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HEADQUARTERS  
4th Marines (-) (Rein), 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO, San Francisco 96602

4TH MARINES (REIN) S&C FILES <u>00261-68</u>
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From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
 Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 (2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

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

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8  
 (b) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 4th Marine Regiment Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. Downgraded at three year intervals; declassified after 12 years in accordance with DOD Instruction 5700.10.

  
 E. J. MILLER

4TH MAR

CMD CHRON

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HEADQUARTERS  
4th Marines (-) (Rein), 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March 1968 to 31 March 1968

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## PAGE I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>		<u>COMMANDER</u>
4th Marine Regiment (-) (Rein)		Col E. J. MILLER
	<u>SUBORDINATE UNITS</u>	
BLT 2/4 (-)	(1-5 Mar 68)	LtCol W. WEISE
BLT 3/1 (-)	(5-31 Mar 68)	LtCol M. MCQUOWN
2d Battalion 9th Marines	(1-31 Mar 68)	LtCol W. M. CRYAN
3d Battalion 9th Marines	(1-31 Mar 68)	LtCol E. J. LA MONTAGNE
<u>2. LOCATION</u>	Camp CARROLL, CAM-LO District, QUANG-THI Province, Republic of VIET-NAM.	
<u>3. STAFF OFFICERS</u>		
Executive Officer		LtCol G. M. MCCAIN
S-1/Adjutant		1stLt J. L. CADY
S-2		Maj J. L. FOWLER
S-3		Maj D. L. MORRIS
S-4		Maj R. W. AUSTIN
S-5		1stLt F. J. WAITS
Medical Officer		Lt J. C. VIDOLOFF, MC, USNR
Chaplain		Cdr J. W. CONILL, CHC, USN
Communications Officer		Maj F. J. REISINGER
Air Liaison Officer		Maj F. S. BELL

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH (Hq Co, 4th Marines)

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>EST</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>EST</u>	<u>OFF</u>	
204	20	3	2	229

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the reporting period Headquarters 4th Marines participated in Operation LANCASTER II. Highlights of March's activities were as follows:

- 05 March 1968 - 1135H 4th Marines chopped BLT 2/4 opcon to 3d Marines.  
1135H 4th Marines assumed opcon BLT 3/1 from 3d Marines.  
1135H 4th Marines chopped K/3/1 opcon to 2/9 and M/3/1 opcon to 3/9.  
1150H-1515H MajGen R. McC. TOMPKINS visited Camp CARROLL.
- 08 March 1968 - 1000H 4th Marines assumed opcon M/3/4 from 9th Marines.  
1100H 4th Marines chopped M/3/4 opcon to 2/9.
- 09 March 1968 - 1540H-1620H MajGen R. McC. TOMPKINS visited Camp CARROLL.
- 10 March 1968 - 0900H 4th Marines chopped M/3/4 opcon from 2/9 to 9th Marines.
- 11 March 1968 - 1500H 4th Marines chopped K/3/1 opcon to BLT 3/1. 4th Marines chopped L/3/1 opcon to 2/9.
- 15 March 1968 - 1515H-1550H LtGen W. L. ROSSEN (USA) CG ProvCorps VIET-NAM and MajGen R. McC. TOMPKINS visited Camp CARROLL.
- 16 March 1968 - 1500H 4th Marines assumed opcon C Troop 1/12 1st CavDiv from 3d MarDiv. 4th Marines chopped C Troop 1/12 1st CavDiv to 3/9.  
1500H 2/9 chopped L/3/1 opcon to 3/9.
- 20 March 1968 - 1115H BGen W. C. CHIP, CG 9th MAB visited Camp CARROLL.
- 21 March 1968 - 1505H-1650H MajGen R. McC. TOMPKINS visited Camp CARROLL.
- 22 March 1968 - 1700H 4th Marines assumed opcon G/2/1, H/2/1 and "A" Cnd Grp from 9th Marines.  
1700H 3/9 chopped C Troop 1/12 1st CavDiv (USA) to 2/1(-) "A" Cnd Grp.

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- 23 March 1968 - 1800H 3/9 chopped M/3/1 opcon to BLT 3/1.  
1800H BLT 3/1 chopped I/3/1 opcon to 2/9.
- 24 March 1968 - 1700H 4th Marines assumed opcon "B" Qnd Grp Co E and F  
2/1 from 9th Marines.  
1700H 3/9 chopped L/3/1 opcon to 9th Marines.
- 26 March 1968 - 0800H 4th Marines chopped 2/1 opcon to 3d MarDiv.  
1700H 3/9 chopped K/3/9 opcon to 2/9.
- 28 March 1968 - 1700H 2/9 chopped K/3/9 opcon to 3/9.
- 29 March 1968 - 1300H 4th Marines assume opcon Co C 9th MT Bn from 3d MarDiv.  
4th Marines chopped "A" Co 9th MT Bn opcon to 3d MarDiv.  
1630H-1710H MajGen N. J. ANDERSON CG 1st MAW and MajGen  
R. McC. TOMPKINS visited Camp CARROLL.
- 31 March 1968 - 0900H 3/9 chopped L(-)/3/9 opcon to BLT 3/1.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSA. Combat Missions Assigned.

## 1. Operation LANCASTER II

a. In accordance with 3d MarDiv Operation Order 58-67 the combat missions assigned the 4th Marines for Operation LANCASTER II were as follows:

- (1) Conduct search and destroy operations in OA.
- (2) Defend combat bases and other vital installations in OA.
- (3) Maintain combat bases at Camp CARROLL, THON SON LAM, AND CA LU (1 March - 26 March).
- (4) Open and secure lines of communications within OA.
- (5) Maintain active ground surveillance and screening operations and spoiling attacks against NVA/VC forces.
- (6) Support GVN RD Campaign Plan 1967.

2. 3d MarDiv Order 03300.4 requires unit commanders to provide security

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and defense of installations and vital areas in their respective operating areas. The Commanding Officer 4th Marines as Base Coordinator Camp CARROLL is, therefore, responsible for base security and defense to include personnel, equipment and installations located therein.

B. Significant Operations Conducted.

1. Operation LANCASTER II

a. The major operational effort of the regiment was directed to prevent NVA/VC forces from interdicting Route 9 between CAM-10, Camp CARROLL and THON SON LAM as well as maintaining security of the 175-mm guns of the 2d Bn 94th Arty located at Camp CARROLL. An active search and destroy operation was begun on 26 March in the area SE of Camp CARROLL to interdict the 27th Independent Battalion. Multi-company sized search and destroy operations and aggressive small unit activities, to include dog patrols and night ambushes, were conducted. An active and aggressive day and night artillery interdiction program was maintained to keep the enemy from massing his forces and moving supplies and equipment.

b. The 4th Marines also conducted daily security operations in conjunction with mine and road sweeps, engineer upgrading of Route 9 and Rough Rider convoys between THON SON LAM, Camp CARROLL and DONG-HA Combat Base.

C. Casualties inflicted on the enemy by 4th Marines.

1. Operation LANCASTER II

<u>KIA</u>		<u>PW</u>	
VC	2	VC	2
NVA	39	NVA	2
		DET	7
		IWC	3

D. Casualties sustained. Hostile and non-hostile casualties sustained by members of the 4th Marines Regimental Headquarters Company:

<u>HOSTILE</u>			<u>NON-HOSTILE</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>
1	7	0	2	2	0

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E. New Techniques Employed. None.F. Command Relations.

1. As Commanding Officer 4th Marines, the regimental commander exercised command over those units assigned upon and in support of the regiment through normal channels.

2. As base coordinator for Camp CARROLL the regimental commander was responsible for establishing administrative and regulatory procedures for the establishment and control of normal base activities within the Camp CARROLL area.

3. The regimental commander maintained constant communications and liaison with 123d AF Company, CAMP-LO District Headquarters and the District Chief through U. S. Army Advisory Channels.

4. Contact with Division Headquarters and adjacent regimental command echelons was maintained through normal command/control communications channels and command/staff visits.

G. Equipment. No new equipment was received during the month of March.

H. Logistics.

1. Supply. Primary source of supply was FLSG-B at DONG-HA.

2. Resupply.

a. Helicopter resupply in general support of Operation LANCASTER II has been normally routine with the exception of three emergency resupply as follows:

3 Mar 68 - 13,750 lbs LCom to C/1/4h  
 4 Mar 68 - 4,000 lbs POL to C/1/4h  
 7 Mar 68 - 1,650 lbs POL to C/1/4h

b. See TAB A for helicopter resupply weights.

3. Transportation

a. Co A 9th MT Bn provided truck support during the month of March, transporting 1317 tons of supplies and 7061 troops, for a distance of 15,783 miles. 1st Bn 12th Marines and the U. S. Army's 2d Bn 94th Arty used their own organic vehicles for resupply purposes.

4. Services

a. 3d Engr Bn continued to maintain the Regimental water point

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producing a total of 640,000 gallons of potable water during the month of March. The engineers were responsible for conducting mine detection sweeps over 12,800 meters of road daily. Eight explosive devices were detected during March.

b. The attached Seabees began constructing bunkers and to date have completed the following:

7-18' X 24'

5-8' X 12'

### 5. Hospitalization and Evacuation

#### a. Medical

(1) Average daily patient visits	4
(2) Referrals to 3d Med Bn	9
(3) Acute diarrhea/gastroenteritis	6
(4) Emergency medical care	32
(5) MedCap	0
(6) Immunizations	85

#### b. Dental

(1) Average daily visits	20
(2) Referred to 3d Dental Co	8

### I. Civil Action and Psychological Warfare.

#### 1. Civic action

a. During the period covered by this report, the following commodities were distributed:

bulgar wheat	50 pound bags	160
flour	100 pound bags	40
cornmeal	100 pound bags	40
salt	10 pound bags	60
school kits	each	100
sealed oil	1 gallon can	416
wood	5 ton truck load	2
Masters		45,295



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b. Twenty-one Vietnamese from the CAM-LO Resettlement Camp were employed during March to fill 34,900 sand bags. They were paid with 273 gallons of salad oil. During this reporting period 273 bundles of laundry were washed by refugees of NAM-THUAN Hamlet (YD 129590) and paid for with \$VN 45,295. Twenty Montangards were employed by 3d Bn 9th Marines from 1 March until 21 March to build a chapel for CA-LU COB. They were paid with food commodities obtained from COMDS in QUANG-TRI. Since 8 March 1968, four corpsmen and two interpreters from 2d Bn 9th Marines have been holding daily medcaps in the Montangard Refugee Camp, HUNG-PHU I (YD 11580). The 2/9 doctor has been participating 2 to 3 times a week.

c. On 11 March 1968, 155 refugees from KHE-SANH arrived at CA-LU COB. On 14 March 122 refugees left CA-LU on foot for CAM-LO via the BA LONG Valley and Route #558. On 16 March, 10 refugees were flown to DONG-HA because they were medically unfit to walk. On 18 March the remaining 23 refugees left for CAM-LO. Thirty Montangards have been employed by 3d Bn 9th Marines since 19 March to cut vegetation near CA-LU COB. They are being paid with 300 pounds of foodstuffs each day. On 19 and 20 March five Vietnamese medics worked with four corpsmen from 2d Bn 9th Marines in vaccinating 2000 newly arrived Montangard refugees for cholera. Fifty Montangards have been employed since 22 March to cut vegetation along Route #9. On 28 March, the number employed was increased to 100. These refugees were paid with 11,500 pounds of foodstuffs and 443 gallons of salad oil. On 26 March one hundred school kits were obtained from COMDS in QUANG-TRI to be given by 3d Bn 9th Marines to the chief of PHU-THAN (YD 04144). The hamlet has two teachers and classes will begin as soon as sufficient school materials arrive. On 26 March, 600 pounds of salt were obtained from COMDS in QUANG-TRI to be distributed by 3d Bn 9th Marines to the three hamlets near CA-LU.

2. Psychological Warfare. During the month of March Psywar efforts supported Operation LANCASTER II utilizing media available.

a. From 6-30 March, HB Team 7 (Detachment 2), 7th Psyop Bn (USA) were utilized predominantly to broadcast the CHIEU HOI theme from the Camp CARROLL northern perimeter. On two occasions the HB Team was used in direct support of 2d Bn 9th Marines medcaps in CAM-LO. Broadcast hours for March totaled 68.

b. To support Operation LANCASTER II five airborne leaflet drops totaling 500,000 leaflets were made against a predominately NVA audience.

c. Due to inclement weather during March aerial broadcasts were at a minimum. Three aerial broadcasts totaling 45 minutes were flown for the 4th Marine Regiment.

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J. Administration. Functioning in accordance with Division Order 5450.1.

1. All administrative personnel received on-the-job training in the field during Operation LANCASTER II. This training consisted of all phases of administration under combat conditions.

2. Staff studies and estimates: None.

3. Local newspapers: None.

K. Personnel.

1. Summary

a. There are critical personnel shortages in the following MOS's:

one - 2861  
 one - 2867  
 three - 2542

2. Photographs: None.

3. Discipline, courts-martial and NJP

a. Courts-martial: 1

b. NJP: 0

4. Morale; PX; Postal affairs; Liberty and R & R

a. Morale is considered excellent.

b. PX: Adequate Post Exchange items are currently stocked in our PX located at the forward echelon by the PX Officer from DONG-HA. This has been a definite asset to the Marines in the field and a morale booster for all hands.

c. Postal: Unit #7 of the 3d Marine Division post office is functioning to facilitate all outgoing and incoming mail in the operation area.

d. Liberty: None.

e. R & R: Quotas for the month were adequate and sufficient for one of each 13 Marines on the rolls. R & R continues to contribute to raising the morale.

f. Chaplain support and religious services: Worship services were

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conducted in the field for those of the Catholic and Protestant faiths.

a. 18 Sunday worship services - attendance 360.

b. One memorial service - Hqs and Bravo Btry 2/94 USA - attendance 45.

c. The Chapel of Hope has been painted and additional alterations are now in progress. A protective wall of sandbags and 175mm canisters is being erected around the chapel to provide protection for those attending services. Three bible study classes were conducted in the month of March with an attendance of 15.

6. The regimental chaplain acted as coordinator for all religious services conducted at Camp CARROLL. Individual chaplains submit their own weekly and quarterly reports to the 3d Marine Division Chaplain.

7. The regimental chaplain assisted the Regimental Aid Station personnel with one KIA and 11 WIA's during this month and carried out pastoral and counseling ministry to the various units at Camp CARROLL.

I. Intelligence. The enemy order of battle within the LANCASTER II area of operation has not undergone significant change during the month of March.

1. Prisoners taken in other areas of I Corps reinforced the conclusion that only one infantry regiment of the 320th Division remained in the LANCASTER II operating area. This unit, available sources suggest, is the 6th Infantry Regiment. The artillery attacks at Camp CARROLL are believed to be the result of efforts by the 16th Arty Regiment. It is possible that elements of the 5th Artillery Regiment are also operating within the LANCASTER II area, though no definite location has been established. Numerous reports continue to confirm the presence of the 27th Independent Battalion to the south of CA-10, placing them in the 4th Marines area and adjacent portions of the 9th Marines area of operation. Increased activity was also noted west of Route #9, between THON SON LAM, and CA-11. Enemy presence west of CA-11 is associated with the 8th Bn 29th Regiment.

2. The enemy continued to subject Camp Carroll and 4th Marines outposts to rocket, artillery and mortar fire. In addition to the usual 122mm rockets, 130mm artillery, 75mm artillery and 82mm mortars the enemy introduced his 107mm rocket to this sector on 30 March. Total rounds fired within the AO were: 25 rounds 122mm rockets, 61 rounds 130mm arty, 18 rounds 75mm arty, 151 rounds 82mm mortars, 6 rounds 107mm rockets, 22 rounds 107mm mortars, and 17 rounds unidentified artillery.

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3. Mining incidents along Route #9 decreased noticeably. There were twelve reported incidents, a decrease of seven from the month of February.

4. Contacts in the AO were relatively light. There were no major sized enemy forces engaged during the reporting period. However there were continued indications of enemy units transiting the area. These indications were substantiated by reconnaissance reports and electronic surveillance devices.

5. Extensive hut/bunker complexes were uncovered in the eastern portion of the AO. These were suspected of having been used by elements of the 27th Independent Battalion and NVA elements transiting the area. Both complexes had been abandoned within a week to ten days prior to their discovery.

M. Training.

1. Training for the month of March consisted mainly of on the job training. One man was sent to NCO Leadership school at Okinawa and one officer went to attend the Military Justice Course at Okinawa.

2. Small unit, battalion and regimental sized operations conducted during the reporting period have emphasized the critical necessity for thorough training of Marines in basic combat skills. Command attention has been initiated at all echelons to underscore the importance for conducting "in the field" training and improving small unit leadership whenever time and the tactical situation permit. Safety procedures for small arms and munitions received special command attention and extensive indoctrination was held to emphasize the importance of safety in the field.

N. Communications.

1. Normal communications were maintained between this, senior and subordinate headquarters.

2. The command communications network received 1238 messages and transmitted 424 messages.

3. Lack of supply and maintenance support still impose a handicap on the communication capabilities of this headquarters.

4. The existing radio relay link to PHU-BAI from Camp CARROLL was terminated on 6 March 1968. The radio relay equipment (AN/MRC-62) and team was relocated at DONG-BA on 27 March 1968.

5. A total of six message center personnel (2542) were lost through medevac and normal rotation to CONUS with no replacements.

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## 6. Status of major items of communication-electronics equipment:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>T/E</u>	<u>ON HAND</u>	<u>OPERATIONAL READY</u>	<u>NOT OPERATIONAL READY DUE TO SPARES</u>	<u>NOT OPERATIONAL READY DUE TO MAINTENANCE</u>
AN/TPS-21	2	2	0	2	0
AN/TRC-27B	10	8	4	2	2
AN/TGC-14A	6	3	1	0	2
AN/PRC-41	2	1	0	0	1
AN/MRC-83	2	2	2	0	0
AN/MRC-87	2	1	0	0	1
AN/MRC-110	2	2	2	0	0
AN/GRA-39A	8	7	5	0	2
PU-422	4	0	0	0	0
PU-278	20	12	10	0	0
PU-181	2	1	0	0	1
KY-8	6	6	3	0	3
PP-388	1	1	0	0	1
AN/PRC-25	13	10	10	0	0

O. Weather.

1. Temperatures during March were widely ranging, tending to rise during the latter part of the month. There were highs of 98 during the days dropping in some cases as low as 58 at night. Winds were variable but tending to be from the northeast early in the month and shifting to the southwest as the month progressed. Early morning and late evening fog were prevalent throughout the month. Rain fell some seventeen days during the month totalling approximately 2.5 inches.

P. Fire Support.

1. Significant events: During the month of March 1st Bn (-) 12th Marines was in direct support of the 4th Marines.

2. Number of missions fired: 3,524.

3. Types of missions

a. Observed	757
b. Unobserved	1074
c. H & I	1693

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## 4. Total number of rounds fired

a. 105-mm	18,035
b. 155-mm	3,224
c. 107-mm	<u>3,823</u>
TOTAL	25,082

Q. Air Support.

## 1. Helicopter support

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>REQ</u>	<u>TROOPS</u>	<u>MED-EVAC</u>
Regt	27	-	15
3/9	1	900	97
2/9	3	800	52
3/1	-	600	1
2/1	-	-	18
2/4	-	-	9
3/4	-	-	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	31	2300	195

## 2. Close air support

a. During the period of 1 March to 31 March, a total of 27 fixed wing air strikes were requested with all 27 received. These flights were used mainly on bunkers, artillery and anti-aircraft positions. Types of ordnance expended were mainly D1 (250 lb), D2 (500 lb) and D9's 500 lb napalm. Due to the good weather during this period fixed wing was used considerably with favorable results.

## b. TPQ-10's targets

Requested - 286  
 Received - 105  
 Ton's - 270.75

3. Conclusion. The air support provided during this period was satisfactory because the "working" helicopters (which arrive at 1300H daily) completed every mission requested adequately and a higher percentage of TPQ targets were hit this month due to better target description by submitting units.

R. Activations/Deactivations/Redesignations. None.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓TAB A - Helicopter Resupply Weights

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ENCLOSURE (1)  
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Resupply Weights for March 1968

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>
1 Mar 1968	None	17 Mar 1968	None
2 Mar 1968	None	18 Mar 1968	44,000
3 Mar 1968	34,900	19 Mar 1968	16,000
4 Mar 1968	2,500	20 Mar 1968	68,000
5 Mar 1968	24,000	21 Mar 1968	16,000
6 Mar 1968	None	22 Mar 1968	8,000
7 Mar 1968	2,950	23 Mar 1968	None
8 Mar 1968	None	24 Mar 1968	6,000
9 Mar 1968	24,000	25 Mar 1968	None
10 Mar 1968	8,000	26 Mar 1968	None
11 Mar 1968	2,500	27 Mar 1968	None
12 Mar 1968	3,000	28 Mar 1968	None
13 Mar 1968	17,000	29 Mar 1968	30,000
14 Mar 1968	18,000	30 Mar 1968	None
15 Mar 1968	20,000	31 Mar 1968	None
16 Mar 1968	22,000		

TAB A  
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