

1ST BATTALION 9TH MARINES

COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLOGY

MARCH 1969

PAGES 24 OF 155
(NO S-1 JOURNAL)

ON FILE BUT NOT INCLUDED

DAILY MESSAGES

AAR OPERATION DEWEY CANTON

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

425099
 3/JJH/lrI
 00969
 8 April 1969

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
 (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 March to 31 March 1969

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

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, March 1969

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

T. J. Culkin
 T. J. CULKIN

1st BN. 9th MAR
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Unclassified when enclosure (1)
 is removed.

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

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 Mar to 31 Mar 1969

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
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ENCLOSURE (1)

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. Designation.</u>	<u>Commander.</u>	<u>Date</u>
1st Battalion, 9th Marines	LtCol G.W. SMITH	1-30 Mar 69
	LtCol T.J. GULKIN	31 Mar 69
	1stLt W.L. FOX	1-31 Mar 69
Company "B"	Capt R.E. JUMMIS JR.	1-31 Mar 69
Company "C"	Capt J. KELLY	1-31 Mar 69
Company "D"	Capt E.F. RILEY	1-22 Mar 69
	Capt L.F. CHARMAN III	22-31 Mar 69
H&S Company	1stLt T.J. CONNELLY	1-31 Mar 69

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2. Location.

- a. From 1-18 March the battalion was on Operation Dewey Canyon northwest of the A SNAU Valley.
- b. From 19-22 March the battalion was on RCM at Cua Viet.
- c. From 22-31 March the battalion was tasked with the Cam Lo and Mai Loc TACOs, C-2, and Con Thien.

3. Staff Officers.

Executive Officer	Major C.D. FORBMAN	1-31 March 1969
S-1	Capt W. DELIC	1-31 March 1969
S-3	Major J.P. McWILLIAMS	1-31 March 1969
S-3A	1stLt J.H. HARWOOD II	1-31 March 1969
PECC	1stLt W. LARLIS	1-15 March 1969
	1stLt B. MCCLEATHY	15-27 March 1969
	2ndLt D. CARRADICE	27-31 March 1969
FAC	1stLt F.E. LITTLEBURY	1-31 March 1969
ALO	1stLt W.R. HUNT	1-31 March 1969
S-4	1stLt R. PETRY	1-31 March 1969
Comm	1stLt T.C. JACKSON	1-31 March 1969

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Supply	1stLt R.B. MCWHERRY 2dLt E.L. SULLIVAN	1-30 March 1969 31 March 1969
MTC	1stLt J.T. CLARK JR. 1stLt D.P. SULLIVAN	1-28 March 1969 31 March 1969
Chaplain	LtCmdr M. BEAY	1-31 March 1969
Medical Officer	Lt R.M. PASIER	1-31 March 1969

4. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC		USN		OTHER	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
39	1150	2	18	0	0

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

From 1 through 18 March 1969, the battalion was on Operation Dewey Canyon. From 19 through 22 March the battalion was at the rest and relaxation area at Cua Viet, and on 22 March the battalion assumed the responsibility for the Cam Lo and Mai Loc TACR's, C-2 and Con Thien. The battalion remained tasked with this responsibility for the remainder of the month.

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PART III
SEE UNTIL LETTERS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat Mission Assigned.

On 10 February the battalion's mission was to lift into PSB REGION and on order to attack across Phase Line Ted to secure Regimental Objective 2 and to gain control of Route 922/548. From 1 through 18 March the battalion's mission was to continue maintaining control of Route 922/548 and to conduct combat search and destroy operations in the southern Dewey Canyon AO. On 22 March when the battalion assumed the Mai Loc, and Cam Lo THOM, Con Thien and C-2; it was assigned the mission to maintain the security of fixed positions, to conduct search/destroy operations to eliminate enemy elements, to defend and pacify populated areas, and to coordinate and cooperate with indigenous forces.

a. 9th Marines Directive, 7 March 1969.

Effective 072000H March 1969 1/9 assumes OpCon of PSB TURVGR.

b. 9th Marines Frag Order 6-69 8 March 1969.

- (1) Displace 1/9 units to general vicinity area bounded by grids YD 235042, YD 244037, YD 245050, and YD 235050.
- (2) Construct LZ capable of receiving heavy lift helicopters.
- (3) Be prepared to recommend general 4.2 battery position.
- (4) Remain prepared to link up with friendly forces operating adjacent to your AO.

c. 9th Marines Frag Order 9-69, 9 March 1969.

No Change

d. 9th Marines Frag Order 10-69, 10 March 1969.

No Change

e. 9th Marines Frag Order 11-69, 12 March 1969.

Displace your Companies A and B and the Special Forces unit with them to join Companies C and D.

f. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Frag Order 7-69, 12 March 1969.

Companies A and B and Special Forces Unit displace to the position of Companies C and D.

g. 9th Marines Frag Order 11-69, 15 March 1969.

1/9 chops from 9th Marines to Task Force Hotel upon completion of extraction of 3/9. 1/9 extraction commences 161200H March 69.

h. The following Frag Order (12-69) was sent on 15 March 1969 as

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bogus traffic on the theory that the enemy was monitoring the battalion frequency. "1/9 to move earliest tomorrow to establish blocking force from (exvozhr) to (achihv), 2/9 to assault tunnel complex at (hxjmcin)."

i. 9th Marines Message, 16 March 69.

Change Frag Order 11-69. 1/9 to shuttle to FCP TURKISH and be extracted from there by heavy helicopters.

j. 9th Marines Directive, 18 March 1969.

1/9 chops from 1/9 to 3/9.

k. 9th Marines Directive, 19 March 69.

1/9 chops to 3d Marine Division. Company B chops to 3d Squadron of the 5th Mechanized Division.

l. 9th Marines Frag Order 14-69, 22 March 69.

- (1) 1/9 assumes the responsibility for 3/3 AO on 22 March, continue 3/3 mission and assume opcon of 3/3 units remaining in AO.
- (2) Chop an additional company (-) to the 1st Brigade of the 5th Mechanized Division for employment at C-2/A-4.
- (3) Desired disposition of forces: A-4 one company; C-2 one company (-); Hai Loc one platoon; and Cam Lo one company.

m. 9th Marines Frag Order 15-69, 23 March 69.

1/9 continues under opcon of 3d Marines Division and 1st of the 5th until early 23 March.

n. 9th Marines Directive, 23 March 69.

1/9 chops back to 9th Marines.

o. 9th Marines Frag Order 16-69, 26 March 69.

No change

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2. Operation.

01 MAR At 1505H Company C took 6 61mm mortar rounds, resulting in negative casualties, from YD 202019. An 81mm mortar mission was fired in counter battery with unknown results. At 1510H Company A observed 30 NVA moving on a trail at YD 205055, took them under fire killing 12, and suffered 1 WIA. At 1310H Company B was taken under enemy small arms fire at YD 193032 and suffered 5 WIA. At 1705H an A/O sighted bunkers and several NVA in the open at YD 202018. Artillery and 81mm mortar missions were called in with unknown results. At 1515H Company A found from YD 209043 to YD 214046 what appeared to be an NVA hospital and motor pool. In the area there were 5 bunkers, huts, storage areas with medical gear, a rusted jeep truck, some empty 55 gallon barrels, 1 heavy truck body, 6 tires, 2 large bunker/hut structures, 1 helmet, 1 M47 magazine and 2 Chicom grenades. Company D continued exploiting the cache at YD 215032, capturing 1 7.62 light machinegun, 74 SIS rifles; 1 40mm rocket round; 1 12.7mm machinegun tripod, 1 BAO rocket launcher, 1 82mm mortar bipod, 6 M47 rifles, 1 82mm mortar white phosphorus round, 1 57mm recoilless rifle, 1 82mm mortar tube, 1 .50 cal machinegun, 1 AA machinegun sight in wooden case, 1 20mm M gun, 1 7.62 AA machinegun without bipod, 1 RPG round and 1 Chicom grenade. The following was destroyed: 456 Chicom grenades, 180 RPG rounds, 20 boxes of 12.7 AA rounds, 264 rifle grenades, 15 120mm mortar rounds, 50 casings of 120mm mortar rounds, and 75 61mm mortar rounds.

02 MAR At 1030H Company C found and destroyed at YD 195037 600 rounds of 20mm ammunition and 1 RPG. At 1100H 2 NVA walked into an observation post and were killed at YD 196042. Three more NVA approached to get the 2 dead, but saw the observation post and took cover. An 81mm mortar mission killed the other 3. Company D continued to exploit the cache at YD 215032, capturing 1 .50 cal machinegun, 90 SIS rifles, 3 7.62 bolt action rifles, 1 rifle grenade launcher and sight, 2 57mm recoilless rifles, 1 61mm mortar without base plate, 1 spare barrel for 12.7mm machinegun, 1 bipod for 61mm mortar, and 1 75mm recoilless rifle. The following was destroyed: 400 RPG-3 anti-tank grenades, 200 82mm mortar rounds, 500 61mm mortar rounds, and 12 rifle grenades. Additionally, graves with 6 bodies, one over 6 feet long, were found. Also, Company D destroyed at YD 216033: 50,000 large base 7.62 sniper rifle rounds, 150,000 7.62 SIS/M47 rounds, 12,000 12.7mm rounds, 235 37mm AA rounds, 2000 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, 230 122mm artillery rounds, 8049 Chicom grenades, 603 anti-tank mines, 140 120mm mortar rounds, 442 82mm mortar rounds, 868 61mm mortar rounds, 300 lbs of Polish dynamite, 600 fuzes, 736 23mm M rounds, 812 RPG-7 rounds, 1150 RPG-2 rounds, and 200 100 lb bags of rice. At 1515H Company B took 20 rounds of small arms and 2 Chicom grenades at YD 190020, suffering 2 WIA and killing 1 enemy. At 2115H Company C ambushed and killed 1 NVA at YD 198035. At 1700H Company B found from YD 191030 to YD 197029 a fresh grave with 1 body, kitchens and living areas, 30 fighting holes, 10 storage areas for food and ammunition (10'x15'), 3 reinforced bunkers (6'x8'), 3 defecators, 1 aiming stake and 7 82mm mortar rounds.

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03 MAR Company D found additional ordnance and weapons at YD 216016 and destroyed the following: 900 82mm mortar rounds, 1 82mm mortar tube, 1 base plate for 82mm mortar, 989 rifle grenades, 96 Chicom grenades, 40 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 5 120mm mortar rounds, 2 barrels for 50 cal machinegun, 2 chain saws and 4 100 lb bags of rice. At 1215H Company C suffered 4 WIA from 10 61mm mortar rounds fired from YD 203018. 81mm mortars fired in counterbattery. At 1315H Company D found 5 destroyed trucks at YD 223037 and YD 233040. At 1800H helicopters reported receiving machinegun fire from YD 191041. At 1150H Company B found and destroyed 7 100 lb bags of rice at YD 211034. At 1315H Company D found and destroyed 28 122mm artillery rounds and 100 lbs of explosives at YD 218037. At 1630H Company B captured at YD 208037: 4 12.7mm barrels, 5 dual purpose guns, 3 57mm recoilless rifles, 1 7.62 machinegun without tripod, 3 7.62 machineguns without barrels, 4 mounts for 12.7mm guns, 3 61mm mortar tubes, 4 61mm mortar bipods, 1 61mm mortar base plate and 3 82mm mortar bipods. At 2300H Company A sighted 3 NVA and fired 81mm and 60mm mortars, killing them.

04 MAR At 1140H Company A walked into a 15 man NVA L-shaped ambush which gave itself away prematurely at YD 195045. Company A killed 8 enemy while suffering 4 WIA. At 1230H Company D made contact with 5 NVA in bunkers, suffered 4 WIA and killed 2 enemy. At 1200H Company A saw 15 NVA at YD 194028 moving on bicycles, fired 81mm mortars on them and killed 10. Company D continued to exploit the cache at YD 212037, destroying: 7 140mm rockets, 165 82mm mortar rounds, 124 rifle grenades, 3000 large base 7.62 sniper rounds, 200 12.7mm AA rounds, 50 cases of ammunition belts, 1 damaged 7.62 AA gun, 10 BFG's, 29 Chicom grenades, 10 anti-personnel mines, 14 82mm mortar rounds, 66 61mm mortar rounds, 1 damaged 12.7mm AA gun, and 30 122mm artillery rounds. The following was captured: 6 SWS rifles, 1 82mm mortar bipod and yoke, 1 bicycle, 2 12.7mm AA guns, 2 hand pumps, 2 bicycle tires, 1 7.62 AA gun barrels, 2 12.7mm AA gun tripods, and 1 12.7mm gun mount. At 1330H Company B encountered an NVA force of unknown size, made contact, killed 1 enemy and suffered 6 WIA. At 1600H Company A made contact with 18 NVA in trees at YD 195045, suffered 3 KIA and 10 WIA, and killed 6 enemy.

05 MAR At 1000H Company D sighted 2 NVA at YD 216038, took them under fire with small arms and killed 1. At YD 193032 Company A took 12 61mm mortar rounds, and about 100 small arms rounds in a probe, suffered no casualties and fired 60mm mortars and artillery in counterbattery. At 1230H Company C while piling ordnance in a cache at YD 214033, suffered 28 WIA when a booby trap detonated a large explosion. The following ordnance was destroyed: 170 140mm rocket rounds, 2,670 82mm mortar rounds, 4,560 61mm mortar rounds, 12,750 12.7mm AA rounds, 3140 Chicom grenades, 790 rifle grenades, 35 rifle grenade launchers, 1668 37mm AA rounds, 580 120mm mortar rounds, 173 B40 rounds, 130 B50 rounds, 1,160 23mm AA rounds, 16,050 AK/SKS rounds, 11,300 large base 7.62 sniper rounds, 88 BFG-7 rounds, 7 12 volt batteries, 1 AK47 rifle, 1 flare pistol, 78 anti-tank mines, 5 anti-personnel mines, 2,150 14.5mm AA rounds, 7 61mm mortar tubes, 4 61mm mortar base plates, 2 sights with aiming stakes and accessories and 1700 50 cal rounds. At 1120H Company A saw 10 NVA on a road at YD 196042, fired small arms killing 3, and called in 60mm mortars and artillery killing 6 more.

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06 MAR At 1515H an helicopter took RPG fire from YD 200035. Company A suffered 1 WIA, returned fire with small arms killing 3 enemy, while the helicopter returned fire with its 50 cal machinegun, killing 5 more.

07 MAR At 0005H Company A received 15 RPG rounds from YD 193035 and 40 61mm mortar rounds from YD 190040, suffered no casualties and fired counterbattery with 60mm mortars and artillery. At 1800H Company C received 61mm mortar fire from YD 212032 suffered 2 WIA and fired counterbattery with 60mm mortars. Company C destroyed the following at YD 214031: 3 82mm mortar base plates, 2 61mm mortar base plates, (2) 12.7mm AA guns, 370 RPG-7 rounds, 250 B40 rounds, 1090 61mm mortar rounds, 650 Polish rifle grenades, 70 140mm rocket rounds, 23 85mm recoilless rifle rounds, 110 82mm rounds, 19,600 12.7mm AA rounds; 9,700 50 cal rounds, 9,685 AK/SKS rounds, 8,500 large base 7.62 rounds, and 5 rifle grenade launchers. At 2100H Company A received 18 RPG's and 200 rounds of small arms from YD 194033, fired 81mm mortars on the target killing 2 enemy, and called artillery on it killing 3.

08 MAR At 0940H Company A received 150 rounds of 61mm mortars from YD 185025, suffered negative casualties and fired counterbattery with 60mm mortars, 81mm mortars and artillery at the target. At 1010H Company A received 5 RPG's and small arms fire from YD 193033, suffered no casualties, and returned small arms fire killing 2 enemy, 81mm mortars killing 2, and artillery killing 2. At 1100H Company B found and destroyed 42 RPG-7 rounds and 2 bunkers at YD 215026. At 1745H Company C received recoilless rifle fire from 213033, suffered 1 KIA and 2 WIA, and fired counterbattery with 60mm mortars, 81mm mortars and artillery.

09 MAR At 0500H Company D received 25 RPG rounds and small arms fire from YD 217033, suffered 1 KIA and 3 WIA, and returned small arms and 60mm mortars, killing 9 enemy. Company D captured 4 AK47 rifles, 1 B40 rocket launcher, 7 satchel charges, 12 RPG rounds and 14 61mm mortar rounds. At 1725H Company B received 8 61mm mortar rounds from YD 219026, suffered no casualties and returned fire with artillery.

10 MAR At 1115H Company D saw at YD 246046 3 IVA, one of whom shouted "Halt, who goes there", before ducking into the foliage. At 1020H Company D found a booby trap at YD 246046. From 1325H to 1745H Company B received a total of 40 61mm rounds from YD 219026, suffered no casualties and fired counterbattery with 60mm mortars, 81mm mortars and artillery.

11 MAR At 0425H Company A was probed at YD 215033 by an IVA platoon using small arms, rifle grenades and 61mm mortars. The attack lasted for 15 minutes, when the IVA fired 2 red flares and 1 white, and broke contact for 10 minutes. Then, the attack was renewed for 5 minutes more. The enemy suffered 10 killed. At 1710H Company B made contact with an estimated IVA platoon using small arms, RPG's, machineguns, and 61mm mortars, suffered 2 KIA and 22 WIA while killing 3 enemy. At 1740H Company A received indirect weapons fire from YD 237038. At 0945H Company C ambushed 3 IVA, killing 1, at YD 239038. One enemy carried an M16. At 0955H Company D received sniper fire from YD 244032. At 0415H Company B was probed by an estimated 20 IVA using small arms and 61mm mortars, suffered 6 WIA, killed 6 enemy, and captured 2 RPG launchers, 1 AK47, 13 RPG rounds, 4 Chicoms, 13 satchel charges, 6 AK47 magazines (loaded), and 1 IVA pack containing food, battle dressings, a diary and money.

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12 MAR At 0440H Company B received 4 61mm mortar rounds, 4 RPG rounds and small arms fire, suffered 2 WIL and returned fire with small arms and artillery. At 0515H Company A was probed with small arms and 12 RPG rounds, suffered 7 WIL and killed 2 enemy. At 1227H Company D found 2 AK-47 magazines (loaded) at YD 246026. At 1410H Company C made contact with 7 IVL at YD 238038. Contact was broken with no casualties sustained or inflicted.

13 MAR At 1300H Company A in the attack made contact at YD 225043, YD 233044 and YD 237039, killed a total of 9 enemy, captured 1 enemy and 2 AK47 rifles, and suffered 2 KIL and 7 WIL. The enemy were set up in a series of small ambushes and were using American claymore mines.

14 MAR At 1610H Company D received 30 rounds of 82mm mortars from YD 233045 and 224055, suffered 4 WIL and fired counterbattery with 81mm mortars and artillery.

15 MAR At 1130H Company I, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines received 3 rounds of 61mm mortars and suffered 4 WIL. At 1500H the battalion command post received 8 rounds of 61mm mortar fire from YD 223062 suffered 1 WIL and fired 81mm mortars and artillery in counterbattery fire. At 1300H Company I received 8 61mm and 4 82mm mortar rounds, and suffered 3 WIL. At 1100H Company C made contact with an estimated reinforced squad at YD 238042 supported by 61mm mortars at YD 231042, suffered 7 WIL, and killed 10 enemy (7 by small arms; 3 by airstrikes). Fifteen to 20 more enemy were then seen at YD 237041 and artillery called in killed 7. At 1500H an AO reported enemy at YD 217033, adjusted artillery on them and reported 2 killed.

16 MAR At 0815H Company D received small arms fire and 4 RPG rounds from YD 245026 and returned fire with small arms and 60mm mortars. At 1200H Company B found a tunnel, 3 huts, 30 61mm mortar rounds, 5 radio batteries and 100 feet of communications wire at YD 243040. The ordnance was destroyed in the tunnel. At 1800H Company A saw 4 or more IVL at YD 238039, fired small arms at them and called 60mm and 81mm mortars on them, killing all 4.

17 MAR At 0815H Company C received 6 RPG rounds, small arms and 14 61mm mortar rounds at YD 237045 and suffered 1 KIL and 7 WIL.

18 MAR At 0615H Company A received RPG's, mortar and small arms fire from YD 239029, suffered no casualties and returned fire killing 5 more enemy. At 0810H Company C sighted 6 IVL at YD 233043, called in 60mm and 81mm mortars killing 2 enemy, and artillery killing 4. At 0840H Company A received 61mm mortar fire from YD 232033 and fired artillery at the target, producing 1 large secondary explosion and killing 4 enemy. During extraction from Operation Dewey Canyon, the battalion received mortar and heavy machinegun fire from the following grids: YD 244043, YD 244045, YD 241040, YD 234044, YD 241045, YD 247037, YD 229045 and YD 239038. A total of 13 flights of fixed wing, airstrikes, artillery, 4.2 mortars, 60mm mortars, 81mm mortars, OV-10 airstrikes, and UH-1E gunship strikes supported the extraction. The extracting units were also in sporadic ground contact and suffered 8 WIL. An AO reported that fixed wing destroyed 2 82mm mortars, 2 61mm mortars and 1 50 cal machinegun while killing 15 IVL. Company C called mortars on another force, killing 6, and Company D killed 8 with small arms.

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19 MR Through 23 MR There were no significant events during this period.

24 MR At 1455H Company D sighted NV/VC wearing khaki uniforms at YD 153643, took 2 rounds of sniper fire from them and returned fire with M79's with unknown results.

25 MR At 0830H a Company B road sweep discovered a homemade mine consisting of 20 lbs. of TNT at a tank breach at YD 102538. The mine was destroyed. At 1600H Company C received 5 rounds of 81mm mortar fire from an unknown grid.

26 MR Commencing at 2000H and continuing throughout most of the night Company C fired 1503 rounds of firecracker and high explosive 105mm artillery rounds at YD 095715 and YD 120720 where sensor devices reported heavy movement.

27 MR At 1615H a convoy leaving Con Thien received 5 sniper rounds from YD 150682 and returned small arms fire with unknown results.

28 MR At 0805H Company C at Con Thien received 3 rounds of AK-47 sniper fire from YD 116714, suffered no casualties, and returned fire with 60mm mortars with unknown results.

29 MR At 1630H 16 Montagnards who had walked from the Khe Sanh area to Vandegrift Combat Base were received by the battalion at Con Lo district Headquarters for resettlement in the Cua Valley.

30 MR Sensor devices at Con Thien reported heavy movement at 2050H at YD 118707. Dusters and 81mm mortars were adjusted by Company C on to the grid.

31 MR At 1655H Company D observed what appeared to be 2 82mm mortar tubes adjusting on Route 561, between Con Thien and C-2.

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3. Casualties and damage inflicted on the enemy.a. Personnel.

- (1) NVA KIA - 176
- (2) NVA POW - 1

b. Weapons Captured.

SWS - 172
 M-47's - 12
 7.62 Bolt Action - 3
 Flare Pistol - 1
 7.62 machineguns - 5
 57mm Recoilless rifles - 6
 B-40 rocket launchers - 4
 82mm mortar tubes - 4
 50 cal machineguns - 3
 20mm AA gun - 1
 7.62 AA gun - 2
 12.7 AA guns - 4
 61mm mortar tubes - 15
 75mm recoilless rifle - 1
 7.62 AA barrels - 2
 12.7 AA tripods - 2
 12.7 AA mount - 4
 12.7 MG tripods - 3
 12.7 barrels - 4
 Rifle grenade launchers - 41
 61mm base plates - 10
 61mm bipods - 3
 82mm base plates - 4
 82mm bipods - 4

c. Munitions.

122mm arty rounds - 258
 85mm rounds - 23
 37mm rounds - 1,903
 23mm rounds - 736
 Rifle grenades - 2,929
 Chicom's - 11,777
 140mm rocket rounds - 247
 40mm rocket rounds - 1
 RPG rounds - 3,194
 Anti-tank mines - 1,081
 Anti-personnel mines - 15
 Explosives - 420 lbs
 Fuzes - 600

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d. Miscellaneous.

Trucks - 5
 Rusted Jeep - 1
 Heavy Truck Body - 1
 12 Volt Batteries - 7
 Chain Saws - 2
 Rice - 21,000 lbs.

4. Friendly casualties sustained during the reporting period.

KIA - 12
 WIFE - 72
 WERE - 53
 DCD - 1
 DOW - 3
 MRC - 0

5. New Technicians Employed. None6. 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>OH</u>	<u>OP-READY</u>
M-151A1	20	18	18
M-37E1	4	2	2
MRC-109	2	1	0
MRC-83	2	1	1
MRC-87	1	1	1
M-170	1	1	1
M-274A2	30	31	24
(M-107)	5	4	4
(M-149)	0	0	0

(2) Communications.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>OP-READY</u>
PP-4567/U A0090	3	2	2
AN/PFS-6 A1420	0	10	6
AN/GRA-39 A1730	12	9	7
AN/GRC-125 A1800	7	7	7

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AN/ARC-83 A1900	2	1	1
AN/ARC-87 A1910	1	1	0
AN/ARC-109 A1920	2	1	0
AN/PRC-250 A2000	75	69	66
AN/PRC-41 A2010	3	3	3
AN/PRC-47 A2020	5	3	3
AN/PRC-77 A2050	19	1	1
AN/PRC-80 A2055	180	180	180
AN/UPR-23 A2250	1	1	1
SB-22/PT A2180	5	5	5
AN/TCC-14 A2580	3	3	2
TA-1/T A2640	4	53	53
TA-312/PT A2660	1	1	1
AN/TCC-14 A2670	2	1	1
KY-8	3	3	2
KY-38	22	22	20
PU-348 B0870	1	1	0
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b. Major end items previously evacuated to higher echelon maintenance facilities that have not been returned:

(1) Motor Transport.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
M-37B1	1	FLSC-B
M-271A2	6	FLSC-B
M-250	1	FLSC-B
M-12	1	FLSC-B

(2) Communications.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
PU-348 B0870	1	3rd FSR

7. Logistics.

a. Supply and Distribution.

- (1) The primary source of supply for the battalion is FLSC-B.
- (2) Significant items in short supply are body armor and water cans.
- (3) The battalion uses unit distribution.

b. Resupply.

- (1) Resupply figures, (by class) to the companies in the battalion.

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>NUMBER POUNDS</u>
I	122,200
II	
III	1,680
IV	
V	388,636

- (2) Total resupply figures for companies in the battalion.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NUMBER POUNDS</u>
H&S	118,786
Company "A"	141,121
Company "B"	72,167
Company "C"	107,628
Company "D"	82,814

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- (3) Hot meals were provided for the battalion at VCB Cam Lo Bridge, Cam Lo, C-2, and Con Thien. One hot meal per day was trucked to units in the field.

c. Transportation.

- (1) Trucks and jeeps were used by the battalion between Quang Tri; VCB, Cam Lo District Headquarters, Cam Lo Bridge, Mai Loc, C-2, Con Thien and YD 088578.
- (2) The following vehicles have been coded "H": (1) M-151A1, (1) MEC-109 (1) MEC-83, (2) M-107, (2) M-416B1, and (1) M-101A1. (1) M-101A1 has been stolen. The overall condition of the vehicles is good due to 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance.
- (3) Helicopters during the month were provided by HHC-39, the United States Army, HHC-36 and HHC-16.
- (4) 522,516 pounds of supplies were lifted by helicopter during the month.

- d. Engineer Support. First platoon, Company C, 3d Engineer Battalion and division EOD teams were used extensively on Operation Dewey Canyon to destroy captured enemy gear, weapons, and ordnance. The platoon also helped clear landing zones and fields of fire on the operation, and from 23-31 March gave engineer support on the road sweeps from Con Thien to C-2, from Cam Lo to C-2, from Mai Loc to Cam Lo, and from Cam Lo halfway to the Tho Gio Bridge.

e. Services Situation.

- (1) While showers, bakery and ice facilities at VCB were only used by the battalion rear due to the absence of the battalion throughout the month, the laundry service was utilized, and showers, ice and bakery facilities at the battalion static positions in the latter portion of the month were available and employed.

f. Medical.

- (1) During the month of March 740 patients were treated at Quang Tri and 415 at Vandegrift Combat Base. There were 50 MIA's treated at 3d Medical Battalion and 98 MIA's evacuated to U.S. Naval Hospitals in the Pacific. In the later portion of the month the forward BAS at Cam Lo treated 198 patients.
- (2) It is the opinion of the medical officer of this battalion that the presence of a doctor in the field with the battalion during the 5 weeks of sustained combat resulted in saving the lives of at least 25 Marines.

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8. Personnel and Administration.a. Personnel.(1) Enlisted NOS Shortages and Rank.

<u>NOS</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SHORTAGE</u>
0141	Sgt	1
	LCpl	2
	PFC&Pvt	2
0239	CySgt	1
0311	Sgt	35
	Cpl	67
	LCpl	23
0331	Sgt	11
	Cpl	16
	LCpl	5
0341	Sgt	7
	Cpl	13
	PFC&Pvt	7
0351	Sgt	4
	Cpl	12
	LCpl	19
0369	CySgt	2
	SSgt	7
0431	Sgt	1
0441	SSgt	1
0448	CySgt	1
1341	LCpl	1
1441	LCpl	1
2111	PFC&Pvt	1
2511	Sgt	1
	LCpl	2
2533	Sgt	1
	LCpl	2
	PFC&Pvt	1
2549	SSgt	1
2811	Cpl	1
2815	PFC&Pvt	2
2869	SSgt	1
3041	Sgt	1
	Cpl	1
3051	LCpl	1
	PFC&Pvt	1
3371	LCpl	8
3381	CySgt	1
3516	Sgt	1
	Cpl	1
3531	PFC&Pvt	3

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<u>NOS</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SHORTAGES</u>
5591	PFC&Pvt	1
5711	Sgt	1
8421	Sgt	1

(2) Rotations during month (CONUS).

<u>MC OFF</u>	<u>MC EEL</u>	<u>NAV OFF</u>	<u>NAV EEL</u>
1	60	0	1

(3) Replacements received during the month.

<u>MC OFF</u>	<u>MC EEL</u>	<u>NAV OFF</u>	<u>NAV EEL</u>
1	172	0	1

(4) Casualties.

KIA - 12
 WIA - 72
 MIA - 53
 DOD - 1
 DOW - 3

(5) Promotions.

H&S - 2 PFC; 1 ICpl
 "A" - 1 Cpl; 5 ICpl
 "B" - 1 Cpl; 4 LCpl
 "C" - 1 Cpl; 4 LCpl
 "D" - 1 Cpl; 3 LCpl

(6) Awards.

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry - 35
 Navy Commendation Medal - 2
 Bronze Star Medal - 1
 Navy Achievement Medal - 21

b. Administration.(1) Discipline.

(a) Problems if any. None
 (b) Courts Martials Completed Pending
 SPCM 2 0
 (c) Battalion Commanders Officer Hours. None
 (d) Company Commanders Officer Hours. 3

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

- (a) P.X. is available at VCR.
- (b) Postal facilities are available at VCR.
- (c) R&R Quotas.

Bangkok - 15
 Hawaii - 20
 Hong Kong - 12
 Kuala Lumpur - 3
 Penang - 2
 Singapore - 2
 Sydney - 18
 Taipei - 8
 Tokyo - 6
 Okinawa - 4
 Manila - 2
 Total - 90

(3) Chaplain Services.

Protestant - 22
 Catholic - 12

9. Intelligence.

On Operation Dewey Canyon the battalion/regimental tactic of belilifting to a zone outside the area of operations on 10 February 1969 and thrusting south to route 922/548 apparently surprised the enemy and bent him off balance and confused until the end of February.

The enemy, therefore, changed his tactics in early March to guerilla type warfare, employing small hit and run ambushes and mortar attacks. This indicated that the enemy was finally aware of what was in his area, and he reverted to the tactics he has always used against overwhelmingly larger forces. By 18 March when the battalion extracted by helicopter the enemy had evidently regained some of his former strength and was aware that the last Marine units were trying to retract. The number of probes increased and the battalion's position at Tam Doi was virtually ringed with mortar positions. However, the enemy was still unable to mount a large scale ground attack at this time.

On 19 March 1969 the battalion went to Cua Viet for R&R. While the battalion was enroute to Cua Viet, the battalion received a total of (12) rounds of 60/82mm mortars that landed 5 to 10 meters from the road, 1000 meters west of Cam Lo.

On 22 March, the battalion was assigned to Cam Lo District Headquarters, A-4, C-2, C-3 bridge, and the Mai Loc area. From 22 to 31 March the battalion received an abundance of agent reports indicating that enemy units were located and moving in the general area north and east to north east of Mai Loc. Some of these reports have been confirmed by sensor readings. Also a reconnaissance team was shot out of the area north east of Mai Loc.

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During this period the battalion and other U.S. forces in this area received sporadic sniper fire along the road from Con Thien to C-2 and along the river near the Sea Bee's quarry (XD 080595). There have also been (2) mining incidents both of which were found by sweep teams and destroyed: one was along Route #9 at grid (XD 079571) consisting of (2) anti-tank mines, one on top of the other; the other was on the road to Mai Loc at (XD 102538), consisting of (1) homemade anti-tank mine weighing (20) lbs. The Sea Bee's found (60) lbs of T.T and (2) pressure type detonators with firing pins buried in their bunker at (XD 068576). From the reports, findings, and contacts in the battalion's present area of operation, it seems that the enemy is moving in a south easterly direction to the mountainous terrain east of Mai Loc.

The weather throughout the month of March was overcast with occasional showers. Temperatures varied from the mid 60's to high 70's with a few but clear days interspersed.

10. Air Support

a. Fixed Wing Support

During the month of March 1969 the following fixed wing support was utilized by 1/9.

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. FLTS</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>PDA Results</u>	<u>A/O Support</u>
7 MAR	1	204005	95/95 2 fight holes 2 bunker dest. 1 Sec.	Colorado "K"
	2	208019	100/100. 6 Sec.	Colorado "Y"
8 MAR	4	191029	100/100. 8 Fight holes 24 bunk dest.	Colorado "D"
10 MAR	1	219026	100/100. 1 mortar dest	Colorado "G"
	1	231001	100/100. W/A	Colorado "W"
11 MAR	6	219026	95/95. 3 Fight holes 5 bunk. dest.	MAHUA-140, 11
18 MAR	4	235035	95/95. 1-50 cal dest; 1 Mortar site, 4 KBA, 5 Sec.	Colorado "R"
	4	247047	100/100. 2 Mortar site 6 KBA, 5 Sec.	Colorado "R"
	5	232042	100/100. 1 Mortar site, 5 KBA, 4 Sec.	Seaworthy 98-14

b. Helicopter Support.

During the month of March the following helicopter support was utilized by 1/9.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Units Lifted</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>A/O Utilized</u>
18 MAR	A/1/9, B/1/9	XD 243045	VCB	8 CH-46, 5 CH-53, 7 CH-47

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Date	Units Lifted	From	To	A/O Utilized
10 FEB	HES/1/9, C/1/9	HE 243045	VCB	8 CH-46, 5 CH-53 7 CH-47
	W/2/12 (4.2 mortar)			
	Mortar)	HE 243045	VCB	8 CH-46, 5 CH-53 7 CH-47
	D/1/9	HE 243045	VCB	8 CH-46, 5 CH-53, 7 CH-47

- c. Personnel. The air section of 1/9 consisted of two (2) officers and seven enlisted for this month. In conjunction, three H.S.T teams were also utilized.
- d. Equipment. The only equipment utilized by the air section 1/9 was the HC-25.

11. Fire Support: Artillery

- (a) General. During March, 1969, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines provided artillery support for 1st Battalion, 9th Marines on a daily basis. One major problem was that helicopters refused to make approaches when artillery was being fired anywhere near the battalion's landing zone. The lack of artillery fire during helicopter approaches results in less protection for the ground troops as well as for the helicopters. A solution is for helicopters to adhere to assigned approach and retirement lanes in accordance with current doctrine.
- (b) Significant Events. Numerous fire missions were conducted on known and suspected enemy positions with favorable results.
- On 5 March, Company D was probed by ground troops. The company called in artillery with unknown results. Company D sighted 10 VC the same day and accounted for 6 VC dead by friendly 60mm mortar and artillery fires.
- On 7 March, Company F called artillery in on VC troops who had attacked them. Artillery accounted for 3 enemy dead.
- On 15 March, Company C called artillery on 5 to 10 VC sighted at HE 237041 and killed 7.
- The extraction from Dewey Canyon was hampered severely by constant attack by the enemy. Artillery gave constant coverage in support of the extraction.
- On 26 March, sensor readings were extremely heavy, prompting continuous fire missions throughout the night. Fire cracker rounds were employed in conjunction with high explosive with a total expenditure of 1503 rounds.

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(c) <u>Time Factor Effect.</u>	Number
Observed	104
Unobserved	54
HCI	1001
(d) <u>Number of Rounds.</u>	Number
105	9510
155	1020
107	112
(e) <u>Significant Surveillance.</u>	
MI	- 46
Probables	- 34
Bunkers Destroyed	- 17
Secondary Explosions	- 4

12. Communication/Electronics.

a. General: After returning from Pavey Canyon, the battalion assumed a defensive posture; Com Co, G-2 and A-4 were the major positions occupied. In order to support these positions, it was necessary to close all but the most necessary communications at VGD and transfer some equipment from Ourng Tri.

The large amount of equipment destroyed through combat operations reduced the support available for these new positions.

b. Message Center. The message center functioned as per standard operating procedure. One or two individuals were part of the Command Post in the field to maintain files for administrative messages sent and received, and one individual functioned as a courier for unclassified and other classified materials between the rear echelons and the field.

c. Wire. Existing wire at Com Co, A-4, and G-2 proved unsatisfactory and required rewiring. A complete rewiring of Com Co was required and completed during the latter portion of the month. Six miles of fresh wire was required to accomplish this, and it was provided by the 9th Airborne. Plans were made to start rewiring at A-4 and G-2 during the early portion of April.

d. Radio. An increase in the number of radios in each company was being implemented during the latter portion of the month. Radio Communications in Com Co and areas to the north proved erratic. This was solved by the use of 292's at the company CP's.

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c. Radio Relay. A radio relay team from 9th Marines was utilized at Cam Lo. The "shot" was into the 3d Marines switchboard at Dong Ha which provided two lines. A team from 3d Marines manned the Dong Ha terminal of the shot.

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