

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS

3d Reconnaissance Battalion
 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
 FPO San Francisco 96602

2742 68

3/RTE/wjc
 5750.6
 SerNo. 03A1601968
 8 June 1968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
 Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF, (Attn: AC of S,G-3)
 Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
 Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

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

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

Encl: ✓(1) 3d Reconnaissance Battalion Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Unclassified upon removal of enclosure.

W D Kent
 W. D. KENT

Page 1 of 11 Pages
 UNCLASSIFIED

3RD RECON BN

CMD CHRON

MAY 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy _____ of _____ Copies

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
 3d Reconnaissance Battalion
 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
 FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May 1968

INDEX

PART I	ORGANIZATION DATA
PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III	SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Group - 4
 DOWNGRADED 3 - YEARS INTERVALS
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

Page 2 of 11 Pages

UNCLASSIFIED

Copy _____ of _____ Copies

UNCLASSIFIEDPART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATADESIGNATION

3d Reconnaissance Battalion

COMMANDERLTCOL W.D. KENT
10 Nov - 31 May 68SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1STLT L.E. WALKER	28 Feb 68 - 31 May 68
Company A	1STLT J.R. PETTY	25 Feb 68 - 31 May 68
Company B	1STLT J.P. DUSENBURY	20 Apr 68 - 31 May 68
Company C	CAPT S.M. HARTNETT	26 Aug 67 - 16 May 68
	1STLT E.V. OSBORNE	16 May 68 - 31 May 68
Company D	1STLT W.G. McBRIDE	19 Feb 68 - 31 May 68
Company E	1STLT N.C. YOUNGSTROM	12 Apr 68 - 31 May 68

ATTACHED UNITS

3d Force Reconnaissance Co.	MAJOR J.E. ANDERSON	29 Nov 67 - 10 May 68
	CAPT W.F. SNYDER	10 May 68 - 31 May 68

LOCATION

1 - 31 May 68	Quang Tri, RVN	H&S Company, Company A, Company B, Company C, Company D, Company E
1 - 31 May 68	Dong Ha, RVN	3d Force Reconnaissance Company
Executive Officer	MAJOR H.L. BOHR JR.	27 Feb 68 - 31 May 68
Operations Officer, S-3	CAPT C.R. ARIOLA	27 Feb 68 - 31 May 68
S-2 Officer	1STLT R.G. WALLS	5 Feb 68 - 31 May 68
S-4 Officer	1STLT C.J. SCHLACK	9 Mar 68 - 31 May 68
Adjutant	1STLT K.W. CZAPOR	31 Dec 68 - 31 May 68

AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH (Includes 3d Force Reconnaissance Company)

USMC		USN	
<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
37	807	1	60

Page 3 of 11 Pages**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Co. A During the reporting period Company A conducted 27 patrols averaging 3.20 days with an average of 9.11 men per patrol. The patrols made 14 sightings for a total of 63 enemy, which resulted in three contacts and 14 fire missions totalling 1247 rounds. There was a total of three enemy KIA (C). In addition the company conducted secondary perimeter patrols around the Quang Tri Vital Defense Area. The company suffered one USMC WIA.

Co. B During the reporting period Company B conducted 20 patrols averaging 3.62 days with an average of 8.0 men per patrol. The patrols made two sightings totalling six enemy, no contacts, a total of two fire missions w.s conducted totalling 106 artillery rounds. No enemy KIA. The company suffered no casualties.

Co. C During the reporting period Company C conducted 19 patrols averaging 3.82 days with an average of 9.10 men per patrol. The patrols made 14 sightings for a total of 77 enemy, which resulted in one contact and six fire missions of 111 artillery rounds. One enemy was captured. The company suffered four USMC WIA. .

Co. D During the reporting period the company conducted 21 patrols averaging 2.79 days with an average of 8.30 men per patrol. The patrols made three sightings for a total of 15 enemy, which resulted in four contacts. There was a total of 10 enemy killed (C). In addition the company conducted patrols in the Quang Tri Vital Defense Area. The company suffered one USMC KIA, one USMC WIA.

Co. E During the reporting period Company E conducted 36 patrols averaging 3.62 days with an average of 7.53 men per patrol. The patrols made seven sightings for a total of 31 enemy, which resulted in six contacts and five fire missions of 133 artillery rounds. There was a total of one enemy KIA (C). The company also provided patrols for the Quang Tri Base Perimeter Defense. There was a total of five USMC KIA and one USN WIA.

3d. Force Recon Co. During the reporting period the company conducted 22 patrols for an average of 1.52 days with an average of 4.06 men per patrol. The patrols made seven sightings for a total of 91 enemy. There were four contacts, and 10 fire missions. Enemy losses totalled one KIA (C). Friendly losses totalled one USMC WIA.

H&S Company During the reporting period the SCUBA Section conducted two SCUBA mission in support of the 3d Marine Division. One of these was a continued mission requiring five divers per day to clear and help defend the Quang Tri River Bridge - the vital access way to Quang Tri City from the north.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Copy _____ of _____ Copies

- a. Combat Mission Assigned. The 3d Reconnaissance Battalion and attached 3d Force Reconnaissance Company conducted reconnaissance operations, STINGRAY Operations, and other operations, as directed, within the Division Area of Responsibility (3d MarDiv 1-67).
- b. Significant Operations Conducted. Units of this battalion have participated in Operations LANCASTER II, KENTUCKY, SCOTLAND II, NAPOLEON/SALINE and RICE, during the reporting period.
- c. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy. There have been 16 VC/NVA casualties (KIA C) inflicted upon the enemy during this reporting period and a total of two weapons captured. Two large caches of enemy ammunition were also captured.
- d. Casualties Sustained. The battalion has suffered six USMC KIA, two USMC DOW, 13 USMC WIA, and one USN WIA.
- e. New Techniques Employed. Nothing significant to report.
- f. Command Relations. The 3d Force Reconnaissance Company continued to operate under OPCON of Task Force Hotel. Administrative Control is retained by 3d Reconnaissance Battalion. Six members of this command participated in the cross training program with 1st Air Cav Division. Also as part of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Program, four Army personnel operated with this unit for thirty days.
- g. Equipment. Nothing significant to report.
- h. Logistics. Nothing significant to report.

Page 5 of 11 Pages

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

C O N F

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Copy _____ of _____ Copies

i. Civic Action. All personnel joining the battalion from CONUS were given a class in the Personal Response Program by the Battalion Sergeant Major.

j. Administration. Nothing significant to report.

k. Personnel. 10 May 1968 CAPT W.F. SNYDER assigned duty as Commanding Officer 3d Force Reconnaissance Battalion vice Major J.E. ANDERSON.

16 May 1968 1STLT E.V. OSBORNE assigned duty as Commanding Officer Company C vice CAPT S.M. HARTNETT.

27 May 1968 1LT M.F. WILLARD, CMC, USNR, assigned duty as 3d Reconnaissance Battalion Chaplin.

l. Weather. During the month of May the weather was generally fair with increased temperatures. Visibility was good throughout the month with occasional scattered showers and electrical thunder storms during the latter part of the month. Helicopter insertions and extractions were not hampered by the weather during this reporting period. Due to increased temperatures, patrols in the field had to restrict their movement in order to prevent heat casualties.

m. Fire Support. The battalion's recon teams directed 27 artillery missions totalling 1643 rounds.

n. Air Support. The battalions recon teams utilized air strikes on targets of opportunity. (This does not include the fixed wing strikes employed for initial insertions in an unsecure zone).

Page 6 of 11 Pages~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Copy _____ of _____ Copies

p. Training. Training was conducted on a continuous basis. Newly joined personnel are instructed via the battalion training and familiarization school in all aspects peculiar to reconnaissance, weapons, demolitions, artillery, etc. An information/orientation class on Vietnam is conducted by the Battalion Sergeant Major. The M-16 rifle is fam-fired and zeroed during the period.

Company training is conducted along these same lines, but on a more detailed level pursuant with the experience gained in combat.

Seven personnel graduated from the U.S. Navy SCUBA School in the Philippines, one man was honor graduate during the reporting period.

Twelve personnel graduated from the U.S. Army RECONDO School, class R-16-68, R-17-68, in Nha Trang, Vietnam.

In addition, the following schools were conducted at the location given:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Comm Sec/ Crypto School	1	Japan
VN Language School (Advance)	1	Okinawa
VN Language School (Basic)	1	Da Nang
SCUBA School	10	Subic Bay
Ground Surveillance Radar	5	Da Nang
Supply School	1	Da Nang
Embarkation School	2	Okinawa
Jumpmaster School	2	Okinawa
RECONDO School	12	Nha Trang

q. Communication. The following radio relay sites were deactivated during the reporting period.

<u>NAME DESIGNATOR</u>	<u>GRID</u>
Bravo	XD 844456
Charlie	YD 138646
Mike	YD 311496

The following sites are presently being utilized as radio relay sites.

<u>NAME DESIGNATOR</u>	<u>GRID</u>	<u>AREA</u>
Airminded	YD 304533	Ai Tu
Papa	YD 064552	Camp Carroll
Sierra	YD 979559	Thom Sen Lam
Tango	YD 233597	Dong Ha
Uniform	YD 006460	Ca Lu

Page 7 of 11 Pages

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

r. Intelligence Summary

Enemy activity has remained heavy in the 3d Marine Division area of responsibility during the month of May. The enemy appears to have entered into the second phase of his Winter-Spring Campaign throughout Northern I Corps. The most significant enemy activity during the month took place in the Leatherneck Square area to the north of Dong Ha. Infiltration across the DMZ in the Con Thien - (A-3) - Gio Linh region, as well as along the coast, increased greatly during the early part of the month. Elements of four enemy regiments participated in encounters with allied units in this area. It appears as though the enemy suffered extensive casualties as a result of these contacts. To the south of the Cua Viet River on the coast, allied rice denial operations against the enemy appear to have been very successful. The enemy continues to operate in this region and Quang Tri City remains a primary target for enemy attack. In the area to the south of Cam Lo, the enemy appears to be infiltrating toward the coast along major streams and trails. Additionally, the 27th Independent Battalion continues to operate in the canopied area to the south of Cam Lo and the east of the Camp Carroll - (D-5) area. Several reconnaissance patrols have made several significant sighting and contacts with what is believed to be elements of the 27th Independent Battalion. Surveillance of the mountainous area to the south and south-west of Camp Carroll has revealed increased enemy infiltration through the area during the past month. Enemy infiltration appears to be small units moving generally northeast to southeast through the area. The enemy continues to utilize the Ba Long Valley for west to east infiltration to the coast and into the Hai Leng Forest. North of Camp Carroll, the enemy continues to operate on the northern slopes of the Dong Ha/Dong Ma Mountain ridgeline. Additionally, the enemy continues to utilize the valley to the northwest of Cam Lo to conduct mortar and rocket attacks upon allied installations in the area. Enemy operations in the Thom Son Lam area appear to be concentrated in the canopied mountainous area to the west of Route Nine. This area has displayed increased enemy activity in the latter part of the month. Several rocket and automatic weapons positions have been detected in this region. The enemy continues to operate in the high ground to the west of Ca Lu. The persistent interdiction of Route Nine between Ca Lu and Khe Sanh appears to be the enemy's major objective in this area as well as attacks by rockets and mortars upon allied installations in the Ca Lu area. In the Khe Sanh area, the enemy has increased his activities during the month. Substantial sized enemy units appear to be operating to the south of Khe Sanh Combat Base. The enemy continues to employ artillery attacks on Khe Sanh Combat Base and allied positions from the Co Roc Area.

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy _____ of _____ Copies

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

OpO 424-68 (3C1) 03100H/031330H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of XD 9938 conducted $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours of reconnaissance resulting in two sightings totalling eight enemy and one contact with approximately 10-15 enemy resulting in one enemy KIA. The patrol broke contact, move to an HLZ and was extracted by a CH-46 under cover of gunships strafing the area.

OpO 20F-68 (2-4) 051330H/071900H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of XD 8350 conducted 54 hours of reconnaissance resulting in two sightings totalling five enemy. The team moved to an HLZ and was extracted. Enemy casualties unknown.

OpO 449-68 (1A1) 060930H/061930H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of YD 1946 conducted 10 hours of reconnaissance resulting in two sightings totalling four enemy and one contact with approximately 15 enemy resulting in one enemy KIA. Patrol also observed about 20 freshly made bunkers and foxholes. The patrol broke contact, moved to an HLZ and was extracted by a CH-46 under cover of gunships strafing the area.

OpO 15F-68 (2-2) 091500H/09153 H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of XD 8643 conducted 30 minutes of reconnaissance resulting in two contact with unknown size enemy force resulting in one enemy KIA. The team was extracted by a CH-46 and covered by gunships strafing the area.

OpO 471-68 (3A3) 101330H/101330H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of YD 1066 conducted $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours of reconnaissance experienced one contact with approximately 20 enemy in a bunker complex resulting in three enemy KIA and one USMC WIA. The patrol moved to an HLZ site and were extracted by a CH-46 while gunship strafed the area resulting in numerous large secondary explosions.

OpO 476-68 (4E2) 130759H/Spot Report May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of YD 0659 conducted two hours of reconnaissance resulting in one contact with a large enemy force in a bunker complex. The contact resulted in two USMC KIA and four USMC WIA. Enemy casualties could not be determined. The enemy was well entrenched and delivered a heavy volume of machine gun fire. Air strikes were conducted with outstanding coverage.

OpO 485-68 (3E3) 151500H/181130H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of XD 8849 conducted $68\frac{1}{2}$ hours of reconnaissance resulting in one sightings of five enemy and one contact with approximately 25 enemy. The contact resulted in three USMC KIA, two USMC WIA and one USN WIA. Enemy casualties could not be determined.

OpO 484-68 (3D2) 170730H/17180H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of YD 074504 conducted $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours of reconnaissance resulting in one sighting of one enemy and one contact with approximately 15 enemy. Contact resulted one enemy KIA (C).

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 9 of 11 Pages

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

OpO 510-68 (1D3) 181700H/201630H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of YD 0967 conducted 47 hours of reconnaissance resulting in one contact with an estimated force of 15 enemy. The contact resulted in four enemy KIA. Gunships made air strikes and an artillery mission was conducted with good target coverage.

OpO 502-68 (2D2) 201130H/211800H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of YD 0641 conducted 30 hours of reconnaissance resulting in a contact with approximately 25 enemy. The contact resulted in two USMC WIA and four enemy KIA. Air strike were conducted with excellent coverage.

OpO 542-68 (1A3) 251400H/270930H May 68. A patrol operating in the vicinity of YD 1251 conducted 4 1/2 hours of reconnaissance resulting in two contacts with approximately 15 enemy. Contact resulted in one USMC WIA, and unknown enemy casualties. The team captured two AK-47 Assault Weapons.

Page 10 of 11 Pages~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

