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BT 00235-68

REG # 12241

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2ND. BATTALION 26TH MARINES

CTG 19.4

00217-68



BLT 2/26711111

CHRON

# COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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HEADQUARTERS  
Battalion Landing Team 2/26  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/JDL/ccc  
5750  
04 NOVEMBER, 1968  
Serial No. 0130968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commander Task Group 79.4

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 October to 31 October, 1968.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓ (1) Command Chronology

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

*D.H. Clark*

D.H. CLARK  
By direction

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BLT 2/26 74 3114

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**HEADQUARTERS**  
**Battalion Landing Team 2/26**  
**9th Marine Amphibious Brigade**  
**FPO San Francisco, 96602**

**COMMAND CHRONOLOGY**

**1 OCT TO 31 OCT 1968**

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**Enclosure (1)**

## PART I

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Battalion Landing Team 2/26	LtCol W.F. SPARKS	1-31 Oct
2d Battalion, 26th Marines	LtCol W.F. SPARKS	1-31 Oct

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	1stLt D.S. HARRINGTON	1-31 Oct
E Co	Capt J.C. CREGAN	1-31 Oct
F Co	Capt S.M. HARTMAN	1-31 Oct
G Co	1stLt P.A. POST	1-26 Oct
	1stLt T.G. DOMOGALA	26-31 Oct
H Co	1stLt T.F. RUDD	1-28 Oct
	2ndLt H.H. HEISTEN III	28-31 Oct
	Capt F.E. FARMER	31-31 Oct

ATTACHMENTS

Btry B (-), 1st Bn, 13th Mar	Capt F.R. FRANZEN	1-31 Oct
Mortar Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Mar	1stLt R.H. SAUNDERS	1-31 Oct
1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th Amphtrac Bn	1stLt E.E. COX	1-31 Oct
1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th AT Bn	1stLt H.E. LINWELT, JR.	1-31 Oct
2d Plt (Rein), Co C, 3d Engr Bn	1stLt J.J. ASHCROFT II	1-31 Oct
2d Plt (Rein), H&S Co, 3d SP Bn	1stLt S.J. O'NEILL	1-31 Oct
1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th Recon Bn	1stLt P.J. McDONALD, JR.	1-31 Oct
4th Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th TK Bn	2ndLt D.M. MURPHY	1-31 Oct
2d Plt (Rein), Co C, 3d MT Bn	1stLt B.L. LAMBIN	1-31 Oct
LSU, BLT 2/26	1stLt P.A. BURNS	1-31 Oct

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Det, HQ Bn, (Postal, Disb & Photo)	1stLt R.J. LOVELACE	1-31 Oct
1st Clearing Plt (Rein), Co D, 5th Med Bn.	Lt(USN) D.A. BALLING	1-31 Oct
Security Det, HQ Co, 9th MAB	Cpl R.L. MARKHAM	1-31 Oct
Naval Gunfire Liaison Team	Lt(JG) J. CARROLL	1-31 Oct
Det, Radio Relay, HQ Co, 26th Mar	Sgt J.W. BUFFA	1-31 Oct

2. LOCATION

1 - 011100H Oct:	Vic XD 899617
011101H - 17 Oct:	Vic XD 998681
17 - 19 Oct:	Vic YD 302722 and Vic YD 315687
19 - 25 Oct:	ARG Shipping
25 - 31 Oct:	Vic BT 077654

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj C. TYE	1-14 Oct
	Maj D.H. CLARK	14-31 Oct
S-1	1stLt J.W. SEAL	1-31 Oct
S-2	SSgt H.E. ROLAND	1-31 Oct
S-3	Maj J.D. LYNCH	1-31 Oct
S-4	Capt C.O. BROUGHTON	1-31 Oct

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHERS</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
59	1664	9	89	0	0

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 October, the BLT (-) was participating in Operation LANCASTER II, TROUSDALE NORTH under the operational control of the 9th Marines. The BLT (-) was located in the vicinity of XD 899617 in the western portion of the LANCASTER II Area of Operation.

At 0930H on 1 October, the BLT (-) was helilifted to the southern portion of the IMZ in vicinity of XD 9867 and XD 9868 grid squares to participate in Operation LANCASTER II. During this part of the reporting period, the BLT (-) was under the operational control of the 3d Marines and conducted search and destroy operations in the aforementioned grid squares.

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The BLT (-) was employed as follows: 1 Company provided security initially to the BLT Rear and subsequently on the southern flank; 2 Companies attacked while 1 Company remained in reserve until enemy resistance was destroyed; during latter phases of the operation, 3 Companies conducted Search and Destroy Operations.

On 17 October, the BLT (-) was helilifted to the Cua Viet area to participate in two separate operations in the NAPOLEAN - SALINE A.O. The operations, conducted 18 October, involved the employment of two Companies in a cordon of a resettlement village on the north bank of the Cua Viet River and a two company Search and Destroy Operation from the Ocean View position to the DMZ.

At 1300H on 19 October, the BLT (-) commenced re-embarkation upon assigned ARG shipping.

At 0600H on 25 October, the BLT (-) conducted a heliborne amphibious assault to conduct cordon and search operations in the 1st Marines TAOR. At 1530H on 25 October, operational control of the BLT (-) was passed to 1st Marines and the BLT (-) continued cordon and search, and search and destroy operations in the 1st Marines TAOR. On 27 October the remainder of the BLT was off-loaded and proceeded to FLC Da Nang to establish a BLT Rear ashore and conduct extensive rehabilitation of equipment.

### PART III

#### SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. MISSION. During the month the BLT was assigned the following missions:

a. 1 October, 1968 (Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE NORTH).

(1) Prepare for helilift and participation in Operation LANCASTER II under OPCON of 3d Marines.

b. 1 to 17 October, 1968 (Operation LANCASTER II).

(1) Conduct Search and Destroy Operations in the northern LANCASTER II Area of Operations to destroy enemy fortifications, supplies, and equipment.

(2) Conduct Search and Destroy Operations along known road in vicinity of XD 9667 to the Ben Hai River for the purpose of locating and destroying enemy caches, supplies and equipment.

c. 17 to 19 October, 1968 (Operation NAPOLEAN - SALINE).

(1) Conduct a Cordon and Search of Xuan Khanh Resettlement Village with two rifle companies.

(2) Conduct a Search and Destroy Operation of two company strength from the Ocean View position to the DMZ.

d. 25 October, 1968 (Operation EAGER HUNTER).

(1) Conduct Amphibious Assault to find, fix and destroy enemy forces, caches, and installations in the AOA and withdraw on order.

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e. 26 to 31 October, 1968 (Operation GARRARD BAY).

- (1) Conduct a Cordon and Search Operation of the Vien Dong Village Complex.
- (2) On order, conduct Search and Destroy Operations in the Phong Ho Village ruins area.
- (3) On order, conduct Cordon and Search Operations in the Tra Khe (2) and Tra Lo Village Complexes.
- (4) On order, conduct Cordon and Search Operations in the Mai Kim Son (Marble Mountain) Village Complex.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

01 Oct At 010900H, Operational Control of BLT 2/26 passed from 9th to 3rd Marines for a special operation in the DMZ.

Ref: Journal No. 2  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

01 Oct At 011530H, 81mm Mortar Platoon received 18-20 rounds of NVA 130mm at XD 969678 resulting in 2 USMC KIA and 21 USMC WIA.

01 Oct At 011700H, JBG engaged 10-12 NVA at XD 981662 resulting in 2 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA and 3 NVA KIA(C).

Ref: Journal No. 4  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

02 Oct At 021320H, JBG made contact with 11 NVA in a bunker complex at XD 979688. 2 USMC were KIA during the initial contact. Subsequent Fixed Wing mission resulted in 2 NVA KIA(C) and approximately 5 bunkers destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 27  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

02 Oct At 021440H, JBH found 7 living bunkers capable of sleeping 8 to 9 people. Bunkers appeared not to have been used in some time. The bunkers were destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 14  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

02 Oct At 022330H, JBG at XD 974687 heard tracked vehicles, voices and screaming 500 to a 1000 meters from their position. Artillery missions were conducted with excellent target coverage. An attempt was made to conduct Fixed Wing missions but the BLT was unable to illuminate the target for pilot orientation purposes since no arty battery available was within illumination range.

Ref: Journal No. 18  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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- 03 Oct At 030130H, JBF received 4 rounds of 130mm artillery resulting in 2 USMC KIA and 5 USMC WIA. Artillery came from an unknown direction and range. No action was possible.
- Ref: Journal No. 20  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)
- 03 Oct At 031140H, an AO under JB control detected two underwater bridges at XD 994704. AO directed 2 flights of Fixed Wing resulting in the destruction of the bridges, one additional culvert type bridge on the road being searched was destroyed and the road was cut in three places.
- Ref: Journal No. 25  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)
- 03 Oct At 031300H, JBG made contact with NVA in bunkers on top of the company objective at XD 979688. JBH at XD 976684 has made no contact and is continuing to move to a flanking position. JBE found a complex of vehicle revetments at XD 978676, they also found a vehicle parking area at XD 983670. Both were destroyed.
- Ref: Journal No. 26  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)
- 03 Oct At 032005H, JBG while directing artillery fire on a bunker complex at XD 979688 observed 6 secondary explosions.
- Ref: Journal No. 32  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)
- 04 Oct At 041325H, JBH found a 152mm gun position and 10-12 rounds of 152mm ammo at XD 984688. This finding occurred as JBH was moving to a position from which to attack the flank and rear of the bunker complex that JBG was engaging.
- Ref: Journal No. 35  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)
- 04 Oct At 041500H, JBH made contact with an estimated 25 NVA. JBH destroyed 3 machine gun bunkers and 1 60mm position. JBH also captured documents, small arms ammunition, RPG rounds and 1 60mm Mortar that was physically wrestled from its crew. Action resulted in 3 NVA KIA(C) and 14 USMC WIA.
- Ref: Journal No. 38  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)
- 04 Oct At 041800H, JBG encountered an NVA machine gun position and several bunkers at XD 979688. JBG maneuvered and threw grenades into the bunkers. Results of the action were 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA and 2 NVA KIA(C).
- Ref: Journal No. 39  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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05 Oct At 050001H, JOHN BROWN's (BLT 2/26) call sign was changed to SNUB NOSE.

Ref: Journal No. 41  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

05 Oct At 050730H, 81mm Mortar Platoon Forward Observer spotted an enemy bunker and truck at XD 996697. An Artillery mission was fired resulting in 3 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 43  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

05 Oct At 051745H, SNH at XD 958698 received 6 to 8 rounds of 130mm. A counter-artillery mission was fired on XD 984704. SNH reported 3 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 49  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

06 Oct At 061140H, SNF and SNH heard enemy artillery firing from approximately XD 982704 and YD 025738. Counter-Artillery mission was conducted resulting in 2 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 58  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

06 Oct At 061245H, SNH found 150 rounds of 152mm at XD 985686. Awaiting further instructions from HALL MARK.

Ref: Journal No. 59  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

06 Oct At 062045H, SNE F.O. conducting prep fires on XD 991692 observed 30 to 35 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 68  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 070900H, A.O. working for SNUB NOSE observed an oil slick on the Ben Hai River at XD 994704. Oil slick believed to be from enemy fuel drums that were ruptured by Close Air Support strikes conducted on bridges and dikes in the area.

Ref: Journal No. 73  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 071345H, SNE received 12 rounds of 82mm from XD 997687. Artillery and Air will be directed on suspected mortar sites.

Ref: Journal No. 78  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 071620H, SNE reported receiving approximately 5 rounds of 82mm incoming from XD 997688, resulting in 2 USMC WIA (minor). Counter-mortar fires being conducted.

Ref: Journal No. 80  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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07 Oct At 071415H, SNE while moving on a road at XD 985686 incurred 4 USMC WIA due to a command detonated device. Also received 130mm incoming at the same time from XD 984702. SNE withdrew and directed an artillery mission on the enemy positions.

Ref: Journal No. 82  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 071716H, SNH found a Soviet made 6 cylinder diesel, full track prime mover at XD 988689. Vehicle was partially burned. Appeared to have been hit by a 105mm round. There was a winch on the front bumper similar to our 6 X 6. On the rear a coupling device for pulling an artillery piece or something of that nature.

Ref: Journal No. 86  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 071716H, SNH discovered 85mm gun pits with ammo bunkers containing 40 rounds of 85mm ammo. Pits, bunkers and ammo were destroyed. This finding occurred as SNH was being maneuvered to the flank of an enemy position at XD 988689.

Ref: Journal No. 87  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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08 Oct At 081025H, an A.O. controlled by SNUB NOSE observed 200 to 300 meters of trench line and bunkers at XD 988693. C.A.S was committed resulting in 3 NVA KBA(C).

Ref: Journal No. 92  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

08 Oct At 081110H, SN received 3 rounds of 75mm fired from the vicinity of XD 988693. C.A.S. was committed resulting in the destruction of 3 bunkers, 1 truck revetment and 1 NVA KBA(C).

Ref: Journal No. 93  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

08 Oct At 081800H, SNH reported contact with enemy elements defending a hill at XD 988689 from 1400H to 1730H. Results of contact were: 2 USMC KIA, 11 USMC WIA and 17 NVA KIA(C). SNH also observed numerous bodies being dragged away. NVA equipment captured included U.S. 782 gear, 2 AK-47's and 2 AK-50's.

Ref: Journal No. 102  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

08 Oct At 081530H, SNE came under 82mm mortar attack at XD 987688. Results of attack were 1 USMC KIA and 17 USMC WIA.

Ref: Journal No. 105  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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08 Oct At 081725H, An A-1J observed 8 to 10 freshly built 5'X8' bunkers spaced over a distance of 150 meters. Bunkers were destroyed by Air.

Ref: Journal No. 103  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

09 Oct At 091700H, SNH reported that enemy vehicles could be heard in the vicinity of XD 990693. Subsequent artillery mission resulted in one secondary explosion.

Ref: Journal No. 113  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

09 Oct At 091740H, SNG found 2 very fresh NVA bunkers at XD 981687. One bunker contained 6 82mm rounds with fuzes. Rounds and bunkers destroyed with demolitions.

Ref: Journal No. 115  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

10 Oct At 100925H, SNH reported that the enemy dead from the contact on 08 Oct at XD 987689 were left at the scene of the fire fight; 11 more NVA bodies and a .30 cal machinegun were found.

Ref: Journal No. 122  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

10 Oct At 101605H, SNG found 2 mortar pits, 1 "A" frame bunker, a .50 cal machine gun position and 6 spent .50 cal rounds at XD 994695. All were destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 129  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

11 Oct At 110925H, SNG discovered 38 152mm canisters and charges at XD 993693. Rounds were in bunkers and well hidden.

Ref: Journal No. 134  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

11 Oct At 111015H, SNG found an additional 40 rounds of 152mm at XD 994694.

Ref: Journal No. 135  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

12 Oct At 121534H, SNF found a destroyed amphibious tractor at XD 997698. It had a 12 cylinder diesel engine with a winch on the rear. Presumably of USSR manufacture.

Ref: Journal No. 143  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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 13 Oct At 13130GH, SNF found a trail running east to southeast from XD 999697 to YD 003694. At YD 002695 they found 5 bunkers. Bunkers were destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 148  
 (Tab A to Enclosure 1)

15 Oct At 15113QH, SN elements found 3 bags of 152mm increments, 14 bunkers, 19 RPG rounds, 13 82mm rounds, 400 rounds AK-47, 6 NVA gas masks, 1 canteen and 4 grenades at XD 976681. Destroyed all ammunition and equipment with demolitions.

Ref: Journal No. 158  
 (Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 250001H, SNUB NOSE (BLT 2/26) call sign changed to WONDER WHY.

Ref: Journal No. 161A  
 (Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 250825H, WW "A" Command Group departed the LPH-5 for Cordon and Search Operations (Operation EAGER HUNTER) in the A.O.A. prescribed by CTC 79.4. Arrived 250835H.

Ref: Journal No. 162  
 (Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 251050H, an A.O. working with WVE directed C.A.S. on 15 VC at BT 078629. Direct hits with 250 lb bombs prevented an accurate body count. 1 VC KBA(C).

Ref: Journal No. 167  
 (Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 251155H, WVE detained 5 adults, 1 teenager and 2 babies at BT 095657. 2 of the adults had no ID cards, all were female, all were detained.

Ref: Journal No. 170  
 (Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 251300H, WVG detained 1 female at BT 109659. She was found to be listed on the 3d and 5th CIT Black List. She had \$9,275.20 VN on her person.

Ref: Journal No. 173  
 (Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 251530H, Operational Control of WW (BLT 2/26) passed to PANAMA HAT (1st Marines). WW commenced Operation GARRARD BAY.

Ref: Journal No. 174  
 (Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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26 Oct At 261030H, WWH found 75 sheets of handwritten documents, mess gear, parts of NVA grenades and 3 sets of NVA uniforms at BT 097656. Documents and other gear was turned in to S-2; grenade parts were blown in place.

Ref: Journal No. 184  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

26 Oct At 260930H, WWF was approached by 3 female adults carrying a fourth and 2 male children at BT 089653. The woman being carried had a gunshot wound in her right foot. One of the women had no ID card and her name was on the ITT Black List. ITT released the others without authorization from WW2 or WW3. One female detainee forwarded to PH CP.

Ref: Journal No. 187  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

26 Oct At 261530H, WWF found a tunnel which had been previously booby trapped; booby trap had been removed. A 55 gal drum of rice was also found at BT 092658. The rice was scattered over a large area as a denial measure.

Ref: Journal No. 188  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

26 Oct At 262345H, a WWE LP was taken under fire by an unknown size enemy unit at BT 091647. Fire was returned and an 81mm mission was directed with unknown results. 2 USMC WIA (minor).

Ref: Journal No. 191  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 270800H, WW helilift to Phong Ha (BT 072623) initiated.

Ref: Journal No. 192A  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 270600H, WWE found a bunker complex and 2 huts which appeared to be a rest area/mine factory at BT 058624. Also discovered 150 lbs of rice, assorted clothing and small articles. Destroyed in place.

Ref: Journal No. 207  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 271220H, WWH found and searched 1 bunker and 3 straw hooches at BT 072625. Search revealed 3 100 lb bags of flour and 135 lbs of rice. Destroyed in place.

Ref: Journal No. 205  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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27 Oct At 271500H, WWF found 1 to 3 tons of rice hidden in vases and stone containers made up to look like grave sites. Three individual M-26 grenades were employed as booby traps and 1 M-26 was hooked up with a 105mm round at BT 065628. Booby traps and rice was destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 208  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 271630H, WWF found 6 bunkers at BT 071620. Five of the bunkers were surrounded by spider holes. Bunkers and holes were destroyed. The bunkers had tin roofs and were lined with brick with concrete floors.

Ref: Journal No. 209  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 271800H, WWF at BT 068625 found 2 booby trapped M-26 grenades. Pins were pulled and grenades placed in fruit cans with trip wires. Blown in place. A 25 lb box mine was found in the same vicinity. Pressure release device on mine was accidentally released detonating mine which resulted in 2 USMC WIA (medevaced).

Ref: Journal No. 203  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

28 Oct At 280110H, WWF at BT 065625 received 20 rounds of 82mm from BT 074632. Counter mortar fires were conducted. Incoming resulted in 5 USMC KIA and 15 USMC WIA (medevaced).

Ref: Journal No. 211  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

28 Oct At 280930H, WWF collected 94 civilians at BT 066628, mostly middle aged women and children. One child about 6 years old led a WWF element to a small cache of rice. About 90% of the collected civilians had ID cards.

Ref: Journal No. 215  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

28 Oct At 280930H, WWF sent 500 lbs of rice to be evacuated from LZ DEFEND. An additional 1000 lbs was destroyed as it was untransportable.

Ref: Journal No. 216  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

28 Oct At 281010H, WWF found 900 lbs of unhusked rice in urns at BT 066628. The rice was transported to LZ DEFEND for evacuation.

Ref: Journal No. 217  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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28 Oct At approximately 281200H, WW helilift to Tra Lo (BT 086682) was initiated.

Ref: Journal No. 213A  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 290830H, a mine was set off by WWG at BT 080690 resulting in 1 USMC KIA and 1 USMC WIA.

Ref: Journal No. 225  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291030H, WWH encountered 1 VN male at BT 087679. Individual had no ID Card. Sent to IFF at 2d Battalion, 1st Marines CP for interrogation.

Ref: Journal No. 223  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291030H, a mine was set off by WWG at BT 080690 resulting in 2 USMC WIA (medevaced). 1 of the WIA's later died.

Ref: Journal No. 225  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291100H, WVE found 7 brick lined bomb shelters at BT 076682, medical supplies at BT 075681, 4 detainees at BT 074683, red flag with gold hammer and sickle and several documents at BT 076682. Bunkers were blown, medical supplies given to the ARVN's and detainees, flag and documents were sent to WW3's position.

Ref: Journal No. 229  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291100H, WWG found 2 teenaged VN males who had been killed by shrapnel at BT 084687. WWG had not fired arty or mortars in that area. Bodies were left at that position.

Ref: Journal No. 233  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291130H, a Marine from WWF detonated a small booby trap at BT 065690 resulting in 1 USMC WIA (minor).

Ref: Journal No. 226  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291515H, WWF during cordon of Tra Khe II at BT 067683 detained 18 VN, 6 of whom appeared on the Black List. Detainees delivered to 2/1 IFF.

Ref: Journal No. 231  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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30 Oct At 301240H, a member of WVG at BT 080690 set off a M-26 booby trap resulting in 1 USMC WIA (medevaced).

Ref: Journal No. 237  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

31 Oct At approximately 310800H, WW elements were helilifted to the vicinity of Nui Kim Son (BT 073707) to conduct Cordon and Search of that village.

Ref: Journal No. 240A  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

31 Oct At 311030H, WVG found a cave containing 1 VN male skeleton which was wrapped in plastic and appeared to have been dead for at least 6 months. A tin of 7.62mm AK-47 ammo was also found in the cave which was located at BT 076704.

Ref: Journal No. 243  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

31 Oct At 311155H, CTF and ITT with security provided by WW elements, screened 122 VN at BT 073707 (Nui Kim Son) resulting in the detention of 1 VN male who had 30,000 Piastres on his person, 1 16 year old VN male who was pointed out by the afore mentioned VN who stated that the 16 year old was a guide for transient VC/NVA forces. 3 VN women whose names appear on the Black List were also detained.

Ref: Journal No's 245 & 255  
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

### 3. PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

#### a. Personnel

- (1) Number of replacements received: 5 Officers & 169 Enlisted.
- (2) Number of personnel lost through rotation: 6 Officers & 99 Enlisted.
- (3) Number of personnel lost through attrition other than rotation:

(a) KIA:	Officers	<u>0</u>	Enlisted:	<u>18</u>
1	DMZ	0		9
2	Vien Dong	0		1
3	Nui Kim Son	0		6
*	4 Khe Sanh	0		2

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(b) DOW: Officers: 0 Enlisted: 1  
1 Nui Kim Son 0 1

(c) WIA: Officers: 3 Enlisted: 73  
1 DMZ 1 56  
2 Cua Viet 0 1  
3 Viem Dong 0 1  
4 Nui Kim Son 2 15

(d) NBC: Officers 0 Enlisted: 34  
1 DMZ 0 22  
2 Cua Viet 0 2  
3 Viem Dong 0 5  
4 Nui Kim Son 0 5

(e) Intra-MAB/Regiment Transfers: 19

\* Previously listed MIA's from Khe Sanh (During March 1968).

(4) Number of personnel wounded, treated and returned to duty, and non-battle casualties returned to duty after treatment.

(a) WIA: Officers 1 Enlisted: 9  
1 DMZ 0 8  
2 Nui Kim Son 1 1

(b) NBC: Officers 0 Enlisted: 6

b. Administration

(1) Awards: One (1) Silver Star was awarded in the Battalion.

(2) Promotions:

1stLt	- 3	Sgt	- 2
2ndLt	- 1	Cpl	- 64
SSgt	- 2	LCpl	- 4
		PFC	- 8

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(3) Postal Services: Mail service has been excellent with almost daily delivery to the troops in the field. Mail is initially sorted in the rear and couriered to the field for distribution.

(4) Post Exchange: Post exchange facilities were available only to the Battalion Rear except during the period 19-25 October, when the Battalion Landing Team was backloaded aboard ship.

(5) Special Services: Writing kits, games and sweatshirts were issued to all units. Special Services funds were used to purchase beer and soda for distribution to all personnel.

#### 4. INTELLIGENCE

a. Enemy Situation at the Beginning of the Reporting Period. The suspected enemy units located within or adjacent to the operating area belonged to the 320th NVA Division. Elements of the 52d Regiment, 320th NVA Division were last reported as being located south of the Ben Hai River, within the southern boundary of the DMZ. The 48th Regiment, 320th NVA Division was thought to be located to the NW and West of the BLT 2/26 A.O. NVA artillery units were located just North of the Ben Hai River and also deep within the area of N. Vietnam. Although the location of two NVA artillery pieces (75mm Pack Howitzers) was known, the 130mm artillery locations remained undetected. The NVA units engaged by BLT 2/26 were also supported by a transportation unit, which did in fact, employ vehicles south of the Ben Hai River within the BLT 2/26 A.O. The vehicles were prime movers for 152mm artillery pieces, which were removed from the operating area, probably before insertion of BLT 2/26.

#### b. Enemy Initiated Incidents During the Reporting Period.

(1) Contacts: During the reporting period there were 11 ground contacts, the most significant of which occurred on 08 October. During this engagement, H/2/26 killed a minimum of 28 NVA (C).

(2) Sniper: During the reporting period there were 6 sniper incidents, all of which occurred while BLT 2/26 was OPCON to the 1st Marines.

(3) Mines/Booby-Traps: While operating under the OPCON of the 1st LVT Battalion, in the area north of OCEAN VIEW (YD 292752), BLT 2/26 located and destroyed 4 booby-traps. During this same period, two AmTracs and one Tank detonated mines of an unknown type while operating in conjunction with BLT 2/26. During the reporting period in which BLT 2/26 was operating in the 1st Marines A.O., BLT 2/26 elements encountered 14 mines and 18 booby-traps. Of that total only four were detonated and inflicted casualties.

(4) Artillery/Mortar Fire: During the reporting period, the enemy engaged BLT 2/26 with artillery on 12 occasions and with mortar fire 5 times. Following is a recapitulation of the number of rounds and caliber. Also provided are locations of known artillery and mortar positions that fired upon BLT 2/26.

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## (a) Recapitulation of Rounds Received.

68 - 130mm Rds  
 6 - 75mm Pack Howitzer Rds  
 Unk - 107mm Recoilless Rifle Rds  
 32 - 82mm Rds  
 Unk - 60mm Rds  
 51 - Unknown Type Arty Rds

## (b) Known artillery and mortar positions are indicated below:

75mm Pack Howitzer XD 985704, XD 988693 & YD 001719  
 107mm RR XD 993705  
 82mm Mortar XD 997687 & BT 074632  
 60mm Mortar XD 990692, XD 988691, XD 994688 & XD 998697  
 Unk Type Mortar XD 998693, XD 994687 & XD 997688  
 Pos/Susp Arty Pans XD 984694, XD 985740 & XD 984702  
 152mm Gun position found at XD 984687.  
 85mm Gun position found at XD 988688.

c. Summary of Enemy Casualties, Captured and Equipment Captured During Period.

(1) KIA (Ground) 34  
 (2) KBA (Air) 7  
 (3) KBA (Arty) 3  
 (4) Detainees 18  
 (5) Captured Equipment:

240 Rds 152mm  
 20 Rds 85mm  
 19 Rds 82mm  
 02 AK-47 Rifles  
 02 AK-50 Rifles  
 01 .30 cal M.G.  
 Small amounts of medical and 782 gear.

(6) Equipment Destroyed:

6935 lbs Rice  
 30 lbs Flour  
 19 Rds RPG  
 05 Chi-Com Grenades  
 01 Amphibious Tracked Vehicle  
 01 Tracked Vehicle  
 01 60mm Mortar Tube  
 Small amounts of NVA uniforms.

(7) Destroyed Enemy Positions:

Bunkers 59  
 Bridges 1  
 Underwater Bridges 2  
 .50 cal Positions 1

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d. Significant Trends Noted During Reporting Period.

(1) The enemy artillery positions and a suspected command and control complex located within the Southern boundary of the DMZ were defended by an estimated NVA Infantry Battalion (Rein). The infantry assumed a series of defensive positions that were easily defended by platoon sized units. These defensive positions were of the classic reverse-slope defense, well concealed with dense underbrush and heavily bunkered. The NVA fought initially against the BLT 2/26 in a defensive nature, employing Small Arms, Automatic Weapons, Mortars, Direct Fire flat trajectory weapons and Artillery. The initial NVA unit engaged (estimated company size) was a determined and well trained soldier, however, after intensive friendly supporting arms were brought to bear on the NVA positions, the enemy unit withdrew, only to take up a defensive posture once again in prepared positions.

(2) The artillery gun pits and suspected command center was ringed with prepared mortar pits. It was noted that the majority of these positions were located to the rear and flanks of both the command center and gun pits. The mortar crews would often fire, move immediately to a new position, and resume firing.

e. Enemy Situation at the End of Period.

(1) During the sweep along the coastal area above Cua Viet and Ocean View, no known enemy units were reported as being located within the BLT 2/26 A.O.

(2) The areas of Phong Ho II (BT 0662), to Viem Dong (BT 0965) and Nui Kim Son (BT 0770) are major infiltration routes for enemy units moving along the coastal area. Enemy units known to move within this area are the R 20 Local Force Battalion, the T-89 Sapper Battalion and the Q-86 (HOA VANG) Local Force Company. The presence of the T-89 Sapper Battalion within the BLT 2/26 A.O. was indicated by the number of mines and booby-traps encountered. Although no major ground contact was established with the R 20 Battalion, it is highly probable that it was that unit which mortared F/2/26 on 28 October during early morning hours.

f. Weather: The Weather during the 1st part of the reporting period was poor and a definite handicap to air operation. However, the weather changed and was good during the latter portion of the reporting period.

5. OPERATIONS

a. Command Relations. The BLT was under the operational control of the following commands:

9th Marines	010001H to 011059H Oct 1968
3d Marines	011100H to 171559H Oct 1968
1st AmTrac Bn	171600H to 191259H Oct 1968
CTG 79.4	191300H to 251529H Oct 1968
1st Marines	251530H to 312400H Oct 1968

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b. Major Operations participated in were:

Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE NORTH	1 Oct 1968
Operation LANCASTER II	1 to 17 Oct 1968
Operation NAPOLEON - SALINE	17 to 19 Oct 1968
Operation EAGER HUNTER	25 Oct 1968
Operation GARRARD BAY	25 to 31 Oct 1968

c. New Techniques.

(1) During the period of operations on the Ben Hai River, the BLT found itself in a position wherein the enemy could and did employ supporting arms to include general support artillery, in the defense of tactical positions. The most effective counter to the situation was to adopt a technique more frequently attributed to the NVA; that of operating cross-country and cross-compartment in order to take full advantage of the concealment afforded by the dense vegetation. It was found that the individual Marine adapted well to this technique while the NVA never seemed to grasp the fact that the main attack and bulk of the BLT forces were not moving along the easier ground on the trace of the road being searched.

(2) A second technique that is doubtless not new but one that proved sufficiently effective to warrant reaffirmation was that of locating LZ's remote from the command post or other positions. The LZ's proved to be a registration point for enemy artillery and, despite the additional effort and troop unit commitment involved in man-carrying supplies, the remote location of LZ's was considered valid in that the enemy wasted many artillery missions searching for what he assumed to be positions in the vicinity of LZ's.

(3) When enemy artillery or mortars did impact into a friendly position, no early attempts were made to medevac wounded unless the wounded were of the emergency category. It was noted early that much of the enemy artillery fire was brought to bear on areas that he suspected were occupied by BLT 2/26. In view of the fact that, for no apparent reason, the enemy would fire a few rounds into a terrain feature and then cease fire. It was felt that the cease fire tactic was used to detect the approach of Medevac aircraft. Consequently, so long as the lives of individual Marines were not endangered, evacuation took place hours later, normally from an LZ remote from the point of injury. The enemy appeared unable to react quickly to the sudden appearance of Medevac aircraft in an unsuspected area and seems to have not associated the evacuations with his previous artillery missions.

(4) The standard enemy defenses encountered on the Ben Hai operation was a series of mutually supporting reverse slope bunkers covering more than one piece of defensible terrain. In one instance, the example covered a series of three small hills astride the road being searched. When air strikes were initially employed on the first reverse slope it was noticed that the enemy resistance was not substantially

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weakened despite the fact that ten flights, some armed with 750 lb bombs were committed. It was decided that the enemy, taking advantage of the thick vegetation and time lapse between the Aerial Observer's marking round and roll-in of the first attacking aircraft, were abandoning the positions and observing the air attack from the next rearward position. Accordingly, on the next day after detailed briefings of pilots and the Aerial Observer, air strikes were conducted on targets other than those marked by the Aerial Observer's rockets. Enemy resistance was noticeably and almost immediately reduced.

(5) While hardly a new technique, it should be noted that the NVA defenders were particularly unmindful of the flanks or incapable of early detection and reaction to a flanking attack. On two separate occasions, the defenders were concentrating upon the secondary attack moving on the trace of the road and were completely surprised by attacks from the left and left rear. Whether this is an inherent weakness in NVA defensive doctrine or a reflection of our normal tendency to attack astride lines of communication cannot be accurately assessed.

(6) Lastly, no new techniques were found when physically attacking fortified positions; however, mention should be made of the fact that the Marine Corps doctrinal method of attacking fortified positions remains sound. Flame throwers were not available to the BLF nor were satchel charges. There is no substitute for the former, while grenades and field-manufactured devices were substituted for the latter. In all other respects, the bunkers were successfully attacked in accordance with Marine Corps Doctrine.

d. Training. On-the-job-training was conducted by all elements of the BLF during the month. All rifle companies, the 81mm Mortar Plt, Engineers and the 106mm RH Plt also received 2 hours of instruction on enemy mines and booby-traps presented by a 1st Engineer Battalion contact team.

e. Fire Support.

(1) Artillery. From 1 October to 17 October, 1968, BLF 2/26 received artillery support from 1st Battalion, 12th Marines located at Camp Carroll.

- (a) 165 H&I's were fired.
- (b) 157 HE missions were fired.
- (c) 4 Illumination missions were fired.
- (d) 6 significant missions were fired during the period.

1 At O32000H, Company G's F.O. called in a fire mission for prep fires at grid XD 979688 resulting in 7-8 secondary explosions.

2 At O41515H, Company E's F.O. called in a fire mission on active enemy mortar at grid XD 982682 resulting in excellent coverage and mortar silenced.

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3 At 052110H, Company H's F.O. called in a fire mission on suspected enemy movement at grid XD 980699 resulting in 1 possible secondary and cessation of movement.

4 At 080030H, Company H's F.O. called in a fire mission on a suspected enemy position at grid YD 005696, resulting in 3 secondary explosions.

5 At 080100H, Company G's F.O. called in a fire mission on suspected active arty at XD 973704, resulting in 6 secondary explosions.

6 At 092130H, Company G's F.O. called in a fire mission on a known enemy position and prep fire at XD 987693, resulting in 6 secondary explosions.

(2) From 25 to 31 October, 1968, the BLT received artillery support from 1st Bn, 11th Marines located at Da Nang.

- (a) No H&I's were fired.
- (b) 20 HE missions were fired.
- (c) 3 Illumination missions were fired.
- (d) There were no significant missions.

(3) 81mm Mortar Plt.

(a) The 81mm Mortar Platoon supported the BLT throughout the period 1 to 17 and 25 to 31 October, 1968. The platoon was located at the BLT CP in the field.

- 1 20 HE missions were fired.
- 2 12 WP missions were fired.
- 3 No illumination missions were fired.
- 4 One significant mission was fired.

a At 081530H, the platoon conducted a mission in support of Companies E and H at XD 994692. One enemy 60mm mortar was destroyed and the Platoon was credited with thwarting an attempted enemy counter-attack while inflicting numerous casualties upon the enemy force.

(4) 106mm RE Plt. The Platoon supported the BLT during the period 27 to 31 October, 1968.

(a) 8 rounds of HEAT and 8 rounds of HEPT were fired at an active enemy mortar site destroying two buildings.

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f. Air Support. During October, BLF 2/26 made eight Battalion size helilifts consisting of Rifle Companies, the "A" Command Group, 81mm Mortar Platoon and the 106mm RR Platoon. Of these, six were tactical and two were administrative. The lifts involved 4,290 troops and over 80,000 lbs of cargo. Particularly note-worthy was the period 25 to 31 October during which BLF 2/26 made four tactical helilifts within seven days. Fixed Wing support was hampered by poor weather early in the month while the BLF was in the DMZ. During the latter part of the month, although good weather prevailed, extensive use of Fixed Wing support was precluded by the cordon and search missions assigned the BLF. As a result, only 33 Fixed Wing sorties were flown in support of the BLF. Offsetting this was the large number (80) of Aerial Observers, in support of the BLF. On several days Aerial Observation was provided almost continuously from 0700 to 1800. 163 troops were medevaced by helicopter during the month. The most significant single mission was the extraction of 20 personnel wounded by a mortar barrage during the night of 27-28 October. C-130 Flareships, AC-47 Flare/Gunships, Huey Gunships and UH-34D Medevac helicopters were all employed.

## 6. LOGISTICS.

a. Source of Supply and Maintenance. The source of supply and 3d/4th echelon maintenance support for the BLF during the period was FLSG-B Dong Ha and FLC Da Nang.

### b. Status of Supplies.

(1) During the reported period, the BLF underwent an extensive rehab of clothing and 782 gear. The source of rehab was organic supply, it was carried out on ARG Shipping.

(2) Gas masks and upper body torso armor are no longer in critical short supply. M-16 rifle cleaning rods are now available in moderate quantities.

(3) There are still shortages of 2d echelon repair parts. This situation is compounded by a lack of SL-3 and SL-4 publications. These publications have been ordered however, the lead time required is approximately 3 months.

(4) Resupply. Resupply was accomplished through Vandegrift; Class II and Medical Supplies were sent from Dong Ha to Vandegrift. Upon commencement of Operation EAGER HUNTER, initial resupply was accomplished from the USS PRINCETON. Upon completion of debarkation and establishment of the BLF Rear in Da Nang, resupply was accomplished by truck convoy to the forward elements of the Battalion.

### c. Transportation.

(1) Surface. Surface transportation was utilized to transport supplies from Dong Ha to Vandegrift and from Da Nang to the Battalion forward position.

(2) Air. Resupply was accomplished by helicopter from Vandegrift and the USS PRINCETON and Pad 23 Da Nang.

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d. Service.

(1) Water. The Battalion relied on water resupply by helicopter and surface transportation, natural sources were utilized when available.

(2) Laundry. Facilities were available at Vandegrift and were utilized by BLT Support personnel. While embarked aboard ARG Shipping, facilities were utilized by all BLT personnel.

(3) Food Services. The tactical elements of the Battalion subsisted mainly on "C" rations, supplemented by hot meals provided by host units. The rear elements of the Battalion subsisted in messes at Camp Carroll, Dong Ha and Da Nang. Cooks and messmen were provided as required.

e. Maintenance. During the reporting period, the BLT underwent an extensive rehab of its Motor Transport, Ordnance, Engineer and Communication/Electronic equipment. This rehab was accomplished at the facilities of Maintenance Battalion, FIC Da Nang. During rehab, 1st and 2d echelon maintenance was carried out by BLT personnel. BLT personnel also assisted FIC personnel in 3d and 4th echelon maintenance.

7. CIVIL AFFAIRS. No Civil Affairs projects were conducted during the reporting period.

8. COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.

a. General. During the past month, the BLT Communications Platoon provided communications support for the BLT for Operations conducted during the reporting period.

b. Radio.

(1) Constant radio communications were maintained between the BLT and Higher Headquarters, Rifle Companies and Supporting Arms. The Tactical Air Control Party continued using UHF and VHF radio equipment in the support of the BLT.

(2) A covered radio circuit employing a KY-8 and a KY-38 was used for ciphered traffic to Higher Headquarters.

c. Wire. A switching central was employed by the BLT aboard the USS PRINCETON (LPH-5) in order to provide communications between the BLT and SLF staffs. During operations ashore, wire communications was used sparingly due to the rapid movement of the BLT. Wire communications in the Alpha Command Group consisted of "hot lines" from supporting units to the Command Post. Upon landing the entire BLT on 27 October, a switching central with trunk lines to Force Logistics Command and units within the BLT was installed.

d. Message Center. During the past month, a total of 2,458 messages were processed. Communications Guard was maintained aboard the USS PRINCETON until 28 October and then was maintained by Force Logistics Command.

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e. Radio Relay. The two AN/TRC-27 terminals were not employed due to the deadlining of one RT-252.

f. Maintenance and Supply. Upon reembarking, a Limited Technical Inspection was performed on all communications equipment that had been employed by the BLF when ashore. AN/PRC-25 accessories were received during the past month which temporarily alleviated the existing shortages. An RT-252 was placed on "Red Ball" in an attempt to remove the two AN/TRC-27 terminals from deadline.

#### 9. MEDICAL SUPPORT.

a. The BAS treated 911 patients during the month of October, 1968. Dr. G.R. ROWAN arrived on board 17 October, 1968 as Dr. G.S. PATRICK's relief.

b. Diseases encountered during the month are as follows:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>No. of Occurrences</u>
URI	28
GC	6
FLU	15
DIARRHEA	25
DERMATOLOGY	128
HEAT CASUALTIES	4
GASTROENTERITIS	12
EYE DISEASE	28

c. Medical Support for the Battalion was provided by the Clearing Platoon aboard the USS PRINCETON until 25 October when support was provided by the Force Logistics Command's Medical Department.

d. Supply source was from the Clearing Platoon and the organic BAS until 25 October when the source became FLC and the organic BAS.

#### 10. RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

a. Name of Chaplain assigned: Lt. Jerry A. ZANDSTRA, CHC, USNR.

b. Services conducted:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Sunday Worship - Protestant	7	301
Sunday Mass - Catholic	4	142
Weekday Worship - Protestant	6	347
Weekday Mass - Catholic	7	56
Holy Communion - Protestant	2	64
Daily Devotions	6	122
Battalion Memorial Service	1	400

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c. Personnel receiving counsel:

- (1) Professional counselling cases - 48:
- (2) American Red Cross cases - 16.
- (3) Cases utilizing MARS radiotelephone - 17.

d. Significant activities:

(1) Received and distributed 21 cartons of health and comfort items. Letters were written on behalf of the Command to the donors.

(2) Writing gear, sweat shirts, shorts, socks and personal items were acquired from Special Services and distributed to members of the BLF.

(3) Sponsored hymn sings for the men on the PRINCETON. Seven such services were held with a total attendance of 97.

(4) Visits were made to wounded in 3rd Med facilities at Quang Tri, 1st Med at Da Nang, the REPOSE, the SANCTUARY, and daily when aboard the PRINCETON.

e. Facilities: While aboard ARG shipping, ships facilities were utilized. While ashore, services were held in the field.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ Tab A to Enclosure (1) - - - - - Unit Journal

✓ TAB B

A/RPT (DAN LANCASTER II/TROUSDALE NORTH

Enclosure (1)

0530-68 CTG 29.4

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

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BT # 0227168

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IN. OUT. SER #	PTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
0520	010430H	STREP # 1	FR
0900	010900H	BLF 2/26 CHOPPED to 3d Marines for special operation in the DMZ.	FST
1735	011700H	STREP # 2	FR
1825	011100H	SptRpt Summary: Period 011000H to 011800H; Received approx 50 130mm Arty at 969679. Fired counter-arty with unknown results. JMG made contact with <sup>XP</sup> 10-12 NVA at 981662 resulting in 2 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA and 3 NVA (C). SptRpt: JB CP at 967686 received 2 rds of suspected 130mm. Fired counter-arty with unknown results.	FBR
2040	012030H		FBR
2505	012300H	STREP # 3	FR
0430	020430H	STREP # 4	FR
0730	020708H	SptRpt: JMG heard heavy movement at 092704; movement appeared to be moving N to S. Diesel engines were believed to have been heard. Keeping area under observation.	FBR
0800	020600H	SptRpt: JB CP received 2 rds of suspected 130mm at 092704; fired counter-arty with unknown results.	FBR
1000	021000H	STREP # 5	FR
1200	021140H	FM to JB: Boundary Change effective 021300H.	FST

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IN. OUTSER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1240	12	021225 PW to JB: Operation Requirements	FS
1605	13	021320 SpBpts: JG made contact with 11 NVA and a bunker complex at XD 979688. Called for A.O. and fired wing.	FSR
1615	14	021440 SpBpts: H2P at XD 966687 found 7 living bunkers capable of sleeping 8-9 people. The area had not been used in some time. Bunkers were destroyed.	FSR
1645	15	021600 STRREP: #6	FR
2200	16	022200 SpBpts: Company G heard noises sounding like diesel or heavy equipment running at 15 to 20 second interval at approx enemy grid 9697. Will continue to keep area under surveillance.	FSR
2305	17	022300 STRREP # 7	FR
0014	18	022330 SpBpts: Company G at XD 974687 heard suspected tracked vehicles, robes and screaming on the trail 500 to 1000 meters away and moving toward their post. Requested flare ship. Fired wing and arty missions were conducted with excellent target coverage and unknown results.	FSR
0200	19	030130 SpBpts: Companies F and H in vicinity of XD 978678 and XD 968678. heard what sounded like an engine, further to the east than the first engine report. Company H also heard an engine starting. An arty rd impacted in vicinity of	

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IN. OVT SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
		noises ceasing all movement. Arty missions continued throughout the night with excellent target coverage.	PSR
0230	20 030130H	SptBpt: Company F received approx 4 rds of suspected 150mm arty resulting in 2 USMC KIA and 5 USMC WIA. Enemy arty rds came from unknown direction, no action taken.	PSR
0352	21 030215H	SptBpt: Company G at XD 974684 heard what sounded like truck doors being closed to their front. Voices were also heard. Fired wing was on station, but did not attack because AO could not locate target.	PSR
0800	22 030800H	Col THOMAS from SLP Staff and Col MICHAELS visited JBOP.	PS
1155	23 031045H	An AO in support of BLP 2/26 spotted 2 MVA in the open in vicinity of XD 994691. Arty mission was fired and adjusted by AO with unknown results.	PSR
1216	24 031100H	SPTREP # 8	TR
1255	25 031140H	SptBpt: AO under JB control spotted two under-water bridges at XD 994704. Directed 2 flights of Fixed Wing resulting in the destruction of the two under-water bridges, one eulvert type bridge and Route # 5 being out in three places.	PSR

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IN. OUTSER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1318 26	031300H	Special Stryer: Company G made contact with NVA at 979688. NVA are in bunkers at the top of Company G's objective. BUN 2/26 is attempting to work around bunkers to seize the objective. Company H at XD 976684 had made no contact and continue to move to a flanking position. Co E found a complex which appears to be revetments for NVA vehicles at XD978676, they also found a garage at XD 983670. Both were destroyed by E Co.	PSR
1515 27	031300H	SyBpt: JBG made contact with NVA at XD 980688 incurring 2 USMC KIA. Requested and directed an AD and 3 flights of Fixed Wing resulting in 2 NVA KIA (C). PSR	PSR
1715 28	031645H	SyBpt: JBG at XD 979688, while in the attack on their objective tripped a booby trap which released a white smoke. JBG donned gas masks and continued the attack.	PSR
1725 29	031700H	STRIPER # 9	PSR
1730 30	031355H	SyBpt: JBG at XD979688 while moving to their objective, spotted 1 NVA, later they were taken under fire by a MG. JBG then pulled back and directed fixed wing with unknown results. (MG was silenced.)	PSR
PO10 31	032000H	SyBpt: JBG spotted red blinking lights 3300 to 3400 mila from their post at XD 993628. Lights appeared to be on the deck moving 5 mph.	PSR

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IN. OUT. SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
2015 32	092005H 042100H	SptBpt: JBG's FO while directing arty on a bunker complex at XD 979688, observed 6 secondary explosions.	FSR
2305 33	092300H	SITREP # 10	FR
0430 34	040430H	SITREP # 11	FR
1400 35	041325H	SptBpt: JBG at XD 984688 found a 152mm gun pl't and approx 10-12 rds of ammo in a bunker at the same position.	FS R
1435 36	041400H	SptBpt: JBG at XD 992686 spotted two people wearing utilities and bush hats carrying carbines at XD 993677. They did not see Co F patrol. Thought to be friendlies.	FSR
1445 37	041400H	Frag Order 52-68 effective 051600H.	FS
2220 38	041500H	SptBpt: JBG at XD982688 made contact with approx 25 NVA. JBG knocked out 3 MG bunkers and 1 60mm position. JBG also captured documents, small arms rounds and RFJ rounds. 3 NVA KIA(G) and 14 USMC WIA.	FS R
2225 39	041800H	SptBpt: JBG at XD 979688 encountered an NVA MG position with bunkers. JBG elements maneuvered and threw grenades into the bunkers blowing NVA helmets and gear out of the bunkers. 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA and 2 NVA KIA(G).	FSR
2315 40	042300H	SITREP # 12	FR



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IN. DIV. SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
0901 41	050001H	JB changed callign to SNDB NOSE.	FSR
0550 42	050430H	STREP # 13.	FSR
1035 43	050730H	SgtRpt: SN "W" FO observed an enemy bunker and a truck at XD 99586970. Arty mission was fired resulting in 3 secondary explosions.	FSR
1055 44	051030H	SgtRpt: AO reports the underwater bridge at XD 994704 has been repaired. AO requested RPQ.	FSR
1100 45	051030H	STREP # 14.	FSR
1432 46	051410H	SgtRpt: SN G & H seized their objectives.	FSR
1649 47	051630H	STREP # 15.	FSR
1855 48	051630H	SgtRpt: SNH at XD 955698 reports a helicopter received automatic weapons fire from XD 985688 while extracting medevacs. Arty and organic weapons were fired on enemy coordinates with unknown results.	FSR
1903 49	051745H	SgtRpt: SNH received 6 to 8 rds of 130mm @ XD 958698. Counter-arty was fired on XD 984704; SNH FO reported having 3 secondary explosions.	FSR
1910 50	051830H	HM to SN: Boundary Change.	FSR
2100 51	052045H	SgtRpt: SNB moved back up their objective at XD 979688 with no enemy resistance. Found mortar pits and bunkers with much blood in them.	FSR

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2310	52	052300H SITREP # 16	FSR
0435	53	060430H SITREP # 17	FSR
0844	54	060740H SptRpt: AO was fired on by automatic weapons from XD 988690. No damage to AO. Continuing to observe area.	FSR
0940	55	060900H SptRpt: AO spotted comm wire crossing the Big Blue at XD 958698 to XD 988699. Attempting to cut line with arty missions	FSR
0940	56	060900H SptRpt: AO observed 2 fording dikes at XD 994705. Dikes had bomb craters at either end, but a re still possible. Fixed wing requested.	FSR
1107	57	061100H SITREP # 18	FSR
1220	58	061140H SptRpt: Sn F and H heard enemy arty firing from approx XD 982704 and XD 025738. Arty mission conducted resulting in 2 secondary explosions.	FSR
1249	59	061245H SptRpt: Sn H found 150 rounds of 152mm at XD 985686. Awaiting further instructions of HM.	FSR
1445	60	061430H SptRpt: Observed active enemy arty at XD 987704. Requesting arty and air.	FSR
1512	61	061500H SptRpt: AO and Sn H spotted active arty at XD 985704. Arty and fixed wing requested.	FSR

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1630	061540H	SPTREP: AD reports sighting probable ammo-fuel storage area, re-ventment, possible truck park, and well used trails at XD 997706. Requesting arty and air.	FSR
1715	061600H	SITREP # 19.	FR
1720	061650H	SM 3 to HQ3: SPECIAL SUPREP	FSR
1836	061530H	SPTREP: SNE found 1 demolished half track at XD 987687 which had been destroyed by arty or air.	FSR
1845	061530H	Intelligence Summary	FSR
1945	061812H	SPTREP: SM lines heard en fire 3 rds of suspected 75 mm from XD 001719. F/w being directed.	FSR
2140	062045H	SPTREP: While firing prep fires for SNE the FO believes he observed 30 to 35 secondary explosions at XD 991692. Will H & L.	FSR
2305	062300H	SITREP # 20.	FR
0435	070430H	SITREP # 21	FR
0935	070840H	SPTREP: Lead elements of SNE at XD 989688 report intersection of Route # 5 which is larger and more heavily traveled. Will be checked.	FSR

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0940 72	070915H	SgtRpt: SNE at XD 984685 observed an air burst or flack exploding in vicinity of an A.O. at an AZ of 0330 Wils and an undetermined range. Arranging for a flack suppression program.	PSR
1055 73	070900H	SgtRpt: A.O. observed what appeared to be an oil slick on the Ben Det at XD 994704. Oil slick believed to be ruptured enemy fuel drums, as a result of fixed wing being run on bridges and dikes in the area.	PSR
1102 74	070815H	SgtRpt: A.O. reports arty destroyed camouflaged at XD 995695 revealing many enemy bunkers. Fixed wing and arty missions will continue.	PSR
1232 75	071145H	SgtRpt: An A.O. observed tracks of a track vehicle on a bridge that was bombed yesterday by fixed wing at XD 994704. Additional fixed wing has been requested.	PSR
1245 76	071130H	SgtRpt # 22	PSR
1346 77	071200H	SgtRpt: A.O. observed a new trail that appears to be heavily used at from XD 010685 to XD 015692. Continuing to observe.	PSR
1413 78	071345H	SgtRpt: SNE received 12 82mm rounds from XD 997687. Arty and air will be directed.	PSR

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1500 79	071422H	SptRpt: SMH received 37 rds of heavy caliber incoming from XD 984694 and XD 985740. Fixed wing requested.	FSR
1645 80	071620H	SptRpt: SNE reported receiving 82mm incoming from XD 997688. 2 U.S.M.A. WIA (minor). Arty mission requested.	FSR
1705 81	071700H	SITREP # 23	FR
1737 82	071415H	SptRpt: SNE while moving on turnpike at XD 985686 incurred 4 USM WIA by a command detonated device. The explosion was accompanied by a large orange flash. Received 130mm incoming at the same time from XD 984702. Withdrew and directed arty msn on enemy positions.	FSR
2230 83	072030H	SM3 to HW3: Wdg. stating LZ completed.	FR
2330 84	071700H	SptRpt: SMH observed 60mm fire from XD 994688. Arty being directed.	FSR
2330 85	072300H	SITREP # 24	FR
0005 86	071710H	SptRpt: SMH at XD 986689 found a Soviet made, 6 cylinder, diesel, full track prime mover, hit by a 105 round in the engine. Part of the vehicle was burned. Winch on front bumper like 6x6. Rear had coupling device for pulling arty piece or something of that nature.	FSR

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0015 87	071716H	SgtRpt: SW discovered 85mm gun pits at XD 988688. Also found ammo bunkers with 40 rounds of 85mm. Pits well camouflaged. Will destroy.	FSR
0430 88	080430H	SIGREP # 25	FM
0912 89	080959H	MSG to SW3: Ordnance man coming to LZ DUSNY to check 152mm rounds and organize extraction.	FS
0921 90	080830H	SgtRpt: SW FO's located an active enemy mortar at XD 998693. 81mm being directed.	FSR
0940 91	080910H	SgtRpt: SW FO heard artillery rounds being fired during a friendly arty mission. Fire requested on possible enemy grid XD 991706.	FSR
1055 92	081025H	SgtRpt: An AO observed 200 to 300 meters of trench line and covered bunkers at XD 988693. Fixed wing was run. 3 NVA confirmed KBA.	FSR
1122 93	081110H	SgtRpt: 3 enemy rounds of suspected 75mm were fired from XD 988693. Fixed wing was run resulting in the destruction of 3 bunkers and 1 truck revetment. 1 NVA - KIA.	FSR
1126 94	081115H	SNE observed several NVA in the open at XD 990693. Fixed wing requested. Arty mission called.	FSR

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147 95	081150H	SEPREP # 26	FSR
1215 96	081200H	SptRpt: SNE received 6 rounds of 60mm from vicinity of XD 998697. Arty support requested.	FSR
1350 97	081255H	SptRpt: SN reports that several rounds impacted at XD 977670. Rounds suspected to be mortar. No action taken.	FSR
1400 98	081255H	Intelligence Summary.	FSR
1624 99	081430H	SptRpt: SNH made contact with enemy elements from XD 986690 to XD 988689. Left flank of SNE also made contact. Arty mission being directed at this time.	FSR
1641 100	081700H	SITREP # 27	PR
1900 101	081825H	SptRpt: Enemy fired approximately 10 rounds of unknown large caliber arty from vicinity of YD 016718. AO spotted tube and is adjusting arty mission.	FSR
1920 102	081800H	SptRpt: SNH made contact with enemy elements defending a hill at XD 988689, from 081400 to 081730H. Results of the contact were: 2 USMC KIA, 11 USMC WIA, 17 NVA KIA (c), SNH also observed numerous bodies being drug away. NVA equipment captured included: 7.82 gear, 2 AK47, and 2 AK50. FSR	FSR

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2105	103	081725H SptRpt: At XD 990689 an AO observed 8 to 10 freshly built 5 X 8 bunkers which stretched for 100 to 150 meters. Were destroyed by air.	FSR
2250	104	082010H SM2 to HM2: INPISUM	FR
2340	105	081530H SptRpt: At 081130 SM2 made contact with enemy elements at XD 987688. Results of contact were as follows: 1 USMC KIA, 17 USMC WIA	FSR
2345	106	082300H STREP # 28	FR
0433	107	090430H STREP # 29	FR
0815	108	090800H SptRpt: Under the cover of friendly arty, NVA at XD 993705 were firing a 105 RR in the vicinity of SN. AO now on station.	FSR
0932	109	090730H SptRpt: SMH heard movement 75 meters north of lines at XD 989689, sent squad to investigate and spotted 1 NVA. NVA was taken under fire, but escaped. One of the rounds fired at NVA struck a Marine on line watch, medivaced. Investigation initiated.	FSR
0942	110	090916H SptRpt: Several rounds of 102mm RR were fired at SN units from suspected grid of XD 993705. AO keeping the area under surveillance.	FSR
1028	111	090900H SM2 to HM2: INPISUM	FR



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445	112 091204H	SptRpt: An AO observed enemy bunkers complex with comm wire leading to river at XD 984694. Wing fired on bunkers.	FSR
740	113 091700H	SptRpt: SMH reports that enemy vehicle engines can be heard in the vicinity 990693. AO and arty requested subsequent fire mission resulting in one secondary.	FSR
815	114 091730H	SPTREP # 30	FSR
815	115 091740H	SptRpt: SMG at XD 981687 found <sup>to</sup> very fresh NVA bunkers. 1 bunker was used for ammo storage, also found was a 82mm pot with 682mm rds/fuzes.	FSR
2215	116 092045H	SptRpt: F1 heard vehicle noises at XD 977704, noises appeared to be moving toward the river. Arty mission being arranged.	FSR
2300	117 092300H	SPTREP # 31	FSR
0438	118 100430H	SPTREP # 32	FSR
0745	119 100630H	SptRpt: All SN elements heard the sounds of more than one vehicle in the vicinity of XD 995688, 995673, and YD 000695. Unable to establish vehicle positions due to hill masses. Requested AO this had normal effect of shutting off vehicle.	FSR

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0830	120	100815H SptBgt: SMH reports that occasionally can still be heard in the vicinity of XD 995687. Will run fixed wing.	FSR
0900	121	100834H SptBgt: An AO spotted four bunkers in vic. of XD 988691 Bunkers were all destroyed by fixed wing.	FSR
1005	122	100925H SM reports that the enemy dead from contact on 8 Oct. at XD 987689 were left at the scene of the fire fight. 11 more NVA bodies and a 30 cal MG were found.	FSR
1025	123	100915H SptBgt: Fixed wing ran strikes on enemy bunker complex at XD 995696. 1 secondary explosion observed.	FSR
1140	124	101130H SURREP # 33	FSR
1322	125	101300H SptBgt: AO directed wing strikes on NVA at XD 996694 to XD 995697.	FSR
1545	126	101530H SptBgt An AO spotted a bunker complex at XD 997704. AO ran a flight of fixed wing damaging bunkers.	FSR
1720	127	101600H SM2 to HM2: captured weapons and documents ready for evacuation.	WR
1740	128	101605H SptBgt: SM2 found a vehicle parked and ran into the side of a hill at 992693. SM2 also found 4 empty drums of diesel fuel with no markings.	FSR

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1715	129	101605H	SptRpt: SNG found 2 mortar pits, 1 A frame bunker, a 50 cal position and 8 spent rounds at XD 994695. Destroyed positions.	FSR
1700	130	101700H	SITREP # 34	FSR
2319	131	102300H	SITREP # 35	FSR
0435	132	110430H	SITREP # 36	FSR
0948	133	110905H	SptRpt: An AO controlling fixed wing and a daisy outter mission uncovered 8 bunkers at XD 997708.	FSR
0950	134	110925H	SptRpt: SNG discovered 38 152mm with canisters and charges at XD 993693. Rounds were in bunkers and well camouflaged.	FSR
1225	135	111015H	SptRpt: SNG found an additional 40 152mm rounds at XD 994694.	FSR
1230	136	111130H	SITREP # 37	FR
1745	137	111700H	SITREP # 38	FR
1750	138	111710H	SptRpt: SNG observed 4 enemy arty rds of unknown caliber impact in vic of XD 0068. Rounds came from an unknown direction N of the Blue Line.	FSR
2310	139	112300H	SITREP # 39	FR
0430	140	120430H	SITREP # 40	FR
1115	141	121100H	SITREP # 41	FR

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1725	142	121700H STURRP # 42	FR
2150	143	121534H SgtBgt: SNE found a destroyed amphibious tractor at KD 997698. 12 cylinder diesel engine with a. vlnch on the rear.	FSR
2310	144	122300H STURRP # 43	FR
0438	145	130430H STURRP # 44	FR
1115	146	131100H STURRP # 45	FR
1705	147	131700H STURRP # 46	FR
2145	148	131300H SgtBgt: SNE found a trail running E to SE from KD 999699 to YD 003694. At YD 002695 they found 5 reinforced bunkers. Bunkers were destroyed.	FSR
2305	149	132300H STURRP # 47	FR
0435	150	140430H STURRP # 48	FR
0930	151	131730H Sgt Bgt: While walking in column, a Marine from SNE was struck in the left leg by some type of NVA booby-trap at KD 981689. Appeared to be a gunshot wound although no firing device could be located. Check of weapon revealed no accidental discharge. 1 USMC WIA (Medevaced).	FSR
1130	152	141130H STURRP # 49	FR

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1215	153	141150H Sgt Rpt: SNF at XD 996696 heard vehicle noise 4 to 5 thousand meters at 1600 mls from their position. Were unable to determine approx location.	FSR
1710	154	141700H SITREP # 50	FR
2305	155	142300H SITREP # 51	FR
0435	156	150430H SITREP # 52	FR
1135	157	151130H SITREP # 53	FR
1320	158	151130H Sgt Rpt: SN elements found 3 bags of 152mm increments, a trail complex, 14 bunkers, 19 RPG rds, 13 82mm mortar rds, 400 rds AK47 ammo, 6 NVA gas masks, 1 canteen and 4 grenades at XD 976681. Destroyed with demo.	FSR
1705	159	151700H SITREP # 54	FR
2305	160	152300H SITREP # 55	FR
0500	161	160430H SITREP # 56	FR
0905	162	250900H SNUB NOSE (BLT 2/26) CALL SIGN CHANGED TO WUNDER WHY. 1st Command Group departed LPH-5 at 250825H for Gordon & Search Operations <del>(OPERATION EAGER HUNTER)</del> IN THE A.O.A. PRESENTED BY CTG 79.4. Arrived 250835H.	EST
0920	163	250915H Sgt Rpt: WME received small arms fire from BN 083639. Arty mission was conducted with good target coverage but unknown results.	FSR
0925	164	250915H Sgt Rpt: (Followup) to Journal # 163: A.O. directed Huey gunships with good coverage of target. Enemy fire ceased.	FSR

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0935 165	250930H	SPTREP # 1B	FSR
0940 166	250930H	SptRpt: WME2 found 1 metal AP mine at BT 112650. Believe an AP mine was emplaced beneath due to size of explosion and size of crater. H2 also found 1-18 in. concrete AP mine and 1 large metal AP mine weighing about 50 lbs at BT 108653. Mines were blown in place.	FSR
1055 167	251050H	SptRpt: An A.O. working with WME directed Fixed Wing on 15 VC at BT 078629. Direct hits with 250 lb. bombs prevented accurate body count. 1 VC KIA.	FSR
1135 168	251130H	SPTREP # 2B	FSR
1200 169	251155H	SptRpt: WME detained 5 adults, 1 teenager and 2 babies at BT 095657. 2 of the adults had no ID cards, all were female, all were detained.	FSR
1230 170	251225H	SptRpt: W MG detained 8 people, 5 adult and 3 children all female. ITP interrogated and later released them. They were picked up at BT 096656.	FSR
1240 171	251230H	SptRpt: WME found a buried concrete mine at BT 096656. Sample of explosive taken; mine blown in place.	FSR
1325 172	251300H	SptRpt: Engineer team found a small AP mine at BT 109659. Blew in place.	FSR
1340 173	251300H	SptRpt: WME detained 1 female VC at BT 095654. She was found to be listed on the CTF 3d & 5th Black List. She had 9,275.20 \$ VN on her person.	FSR

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1600	174	251530H WV officially CHOPPED to PH at 251530H. (BHP 2/26 to 1st Marines)	ES
1655	175	251650H SgtRpt: WME2 discovered two booby traps approx 2 ft long, 2 ft wide and 10 inches deep at BP 099646. Black powder filler. Blown in place.	FSR
1705	176	251700H SgtRpt: WME at BP 091649 received two rounds suspected carbine fire from BP 093654. Arty mission fired with unknown results.	FSR
1740	177	251730H SgtRpt # 3B	FR
1825	178	251800H WME to PH2: INTSUM	FR
1850	179	251845H SgtRpt: WME found a booby trap and a 105mm dud at BP 099657. Both were blown in place.	FSR
2315	180	252300H SgtRpt # 4B	FR
0540	181	260530H SgtRpt # 5B	FR
0755	182	260745H SgtRpt: WME patrol at BP 092644 received about 20 rds sniper fire from a tree line at BP 092643. Small arms fire, M-79 and 81mm mortars were returned. AO directed Fixed Wing with unknown results.	FSR
0955	183	260935H SgtRpt: WME found two bunkers at BP 100657. Bunkers were very well built but appeared unused for a long period of time. Bunkers destroyed.	FSR

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1040 184	261030H	SgtRygt: WME3 found 75 sheets of handwritten documents, mess gear, parts of NVA grenades and 3 sets of NVA uniforms at BT 097656. Documents and other gear turned in to S-2; grenade parts were blown in place.	FSR
1150 185	261130H	SURREP # 63	FR
1200 186	261020H	SgtRygt: WME3 at BT 089653 received sniper fire from BT 082652. Were unable to return fire due to the number of civilians in the area.	FSR
1530 187	260930H	SgtRygt: WME3 was approached by 3 female adults carrying a fourth and 2 male children at BT 089655. The woman being carried was wounded in the right foot (gunshot). One of the women had no I.D. card; name furnished was on the ITH Black List. ITH released the others without authorization from WME3 or WME2. 1 female detainee forwarded to PH OP.	FSR
1600 188	261530H	SgtRygt: WME3 found a tunnel which had been previously booby trapped; booby trap had been removed. A 55 gal. drum of rice was also found. Find was located at BT 092658. Rice was scattered over a large area as a denial measure.	FSR
2120 189	261930H	SgtRygt: WME IPI at BT 089658 spotted a stationary, red light at BT 084659. Fired 10 rds M-79 on light and adjacent area with unknown results.	FSR



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IN. OUT/ISSER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
2310 190	262300H	STURRP # 9B	FR
2359 191	262345H	SprRpt: A WME LP at BP 091647 was taken under fire by an unknown size enemy force at those coordinates. Fire was returned and an 81mm mission was directed with unknown results. 2 DMC WIA (minor).	FSR
0559 192	270530H	STURRP # 9B WV HELILIFT T. PHONE NO (8T 072623) INITIATED.	FR FA
0930 193	270900H	SprRpt: WMC helio team in the air at BP 103660 received small arms fire from an unknown location. 1 WIA (minor). 237MC	FSR
1030 194	271020H	SprRpt: WME found 9 bunkers lined with brick at BP 072623. Bunkers appeared not to have been lived in for some time. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
1140 195	271130H	STURRP # 9B	FR
1200 196	271022H	SprRpt: WME found 7 bunkers lined with brick at BP 074633. Bunkers were living type with room for 3 men. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
1210 197	271022H	SprRpt: Elements of WME found 2 living bunkers lined with brick at BP 070625. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
1227 198	271020H	SprRpt: Elements of WME found 3 living bunkers lined with brick apparently unoccupied for a long time at BP 039664. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
1437 199	271245H	SprRpt: Elements of WME found 150 lbs of rice in two bags and a large metal container at BP 068628. Rice was destroyed.	FSR

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745	200	271700H SPTREP # 10B	FSR
1749	201	271725H SptRpt: WMI found an enemy booby trap at BF 068676. Device used a M-79 round and a nail as a firing pin setting on top of a 25 lb box mine. Mine was blown in place.	FSR
1900	202	271600H SptRpt: WMI found an enemy sign at BF 070625 indicating dangerous mines and booby traps in the entire area.	FSR
2140	203	271800H SptRpt: WMI at BF 068625 found 2 booby trapped M-26 grenades. Pins were pulled and grenades placed in fruit cans with trip wire. Blew in place. A 25 lb box mine was found in the same vicinity. Pressure release device on mine was accidentally released detonating mine which resulted in 2 USMC KIA (Medevaced).	FSR
2200	204	271500H SptRpt: 1 40-50 yr old VN male and 1 40-50 yr old VN female were killed when WMI after shouting a warning to stop running & twice and firing warning rounds fired on them. Incident took place at BF 065628. 1 other VN male was wounded in the same encounter; WIA was medevaced with his wife who was not injured. Ville being searched had 21 males, 4 females and 3 children. 1 female was detained.	FSR

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2217 205	271220H	SgtRpt: WHE found and searched 1 bunker and 3 straw hooches at BN 072625. Search revealed 3 bags of flour 10 lbs each, 135 lbs of rice and assorted clothing and small articles. Destroyed in place.	FSR
2228 206	271600H	SgtRpt: WHE found 3 sets of fresh footprints leading to a river at BN 058625. River bank had marks left by a beached boat.	FSR
2230 207	270600H	SgtRpt (Final): WHE found a bunker complex and 2 huts which appears to be a rest area/mine factory at BN 058625. 150 lbs of rice, assorted small booby traps and <del>XXXX</del> supplies. Destroyed in place.	FSR
2235 208	271500H	SgtRpt: WHE found 1 to 3 tons of rice hidden in vases and stone containers made up to look like grave sites. 3 individual M-26 grenades were employed as booby traps and 1 M-26 was hooked up with a 105mm rd. 4 toe poppers were also found in the area at BN 065628. Booby traps and rice destroyed.	FSR
2240 209	271630H	SgtRpt: WHE found 6 bunkers at BN 071620. 5 of the bunkers were surrounded by spider holes. Bunkers and holes destroyed. Bunkers had tin roofs and were lined with brick and had concrete floors.	FSR
2310 210	272300H	SURREP # 11B	FR

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0548 211	280101H	SptRpt: WNF at BT 065625 received a total of 20 incoming 82mm mortar rds from BT 074632 resulting in 5 USMC KIA & 15 USMC WIA (Medevaced). Counter-mortar fires were conducted and SPOOKIE was brought on station and directed with unknown results.	FSR
0535 212	280530H	STRREP # 12B.	FR
1030 213	281010H	SptRpt: WNF found a Bouncing Betty mine at BT 059628. Blew in place.	FSR
1220 214	281130H	WV HELIPLIFT TO TRAITO (BT 086628) WAS INITIATED. STRREP # 13B	FR FR
1230 215	280930H	SptRpt: WNF has collected 94 civilians at BT 066628. Middle aged women & children. About 90% have I.D. cards. One 6 yr old child let a WNF element to a small cache of rice. Child will be rewarded.	FSR
1250 216	281230H	SptRpt: WNF has 500 lbs of rice to be evacuated at LZ DEFEND. 1000 lbs of untransportable rice was destroyed.	FSR
1400 217	281010H	SptRpt: WNF at BT 066628 found 900 lbs of unhusked rice in urns. Rice transported to DEFEND/2.	FSR
1440 218	281430H	SptRpt: WNF found a sign warning of mines at BT 070625. Checked w/neg results.	FSR
1730 219	281730H	STRREP # 14B	FR
2330 220	282300H	STRREP # 15B	FR

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0531 221	290500H	3 TREP # 16B	FR
0840 222	281400H	SptRpt: WME found 2 enemy 1 1/2 lb mines at BT 065629. Mines blown in place.	FSR
1050 223	291030H	SptRpt: WME encountered 1 VN male at BT 087679. Individual had no I.D. card; sent to TPT at SF CP for interrogation. 1 Detainee.	FSR
1115 224	291030H	SptRpt: WME-6 set off pressure type mine <del>XX</del> in vic of BT 087679. 2 USMC WIA (Medevaced).	FSR
1130 225	290830H	SptRpt: A mine was set off by WAG at BT 080690. 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA. 105mm rd was found in vic; explosives missing.	FSR
1215 226	291130H	SptRpt: A Marine from WME detonated a small booby trap at BT 065690 bruising left leg. 1 USMC WIA (minor).	FSR
1229 227	291130H	SITREP # 17B.	FR
1306 228	291040H	SptRpt: WME encountered 2 VN males 40 & 42 yrs of age riding bicycles on RT 538 at BT 093677. CIM determined that one of the men was on the Black List. 2 Detainees delivered to TPT at SF position. 2 bicycles captured.	FSR
1815 229	291000H	SptRpt: WME found 7 bomb shelters lined with brick at BT 076682, medical supplies at BT 075681, 4 detainees at BT 074683, Red flag with gold hammer and stickle and several documents resembling unit diaries at BT 076682.	FSR

Bunkers were blown, medical supplies given to ARVN's, detainees to W3 position along with flag and documents.

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IN. OUT. SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1820 230	291730H	SITREP # 18B	FSR
1910 231	291515H	SptRpt: WME during cordon of Tra Khe II at BT 067683 detained 18 VN 6 of whom appear on the Black List. Detainees delivered to SF TPT.	FSR
2033 232	291030H	SptRpt: WMG found 2 M-26 & 1 60mm booby traps at BT 084688. Blown in place.	FSR
2045 233	291100H	SptRpt: WMG found 2 teenaged VN males who had been killed by shrapnel at BT 084687. WMG had not fired arty or mortars in that area. Bodies were left at that position.	FSR
2341 234	292300H	SITREP # 19B	FSR
0550 235	300530H	SITREP # 20 B	FSR
1132 236	301130H	SITREP # 21B	FSR
1340 237	301240H	SptRpt: A Marine with WMG at BT 080690 set off a M-26 booby trap. 1 USMC WIA (Medevaced).	FSR
1820 238	301730H	SITREP # 22B	FSR
1838 239	301700H	SptRpt: WME found 1 RPG round with blood on it at BT 091672 in the open. Blown in place.	FSR
2345 240	302300H	SITREP # 23B	FSR
1145 241	311100H	SptRpt: PF's searching vills at BT 072707 apprehended the father of a known VC, who states son with LI other VC located in caves & tunnels at BT 057711. WME to attack and conduct search.	FSR

*WME ELEMENTS WERE INSTRUCTED TO USE OF THE KAM SON (BT 072707) TO CONDUCT A SEARCH & CORDON OF THE VILLAGES*

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IN. OUT. SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
220	242	311135H SptRpt: Ref. Journal # 241. Father of VC at BF 072707 volunteered to lead 1 Plt from WME & PF's to a cache located at AN PRA I.	FSR
240	243	311030H SptRpt: MWG found a cache containing 1 male skeleton (wrapped in plastic) and 1 can of VC/NVA 7.62mm ammo at BF 076704. Skeleton at least 6 months old.	FSR
259	244	311235H SptRpt: WME2 at BF 077696 received 2 rounds of sniper fire. No casualties. Rounds came from an unknown range and direction. No action taken.	FS
2300	245	311155H SptRpt: CIM & ITT with security screened 122 VN at BF 073707 detaining 1 male VN with large amount of P's and 1 16 yr old VN male who is a suspected guide for VC/NVA. 3 VN women whose names appear on Black List were also detained.	FSR
2420	246	311200H SPTREP # 24B	FR
2430	247	311415H SptRpt: WME found 1 "Poe Popper" booby trap in brush (not set in) at BF 071704. Blown in place.	FSR
1600	248	311530H SptRpt: PFF, CIM & ITT swept area from BF 075707 to BF 077708 picking up 62 males and 262 women & children. Screening presently being conducted.	FSR
1700	249	311445H MSG from PH requires VM submit SPTREPs with significant events instead of SPOF REPORTS. SPTREP due at 4 hour intervals. OPSUM required at end of mission only.	FS

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IN. OUT. SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1735 250	311600H	SptRpt: WWF found a cave well camouflaged with natural vegetation and a natural fighting hole at BT 065711. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
1740 251	311530H	SptRpt: WWF stopped a small boat with 1 VN male and 3 VN females at BT 065708. 2 reels of tape or film and bloody cloths in boat. I.D.'s valad. VMS released, tape confiscated.	FSR
1835 252	311030H	SptRpt: WWG found 2 M-30 arming devices behind hootch in a village at BT 076709. Removed to a safe area and destroyed with demolition.	FS
1950 253	311600H	SITREP # 25B includes: Visit to WW CP by DEFEND 6, 3 and 2. Also had PANAMA HAT 6 and SALTISH 6 visit. Negative results on search for weapons cache (Ref: Journal # 242) and negative results on search for 12 VC reported in Journal # 241.	FR
2000 254	312000H	SITREP # 26B includes no significant events.	FR
0026 255	312400H	SITREP # 27B includes: During the day a total of 516 VN civilians were screened by CIV/IMP units resulting in 2 detainees; 1 self-admitted VC and 1 VN civilian who initially pointed out the other and who had 30,000 Plastres on his person. Refer to Journal # 245. Also detained were the previously reported 3 VN women who were on the Black List.	FR



BT 00239-68

15 of 20

R.M. 12235

3480

HEADQUARTERS  
Battalion Landing Team 2/26  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMB  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

DU MARDIV S&C FILE  
BT# 635568

B/JDL/mav  
5 November, 1968  
Serial No. 00132068

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Ninth Marines

Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation LANCASTER II TROUSDALE NORTH)

Ref: (a) Ninth Marine FragO 92-68

Encl: (1) Operation Overlay, (Operation LANCASTER II TROUSDALE NORTH)

1. Name and Type of Operation. Operation LANCASTER II TROUSDALE NORTH; a multi-Battalion Search and Destroy Operation.

2. Inclusive Dates and Location. The Operation was conducted in the LANCASTER II Area of Operations during the period 16 September to 1 October.

3. Command Headquarters. Location of the BIF Command Headquarters was LZ MARGO and vicinity (XD 901611).

4. Task Organization. The following elements of BIF 2/26 were employed during this operation:

BIF 2/26

2nd Bn, 26th Marines

- H&S Co (-)
- Co E
- Co F
- Co G
- Co H
- 61mm Mortar Plt.
- Btry B, 1st Bn, 13th Marines
- 2nd Plt, Co C, 3rd Regt Bn
- 1st Plt, Co A, 5th Recon Bn
- Det, 2nd Plt(Rein), H&S Co, 3rd SP Bn

16-28 Sept.  
28-Oct Oct.

- LtCol SPARKS
- LtCol SPARKS
- 1stLt HARRINGTON
- Capt GREGAN
- Capt HAREMAN
- 1stLt RIGORDAN
- 1stLt POST
- 1stLt RUDS
- 1stLt GREEN
- Capt FRANZEN
- 1stLt ASHROFT
- 1stLt McDONALD
- 1stLt O'NEILL

5. Supporting Forces. Artillery Support for the Operation was provided by 2nd Bn, 12th Marines.

TAB-B

6. Mission. The mission assigned to the BLT 2/26(-) was to attack north in the Area of Operations, search out enemy locations, kill or capture the enemy, and capture or destroy his equipment and supplies. BLT 2/26(-) was also eventually ordered to seize Task Force Hotel Objectives 1 and 2.

7. Concept of Operation. On D-Day, following completion of scheduled ARCLIGHTS, BLT 2/26 attacked on a Northerly Axis in the assigned area of operations while 1st Bn, 4th Marines and 1st Bn, 9th Marines conducted simultaneous Heliborne assaults into the DMZ on the south bank of the Ben Hai River and attacked in a southerly direction.

8. Execution. At 160000H BLT 2/26 was placed under the Operational Control of 9th Marines and was given an order to withdraw to the south of grid line XD 62 from previously secured positions in order to provide a safety margin for ARCLIGHTS that were conducted prior to the insertion of 1st Bn, 4th Marines and 1st Bn, 9th Marines. BLT 2/26 withdrew south to positions around vicinity of LZ MARGO (XD 901614). Company E and Company H had just returned to the BLT perimeter and began preparing positions when a heavy volume of 82mm mortar fire (approximately 158 rds.) was directed upon the BLT position. Counter-mortar and artillery missions were fired. At 1900H, a second barrage of 82mm was received on the position; on this occasion 64 rounds were received. At 2030H movement was detected to the east of the position and multi-engine "gun aircraft" was directed on the area along with firing of appropriate defensive fires. This aircraft and relief aircraft were utilized throughout the night in an attempt to prevent enemy movement on the reverse slopes of the high ground that dominated the BLT position in LZ MARGO. The total casualties received as a result of enemy mortar fire on this date were 21 KIAs and 135 WIAs.

On 17 September the BLT again received incoming 82mm Mortar fire on two occasions. A total of 130 rds. were received. Numerous patrols were conducted to deny close observation of the BLT's exact deployment. Additionally, after the last ARCLIGHT on 17 September, the BLT(-) was authorized to leave its positions in rear of the 62 grid line. Total casualties on 17 September as a result of enemy mortar fires were 1 KIA and 16 WIA's. At this time Company E was considered to be non-effective.

On 18 September, Co F and Co G continued the movement northward that had started late on 17 September toward positions that had been ordered vacated on 15 September. The BLT CP and Cos E and H moved to XD 899617. At 1350H, Co G made the first contact at close range with a small sized enemy unit at XD 897627, after which the enemy immediately broke contact. At 1730H, Co G found an area at XD 896627 where the enemy had recently evacuated wounded and changed battle dressings. The blood and battle dressings were fresh; evidence pointing toward enemy casualties sustained the same day from either Co G's brief contact or supporting artillery fires in the area. At 2100H a Co G listening post at XD 897626 fired on 3-4 NVA at a distance of approximately 20 meters and withdrew to the perimeter. 3 Chi-Com grenades were thrown by the enemy shortly thereafter and Co G fired small arms and threw frag grenades in return. No casualties were sustained by Company G.

At 0745H on the 19th, Co F observed and fired on 2 NVA from a distance of 200 meters, with no casualties sustained by either side. At 0630H, Co F found

a bunker complex totaling 25 bunkers at YD 098632. At 1730H, Co F observed and fired upon 3 NVA at a distance of approximately 100 meters with unknown results. At 1900H, Co F received approximately 3 rounds of friendly artillery which resulted in 2 USMC KIA and 14 USMC WIA.

At 0600H on 20 September, Co G directed artillery fire on XD 892639 prior to continuing the northward movement. Eleven secondaries resulted from these fires. At 0900H, Co F fired on 5-10 NVA at XD 901639 at a distance of 100 meters. Two NVA KIA's, 2 AK-47s and one carbine were found. At 1630H, Co G discovered a company sized bunker complex and two mortar pits at XD 897639. At 1645H, Co G received automatic weapons fire at XD 891638 from NVA bunkered positions. Two Marines were wounded in the engagement. At 1830H, Co F found two large bunker complexes at XD 891635 and XD 891651 (TFH Obj. 2). Copious blood trails were also found in the area. Co F at XD 897640 and Co G at XD 891651 held positions during the night. Other elements of BLT 2/26 in the field remained in the vicinity of XD 899617.

At 1425H on 21 September, Co H found 23 bunkers and 500 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition at XD 908633. At 1600H, Co G uncovered an ammunition cache at XD 891636 consisting of 11,475 .50 cal rounds, 705 82mm mortar rounds, 60 RPG rounds, 320 AT Mines, and 10 cases of TNT. At 1645H, Co G came under automatic weapons and RPG fire from an estimated NVA platoon as they reached the crest of hill 579 (TFH Obj. 1) at XD 892638. Contact was initiated by the NVA at close range. Co G returned fire with small arms and MG fire with an average distance of engagement of 15-20 meters. Co G then withdrew to permit use of artillery and 81mm mortar fires to be brought to bear on the enemy positions. Co G sustained 1 KIA and 4 WIA, while one enemy KIA was observed. At 1800H, Co G found a well used trail from XD 891635 to XD 891637. 17 bunkers and 30 fighting holes were also discovered and destroyed. Co F and Co G held night positions with no further contact.

On 22 September, Co H was moved northward to join Co F and Co G in attacking to the North. Co E remained behind to provide security for the BLT Cnd. Gp, the 81 mm mortar plt. and the LZ. At 1415H on 22 September, Co G found an extensive base camp at XD 890636. Facilities included 14 thatched huts, each with an adjoining bunker; a dispensary; a messing area; and what appeared to be a GP area. Four more bunkers were found at XD 892639. At 1600H, Co F found 30 bunkers at XD 898638. Cos F, G, and H held positions at nightfall.

On 23 September, Cos F, G, and H continued sweep in a northerly direction without meeting any resistance or finding any enemy installations. Co E moved and continued patrolling around the LZ MARGO area.

On 24 September, Co F was re-deployed to cover the BLT rear and to provide security for the BLT GP group at XD 899617. Co E moved westward to continue the search and destroy mission with Cos G and H.

At 1600H on 25 September, Co E found 3 heavy machine gun positions with adjoining bunkers at XD 890620. Companies E, G, and H held positions at night and continued the Search and Destroy mission with no significant contact until 28 September at which time BLT 2/26(-) assumed a posture awaiting helilift to a new operating area. Since the actual move was delayed until 01 October, the BLT adopted a vigorous program of patrolling during the interim period to deny the area to the enemy. Actual change of Operational Control from 9th to 3rd Marines occurred at 1100H on the 1st of October. The helilift was concluded without incident.

#### 9. Results.

(a) The following materials were seized from the enemy.

I.W.C.	6
.30 cal	500 rounds
.50 cal	11,475 rounds
82mm Mortar	765 rounds
RPG	60 rounds
AT Mines	320
TNT	10 Cases

Also captured were small amounts of 782 gear, medicine, and documents.

(b) Both afternoon mortar attacks of 16 and 17 September were followed by infantry attacks that were quickly repulsed. Additional enemy movement, observed or heard, that was engaged with supporting arms, coupled with counter mortar fires are believed to have resulted in high enemy casualties. The terrain and vegetation precluded the finding of enemy bodies and attainment of any reasonably accurate body count.

#### 10. Commander's Analysis.

(a) The operation unquestionably destroyed the enemy's capability to use the operating area as a monsoon base. It is felt, based upon a liberal use of supporting arms on enemy positions, that a large portion of one enemy battalion was destroyed.

(b) The ARCLIGHT safety factor, eg. 3000 meters that dictated return of the entire BLT (-) to the confining terrain of LZ MARGO was considered excessive and in retrospect was unwarranted. Only a few of the ARCLIGHT bombs could be seen impacting from LZ MARGO and the latter ARCLIGHTS could barely be heard. It appears that the accuracy of the ARCLIGHT was underestimated when the safety distance was established or the area destructive effects were overestimated. In any event, it is strongly recommended that safety margins not be inflexibly levied but, rather, that the potential dangers of the tactical situation be given weight. An additional factor that apparently received little consideration was that of terrain. The terrain could have been utilized to shield BLT (-) units from ARCLIGHT effects and the then deployed units could have controlled the area in a fashion that would have reduced the casualty-inflicting mortar attacks.

11. Lessons Learned. No new tactics or techniques were developed.

*D. H. Clark*

D.H. CLARK  
By direction

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