

1ST BATTALION 9TH MARINES

COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLOGY

OCTOBER 1968

PAGES 20 OF 130

PARTS I, II, III & IV ONLY

ON FILE NOT INCLUDED

TABS A,B,C OPERATIONAL ORDERS

AAR FOR LANCASTER TROUSDALE &

LANCASTER TROUSDALE NORTH

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

3D MARDIV S&C FILE
BT 643768

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3/EFR/em
5750
13 Nov 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code 43 D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein)
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

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

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) 3dMarDivO 5750.1A w/ch#1

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, October 1968

- In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
- The security classification of this document is downgraded at three (3) year intervals and declassified after twelve (12) years.

George W. Smith
GEORGE W. SMITH

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OCT 1968

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1st Battalion, 9th Marines	LtCol F.A. COLLETON LtCol G.W. SMITH	1-30ct68 4-310ct68
Company "A"	Capt. J.S. SIROTNIAK	1-310ct68
Company "B"	Capt. T.H. MEKKER	1-310ct68
Company "C"	Capt. W.O. MOORE JR.	1-310ct68
Company "D"	Capt. F. BRADLEY	1-310ct68
Company "H&S"	1stLt K.M. HARRISON 1stLt T.G. JACKSON	16-280ct68 29-310ct68

2. LOCATION

- a. 1-8 October 1968: Southern DMZ (Operation Lancaster Trousdale North)
- b. 9-17 and 19-31 October 1968: Vandegrift Combat Base, Ca Lu, Thon Son Lam, and D-5.
- c. 17-18 October 1968: 1/9 (-) (rein) operating in hills west of Vandegrift.

3. STAFF OFFICERSEXECUTIVE OFFICER

S-1	Major C.D. FOREMAN 1stLt W. PELTO	28-310ct68 1-310ct68
S-2	1stLt G.M. COSTELLO	1-220ct68
S-3	Major A. FERNANDEZ Capt. E.F. RILEY	1-20ct68 3-310ct68
FSCC	1stLt C. WISE 1stLt W. LAWLIS	1-70ct68 8-310ct68
ALO	1stLt D.E. NICOLL	1-310ct68
S-4	1stLt B.F. JENNINGS	1-310ct68
S-5	1stLt G.M. COSTELLO	1-220ct68
COMM	1stLt T.G. JACKSON	1-310ct68
Supply	1stLt F.B. LOVELY	1-310ct68

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MT Officer

1stLt R.K. CLARK JR

1-31oct68

aplain

Lt W.P. WEAVER

1-60ct68

Lt Cndr W.E. GRAY

7-31oct68

Medical Officer

Lt DICK

1-31oct68

Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
OFF	ENL
32	1107

USN	
OFF	ENL
2	52

OTHER	
OFF	ENL
0	0

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PART II

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1 through 8 October 1968 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was deployed in the southern position of the Demilitarized Zone on Operation Lancaster Trousdale North. Upon returning to Vandegrift Combat Base (VCB), the battalion was assigned the mission of providing the defense for VCB, Ca Lu, and Thon Son Lam, together with providing one company to conduct combined USMC/Popular Forces Regional Force Operations in the D-5 area east of VCB. From 16 through 19 October the battalion conducted search and clear operations to the west of VCB, relinquishing responsibility for perimeter defenses of VCB, Ca Lu, and Thon Son Lam to 2d Battalion, 9th Marines. 1/9 resumed responsibility for these defenses following the battalion's return to VCB on 19 October 1968.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat mission assigned

Defense for Vandegrift Combat Base/Ca Lu/Thon Son Lam complexes and further assign one company for offensive operations in the D-5 area, establishing liaison and operating in close alliance with PF/PV forces in that locale.

a. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 54-68

(1) Provide defense for Vandegrift Combat Base /Ca Lu/ Thon Son Lam and provide one company for tactical operations in the D-5 area. Companies C, B, A, and D, respectively, and assigned these tasks.

b. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines OFO 10-68

(1) 1/9 attacks at 170730 to conduct detailed search and clear operations west of VCB/Signal Hill.

(2) Companies A and B continue assigned mission. Company C - on order, attack, seize, occupy and defend Bn Obj 1. On order, continue the attack to seize, occupy, and defend Bn Obj 4. Following seizure Obj A, and on order conduct detailed search and destroy operations towards Hill 512, 715, or 490, as directed.

(3) Company K 3/9 - at 170730⁰⁴ conduct helicopter borne assault into LZ Leatherneck. Establish defense and be prepared, on order, to continue the attack to seize occupy and defend Bn Obj B. Following seizure of objective B establish company patrol base and conduct aggressive patrols to seek out and destroy the enemy.

(4) Company G 2/9 Battalion Reserve. Be prepared on order to conduct helicopter borne assault into blocking position at Hill 512, 715, or 490, as directed.

c. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 64-68

(1) Company K returned to Opcon of 3/9 at 191600.

(2) Companies A and B returned to Opcon of 1/9 at 201000.

(3) Company F (-) chopped to Opcon of 1/9 at 201000. 1st Battalion, 9th Marine resumes defense of VCB/Ca Lu/Thon Son Lam with Company F augmenting Company C's defenses at VCB.

d. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 66-68

(1) Company A chopped to Opcon of the Third Marines at 221200⁰⁴.

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e. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Frago 68-68

Company D, at 243600H displace by tactical motor march to VCB. Be prepared to assume defense of VCB on order and in a sector to be assigned.

f. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Frago 69-68

- (1) Company E returned to Opcon of 2/9 at 250800H
- (2) Company C provides entire perimeter defense for VCB

g. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Frago 73-68

Company D provide augmentation forces to Company C as required for the defense of VCB.

2. Operations

01 October at 1230H Company C received 25 rounds from 82mm mortar fire. No casualties reported. An artillery mission was called on the assumed position of the mortar, with good coverage of the target. At 1500H, an AO observed 3-4 NVA running southwest at 905639, 2 NVA at 914633. Fixed wing strikes resulted in 6 KIA(c) at 611642. No BDA at other positions noted. At 2050H, while firing night defensive fires Company C observed a secondary explosion. Two repeats produced two and then four more secondary explosions, totaling 7 altogether.

02 October at 0900H A Company medevacs two casualties from 30 September. At 1900H Company A received about 25 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from 911644, and observed movement at 901638. Artillery and 81mm mortar missions were fired and a flare-ship and SPOOKY were requested. Company A had 4 casualties, with two medevacs. At 2130H, Company D sighted a figure on a path at a distance of 25-30 meters. Five M-16 rounds were fired and the figure disappeared.

03 October at 1300H, Company B sighted 2 NVA moving west on a trail and pursued by small arms fire and M-26. Inspection of the area produced negative results. At 1730H, Company A found at 859650 three bunkers with grass covers and one OP platform in a tall tree. The bunkers were explored with negative results. Fresh blood traces were also found along a trail at 860649.

04 October Company D found 5 reinforced bunkers within a meter interval. An 82mm mortar pit, containing 20 rounds destroyed by artillery was also found. Trees were cut away from around the pit to give clearance. Four rocket sites containing 40 empty rocket cannisters were also found. One cannister contained a document of an unknown type.

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05 October at 1230H, Company A commenced movement toward regimental obj. B, discovering one to fifteen 60mm mortar fuze well covers and one fighting hole, 2-3 days old. Also one apparent 60mm mortar pit was found at 852648. Occupied obj. 2 at 1400H and a one plane LZ completed at 1800H.

06 October at 1500, Company A found one common defecation pit, one bottle of white pills (500) with ENH stamped on each one, and two spent AK-47 rounds, about a month old, at 845646.

07 October helicopters reported taking small arms fire from 867662. Five missions, consisting of 38 rounds of 81mm and 12 rounds of artillery were called in, giving good target coverage. Results unknown.

08 October Company A assumed defense of Thon Son Lam.

09 October at 1800H, elements of Company B received 15 rounds of sniper fire while acting as a perimeter security team at 010452. An artillery mission would not be called in because the area was a no-fire zone. At 2200H, Company D received 7 rounds of sniper fire from 076521, and heard movement in the same area. They responded with 60mm mortar fire and the sniping stopped. A search of the area in the morning produced negative results.

11 October at 1100H, a patrol from Company B checked a village at 025455 for PF's and RF's, learning from the elders that the village had had neither for a long time. The village was searched for tunnels with negative results. At 1830H, Company D sighted 10-15 NVA in the open, and called in 81mm mortar and artillery fire. The latter was checked fire, but the former gave good coverage of target with unknown results. Two UH-1E gunships also worked the area, getting one secondary explosion.

12 October at 1130H, a patrol from Company B encountered numerous indigenous persons, all destined for VCB trash dump. When the patrol passed through the Montagnard village and questioned the people, it found many individuals with malaria symptoms, primarily fevers, and a doctor was requested for them. The presence of the village chief in the village was revealed only after repeated questioning. He had wished to remain unnoticed fearing NVA terrorism. Villagers report that NVA often used the village for a rest center after operations. At 1845H, Company D sighted 2 indigenous personnel, one with a rifle and pack, leaving a deserted village. A 60mm mortar mission was fired, and later inspection revealed well beaten paths leading towards the mountains and blood traces.

13 October at 1215H, Company D discovered 1200 lbs. of rice later destroyed, in bins at 095542. At 1000H, a Company patrol learned from the villagers that 4 VC had entered the village with carbines and light machine guns 1-1½ hours earlier and sniped at Americans. No report as to the number of rounds or if fire was returned. Stories conflicted as to whether or not the VC received food in the village and as to the length of time VC normally stayed in the village, from 2 hours to 4 days. The corpsman inspected the villagers and

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concluded that, in relation to the Montagnards, the Vietnamese villages are cleaner, healthier and better fed.

16 October at 0930H, Company B sighted 3 NVA unarmed but heavily laden with gear, at 999457. The NVA also saw the patrol, retreated into the vegetation, looked out once, and then stayed hidden.

17 October from 0530H to 0630H VNA received 23 rounds, suspected 82mm mortar fire. Four rounds hit 400-500 meters east of the 1/3 300 and 19 rounds 400-500 meters north to northeast of it. Artillery responded with unknown results. At 1415H, Company D 2/12 took 3 small arms rounds from 3900 mils azimuth, range undetermined. At 1500H, a reconnaissance patrol spotted an 82mm mortar tube in the open at 996462, and one NVA next to it. Artillery mission called in, results unconfirmed.

19 October at 0445H, Company C received 4 rounds of heavy mortars or artillery within 50 meters of the perimeter.

20 October at 1215H, a Company D patrol set of a booby trap, causing 5 WIA.

21 October at 0145H, a Company A patrol, 400 meters from the lines at Thon Son Lam heard 6-7 rounds of small arms fire from the north to east quadrant. It could not be determined whether the fire was friendly or hostile. At 1100H, Company B found and destroyed a cave at 999456.

23 October at 2300H, a SeaBee unit reported small arms fire coming from 028467 and impacting on Route 9. At 1500H, Company D found 4 bunkers, 2 grass huts, numerous clothes and tools, all used within the previous week, at 028467.

26 October at 1830H, Company D 2/12 received 1 round small arms fire.

[Faint, mostly illegible text continues in the lower half of the page, including a large blacked-out redaction area.]

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from 012455. No casualties.

5. Casualties and damage inflicted on the enemy

- a. Personnel
 (1) NVA KIA: 3
 (2) NVA POW: 0
 (3) CHINESE MIA: 0
- b. Weapons Destroyed: None
- c. Munitions
 (1) Mortar Rds: 58x82mm
 (2) Arty Rds: 12 Cal unknown
- d. Foodstuffs
 (1) Rice: 1200 lbs.
- e. Structures Destroyed
 (1) Bunkers - 19
 (2) Shelters - 2
- f. Medical Supplies
 (1) 1 bottle of pills
- g. Miscellaneous
 (1) Bundle of letters, poems and books

6. Friendly casualties sustained during the reporting period.

KIA 0 WIAE 9 WIANE 2

7. New Techniques employed: NONE

8. Equipment

- a. The following is a report of the readiness of major items of combat essential equipment:

(1) <u>Motor Transport</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>OnHand</u>	<u>Op-ready</u>
M-151 A1	20	19	13
M-274 A2	30	30	12
M-37 E1	4	4	2
M-416 E1	19	18	18
M-101 A1	4	5	4
M-107	6	4	3
MRC-109	2	1	1
MRC-87	1	1	0
MRC-83	2	1	1
Mel70	1	1	1

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M-250
M-12

1

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1

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9. Logistics.a. Supply and Distribution.

1. Primary source of supply for Bn. FLSG-B

2. Significant items in short supply:

- (1) Weapons Cleaning Gear
- (2) Flack Jackets
- (3) Helmets
- (4) Utility Shirts and Trousers
- (5) Gas-Masks

3. Type of supply point used by the Bn. unit distribution.

b. Resupply.

1. Resupply figures, (by class) to the Companies in the Battalion.

<u>CLASS</u>	
I	138,925 lbs.
II	12,000 lbs.
III	
IV	
V	60,800 lbs.

2. Total resupply figures for Companies in the Battalion.

<u>UNIT</u>	
H&SCo	79,425 lbs.
Company A	21,625 lbs.
" B	25,625 lbs.
" C	26,625 lbs.
" D	58,425 lbs.

3. Hot meals were supplied to "D"Co at D-5 H&SCo, "B"Co and "C" Co at VCB.

c. Transportation.

(1) Truck from Quang Tri to VCB and from VCB to Mai Loc, Ca Lu and Back pile.

(2)

(3) MAG-39

(4) 187,415 lbs. by air

d. Engineer Support.

The 1st Platoon, Company C, 3d Engineer Battalion served in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines.

During Operation Lancaster Trousdale North the engineers constructed eleven one plane landing zones using some 5000 lbs. of explosives.

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The landing zones averaged 450 lbs of explosive each, 1000 ft of detonation cord, 100 ft. of time fuze and 50 to 75 blasting caps. During this same operation the engineers blew a great deal of enemy material including arms, ammunition, food, and clothing. It was found that a carefully stocked pile of enemy ammunition, small arms as well as cannon could be successfully detonated by exploding enemy anti-tank mines placed upside down on top of the pile.

At Vandegrift Combat Base the engineers used heavy equipment to dig trench lines in the 1/9 Battalion area. A grease pit 8'x8'x8' was also dug for the mess hall. The engineers used the 105 air compression with the small jackhammer attachment to cut the tops of barrels to be used by 1/9 for trash barrels.

e. Services Situation.

(1) While at VCB showers, laundry and ice (to the mess hall) were provided when available.

f. Supply Situation. (None up to T/O)

- g. (1) GENERAL: During the month of October 1968, the BAS held sick call for Marine Corps Personnel.
 (2) SANITATION: Routine weekly sanitation inspections were made of the Battalion area.
 (3) DISEASE, INJURIES, AND TREATMENT IN GENERAL: Dapsone tablets are still in use for personnel in the Vandegrift Combat Base. Patients with FUO, URI, and acute diarrhea have presented a problem during the reporting period.
 (4) CASUALTIES and HOSPITALIZATION: There were 11 WIA's and 103 NBC's. Out patient treatment consisted of 1597 miscellaneous illnesses and injuries, 27 gastroenteritis, 08 URI, 15 FUO, and 02 gonococcal infections.
 (5) TRAINING: Orientation lectures were given to newly joined personnel. The subject matter included personal hygiene, self aid and buddy aid, venereal disease, care and protection of the feet, cellulitis, and snake problems in Vietnam.
 (6) COMPLEMENT OF BAS: At the close of the month, the BAS had a complement of 01 Medical Officer and 49 Hospital Corpsemen. There were 04 E-6's. There were 04 new personnel joined during the month. There were 13 noneffectives during the month.

10. Personnel and Administration

a. Personnel

(1) Enlisted MOS Shortages and Rank

MOS	GySgt	SSgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCpl	Pfc/Pvt
0122					1	
0141		1	4			3
0239	1					
0311		27	57			

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MOS	GySgt	SSgt	Sgt	Cpl	I.Cpl	Pfc/Pvt
0331			8	15		3
0341			5			10
0351			4	15	20	
0369		10				
0441		1				
0848	1					
1341					1	
2111			1			
2311				1		
2511						2
2531				1		
2533			1		2	
2549	1					
2811				1		
2815					1	
2867		1				
3041			1			
3051					1	1
3371		1		1	4	
3381	1					
3516			1		1	1
3531				1		4
5591						1
5931			2			
8421		1				

(2) Rotations during the month of October

USMC		USM	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
5	47	0	0

(3) Replacements received during the month of October

USMC		USM	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
7	24	1	5

(4) Casualties

NBC - 103
 WIAE - 9
 WIANE - 2
 NBC DOD - 1 (Died of Disease)

(5) Promotions

Meritorious

1 - 2dLt
 2 - GySgt
 1 - SSgt
 5 - Cpl
 8 - LCpl

Regular Promotions

1 - Sgt
 23 - Cpl
 5 - LCpl

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- (6) AWARDS: Total 54 awards received by Battalion.
 Total delivered: 24
 Total readdressed and forward: 30

b. Administration

- (1) Special Services (Type of equipment that was allocated and passed out)

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Rear Quantity</u>	<u>Forward Quantity</u>
Guitar	12	3
Banjo	2	0
Basketball	11	3
Football	12	6
Volleyball	15	3
Radio, Zenith	2	5
Bat, Baseball	8	6
Glove, Baseball	19	13
Popper, Popcorn	10	0
Goal set, Basketball	2	2
Boot, Iron weight	3	4
Pump, Hand type	1	1
Antenna	2	0
Weight Set	4	2
Horseshoe Set	6	4
Mat, Gym	2	0
Generator, Honda	1	1
Hand Grip	6	4
Dumbbell Weight Set	2	2
Table Tennis	1	0
Basketball Net	3	2
Fans, Electric	8	2
Mask, Catcher	1	2
Base, Softball Set	1	0
Coolers, Coleman	10	9
Projector, Bell and Howell	1	0
Trunks, Boxing	8	0
Strap, Weight, Body	10	0
Gloves, Boxing	4 pr	5 pr
Ball, Softball	10	10
Gloves, Handball	14	0
Head Protectors, Boxing	3	3
Net, Volleyball	3	3
Racket, Badmitten	8	0

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(2) Discipline

- (1) Problems if any: None
- (2) Courts Martial: None
- (3) Bn CO's OH: None
- (4) CC CO's OH: None

(3) Marine P.X., Postal Affairs and R&R

a. P.X.

- (1) There is a P.X. van located in the 3/9 area which services the regimental rear.

b. Postal

- (1) No problems other than transporting mail to the field during helicopter nonavailability.

c. R&R

- (1) 1/9 was allocated the following quotas for R&R October 1968

Hong Kong	- 13
Bang Kok	- 15
Hawaii	- 19
Taipei	- 12
Penang	- 3
Manila	- 2
Kuala Lumpur	- 2
Singapore	- 3
Okinawa	- 4
Sydney	- 12
Tekyo	- 7

(4) Chaplain Services

16 Protestant Services

4 Catholic "

0 Memorial "

11. Civic Action: There were no Civil Affairs conducted during the month of October 1968. This reduction was attributed to the lack of transportation and prolonged inclement weather conditions.

Letters were written to various organizations in the United States, explaining the Childrens Memorial Hospital, Sponsored by the 3d Marine Division. Any contributions from these organizations are expected to be in December 1968.

Further correspondence was sent concerning needed materials such as: clothing, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes and other items needed for refugees and orphans located within the Division A. O. No delivery date can be obtained for these items.

12. Psychological Warfare There was no Psychological Warfare conducted by the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, during the month of October 1968.

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13. Intelligence The area of operations encompassed the southern D.M.Z., from the 85 to the 91 grid, and south from the 67 to the 63 grid. The terrain encountered was rugged and hilly with thick vegetation making trafficability extremely difficult. Movement was often cross compartment, restricted to an average rate of 200 meters per hour. Avenues of approach, both enemy and friendly, were generally restricted to existing trail systems found in the area. Stream fording points presented little difficulty during the operation, due to the lack of heavy rains. The vegetation consisted of double to triple type canopies with heavy brush and elephant grass.

One road was observed through field glasses at XD 915680, which is not charted. On one occasion, vehicle movement was heard, but the exact direction from which the sound came is unknown. The majority of trails were well used. Trails were also large enough to permit transportation of supplies by elephants.

It is believed that larger NVA units had conducted a withdrawal, as friendly units moved into the area. Contact was limited to squad and platoon size enemy units which were masking the withdrawal of other units, or guarding the numerous supply caches found in the area. Enemy incoming rounds were sporadic and light, consisting solely of 60 and 82mm mortars.

Enemy units through aerial observation and contacts, indicated enemy was equipped with AK-47's, heavy M.G., mortars (60mm and 82mm). Active 12.7mm A.A. positions were sighted, of which one was destroyed by close air-support.

The types of uniforms used by the enemy were green and khaki utilities. The belts worn with the utilities were either a green web or a tan leather with a star on the buckle.

The age of the enemy was estimated at between 18-24. This was determined by KIA's, POW's and uncovered graves.

The enemy used delaying and harrassing tactics ie. mortar fire, probes, and occasional sniper fire. The units involved were small as previously noted, and it is thought he used these delaying tactics, allowing his larger units to withdraw as they avoided contact with friendly forces.

Most of the bunkers that were found were "A" framed in shape, and were built with logs. All were well camouflaged and were 2-3 weeks old. These bunkers were used for living quarters only and took approximately 3-4 days to complete. There were a few other bunkers very similar in shape, with adjoining crewserved weapons positions, such as anti-aircraft and mortar pits. These were also well camouflaged with local vegetation. There were also numerous above ground dwellings made of thin logs that were used for eating places. They could hold 4-6 men at a table.

WEATHER: Temperatures ranged from the high 90's to low 70's, winds ranged from 5 - 25 knots. Precipitation was occasionally heavy due to two typhoons near the northeastern coast of South Vietnam. The month of October should have an average of 16 days of rain.

14. Air Support

A. Eleven air strikes were run by fixed wing during the month of October.

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Some difficulty was encountered in the submitting of required Communication - Electronics reports on a timely basis, which was due primarily to the non-availability of helicopters during periods of inclement weather.

A final evaluation was made of the AN/PRC-77 and KY-38 equipment, and was forwarded to 3d Marine Division CTO under separate cover.

b. Comm Center: A limited Communications Center was incorporated into the Command Post Group during the subject period on an evaluation basis. This element consisted of two (2) message center men, whose sole mission was to service and maintain a log of the administrative traffic, both incoming and outgoing, which was passed over the regimental tactical net and Battalion administrative net. It was readily evident that this element was an asset, in that the delays in delivery and the non-deliveries was reduced to an acceptable minimum.

c. Wire:

(1) While on operations and in a fluid situation, the only wire communications employed by this battalion is a command post loop, which includes the 6,5,3, 14 and 24. Inasmuch as all equipment is man-packed while on operations, weight is the limiting factor, and it is therefore more desirable to use the TA-PT telephane, as opposed to the TA-312. It was determined, however, that the quality of communications is drastically reduced when more than three (3) TA-1's are connected to the same line.

(2) The supply of wire WD-1/TT within this Battalion is rapidly approaching the critical stage, due to the fact that our requisitions are not being filled.

d. Radio: There were, and are, situations in which conflict of frequencies seriously hampered radio communications. The more serious instances seemed to involve the radio frequencies assigned to the supporting attachments, i.e., artillery and air. In one instance, the LZ Common net was rendered ineffective in that an unknown station completely over-rode any transmissions made from ground to air.

(?) For reasons undetermined, the fire support coordinator attached to this battalion had difficulty communicating with FSC at Regiment during the subject period. The Battalion CP would have good communications on the Regimental Tactical net, while the FSC, using identical equipment as the Battalion operator, would be unable to communicate with the FSC at Regiment.

(3) As reported in the Command Chronology for September 1968, it is felt that the radio network required to support the administrative and logistic needs of this Battalion is too extensive, and commits men and equipment which could be more advantageously utilized in the field. It is again recommended, if only on a trial basis, that Regiment assume the responsibility of passing message traffic from the Battalion Command Post (forward) to the respective S-1 and S-4 sections of said Battalion.

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(4) While operating in conjunction with U. S. Army units, instances have arisen where U. S. Army call signs and/or frequencies were required. It is recommended that the U. S. Army equivalent of 3d Marine Division COM be available for loan on an as-required basis, quite possibly these could be held and checked-out by 3d Marine Division COM.

e. Radio relay: There was negative utilization of radio relay during the subject period.

17. Regimental Scout Snipers:

Headquarter Company, Headquarters Battalion, 9th Marines Regiment supplied the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines with 2 man Scout Sniper teams. The snipers were effectively employed against targets of opportunity.

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PART IV

TAB

CONTENTS

A ✓

1/9 OPERATION ORDERS (#10)
3d Mar Div ~~9th~~ MARINES OPERATION ORDERS (36 + 38)

B ✓

1/9 FRAG ORDERS (54-73)

C ✓

9th MARINES FRAG ORDERS (100, 102-104, 109-115)

NIE D DIE

1/9 CONSTRUCTED 5 LANDING ZONES FROM 1OCT68 THROUGH 7OCT68

Added
D

A/A Rpt, Opn LANCASTER TROUS DALE

SECRET

PART IV

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

1/9 CONSTRUCTED 5 LANDING ZONES FROM 1OCT68 THROUGH 7OCT68

SECRET