffered 3 KIA, but the remainder of the point quickly deployed along the western side of the road. Attempting to exploit the situation, the VC swept a 15 man assault force across the road toward the Marine positions. Deadly Marine fire knocked down 6 of the enemy, forcing them to withdraw dragging their wounded with them. A second time the enemy launched an assault, 12 men on line, and again they were driven back with their wounded. This time 5 were seen to fall under the accurate Marine fire. The VC then fired 30 rifle grenades into the Marine positions and moved into the area of the dead Marines picking up their gear. Undaunted, the Marines took the enemy under fire observing 3 fall. While the remainder of the platoon moved to reinforce the embattled point, a strike force aboard tanks moved from the PHU LAC (6) Combat Base in the north and artillery fires saturated enemy routes of egress. In the face of the overwhelming Marine forces and fires, the VC broke contact and moved southeast. The strike force searched the area and found 3 VC KIA (Conf). Artillery H&I's were fired into the area throughout the night in an attempt to thwart VC body snatchers.

t. On 22 August, the engineer sweep team with Company E security found a large crater in the Liberty Road vicinity (AT918512) with pieces of VC and VC equipment scattered around it. Engineers estimated that the VC had erroneously detonated a 25 pound box mine while planting it in the road. No one is perfect!

u. On 25 August, a Company G platoon combat patrol operating in the vicinity of (AT890495) observed (1) VC in green uniform with weapon moving across an open rice paddy in the vicinity (AT890496). Almost immediately, the unit received 4 to 5 rounds sniper fire. The Marines returned fire on the suspected enemy position and assaulted. A search of the area led to the discovery of (1) VC KIA and the capture of (1) Russian Carbine, Serial Number J5825, 2 ChiCon grenades and 1 knife. On 26 August, while returning to the AN HOA

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Combat Base, a Marine in the same platoon detonated a booby trap of estimated 405 RD size, resulting in (1) USMC KIA and (2) MIAMB. When the Huey helicopter landed, a large volume of enemy small arms fire was received from PHU LAC (6) (AT896486). The Marine unit returned fire and swept through the area, but the enemy had successfully eluded the attackers.

v. On 27 August, a Company G platoon combat patrol operating in the vicinity of (AT903483) observed (1) VC with weapon running across an open paddy. The point unit took the VC under fire and observed him fall. A search of the area led to the discovery of (1) VC KIA, but the unit was unable to find the weapon in the partially flooded paddy.

w. On 27 August, a Company G Marine detonated a large Anti-tank mine in the vicinity (AT942492). The incident resulted in (1) USMC KIA and 3 USMC WIA (Inac).

x. On 27 August, a Company E patrol observed a VC sniper jump out of a spider trap and start to run. The VC was shot and killed by the Kit Carson Scout working with Company E.

y. On 28 August, a Company G platoon, participating in a company size operation, observed one VC with pack and weapon, moving down a trail. The VC saw the Marines and started to run but quick Marine reaction resulted in (1) VC KIA and the capture of (1) AK-47. The platoon observed 10 more VC moving up behind the first VC along the same trail. Again Marines took the VC under fire and observed 6 VC fall. Search was made impossible by darkness, but a search conducted at first light resulted in the discovery of a second VC KIA and the capture of a VC automatic weapon.

2. Throughout the month, 2/5 units at NONG SON, AN HOA and PHU LAC (6) received continuous intelligence reports through all available channels. Day and night, artillery units in support of 2/5 pounded all reported sightings, with, according to intelligence, highly effective results.

J. Fire Support

1. Battery E 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines located at AN HOA Combat Base supported units in the field during the month of August.

2. 1st Platoon, 3rd 8" Howitzer Battery and 1st Platoon, 3rd 155 Gun Battery, both of the 11th Marines also provided fire support.

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3. A detachment (two 4.2" mortars) from W Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, located at NONG SON Company Outpost (AT814383) supported company operations in that area.

4. The following is a summary of the artillery support during the month of August.

a. <u>Missions</u>	<u>H&I's</u>	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>		
4.2	574	479	109		
105	941	280	85		
155H	24	21	16		
155G	21	5	8		
8"	101	33	9		
81MM	543	55	20		
b. <u>Rounds</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>SMK</u>	<u>ILL</u>	
4.2	6491	585	401	253	
105	7418	488	74	287	
155H	575	3		12	
155G	1435			44	
8"	398	24		993	
c. TPQ-10:		Missions-58		Tons dropped-54	

5. With the increase of enemy activity along Liberty Road, between AN HOA and PHU LAC (6), movement along that road has been greatly hampered. Under the direction of CO 2/5, a fire support plan to check enemy aggression has been established. This plan is designed to provide immediate supporting fires for requesting units while operating on that road.

A number of concentrations, flanking Liberty Road have been registered. Furthermore, blocking fires (groups of fire), plotted on possible ambush sites and withdrawal routes, have been incorporated into the fire support plan. This same plan is in effect for Liberty Road, between AN HOA & NONG SON. Strip maps, listing all concentrations and blocking fires, have been made available to Company Commanders, Convoy Commanders, and all unit leaders who might operate on or about Liberty Road.

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1. Supply

- a. On 9 and 10 August, Battalion Supply was inspected by the Division Supply Inspection-Instruction Team. Supply proved satisfactory, with discrepancies.
- b. On 24 August the Division conducted a fiscal inspection of the battalion. Results were found to be satisfactory.
- c. During the latter half of the month, considerable amounts of equipment and supplies were received from 1st FSR.

2. Motor Transport

- a. All M-416 B1 trailers were sanded and painted during the month of August.
- b. A security fence was erected around the motor pool.
- c. Each vehicle was assigned a parking space with a sign indicating vehicle number and section to which assigned.
- d. Work has continued on the new shop system. New wall cabinets were constructed providing electrical test equipment and other tools with a dry and secure storage.
- e. Twelve motor stables were performed during the month of August.
- f. Thirty new M-27A2's were received, underwent acceptance checks, were serviced and made available for the road.

3. Battalion Aid Station

- a. On 8 August 1967, the Commandant of the Marine Corps visited the Battalion Aid Station. On 19 August, the Governor of Kansas visited. Both dignitaries were briefed on the aid station's operations and were given a tour of the station's physical plant.
- b. On 11 August, a medical-technical-administrative inspection was held by representatives from the Division Surgeon's office. The aid station was found to be in satisfactory condition.
- c. A County Fair was held on 22-23 August 1967. During the two day period 1365 patients were seen. The breakdown is as follows: 700 children, 400 females, and 265 males. Seven patients were referred to the Battalion Aid Station for consultation.

d. The BAS saw 1367 military patients this month for a daily average of 54. Of that number, 74 were referred to out-patient clinics.

e. The number of Vietnamese patients seen this month was 4149 or an average of 166 daily. Of these, 42 were subsequently non-evacuated. A new Vietnamese dispensary is currently under construction and a Vietnamese nurse is now attached to Vietnamese sick call.

f. There has been a significant decrease in malaria cases over the past month due to malaria prophylaxis and mosquito control.

g. Rodent control has been a problem this month. The problem is being alleviated, however, by the use of traps and warfarin at NONG SON, PHU LAC, and AN HOA.

4. Engineers

a. During the past month, 12 mines were found on the road between AN HOA and PHU LAC (6) and one mine was found on the road between AN HOA and NONG SON. All were blown in place.

b. The engineer squad at NONG SON constructed ten bunkers during the month.

c. When requested, the engineer squad at NONG SON accompanied infantry units on patrols and sweeps throughout the TAOR.

d. An engineer demolitions team assisted the Vietnamese engineers by blasting rocks at the site of a new bridge inside the AN HOA Combat Base.

M. Communications: During the month of August, there were no major operations which involved any unusual communications commitment.

1. Wire Section: Received one 60 Kilowatt generator to be utilized as a back up for the battalion power source. The 150 kilowatt generator was put back into operation by the installation of a voltage regulator. Maintenance records were brought up to date and made complete on both generators in the battalion. Ten Seismic Intrusion Devices were turned into Battalion Supply for a "turn-around" in order to acquire complete end items.

2. Radio Section: A critical shortage of BA-386 batteries has developed during the month. LSU has made its needs known to FLC and the Division Comm-Elect Officer has been notified of the

shortage and of pending requisitions for the batteries. One AN/PRC-25 with battery was lost to the Viet Cong early this month. The required report was submitted to the Division Comm-Elect Officer and the compromised frequency has been replaced. At the end of the month a AN/PRC-25 was blown up when the radio operator stepped on a box mine. The radio has been sent to FSR for a replacement turn around.

3. Message Center: During the month of August, the Message Center handled 101 outgoing messages and 678 incoming messages.

4. TACP Section: Two TACP teams have been committed this month; one at PHU LAG (6), the other at NONG SON, in support of the rifle companies manning these outposts. An additional TACP team has been organized on various occasions to accompany strike forces.

5. Tech Shop: The Technician Shop handled and repaired 109 pieces of equipment during the month and assumed the responsibility of recharging sniper scope batteries.

Total personnel strength at the end of the month has reached 61 enlisted and one officer. Although all of the section chiefs will rotate in August and September, the platoon is strong in capable Sergeants who have demonstrated a willingness to assume the additional responsibility. Projected goals include securing base power for the radio relay shot to Division, and the reorganization of the wire section.

N. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

1. General: During this reporting period, the Civic Action Program has centered mainly on improving the health standards in our CAAOR. Thru the use of MedCaps, DentCaps and Health Posters, marked improvement has been made. Plans to build seven dispensaries in the DUC DUC DISTRICT are now in progress. 2/5 Battalion Aid Station is in the process of training four nurses for these proposed facilities. CAP N-3 was inserted in PHU DA (1) Hamlet (AT866495), XUYEN THU VILLAGE, DUC DUC DISTRICT on 23 August 1967. It is anticipated that the insertion of this CAP will result in improved Marine/VN relations and thereby strengthen the Civic Action program in this area. CAP N-1 and CAP N-2 continue to show improvement in their respective CAAORS.

2. The PSY-OPS section has made maximum use of leaflet drops, A/V Teams and face-to-face communication in an effort to bring the people closer to the GVN. After conducting an area assessment of the SON KHUONG area, the PSY-OPS Officer was able to influence the villagers of KHUONG TRUNG (1), to reclaim 10 tons of rice from a VC cache. This was done by face-to-face communication. The villagers requested security, and their

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request was complied with, being provided by Company H. By achieving closer relations with the District Chief, Village and Hamlet Officials, and the National Police, the battalion has been able to produce more effective results in this area.

3. On 11 August, a meeting between Mr. CAN, the Engineer-In-Charge of the AN HOA Industrial Complex, and Captain TRIEM, District Chief, was held to coordinate Complex activities and future District projects. Projects discussed were; the possibility of a saw mill in NONG SON, and providing adequate facilities to refugees in order that they might launder Marines clothes providing them with a source of income. The meeting itself was valuable in that it allowed Mr. CAN and the District Chief an opportunity to establish closer communications, making possible a good sound working relationship between the two men.

4. Medical Assistance. The Battalion Aid Station has done a fine job in assisting the Civic Action Program during this month. The following is a breakdown of the treatment administered.

- a. XUYEN THU VILLAGE: 464 women, 354 men, 1148 children, 1966 total.
- b. XUYEN PHU VILLAGE: 445 women, 534 men, 1088 children, 2067 total.

5. Personal Assistance

- a. 2900 lbs of rice
- b. 232 bags of corn
- c. 540 lbs of oats
- d. 162 bags of bulgar
- e. 102 cans of salad oil
- f. 45 fish ration packs
- g. 45 sausage ration packs
- h. 20 bags of cement
- i. 9 boxes of clothing

6. Evacuation Assistance

- a. 19 men
- b. 15 women
- c. 21 children
- d. 55 total

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7. Public Improvements: Since the last report on public improvements, 50 homes in the THANH MY Hamlet have been completed. Plans are in progress to install blackboards in local classrooms. A boar was presented to the villagers of PHU DA (2) (AT870480), for stud purposes, attempting to improve the local stock line. The Commanding Officer 2/5 made the presentation. The construction of a new school in the THANH MY Hamlet is now underway.

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