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

3/JDS/jds
5750
2 June 1968
SER: 025-65

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

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

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology

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

2nd BN 5th MAR
SEC # 0471-65
COPY 6 OF 15

E. C. Cheatham Jr.
E. C. CHEATHAM JR.

2ND BN/5TH MAR

CMD CHRON

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5TH MAR S&C FILES

0371-68
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MAY 1968

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May 1968 to 31 May 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, MAY 1968I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA.

A. Location: 1-16 May 1968, Cao Doi, RVN
17-31 May 1968, Phu Gia, RVN

B. Commanding Officer, Staff Officers and Company Commanders:

Commanding Officer	LtCol E. C. CHEATHAM JR.	1-31 May68
Executive Officer	Maj O. K. STEELE	1-31 May68
Adjutant	Capt R. E. STONER	1-31 May68
S-1	1stLt W. I. SHICK	1-31 May68
S-2	1stLt E. T. ALTON	1-31 May68
S-3	Maj E. G. DYER	1-31 May68
S-3A	1stLt T. D. MARTIN	1-7 May68
	1stLt T. A. KEENE	8-31 May68
S-3B	1stLt S. R. BROWN	8-31 May68
S-4	1stLt G. R. HOFMANN JR.	1-31 May68
Commo	Capt D. J. POWERS	1-31 May68
SupplyO	2ndLt D. T. WELSH	1-31 May68
MTO	1stLt G. A. ZURENDA	1-31 May68
ALO	Capt H. F. PYLE JR.	1-31 May68
FAC	Capt T. M. FINE III	1-10 May68
	Capt R. L. THACKER	23-31 May68
CO H&S Co	1stLt A. A. DORNBACH	1-6 May68
	1stLt T. D. MARTIN	6-31 May68
CO Co E	Capt J. J. NORTON	1-10 May68
	2ndLt P. R. McCONNELL	10-18 May68
	Capt J. J. NORTON	18-31 May68
CO Co F	Capt M. P. DOWNS	1-7 May68
	1stLt C. W. FULFORD	8-31 May68
CO Co G	1stLt D. A. DOVE	1-31 May68
CO Co H	Capt G. D. HENDRICKSON	1-31 May68

C. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC	
OFF	ENL
31	1095

USN	
OFF	ENL
3	49

II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY.

During May the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines continued its mission of protecting the Division MSR. By employing numerous company and platoon size patrols into known and suspected enemy assembly areas, and conducting squad and smaller size ambushes along enemy routes of approach to the MSR, this task was successfully accomplished.

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On 9 May 1968, Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines became engaged with an unknown size enemy force in its base camp area west of Hai Van Pass. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines was directed to relieve Company M. The Battalion Command Group with Company E linked up with Company M and continued the attack, destroying enemy forces, materials and positions. The major difficulty encountered throughout the entire operation was movement in the steep, jungle covered mountainous terrain.

On May 17th, the Battalion Command Post displaced from Cao Doi, ED054C23, to its new site at Phu Gia Pass, AT833999.

III. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

A. Personnel and Administration.

1. Casualties.

MIA	BATTLE		MIA	SERIOUS	NON-BATTLE		TOTALS
	WIA	DOW			NON-SERIOUS	DEATHS	
8	59	0	0	2	11	2	82

2. Joined during May.

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
3	43	1	5

3. Transferred during May.

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
1	80	1	7

4. Narrative Summary: Chargeable strength remained above 90% of the manning level for the complete month of May.

5. Problem Areas.

a. Administrative supplies continue to be unavailable; Fitness Reports; VA Insurance Forms for SQLI, Pages 9, 11, 5, 13, PAR's; Holisted Contracts CDD4, DD214, ODB's and DD114 Military Orders.

b. Addressograph machines are in poor condition and ribbons are unavailable.

B. Discipline, Law and Order.

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1. Courts-Martial; Tried 7 Pending 3
2. Non-Judicial Punishment 24
 - a. By Battalion Commander 8
 - b. By Company Commanders 14

C. Morale, PX and Chaplain's Activities.

1. Morale is considered excellent.

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 in Phu Bai.

3. Chaplain's Activities: The Battalion Chaplain conducted 32 Catholic services in May with 875 Marines in attendance. These services were held in each of the company areas to facilitate attendance. Protestant services were also held in the company areas by chaplains from Phu Bai and the Chaplain from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. There were 9 services which were attended by 230 Marines. For Protestant coverage to be more universal and more regular in the Battalion, the Chaplain from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines has assumed the responsibility for Protestant services. This month the Chaplain received a vehicle to be used solely for Chaplain's matters. Previously the Chaplain had to share a vehicle with other sections. Having a vehicle greatly facilitates the conduct of divine services as well as pastoral visits to the Marines. For 8 days of this month, the Chaplain accompanied the Battalion Command Group to the field. No services were held at the time because of the tactical situation. However, prayers were said for the dead and the wounded were visited. Memorial services were conducted 3 times this month at company formations where all took part. Other religious services were held in two village churches at the request of the local religious leaders. These were attended by Marines as well as many of the people in the villages. A visit was made to the orphanage at Nuoc Ngot and excess food was given to them. Visits were made to the CAP units within our TAOR and to Battery A, 1st LAAM Battalion. The Chaplain conducted hospital visits in both Phu Bai and DaNang. A total of 18 wounded and sick were visited. There were 23 counselling sessions with the Marines at both the CP and the company offices.

D. Intelligence.

1. General. Intelligence information during the month of May was collected from various sources including: G-2, Task Force X-Ray; S-2, 5th Marines; 1st CI; 13th ITT; CAP-H-Hq's; Phu Loc District Headquarters; Force and Division Reconnaissance units; and

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the local populace of Phu Loc District. A significant addition to the intelligence sources was the Hamlet Chief of Lang Co. With the re-emphasis of the rewards program, villagers of Lang Co have led Marine units to surprise explosive devices, and of particular importance, a downed helicopter. In addition a civilian from Tho Son (H) voluntarily assisted Marines in combat patrols in the Phu Gia area.

a. A study of all incidents and intelligence reports helped to determine the pattern of action taken by the enemy. The enemy's activity revolved around the interdiction and harrassment of friendly units along and inclusive of Highway #1. Although the enemy did not renew the anticipated offensive to the predicted intensity, there were several sharp contacts which coincided with the enemy's mission to collect and transport rice.

2. Each company commander had at his disposal an S-2 Scout, a Kit Carson Scout, and in the cases of Companies E and H, a Vietnamese Interpreter. It has been found that the Kit Carson Scouts take an aggressive role and play an intergal part in operations smaller than company size. In addition a sub-team of the 13th MAF was assigned to the Battalion, providing a rapid report of information gained from detainees and documentary sources.

3. Due to the flat rice paddy area characteristic of a portion of the AO, the PPS-6 Radar sets were utilized by Companies E, F and H. Each company has at least five Marines who have been trained as operators. Of particular significance was the radar's ability to find and fix suspected night targets to be fired upon by 81mm mortars. The S-2 section also conducted classes for each company on the proper handling and tagging of FOW's/detainees, captured gear and equipment.

4. Statistics of Casualties and Equipment:

B-40 Rocket Launchers	3 CAPTURED
AK-47	2 CAPTURED
K-44	1 CAPTURED
SKS	1 CAPTURED
MAS-36	1 CAPTURED
PPS SMC	1 CAPTURED
M-1 Carbines	2 CAPTURED
ChiCom Grenades	61 CAPTURED
NVA/VC	39 KIA (CONF)

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Mark II Grenades

2 CAPTURED

TNT

9 lbs CAPTURED

Gunpowder (Russian)

200 lbs CAPTURED

Satchel Charges

12 CAPTURED

Blasting Caps

2885 CAPTURED

Plastic Explosives

400 lbs CAPTURED

Pull Fuzes

15 CAPTURED

Claymore Mines

2 CAPTURED

B -40 Rocket Rounds

156 CAPTURED

40mm HE Rounds

9 CAPTURED

AK-47 Rounds

4500 CAPTURED

RPD MG Rounds

800 CAPTURED

RPD MG Ammo Drums

8 CAPTURED

AK-47 Magazines

8 CAPTURED

M-1 Carbine Magazines

3 CAPTURED

9mm Magazines

2 CAPTURED

81mm Mortar Bipod

1 CAPTURED

82mm Mortar Base Cap & Ball

1 CAPTURED

Detonating Cord

25 ft CAPTURED

Packs

17 CAPTURED

Carrying Sacks

5 CAPTURED

Cartridge Belts

4 CAPTURED

Rith Helmet

1 CAPTURED

Green Uniforms

130 sets CAPTURED

Sweat Shirts

25 CAPTURED

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Ponchos	9 CAPTURED
Hammocks	5 CAPTURED
ChiCom Grenade Pouches	2 CAPTURED
M-16 Magazine Pouches	2 CAPTURED
K-Bar	1 CAPTURED
Binoculars	1 pr CAPTURED
Gas Mask (U.S.)	1 CAPTURED
Flash Light Batteries	50 CAPTURED
Sleeping Bag	1 CAPTURED
NVA Flag	1 CAPTURED
Rice	3 tons CAPTURED
Salt	350 lbs CAPTURED
Beans	100 lbs CAPTURED
Needles	100 lbs CAPTURED
Fish Sauce (5 gal cans)	15 CAPTURED
Plasma Bottles	3 CAPTURED
Penicillin Bottles	50 CAPTURED
Intravenous Tubes	4 CAPTURED
Assorted Medical Supplies	CAPTURED
Assorted Clothing	CAPTURED
Assorted Documents	CAPTURED
Living Shelters	34 DESTROYED
Mess Halls	5 DESTROYED

E. Training.

1. Twenty-four Marines completed the Battalion/Regimental Indoctrination Course.

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2. Division and higher level formal schools training was as follows:

- | | |
|---|----|
| a. Division Leadership Schools | 13 |
| b. Vietnamese Language School (III MAF) | 1 |
| c. Vietnamese Language School (Okinawa) | 1 |
| d. Embarkation School (Okinawa) | 1 |
| e. Division Embarkation School | 1 |
| f. Basic Organic Supply Accounting School | 1 |

F. Special Operations.

1. Throughout May, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines provided security for its assigned sector of the Division MSR.

2. Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed operational control of 3rd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from 9-16 May 1968.

3. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines assumed operational control of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines for participation in ground operations against enemy forces 11-16 May 1968.

4. From 9-16 May 1968, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines divided its forces to conduct ground operations against enemy forces in the mountainous terrain in the vicinity of AT869907.

5. On 16 May 1968, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines returned to the operational control of its parent battalion.

6. On 17 May 1968, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines shifted its AO to encompass the AO voided by the displacement of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. The new AO extends from the vicinity of Claymore Pass, ZD100010, to the south side of Hai Van Pass, AT940878, with the new command post located at Phu Gia Pass, AT833999.

7. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines assumed operational control of the 2nd Platoon, Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines from 28-29 May 1968.

H. Close Combat.

1. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines continued its participation in Operation HOUSTON with the primary mission of providing security for the Division MSR. The majority of the contact was by platoon or squad size ambushes engaging enemy resupply columns. See Part IV (#2).

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I. Fire Support.

1. Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines and Battery B, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines were in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and supported unit operations in the Battalion AO.

2. Battery W, 2nd Battalion, 13th Marines; Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines; Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines; Battery M, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines; and the USS North Bay all provided fire support for the Battalion.

3. Battery E fired 82 missions expending 1010 rounds of FM, 79 rounds of WP, 45 rounds of illumination, 5 rounds of HC smoke and 1 round of Bee Hive and 18 CORFRAM rounds.

4. Battery B fired 14 missions expending 107 rounds of HE, 26 rounds of WP and 3 rounds of illumination.

5. Significant Fire Support Events.

a. Battery E displaced from Phu Loc Fire Base to the area of ZDC55018 and provided close and continuous fire support for the eastern sector of the Battalion's AO.

b. Battery B displaced to the area of AT870997 to provide direct support for the remainder of the Battalion's AO.

J. Air Support.

1. Tactical Air Support. A total of 291 tactical air support missions were flown in support of the Battalion consisting of 372 sorties.

a. Deep Air Support. The Battalion's FSCC requested 235 TPQ-10 missions from the Regimental FSCC.

b. Class Air Support. The Battalion requested and controlled 20 missions consisting of 40 sorties. Of these, 4 missions (8 sorties) were provided by armed helicopters and 16 missions (32 sorties) by fixed wing. Of these missions, 15 were controlled by TAGA/FAC (Airborne) and 5 missions controlled by ALO/FAC (Ground).

c. Assault Helicopter Operations. The Battalion requested and executed 2 helicopter assaults which consisted of 66 sorties. These assaults were planned and accomplished as a part of Operation HOUSTON.

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d. Aerial Observation and Visual Reconnaissance. The Battalion utilized 15 aerial observation missions consisting of 15 sorties and 7 visual reconnaissance missions. Both were provided by Regimental Command and Control aircraft.

e. Flare-Ships. The Battalion requested and received 2 missions which consisted of 2 sorties.

2. Administrative and Logistics Support. 42 administrative and logistics support missions were flown in support of the Battalion consisting of 160 sorties.

a. Resupply. The Battalion utilized 10 missions (26 sorties) for resupply; of these, 5 missions (16 sorties) were provided by the Regimental Command and Control aircraft.

b. Administrative Troop Lifts. The Battalion utilized 4 administrative troop lifts consisting of 54 sorties.

c. Medical Evacuations. The Battalion requested and received 28 missions (80 sorties) of which 21 missions (40 sorties) were provided by Regimental Command and Control aircraft. There were 15 emergency, 23 priority and 29 routine medical evacuations.

X. Logistics.

1. An expanded AO, the additional distance from the Regimental LSA to dependent units and the poor trafficability of the MSR caused by the heavy engineer roadwork created an increase in logistical problems for this Battalion. Many of the problems encountered were subsequently solved by such measures as; re-locating an engineer's water point closer to the Command Post, assignment of additional non-organic motor transportation, establishing larger dumps for all classes of supply at Battalion and Company level and greater use of helicopters for transportation of personnel and supplies.

2. A detachment of the 1st Motor Transportation Battalion, consisting of five 6x6 2 1/2 ton trucks, were attached to support the Battalion's increased logistical requirements.

a. Supply. The Battalion Supply at Phu Bai was re-located and now occupies a full Butler-type warehouse. A complete inventory of all Class II and IV supply items was conducted in conjunction with the move. A complete inventory and reconciliation of all combat losses from Operation HUE CITY was completed on 3 May 1968. A greater portion of the Battalion supply assets have been displaced to the forward Command Post to assist in the management and distribution of the larger quantities of supplies now being handled.

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b. Motor Transport. On 17 May 1968 the Battalion received 20 new M151 motor trucks, replacing the M422A1 as the Battalion's prime organic motor transport vehicle. Driver maintenance classes were conducted for all drivers prior to issue.

c. Mess. In order to provide troops in the field with the maximum number of hot meals, two field kitchens have been established; one company size located on the summit of Hai Van Pass and the other at the Battalion Command Post at Phu Gia Pass. At least one meal a day is of "A" ration variety. Fresh stores are drawn from FLC, DaHang, and delivered daily to field messes.

d. Communications Platoon.

(1) Radio Section. As part of Operation HOUSTON, the Battalion conducted a search in the mountains in the vicinity of AT869907. The field expedient RC-292 Antenna was employed during this operation. To compensate for the high jungle canopy, communications wire and weighted ends were utilized to throw lines over high tree limbs thus enabling the AR-68 and one mast section to be pulled to the top. By employing this field expedient, good communications with all units were maintained. The Regimental tactical net was maintained by virtue of a series of re-transmission sites established by Regiment.

(2) Wire Section. Wire construction at the Cao Dai command post was torn down and the new command post at Phu Gia was wired with a minimum of effort and delay. Phones were installed at the Lang Co Bridge to enable the company commander to communicate with his attached 106 recoilless rifles.

(3) Message Center. Teletype nets have been employed at the Cao Dai Command Post and the Phu Gia Command Post to Regiment. Courier runs have been utilized when nets have been down due to equipment problems.

(4) Electronics Repair Shop. The Repair Shop prepared the Communications Platoon for an embarkation inspection and the Division Component Inspection. PRC-25's, telephones and RT-524's were turned into F150-A for 3rd Echelon maintenance.

e. Battalion Aid Station.

(1) Significant Events.

(a) On 4 May 1968, an informal inspection of the BLS facilities was made by Captain JONES, the Division Surgeon

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 who escorted Captain WITWER, Medical Liaison to Headquarters Marine Corps.

(b) On 10 May 1968, a quarterly Administrative Inspection was conducted by the Division Surgeon's Office. The inspection team headed by LCDR E. W. RISER, MSC, USN inspected Medical Records and Administrative procedure, Training and Medical Supply.

(c) On 16 May 1968, the forward BAS was moved from Cao Doi to the Phu Gia Pass with the Battalion Command Group. Two Hospital Corpsmen accompanied the forward CP to Hai Van Pass for two days.

(2) New Developments.

(a) The BAS at Phu Bai has been assigned a third building for storage of IOL and Bulk supply.

(b) The Regimental surgeon has opened a ward at Phu Bai to serve the 5th Marines. With this ward available the present ward in the BAS has been converted to quarters for Hospital Corpsmen.

(3) Average number of patients seen daily...35
 Number of military patients seen this month...744
 Number of referrals to outpatient clinics...65

(4) Routine Medical Complaints.

Diarrhea.....	80
URI.....	16
Dermatitis.....	120
Stomach Disorders.....	20
Visual Disorders.....	25
Ear Infections.....	15
ENO.....	04

(5) Dermatology complaints continue to be the most significant.

D. Civic Action/Civil Affairs.

1. Civic Action. During this reporting period, the S-5 section has centered its effort on initiating projects of self help for the Vietnamese people.

a. Sand bags and lumber were donated to the people of Loan Ly, A4883973, for the purpose of building defensive shelters.

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Also, 1,500 pounds of cement was given to the village to enable them to build a well.

b. Two-hundred pounds of food was given to the needy re-settled families and the Catholic orphanage located in the village of Lang Co, AT884964. The hospital at Lang Co received two stretchers from the Battalion to be used as operating tables.

c. A highly successful med-cap was held at the village of Lang Co during which 110 people were treated.

d. Visits have been made to all the village and hamlet chiefs in the Battalion's AO. The purpose of the visits was to see what grievances and problems the S-5 section could render assistance in.

e. During this reporting period many incidents occurred requiring an investigation. In some cases a solatium payment was made after a thorough investigation of the reported incident.

2. Psychological Operations. The Battalion has made various leaflet drops and aerial broadcasts with the NVA/VC being the chief targets.

TARGET AUDIENCE

NVA/VC

Civilians

THEME

These Planes Will Destroy You

Rally Instructions

You are Deceived by your Leaders

Defect or Die

The War may last 20 Years

Are You Sick or Wounded

NVA Soldiers look down on You

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2nd Bn, 5th Marines
Cao Doi, RVN
091200H May 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Companies E and H

FRAG ORDER 12-68

1. SITUATION

- a. A reinforcing enemy unit of unknown size is presently engaging Co M, 3/5, vicinity AT868907.
- b. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines Command Group and Co E (Rein).
 - (1) Co M attached when command and control can be effected.
 - (2) Co E attach HST, engineers and 1st Plat, Co H.

2. MISSION

Constitute a reaction force to join forces with Co M, 3/5 and continue the attack to destroy enemy personnel, positions and materials.

3. EXECUTION

- a. Second Battalion, Fifth Marines and Co E (Rein) move to assume the attack vicinity AT868907 via helolift on 091400H May 1968.
- b. Second Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group moves as directed by helicopter landing plan to LZ and direct attack to link up with Co M, 3/5, assume control of Co M when command and control is effected.
- c. Co E move as directed by helicopter landing plan to LZ and on order commence attack to effect link up with Co M.
- d. Loading Plan.
 1. Loading Site - Phu Loc Fire Base, ZC078988
 2. Loading Plan - Co E, followed by Command Group, followed by 1st Plat, Co H.
 3. LZ - AT853950
 4. TOD - 091400H May 1968

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TAB #

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4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICS

- a. Pack rations for 3 days.
- b. Resupply by helicopter.
- c. Casualty evacuation by helicopter.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

- a. Co M, 3/5, call sign is Seaside Mike. Will come up on Battalion TAC when command and control is effected by the commander.
- b. Normal

E. G. CHEATHAM JR.
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

E. G. DYER
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

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2nd Battalion, 5th ~~Regiment~~ S-3Date 1 May 68

JOURNAL

(DTG) FROM 01000H TO 012400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0000	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0456	2	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
0717	3	Eng	Road sweep begins
0833	4	E	All night activities secured
0855	5	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
0918	6	F	All night activities secured
1013	7	F	F3C at CKPT# 1 (ZC157997)
1031	8	F	F3A at ZC158999, F3B at ZC154995
1100	9	F	F3B at ZC143000
1105	10	F	F3A at ZC165981
1115	11	F	F3B at ZD134002
1115	12	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
1225	13	F	F3B at ZC146993
1300	14	F	F3A at ZD190004
1350	15	E	Co. E (-) at ZC103957
1645	16	S-3	Planned Ops. Summary sent
1700	17	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
1939	18	E	Co. E (-) at ZC109949
2047	19	F	All night activity set in
2108	20	H	All night activities set in
2245	21	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent

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TAB B

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date 2 May 68

JOURNAL

(DTG) FROM 020001 HTO 022400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0125	2	S-3	Phu Bai receiving 82mm mortar fire
0637	3	F	All night activities secured
0712	4	H	All night activities secured
0720	5	Eng	Road sweep began
0825	6	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
0858	7	F	F3C at ZC147993
0945	8	F	F3B at ZC154985
1010	9	F	F3A at ZC137987
1015	10	F	F3B at ZC158980
1105	11	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
1200	12	S-3	Posit report: F3A, F3B and F3CP at ZC116993,
	*	*	F3C at ZD142007, E1 at ZC104975, and
	*	*	H3 at ZC163996.
1341	13	F3A	F2C at ZD154021
1400	14	F F2C at ZD	F2C at ZD159021
1521	15	E	Co. E (-) and E2 join up at ZC954106
1714	16	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
2010	17	F	All night activities set in
2247	18	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent

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JOURNAL

S-3 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

PHU*BAI VIETNAM

From (Date & Time to)

May 030001H to 032400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0447	2	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
0635	3	F	All night activities secured
0710	4	Eng	Road sweep starting
0837	5	S-3	ROK inspection team at ZD618016
	*	*	from 0900 to 1200
0852	6	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
1037	7	F	F1B at ZD154013
1055	8	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
1056	9	E	Co. E at ZC117957
1107	10	F	F2A at ZD141010
1135	11	F	F1B at ZD158019
1152	12	F	F1B at ZD161010
1200	13	E	Co. E at ZC161010
1311	14	F	F2A at ZD141011
1349	15	F	F2B at ZD156006
1428	16	F	F1A at ZD137022
1512	17	E	Co. E reports 3 VC/NVA KIA at ZC114958
1532	18	E	Co. E at ZC115956
1700	19	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date: 5 May 1968050001H to 052400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0500	S-3	6 Hour Situation Report
3	0648	H	All Co. H night activities secured
4	0710	F	All Co. F night activities secured
5	0720	Eng.	Road Sweep started
6	0849	Eng.	Road sweep in TAOR completed
7	1022	F	FIA at ZC144998
8	1100	S-3	6 Hour Situation Report completed
9	1101	F	FIA at ZC138988
10	1128	F	FIA at ZC136994
11	1150	F	FIA at ZC132998
12	1207	F	FIA at ZD162006, in CP
13	1330	F	F2C at ZC146996
14	1349	F	F1B at ZD134013
15	1429	F	F2E at ZD160001
16	1501	F	F2A at ZD180025
17	1650	S-3	6 Hour Situation Report
18	1955	E	All Co. E night activities set in
19	2045	F	Co. F spotted 30VC at ZD168006
20	2256	F	All Co. F night activities set in
21	2300	S-3	6 Hour situation report completed

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date: 7 May 1968070001H to 072400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0455	S-3	6 Hour situation report completed
3	0654	Eng	Road sweep began
4	0846	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
5	0847	H	H1A back in CP (ZD054024)
6	0910	F	F1A leaving CP (ZD149010)
7	0930	F	F1A at ZC157996
8	0952	F	F1A at ZC164999
9	1055	S-3	6 Hour situation report completed
10	1119	F	F1B at ZD169012
11	1156	F	F1B at ZD182024
12	1322	F	F1B at ZD156021
13	1359	F	F1B at CP (ZD149010)
14	1450	F	F1C at ZC144985
15	1520	F	F1C at ZD140002
16	1606	F	All day activities secured
17	1650	S-3	6 Hour situation report completed
18	1845	81's	RockCrusher receiving mortar fire
19	1930	81's	RockCrusher receiving mortar fire
20	2011	F	All night activities set in
21	2200	S-3	Planned Ops. summary sent in
22	2256	S-3	6 Hour situation report completed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date 8 May 1968

JOURNAL

(DTG) From 080001H : To 082400H

DTG	Ser No.	Org	INCIDENTS
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0455	S-3	6 Hr Sit Rep sent
3	0610	E	All night activities secured
4	0618	F	All Night activities secured
5	0643	H	All night activities secured
6	0706	Engr	Road sweeps north and south departed
7	0805	H=	H2B at ZD999024
8	0810	Engr	Road sweeps in TAOR completed
9	0837	H	H2B at YD985024
10	0910	H	H2B at YD990030
11	0915	F	F2A departing CP (ZD151011)
12	1057	H	H2B at ZD010031
13	1058	S-3	6 Hr Sit Rep sent
14	1120	F	F2A at ZC168985
15	1203	F	F2C at CP (ZD151011)
16	1236	F	F2A at ZC158989
17	1403	F	F2C at ZC145996
18	1423	F	F2C at ZD148002
19	1655	S-3	6 Hr Sit Rep sent
20	2023	F	All night activities set in
21	2200	S-3	Planned Ops sent
22	2257	S-3	6 Hr Sit Rep sent

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

2/5 X-Ray

Date: 10 May 1968

100001H to 102400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal opened
2	0020	F	Co. F captures 1 VC in vicinity 165000
3	0310	S-3	Troui River CAP receiving mortar fire
4	0313	S-3	RockCrusher receiving mortar fire
5	0546	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent in
6	0705	S-3	Wounded VC dies of wounds
7	0716	Eng.	Road sweep north and south departs
8	0855	Eng.	Road sweep in TAOR completed
9	0916	F	F3C at ZD140000
10	0944	F	F3C at ZC123998
11	1012	F	F2 finds a "Chieu Hoi" at 175996
12	1100	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent in
13	1657	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent in
14	2038	H	All night activities set in
15	2210	F	All night activities set in
16	2213	S-3	Planned Ops. Summary sent in
17	2247	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent in

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

2/5 X-Ray

Date: 12 May 1968

120001H to 122400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal opened
2	0453	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. completed
3	0645	H	All night activities secured
4	0710	Eng	Road sweep north and south departing
5	0720	F	All night activities secured
6	0908	F	F3B at 148969
7	0910	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
8	1100	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent in
9	1308	F	F3A at ZD120011
10	1402	F	F3A at ZD140010
11	1656	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent in
12	2012	H	All night activities set in
13	2145	S-3	Planned Ops. Summary sent in
14	2226	F	All night activities set in
15	2250	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent in

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JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

2/5 Command Group

Date: 13 May 1968

130001H to 132400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0700	S-3	Eng. began clearing of LZ area
2	0720	S-3	Co. E sweeps south, Co. M sweeps to
	*	*	the SouthEast
3	0815	S-3	Helicopters medevac remaining WIAs
4	0910	S-3	KIAs and additional gear lifted from area
5	1045	S-3	All KIAs and gear removed
6	1057	S-3	Food and resupply arrives
7	1250	E	E1 in contact at AT886905, 1 KIA USMC
8	1450	5thMar	Regt sends Frag Order for QM units
	*	*	to sweep south and southeast on 14-15 May
9	1710	S-3	Night ambushes set in: Co. M's at AT865906
	*	*	and Co. E's at AT872904
10	1920	S-3	Helicopter picks up Co. E's KIA
11	2000	S-3	Co. E and M set in night defenses
12	2145	Regt	New Frag order received from Begt to
	*	*	be put into effect on 14 May

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JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date: 16 May 1968

2/5 X-Ray

160001H to 162400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0445	S-3	6 Hr Sit Rep sent
3	0729	F	All night activities secured
4	0730	Engr	Road sweeps north and south departed
5	0825	Engr	Road sweeps in TAOR completed
6	0850	H	H2A at YD980014
7	0927	H	H2A at YD980027
8	0956	H	H2A at YD936029
9	1015	S-3	Command Group returns to Tunnel and Bn Cp in tunnel becomes Quizmaster
10	1100	S-3	6 Hr Sit Rep sent
11	1411	F	FlB at ZD145027
12	1436	F	FlB at ZD140019
13	1650	S-3	6 Hr Sit Rep sent
14	1745	S-3	Co G returned to operation control of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
15	2022	H	All night activities set in
16	2150	S-3	Planned Ops Summary sent
17	2249	S-3	6 Hr Sit Rep sent

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date: 17 May 1968

170001H to 172400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0500	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep/ sent in
3	0600	Eng	Road sweep north and south departed
4	0655	H	All night activities secured
5	0828	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
6	1055	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent in
7	1330	S-3	Jump CP took over control of Bn from
	*	*	Cao Doi Tunnel CP.
8	1340	E	Co. E secured at new posit (AT886952)
9	1400	G	Co. G established at new posit (AT939917)
10	1600	H	Co. H secured at new posit (AU810017)
11	1630	S-3	Night activities for 17 May from
	*	*	Co.s E,G and H sent in
12	1655	S-3	6 Hr. Sit Rep sent in
13	2005	H	All night activities set in
14	2210	S-3	5th Marines notified that due to the
	*	*	new requirements placed on 2/5 by Regt.,
	*	*	Planned Ops. Summary would be late
15	2257	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. report sent in
16	2259	S-3	All 2/5 Co.s notified of new requirements
	*	*	for day/night activities.

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date: 18 May 1968180001H to 182400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0447	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
3	0621	F	All night activities secured
4	0625	E	All night activities secured
5	0647	Eng	Road sweep North and South departing
6	0703	E	E2C leaving perimeter, AT889953
7	0841	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
8	0854	H	H3A at AU810017
9	0908	E	E26 at AT887440
10	1056	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
11	1258	F	F1A at posit
12	1530	S-3	Jump CP returns control of Bn to BnCP
	*	*	at AT833999
13	1647	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
14	2005	H	All night activities set in
15	2116	F	All night activities set in
16	2156	S-3	Planned Ops. Summary sent in
17	2247	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date: 19 May 1968

190001H to 192400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0500	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
3	0710	Eng	Road sweep north and south began
4	0800	S-3	All Bn night activities secured
5	0854-	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
6	0900	F	F1B at ZC130990
7	1100	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
8	1121	F	F1B at ZC133972
9	1242	F	F1A at ZC157990
10	1330	F	F1C at ZC140990
11	1409	F	F1C at ZC134983
12	1427	E	Co. E patrol found hole in Route #1 at
	*	*	AT906951
13	1645	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
14	1909	G & H	Company night activities leaving CPs
15	2148	S-3	All Bn night activities set in
16	2201	S-3	Planned Ops. Summary sent
17	2258	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date: 20 May 1968

~~200001H to 202400H~~

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0447	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
3	0531	F	Co. F ambushes in blocking position,
	*	*	F2 and F3 will start sweep in 30 minutes
4	0614	F	F2 and F3 start sweep
5	0645	Eng	Road sweep North and South began
6	0720	H	All night activities secured
7	0855	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
8	1100	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
9	1108	E	ELC at AT911945
10	1700	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
11	2008	H	Co. H CP (AU889015) receives mortar fire
12	2022	F	All night activities set in
13	2154	E	All night activities set in
14	2159	S-3	Planned Ops. Summary sent
15	2256	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent

JOURNAL

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

Date: 23 May 1968
230001H to 232400H

Journal Number	DTG	UNIT	INFORMATION
1	0001	S-3	New Journal Opened
2	0500	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
3	0910	Eng	Road sweep in TAOR completed
4	1039	H	H2A at AU801016
5	1058	S-3	Advised by Regt. that 2/5 will assume
	*	*	operational control of Co. D, 1/5, acting
	*	*	as Bald Eagle
6	1100	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
7	1200	S-3	Co. D, 1/5, dispatched to ZC137967
8	1225	S-3	Co. D, 1/5. placed under operational
	*	*	control of 2/5
9	1545	S-3	Co. D, 1/5, removed from above posit,
	*	*	return to operational control of 5th Marine.
10	1700	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent
11	2115	F	All night activities set in
12	2157	S-3	Planned Ops. Summary sent
13	2241	S-3	6 Hr. Sit. Rep. sent

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

3/KAD/jds
3480
3 June 1968

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

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation HOUSTON

Ref: (a) Maps: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series L7014 Sheets 6541 I, II, III and IV; Sheets 6641 III and IV
(b) 1st MarDiv OpO 301-68
(c) 5th Marines OpO 301-68
(d) 5th Marines AdminO 301-68
(e) 5th Marines Frag Orders to OpO 301-68

Encls: ✓(1) Overlay #1
✓(2) Overlay #2

1. Code Name: Operation HOUSTON
2. Date: 010001H to 312400H May 1968
3. Location: Phu Loc District, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.
4. Control and Command Headquarters:

2nd Bn (Rein), 5th Marines

LtCol E. C. CHEATHAM JR.

Co E, 2/5 010001H-101200H May68
101200H-181200H May68
181200H-312400H May68
Co F, 2/5 010001H-071200H May68
071200H-312400H May68
Co G, 2/5 010001H-312400H May68
Co H, 2/5 010001H-312400H May68
Co M, 3/5 111400H-160820H May68
H&S Co, 2/5 010001H-061200H May68
061200H-312400H May68

Capt J. J. NORTON
2ndLt P. R. McCONNELL
Capt J. J. NORTON
Capt M. P. DOWNS
1stLt G. W. FULFORD
1stLt D. A. DOVE
Capt G. D. HENDRICKSON
Capt F. D. PACENNO
1stLt A. A. DORNBEACH
1stLt T. D. MARTIN

-1-

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TAB C

~~0. [REDACTED]~~

5. Task Organizations

2nd Bn, 5th Marines

H&S Co

Co E

Co F

Co G

Co H

Det, HST, 1st Shore Party Bn

Det, 2nd Plat, Co B, 1st Engr Bn

6. Supporting Arms:

a. Fire Support.

(1) Direct support for the Battalion during Operation HOUSTON was provided by Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines and Battery B, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines.

(2) Additional fire support for the operation was received from Battery W, 2nd Battalion, 13th Marines; Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines; Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines; Battery M, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines; and the USS North Bay.

(3) Significant Fire Support Events.

(a) When the Battalion's AO was expanded to the east, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines displaced to AT870997 to provide close and continuous fire support for the operation.

(b) Also Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines continued to furnish direct support for the western sector of the Battalion's AO.

b. Air Support.

(1) Operations in the jungle canopy re-emphasized the need for TACA/FAC (Airborne). The extreme limit of visibility was 50 meters but normally less than 20 meters making the control of strike aircraft difficult.

(2) The need for a separate FM frequency for the Battalion and Companies to operate separate from the Regimental TACP Local with its high transient aircraft traffic was again demonstrated. Radio communications in the jungle canopy is extremely unreliable when using RC-292's and when strong airborne signals are present.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~7. Intelligence:

a. Enemy units in the AO during May as carried by S-2, 5th Marines and G-2, Task Force X-Ray included the 4th NVA Regimental Headquarters, the K4B Battalion and other unidentified units. Their primary mission was to interdict Highway #1 and to harass friendly movement and installations.

b. Two Chieu Hoi reports received along with several ARVN agent sources revealed the location of the K5 Battalion to be at ZC147937. Between 6 and 14 May the enemy (probable units of the 4th NVA Regiment) initiated mortar and RPG attacks on the Phu Loc Fire Base and Phu Loc District Headquarters. On 18 May, CI reported the location of the K6 and K9 Battalions at AU8004. Towards the end of May there was a noted increase in the number of home made box type mine incidents to the west of Phu Gia Pass. Company G's position along Highway #1 in Hai Van Pass, bore witness to increased overt military tactics used by the enemy. Chinese Communist claymore mines detonated from the banks of the road, harassment from small arms fire, and surprise explosive devices positioned along the enemy's routes of egress were indicative of these tactics. In Company F's area of operations, much of the enemy's activities centered around the rice harvest and his attempts to collect and transport rice to his base areas.

c. The villagers of Lang Co (H) have provided information which has led Marines to the discovery of several surprise explosive devices, and of particular importance, a downed U. S. Army helicopter believed to have been lost during the enemy's lunar offensive.

d. From 9-16 May the Battalion conducted operations in the vicinity of AT8790, AT8789, AT8889 and AT8888. A search of the enemy base area by Companies E and M revealed 5 mess halls and 35 billeting facilities. The medical facilities found included two dispensaries and two wards capable of accommodating 80 persons. In addition large quantities of food, munitions and documents were uncovered. All documents and weapons were forwarded to Regimental S-2. All dwellings, munitions and quantities of food were destroyed. Consistant URS reports revealed that enemy units subsequently returned to the above area upon the departure of friendly units.

e. The terrain in the AO offers the enemy excellent cover and concealment due to the thick secondary undergrowth and tall canopy. Avenues of approach are usually limited to well used trails or wood cutter's paths; otherwise, the rate of march is greatly reduced. The weather for May was generally hot and humid, with occasional afternoon thunder showers and nightly winds of 5-10 knots prevailed, from the east and southeast.

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8. Mission: Provide security for the MSR by protecting Route #1 and supporting bridges, culverts and passes; support and protect friendly installations, units, convoys, road repair parties and conduct offensive operations to destroy enemy forces, materials, positions and to deny the enemy access to the rice harvest of the local populace.

9. Concept of Operations:

a. Until 17 May, the Command Post of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines was located at Cao Doi tunnel (ZD054026). The Battalion's primary mission was to protect the MSR and had a secondary mission of conducting rice denial operations. These missions were accomplished by combat patrols and aggressive small unit ambushes. The Companies were strategically located in the Battalion AO to afford maximum utilization of forces in defense of key terrain features. Companies were located as follows: Company E at Phu Loc Fire Base, Company F at Nuoc Ngot Bridge and Company H at Cao Doi tunnel and the MCB Rock Crusher. Company G was under the operational control of 7th Marines during the first half of the month. See Enclosure (1).

b. On 17 May 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed control of a new Battalion AO (See Enclosure (2)). The relief in place of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines had Company H assuming the AO of Company I in the Thua Luu Bridge area, Company E assuming the AO of Company K at the Lang Co Bridge, Company G, returned on 15 May to operational control of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, assuming the AO of the 3rd Battalion's Command Post area in Hai Van Pass and Company F remaining in place. The Battalion Command Post was located atop Phu Gia Pass. With the mission of protecting the MSR, key bridges and culverts the Battalion employed aggressive small unit combat patrols, OP's and ambushes.

10. Execution:

On 1 May, Company E began a Search and Clear operation of 4 days duration to the southeast of Phu Loc Fire Base (vicinity ZC075986) as part of Operation HOUSTON. The Company operation resulted in 8 NVA/VC KIA (CONF) and the capture of weapons and equipment as well as the destruction of an enemy base camp.

At 031235H, a squad ambush from Company E, at ZC117953, observed 1 NVA moving to the northwest. The squad fired 20 rounds each of small arms and automatic weapons fire. Results: 1 NVA KIA (CONF) and the capture of 1 AK-47, 1 ChiCom grenade, 3 full magazines (AK-47), 1 medical kit, 1 poncho, 1 cartridge belt, 1 magazine pouch and a pair of sandals.

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At 031510H, a squad ambush from Company E, at ZC115957, observed 10-15 enemy in the vicinity of ZC114958. The squad fired 200 rounds small arms fire and called an artillery mission on the enemy position. The enemy fled to the north while returning small arms fire and grenades. The squad physically pursued the enemy until contact was broken. Results: 6 USMC WIA(EVAC) and 3 NVA KIA(CONF). At 031540H, while in pursuit, the squad found a platoon base camp at ZC113959. A search of the area disclosed several bodies and a B-40 Rocket Launcher. Results: 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA(EVAC), 7 NVA/VC KIA(CONF) and the capture of a B-40 Rocket Launcher.

At 050525H, a squad from Company H acting as security for artillery at ZD016024, received 40 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from the vicinity of ZD009006 and ZD012006. Counter-mortar fire of 90 rounds 4.2" and 100 rounds 81mm mortars was called, and a patrol was sent to search the area. Results: 1 USMC WIA(EVAC).

At 071900H, a squad from Company H, in a defensive position at ZD016024, received 45-50 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Counter-mortar fire consisting of 95 rounds 81mm mortar HE and 75 rounds 105mm artillery HE was returned on two suspected enemy sites at ZD005013 and ZD014012. At dawn, a search of the areas produced negative results.

On 9 May 1968, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines began a 7 day Search and Clear operation, in relief of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. The Battalion Command Group with Company E moved through dense canopy for 3 days to reach Company M at AT869907. At 111400H Company M was placed under the operational control of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. At 121215H, the 1st Platoon of Company E was placed under the operational control of Company M and for the next three days all units searched the vicinity of AT869907, destroying enemy shelters and capturing large quantities of arms, ammunition and supplies. After a two day walk out of the hills, Company M was returned to the operational control of its parent unit at 160820H. At the same time 1st Platoon of Company E returned to the operational control of its parent unit. To strengthen Battalion forces in the AO, at the start of the operation, the 3rd Platoon of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was placed under the operational control of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines until 160930H when the Command Group with Company E returned.

At 092000H, a platoon ambush from Company F, at ZC156995, observed 100-150 VC moving south at ZC165998. The platoon maneuvered to the south to set up a blocking position, while calling in artillery and 81mm mortar fire on enemy routes of egress to the north. After setting in an ambush at ZC160996, 3 VC were observed at ZC160980 and fired at. Return fire was received from a force of approximately 15 VC. With the aid of illumination, a search of

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the area was conducted. Results: 3 NVA/VC KIA (CONF) and the capture of 1 M-1 Carbine and miscellaneous equipment and rice bags.

At 101025H, a Company F platoon patrol was searching an area of the previous night's contact in the vicinity of ZC175996. A Vietnamese male came down a hill waving a white flag. After interrogation it was determined the man was a VC wishing to become a "Chieu Hoi". Results: 1 "Chieu Hoi".

During the morning of 11 May, on two occasions Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines and a Company H security platoon, located at ZC079984, received 60mm mortar fire. At 110130H, 15 rounds were received and at 110255H, another 22 rounds were received. Battery E fired direct and indirect counter-mortar fire on the following suspected enemy sites: ZC093998, ZC084982, ZC083975, ZC085976, ZC090977, ZD108006, ZC094981, ZC083997, ZC090965 and ZC088977. Results: 9 USMC WIA (EVAC) and 12 USMC WIA (NON-EVAC).

At 121005H, a squad combat patrol from Company F was hit by a command detonated claymore-type mine at ZC171984. An LZ was secured and a search of the area conducted with negative results. Results: 4 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 120625H, a Marine from H&S Company found a lean-to bunker at AT868905. The enemy bunker contained 76 B-40 rocket rounds, 3 cases of AK-47 rounds, 90 lbs of unknown type plastic explosive and assorted lesser munitions. All munitions were destroyed.

At 120925H, a Company F platoon combat patrol was hit by a command detonated claymore-type mine at ZC151988. At the same moment, the patrol received 2 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. The platoon called in 60 rounds HE 105mm artillery on suspected enemy mortar sites at ZC164975 and ZC166965. A search of the area uncovered a second claymore-type mine which was destroyed in place. Results: 1 USMC KIA and 2 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 121030H, a platoon from Company E found 13 enemy shelters and 13 lean-to's, at AT868906, with bombshelters and 1 tunnel 30 meters in length. The structures were searched then destroyed. Results: One ton of rice, 7 ChiCom grenades and various documents and items captured.

At 121145H, Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was attacking to the south when it received sniper fire from the vicinity of AT869907. The Company returned fire with small arms and automatic weapons and searched the enemy position. The Company found 1 NVA/VC KIA, 300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 20 assorted ChiCom grenades, 100 pounds of rice and assorted equipment plus a mess hall for 25-30 men. The mess area, equipment and munitions were destroyed.

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At 121100H, a platoon from Company E was sweeping a ridgeline in the vicinity of AT866906 when it received 20 rounds of sniper fire from AT864905. The platoon returned small arms/automatic weapons fire and swept the enemy position. Results: 1 USMC KIA.

At 121200H, a platoon from Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines found an arms cache at AT869904. The cache contained 800 firing caps with fuzes, 700 non-electrical blasting caps and 100 feet of detonating cord. All were destroyed by engineers.

At 121340H, Company E found another munitions cache at AT867905 containing 36 B-40 rocket rounds, 2 U.S. Claymore mines and a bag of AK-47 rounds. All ordnance was destroyed in place.

At 121420H, a platoon from Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines found two shelters at AT867906. A search of the shelters uncovered 8 drum magazines of RPD ammunition, 300-400 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 1 ton of rice, 100 pounds of noodles, miscellaneous documents and maps. The ordnance and food were destroyed.

At 121535H, a Company M platoon found an arms cache at AT869005. The cache contained 1 82mm bipod, 1 K-44 and 2 B-40 Rocket Launchers. All weapons were sent to Regimental S-2.

At 121645H, a CH-46 was evacuating wounded at the CP LZ, AT86907, when it crashed on take-off. No enemy fire was involved. All 12 wounded, the 5 crewmen, classified equipment and armament were rescued or recovered.

At 120700H, a squad from Company E searching the vicinity of AT870905 found 1 PRC-25 radio, serial number #21054. The radio was turned into the Battalion CP and sent to 5th Marines.

At 131200H, Company M searching in the vicinity of AT870903 found a large NVA/VC harboring site. The site contained 13 shelters, 3 mess areas, 2 tons of rice, various munitions, uniforms, documents and the body of 1 enemy KIA. The structures, ordnance, rice and uniforms were destroyed while the documents were sent to Battalion S-2.

At 131230H, Company E was at AT878902 conducting a Search and Clear mission when it found 2 fresh graves containing 2 NVA/VC KIA's. Results: 2 NVA/VC KIA (CONF).

At 131645H, Company E found an enemy storage area at AT870902. The storage area contained: 1 ton of rice, 350 pounds of salt, 100 pounds of beans, 100 pounds of noodles, medical supplies, uniforms, various ordnance and documents. All supplies were destroyed and the documents sent to Battalion S-2.

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At 131650H, Company M found another supply area at AT869906. Supplies found included: 1000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 20 ChiCom grenades, 2 tons of rice, 9 sticks of TNT, 2 dozen blasting caps and medical supplies. All supplies were destroyed.

At 141210H, Company M found 3 shelters with bomb shelters and assorted lean-to's in the vicinity of AT879893. A search of the area uncovered 1 SKS, 1 MAS-36, 39 B-40 rocket rounds, 300 pounds of unknown type of plastic explosive, 200 pounds of Russian gunpowder, 500 blasting caps, 800 AK-47 rounds, 4 ChiCom grenades and 30 gallons of fish oil. All shelters and ordnance were destroyed. The weapons were sent to Regimental S-2.

At 192030H, a Company G squad ambush at AT939914, observed 2 to 3 enemy at AT937912. The squad fired small arms and grenades. The enemy returned small arms fire but due to the thick vegetation a search of the area could not be made until first light. The search produced negative results.

On 22 May 1968, Company F began a 1 day Search and Clear operation in the northern part of the Battalion AO. Contact was fought with 3 NVA/VC KIA (CONF) and the capture of 1 M-1 Carbine plus assorted military supplies and documents.

At 220525H, a squad combat patrol from Company H, at ZD197005, received 1 hand grenade. The squad returned small arms fire and called in 12 rounds of 105mm HE artillery. Results: 3 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 221430H, a squad combat patrol from Company F detonated a pressure release explosive device at AU805049. The area was searched for other explosive devices and enemy presence with negative results. Results: 2 USMC KIA.

At 222005H, a Company F platoon ambush at AU818046 observed 6 VC moving to their right flank at AU820047. The platoon fired small arms killing three of the enemy. The remainder of the VC returned fire and fled the area to the northeast. Results: 3 USMC WIA (EVAC), 3 VC KIA (CONF) and the capture of 1 M-1 Carbine plus various military equipment and assorted documents.

At 251045H, a Vietnamese wood cutter discovered 2 B-40 rocket rounds rigged as booby traps with trip wire, in the vicinity of AT902944. The wood cutter proceeded to the Company E command post, AT885954, and advised the unit of the location of the explosive devices. A Company E platoon searched the area and found the original two rocket rounds plus a third rigged with a detonating cord and TNT detonating device. The rounds were destroyed in place and the wood cutter rewarded.

At 251910H, a Company F platoon defensive position, ZD153010, observed 5 VC wearing civilian clothing and carrying weapons move into a village at ZD154017. The platoon followed the enemy and made contact. In the ensuing action 1 VC was killed causing the other 4 to break contact and flee the area. Results: 1 VC KIA (CONF), 4 detainees and the capture of 1 AK-47.

At 252000H, a Company H platoon, vicinity ZC190990, was moving to an ambush site when the unit received 6 hand grenades and 50 rounds of small arms fire from an estimated 3-5 enemy located at ZC191991. The platoon returned fire causing the enemy to break contact. A search of the area revealed 1 enemy KIA (CONF).

At 281015H, an H&S Company fire team providing convoy security detonated a 50 pound box mine at ZD076009. The truck was towed to Phu Bai for repairs. Results: 2 USMC WIA (EVAC).

At 290700H, a squad from Company G was moving to high ground in support of a Company from the 35th Engineers, U. S. Army, and at that time an unknown number of enemy detonated 6 ChiCom Claymore mines at the squad. A sweep of the area revealed the mines had been detonated in the vicinity of AT899957. Three undetonated Claymore mines were found at that position. Results: 2 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA (EVAC) and the capture of 3 ChiCom Claymore mines.

At 301615H, a squad from Company G on a combat patrol at AT-903907, observed 4 enemy carrying demolition charges at AT902946. The squad fired 100 rounds small arms fire and 1 LAAW, killing 1 of the enemy. The enemy fled to the east, dragging the dead body with them. A search of the area revealed drag marks and assorted equipment was found. Results: 1 NVA/VC KIA (CONF) and the capture of 1 ChiCom Claymore mine, a pair of blasting caps and various articles of clothing.

At 311245H, a platoon patrol from Company G found a one to three day old grave at AT906944. The patrol dug up the grave and found the body of a 20-25 year old VC dressed in black utilities with a bullet wound in the stomach. Results: 1 NVA/VC KIA (CONF).

At 311415H, a Marine from Company H on a patrol detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade at ZD208005. An LZ was secured and a search of the area conducted for other explosive devices. Results: 2 USMC WIA (EVAC).

11. Results:

a. Enemy.

30 NVA/VC KIA (CONF)

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8 Detainees
 1 POW
 1 Chieu Hoi
 3 B-40 Rocket Launchers Captured
 2 AK-47 Captured
 1 K-44 Captured
 1 SKS Captured
 1 MAS-36 Captured
 2 M-1 Carbines Captured
 61 ChiCom Grenades Captured
 2 Mark II Grenades Captured
 9 lbs TNT Captured
 200 lbs Gunpowder (Russian) Captured
 22 Satchel Charges Captured
 2885 Blasting Caps Captured
 400 lbs Plastic Explosive Captured
 35 Full Fuzes Captured
 3 Claymore Mines Captured
 156 B-40 Rocket Rounds Captured
 9 40mm HE Rounds Captured
 4500 AK-47 Rounds Captured
 200 RPD IMG Rounds Captured
 3 RPD IMG Ammunition Drums Captured
 6 AK-47 Magazines Captured
 3 M-1 Carbine Magazines Captured

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2 9mm Magazines Captured
1 81mm Mortar bipod Captured
1 82mm Mortar Basecap and Ball Captured
25 ft Detonating Cord Captured
17 Packs Captured
6 Carrying Sacks Captured
4 Cartridge Belts Captured
1 Pith Helmet Captured
130 sets Green Uniforms Captured
25 Sweat Shirts Captured
9 Ponchos Captured
5 Hammocks Captured
2 ChiCom Grenade Pouches Captured
2 M-16 Magazine Pouches Captured
1 M-BAR Captured
1 pr Binoculars Captured
1 Gas Mask (U.S.) Captured
50 Flash Light Batteries Captured
1 NVA Flag Captured
2 Tons of Rice Destroyed
50 lbs of Salt Destroyed
100 lbs of Beans Destroyed
100 lbs of Noodles Destroyed
3 Plasma Bottles Captured
50 Interveneous Tubes Captured

Assorted Medical Supplies Destroyed

Assorted Clothing Destroyed

Assorted Documents Captured

34 Living Structures Destroyed

5 Mess Halls Destroyed

b. Friendly Personnel.

8 USMC KIA

2 USMC KNH

36 USMC WIA (EVAC)

23 USMC WIA (NON-EVAC)

14 USMC NBC (EVAC)

c. Administration and Logistics:

1. Supply.

(1) During May, Operation HOUSTON continued with the Battalion Command Post located at Cao Doi, resupply of all companies was accomplished by truck. With the LSA close at hand no significant problems were encountered in obtaining needed supplies. The Battalion supply section in the forward continued to stock items that the LSA did not have. In general, these were items of 700 gear and clothing. The Regimental TAD trucks carried the supplies to the companies in the field. A S-4 representative or a supply man accompanied the supplies on each resupply run.

(2) When the Battalion Command Post moved to the Phu Gia Pass a new system of resupply was established. Company G, because of its distance from the Battalion Command Post, was given a 6x6 truck exclusively for its own use. The mess hall was also given its own truck and a daily run was initiated to FLC in DaNang to bring "A" rations to the Battalion. The remaining three trucks assigned to the S-4 were employed fulfilling the rest of the Battalion's logistical requirements.

b. Maintenance. Normal first echelon maintenance was performed on all of the Battalion's equipment during Operation HOUSTON. Ordnance, Communications and motor transport items requiring second

echelon maintenance were often repaired in the field by the armorer, mechanic or communications technicians present. Those items that could not be repaired in the field were evacuated to the rear by the S-4. All equipment requiring third echelon maintenance was sent immediately to FLSG-A. Those items of critical importance were nominated for Red Ball.

c. Treatment of Casualties and Hospitalization.

(1) During May, the Battalion Aid Station was split into two sections, one at the Battalion Rear and one at the Battalion Forward Command Post. The rear BAS was staffed by one medical officer and eight hospital corpsmen. The forward BAS was staffed by one medical officer, one chief hospital corpsman and six hospital corpsmen.

(2) The forward BAS treated a total of 351 patients during May. Of these, there were eight WIA's which were evacuated; there were now WIA's non-evacuated. There were 286 non-evacuated non-battle casualties and 57 evacuated non-battle casualties. The predominant cause of the WIA's was shrapnel wounds, while the predominant cause of the non-battle casualties was diarrhea. Patients evacuated were sent to either 1st Medical Battalion, Phu Bai, or to the rear BAS for further treatment. Those treated by BAS rear requiring in-patient care were kept at the new 5th Marine Regimental Ward.

(3) The rear BAS acquired a third SEA HUT during the month. It is being utilized for the storage of bulk supplies and Medical IOL. All mount-out boxes were repaired and repainted during the month.

(4) A quarterly Administration Inspection was conducted on 10 May by an Inspection Team from the Division Surgeon's office. The BAS received a satisfactory and commendable grade.

(5) On 17 May the forward BAS moved with the Battalion Command Post from the Cao Doi railroad tunnel to the Phu Gia Pass. Two hospital corpsmen accompanied an advanced command post to Hai Van Pass on 17 May and joined the forward BAS at the Phu Gia Pass on 18 May. The BAS is temporarily occupying one general purpose tent with plans to move into two general purpose tents in an area presently being cleared and graded by bulldozer.

d. Transportation.

(1) Troops and supplies were moved primarily by truck during Operation HOUSTON. In addition to the Battalion's organic assets, two 6x6 trucks were made available by Regiment when the

Battalion Command Post was located at Cao Doi. This number was increased to five when the Battalion moved into its new AO. As has been indicated, one truck was assigned to Company G and another one was assigned to the mess hall. The other three trucks were used by the logistics section to haul troops and supplies and to make the daily administration run to the Battalion Rear.

(2) On 17 May 1968, the Battalion moved to its new AO. Company E moved from the Phu Loc Fire Base to the Lang Co Bridge area by helicopter; the remainder of the Battalion moved by truck. Company H was moved from Cao Doi to Hill 88 and Company G moved from the DaNang area to Hai Van Pass. Company F did not move as part of the old AO was incorporated into the new AO. The command post moved from Cao Doi to the Phu Gia Pass. Due to limited truck assets, the Battalion's equipment was moved over a period of four days.

e. Communications.

(1) The Battalion's RT-524 capability was increased by the addition of a PP2953 power supply, enabling the Battalion to maintain a stationary RT-524.

(2) No significant equipment losses occurred during this reporting period. Communications from mountainous areas of operations was the only variance from normal activities. An automatic re-transmission site, operated by Regiment, relayed the majority of traffic and manual re-transmission was employed to various key communicating sites when necessary.

(3) This Battalion employed numerous fire team activities in Company G for patrols and ambushes and the problem of communicating with these units was made evident. A possible solution to this problem would be the employment of the AN/PRC-93 on the fire team level back to the squad.

(4) A frequency in addition to the TACP Local frequency is necessary for control of aircraft on battalion and company level. Artillery clearance for transient aircraft other than the aircraft the unit is attempting to control is the major problem.

13. Commander's Analysis:

During the second phase of Operation HOUSTON, the Battalion's primary mission was to provide security for the MSR in the southern half of the Regimental AO. The Battalion was able to accomplish its mission by the use of squad and fire team ambushes, combat patrols, and outposts along avenues of approach. Aggressive company size attacks into the canopy and suspected enemy base camps

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were conducted. This action hindered the enemy's ability to re-supply and mass his forces.

The heavy commitment to the physical occupancy of the MSR and key bridges greatly reduced the Battalion's ability to conduct offensive operations.

14. Recommendations.

Aggressive offensive operations, utilizing combat patrols and ambushes should be an integral part of the defense of the Hai Van area.

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