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1ST 155MM GUN BATTERY (SP)  
1st Field Artillery Group  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 1st Field Artillery Group  
(2) Commanding Officer, 11th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMEFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.2B  
(d) RegtO 5750.2D

Encl: (1) 1st 155mm Gun Battery (SP) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), (c), and (d) enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1-31 March 1968.

2. This page is down graded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (i).

*N. J. Beckman*  
N. J. BECKMAN

DECLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS,  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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1st 155MM GUN BATTERY (SP)  
1st Field Artillery Group  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

EXTENDED CHRONOLOGY

1 March - 31 March 1968

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PART I - Organizational Data

PART II - Narrative Summary

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ENCLOSURE (1)  
[REDACTED]

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PART I (U)

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

1st 155mm Gun Battery (AF)

Commander

Major N. J. BECKMAN

2. Location

1-31 March 1968; Phu Bai, RVN

3. Battery Officers

Executive Officer  
Platoon Direction Officer  
Supply Officer

Capt. T. P. HOWE 1-31Mar68  
1stLt. J. B. GRAVES 1-31Mar68  
1stLt A. P. EDELMANN 1-31Mar68

4. Average Monthly Strength

		<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	
March 68	4	131	0	5	

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PART IV

ENEMY SECURITY

During the period 1-31 March 1968, the battery continued to improve its position area and defensive fire plans. Numerous modifications were effected on perimeter bunkers, fighting holes, interior bunkers, and perimeter wire. As a part of the battery's overall security measures, 3<sup>1</sup> listening posts were established and 4 patrols run.

On 15 March 1968, at approximately 0805, an explosion on gun # 2 claimed the lives of six members of that section while another was seriously wounded. On 30 March 1968, the wounded Marine died of complications as a result of the accident. The probable cause, as determined by investigation, was the failure of the breech block to be fully closed and locked prior to firing.

On 26 March 1968, approximately four enemy mortars began firing toward the Phu Bai Air Field from a position 1200 meters south of the battery area at 0300. Immediately, 200 rounds of twin 40mm cannon fire and 800 rounds of .50 cal. machinegun fire were brought to bear on the enemy mortars. The mortars were quickly silenced. Although no enemy were found when a patrol was sent out the following day, villagers in the area reported seeing the enemy carrying their wounded away after the engagement.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel and Administration

a. Losses

- (1) Battle Evac: 7
- (2) Battle Non-Evac: None
- (3) Non-Battle: None
- (4) Administrative: 6

b. Gains

- (1) Replacements: 22

c. Wounds Incurred: None

d. Morale and Personal Services: Morale is good. Mail services have been disrupted due to the tactical situation and limited availability of government aircraft. DF and laundry service located in vicinity of Command Post.

e. Awards and Decorations: None

f. Promotions: 5: 2 E3pl to Cpl; 1 PFC to LCpl; 2 Pvt to PFC

g. Billeting: Furnished transient billeting for 3 officers and 20 enlisted personnel during March 1968.

h. Administration: Normal administration accomplished during the month.

2. Operations

a. Combat Missions Assigned

- (1) 1-31 March 1968 - General Support/Rein 1stBn, 11th Marines Direct support designated Recon Patrols.

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b. Recapitulation of Fire Missions

<u>CRS</u>	<u>HEAVY</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
28	101	157	284

c. Reloading

- 04 Mar 68 0800 one gun departed the battery area, arriving Gia Le (YD82661527) at 0900 and was laid on azimuth 4500
- 07 Mar 68 One gun departed Gia Le (YD82661527) at 2043 and arrived in the battery area at 2220
- 05 Mar 68 At 0805 one M-53, 155mm (SP) Gun exploded in the battery area; 6 KIA's and 1 WIA sustained as a result
- 17 Mar 68 Received two M-53, 155mm (SP) Guns from 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP). Guns were loaded to this battery.

d. Disruptive Fire Missions

- 251750Z Mar 1968 Fired 12 rounds HE at NVA on trail vic. YD946024. Two confirmed WIA's. Mission shot for 1st Force Recon.
- 294050H Mar 1968 Fired 6 rounds HE and 3 rounds WP on active rocket sites vic. YD780070. Two secondary explosions were observed. Mission shot for 1st Force Recon.
- 291540H Mar 1968 Fired 18 rounds HE on 9 V.G. on trail vic. YD927026. One confirmed KIA. Mission shot for 1st Force Recon.



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3. Position

a. Supply

(1) The overall supply status of the unit is satisfactory.  
Major items on loan are:

	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
1.	Telescope, Periscope M100	2	1st8" HowBtry (SP)
2.	Sight, M142	1	HqBn3dMarDiv (Rein) FMP
3.	Compass, Magnetic	15	HqBn3dMarDiv (Rein) FMP

b. Maintenance

(\*) During the month of March, 1 Gun, 155mm (SP) M-53,  
received a new tube. One Quarterly Preventive  
Maintenance service was held during the month.

c. Ammunition Expended (1-31 March 1968)

<u>MM</u>	<u>MM</u>	<u>MP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
217	2	46	65

d. Maintenance

<u>GEN NO.</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DATE D/I</u>	<u>CAN BE FIRED</u>	<u>WORK ORDER #</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
213242	M-53		Yes		
213243	M-53		Yes		
213252	M-53		Yes		
213174	M-53		Yes		
213207	M-53		Yes		



TAB (E) (1st 155mm Gun Btry (SP) Command Chronology)

To Enclosure (1)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

*1st 155mm Gun Btry*

*Command Chronology*

*March 1965*

(E-1)