

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/RFF/wb
13131
7Mar68

From: Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
Commanding General, III MAF
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1Feb68 - 29Feb68

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

Encl: ✓(1) February 1968 Command Chronology

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

2. Group IV: Downgrade at three year intervals with declassification after twelve years. Declassified upon removal of enclosure.


DONALD C. MARCHETTE
By direction

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 February 1968 to 29 February 1968

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION COMMANDER
3d Battalion, 3d Marines 1stLt J. W. MARSH 1-29Feb

Subordinate Units

H&S Co	Capt F. R. MATTHEWS	1-29Feb
"F" Co	Capt O. J. LEHRACK	1-29Feb
"K" Co	Capt D. R. FRANK	1-29Feb
"L" Co	Capt R. ZENSEN	1-29Feb
"M" Co	Capt W. H. MOADAMS	1-29Feb

Attached Units

<u>A-3 Position</u>		
3d Plt, "C" Co, 3d Tank Bn	1stLt W. L. BUCKLEY	1-4Feb
Sec, 2d Plt, "A" Btry, 1st Bn,		
ADA, AW(SP) 4th Arty (USA)	1stLt B. M. GIEGER	1-21Feb
	1stLt F. W. TAUL	21-29Feb
Lt's Sec, 1st Plt, "C" Co, 3d		
Tank Bn	GySgt R. L. JONES	21-29Feb

A-2 Position

"C" Co, 1st Bn, 4th Marines		27-29Feb
Detachment, 250th OMR (USA)		27-29Feb
Sec, 1st Plt, Btry "A", 1st Bn,		
44th Arty, (USA)	Sgt (E-5) F. L. PERO	27-29Feb
3d Plt, "A" Co, 3d Tank Bn		27-29Feb
Detachment, 11th Eng Bn		27-29Feb
Detachment, FLSG 1		27-29Feb
Naval Gunfire Team, 12th Mar.		27-29Feb
FC Team, Hq Co, 12th Mar.		27-29Feb
Detachment, Sound Plt, 2d Bn, 26th Arty		27-29Feb

2. Location:
1-29Feb, Quang Tri Province, YD 175723, (A-3), RVN

3. Staff Officers:

Executive Officer	Major C. V. LYNN	1-29Feb
S-1	1stLt D. C. MARCHEITE	1-29Feb
S-2	1stLt A. L. ASHBURN	1-29Feb
S-3	Major R. F. FINLAY JR	1-29Feb
S-4	1stLt E. N. LAWRENCE	1-29Feb

4. Average Monthly Strength.

<u>OFF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENL</u>
40		1129

<u>OFF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENL</u>
2		58

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The battalion continued to operate from A-3 and Hill #28 in the 9th Marines AO in accordance with 9th Marines OP Plan 2-68. With the completion of major portions of the Dye-Marker project during the month of January greater emphasis was placed over the past month on both daylight and night operations. Enemy incoming artillery and mortar fires were moderate. Seventy-two mortar and 233 light and medium artillery rounds were received during the month of February resulting in only 1 wound of serious consequence. This was attributed primarily to the fortification efforts of the battalion during its early occupancy of the A-3 position.

February saw a definite step-up in ground contact. A total of 188 NVA were killed by elements of the battalion and 3 POW's were captured during February. Positive contact with the enemy was gained on 8 occasions, the most significant of which occurred on 7Feb68 when Company "K" contacted a battalion size unit dug in on an 800 meter front approximately 600 meters southeast of the junction of MSR 566 with Route #1. Contact was made during the early afternoon and heavy casualties were initially incurred by two platoons. Companies "L" and "M" were deployed from the battalion position to reinforce Company "K" and ground contact continued until a tank infantry attack the following morning drove the enemy from the primary pocket of resistance. The action accounted for 140 enemy KIA, several weapons and a large quantity of enemy equipment and supplies. Night ambushes were increased in strength from squad to platoon and in some cases company strength. The increased strength provided the "strong power" required to operate as far as 4,000 meters from the A-3 position at night. Three successful ambushes were triggered during the month accounted for 21 NVA KIA, 9 enemy weapons and 2 prisoners. Primary emphasis was placed on interdicting enemy night movement along north/south infiltration routes between A-2 and A-3. It is planned that the scope of night operations will be further accelerated during the following month.

A battalion operation across the southern boundary of the DMZ was conducted on 16Feb68 for the purpose of "reconnaissance in force" of grid 1575. Initial entry to the probable line of deployment was gained under the cover of darkness. Contact was gained a short time after first light and continued until early afternoon. Contact broken, the battalion continued in its mission without further incident.

On 26Feb68 the battalion assumed OICCN of A-2 and "C" 1/4, both of which were formerly under control of the 12th Marines. One additional platoon from India Company was assigned to A-2. The Executive Officer with a small command group was assigned as defense coordinator of A-2. A major portion of the following month will be

directed to improving and fortifying the position. In that the infantry units assigned to A-2 will be engaged in improving A-2 defenses and fortifications, daylight activities in proximity to A-2 will be conducted by the Battalion elements from A-3.

Supporting fires during this reporting period reflected a substantial improvement over the previous month.

Continual control problems were encountered as the result of intermittent net interference and jamming of radio frequencies assigned to the battalion and used by supporting arms.

Stringent control over ammunition expenditures was required to compensate for critical shortages of claymores, M-79 and mortar ammo and hand grenades were frequently NIS.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat Missions Assigned:

a. Basic Mission. To conduct missions in assigned area of operations in accordance with 3d MarDiv Operation Order 59-67 (Kentucky)

b. To conduct anti-infiltration operations in AO with special emphasis on interdicting north/south infiltration routes, assume responsibility for enlarged AO, to include outpost of Hill #28 with not less than two rifle companies at night; defend A-3 and provide protection for construction effort on Route 566. Reference: 9th Marines Operation Plan 2-68; 9th Marines Frag Order #12 (Opn Kentucky)

c. On 4Feb68 attack at H-Hour to seize Objectives 1 thru 4 and conduct a physical link-up with 2/1; sweep areas enroute to and in the vicinity of the assigned objectives; adjust supporting fires from secure OP's to destroy enemy personnel and/or positions. Reference: Battalion Frag Order 3-68

d. On 10Feb68 sweep area of contact on 7Feb68. Seize Objectives 1 thru 8 commencing at H-Hour and destroy or capture enemy personnel, emplacements, equipment and weapons. Reference: Battalion Frag Order 4-68.

e. On 16Feb68 conduct a reconnaissance in force of the 1775 grid square north of the DMZ. Reference: 9th Marines msg dtg P 061055H; Battalion Frag Order 5-68.

2. Significant Operations Conducted

a. 4Feb68 - India, Kilo and Mike Companies plus 3d Plt (-), "C" Company, 3d Tank Battalion and a command group swept the west toward Con Thien and link-up with "H" Company 2d Battalion, 1st Marines. At this time the tank platoon joined "H" Company and was chopped to the OPCON of 2d Battalion, 1st Marines. Sweeping elements returned to their respective defensive position without gaining enemy contact.

b. 7Feb68 - What appeared to be a routine security mission developed into the major engagement of the month. Contact was gained when 3d Plt, Company "K", moving east at YD 201719, had a meeting engagement with a unit of the NVA at extremely close distance. The element of surprise was with the NVA and 9 KIA's and 7 WIA's were immediately suffered. The 2d Plt, Company "K", located in close proximity, was immediately committed to assist and became engaged in close fighting near YD 201723. 18 KIA's and 10 WIA's were immediately suffered. The 1st Plt, Company "K" moved to assist the 2d Plt. Company "L" was deployed from A-3 into a blocking position at YD 194715. Mike Company, with a command group deployed from A-3 to assist Kilo Company. A defensive perimeter was established to the southwest of the contact, Kilo was disengaged, and finally drawn into the Mike Company perimeter for the night. Lima Company returned to A-3 at 2015H. At first light, Company "K", with a heavy section of tanks from A-2, conducted a tank/infantry attack. Enemy resistance was broken by 0830H. Casualties were secured and the battle area was policed. The entire action resulted in 30 KIA's and 30 WIA's suffered and 139 NVA KIA confirmed.

c. 10Feb68 - Lima and Mike Companies plus a command group swept to the southeast to clear and inspect the contact area of 7Feb68 in grids 1971, 2071, 2171, 2172. Upon arrival in the area the following was noted:

- (1) Hastily prepared positions accumulating approximately 250 to 300 NVA were found extending from YD 202718 to YD 211722.
- (2) Approximately 30 fighting holes were found at YD 198716.
- (3) Over 60 graves were spread throughout the area.
- (4) Two enemy kills were confirmed.
- (5) Expended and discarded equipment and ammo plus the extent of prepared positions indicated a possible battalion size unit was in contact with Kilo Company on 7Feb68.
- (6) Withdrawal routes were oriented to the south.
- (7) Further evidence indicated villagers vicinity YD 211711 treated wounded NVA soldiers.

Sweeping units returned to their separate defensive positions prior to last light.

d. 16Feb68 - India and Mike Companies plus a command group swept generally to the north and back thru grids 1772, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1974, 1975, 1875, 1775, 1774, and 1773. Movement into position to sweep through the area bound by the railroad tracks vicinity YD 180-760 and YD 192754 and grid 1775 was conducted during darkness. Contact in the sweep area was gained at approximately 0930 by India Company. Mike Company was moved in support of India Company and gun-

resulting in 4 KIA's and 7 WIA's suffered and 25 NVA KIA's gained.

3. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy.

a. During the month of February, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, inflicted the following casualties on the enemy; 188 NVA KIA (confirmed), 01 VC KIA (confirmed) and 03 POW's.

4. Casualties Sustained.

a. Name of Surgeon: Lt Walter F. DRYSDALE

b. Significant Events:

(1) On 3Feb68 2 members of India Co. and 1 member of Mike Co. were wounded by enemy mortars.

(2) On 4Feb68 1 member of Kilo Co. and 1 USN member of H&SCo. were wounded by an enemy mine.

(3) On 5Feb68 4 members of H&SCo. were wounded at Cam Lo Hill by enemy mortars.

(4) On 7Feb68 Kilo Co. suffered 30 killed and 35 wounded due to an enemy ambush.

(5) On 14Feb68 1 member of India Co. was killed in action.

(6) On 16Feb68 India Co. suffered 4 killed and 6 wounded due to enemy action.

(7) On 26Feb68 H&SCo. suffered 5 wounded due to enemy rockets in the rear area.

(8) Number of Battle Casualties

TOTALS	KIA	WIA	DOW	MIA	NBC	NBC KILLED
USMC 3/3	33	66	1	0	7	0
USN 3/3	02	02	0	0	0	0
USMC Others	00	00	0	0	0	0

(9) There was a total of 412 inoculations given during the month.

(10) Outpatient Visits: 866

a. Common Complaints

1. FUO	11
2. Lacerations	6
3. Venereal Disease	12
4. Heat Casualties	1
5. Malaria	1
6. Dental	43
7. Cellulitis	22
8. Diarrhea	12
9. Animal Bites	1

c. Medical Trends: There was no significant trend during the month of February with the exception that malaria was almost non-existent.

d. Problem Area: None

5. New Techniques Employed. None

6. Command Relations.

a. OPCON - 9th Marines, ADCON - 3d MarDiv

b. 27Feb68, assumed OPCON of "C" Company, 1st Bn, 4th Marines.

c. 27Feb68, assumed OPCON of Gio Linh (A-2) Position.

7. Equipment. None

8. Logistics.

a. Supply

(1) General. During this reporting period the battalion has continued to build up the A-3 position. Daily resupply by helicopter is still the principle means of transportation to A-3. Resupply by motor vehicle was effected once, but trafficability of the road to A-3 is limited and it is not practical to resupply by this means.

During this reporting period it was necessary, due to limited resupply because of the weather and heavy expenditures of Class V, to use the 10 day emergency reserve of Class I and V.

(2) Class I - A daily resupply maintains the regular supply of Class I at a three to five day level. Water buffalos are lifted in and out primarily by helicopter.

(3) Class II - There still remains a critical shortage on:

All items of individual equipment
Bayonets
Gas masks and filters
Magazines - .45 and M-16
Binoculars
Halizone Tablets
Salt Tablets

(4) Class III - No problems encountered in keeping an adequate supply of POL on hand

(5) Class IV - Due to Operation Dye-Marker no problems have been encountered in obtaining Class IV items.

(6) Class V - The battalion supply of Class V is maintained at RA- 10 DOA.

b. Motor Transport

(1) The present status is considered adequate on M274A2's (mules) for current operations but our present status on M422A1 (mites) is below normal operational level. This battalion is without a jeep ambulance at this time. It has been deadlined at 3d Echelon maintenance for over 60 days.

(a) Breakdown of M422A1 (mites)

- (1) T/E Qty - 20
- (2) On hand - 11
- (3) 2d Echelon Maintenance - 0
- (4) 3d Echelon Maintenance - 3
- (5) Code "X" - 6

(b) Breakdown of M274A2 (mules)

- (1) T/E Qty - 30
- (2) Operational - 16
- (3) 2d Echelon Maintenance - 10
- (4) Code "X" - 1
- (5) TAD 9th Marines - 3

(2) Ninth Motor Transport Battalion provides trucks to pick up and deliver supplies to the LSA for helicopter resupply.

c. Engineer Assistance

(1) 11th Engineers have assisted by digging revetements for ammunition and landscaping the battalion area. MCB-5 provided a trencher which completed communication trenches throughout the A-3 position. 3d Engineers have provided road sweep and demolition personnel.

d. Maintenance Problems.

(1) A shortage still exists on carburetors and spark plugs for both the M42A1 and the M274A2; front and rear cables for mules and cable leads.

e. Ordinance.

(1) At the end of the month the battalion maintained the following status:

<u>Item</u>	<u>T/E</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>Operational</u>	<u>2d Ech.</u>	<u>3d Ech. (FLSU)</u>
M-14 Rifles	52	52	52	0	0
45 Pistols	329	340	339	11	0
Shotguns	13	8	8	0	5 on order
M-60 MG	35	35	33	0	2
106RR	8	8	8	0	1
M-79	36	32	32	0	0
81mm Mortar	8	8	8	0	0
60mm Mortar	12	12	10	3 bi-pods 1 base plate	0
Flame Thrower	8	6	0	0	2 on order
3.5 Rockets	32	22	20	0	2 FLSU-10 on order
M-16 Rifles	919	1072	1067	3	2 FLSU
106mm Mounts	8	6	5	0	2 on order

9. Civic Affairs. None

10. Administration.

a. An awards ceremony was held on the 25th of February. The below medals were presented to members of this battalion by Brigadier General Hoffman, Assistant Commander, 3d Marine Division:

1 19th Award of Air Medal
 1 26th Award of Air Medal
 1 Navy Unit Commendation
 50 Purple Hearts

b. A total of 3 Court Martials were held during February: 2 GCM by 3d MarDiv, and 1 SCM. Eight Court Martials are pending. Nine Battalion Commander's Office Hours were completed and 3 are pending. There were 19 Company Commander's Office Hours completed and 10 are pending.

c. Special Services provided stationary during the month of February.

d. Post Exchange services were not available to the battalion due to it being located at A-3, however Sundries Packages were distributed.

e. Liberty was not authorized during this period.

f. During the month 2 officers and 37 enlisted Marines rotated to CONUS. One officer and 23 enlisted were transferred as a result of medical evacuation.

11. Personnel.

a. Gains: 0 USMC Off; 155 USMC Enl; 0 USN Off; 4 USN Enl

b. Losses: 3 USMC Off; 149 USMC Enl; 0 USN Off; 4 USN Enl

c. Monthly Strength (Average)

<u>MC OFF</u>	<u>MC ENL</u>	<u>USN OFF</u>	<u>USN ENL</u>
40	1129	2	58

d. Net Loss/Gain:

<u>MC OFF</u>	<u>MC ENL</u>	<u>USN OFF</u>	<u>USN ENL</u>
3/0	0/6	0/0	0/0

e. Emergency leave for the month of February; One USMC enlisted. There were no Humanitarian Transfers during the month of February. Twice/thrice wounded or reassigned outside of RVN due to father/brother in country: 6 USMC enlisted

f. There were four Hardship Discharges applied for during the past month: Five are pending.

g. One man rotated to CONUS for an Administrative Discharge. No Administrative Discharges are pending.

h. The R&R Program continues to be a major morale factor within this command. There were 84 out of country R&R quotas used during this reporting period.

i. Morale is considered to be excellent to outstanding.

j. Postal Services during the month have been good. Mail was delivered to the forward position by air as available.

12. Intelligence.

The month of February was characterized by one battalion sized contact. One company sized contact and three successful night ambushes.

On 7Feb68, Kilo Company's 3d Platoon was moving east at YD 201719 when engaged at a distance of less than 50 meters with small arms, automatic weapons, machine-guns and Chicom grenades. Surprise was in favor of the enemy and the loss of the Platoon Commander and 7 KIA's in the first few minutes resulted in confusion. Kilo's second platoon moved from YD 205726 to help the third platoon but was engaged at YD 201723 with small arms, machine-guns and Chicom grenades. The NVA tried to assault through Kilo two's position in a fierce five minutes hand-to-hand fight, on the initial engagement. Kilo two's Platoon Commander and two radio operators were killed along with 28 others killed or wounded. An enemy machine gunner reportedly called "corpsman" during the initial engagement. The corpsman was killed when he went forward. The enemy was apparently selective in selecting targets as evidenced by the loss of two Platoon Commanders, five radio operators and three corpsmen. Lima Company deployed to YD 194715 in a blocking position and surprised the enemy trying to withdraw toward Phu Tho.

The next morning a coordinated tank-infantry attack broke the last enemy resistance which was a small unit left in place to cover the withdrawal of the larger force. Four of the NVA found later had detonated Chicoms against their own bodies. A sweep of the battle area revealed the enemy had used hastily prepared positions to accommodate 250-300 NVA. The positions were organized in depth between YD 202718 and YD 211722. They were apparently deployed to hit the infantry security or a reaction force reacting against a secondary attack along Route #1 or

The NVA used command detonated Chicoms along the trails in the initial ambush and most Marine casualties were as a result of Chicom grenades. The villagers on the western side of Route #1 gave aid to the NVA casualties and buried the bodies. One VC was found near a grave with an E-tool in his hand, M-16 rounds on his body and an M-16 laying nearby. The NVA routes of withdrawal were oriented to the south and west toward Phu Tho (YD 180698).

A total of 113 NVA KIA were confirmed for infantry and 26 were attributed to air and artillery. One RFG-2, seventeen individual and four crew served weapons were captured as a result of the action.

On 16Feb68, 3/3 moved into the southern DMZ area and began a sweep at first light of the 1875 and 1775 grid squares. At YD 178761, twenty NVA were spotted on line and moving south. The NVA wore green utilities, helmets and packs. Weapons could not be observed. India Company deployed to meet the enemy and heavy contact was made at YD 183758. The enemy constructed and camouflaged bunkers. Some bunkers covered the approaches from the railroad tracks and booby-trapped Chicoms and PH-10 mines protected the trails. Heavy undergrowth and trees provided good cover and camouflage for enemy snipers while somewhat negating the effects of LAAs, M-79's and M-26's.

Snipers in the bunkers and treeline covered the withdrawal of a larger portion of the NVA force. Sniper fire was accurate and deadly. Most friendly casualties were gunshot wounds in the upper body. Though no weapons were spotted, most sounded like carbines with only two or three AK-47's. The area is covered with bunkers and trenches, most of which are old and overgrown, but showed evidence of recent occupation.

On 17Feb68 the first of three successful night ambushes was sprung. Twenty-five NVA were seen in a column moving north across the trace. They were ambushed at YD 185737 resulting in seven NVA KIA. The escaping enemy was again ambushed at YD 185729 resulting in one POW. The remaining enemy were engaged three times on the south side of the trace with unknown results. The POW stated that they were in a MedEvac column and were returning to North Vietnam. While searching the area the following morning a second NVA POW was found and another NVA was shot and killed. The second successful ambush was set in at YD 190708 along a trail that continued north across the trace and south to Phu Tho. The enemy had just crossed a rice paddy and stream with a wooden bridge over it and were moving north on the trail when engaged. Eight NVA KIA were counted and two AK-47's were captured. One POW was taken but died of wounds before he could be evacuated. All captured gear was new.

A Company "K" ambush engaged an unknown size NVA unit at YD 197710 on 24Feb68 and counted six NVA KIA. A sweep of the area the next day resulted in the capture of one POW, five weapons and twelve packs. The POW said that he was in the 48th Regiment, 320th Division. He further stated that he was lost at the time of capture.

It was re-emphasized to the battalion during the month that the enemy retains the capability to mass a battalion size unit and prepare positions in as little as 12-18 hours. Evidence further supported a previous theory that a significant portion of the movement in AO is from south to north. Information further pointed to the frequent occupancy by the NVA of Phu Tho (YD 1769) and An Xa (YD 1775).

ENEMY GEAR CAPTURED 1 - 29 Feb 68

82mm mortar rounds	62	Saddles (pr)	11
60mm mortar rounds	52	Soft covers	11
Mortar fuses	5	SKS bayonets	3
Anti-tank mine	10	Leather ammo pouches	4
DH-10 AP mine	7	Gas masks	14
Z-10 Stick mine	10	Cartridge belts	12
NVA packs	34	7.62 rounds	740
NVA uniforms	25	NVA helmets	6
Medical gear	4 kits	Bandages	17
AK-47's	12	NVA boots (pr)	18
Soviet 7.62 lt. MG RPD 56	3	NVA "C" rats	18
Soviet 7.62 lt MG RP-46	1	Rice	360 lbs
Chicom 7.62 SKS-56 carbines	11	Tobacco	6 lbs
Bolt action 7.62 carbine	1	Camouflage devices	8
Sniper rifle w/3 power scope	2	Mosquito nets	3
Ammo drums for RPD 56 MG	3	Russian watch	1
RPG rounds w/primers	4	RPG launcher	1
Chicom grenades	76	NVA stretchers	2
AK-47 banana magazines	15	Eating utensils	4
Chicom grenade pouches	8	Canteen covers	4
Wallets	8	Knives	4
Diary	8	Jungle kits	5
NVA canteens	25	Ropes	4
E-tools	25	Ink pens	3
Ponchos	19	Flashlight	2
Hammocks	14	NVA Compass	1
Leather belts	12	Lighter	6
Web belts	5	Mess kit	3

NVA ID	2	25 lb satchel charges	2
.30 cal grease gun	2	Blocks TNT	50
Unknown type batteries	4		

Assorted NVA money and other miscellaneous gear.

13. Communications.

a. General. In February the Communication Platoon operated the basic radio and wire communications systems necessary for the battalion's efficient operation. The most unusual occurrence was the establishment of a command group at A-2 which was mostly made up of communications. A new wire system was set there and a covered circuit capability between A-2 and A-3 and Dong Ha was established. Also, radio relay network was set up to accommodate telephone communications between A-2, A-3 and Dong Ha. An additional radio net, a conduct of fire net, was also set up at A-2 to coordinate fire support.

b. Training. There were no special communications schools/classes established during February, however, there was continued training of our new message center personnel. Several selected personnel were re-designated and retrained as radio operators because of the projected operator difficulties expected. New wiremen are getting extensive on the job training by setting in the new wire system at A-2.

c. Communication Equipment Status. Equipment status is good, perhaps the best its been in six months. The following combat essential items remain down:

- 1 - PRC-41
- 2 - PP 3240
- 1 - KY-8
- 1 - IRC-25
- 1 - MRC-83

d. Problems. Personnel problems will be resolved satisfactorily provided the influx of new radio operators continues as expected. No new BA-386 problems have arisen since the submission of a VER Crown Batteries. IRC-25 whip and tape antennas remain in great demand as do monoblocks for the E-451. The single greatest problem still is the lack of IRC-25 replacements for those designated Code "X".

14. Weather. The weather during the month of February was generally cold and damp. Precipitation consisted of a fine misty rain that was usually wind-blown. The morning fog was usually heavy enough to prevent aerial resupply or observation until 0900 or 1000. Only one or two days were sunny and warm. The remainder of the month was usually overcast.

Average high	66	Average wind	- 7 kilometers from NW.
Average low	60	Average visibility	4 miles
Precipitation	1.23 inches	Humidity	80%

15. Fire Support.

a. General. The February period was marked by much improved artillery support. The increased enemy activity saw a proportionate increase in artillery support. We made more use of scheduled preps and groups. On calls were plotted for all patrols and in most cases the observer made good use of them. Response time has improved immensely in this month and we are now cutting back on scheduled preps and beginning to rely more on "on calls".

Especially good support came from "C", 1/40. Especially poor support came from general support who on one occasion took 90 minutes to establish communications with an FO in the field for a mission and on another occasion took 45 minutes to refire a previously fired on call.

b. Problem Areas. At the present time "C", 1/40 has been assigned in direct support from the C-1 position which for the first time provides the battalion with a direct support battery that can fire north of the 74S grid line.

c. Units Providing Direct and General Support.

- (1) Btry "D", 2d Bn, 12th Marines
- (2) Btry "E", 2d Bn, 12th Marines
- (3) Btry "F", 2d Bn, 12th Marines
- (4) Btry "H", 3d Bn, 12th Marines
- (5) Btry "K", 4th Bn, 12th Marines
- (6) Btry "L", 4th Bn, 12th Marines
- (7) Btry "M", 4th Bn, 12th Marines
- (8) Btry "N", 3d Bn, 12th Marines
- (9) Btry "C", 1st Bn, 40th Artillery (USA)
- (10) 1st 8", Howitzer Btry, 3d MarDiv

d. Missions Fired.(1) Artillery

(a) Suspected Enemy Positions	138
(b) Prep Fires	307
(c) Recon by Fire	32
(d) Target Registration	16
(e) Final Protective Fires	3
(f) Illumination	3
(g) Live Targets (non-visual sighting)	15
(h) Live Targets (visual sighting)	15
(i) Counter-battery	24
(j) Night H&I's submitted	695
(k) Day H&I's submitted	30

(2) 81mm Mortars.

(a) Prep Fires	10
(b) Practice Missions	7
(c) Target of Opportunity	48
(d) Counter-mortar	11
(e) Night Defensive Fires	2
(f) H&I's	327

e. Ammunition Expended.(1) Artillery

(a) 105 HE	4,042
(b) 105 WP	351
(c) 105 Illum	20
(d) 155 HE	927
(e) 155 WP	54
(f) 155 Illum	20
(g) 4.2 HE	235
(h) 4.2 WP	10
(i) 8" HE	37
(j) 8" WP	2

(2) 81mm Mortars

(a)	81mm New HE (m)	2,575
(b)	81mm Old HE (m)	0
(c)	81mm HE (1)	0
(d)	81mm New WP	81
(e)	81mm Old WP	61
(f)	81mm Illum	120

16. Air Support.

a. The use of air support during the month of February consisted of medical evacuations, logistics and troop helicopter lifts, recon overflights, aerial observation, air strikes and TPQ-10 missions.

b. With one exception, a truck convoy, the battalion has been totally resupplied by air this month. Helicopters have flown in over 230 tons of supply and 439 troops.

c. On two occasions, the seventh and the sixteenth, aerial observers ran close air support missions for the battalion when it was in contact. The air support included Huey gunships as well as fixed wing attack aircraft.

d. There was an increase in TPQ-10 strikes this month, with twenty five TPQ-10 missions conducted.

e. Air Support Missions

- (1) Logistic and troop lifts; 230 tons and 439 troops
- (2) Medical evacuations; 19 completed for 57 troops
- (3) Air strikes; all AO controlled
- (4) TPQ-10 missions; 110 requested and 25 completed
- (5) Aerial observations; used daily, weather permitting
- (6) Recon overflights; one flown

17. Activities/Deactivations/Redesignations. None

18. Training Report. There was a limited amount of company training held during the month of February due to operational commitments.

The training conducted by the companies during this period stressed patrolling and ambush techniques.

Battalion classes were held for H&S Company and selected personnel from the Rifle Companies on the operation of the AN/PPS-5 radar set.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓1. JOURNAL SUMMARY-PAGE 23
- ✓2. FRAG ORDERS PAGE 28
 - Tab A 3-68
 - Tab B 4-68
 - Tab C 5-68
- ✓3. 3/3 Engagement With Enemy Message 071240 H Feb 68

JOURNAL SUMMARY FEBRUARY 1968

1Feb68 - At 0915H, while on patrol, Company "M" discovered an **unidentified** electronic device at YD 190736. The device along with an accompanying sketch was forwarded to Reg't S-2. At 1020H Company "I" found (12) 60mm mortar rounds and 5 fuzes at YD 166716. The ordnance was blown in place.

2Feb68 - Enemy movement was detected by AN/PI'S radar set at 2220H at approximately YD 195721 and artillery mission was called and movement ceased.

3Feb68 - At 1450H (12) rounds of 60mm mortar rounds were received from the vicinity of YD 167746. The rounds impacted outside the perimeter of Hill #28. A 81mm mortar mission was called with a reaction time of 90 seconds. A artillery mission was called with a reaction time of 1 minute. At 1500H 10-12 NVA were observed at YD 160727. An 81mm mission was fired. At 1524H the A-3 position began receiving 85mm and 105mm artillery fire. Counter-battery missions were called with a reaction time of 90 seconds for the mortars and 4 minutes for artillery. The incoming ceased at 1700H. There were 3 WIA non-medevac casualties. At 1830H Or Gold sighted (2) NVA in the open. An artillery mission was fired with good target coverage.

4Feb68 - At 0600H Companies "I" and "L" and "K" and a command group departed the A-3 position for a sweep west of the A-3 position and to link-up with the 2d Bn, 1st Marines at 1028H. The tank platoon (-) departed A-3 to follow in trace of Company "K". The tanks continued and joined the 2d Bn, 1st Marines.

5Feb68 - No Significant Events

6Feb68 - At 0810H (3) three bombs impacted north of Hill #28. Bombs were believed to be from a friendly TPQ run. At 0830H Company "K" discovered 2 NVA packs containing medical gear and uniforms at YD 177716. At 1725H 6 NVA were observed at YD 171699. An artillery mission was called with unknown results.

7Feb68 - At 1240H Kilo Company engaged a battalion sized NVA force dug in from YD 211723 to YD 201719. The engagement was characterized by close in fighting which lasted until nightfall. At 1330H Company "L" was deployed to a blocking position to engage the enemy along probable routes of withdrawal. Company "M" and a command group were deployed to assist Company "K" in receiving casualties and breaking contact. "M" and "K" Companies withdrew to a perimeter 150 meters from the point of contact and set in for the night,

8Feb68 - At first light a heavy section of tanks reported from the A-2 position and a coordinated tank/infantry attack with Company "K" was conducted. The enemy resistance was broken at 0830H. At 1700H all elements of the battalion had returned to A-3. 30 KIA's, 30 WIA (MedEvac) and 5 WIA (NonEvac) were sustained by the battalion. Enemy losses were 139 KIA.

9Feb68 - No Significant Events

10Feb68 - At first light, Companies "M" and "L" departed A-3 to conduct a sweep of the area of contact by Company "K" on 7Feb68. Prepared positions to accommodate 250-300 NVA were found extending from YD 202718 to YD 211722. Over 40 freshly dug graves were also found. One NVA was killed by prep fires and found near the graves. Enemy weapons and equipment were found at the scene of the contact.

11Feb68 - At 1745H (2) rounds of unidentified caliber incoming were received outside of the A-3 perimeter.

12Feb68 - At 1010H the A-3 position received an estimated 13 rounds of 85mm artillery from an azimuth of 5800 mils. Rounds impacted at YD 179719 resulting in 1 casualty. At 1226H 15 rounds of 105mm artillery impacted at YD 175723 inside the perimeter. A crater analysis revealed an azimuth of 5800 mils and approximately 8000 meters. 2 WIA MedEvacs and 1 WIA non-Evac were sustained by the battalion. At 1500H (35) rounds of 60mm impacted outside the wire on Hill #28. No casualties were taken. At 1950H the AN/TPS-5 radar set detected a tracked vehicle moving south to east at approximately YD 185715. The vehicle was also observed by a "M" Company ambush. The ambush reported the vehicle seemed to be a tank well camouflaged with tree branches. An artillery mission was fired with unknown results.

13Feb68 - At 1444H Hill #28 received approximately 50-65 rounds of 60mm fire from an azimuth of 4800. All rounds impacted outside of the perimeter. An 81mm mortar mission was fired at YD 150733. At 1505H the A-3 position received 64 rounds of 105mm artillery fire resulting in 1 WIA MedEvac. The MedEvac was completed at 1623H. At 1740H while receiving a resupply by helicopters the A-3 position received 10 rounds of 105mm artillery fire. The helicopters were waved off and no casualties were taken. At 2045H a Company "M" ambush (MA2) observed 20 NVA moving northeast on a trail approximately 150 meters from their position. A Company "I" ambush (IA2) moving east at YD 185738 was alerted and established a hasty ambush at YD 185738. Company "I" ambush engaged the enemy

after lead elements had passed through. Seven (7) NVA were observed to fall. While searching bodies the ambush received small arms fire from its east flank. The ambush returned fire and commenced to withdraw and received fire from its west flank. Fire was returned, contact was broken and the ambush returned to A-3. The "I" Company ambush received 1 WIA while inflicting 7 NVA KIA's and 2 POW's. At 2100H a Company "I" ambush (IA3), moving at YD 185729, encountered light contact with an unknown sized enemy force. This engagement resulted in a NVA prisoner of war. An ambush from Company "M" (MA1) engaged enemy elements on (3) three occasions with unknown results. It was thought that the enemy engaged by MA1 and IA3 were elements of the NVA force initially observed by MA1 and engaged by IA2.

14Feb68 - Companies "M" and "L" departed A-3 at 0600 to conduct a search of the ambush site of 13Feb68. One NVA KIA and an NVA WIA were found at site. At 1055H Company "M" sighted 1 NVA at YD 188718 and engaged with small arms, resulting in (1) NVA KIA.

15Feb68 - At 0905H while on patrol, Company "K" received (17) rounds of 60mm mortar from YD 150730. Company "K" swept the area with negative results. At 1155H (20) rounds of 60mm mortar impacted outside of the perimeter at YD 163725. At 1421H (15) rounds of 82mm mortar impacted at YD 165732, outside of the perimeter. An artillery mission was called with unknown results.

16Feb68 - Commencing at 0150H elements of the battalion departed the A-3 position to make a reconnaissance in force of the southern TMZ. At 0500H Company "I" reported an unknown size enemy force moving toward them from the northwest. At 0805H Company "I" was heavily engaged by a force of approximately 30 NVA from concealed fighting positions at YD 183758. "I" Company was also engaged from the rear by several NVA in spider traps. Company "M" was deployed north to Company "I"'s rear to prevent enemy encirclement. After approximately (3) three hours of close in fighting Company "I" attacked the bunkers by fire and pushed the enemy back from the bunkers a sufficient distance to retract casualties. Air strikes and gunships were called to engage the retreating enemy. After MedEvacuating casualties by helicopter the sweep continued as planned. A booby-trap was detonated by a Company "I" element at YD 183758 resulting in (1) casualty. The companies returned to the A-3 position at 1800H. At 2255H an OP observed 1 NVA digging in a trench at YD 176702. An artillery mission was fired and the NVA was observed laying off to the side of the trench after the first mission. The area was checked at first light with negative results.

17Feb68 - Six rounds of incoming artillery impacted in the mine-field at 1820H, the caliber of the rounds were undetermined.

18Feb68 - At 1650H, while on patrol, a Marine from Company "M" detonated a mine at YD 162732. MedEvac helicopter was called and MedEvac was completed at 1720H. At 1837H, Company "I" initiated an ambush at YD 190708. The ambush was triggered initially with a claymore mine. The ambush then engaged the enemy with small arms and machine-gun fire. At approximately 1905H the ambush broke contact and started to withdraw to the A-3 position, returning to the position at 1945H. Results of the contact were 1 friendly WIA non-evac and 8 NVA KIA confirmed.

19Feb68 - At 0800H, while on patrol, Company "L" found (1) NVA body at YD 192718. The NVA had been dead approximately 8-10 hours and was believed to have been killed by H&I fires. At 0950H Company "L" received incoming artillery from a friendly unit. A check fire was called, Company "L" suffered one WIA non-evac. At 1220H Company "M", while returning to the A-3 position received (20) rounds of 85mm artillery fire causing one WIA non-evac. At 1430H elements of Company "I" returned from a search of the ambush site of 18Feb68. The search disclosed two NVA bodies. One NVA WIA died approximately 10 minutes after capture. Two AK-47's and other equipment were found.

20Feb68 - No Significant Events

21Feb68 - At 0715H Company "I" departed the A-3 position to sweep east along Route #566 to Route #1 and to occupy blocking positions for security of a convoy coming from Dong Ha. One platoon of Company "K" in position near Route #1 escorted the convoy to the A-3 position. The convoy arrived on position at 1140H and departed at 1230H. No incidents occurred during the convoys' passage from Route #1 to the A-3 position and its return to Route #1. A light section of tanks from "C" Co, 3d Tank Bn arrived with the convoy and joined the battalion. At 2120H an "I" Company ambush reported sighting 15-20 NVA moving east at YD 194744. An artillery mission was fired with unknown results.

22Feb68 - No Significant Events

23Feb68 - Company "M", while at ambush sites at 2305H in the vicinity of YD 191712, received recoilless rifle fire from approximately YD 180701. An artillery mission was fired with unknown results.

24Feb68 - At 1850H elements of Company "K" engaged approximately (8) VC with small arms fire at YD 197714. The enemy fled, no friendly casualties were taken. At 2100 H elements of Company "K" initiated an ambush at YD 197710 on an unknown sized enemy force. 81mm mortar and artillery illumination disclosed 3 NVA bodies in front of Company "K"'s position. Company "K" remained in position for the night. A search of the area at first light disclosed 4 NVA bodies, 12 packs and 5 weapons.

25Feb68 - At 1420H a resupply convoy from Dong Ha arrived on position. The convoy departed at 1500H. At 1523H Brigadier General HOFFMAN arrived at the A-3 position to present awards to members of the battalion. The general departed at 1610H.

26Feb68 - From 1440H to 1445H the A-3 position received 30 rounds of 105mm incoming artillery fire. No casualties were taken. At 1440H Company "M", while on patrol, observed 12 NVA at YD 157725. Company "M" engaged the enemy with 60mm mortars and M-79's. Three NVA were observed running north. One of the NVA jumped into a bomb crater. A 3.5 rocket round was fired and the round impacted in the crater.

27Feb68 - At 1200H the battalion assumed operational control of the A-2 position and "C" Co, 1st Bn, 4th Marines.

28Feb68 - At 1135H the battalion received incoming 105mm artillery fire. The rounds impacted in the minefield and perimeter. A crater analysis was taken and the rounds were received from an azimuth of 6155 mils and a distance of 8000 meters. No casualties were taken by the battalion. Company "L" at 1230H discovered (2) 25lb satchel charges, 50 blocks of TNT and (2) M-10 mines at YD 165705. The ordnance was destroyed in place.

29Feb68 - At 1553H Company "M" found and destroyed a steel reinforced bunker at YD 190748. At 1537H the A-2 position received a round of 105mm incoming fire. The round impacted in the minefield.

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

Copy ___ of ___ Copies
3d Bn, 3d Mar
A-3 Position
2Feb68

Frag Order 3-68

(a) Map: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series L701', Sheets 6342I and 6442IV.

Time Zone: H

Task Organization

Company "K" (Rein)
FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
S-2 Scout
FAC/TACP Team
Eng Det, 3d Eng Bn
Sniper Team, Hq Co, 9th Marines

Capt D. R. FRANK

Company "I" (- one platoon) (Rein)
FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
S-2 Scout
FAC/TACP Team
Two Sniper Teams, Hq Co, 9th Marines
One Dog Team, 3d MP Bn

Capt O. J. LEHRACK

Company "L" (- one platoon) (Rein)
FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
S-2 Scout
FAC/TACP Team
Two Sniper Teams, Hq Co, 9th Marines
One Dog Team, 3d MP Bn

Capt R. ZENSEN

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces. See current INTSUMS

b. Friendly Situation.

(1) Operation Kentucky continues and the 9th Marines AO remains unchanged.

(2) 2/1, located at A-4 will move on D-Day to a position in the general vicinity of YD 152701 for the purpose of making physical contact and liaison with this unit. Kilo Company, 3/4, continues to operate from A-2. Batteries "F", 2/12 and "K", 4/12 will be in direct and general support respectively. (See Annex B Fire Support Plan)).

(3) Fixed Wing is requested on station at 0900. F9's will pick-up artillery groups at 1200 on D-1.

c. Attachments and Detachments.

(1) See Task Organization

2. Mission.

a. Attack at H-Hour to seize Objective #1 thru #4 and conduct a physical link-up with 2/1.

b. Sweep areas enroute to and in the vicinity of the assigned objectives.

c. Adjust supporting fires from secure OP's to destroy enemy personnel and/or positions.

3. Execution.

a. Concept of Operation.

(1) Move at H-Hour from the A-3 position with one company reinforced to seize Objective #1.

(2) Move at H+1 with one company (-)(rein) from A-3A to seize Objective #2.

(3) Commence movement to seize Objective #3 with one company (-)(rein) from A-3A to seize Objective #3.

(4) Upon seizure of Objective #3 and on order seize Objective #4 with one company (-)(rein).

b. Company "K". Conduct a prearranged movement commencing at H-Hour to seize Objective #1. Upon seizure of Objective #1 (YD 152718) establish a patrol base and be prepared to conduct short range security patrols to the south/southeast. Patrols will be dispatched on order. Ensure local security elements and guides are positioned on the axis of advance from the A-3 position by H-10. Make maximum use of night detection devices in this regard. Hold at Phase Line Purple until final

preparation fires are delivered on Objective #1. Ensure that guides are familiar with the location of the objective and Phase Line Purple.

c. Company "I". Move with two reinforced platoons at H+1 to seize Objective #2. Do not allow forward security elements beyond Phase Line White until specific permission is received. Upon consolidation of Objective #1 and #3, and on order, be prepared to seize Objective #4. Security elements will not proceed beyond Phase Line Blue except on order. Be prepared to conduct a retrograde movement to Objective #2 and establish a blocking position to cover the move of Company "K" to A-3. Ensure the platoon left in the A-3A position is on maximum alert and coordinate all movement with Company "L".

d. Company "L". Move at H+1 from the A-3A position with two platoons (rein) to seize Objective #3. Upon consolidation of Objective #3 be prepared to support or reinforce Company "I" in the seizure of Objective #4. Make maximum use of concealment available in the vicinity of Objective #3, in order to exploit the element of surprise in the event the enemy should resist Company "I"'s seizure of Objective #4. Ensure the platoon left at the A-3A position is on maximum alert. Coordinate passage of lines and movement with Company "K". Do not pass Phase Line Yellow without specific permission. Be prepared to return to the A-3A position on order.

e. Company "M" (Reserve). Place one platoon on 5 minute standby to provide infantry security for the tanks or Twin 40mm if they are required to displace to Objective #1. Also be prepared to move with two platoons on order to reinforce or assume the mission of either of the attacking companies on 15 minute notice. A company officer will be available in the COC from H-Hour until otherwise ordered. Maximum security will be exercised on the A-3 position. Coordinate the A-3 north sector security with Company "K". Establish a squad OP at YD 165730 to be manned from 0730-1600.

f. 81mm Mortar Platoon. Be prepared to support by fire the maneuver elements. Monitor the Battalion TIC 1 commencing H-2.

g. Tank Platoon. Be prepared to support by fire. If required be prepared to move, on order, on the MSR to Objective #1 to provide fire support with one light section from the A-3 position. Coordinate proposed route with Company "M".

h. Twin 40mm Section. Be prepared to provide supporting fires to the west from the A-3 position for the maneuver elements. Also be prepared to displace to Objective #1 to provide close in supporting fires. Coordinate proposed route with Company "I".

i. 106RR Platoon. Be prepared to support by fire the maneuver element or to displace one section forward to the vicinity of Objective #1 to extend direct fire support as required. Coordinate proposed route to Company "M".

j. Engineer Detachments. Provide one detachment of combat engineers to Company "K". Attach one engineer sweep team to Company "M" to sweep the MSR between A-3 and Objective #1 with the advancing infantry security in the event tanks or Twin 40mm AA's are displaced forward. Coordinate with Commanding Officer, Company "M".

k. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) D-Day - 4Feb68
- (2) H-Hour - 0600
- (3) LD - Outer wire A-3 and A-3A
- (4) Arrival at all phase lines and objectives will be reported.
- (5) Units will hold up at all phase lines until otherwise ordered.
- (6) Ensure all units are briefed as to the location of friendly units, in particular 2/1 movement east from A-4.
- (7) Stress the concept of mutual support and do not allow small size units to become separated from parent unit.

l. Emphasis light and noise discipline during initial movement.

m. Reference Points - Colleges 1570 and Soaps 1771 and Ranks 1974.

n. There are no friendly civilians in the area, regard all movement to NW as enemy.

o. Secure avenue of approach near the line of departure prior to commencing attack.

p. All hands will dig fighting positions on the assigned positions.

4. Administration and Logistics.

a. Ensure all squads are equipped with complete pyro and demo bags.

b. All hands will carry E-tools, gas masks, two canteens, T/O weapon and normal equipment. BA of ammo and one individual meal.

c. Casualties requiring immediate evacuation will be MedEvaced from the rifle company positions. If the tactical situation will not permit, each commander will ensure he has a plan for evacuation of casualties to a more secure LZ for evacuation.

5. Command and Communications.

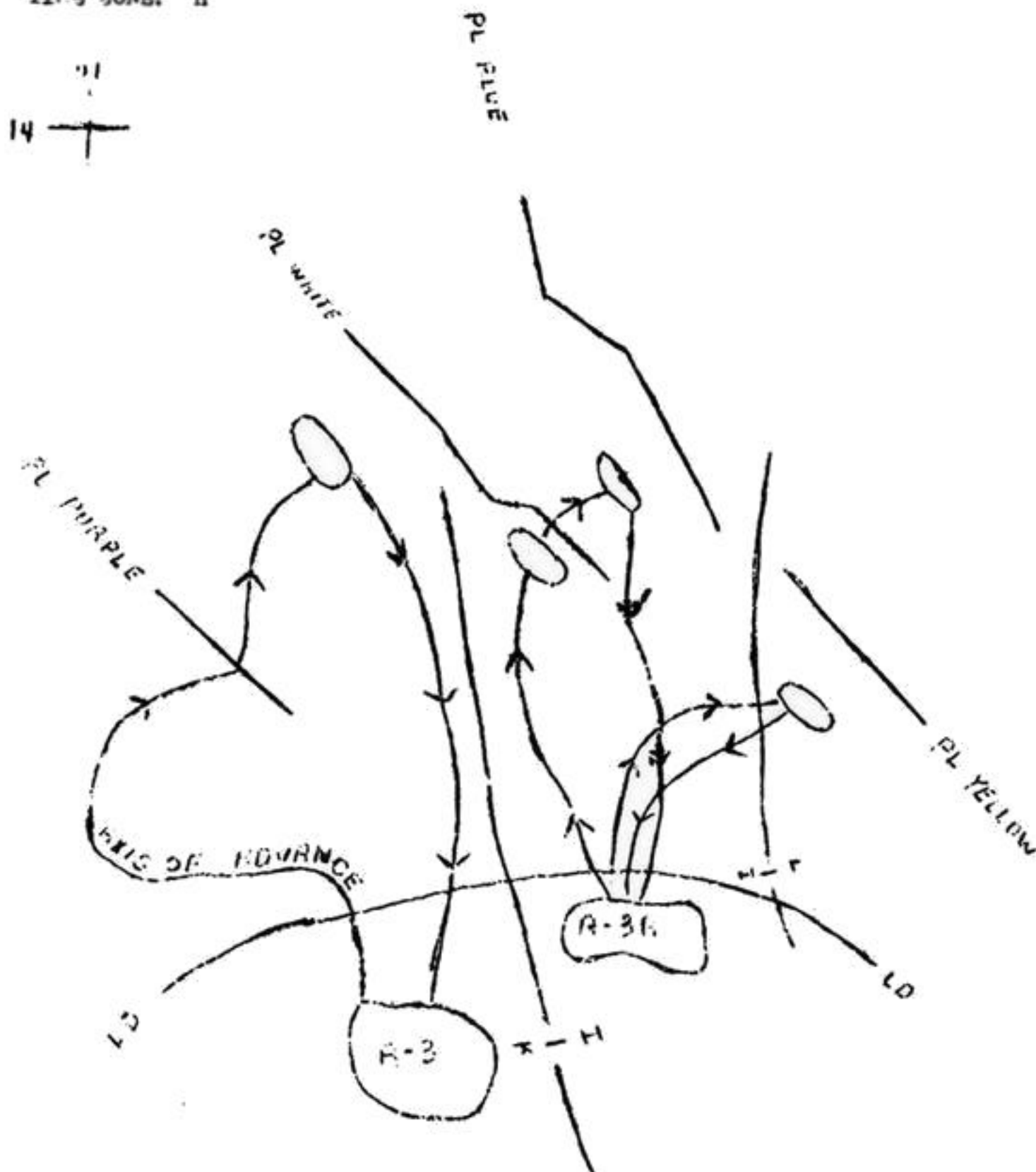
- a. The Command Group "A" will move with Company "K".
- b. Red smoke - Enemy contact
 WP - Enemy position
 Yellow or Green smoke - LZ or friendly positions.

J. W. MARSH
 Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
 Commanding

OFFICIAL

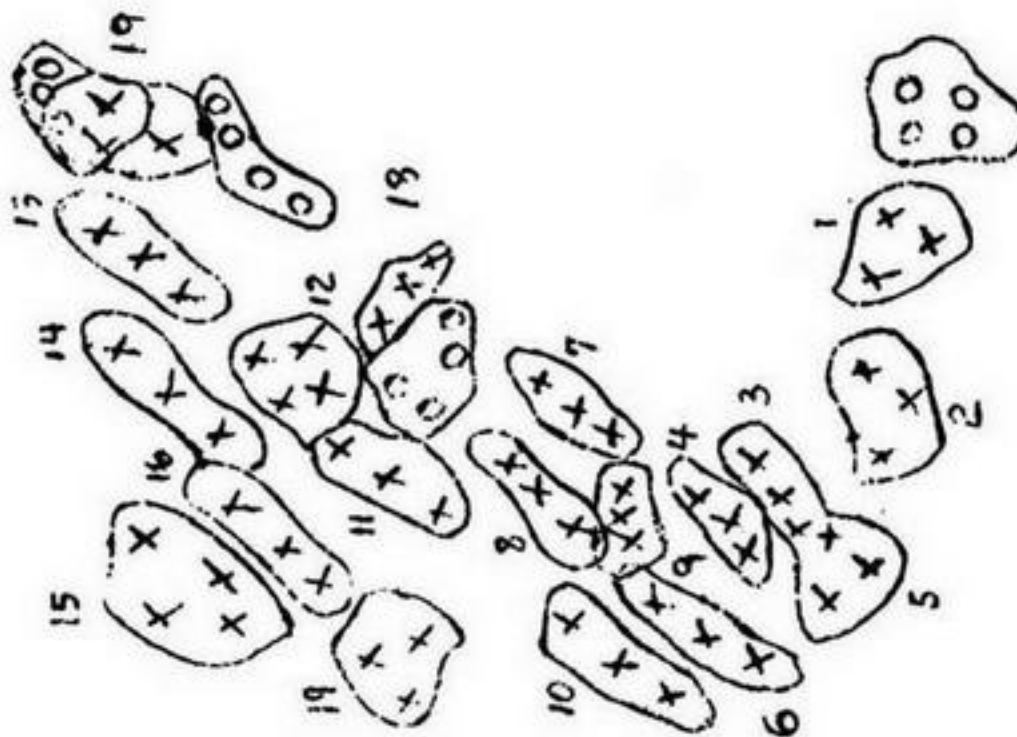
R. F. FINDLAY JR
 Major, U. S. Marine Corps
 S-3

ANNEX A (OPERATION OVERLAY) TO FRAG ORDER 3-68
 REF: (A) MAP: VIETNAM 1:25,000 SERIES L8020 SHEET 6442 IV N
 (B) 3RD BATTALION, 3RD MARINES OF PLAN 3-68
 TIME ZONE: H



ANNEX B FIRE SUPPORT PLAN

12
+ 76



20
+

X - ARTILLERY
O - 81 MM

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

Copy of Copies
3d Bn, 3d Mar
A-3 Position
9Feb68

Frag Order 4-68

Map: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6342I and 6442 IV.

Time Zone: H

Task Organization

Company "I" (Rein).

Capt R. ZENSEN

FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
S-2 Scout
FAC/TACP Team
Two Sniper Teams, Hq Co, 9th Marines
One Dog Team, 3d MP Bn.
Eng Det, 3d Eng Bn.

Company "M" (Rein).

Capt W. H. McADAMS

FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
S-2 Scout
FAC/TACP Team
One Sniper Team, Hq Co, 9th Marines
Eng Det, 3d Eng Bn.

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces.

- (1) See current INTSUMS
- (2) See grid index file
- (3) AO sighted several NVA dug in

b. Friendly Forces. The Ninth Marines AO remains the same and Operation Kentucky continues. Adjacent units and assigned areas of operation remain unchanged. Batteries "C", 1/40 (USA) and "F", 1/12 will be in direct support. AO's and fixed wing will be on call. There will be no scheduled fires, and prep fires will be on call. A TPQ strike will be planned on Objective 4 on D+1.

o. Attachments and Detachments.

- (1) Remain the same
- (2) Refer to Task Organization

2. Mission. To sweep area of contact on 7Feb68. Seize Objectives #1 thru #8 commencing at H-Hour and destroy or capture enemy personnel, emplacements and equipment/weapons.

3. Execution.

a. Concept of Operation.

(1) Seize Objectives #1, #2, #5 and #7 with one reinforced company from the A-3 position.

(2) Seize Objectives #2, #4, #6 and #8 with one reinforced company from the A-3A (Hill #28) position.

(3) Objective #2 will be seized in numerical sequence in accordance with the general scheme of maneuver. See Annex A (Operation Overlay).

b. Company "L". At H+15 minutes be prepared to commence movement, on order, to seize Objectives #2, #4, #6 and #8. Use particular caution in the vicinity of Objective #1. Enemy was sighted at 091700H preparing positions at YD 193714. When moving from Objectives #5 and #7 ensure personnel are not permitted to search living areas of villagers except with specific permission and do not exceed the 22 NS grid line. Be prepared to drop a platoon size unit for a night ambush at YD 193736 upon return from Objective #8 to A-3A.

c. Company "M". Commence movement at H-Hour to seize Objective #1. Position in a daylight ambush at YD 191721. Use particular caution prior to crossing between Objectives #1 and #3. Conduct a detailed search of the area to the immediate east of Objective #5. Be prepared to reinforce or assume the mission of Company "L". Pick up daylight ambush upon return to the A-3 position.

d. Company "N". (Reserve). Be prepared to deploy from the A-3 position to support or reinforce either of the attacking companies.

e. Company "K". Continue normal routine and conduct local security mission to the west of A-3. Be prepared to displace one platoon to the A-3A position in the event Company "I" is deployed.

f. 81mm Mortar Platoon. Be prepared to deliver counter-mortar fires from A-3 or A-3A position and to support the scheme of maneuver by engaging targets of opportunity as requested. Monitor Battalion TAC 1 commencing H- $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

g. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) D-Day - 10Feb68
- (2) H-Hour - 0700
- (3) LD - Perimeter, A-3 position
- (4) Movement will be slow and deliberate with maximum emphasis on security and heavy use of supporting fires.
- (5) All "on call" groups will be employed.

h. Report arrival at all objectives.

i. Keep a detailed list of all equipment captured or destroyed.

j. Submit SitReps every hour on the half hour.

k. Make continuous use of scouts and flank patrols.

l. Be prepared to employ CS and LAWS.

m. Ensure that excessive time is not lost in the search of village areas.

4. Administration and Logistics.

a. All squads carry demo and pyro bags.

b. Ensure 4 LAWS per squad are available.

c. Carry manual arms and equipment, one BA and an individual meal

d. Pre-arranged plans will be effected by all unit leaders prior to departure which will be up-dated through the operation.

e. MedEvac rosters will be carried IAW the Battalion SOP.

5. Command and Communications.

- a. The Command Group Alpha will move with Company "M".
- b. The Command Group Bravo will remain at the A-3 position.

J. W. MARSH
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

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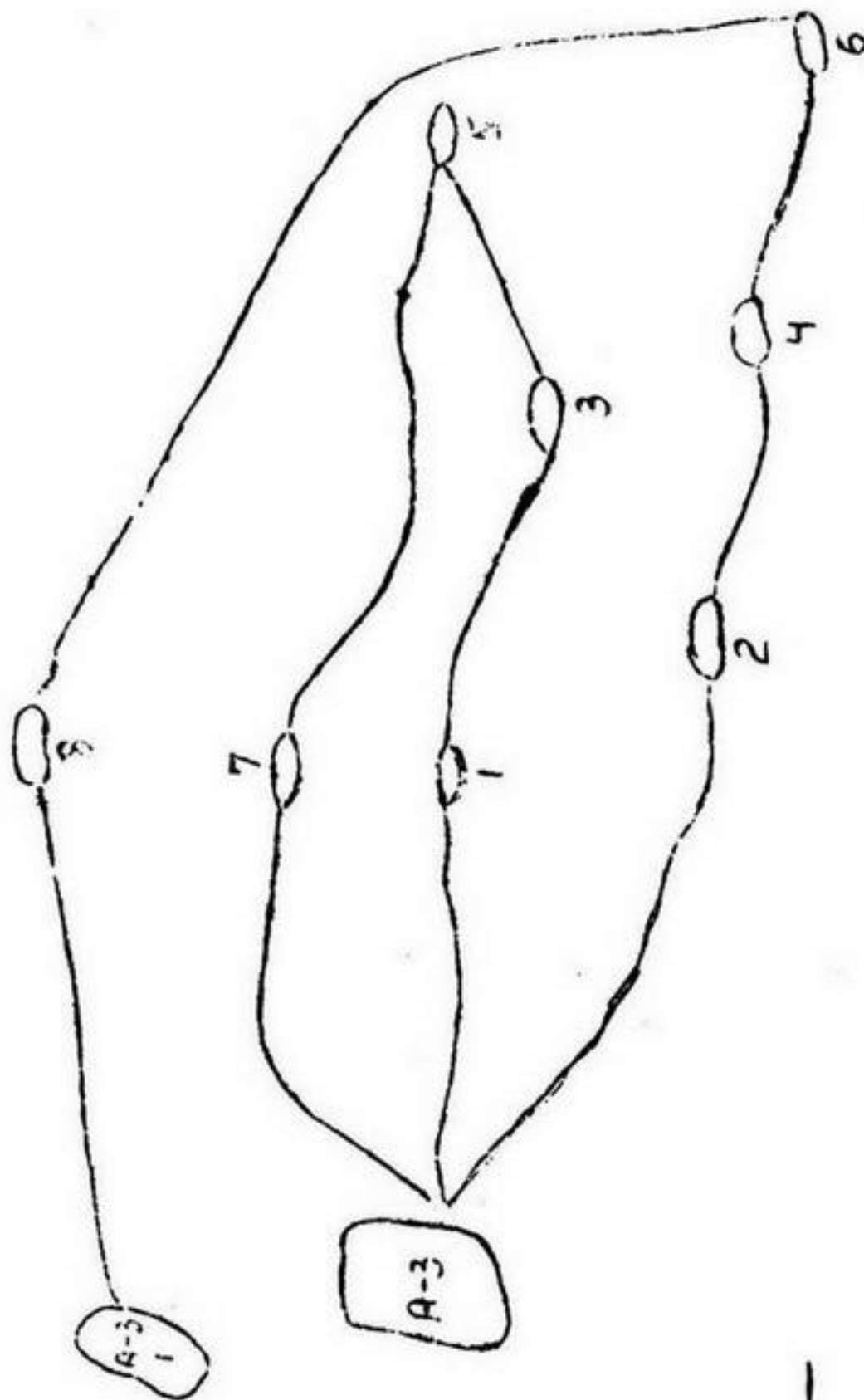
R. F. FINDLAY JR
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

ANNEX A (OPERATION OVERLAY) TO FRAG ORDER 4-68

REF: (1) MAI VIETNAM 1:25,000 SERIES 18020, SHEET 6A:2 IV N
(B) 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES OF PLAN 4-68

TIME ZONE: H

H - HOUR 100700H FEB 68



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39-A

Enclosure (1)

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

Copy ___ of ___ Copies
3d Bn, 3d Mar
A-3 Position
15Feb68

Frag Order 5-68

Map: Vietnam 1:50,000 AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6342I and 6442IV.

Time Zone: H

Task Organization.

Company "I" (Rein).

Capt O. J. LEHRACK

FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
FO Team 81mm Mortar Plt
S-2 Scout
FAC/TACP Team
Two Sniper Teams, Hq Co, 9th Marines
One Dog Team, 3d MP Bn.
Eng Det, 3d Eng Bn.

Company "M" (Rein).

Capt W. H. McADAMS

FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
S-2 Scout
FAC/TACP Team
One Sniper Team, Hq Co, 9th Marines
One Dog Team, 3d MP Bn.
Eng Det, 3d Eng Bn.

Company "L" (Rein).

Capt R. ZENSEN

FO Team, "C" Btry, 1/12
FO Team, 81mm Mortar Plt
S-2 Scout
FAC/TACP Team
One Sniper Team, Hq Co, 9th Marines

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces.

(1) Refer to current INTSUMS

(2) Refer to current INTSIMS

(3) On 27Jan AO's reported sighting well used trails and heavily fortified bunker complexes at YD 165749. Fresh bunkers and trenches were also sighted on 25Jan by AO's at YD 176756. Several sightings and intelligence reports have confirmed enemy personnel operating in 1775 and 1776 grid squares. There is no indication of any major units presently in the area. Recent intelligence reports indicate an NVA resupply column will attempt to move from An Xa across the AO on 11-12Feb68.

b. Friendly Forces. The 9th Marines AO remains the same and Operation Kentucky continues. 2/1 continues to operate in A-4 AO on the western flank, and "K" 3/4 OPCON to 12th Marines conducts screening and security missions from A-2. C-9 operating from C-1 will be in direct support as well as "F", 2/12. "K" 4/12 will fire in general support north of the 74 grid if required.

2. Mission. Conduct a reconnaissance in force of the 1775 grid square north of the IMZ. (Refer 9th Marines msg dtg P 061055H).

3. Execution.

a. Concept of Operation.

(1) Secure check points #2 thru #5 with not less than one squad (rein) on D-1.

(2) At H-Hour move with one company (rein) from each of the A-3 and A-3A positions; rendezvous at CP #4 and continue to the probable line of deployment for a coordinated attack of Objectives #3 thru #6 at first light.

(3) Secure Objective #1 on D-1 under the cover of darkness with one reinforced platoon.

(4) Secure Objective #2 with one company (-)(rein) at H+4 $\frac{1}{2}$ and establish a blocking position to support the seizure of Objectives #3 thru #6.

(5) Move under the cover of darkness at H-Hour with two companies (rein) along the assigned route of advance to secure the assigned PLD at H+4 $\frac{1}{2}$. On order the two blocking companies will attack in a southwesterly direction to secure Objectives #3 thru #6 within their assigned zones of action in the sequence indicated.

b. Company "L". Seize Objective #1 with one reinforced platoon at H-8 (D-2). Move from A-3A at H-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to seize Objective #2. Be prepared from this position to conduct short range (200 meter) security patrols and establish positions from which the advance of the attacking companies can be observed and/or covered by fire. Ensure personnel do not advance beyond the limits of Objective #2. Be prepared to reinforce, support or assume the mission of either Company "I" or "M". Upon seizure of objective plan to displace forward the reinforced platoon occupying Objective #1. Assist in the adjustment of artillery fires on Objectives #4 thru #6, in close coordination with the adjacent companies. Be prepared to withdraw from Objective #2 on order to the A-3A position.

c. Company "I". Be prepared to move under the cover of darkness from A-3A position to the battalion rendezvous point at H-Hour. Secure the axis of advance with ambush patrols on D-1 at YD 193746, YD 191740 and at YD 187733. Ambush will also, in conjunction with their normal mission, furnish guides for night movement enroute to the PLD. Proceed Company "M" to the PLD and consolidate the north-west half of the PLD. On order move from the PLD to seize Objective #4. Constitute an adequate reserve to cover the exposed right flank and make extensive use of on-call groups as blocking fires in this same connection. Be prepared upon seizure of Objective #4 to support Company "M" in the seizure of Objective #5. On order sweep along the north flank of Company "M" to seize Objective #6. Establish a blocking position on Objective #6 to cover the return of Company "M" to A-3. On order return to position at A-3. Coordinate the defense of the A-3A position with Company "K" and "L" prior to D-Day. Leave one squad on position OPCON to Company "K" for defense of A-3A. For initial movement and seizure of Objective #4, function as Base Company.

d. Company "M". Be prepared to move under the cover of darkness along the assigned axis of advance to the battalion rendezvous point. Secure the axis of advance between the A-3 position and the rendezvous point with an ambush patrol at YD 189726 on D-1. When physical contact is gained with Company "I" continue to move in trace to the PLD and consolidate the SE half of the PLD. On order move in a coordinated attack with Company "I" to seize Objective #3. Hold at Phase Line Red and be prepared to support by fire the seizure of Objective #4 by Company "I". Upon seizure of Objective #3 be prepared to seize Objective #5, on order, and support Company "I"'s seizure of Objective #6.

e. Company "K". Move one reinforced platoon to occupy positions as indicated to be necessary for the defense of A-3A. Be prepared to assume the defense of the Company "M" sector with one platoon commencing at H-Hour. The headquarters will be assigned by name to the OPCON of Company "K".

f. 81mm Mortar Platoon. Displace one section of mortars forward to the A-3A position. Be prepared to deliver scheduled and on-call missions in accordance with the fire support plan. Ensure not less than 800 rounds are available on position in addition to the normal supply held on that position. Monitor the Battalion TAC as well as the conduct of fire net commencing H-2.

g. 106RR Platoon. Be prepared to support the attack of Company "L" on Objective #1 and to deliver fires as required in the 1674 grid, as requested by the attacking company commanders.

h. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) D-Day - 16Feb68
- (2) H-Hour - 0200
- (3) Line of Departure - Friendly wire
- (4) All units will ensure personnel are briefed as to the known presence of booby traps in the objective areas.
- (5) Companies will provide continual support to an attacking company only when specifically requested.
- (6) Ensure LAWS are carried and used to the maximum degree consistent with supply and the tactical situation.
- (7) Report arrival at all check points, phase lines and objectives.
- (8) Reference points: Girls Names; 1974
- (9) Night movement will be in column with sufficient security halts to allow for the use of scouts and flank patrols.
- (10) Ensure all personnel are briefed as to the location of friendly units.
- (11) No deviation from general routes will be made without specific approval of the S-3.
- (12) Ensure all personnel dig fighting holes in static positions.
- (13) A slow but constant rate of movement will be maintained.
- (14) Each man will place a piece of white tape prominently displayed on the rear of his helmet.
- (15) Night noise and light discipline will be maintained.
- (16) Make maximum use of artillery and naval gunfire support throughout the operation.

- (17) Conduct a thorough search of the zone of action.
- (18) Keep detailed notes on gear recovered and terrain.

4. Administration and Logistics.

- a. A LZ for evacuation of casualties will be established on the A-3A position and litter bearers will be predesignated by the S-3B.
- b. All hands will carry two individual meals and normal equipment.
- c. Ensure stretchers are carried by each platoon.
- d. It is unlikely, except under the most severe conditions, that MedEvacs may be completed from the forward positions, each company will predesignate litter bearers down to the squad level.

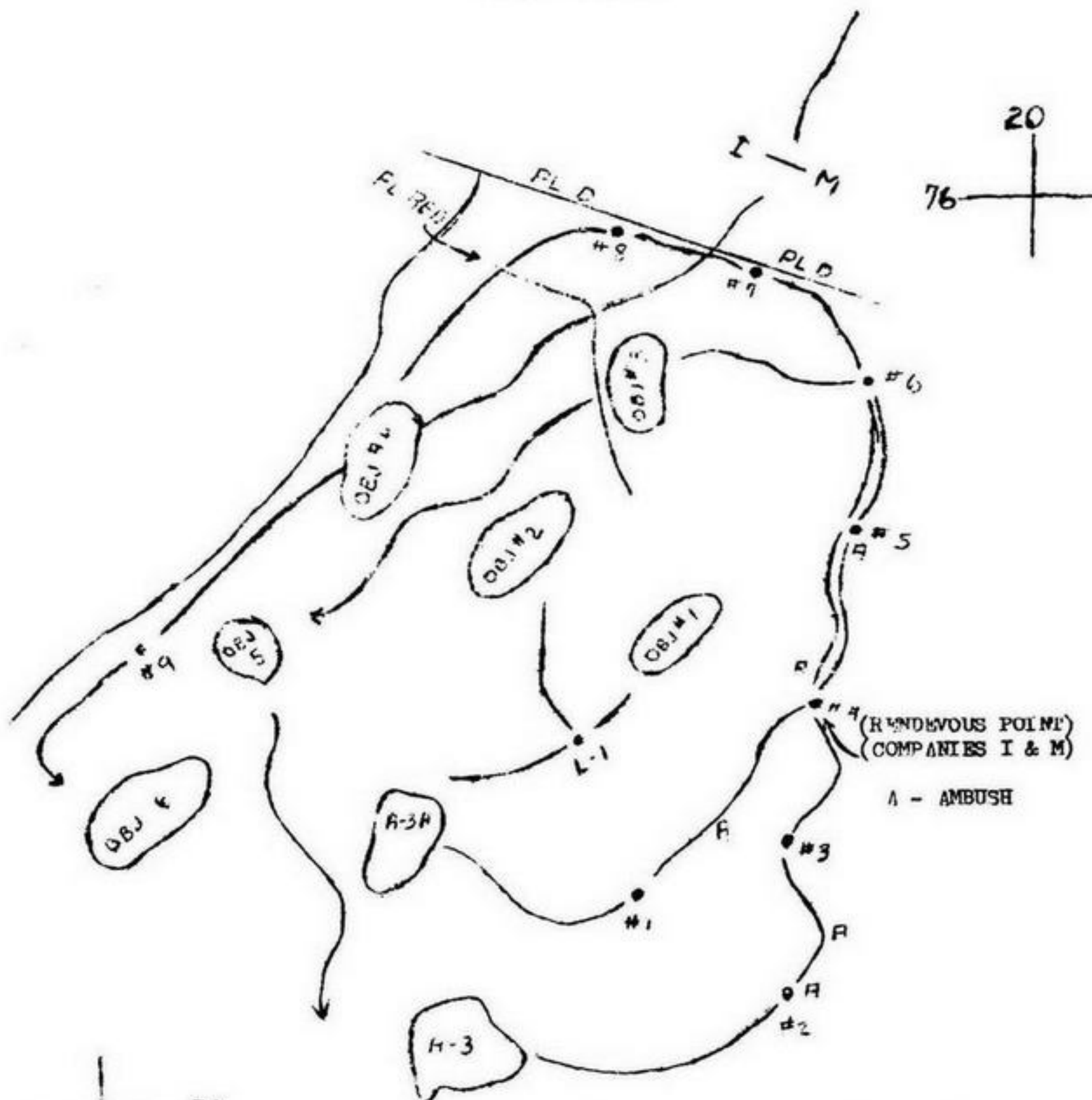
5. Command and Communications.

- a. The Command Group "A" will move with Company "M".
- b. The Command Group "B" will remain at the A-3 position.

J. W. MARSH
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

OFFICIAL

R. F. FINDLEY JR
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
S-3

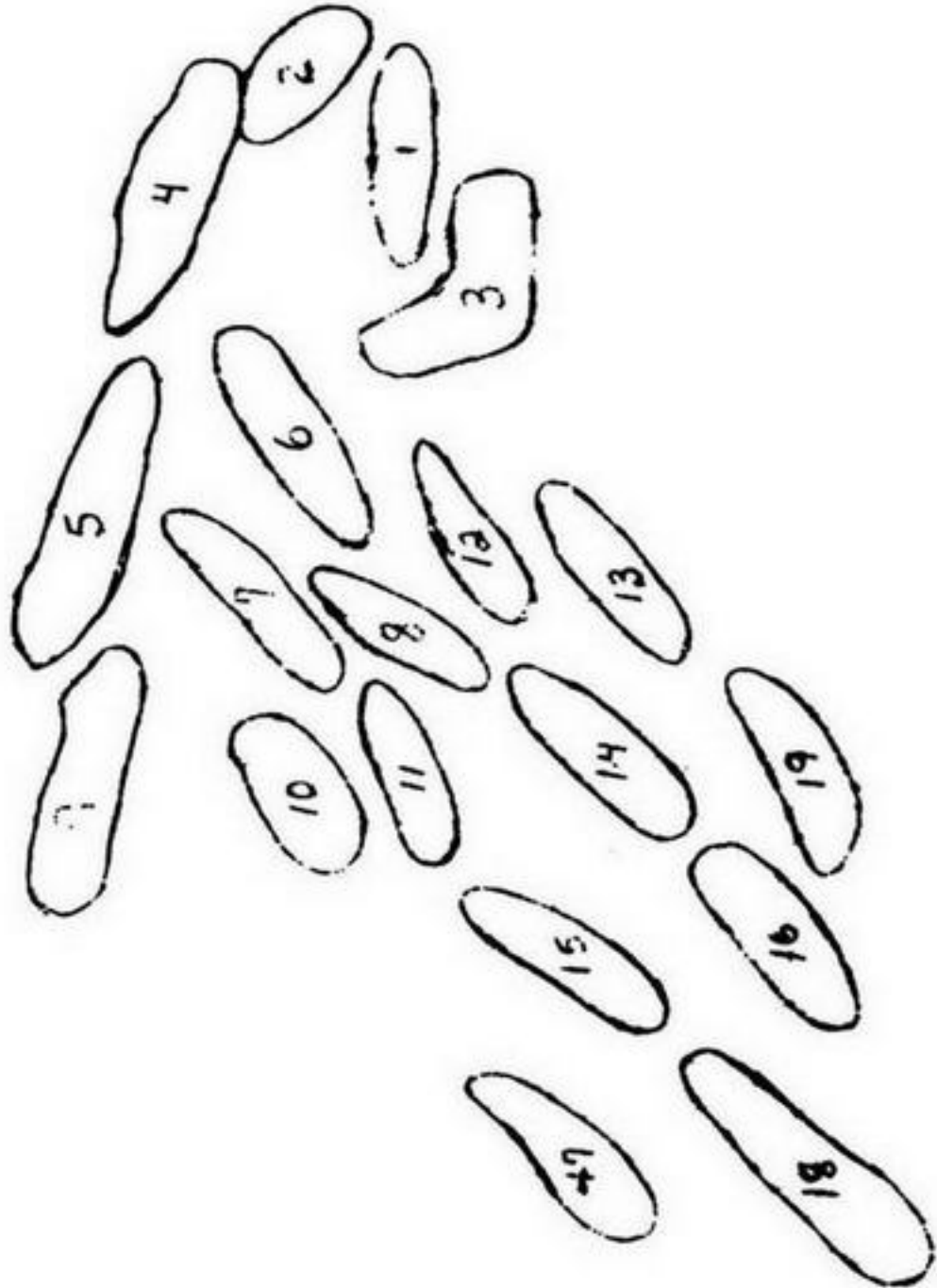


ANNEX A (OPERATION OVERLAY) TO FRAG ORDER 4-68
REF: (A) MAP VIETNAM 1:25,000 SERIES L8020
SHEET 6442 IV N
(B) 3BN, 3D MARINES OP PLAN 5-68
TIME ZONE: H
R - HOUR 160200H FEB 68

1
2

46

Enclosure (1)



ANNEX B FIRE SUPPORT PLAN

15

WITHDRAW CASUALTIES. FM-L WAS RET'D TO A-3 POSIT AT 072015H FM-K WAS WITHDRAWN TO THE INTER PERIMETER AND DUG IN POSITIONS. HEAVY NIGHT DEFENSIVE FIRES WERE DELIVERED AROUND THE PERIMETER, THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, AND AT FIRST LIGHT A HEAVY SECTOR¹ OF TANKS REPORTED FROM A-2 TO FM-~~B~~ IN A COORDINATED INFANTRY ATTACK WITH FM-K. THE ENEMY RESISTANCE WAS BROKEN AT 080830H, CASUALTIES WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE VILLAGE AT YD 211723 HELO MEDEVACED AT SUCH TIME, AND THE BATTLE AREA WAS POLICED. FM-K WITHDREW AND FM-M WAS DEPLOYED TO YD 202718 TO RETRIEVE 9 KIA'S REMAINING AT THAT POSITION. TANKS WERE UTILIZED TO RETURN 27 KIA'S TO A-2. THE ENEMY WAS APPARENTLY DEPLOYED TO HIT THE INFANTRY SECURITY OR REACTION FORCE DEPLOYED TO REACT AGAINST A SECONDARY ATTACK UNDER THE MSR. THE ENEMY UNIT WAS WELL EQUIPPED, BUT ONLY 2 PACKS WERE FOUND, THE ENEMY FORCE LEFT IN CONTACT AT YD 201723 WAS APPARENTLY A UNIT LEFT IN PLACE TO COVER THE WITHDRAWAL OF A LARGER UNIT. 4 NVA WERE FOUND IN HOLES WHO DETONATED CHICOMS AGAINST THEIR OWN BODIES AS ~~O~~PPPOSED TO WITHDRAWING, WOUNDED PERSONNEL WHO COULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN AT YD 201723 REPORTED ENEMY WERE RETRIEVING 15 TO 20 BODIES (EN) UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS. ALSO REPORTED PREP FIRES FIRED PRIOR TO THE MORNING ATTACK ACCOUNTED FOR SEVERAL EN KIA. NIGHT DEFENSIVE FIRES ALSO REPORTED TO BE ACCURATE AND EFFECTIVE. FURTHER REPORTED ENEMY MGUNNER CALLED FOR CORPSMAN DURING INITIAL ENGAGEMENT, WHEN CORPSMAN CAME HE WAS KILLED. ENEMY ON INITIAL AMBUSH PLACED CHICOMS ON TRAIL AND WERE COMMAND DETONATED WITH STRINGS, MAJORITY OF USMC CASUALTIES WERE A RESULT OF CHICOMS GRENADES. ENEMY APPARENTLY OPERATING

IN VICINITY OF PHU THO, ONLY ONE SMALL BAG OF RICE WAS
FOUND ON BODIES. 5 RADIO MEN WERE KIA OR WIA. (USMC TYPE)

E. NEGATIVE

F. 30 USMC KIA

G. 30 USMC WIA (MEDEVAC) 5 USMC WIA (MINOR)

H. NEGATIVE

I. 113 NVA KIA (CONF) BY INFANTRY AND 26 NVA KIA (CONF) BY AIR/ARTY

J. THRU L: NEG

M. 3 LMG'S/58 TYPE; 1 LMG/56 TYPE, 4 AK-47'S; 11/56 TYPE CARBINES;
1 BOLT ACTION 7.62 CARBINE, 1 SNIPER RIFLE 7.62, 3 Model 58 AMMO
DRUMS, 2 RPG'S W/FUZES. 9 CHICOMS, 1 DH-10 AT MINE, SEVERAL S/A.

N. 10 BANANA CLIPS, 2 CHICOM POUCHES, 2 WALLETS, 1 DIARY, 10
CANTEENS, 6 E-TOOLS, 3 PONSOS, 4 HAMMOCKS, 4 BELTS, 3 WEB BELTS,
3 PR SANDLES, 2 SOFT COVERS, 2 SKS BAYONETS, VIETNAMESE MONEY,
PERSONNEL CORRESPONDENCE, 4 LEATHER AMMO POUCHES, 1 GAS MASK,
2 PACKS, 3 CARTRIDGE BELTS, MISC 782 GEAR.

TOR; 2200

3D MAR DIV:

9TH MAR:

A. 3/3

B. 071240H FEB68

C. YD 211723

FM - call sign 3/3 "fighting hard" to C.O.C.

D. AT 071240H FM-K3 MOVING EAST AT YD 201719 WAS ENGAGED BY NVA FROM DISTANCE LESS THAN 50 METERS, NVA FIRED S/A, AW WPNS, MG'S THEN CHICOMS. SURPRISE WAS IN FAVOR OF ENEMY, 9 KIA'S AND 7 WOUNDED DURING THE INITIAL ENGAGEMENT BY FM-K3. THE PLT CMDR WAS INITIALLY HIT AND CONFUSION SET IN. FM K-6 DETERMINED FM-K3 REQUIRED REINFORCEMENTS AND COMMITTED FM K-2 FROM YD 205726, FM K-2 WITH FM K-6 MOVED SOUTH TO YD 201723 AT WHICH TIME, A HIDDEN MACHINE GUN, SMALL ARMS AND CHICOMS WERE USED, THE NVA ATTEMPTED TO ASSAULT THROUGH FM K-2. FIGHTING WAS CLOSE IN, HAND TO HAND FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES, FM K-2 WAS KIA ALONG WITH BOTH PLATOON RADIO OPERATORS. FM K-2 HAD TOTAL OF 18 KIA AND 10 WIA IN INITIAL ENGAGEMENT. FM K-1 FROM YD 205725 MOVED IN TO ASSIST FM K-3 TO WITHDRAW WITH CASUALTIES. KIA'S COULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN AND FM K-3 AND FM K-1 WITHDREW TO SECURE LZ AT YD 198720, WHEN MEDEVAC HELOS WERE COMPLETED BOTH PLATOONS MOVED TO ASSIST FM K-2. DURING THIS TIME FM L DEPLOYED FROM A-3 IN A BLOCKING POSIT TO SEAL OFF ENEMY WITHDRAWAL TO THE SOUTHWEST OF YD 194715. FM-L DUG IN AND ESTABLISHED A DEFENSIVE POSITION. ENEMY WERE WITHDRAWING IN DIRECTION OF PHU THO VILLAGE AT YD 175701, ENEMY WAS ENGAGED AT SHORT RANGE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ACCOUNTING FOR 32 NVA KIA (CONF). FM-6 DEPLOYED FM-M AND FM-3 TO ASSIST FM-K TO RETRIEVE CASUALTIES AND BREAK CONTACT. FM-K WAS STILL IN CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL OF FM-M. FM-M ESTABLISHED A PERIMETER 150 METERS SOUTHWEST OF POINT OF CONTACT WHILE FM-K MADE A FINAL UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO