



**MAY 1969**

HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 3d Marines  
3d Marine Division [Rein], FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

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3/ERH/mjc

10 Jun 69

003816169

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: (1) CG, 3d MarDiv  
(2) CG, III MAF, Vietnam  
(3) CG, FMFPAC

21 43 69

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 May 1969 to 31 May 1969 (U).

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.3A  
(c) DivO 5750.1G

Encl: ✓(1) 3d Battalion, 3d Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Downgraded at 3 year intervals; declassified after 12 years.

*K. J. Skipper*  
K. J. SKIPPER  
By direction

3 RDDB/3RD MAR

GRID CHRON

MAY 1969

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May 1969 to 31 May 1969

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Downgraded at 3 year intervals;  
Declassified after 12 years.

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
 

H&S Company	LtCol R C SCHULZ 1-31 May 69
I Company	Capt B J MILLERSON 1-31 May 69
K Company	Capt J O TROTT 1-31 May 69
L Company	Capt B B GOODWIN 1-31 May 69
M Company	Capt C C KRULAK 1-31 May 69
	Capt H B RILEY 1-31 May 69
  
2. LOCATION

01-02 May - YD098241, Sa Moi Map Sheet #6341 I, Series L7014
03-10 May - YD010593, Cam Lo Map Sheet #6342 I, Series L7014
10-11 May - XD997615, Cam Lo Map Sheet #6342 I, Series L7014
12-18 May - YD018593, Cam Lo Map Sheet #6342 I, Series L7014
19-31 May - XD989629, Cam Lo Map Sheet #6342 I, Series L7014
  
3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj K J SKIPPER 1-31 May 69
S-3	Maj R E DEFOREST 1-31 May 69
S-3A	2dLt J P RIGOULOT 1-23 May 69 1stLt R D O'NEIL 24-31 May 69
S-2	2dLt J P RIGOULOT 1-23 May 69 1stLt R D O'NEIL 24-31 May 69
S-4	1stLt B B HOLDRIDGE 1-31 May 69
Adjutant	2dLt R L WINDHAM 1-31 May 69
Supply Officer	1stLt J B OLSON 1-31 May 69
Personnel Officer	1stLt J D RITNER 1-31 May 69
Communications Officer	1stLt S B YATES 1-31 May 69
Motor Transport Officer	2dLt L J POLSNER 1-31 May 69
Artillery Liaison Officer	1stLt E F FLOWERS 1-31 May 69
Forward Air Control Officer	1stLt G W KRULAVIC 1-16 May 69 1stLt H A DENTING 17-31 May 69
Air Liaison Officer	1stLt W H HANCOCK 1-18 May 69 Capt E A LOCKE 11-31 May 69
Chaplain	LtCdr J DOLAGHAN 1-31 May 69
Battalion Surgeon	Lt M R MCHILLIN 1-23 May 69 Lt W H GOODIER III 24-31 May 69
Battalion Sargeant Major	Sgt/Maj F J DESJARDINS 1-31 May 69

## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. GENERAL OVERALL VIEW OF ALL ACTIVITIES. The Battalion operated in 2 S/D operations and 1 special operation. 1-2 May Operation Maine Crag, 3-31 May Operation Virginia Ridge, and 26-27 May Operation Pink Panther (Ops in the DMZ. See After Action report in supporting documents). Enemy contact during the earlier part of May was characterized by booby traps and 3-4 man point contacts. As the Battalion moved to the north and northwest, they began to discover numerous bunkers and storage/resupply caches of the enemy. Numerous enemy mortaring incidents began to take place. The Battalion changed over from Battalion administration to company level administration.

2. COMMAND RELATIONS.

- a. 01-31 May APOC 3d Marine Division  
01-31 May OPCON 3d Marines

## b. Subordinate Units:

- 02-03 May OPCON G Co, 2d Bn, 3d Marines  
03-13 May OPCON L Co, 3d Bn, 9th Marines  
17-20 May CHOP L Co, 3d Bn, 3d Marines to 2d Bn, 3d Marines  
27-28 May OPCON 1st Plt, K Co, 3d Bn, 9th Marines

3. MISSIONS ASSIGNED.

## a. Regimental Frag Order 33-69

1. Continue S/D and security ops.
2. Pass OPCON from 3d Marines to 9th Marines OPCON on 2 May.
3. Take OPCON of G Co, 2/3 on FSB Wiseman 2 May. Close out FSB Wiseman and helilift G Co, 2/3 to Vandegrift CB on 3 May.
4. Helilift to Elliot CB and FSB Fuller, conduct S/D ops in new AO.

## b. Regimental Frag Order 34-69

1. Assume OPCON G/2/3 and K/3/3 on order 2 May 69.
2. Assume 3d Marines present AO about 021100H May 69.
3. Pass to OPCON Task Force Hotel on order about 021100H May 69.
4. Be prepared on 3 May to helicopter-borne retrograde/relief in place by elements of 9th Marines from LZ at YD050203 (L & I), FSB Wiseman (G), FSB Gaucho (H & OP) and FSB McClintock (K). Ensure on station CAP, AG, and gunships for 3/3 lift out. Contact 3d Marines upon arrival Virginia Ridge AO.
5. Be prepared on 3 May to relieve elements of H/2/9 at FSB Fuller and L/3/9 at ECB.

## c. Regimental Frag Order 35-69

1. Begin closing on Obj Sierra by 8 May 69.

## d. Regimental Frag Order 36-69

1. Move Co I into your AO as soon as practical, NLT 6 May.

## e. Regimental Frag Order 37-69

1. Continue S/D ops along Kutter's Ridge to east. Secure Obj Schulze by 8 May.

- 2. Conduct S/D opns on Dong Ha Mtn.
- 3. Be prepared to continue north eastern attack, in conjunction with 1/3 about 9 May.
- 4. Provide security for ECB, FSB Fuller, and lines of communication within AO.
- 5. Provide security for mine sweeps within AO.
- f. Regimental Frag Order 38-69
  - 1. Conduct continuous search opns around Dong Ha Mtn in attempt to locate bunkered enemy unit.
- g. Regimental Frag Order 39-69
  - 1. Continue S/D opns along Nutter's Ridge to north, secure Obj Schulze by 10 May.
- h. Regimental Frag Order 41-69
  - 1. Begin movement to east on 11 May, select and notify this command of major objectives by location and designation, prior to 121200H.
  - 2. 3/3 has security responsibility for Route #9 within its AO 24hrs/day.
- i. Regimental Frag Order 42-69
  - 1. You are instructed to review L/3/9 security opns for ECB and techniques used by them for the coverage of Route #9 within your AO. Submit report earliest.
- j. Regimental Frag Order 43-69
  - 1. In accordance with concept of future opns in Virginia Ridge AO, commence to deploy your forces in the western Nutter's Ridge - Dong Ha Mtn area.
- k. Regimental Frag Order 44-69
  - 1. Your concept as submitted is approved.
  - 2. Your request for a western boundary change has been forwarded and is reflected in overlay passop.
  - 3. By 16 1800H May 69, ensure all forces are west of 1/3-3/3 boundary as shown in overlay.
- l. Regimental Frag Order 46-69
  - 1. Be prepared, on order, to CHOP L/3/3 OPCON to 1/3. This will occur when the boundary change as directed in overlay goes into effect.
  - 2. Be prepared to assume convoy security from the period 21-31 May 69. It is recommended you utilize a composite platoon from your rear echelon.
- m. Regimental Frag Order 46-69
  - 1. Retain possession of L/3/3 until helilifted AM of 18th to vic of Camp Carroll.
- n. Regimental Frag Order 47-69
  - 1. CHOP OPCON of L/2/3 upon completion of helilift to LZ Eagle.

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
Officer	Enlisted	Officer	Enlisted
35	1183	2	50

## o. Regimental Frag Order 49-69

Your request for employment of L/3/3 is approved. Lift will commence at 1000H.

2. Possibility of tactical demonstration is 21 May, at earliest.
3. CS Frag set for 20 0700H.

## p. Regimental Frag Order 51-69

1. Tactical demonstration is set for 22 0900H May 69.
2. CS Frag is set for 22 0730H.

## q. Regimental Operation Order 7-69

1. Notify this Headquarters 72 hours prior to insertion of initial DMZ patrols.

## r. Regimental Frag Order 53-69

1. Permission granted to conduct normal recon patrols into DMZ commencing 26 0500H. AO from 96 NS gridline on west to PMDL on N to 02 NS gridline on E. Unlike 1/3 these patrols will be strictly recon in nature and information relating to them. Requests for fire, etc. will be submitted to 3d Marines. Size of extraction force and instructions relating to commitment.

## s. Regimental Frag Order 57-69

1. Concept of operations submitted has been approved. Execute according to submitted time schedule.

## t. Regimental Frag Order 58-69

1. For planning purposes: (6) helicopters, (12) men per helicopter for scheduled flip flop.
2. Submit this Headquarters numbers of lifts into and out of zone.
3. Upon commencement of helilift submit SITREP every 30 minutes on lift status.

## u. Regimental Frag Order 59-69

1. Conduct complete mortar suppression program before helilift of 01 June.

4. INTELLIGENCE. During the month of May, the Battalion operated in 2 similar areas with unrelated missions. Up to 2 May, Operation Maine Crag was conducted in the Vietnamese salient south of Khe Sahn. On 3 May, the Battalion commenced Operation Virginia Ridge in the Mutter's Ridge area northwest of Dong Ha mountain. While in the Virginia Ridge AO, enemy activity was light to medium. Several large caches were found. Company L discovered a large bunker complex and cache on 16 May in the vicinity of YD058612. Total contacts in the Virginia Ridge AO were 19 minor contacts, 6 incidents involving mines and booby traps, 14 mortar attacks, and several miscellaneous incidents. Based upon an accumulation of high level intelligence source items; numerous sightings by aerial observers, sightings, sketches, and other evidence collected by 3d Recon Bn, SLAR, IR, and aerial photography. It was deemed that a major operation should be conducted to seek out and destroy enemy supply/storage areas within



~~the~~ AO. The Virginia Ridge AO is a densely forested mountainous area. Elevation ranges from 100 to 549 meters. The AO runs SW-NE to the southern border of the DMZ. The NVA apparently are not restricted in their movements and thus chose to construct large bunker complexes and supply and storage areas.

5. OPERATIONS. See Paragraph 3.

6. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

a. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy

KIA	KIA by Artillery/Air	POW
21 *	9	3 *

\* 1 POW DOW

b. Casualties Sustained

	KIA	WIA	NBC	DOC	DAI
USMC	4	47	149	1	1
USN	0	0	6	0	0

c. Equipment, Ordnance, and Supplies Captured or Destroyed

Weapons

20 AK47 rifles	1 82mm mortar
2 SKS rifles	1 RPG2 launcher
1 60mm mortar	1 82mm recoilless gun

Ordnance

10421 7.62 rds	145 fuses for 82mm recoilless rifle
91 60mm mortar rds	2 cans of increments
564 82mm mortar rds	5 Chicom mines
119 82mm recoilless rifle rds	3 US AT mines
54 75mm howitzer rds	19 Chicom AT mines
97 120mm howitzer rds	19 electric blasting caps
83 RPG2 rds	8 regular blasting caps
3830 fuse igniters	3 lbs C4
680 Chicom grenades	36 cans of 82mm fuses
8 US M26 grenades	96 primers for 82mm rifle
410 lbs TNT	30 ft time fuse
46 Chicom Claymore mines	

Miscellaneous Equipment

2090 ft comm wire	1 telegraph key
92 AK47 magazines	1 handset
4 drum magazines	2 wire cutters
1 50cal barrel	1 antenna base
1 7.62mm barrel	18 bush hats
142 NVA packs	1 3d MarDiv sweatshirt
1 USMC pack	2 USMC trousers
121 NVA S-tools	20 pr sandals
36 NVA picks	2 khaki shorts
28 NVA canteens	3 NVA covers

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3 US canteens	54 hammocks
2 US canteen cups	17 Chicom gasmasks
10 NVA helmets	40 mosquito nets
26 ponchos	10 whistles
2 poncho liners	3 pocket knives
5 NVA belts	45 machettes
2 NVA radio log books	2 field glass cases
3 radio batteries	1 plotting board
1 NVA radio headset	1 protractor
1320 lbs rice	241 bunkers
60 lbs dried foodstuffs	2 huts
11 first aid kits	26 fighting holes
4 medical needles	1 pay receipt
2 wallets	1 water can
1 chart w/grids	misc diaries/documents
3 tunnels	misc clothing and cooking

7. SUPPORTING ARMS.

## a. Artillery units providing direct and general support:

- (1) Btry A, 1st Bn, 12th Marines
- (2) Btry B, 1st Bn, 12th Marines
- (3) Btry C, 1st Bn, 12th Marines
- (4) Btry W, 1st Bn, 12th Marines
- (5) Btry E, 2nd Bn, 12th Marines
- (6) Btry K, 4th Bn, 12th Marines
- (7) Btry L, 4th Bn, 12th Marines
- (8) 1st Provisional, 12th Marines
- (9) 1st 8" Howitzer Btry
- (10) Btry C, 1st Bn, 40th Artillery USA
- (11) Btry A, 175 USA

## b. Missions Fired:

- (1) Artillery
  - (a) Active Mortars 30
  - (b) Preparatory Fires 34
  - (c) Night Defensive Fires 72
  - (d) Suspected Enemy Positions 67
  - (e) Live Missions 38
  - (f) H&I Fires 404
  - (g) Ammunition Expended:

Type	HE	WP	Ill
105mm	4625	436	99
155mm	1216	30	20
107mm	28	6	
175mm	20		
8"	58	6	

- (2) 81mm Mortars
  - (a) Preparatory Fires

- (b) Targets of Opportunity
- (c) Counter Mortar Fires
- (d) Suspected Enemy Positions
- (e) Night Defensive Fires
- (f) Illumination
- (g) Ammunition Expended:

HE	WP	Ill
10577	779	449

c. Air Support

- (1) 5 platoon size helicopter lifts were completed.
- (2) 18 flights of fixed wing were requested and received.
- (3) 4 TPQ's were requested and none received.
- (4) 55 AO's were requested and 33 received.
- (5) 70 medevacs were requested and received.
- (6) 10 C&G flights were requested and 5 received.
- (7) 12 Visual Reconns were requested and 5 received.
- (8) 3 flare ships were requested and received.
- (9) 25 beacon hops were requested and 4 received.
- (10) 673,641 pounds of cargo was lifted.

8. LOGISTICS.

a. Supply

(1) Combat Essential Supplies on hand was 85.8% as of 31 May 1969. Critical shortages existed in the following items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Shortage</u>
Antenna, S2236	2
Telephone, T-1PT	53
Gasmask, M17	360
Antenna, RC292	2

(2) During the 1st to the 4th, Class V was drawn from the LSA at Vandegrift CB and from the 5th to the 31st from the ASP at Quang Tri CB with no problems encountered.

b. Resupply

During May, resupply was by helicopter. A very inadequate number of helicopters was encountered during this period.

c. Evacuation & Hospitalization

All medevacs were by helicopter and no problems were encountered.

d. Transportation

- (1) Total mileage on organic vehicles during May was 10,411.
- (2) Truck support was adequate.

9. COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS

a. Frequency modulated equipment continued to remain effective and highly reliable. The antenna system S2236 was carried as supplemental

equipment by the command group in the field. However, only extreme ranges in connection with critical terrain features would justify the extra weight and burden of the antenna during command post displacement. The properly oriented antenna AS2236 in the rear areas along with modified ground plane antennas in the field provided reliable FM communication.

b. The Forward Air Controller made effective use of the AN/PRC 41 in conjunction with the SST122 radar beacon.

c. With the acquisition of 27 telephones T41P2, each company was provided with 5 telephones and 1 wireman (2511). New wiremen were given field experience by rotating them with the wiremen in the field.

d. Wet cell batteries BB451 have a rapid rate of discharge under field conditions and recommendations are:

(1) Replace batteries in the field periodically regardless of use or charge indicated.

(2) Store batteries in a dry and relatively cool place.

#### 10. EQUIPMENT.

Combat Essential Equipment at 85.8% on 31 May 1969.

#### 11. CIVIC ACTION. N/A

#### 12. PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION.

##### a. Personnel

Gains:	4 USMC Off	190 USMC Enl	1 USN Off	6 USN Enl
Losses:	5 USMC Off	148 USMC Enl	2 USN Off	6 USN Enl

##### b. Administration

(1) During the month of May, 9 SPCM were held and 2 Court Martials are pending. The Battalion Commander hold 1 Office Hours and 1 is pending. There were 11 Company Commander Office Hours held and 4 are pending.

(2) R&R continued to be a major morale factor. The Battalion received and used 88 Out Of Country R&R quotas. There were 22 In Country R&R quotas received and used.

(3) The morale was considered good.

(4) Postal service was good.

(5) No liberty was authorized during the month.

(6) Marine Exchange facilities were not available to the Battalion as a whole. Very limited Exchange was available for the Rear area personnel.

(7) During the month, the Battalion gave out the following awards:

Silver Star	3	Navy Achievement	1
Bronze Star	12	Purple Heart	15
Navy Commendation	2		

(8) On 23 May, the Battalion changed over to company level administration.

13. TRAINING.

- a. Training of newly joined personnel in accordance with DivO 1510.3D (CO.TIP).
- b. Cross training and OJT in the O3 field is used extensively.
- c. The following school quotas were used during the month:
- (1) Land Mine Warfare & Booby Trap School 5
  - (2) Personal Response Instructors Training Course 1
  - (3) Ground Surveillance Device (PPS6) School 10
  - (4) Embarkation School (Enlisted) 1
  - (5) General Military Subjects School 3
  - (6) Basic Ammo Tech School 1
  - (7) Registered Publications Service School (Officer) 1
  - (8) Staff NCO School 2

14. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. Weather. The weather for the month of May was mostly sunny and clear. Toward the end of the month, heavy afternoon shower restricted ground and air operations somewhat in the Battalion AO. On the days of inclement weather, the rain and low ceilings burned off in 2-3 hours.

Mean High	99°
Mean Low	80°
Humidity	79%

## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 01 May The Battalion CP was located at YD098241, Sa Noi Map Sheet.
- 02 May The Battalion CP moved to YD098241, Sa Noi Map Sheet.  
Assumed OPCON G Co, 2/3.  
0945H Elements of Co L observed 3 NVA moving S to SW.
- 03 May The Battalion CP moved to YD018593, Can Lo Map Sheet.  
CHOP OPCON Co G, 2/3.  
Assume OPCON Co L, 3/9
- 04 May No significant events.
- 05 May No significant events.
- 06 May 1000H Elements of Co K discovered a recently used trail.
- 07 May 0830H Elements of Co K discovered a large cave.  
0945H Elements of Co M discovered ordnance.  
1615H Elements of Co K discovered 30-40 bunkers.  
1640H Elements of Co K discovered 8 fighting holes.
- 08 May 0715H Elements of Co I detonated enemy explosive device on trail.  
0825H Elements of Co I detonated enemy explosive device while setting in security.  
1330H Elements of Co L, 3/9 observed helicopter hit by RPG.  
1745H Elements of Co M had 1 Claymore detonate caused by electrical storm.
- 09 May 1130H Elements of Co M discovered enemy water point.  
1500H Elements of Co M discovered enemy water point and overnight position.
- 10 May 1015H A convoy from Dong Ha CB hit mine after road sweep had been completed.  
1220H Elements of Co I, while moving into LZ, was hit by an enemy command detonated explosive device.  
1500H A truck hit a mine.  
1515H Elements of Co I discovered a bunker complex and approximately 30 NVA.  
Battalion CP moved to XD997615, Can Lo Map Sheet.
- 11 May 0115H Elements of Co H had Chicom grenades thrown into their ambush site.  
0800H Elements of Co K fired 60mm mortars at observed movement.  
0930H Elements of Co I discovered extensive bunker complex.  
0945H Elements of Co K discovered 3 uncompleted bunkers.  
1430H Elements of Co K observed enemy movement.  
1515H Elements of Co I discovered bunker complex.
- 12 May Battalion CP moved to YD018593, Can Lo Map Sheet.

- 1450H Elements of Co K discovered 4 old bunkers.
- 13 May CHOP OP:OP Co L, 3/9  
 0730H Elements of Co L, 3/9 discovered mine on road.  
 1500H Elements of Co L discovered a 30 bunker complex.  
 1500H Elements of Co L discovered a 15 bunker complex.
- 14 May 1130H Elements of Co K discovered NVA items.  
 1715H Elements of Co K observed 2 NVA.  
 2000H Elements of Co L continued search of bunker complex.
- 15 May 0810H Elements of Co L discovered what appeared to be an NVA ambush.  
 0915H Elements of Co K discovered new bunkers.  
 0950H Elements of Co K discovered NVA ordnance.  
 1420H Elements of Co K discovered NVA 782 gear.  
 1430H Elements of Co L discovered sleeping/fighting bunker complex.  
 1620H Elements of Co K discovered a bunker complex and NVA ordnance.
- 16 May 0855H Elements of Co K discovered NVA ordnance.  
 1130H Elements of Co L discovered a large bunker complex with a large amount of ordnance.  
 1730H Elements of Co M observed 10 NVA.
- 17 May 0430H Elements of Co M captured 1 NVA POW.  
 0730H Elements of Co L captured 1 82mm mortar tube and sight.  
 CHOP OPCON Co L, 3/3.  
 0930H Elements of Co M continued search of bunker complex.  
 1700H Elements of Co M observed 1 NVA who committed suicide.
- 18 May 1000H Co L tabulated captured equipment in bunker complex.  
 1240H Elements of Co K searched area of earlier contact.  
 1715H Elements of Co M received mortar fire.  
 1715H Elements of Co M observed 1 NVA.
- 19 May Battalion CP moved to XD989629, Can Lo Map Sheet.  
 0200H Elements of Co M received 3 RPG rounds.  
 0700H Elements of Co M received 3 rounds of 82mm mortar.  
 0800H Elements of Co M received 3 rounds of 82mm mortar.  
 1210H CP received 3 rounds of 82mm mortar.  
 1330H Elements of Co M received 10 rounds of 82mm mortar.  
 1415H Elements of Co K made contact with an apparent NVA FO team.  
 2200H Elements of Co M had their lines probed.
- 20 May Assumed OPCON Co L, 3/3.  
 155H CP received 5 rounds of 82mm mortar.
- 21 May 0900H Elements of Co K observed 3 NVA.  
 0930H Elements of Co K made contact with 4 NVA.  
 1800H Elements of Co K discovered booby trapped bunker complex.
- 22 May 0800H Elements of Co K made contact with 2-3 NVA.  
 0900H Elements of Co K discovered 82mm mortar rounds with red and green bands.

- 1400H Elements of Co K executed a daylight ambush.  
2230H Elements of Co K executed an ambush on 8 NV.
- 23 May 1730H Elements of Co K found ordnance in the ambush site.  
Battalion Changed over to company level administration.  
1815H Elements of Co M and K received 15-20 60mm mortar rounds.  
1900H Elements of Co K discovered a small ordnance cache.
- 24 May 0915H Elements of Co M discovered booby trap.  
1300H Elements of Co K discovered 2 NV graves.
- 25 May 1105H Elements of Co K discovered 1 NV body.  
1330H Elements of Co K made point contact with 8-10 NV in a bunker complex.  
1745H Elements of Co K received 25-30 rounds of 82mm mortar.
- 26 May 0704H Elements of Co K discovered 3 82mm mortar rounds.  
0950H Elements of Co K discovered a recently used enemy rest area.  
0950H Elements of Co K observed 6 NV.  
0955H Elements of Co K observed an unknown number of NVA.  
1110H Elements of Co K moved into bunker complex and captured 1 badly wounded NV.  
1120H Elements of Co M found 1 pair of tennis shoes.  
1300H Elements of Co K searched bunker complex.  
1310H Elements of Co M discovered NV camp site.  
1415H Elements of Co K observed NV waiting in ambush.  
1715H Elements of Co K found heavily used trail.  
1800H Elements of Co K discovered a large assembly area.  
1810H Elements of Co M discovered a layover site.  
2200H Elements of Co M observed 40 NV moving south.
- 27 May 0700H Elements of Co K returned to bunker complex to destroy ordnance.  
Assume OPCON 1st Plt, Co K, 3/9.  
1000H Elements of Co K killed 1 NV.  
1300H Elements of Co L discovered a bunker complex and 1 Soviet 82mm recoilless gun with rounds.  
1650H Elements of Co K received 20 rounds of 60mm mortar.
- 28 May 0530H Elements of Co K received 1 RPG round.  
CHOP OPCON 1st Plt, Co K, 3/9.  
1200H Elements of Co L discovered 1 grave.  
1935H Elements of Co K observed a trip flare set off on a vacated position.
- 29 May 1100H Elements of Co M discovered an A-frame bunker complex.  
1300H Elements of Co M observed 10 NV moving west.
- 30 May 0600H-310600H Cease Fire.
- 31 May 0900H Elements of Co K discovered 7 bunkers.  
1125H Elements of Co K received 14 rounds of 60mm mortar.



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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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- ✓ 3 Battalion Message Traffic

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## JOURNAL SUMMARY

- 01 May No significant events.
- 02 May 0945H In the area of YD043186, elements of Co L observed 3 NVAs moving S to SW. Two were wearing dark clothing and some type of frame on their backs. One was wearing light colored clothing. Artillery was called in with excellent coverage but results unknown.
- 1835H In the area of XD973334, elements of Co G, 2/3 received 10 rounds of 82mm mortar. Counter fire was called using mortars and artillery. Results unknown.
- 03 May No significant events.
- 04 May No significant events.
- 05 May No significant events.
- 06 May 1000H In the area of XD992592, elements of Co K discovered a trail recently used by unknown personnel. Searched the trail with negative results.
- 07 May 0830H In the area of XD966566, elements of Co K discovered a large cave approximately 30' in diameter, 3 tunnels inside of cave running away from the main cave. The tunnels were 4' in diameter and 6' long. The area showed no sign of recent use.
- 0945H In the area of XD991613, elements of Co M discovered three Chicom grenades and a 1lb ball of TNT along the side of the trail. The ordnance appeared to be in place for about 3 weeks. The items were destroyed.
- 1330H In the area of XD991613, elements of Co M discovered five fighting holes and 1 mortar position. They appeared to be about 2 months old and were destroyed.
- 1615H In the area of XD997605, elements of Co K discovered 30 to 40 bunkers and fighting holes. One bunker appeared to be a command bunker. The area was over 6 months old. NVA ration wrappers were found in several of the bunkers. The bunkers were destroyed.
- 1640H In the area of XD993500, elements of Co K discovered 8 fighting holes estimated to be 8 months old. Searched area with negative results.
- 08 May 0715H In the area of XD991613, elements of Co I were traveling along a trail when an unknown type of directional explosive device was detonated towards the trail. The shrapnel appeared to be 1/8" in diameter and smaller. They were unable to determine if the device was command or trip detonated. Results were 4 WIA medevacs and 2 WIA non-medevacs.
- 0825H In the area of XD991615, elements of Co I were setting up security for an LZ when an explosive device was detonated. It was believed to be an M26 grenade. Results

1330H In the area of XD983546, elements of Co L, 3/9 observed a CH46 medevac helicopter make an emergency landing. The Helicopter was hit by a RPG.

1745H In the area of XD997644, Co M had a Claymore mine spontaneously detonate. According to the S-2, a Claymore mine could be detonated by the electricity in the air if the protective plug isn't covering the electric wires. The protective plug will be used until the Claymores are set into place.

09 May 1130H In the area of YD002623, elements of Co M discovered an enemy water point that appeared to be an overnight position. There were hollow bamboo shoots running into the water. Sandal tracks approximately 24hrs old were found around the water point. Artillery was called in on the position that night with unknown results.

1500H In the area of YD001622, elements of Co M discovered a small stream used as a water point and overnight position. The area could accommodate 150-200 personnel. There were no bunkers and appeared to be approximately 2 weeks old. Trails leading north were very heavily traveled compared to those leading south. Equipment found: 1 NV, canteen, 1 can of rice, 1 helmet net, 1 oven, old US sandbags, old C-rations, 1 plastic water container.

10 May 1015H In the area of XD995559, the road sweep had completed its sweep of Route #9 when convoy from Dong Ha hit 2 mines on the right and center left of the road. The route was reswept with negative results.

1220H In the area of YD019639, elements of Co I moving on to a LZ detonated an explosive device located along side of the trail and laid into an old trash pit. The tripwire had been covered with mud. The explosion and crater indicated the explosive device was a L.M. or 81mm round. Approximately 30ft of nylon rope was found running from the crater to a freshly dug fighting hole that overlooked the trail. There was blood found by the hole. Results were 1 Marine WIA.

1500H In the area of XD994558, elements of Co L, 3/9 on a truck hit a mine after a large amount of traffic had passed over the area. Two reinforced squads, engineers, and dusters were sent to check area with negative results.

1515H In the area of XD990629, elements of Co I secured an objective and sent a fireteam forward for an OP among extremely thick bamboo. Initial contact was made when Chicom grenades were thrown at the OP. The OP returned fire and a machinegun was brought up. A squad leader observed 5 enemy fall. Two platoons then swept down the finger and received heavy fire. The platoons moved back and called 3 flights of air, artillery, and 60mm mortars. After the prep fire the platoons started to sweep again and found a bunker complex. Due to darkness, the platoons moved into a defensive position. Sweep of the area the next day resulted in

finding 10 new bunkers. The bunkers were constructed very low to the ground and covered with logs. Assorted gear and rice were found inside. There were several trails leading from the complex. It was estimated that there had been 30 NVA in the complex and they were trying to leave when contact was made. Results were 1 Marine WIA.

- 11 May 0115H In the area of YD001622, elements of Co M set in ambush heard movement on the right flank and threw grenades. In a few minutes later, 2 Chicoms were thrown into the ambush site from the right flank. The ambush throw more grenades and detonated a Claymore. During the flash of a grenade, a squad leader saw 3 bodies. Area was checked at first light and blood and several escape trails were found. There was 4 Marine WIA's.
- 0800H In the area of YD012618, elements of Co K fired 4 rounds and used 60mm mortars at observed movement. Searched area with negative results.
- 0930H In the area of XD990290, elements of Co I discovered an extensive bunker complex. One bunker contained 5 NVA packs and various other enemy gear. The bunkers were destroyed.
- 1430H In the area of YD017621, elements of Co K observed enemy movement from a hill. Artillery was called and the area searched with negative results.
- 1515H In the area of XD990290, elements of Co I discovered a bunker complex that was approximately 80m down a finger and 50m across the finger. There were 10 new bunkers, 1 month old, covered with logs and 8 other bunkers that were about 8 months old; 20 fighting holes were along the perimeter. The bunkers appeared to be used for living quarters and some had fireplaces and places to hang cooking utensils. Items found included: 75 AK47 rounds, 3 RPG2 rounds, 1 RPG2, 20 NVA packs, 9 L-tools, 12 khaki shirts, 8 trousers, 6 small silver stars, 15 ponchos, 11 hammocks, 100lbs of rice, 30lbs of grain and meal, 2 flashlights, 2 helmets, 2 binocular cases, 2 soft covers, 2 canteen covers, 1pr sandals, 6 mosquito nets, 14 canteens, 19 blocks of TNT with blasting caps, and various medical supplies and documents. The documents and supplies were turned over to the S-2 and the bunkers destroyed.
- 1900H In the area of YD024630, elements of Co K discovered 4 bunkers with partial overhangs and were 2-3 months old. From 2010-2045 lights were seen in the vicinity of YD016635 and artillery was called in with 1 secondary explosion. The bunkers were destroyed.
- 12 May 1450H In the area of YD020623, elements of Co K discovered 4 old bunkers with the overhangs tore off and 6 fighting holes. Also found 12 friendly fighting holes and an LZ last occupied 5-10 days prior.
- 13 May 0730H In the area of XD997561, elements of Co L, 3/9 discovered a mine on the north side of the road. The mine was buried about 2" deep and was 2ft in diameter. It was blown in place.

1500H In the area of YD048618, elements of Co L discovered a bunker complex consisting of 30 bunkers ranging in size from 8' to 5x10'. The bunkers were all constructed underground and had logs reinforcing the tops. One bunker was used for cooking and had a stovepipe running away from it for 20'. Search of the complex resulted in finding 2 RPG rounds, many AK47 rounds, several magazines and pouches, 1 telegraph key, 1 handset, 1 detonation charge 4" long and 4" in diameter weighing 3lbs, 1 first aid kit, battle dressings, vials of unknown medicine, 300lbs of rice, and 50lbs of dried foods. The complex appeared to be a way station rather than a fighting area. Set ambush in area and will search out area tomorrow.

1500H In the area of YD044619, elements of Co L discovered a bunker complex consisting of 15 bunkers. Each was large enough to hold 3 men and appeared to be 1-2 weeks old. Found in bunkers were 7 AK47 magazines, 2 pouches, 2 NVA A-tools, 1 pick, 100lbs of rice, and 1 radio headset. The bunkers and gear was destroyed.

14 May 1130H In the area of YD032628, elements of Co K found 1 pair of NVA sandals, 30m of communication wire, and 2 pair of khaki shorts. The items appeared to be 6 months old.

1715H In the area of YD034639, elements of Co K observed 2 NVA by the river. Artillery was called in with unknown results.

2000H In the area of YD047617, elements of Co L continued the search of the bunker complex with negative results. It was found that the complex had been hit by artillery at one time but with no apparent damage. The complete complex had 42 bunkers in it and was well camouflaged and could not be seen from the air. Engineers destroyed all the gear that was not of tactical use and all the bunkers. Additional items that were found were: 1 radio power supply, 1 radio receiver device, 1 small microphone, 7 AT mines, 6 Chicom Claymores, 1 drum for a machinegun, 20 Chicom grenades, 2 hammocks, 2 pouches, 3 picks, 7 NVA A-tools, 4 NVA canteens.

15 May 0810H In the area of YD037677, elements of Co L came upon what appeared to be an ambush. The point element came under small arms fire from approximately 6 NVA dressed in green uniforms. The platoon moved into the attack and the enemy broke contact. Artillery was called in on the escape routes with results unknown. Search of the ambush site resulted in finding 4 Chicom grenades, 1 Chicom Claymore mine, 1 NVA belt, and 1 hat.

0915H In the area of YD056617, elements of Co K discovered 5 new bunkers. Four were completed and 1 appeared to be a command bunker. Search of the area resulted in finding 1 Chicom grenade, 3 AT Chinese mines, 2 82mm mortar rounds, 2 helmets, empty fruit cans, rice bowls, and old sheets. The area was destroyed.

0950H In the area of YD040670, elements of Co K discovered 7 mines; 3 M46 and 4 Chinese, 2 82mm mortar rounds. About 125m.

down the trail were found footprints of about 10-12 personnel. A comm wire ran south on the trail and up along side a creek.

1420H In the area of YD063936, elements of Co K discovered 1 canteen, 1 first aid kit on what appeared to be an officer's belt.

1430H In the area of YD058612, elements of Co L discovered a complex consisting of 30 sleeping/fighting bunkers. There were fighting holes facing the northeast. The bunkers were elaborately constructed with logs and wood reinforcement. All bunkers were approximately 10x15'. Estimated age of construction was 1 week to 1 month. Search of the area resulted in finding 20 E-tools, 20 picks, 20 packs, 7 RPG rounds, 82mm mortar bore brush, and rice packets. Destroyed bunkers.

1500H In the area of YD011581, Co I received information of enemy deployed in the area. An 81mm mortar mission was called and area searched with negative results.

1620H In the area of YD030628, elements of Co K discovered 18 bunkers approximately 1 month old. In the bunkers were found 7 Chinese 82mm mortar rounds, 16 Chinese 60mm mortar rounds, 1 AK47, 1 cleaning rod for mortars, 1 USMC pack, 10 NVA packs, 1 NVA belt, AK47 magazines, 2 fresh graves with just heads in them, 31 Chicom grenades, 6 blasting caps, 3 7.62 machinogun drums, 3 radio-type dry cells, 7 Chinese gasmasks with extra cannisters, 1 shovel, 5 picks, 13 E-tools, 1 machette, 1 82mm mortar aiming stake, 14 rice bowls, 10 cooking pots, 5 baskets, 5 opium pipes, 7 canteens, 8 first aid kits, 3 NVA hammocks, 4pr NVA boots, 10 sandals, 3 battle dressings, 5 bush hats, 3 NVA helmets, 1 US E-tool, 1 3d Mar Div sweatshirt, 3 blue sweatshirts, 1 poncho liner, 2 canteen cups, 3 radio log books, 1 book on the English language. The bunkers and gear were destroyed.

16 May 0855H In the area of YD039637, elements of Co K discovered 14 82mm mortar rounds with 15 fuses, 15 increments, 30 60mm mortar rounds, 36 fuses, 30 increments, 1 case of AK47 rounds (720), 1 Chinese AT mine, and 1 Chicom grenade. All the ordnance was destroyed.

1130H In the area of YD058612, elements of Co L discovered an extensive bunker complex consisting of approximately 60 bunkers on 3 fingers and in the ravines between the fingers. The bunkers were well constructed and log reinforced. The age of the complex ranged from 1 week to 6 months old. The following items were found in the complex: 10 gasmasks, 45 machettes, 32 hammocks, 3pr tennis shoes, 4 sandals, 44 rice bowls, 4 fl shlights, 19 cooking pots, 16 baskets, 600lbs of rice, 40 1/2lbs of TNT, 55 E-tools, 30 picks, 49 packs, 21 shirts, 10 whistles, 3 pocket knives, 40 mosquito nets, 30 bottles DDT, 25 82mm mortar rounds, 15 60mm mortar rounds, 13 RPG2 rounds, 5 AT mines, 3 Chicom Claymores, 6 communications batteries, 3 mortar brushes, 2 aiming stakes, 2 Chicom grenades, mortar plotting board, 1 protr ctor, 2 firing dat books, 50cal machinogun barrel, 1 NVA flag, 10

NVA first aid packets, 2000ft comm wire, 82mm mortar bipod, 82mm mortar base plate, canned food, NVA long range rations, and shaving gear.

1730H In the area of YD991632, elements of Co M while moving on to landing zone observed 10 NVA and opened fire on them with small arms and CS. The CS caused the enemy to flee to the north. The NVA returned fire with RPG's and AK47's and 2 command detonated Claymore mines. The enemy had an OP in a tree. It appeared that the NVA were going through the trash pits on the LZ. There were 4 freshly dug bunkers facing southwest. Artillery was called in on the escape routes, also Air which had 5 secondary explosions. Results of the contact were 5 WIA, 1 WIA Kit Carson Scout, 4 NVA KIA, and captured 1 AK47, 2 NVA Claymore mines, 10 packs, medical gear, 2 NVA helmets, and light green utilities.

17 May 0450H In the area of XD991632, elements of Co M while in a defensive position heard 1 enemy on the lines apparently yelling for his comrades. Two Marines move out from the lines and captured the enemy for a POW. He had no weapon and was wearing dark green utilities and jungle boots.

0730H In the area of YD058612, elements of Co L continued the search of the bunker complex and found 1 damaged 82mm mortar tube and site.

0930H In the area of XD989629, elements of Co M continued the search of the bunker complex reported 16 1700H. The complex was approximately 400m in length and ran northeast to southwest. There were a total of 20 bunkers; 10 living, 3 messhalls, and 7 fighting. The living and messhalls were constructed in a frame type, the fighting bunkers were constructed with heavy logs and had apertures facing the southwest. The complex was approximately 2 months old. The area was booby trapped with 3 Chicom grenades and 2 DH10 mines. Gear captured was 2 AK47 magazines, 7NVA undershirts, 3 T-shirts, 2 NVA wallets, 1 NVA map, 3 books (1 poetry, 1 diary, 1 supply), personnel letters, and charts with grids. The bunkers were destroyed and the gear turned over to the S-2.

1700H In the area of XD989629, elements of Co M were setting in night defense when an NVA was seen hiding in a partially covered hole outside of the perimeter. Scouts tried to talk him out but he would not answer. An explosion took place in the hole killing him. He had on NVA utilities and boots, but no weapons were found. Searched immediate area with negative results.

18 May 1000H In the area of YD058612, elements of Co L tabulated the total amount of captured gear in the bunker complex: 1 82mm mortar complete, 25 82mm rounds, 15 60mm rounds, 18 RPG2 rounds, 5 AT mines, 16 anti-personnel mines, 2 plastic AT mines, 6 comm batteries, 55 h-tools, 30 picks, 2 mortar brushes, 2 aiming stakes, 12 Chicom grenades, 49 packs, 500lbs of rice, 1 mortar plotting board, 1 protractor, 2 81mm mortar data books, 1 50cal machinegun barrel, 1 NVA flag, 19 cooking pots, 2 helmets, 10 NVA first aid packets, 40 1/2lb blocks of TNT, 2000' comm wire,

24 gasmasks, 100 rounds of miscellaneous ammunition, 21 shirts, 32 hammocks, 5pr socks, 6 cans of increments, 4 flashlights, 44 rice bowls, 45 machettes, 8 NVA belts, 5 NVA canteens, 30 feet time fuse, 1pr of tennis shoes, 4 sandals, 16 baskets, 30 DDT bottles, 30 NVA rations, 10 whistles, 3 pocket knives, 40 mosquito nets, 3 handsaws, and miscellaneous gear. Items not of tactical value were destroyed.

1715H In the area of XD989628, elements of Co M received 12 rounds of 82mm mortar outside the perimeter. Fire was returned with unknown results.

1715H In the area of XD989625, elements of Co M moving into an ambush position, observed 1 NVA and opened fire with small arms. Search of the area resulted in finding 1 bloody helmet, sandals, 1 Chicom grenade, and drag marks along the blood trail.

1740H In the area of XD980623, elements of Co K searched area where contact was made earlier. Discovered 2 bodies and a blood trail of another. Could not find the third. Discovered 2 packs, 1 Chicom carrying case, 4 Chicom grenades, 130 AK47 rounds, 2 E-tools, 1 machette, 1pr sandals, 1pr NVA boots, 8 shirts, 1 NVA canteen, 3 NVA trousers, 2pr socks, 2 hammocks, 1 mosquito net, 1 belt, 1 cartridge belt, 1 US canteen, 1 poncho liner, 2 rice bowls, ID papers, 2 record books, and miscellaneous stationary.

1800H In the area of XD989628, elements of Co M received 3 more rounds of 82mm mortar. Continued to call counter mortar fire.

19 May 0200H In the area of XD989628, elements of Co M received 3 RPG rounds from the northwest. All 3 landed in the perimeter. Counter fire was initiated with mortars and artillery with unknown results. There were 4 Marine KIA's.

0700H In the area of XD989628, elements of Co M received 3 rounds of 82mm mortars outside of the perimeter while helicopters were landing. Fire was returned with mortar. An AO on station could not observe the results.

0800H In the area of XD989620, elements of Co M received 3 more rounds of 82mm mortar while helicopters were landing. All the rounds landed outside the perimeter.

1050H In the area of XD988629, elements of Co M received 3 rounds of 82mm mortar outside their perimeter. Counter fire was called.

1210H In the area of XD988629, the CP received 3 rounds of 82mm mortar outside their perimeter. Fire was returned with artillery, mortars, and fixed wing with unknown results.

1330H In the area of XD988629, elements of Co M received 10 rounds of 82mm mortar. Counter fire was called and AO put on station.

1415H In the area of XD984636, elements of Co K initiated contact with an apparent NVA FO team in a small bunker complex with the FO in a tree. Assaulted through the complex killing 2 NVA and found the following items: 17 AK47 magazines, 12 Chicom grenades,



4 AK47's, 8 M26 grenades, 6 AK47 pouches, 6 bunkers, 6pr of underwear, 2 T-shirts, 2pr socks, 1 cap, 4 belts, 9 packs, 1pr binoculars, 1 knife, 8 hammocks, 6 mosquito nets, 7 NVA helmets, 6 canteens, 6 US E-tools, 7 rice bowls, 6 shirts, 1pr trousers, 1 can of powdered milk, 16 Hi-protein bars, 60 kilos of rice, 1 cargo parachute, and miscellaneous gear.

2200H In the area of XD989629, elements of Co M had their lines probed by an estimated squad of enemy. They were repelled by grenades and artillery. Results unknown.

20 May 1155H In the area of XD988629, the CP received 5 rounds of 82mm mortar. An AO was requested. Artillery and 81mm mortar fire was returned with unknown results.

21 May 0900H In the area of XD973638, elements of Co K while moving the rear security, observed 3 NVA. The NVA were taken under fire with small arms killing 2. Search of the area resulted in finding 1 AK47, 2 AK47 magazines, 4 Chicom grenades, 2 belts, 1 canteen, 1 battle dressing, 1 first aid kit.

0930H In the area of XD978647, elements of Co K made contact with approximately 4 NVA. The NVA were taken under fire. The NVA broke contact and fled to the north. Search of the area resulted in finding 1 SKS rifle and 2 Chicom grenades.

1800H In the area of XD965636, elements of Co K found a trail from a stream bed to a hill at XD967634. The base of the hill and the trail to the southwest had 8 A-frame bunkers. The trail and bunkers were booby trapped. The trail runs to the top of hill at XD969633 where an 82mm mortar pit was well camouflaged. The pit was 5' deep and connected by a partially covered trench line to 4 bunkers. The trench line was also booby trapped with Chicom grenades. One of which wounded the point man. All trails and bunkers were less than a week old and vacated less than 2 days prior. The camouflage consisted of live bamboo across the top of the pit and trench line held in place by green comm wire. The cover over the mortar pit, at a height of 10', may be opened and closed at will. Search of the complex resulted in finding 12 82mm mortar rounds, 2 cans of increments, and 20-30 empty cans.

22 May In the area of XD978650, elements of Co K initiated contact with 2-3 NVA moving on a trail, killing 1 and capturing 1 POW, 1 60mm mortar, 12 60mm rounds, 2 canteens, and 2 packs.

0900H In the area of XD965636, elements of Co K continued searching of the bunker complex and found 50 82mm rounds with red and green bands, 12 cans of fuses and increments. Sent samples to S-2.

1400H In the area of XD978650, elements of Co K executed a daylight ambush, killing 1 NVA and capturing 1 AK47, 1 pack, 2 grenade pouches, 3 canteens, 1 helmet, 1 pay receipt, 2 AK47 pouches, and 6 magazines, and 8 Chicom grenades. One Marine was wounded in the contact.

2230H In the area of XD962649, elements of Co K executed a reinforced squad size ambush on the lead elements of an NVA force of approximately 8 enemy. The force was followed by a larger force of about 20 enemy. When the search party went to search the bodies, the larger force open fire on them. The ambush detonated 2 Claymores and the NVA broke contact. An artillery and mortar mission was called on the escape route. Results of the contact were 3 US WIL's and 3 NVA KIA's.

23 May 1730H In the area of XD965648, elements of Co K searched the area where the ambush of the day before took place and found the following: 1 AK47, 8 Chicom grenades, 4 82mm mortar rounds, 30 82mm mortar fuses, 6 cans of increments, and numerous blood trails. XD960645 is a major trail network.

1815H Co M at XD984638 and Co K at XD973640 received 15-20 60mm mortar rounds. All rounds landed outside the perimeter. Counter mortar fire was used with unknown results.

1900H In the area of XD964634, elements of Co K found a small ammo cache. In the cache were 18 82mm mortar rounds, blue grey with red bands, and 27 82mm mortar rounds, green with red bands. They were found in 5 bunkers, 1 booby trapped with a LAMW. The bunkers were destroyed and the rounds sent to S-2.

24 May 0915H In the area of XD983637, elements of Co M discovered what appeared to be booby traps. One was located on a finger and the other in a draw. They looked like trip flares with the spoons on the top and springs stretched across the top of the device. Rocks were placed on top of the springs. They were not camouflaged and were marked so that they could be seen easily.

1300H In the area of XD953632, elements of Co K discovered a grave with 2 decomposed bodies. The bodies appeared to be buried approximately 2 months. Bodies apparently had been hit by shrapnel. Results were 2 NVA KIA's.

25 May 1105H In the area of XD978651, elements of Co K discovered a body near trail. The body was several days old. Death was by small arms. The NVA was believed to have been killed in the contact of 22 May. Results: 1 NVA KIA.

1330H In the area of XD968662, elements of Co K made point contact with 8-10 NVA in a bunker complex. The NVA initiated the contact with machinegun, small arms, and RPG fire. Called in artillery, 81mm mortars, and 60mm mortar missions. The platoon assaulted the position with an A0 on station. The A0 ran 2 flights of fixed wing. The NVA withdrew in an orderly and professional manner, they also employed snipers in groups of 2-3 on the escape route. The A0 observed several NVA in the open and called air strikes on them. Results were 1 AK47, 1 SKS, 30 Chicom grenades, 2 mines and 4 NVA KIA's. Also 10 USMC WIL's.

1745H In the area of XD973658, elements of Co K received 25-30 rounds of 82mm mortar. Countered with mortars and artillery. Results unknown.

0704H In the area of XD991661, elements of Co M found 3 82mm mortar rounds colored grey with red stripes made in 1965 by China. The rounds were destroyed.

0810H In the area of XD991665, elements of Co M followed a good trail north from XD991659. The trail had not been used for 4-6 weeks. Searched trail for equipment with negative results.

0945H In the area of XD968672, elements of Co K observed an unknown number of NVA moving around fighting holes and bunkers. Closing on enemy for better observation.

0955H In the area of XD968672, elements of Co K observed 6 NVA moving on trail to the south wearing green uniforms, packs, but no hats.

1110-1300H In the area of XD968673, elements of Co K moved into the enemy bunker complex. The NVA initiated contact with small arms fire. Co K returned fire with 60mm mortar, M16, M60, M79, and CS grenades. The contact continued and 3d plt, Co K was committed as an extraction force at 1130H. LO came on station and artillery missions were called in on the complex. Co K broke contact at 1210H and moved south to meet the extraction force at XD968668. Turned over 1 badly wounded POW and 2 USMC WIA's.

1120H In the area of YD005665, elements of Co M found 1pr of NVA tennis shoes. They appeared to have been there for 4-6 weeks. Shoes destroyed with knife.

1300-1515H In the area of XD968673, elements of Co K returned to the bunker complex. Search of the area discovered 1 AK47, 2 AK47 magazines, 8 Chicom grenades, letter from home, empty notebook, 1 hammock, US razor blades, 1 helmet, 1 E-tool, and 1 new rice bowl.

1310H In the area of XD999665, elements of Co M discovered a 15 man campsite approximately 1 week old. Searched area with negative results.

1715H In the area of YD003672-YD003674, elements of Co M discovered a heavily used trail with 4x3x5' holes every 20m. The holes had a lot of food wrappers, rags, and paper in them and 1 torn NVA map completely deteriorated. No evidence of use within the last 3-5 weeks.

1800H In the area of XD968668, elements of Co K discovered a large assembly area with signs of recent evacuation. The area consisted of 35-40 three man bunkers, half A-frame and slanting roof. Three were cooking huts with cooking utensils. Eight trails led in and out of the complex. The area appeared to have been built within the last 2-3 weeks. Search of the complex resulted in finding 25 sleeping mats, 150 Chicom grenades, 5000 rds AK ammo, NVA det cord and TNT, 3 Claymores, rice bags, 25 packs, 15 bush covers, 25 E-tools, food wrappers, US chewing gum, bloody band gas, open first aid kits, 1 US 5gal water can, 1 transistor radio, and prop ground leaflets.

1810H In the area of YD992669, elements of Co M discovered a layover site large enough for 15-20 personnel. There were many trails leading in all directions. Fresh water buffalo tracks leading north. The site appeared to have been used in the last week.

2200H In the area of YD003675, elements of Co M observed 40 NVAs moving south past their position. They were carrying small arms and equipment. They were moving at a rapid pace. Every 4th or 5th man appeared to be an officer or NCO as they were prodding the others along. Called in an artillery mission with unknown results.

27 May 0700H In the area of XD978672, elements of Co K exchanged small arms fire with 1 NVA who was traveling west. Searched area and found 1 NVA KIA.

1000H In the area of XD968667, elements of Co K returned to the bunker complex to destroy the captured equipment. There was evidence of 15-20 enemy had been in the complex the night before. The unit was unable to destroy the complex completely due to the large number of well constructed bunkers. While moving south out of the complex, contact was made with an unknown size enemy force. The extraction platoon was committed to assist the unit at 1055H. Unit fired M79, M60, and small arms. Artillery mission was to be called in after contact was broken. A request for a TPQ was made as soon as the units were out of the area. Results of the fire fight was 1 NVA KIA, 1 AK47.

1300H In the area of XD986626, elements of Co L discovered a bunker complex of 16 bunkers, 11 were fighting type. Five large bunkers contained ordnance. Search of the area resulted in finding: 1 SKS, 1 Soviet 82mm recoilless gun w/tripod type B10, 56 RPG rounds, 29 Claymore mines, 406 82mm mortar rounds, 357 Chicom grenades, 119 82mm recoilless rifle rounds, 54 75mm pack howitzer rounds, 96 recoilless gun primers and 145 fuses, 340lbs TNT (5 crates, 24 boxes per crate, each box 4x6"), 97 120mm mortar rounds, 50 AK47 magazines, 7 AT mines, 4 E-tools, 1 pick, 2 wire cutters, 764 boxes fuse lighters, 1 7.62 machinegun barrel, 1 aiming stake, 1800 7.62 linked rounds, 46,000 50cal rounds, 13800 AK47 rounds. Most ammunition was in good to fair condition despite heavy weathering of containers. The ordnance was blown in place.

1650-1845H In the area of XD971658, elements of Co K received 20 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from 2 different positions. Artillery mission and AO called. Results 3 USMC WIA's, enemy unknown.

28 May 0530H In the area of XD971658, elements of Co K received 1 RPG round from XD967662. Artillery and 60mm mortars returned fire with unknown results.

1200H In the area of XD998642, elements of Co L discovered a shallow grave. The remains in the grave appeared to have been dead for about 3 months. The appearance of the body was that he was killed by an air strike. He was wearing green utilities

with an E-tool covering his face. Results were 1 NVA KIA.

1935H In the area of XD971659, elements of Co K observed a trip flare set off that had been left at an old position. Artillery and mortar missions were called with unknown results.

29 May 1100H In the area of XD970635, elements of Co M discovered 3 A-frame bunkers 5x4x4', 2½-3 months old. There had been recent activity in the last 5-7 days. Also found were 2 mortar pits that had been used extensively, but showed no recent use. The complex was destroyed.

1300H In the area of XD966624, elements of Co M point man saw 8-10 NVA in full packs moving west to east about 200m ahead. The point immediately opened fire with small arms. Mortars and artillery were called in and a search of the area had negative results.

30 May Cease Fire 0600-0600 31 May 69.

31 May 0900H In the area of XD979639, elements of Co K discovered 7 bunkers approximately 6 months old. The bunkers were covered by logs and dirt. Search of the bunkers resulted in finding 3 full AK47 magazines, 1 Chicom gren de, 1 AK47 pouch, 2 helmets, 2 NVA gasmasks, 2 E-tools, and 1 pick. The bunkers and the gear were destroyed.

1125H In the area of XD973640, elements of Co K received 14 60mm mortar rounds outside the perimeter. Countered with artillery and mortars and had an AO on station. Results unknown.

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

3 BATTALION 3  
 00537-19 COPY 13 OF 21

3/ERH/mjc  
 1200H  
 10 Jun 69

003A16169

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
 Via: Commanding Officer, 3d Marines

Subj: Combat Operations, After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3100.1D  
 (b) Operation Order 7-69

1. Code Name. Operation Pink Panther (Patrols into the DMZ)
2. Dates of Operation. 26 May 1969 to 27 May 1969
3. Location. All patrols into the DMZ were limited to a western boundary of the 95 NS grid line, an eastern boundary of the 02 NS grid line, and a northern boundary of the PHDL. The main objective areas of the patrols were as follows:
  - a. Hungarian (Co M) - YD002674
  - b. Sanforize (Co H) - XD992675
  - c. Southern (Co K) - XD975670
  - d. Chesterbrook (Co K) - XD965671
4. Task Organization.

3d Bn, 3d Marines OP	LtCol R J SCHULZ
Co K *	Cpt B B GOODWIN
Co H *	Cpt H B RILLY

\* Companies provided 2 patrols each, consisting of 15 men each.  
 Each company also provided 2 extraction platoons of 60 men each.
5. Supporting Arms. The supporting arms were provided by the 1st Marine Air Wing and the 12th Marine Artillery Regiment.
6. Intelligence. The NVA had been using the DMZ extensively as an infiltration route into South Vietnam, for staging/resupply bases, and for fire support sites. This was confirmed by agent reports, earlier recon teams, mortar fire received from the DMZ, and recent AO sightings.
7. Mission. The 3d Bn, 3d Marines were to conduct reconnaissance patrol activities within that portion of the southern DMZ (south of the PHDL), which was contiguous to the Virginia Ridge AO. The patrols were to seek detailed intelligence while retaining their basic reconnaissance nature. Every effort was to be made to capture prisoners.

TAB B

8. Concept of Operation. Companies R and K moved into company patrol bases just south of the DMZ (R at XD992658 and K at XD972659). Each sent two 15 man patrols into the DMZ to gain information and capture prisoners. Each patrol's main objective area is listed in paragraph 3 above. Duration of patrols was planned to be 36hrs, giving each patrol 2 days and 1 night of operation. Penetration depth for these patrols was limited to 1300m in order to maintain a rapid overland extraction capability. Normal rules of engagement for the DMZ were observed.

9. Execution. The first patrol entered the DMZ at 26 0704H and by 26 0721H all patrols had crossed the red line. Each patrol moved towards its primary objective area. At 26 0945H, Chesterbrook spotted 6 NVA moving south. The team moved into a reconnaissance site and called an artillery mission with unknown results. At 26 0955H, while at XD968672, Chesterbrook spotted an unknown number of NVA moving around fighting holes and bunkers. Chesterbrook moved in for a better observation. At 26 1110H Chesterbrook moved into the enemy bunker area. The enemy initiated contact with small arms fire and fire was returned with M16, M60, M79, and CS grenades. An extraction force from Co K was committed at 1130H. An AO was on station and directed an artillery mission. Chesterbrook broke contact at 1210H and moved to meet the extraction force. Chesterbrook turned over 1 wounded POW and 2 friendly WIA's to the extraction force. One enemy had been killed in the contact. Chesterbrook then continued their mission. During this time other patrols reported lay-over sites along trails, bunker complexes, and fighting holes. At 26 2200H, while at YD005675, Hungarian observed 40 NVA moving south past their position and worked up an artillery mission. At 27 1000H Southern exchanged fire with 1 NVA resulting in 1 enemy KIA. All DMZ patrols exited the DMZ the afternoon of the 27th. The last patrol exited at 27 1730H.

#### 10. Results

- a. 2 Marine WIA's
- b. 2 enemy KIA's and 1 POW
- c. Captured or destroyed enemy gear:
 

3 AK47 rifles	5000 AK47 rds
3 82mm mortar rds	160 Chicom grenades
3 NVA Claymore mines	25 NVA packs
1 pr ten's shoes	

#### 11. Administrative Matters.

a. None of the patrols were resupplied within the DMZ. Companies received normal resupply at company patrol bases. Co K received 1 Mft of emergency Class V at their CPB. An emergency lift of Class V for each patrol was prestaged at Quang Tri CB.

b. Only normal maintenance of gear was performed.

c. Company Corpsmen provided normal treatment of company personnel. Two friendly WIA's and the wounded POW were evacuated by helicopter to 3d Med for further treatment.

a. Communication was by PRU25's.

b. There were no unusual medical problems encountered.

12. Special Equipment & Techniques. No special equipment was used. The patrols traveled lighter than normal using long range patrol rations. The two 15 man patrols from each company were from the same platoons. The platoon commander, with air and artillery capabilities, went with one patrol. This patrol operated from key terrain, within supporting distance of the second patrol's reconnaissance zone. The second patrol from each company operated in the lower ground along streams and trails. Continuous aerial observation support was maintained as much as possible.

13. Commander's Analysis.

a. The concept of operations was basically to move each company with as much stealth as possible to patrol bases abutting the southern boundary of the DMZ, to assign patrol routes which were mutually supportable, to rely on lightness and self-sufficiency of patrols, and the responsiveness of extraction forces from key terrain.

b. Even though Co K was discovered before it reached its patrol base and had to fight for it, its patrols were the most successful (2 NVA KIA and 1 POW). Although the enemy responded to Co K's presence adjacent to the DMZ with attacks by fire, he did not appear to anticipate or rapidly react to Co K's patrol activity within the DMZ. As Co K's patrols moved into the DMZ, the enemy's response appeared to be one of surprise, and gave the impression that his continuing construction activities and troop movement were based on presumed impunity from US incursions into the DMZ.

c. Based on the limited duration of Pink Panther, the following conclusions were derived:

(1) That the area covered by Co K and H is being used as an infiltration route.

(2) That way stations and storage/supply areas are being expanded and improved.

(3) That more extensive patrol activity in this area is required.

(4) That the concept of operation implemented was highly successful.

14. Recommendations. That further patrol activity be authorized into the DMZ north of the current 3d Bn, 3d Marines AO.

*K. J. Snipper*  
K. J. SNIPPER  
By direction



HEADQUARTERS  
 3d Battalion, 3d Marines  
 3d Marine Division [Rein], MEF  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3 BATTALION 3 MARINES  
 00537-69 COPY 14 OF 21

3/ERH/mjc  
 1200H  
 10 Jun 69

003A16169

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
 Via: Commanding Officer, 3d Marines

Subj: Combat Operations, After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3100.1D  
 (b) Operation Order 7-69

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*K. J. Snipper*  
K. J. SNIPPER  
By direction

Outgoing traffic from 3d Bn, 3d Marines Message Center for month of May 69.

<u>DTG</u>	<u>Subject</u>
010819Z	Radio Net
Unknown	Sgt C FRAS
✓020931Z	Missing Engine
✓050829Z	Radar Set
080229Z	PFC F VINCELLI
080231Z	LCpl W G PATRICK
000233Z	PFC B G BOBRYK
Unknown	Accidental Discharge
✓080320Z	Detonation of M26 Grenade
✓100145Z	Pvt Q S GARLAND
Unknown	Critical Items
✓140817Z	Combat Loss
170553Z	Extinguisher, Dry Chemical
✓230821Z	Monsoon Equipment
✓290535Z	Loss of PRC41
✓290537Z	Combat Loss
✓291245Z	Accidental Discharge of M16
✓300100Z	Accidental Discharge of M16
310205Z	Wrong FSN Shotguns

TABC

ROUTINE 050829 Z MAY 69

DRAFTER JJH/JJH  
SEC 21 PHONE 21 3/3  
CWO PAC

FROM: THIRD BN THIRD MAR

TO: CG THIRD MAR DIV (ATTN SC-10)

INFO: GSV

BT

UNCLAS

INFO ON RADAR SET AN/PPS-6

(A) CG THIRD MAR DIV MSG R 170354 Z APR 69

LAW REF (A), THE FOLLOWING INFO IS SUBMITTED:

SER NO. A132, A189, A212, A260, A361, A394 RECEIVED 8182 JULIAN.

FIRST OPERATED 14 NOV 68. INFO ON FAILURE OF A19 MODULE UNKNOWN

BT

CCM \_\_\_\_\_ REL'D BY Jan B. Ober DATE 3 May 1969 TIME 11:30

CEO

GSV Pac

ROUTI

R 020520 Z MAY 69

FM: CO LANDING OFFICER THIRD/THIRD MARINES

TO: CO, THIRD MARINES DIVISION

INFO: CO, THIRD MARINES

DRAFTER 3/3 COMB

BT

SEC S-3 PHONE S-3

UNCLAS E F T O

CWO \_\_\_\_\_

PRELIMINARY

A. DIVS 5100.11A

1. D, 2500H MAY 69

2. H & G CO, 3D B.I., 3D MARINES

3. DELIBERATE DETONATION OF M26 FRAG GRENADE

4. QUANG TRI COMBAT BASE, QUANG TRI MAP SHEET 5442 IV, SERIES LY-14 GRID COORDINATOR YD320524.

5. 1-B PVT 24 0

1-F LCPL 23 75

6. N/A

7. WHILE WALKING POST #2, A M26 FRAG GRENADE WAS DETONATED INTENTIONALLY IN BACK OF THE PERSONNEL OFFICE ON THE DOORSTEP, WAS IN A DUTY STATUS.

ARRIVED IN COUNTRY MAR 69. THE WOUNDS COVERED THE ENTIRE BODY. THE OTHER MARINE WAS IN THE OFFICE ON PHONE WATCH AND RECEIVED

PAGE TWO UNCLAS E F T O

WOUNDS IN THE LEFT SIDE OF THE NECK. HE WAS IN A DUTY STATUS. ARRIVED IN COUNTRY JULY 68.

8. N/A

9. TO BE DETERMINED BY INVESTIGATION.

10. TO BE DETERMINED BY INVESTIGATION.

BT

COM RELBY [Signature] DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

11-3-69

W

DRAFTER H. A. HOFFMANN  
SEC ADJ PHONE 396  
CWO W

ROUTINE 100145 2 MAY 69

FROM: CG THIRD MAR DIV (REIN)  
TO: CG NSA DANANG  
INFO: CG 1ST BDEEN DANANG  
THIRD EN THIRD MAR

UNCLAS E F T O

SUBJ: HOSPITALIZATION OF PVT ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ USMC

1. REQ THIS COMD BE NOTIFIED OF DATE OF RELEASE SSM.
2. SSM WAS IN UA STATUS PRIOR TO HOSP YOUR ACTY. REQ YOU FURN THIS COMD W/DATES OF HOSPITALIZATION.

CGN 1368 RELEASED BY JAHoffmann TIME 092025H  
ADJ W

ROUTINE 144817 MAY 69

DRAFFER E.E. HISKEY  
SEC 3-A PHOTO 3-A  
UNO

FM: THIRD BN, THIRD MARINES  
TO: CG THIRD MARDIV (RPTN) RFP

UNCLAS

COMBAT LOSS THIRD BN, THIRD MARINES

A. DIV O 4400.16

1. LAW REF A THE FOLLOWING COMBAT LOSSES IS REPORTED FOR 9 APR 1969  
WHEN ISA AT VUB WAS DESTROYED.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>
TRAILER, WATER M 107A1	1	ISA AT VUB DESTROYED

CCN Jan B. [Signature] REICE \_\_\_\_\_ DTG \_\_\_\_\_

3000 6-1 R3C



ROUTINE 230821 Z MAY 69

DRAFTER JJH/JJH  
 SEC 21 PHONE 3/3/REAR  
 CWO RSC

FM: THIRD BN THIRD MAR

TO: CG THIRD MAR DIV (SC-21)

BT

UNCLAS

MONSOON EQUIPMENT; RECOVERY OF

1. CG THIRD MAR DIV MSG (SC-21) R 240623 Z APR 69

1. LAW REF. A. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

FSN	NCMN	U/I	QTY
8350-935-6375	NYLON PLASTIC SHEETING	YD	50
8465-185-0726	COVER WATER PROOF, PISTOL	EA	172
N/A	FIGHTING HOLE COVER	EA	30
AS APPROPRIATE	LIGHTWEIGHT RAINUIT	EA	71

BT

CGN 3448 RELEASED BY Jan B Oler DATE 23 May TIME 13:00

SUPD

RSC

ROUTINE 290535 MAY 69

DRAFTER \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: THIRD BN, THIRD MARINES

SEC 3/3 COMM PHONE 49

TO: CG THIRD MAR DIV (REIN)

(SC-10) CWO Ohn

INFO: THIRD BN, THIRD MARINES

BT

UNCLASS

LOST PROC-41

1. REF YOUR 240424Z

ITEMS REFERED TO IN TTT MAF 212332Z SEARCHED FOR WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

BT

CCN 4337 REL OFFICER Jan B. Ober DTG \_\_\_\_\_

CCN \_\_\_\_\_ REL OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_ DTG \_\_\_\_\_  
ceo Ohn

*3/3*

ROUTINE 290537 MAY 69

DRAFTER JBO/DGP  
SEC 21 PHONE 21  
CWO [Signature]

FROM: THIRD BN THIRD MAR

TO: CG THIRD MAR DIV (REIN)

INFO: THIRD BN THIRD MAR

UNCLAS

COMBAT LOSS REPORT OF THIRD BN THIRD MAR

A. DIVO 4400.16A

- 1. IAW REF A THE FOLLOWING COMBAT LOSS REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PERIOD 0001H 1 MAY TO 2400H 31 MAY 1969, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

BT

CCN 4338 RELEASED BY [Signature] DATE 27 May 69 TIME 09 40  
*4* *[Signature]*

TIME 291245 Z MAY 69

FROM: THIRD BN, THIRD MARINES  
TO: CG, THIRD MAR DIV (REIN) FMF  
INFO: THIRD MARINES

DRAFTER E R HARRIS

SEC S-3 PHONE S-3

CWO PCW

BT

CLASS E F T O

CHARGE OF M16 RIFLE

INCIDENTARY

DIV NO 1100.11A

ON 1215H MAY 69  
CO 1, 3D BN, 3D MARINES  
CHARGE OF M16 RIFLE  
GRID: 92, CAM LO MAP SHEET#6342 I, SERIES L7014  
REF: PFC 2467552

THE SUBJECT MARINE WAS IN A DUTY STATUS AND HAD BEEN IN  
DUTY FOR 7 DAYS. ON HIS FIRST PATROL, THE SUBJECT MARINE  
ORDERED TO CHAMBER A ROUND AND PLACE HIS WEAPON ON SAFE.  
WEAPON WAS INSPECTED PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE PERIMETER.  
ON TAKING A BREAK, THE SUBJECT MARINE STARTED TO GET UP  
THE WEAPON DISCHARGED WOUNDING HIM IN THE LOWER LEFT LEG.  
NO MISCONDUCT OF SUBJECT MARINE  
DEFERENTIATION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SAFETY WHILE ON  
DUTY, HAVE A CONSTANT CHECK ON THE SAFETY OF THE WEAPON.  
NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION TO BE TAKEN. THIS REPORT WILL  
BE AS A GAR.

REL BY R. L. ... DATE 29 May TIME 1000H

CGA: 4381

INSP

S/S/2/ACTA

ROUTINE 200100 Z MAY 69  
FROM THIRD BN, THIRD MARINES  
TO CG, THIRD MAR DIV (REIN) FMF  
INFO: CO, THIRD MARINES

DRAFTER E R HA  
SEC S-3 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CWO \_\_\_\_\_

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

PRELIMINARY

ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF M16 RIFLE.

A. DIVO 5100.11A

- 1. 25 1400H MAY 69
- 2. L CO, 3D BN, 3D MARINES
- 3. ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF M16 RIFLE.
- 4. XD998639, CAM LO MAP SHEET#6342 I, SERIES L7014
- 5. 1-B PFC 24. B
- 6. N/A

7. THE SUBJECT MARINE ARRIVED IN COUNTRY 15 MAY 69. HE WAS IN A DUTY STATUS. THE SUBJECT SHOT HIMSELF IN THE RIGHT FOOT FOR NO APPARANT REASON. THE ROUND ENTERED BETWEEN THE GREAT TOE AND THE ADJACENT TOE. THE SQUAD WHICH HE WAS A PART OF RECEIVED SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO GOING ON PATROL.

- 8. TO BE DETERMINED BY INVESTIGATION.
- 9. TO BE DETERMINED BY INVESTIGATION.
- 10. TO BE DETERMINED BY INVESTIGATION.

BT

CCN 018 RELBY R. R. Williams DATE 30 MAR 69 TIME 0500KT

CCN: 4591

INSP

SS/G-1/OSJA