

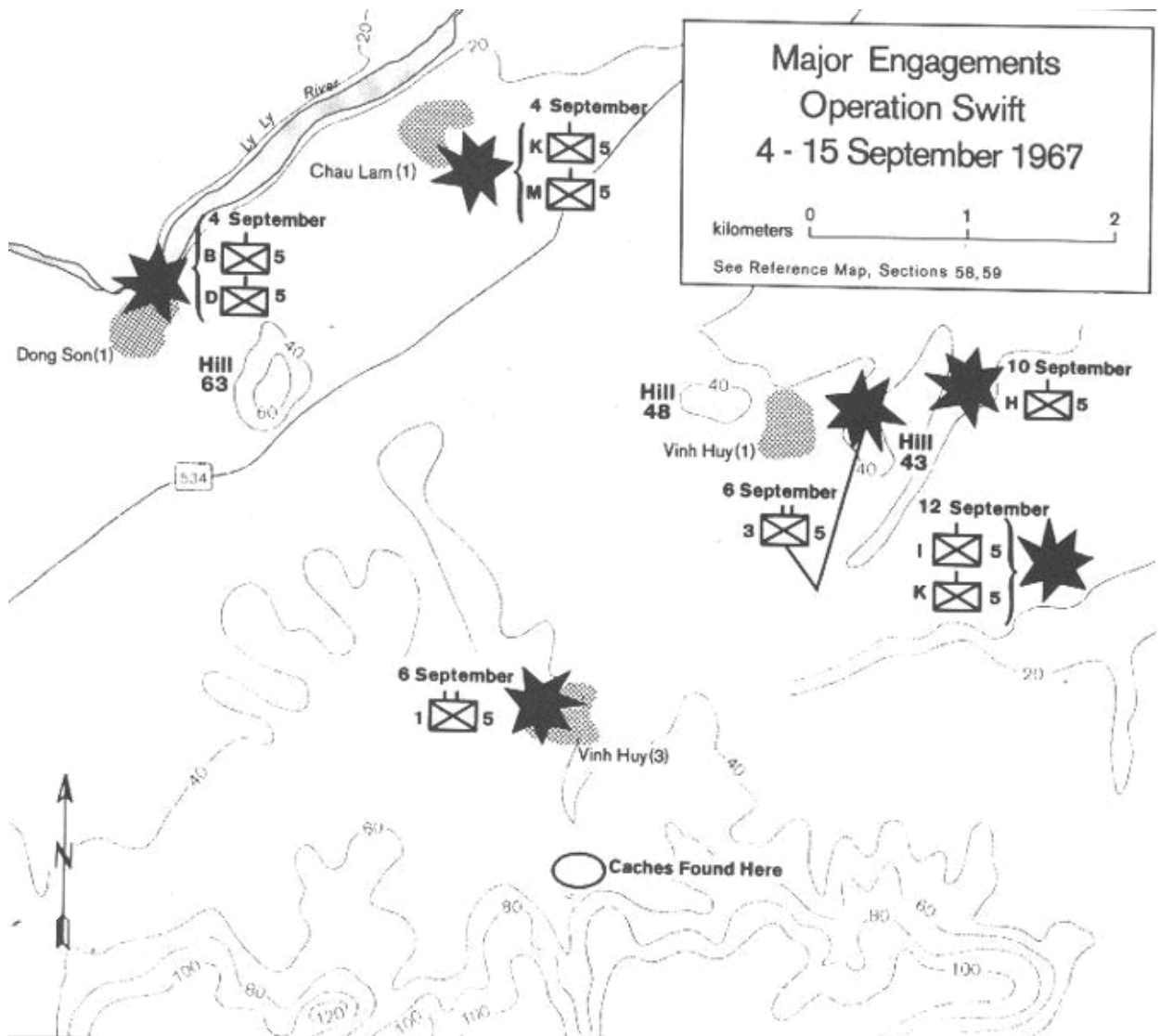


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**OFFICIAL
USMC
AFTER ACTION
REPORT**

COMBAT AFTER-ACTION REPORT OPERATION SWIFT 4 SEPTEMBER – 15 SEPTEMBER 1967

HEADQUARTERS

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, 96602
3/CBH/glb
340.1A
16 Sept 67

From: Commanding Officer

To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Via: Commanding Officer 5th Marines

Subj: Combat After-Action Report; Operation "SWIFT"

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A
(b) 5th Marine Frag Order 1-67
(c) 5th Marine Frag Order 2-67
(d) 5th Marine Frag Order 3-67
(e) 5th Marine Frag Order 4-67
(f) 5th Marine Frag Order 5-67
(g) 5th Marine Frag Order 6-67
(h) 5th Marine Frag Order 7-67
(j) 5th Marine Frag Order 8-67
(i) 5th Marine Frag Order 9-67

Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 108-67
(2) Day Movement, Day Activities, and Night Disposition Overlay D-Day
(3) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 109-67
(4) Day Movement, Day Activities, and Night Disposition Overlay D+1
(5) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 110-67
(6) Day Movement, Day Activities, and Night Disposition Overlay D+2
(7) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 111-67
(8) Day Activities, and Night Disposition Overlay D+3
(9) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 112-67
(10) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 113-67
(11) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 114-67
(12) Day Movement, Day Activities, and Night Disposition Overlay D+4
(13) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Modification to Frag Order 114-67
(14) Day Movement, Day Activities, and Night Disposition Overlay D+5
(15) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 115-67
(16) Day Movement, Day Activities, and Night Disposition Overlay D+6
(17) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 116-67
(18) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 117-67

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- 19) Day Movement, Day Activities, and Night Disposition Overlay D+7
 - (20) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 118-67
 - (21) Day Movement, Night Disposition Overlay D+8
 - (22) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 119-67
 - (23) Day Activities, Day and Night Movement Overlay D+9
 - (24) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 120-67
 - (25) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 121-67
 - (26) Morning Movement, Day Activities, and Night Activities Overlay D+10
 - (27) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 122-67
 - (28) Day Movement Overlay D+11

1. Code Name. Operation "SWIFT" (Search and Destroy)

2. Dates of Operation. From 040500H September 1967 to 151600H September 1967.

3. Location. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines participated in Operation "SWIFT" in the south central sector of Que Son District; and the north central sector of Thang Binh District, Quang Nam Province within an area bounded by coordinates (BT 0727), (BT 2427), and (BT 0739).

4. Control or Command Headquarters.

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein)

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rear)

H&S Company. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

Company A. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

Company B. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

Company C. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

Company D. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

Company D. 1st Battalion, 1st Marines

(6-13 Sept)

Company I. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines

(4-6 Sept) & (13-15 Sept)

Company I. 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines

(8-15 Sept)

Company K. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines

(4-6 Sept)

Company M. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines

(4-6 Sept)

5. Task Organization

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein)

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rear)

Company A (-), 1st Bn, 5thMar

Company C (-), 1st Bn, 5thMar (Nui Lac Son)

Det, H&S Company (-), 1st Bn, 5thMar

Det. Co B, 1stSPBn

LTCOL P.L. HILGARTNER

MAJ E.C. CHEATHAM

1STLT D.L. MCINTURFF

CAPT F.S. GIORDANI

CAPT T.D. REESE

CAPT M.C. JOHNSTON, J

CAPT R.F. MORGAN

CAPT J.M. GALLEGHER

CAPT E.M. BURKE

CAPT R. FISHER

CAPT W.R. TENNY

1STLT D. MURRAY

LTCOL P.L. HILGARTNER

MAJ E.C. CHEATHAM

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Det. Co B, 1stEngrBn
Det. Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar
2nd Plat, Co A, 1stTankBn
Det, Co B., 1st ATBn
H&S Company (-)(Rein), 1st Bn, 5thMar
1STLT D.L MCINTURFF
H&S Company (-)), 1st Bn, 5thMar
Det, 81 Mortar Plat.
Det, Comm Plat.
TACP
Kit Carson Tm
Det, 106 RR Plat.
Det, Flame Section
Det, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar (LN Tm)
Det. Co B, 1stSPBn
Det. Co B, 1stEngrBn
Det, Hq Co, 5thMar (Scout Sniper)
Company B (-) (Rein), 1st Bn, 5thMar
CAPT T.D. REESE
Company B (-), 1st Bn, 5thMar
2nd Plat. Co D, 1st Bn, 5thMar
Det. Co B, 1stSPBn
Det. Co B, 1stEngrBn
Det, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar (FO Tm)
Det, Hq Co, 5thMar (Scout Sniper)
Det, H&S Company 1st Bn, 5thMar
Det, 81 Mortar Plat. (FO Tm)
Det, Med Plat.
Det, Comm Plat.
FAC Tm
S-2 Scout
ARVN Interpreter
Kit Carson Tm
Company D (-) (Rein), 1st Bn, 5thMar
CAPT R. MORGAN
Company D (-), 1st Bn, 5thMar
Det. Co B, 1stSPBn
Det. Co B, 1stEngrBn
Det, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar (FO Tm)
Det, Hq Co, 5thMar (Scout Sniper Tm)
Det, H&S Company, 1st Bn, 5thMar
Det, 81 Mortar Plat. (FO Tm)
Det, Med Plat.
Det, Comm Plat.
FAC Tm
S-2 Scout
ARVN Interpreter
Kit Carson Tm

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Company K (-) (Rein), 3rd Bn, 5thMar
CAPT W.R. TENNY

Company K (-), 3rd Bn, 5thMar
Det. Co B, 1stSPBn
Det. Co B, 1stEngrBn
Det, Btry F, 2ndBn, 11thMar, (FO Tm)
Det, Hq Co, 5thMar
Det, H&S Company 3rd Bn, 5thMar
Det, 81 Mortar Plat. (FO Tm)
Det, Med Plat.

Det, Comm Plat.

FAC Tm
Det, S-2 Section

Company M (-) (Rein), 3rd Bn, 5thMar

1STLT D. MURRAY

Company M, 3rd Bn, 5thMar
Det. Co B, 1stSPBn
Det. Co B, 1stEngrBn
Det, Btry F, 2ndBn, 11thMar, (FO Tm)
Det, Hq Co, 5thMar
Det, H&S Company 3rd Bn, 5thMar
Det, 81 Mortar Plat. (FO Tm)
Det, Med Plat.
Det, Comm Plat.
FAC Tm
Det, S-2 Section

6. Supporting Forces.

a. Air.

(1) 4 Sept 1967. TAC(A) controlled 3 flights of A4's and 1 flight of F8's at coordinates (BT 073332) to (BT 075328) against enemy positions in support of Company D. TAC(A) controlled 2 flights of A4's and 3 flights of F4's at coordinates (BT 076331) to (BT 079338) in support of Company D. Company D's FAC also directed a C-47 "Dragon Ship" against enemy positions in all of the above target areas. All of the above missions were close air support against enemy forces attacking

Company D, and they contributed towards breaking up the enemy attack.

(2) 5 Sept. 1967 TAC(A) controlled 2 flights A4's and 1 flight of F4's at coordinates (BT 070327) to (BT 070333); 1 flight A4's, 2 flights of F4's and 1 F8 at coordinates (BT 070328) to (BT 076329). 1st

Battalion, 5th Marines ALO controlled 4 flights of UH-1E gunships and 3 C-47 "Dragon Ships" in the same target areas. The missions were in support of Company B, Company M. and H&S Company against attacking enemy forces; mortar and automatic weapons positions. Company M FAC directed 2 UH-1E's in a chemical agent attack against enemy forces, which assisted in breaking up enemy resistance on Company M's objective.

(3) 6 Sept. 1967. TAC(A) controlled 10 flights of fixed wing and 3 flights of UH-1E gunships against attacking enemy forces, automatic weapons positions, and mortar positions in support of Company D, Company B, and H&S Company in the vicinity of coordinates (BT 100302). TAC(A) controlled 1 flight of UH-1E and 1 flight A4's in a CS chemical agent attack against enemy mortar and automatic weapons positions in same target area. Enemy resistance appeared to decrease significantly after the chemical attack.

(4) 7 Sept. 1967. Battalion ALO directed 2 C-47 "Dragon Ships" against enemy .50 cal. positions located at (BT 130300) and (BT 120305).

(5) 8 Sept. 1967. TAC(A) controlled 2 flights A4's in a direct air support mission against enemy automatic weapons positions located at (BT 088274).

(6) 10 Sept. 1967. TAC(A) controlled 1 flight F4's and 1 flight A4's in a direct air support mission against enemy automatic weapon positions located at (BT 126262) and (BT 125272).

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(7) 11 Sept. 1967. TAC(A) controlled 3 flights of A4's against enemy fortified positions located at (BT 127278), (BT 125270) and (BT 165288). 11 structures and 1 bunker were destroyed. TAC(A) directed 2 flights A4's against a fortified village located at (BT 155290), destroying 3 fighting positions.

b. Artillery.

(1) During Operation "SWIFT", artillery support was provided the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines by artillery units of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines.

(a) Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from 4 September through 11 September and on the 15th of September 1967.

(b) Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during operations on 12 September and 13 September 1967.

(c) Whiskey Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 14 September.

(2) Direct artillery support was used through the hours of darkness on 4 September and 6 September to reinforce the perimeter defenses.

(3) Throughout the operation, preparatory fires, defensive fires, and fire missions on targets of opportunity were used extensively.

(4) H&I fires were used nightly during the operation on avenues of escape, avenues of approach, suspected enemy concentrations and areas of previous enemy contact.

(5) Direct artillery support was coordinated and supervised by the Artillery Liaison Officer, who moved with the command Group, and the Artillery Forward Observers, who moved with the companies participating in the operation.

c. Engineers.

(1) Engineering support was provided by Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion with an engineer team assigned to each company and the command group. During the operation, engineers were employed to destroy the following: 5 enemy emplaced mines, 1 downed helicopter (CH-34D), approximately 2000 lbs. of U.S. ordinance (duds) and about 2000 feet of enemy wire (electrical). The engineers used a total of 85 pounds of C4 to accomplish these missions.

7. Intelligence.

a. Estimates of Enemy Strength, Location and Disposition in the Objective Area.

(1) Enemy forces at the time Operation "SWIFT" commenced were unknown.

(2) Units identified during the Operation were the 1st NVA Regiment, consisting of the 40th, 60th, and 90th Battalions with an estimated strength of 600 men per Battalion. Elements of the 3rd and 21st NVA Regiments were also encountered in the operational area.

b. Weather

Throughout the operation, the weather was warm and humid with late afternoon showers and, for the most part, unrestricted visibility.

c. Enemy Strength Actually Determined During the Operation.

(1) Estimated actual strength was about 1800 in the 1st NVA Regiment with elements of the 3rd, and 21st NVA Regiments, estimated 350 troops each. Total estimated strength was approximately 2,500 men.

(2) The main enemy force that engaged this Battalion was the 1st NVA Regiment.

8. Mission.

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) lands in designated LZ vicinity (BT 095330), attacks to the southwest to kill or capture the enemy, his weapons and supplies, and relieve/reinforce 1st Battalion, 5th Marines units presently in contact.

9. Concept.

At H-Hour on D-Day, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) lands in designated LZ, attacks with companies in column to secure Objectives 1 and 2 vicinity (BT 085333) and (BT 084326), continues the attack to relieve/reinforce Company B and Company D, prepares to continue the attack on order.

10. Execution.

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a. D-Day 4 Sept 1967 (See Enclosure (2)).

(1) 040430H Company D (-), 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, located vicinity (BT 076331) on a company search and destroy operation, received approximately 100 rounds automatic small arms fire and 3 rounds mortar fire from positions 100 meters Northwest and West of the company perimeter. Company D immediately returned fire of approximately 3000 rounds small arms, 50 rounds M-79, and 12 M-26 grenades. At this time the night COP's and a Squad Ambush were recalled. Enemy fire which had not been accurate, continued sporadically. Company D had 4 USMC WIA. Artillery and 81 mortar missions were requested and fired.

(2) 040510H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, reported enemy on at least two sides, estimated 15 VC to the west.

(3) 040530H An air observer and an armed UH1E arrived on station. In directing aircraft to target, a strobe light was employed. Aiming in on this, the enemy mortar and small arms fire became more accurate and more intense. Some enemy also infiltrated to the western portion of the perimeter, throwing hand grenades into Company D's positions. Company D returned fire with 60 mortars and CS grenades. Artillery was requested and approximately 30 rounds of 105mm were fired to encircle the company position.

(4) 040545H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines reported 1 USMC KIA and 10 USMC WIA. Company D mounted a reaction force to clear the enemy positions and attack the enemy position to the west in vicinity of a village (BT 075329).

(5) 040600H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines reported small arms fire continuing from the west. 60mm counter mortar fire caused a secondary explosion and enemy mortar and grenade fires ceased.

(6) 040620H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was sweeping the village in vicinity of (BT 075329), when intense automatic weapons fire was received from the west at a distance of approximately 50 meters seriously wounding the Commanding Officer of Company D. The Executive Officer of Company D reported contact with approximately 1 enemy company and requested assistance.

(7) 040655H Company B (-) (Rein), 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base to reinforce Company D.

(8) 040700H Armed UH-1E's delivered air strikes within 50 meters of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines positions and an AO directed an artillery strike, with excellent target coverage. Enemy fire slackened and Company D commenced reorganization. Friendly casualties were estimated at 2 KIA and 20 WIA. Enemy casualties were 11 KIA confirmed and 8 KIA probable. Two fixed wing strikes were requested for Company D and controlled by the AO (TAC(A)) to cover the reorganization. Medical evacuation was requested.

(9) 040810H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines reported cumulative casualties as 14 friendly KIA and 15 friendly WIA, 11 enemy KIA confirmed and 8 KIA probable with 1 enemy WIA captured. One set of NVA Captain's bars was found on one of the enemy dead.

(10) 040820H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, arrived in vicinity of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines position and commenced sweep of village at (BT 073329).

(11) 040835H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines reported that the enemy fired smoke grenades, misleading medevac helicopters and downing two of the helicopters with small arms fire.

(12) 040849H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 069330) received 350-500 rounds automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire from an estimated NVA Company, camouflaged and entrenched in the vicinity of Dong Son (1) (BT 075331). Trench lines ran from coordinates (BT 073329) to (BT 073330). Company B returned approximately 400-600 rounds small arms fire and requested CS preparatory fire on the village. Results: 7 friendly WIA, 2 Enemy KIA confirmed.

(13) 040906H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines observed enemy elements moving to the rear of Company D's position.

(14) 040910H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Mobile Command Group alerted.

(15) 040914H Armed UH-1E's delivered 400 lbs. of CS on enemy positions. (See photo) Fire ceased and an undetermined number of enemy were observed fleeing to the north across the river. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted assault, physical pursuit, and search of area. Cumulative results: 26 USMC KIA. 33 USMC WIA. 26 NVA KIA confirmed and 55 KIA probable. Captured one 60mm mortar tube, 1 rocket launcher, one AK-47, 3 AK-44, 1 AK-50 with 2 magazines. Captured equipment forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(16) 040925H Companies L and M of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines alerted for helilift and chop to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

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(17) 040937H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 108-67 promulgated. (See enclosure (1)).

(18) 041043H Captain Heinz assumed command of Company D.

(19) 041150H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 072330), received heavy automatic and semi-automatic small arms fire from an undetermined number of enemy located in village (BT 073330). Enemy forces well dug in and camouflaged. Company B returned approximately 2500 rounds small arms, 30 rounds M-79 and 2 M-26. An air strike was called, followed by Company B's assault on the enemy position and pursuit by fire. Results: 5 USMC KIA. 8 USMC WIA. 9 NVA KIA confirmed and 35 NVA KIA probable. 1 male and 1 female VC Suspects apprehended and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(20) 041205H Company M and Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines landed in LZ vicinity (BT 108344) followed by 1st Battalion, 5th Marines medium Command Group. Lift complete 041245H.

(21) 041230H Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines commenced movement to Objective 2 vicinity (BT 083326). See Enclosure (1)).

(22) 041240H H&S Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at LZ vicinity (BT 108344) apprehended 1 Vietnamese male approximately 60 years old. Forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(23) 041250H Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines vicinity (BT 106330) apprehended 1 Vietnamese male approximately 15 years old. Searched suspect and found 2550 piasters, 1 razor, 1 watch guarantee. Detainee upon being questioned said he had seen approximately 400 VC with about 7 mortar tubes, carbine and machine guns moving in a westerly direction. Detainee appeared to be shell-shocked. Detainee was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(24) 041335H Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines vicinity (BT 083326), found one Chinese Communist semi-automatic weapon, 1 wallet with NVA money, one Vietnamese uniform, 2 pair of field glasses and one semi-automatic weapon, serial number 80987. Weapon and equipment forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(25) 041350H H&S Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, LZ security elements while searching LZ, apprehended 18 Vietnamese (6 women, 5 men, and 7 children) wearing black clothing. Vietnamese were released as innocent civilians.

(26) 041430H-041900H Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines located (BT 090335) observed an undetermined number of camouflaged NVA vicinity (BT 085332). Received a heavy volume of automatic small arms and mortar fire, returned 35,000 rounds small arms fire, 300 M-79, 35 60mm mortar H.E. and 20 rounds 105mm HE. While counter battery firing the 60mm mortar, Company K maneuvered elements to close with the enemy. The engagement continued until nightfall, when Company K positions were consolidated at (BT 098335) with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP. Results: 1 USMC KIA, 13 USMC WIA, 28 NVA KIA confirmed, 35 NVA KIA probable. 2 AK-47 assault rifles serial numbers 12855 and 10308, were captured and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(27) 041445H-041900H 1st Plat. Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, located at (BT 093337), was taken under heavy automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire by an estimated NVA Company located at (BT 089339). 2nd Platoon, Company M maneuvered to support 1st Platoon and also came under intense automatic and semi automatic small arms fire from another estimated NVA Company. Company M, CP. received 40 rounds 60mm mortar. Returned 2500 rounds small arms fire, 30 M-79 rounds, 5 60mm mortar, and 30 105 H.E. rounds. Four air strikes and an aerial CS attack were conducted which forced the NVA units to withdraw. Company M consolidated its position to stop camouflaged NVA whom was attempting to infiltrate perimeter. An enemy mortar was knocked out by grenades at (BT 097337). Results: 17 USMC KIA, 38 USMC WIA, 84 NVA KIA confirmed. 140 NVA KIA probable. 1 AK-47 serial number 1012713, 3 AK-47 magazines with ammunition, 3 NVA packs, one cartridge belt with canteen, and one ChiCom grenade were captured and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(28) 041630H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group, located at (BT 097335), received 15-20 rounds small arms fire from vicinity (BT 088338) and (BT 008330) while crossing paddy. At the same time Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, located at (BT 095331) also came under fire. Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 093336) also began receiving fire. Air and Artillery were called for. An estimated 2 Battalions were opposing the Marine forces. Heavy small arms fire and mortar fire continued at the Marine units maneuvered against the enemy. As night began to fall, forces were consolidated. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines prepared to medevac casualties and conduct night activities. Results: 54 USMC KIA, 104 USMC WIA, 19 VC apprehended, 130 NVA KIA confirmed, 250 NVA KIA probable, 22 individual and 2 crew served weapons captured and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

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(29) 042108H Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.
b. D+1 5 Sept. 1967 (See Enclosure (4)).

(1) 050405H 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group reached a position in the vicinity of companies B and D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, (vicinity (BT 072330)) and assumed OPCON of company B and Company D.
(2) 050500H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 109-67 promulgated. (See Enclosure (3)).
(3) 050630H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, located at (BT 095337), after maintaining contact with NVA units throughout the day and night of 04 September, conducted a thorough search of the battle area acquiring the following equipment; Three Chinese Communist light assault rifles, serial numbers, 222846, 219558, 219728: were captured; 3 Russian carbines, serial numbers 10099171, 101272136, 10080766; 4 AK-47 assault rifles serial number 16881, 10037938, 10083171, 1012657; 1 US Carbine 3951698, 1 B-40 rocket launcher serial number 511904; 1 60mm tube with sight, serial number 57481, 1 expended LAAW, 33 Chinese grenades, 1 CS grenade, 3 M-26 grenades, 1 green star cluster, 25 M-79 rounds, 8 60mm rounds, approximately 2000 rounds in banana magazines for assault MG's, 30 caliber, 1 corpsman kit; 1 gas mask and one cartridge belt. Equipment was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(4) 051202H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, located 4 fresh graves with 4 bodies in them at (BT 094336). Also found 3 magazines with ammunition for AK-47, and 3 NVA packs with miscellaneous gear. Results: 4 VC KIA confirmed.

(5) 051245H Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, located at (BT 093323) found 3 freshly dug graves with 3 bodies dressed in black and green. 2 were killed by shrapnel and 1 by small arms fire. Results: 3 VC KIA confirmed.

(6) 051650H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines found enemy cache containing 17 canteens, 14 hammocks, 7 E-tools, 13 magazine pouches for assault machine guns, 6 grenade pouches, 4 helmets, and 2 first aid packets. One of each item was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2; remaining equipment destroyed.

c. D+2 6 Sept. 1967 (See Enclosure (6)).

(1) 060040H Received Regimental Frag Order 1-67. See Reference (b).

(2) 060130H Battalion Frag Order 110-67 promulgated. See Enclosure (5).

(3) 060826H Company K and Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines units OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Company B and Company D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines units OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(4) 060945H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 078319) during preparatory fires, received short 105mm round resulting in 2 USMC WIAE.

(5) 061030H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commenced attack towards Objective X-Ray. (See Enclosure (6)).

(6) 061130H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 100309) received 10-20 rounds small arms fire from an unknown number of snipers. Returned 150-200 rounds small fire, 7 M-79 rounds and 6 60mm mortar H.E. rounds. Area searched with negative results. Results: 2 USMC WIAE.

(7) 061135H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 098312) received 10-20 rounds sniper fire wounding 2 Marines. Returned fire. Results: 2 USMC WIAE.

(8) 061135H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located (BT 089309), received 2 rounds from a sniper in the brush. Returned 15-20 rounds small arms fire. Searched area with negative results. Results: 1 USMC WIAE.

(9) 061230H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 099308), apprehended 4 Vietnamese males 30-40 years old who were found hiding in bunker. All wore black clothing. Two had ID cards. Suspects forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(10) 061230H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 097307), found 3 Vietnamese hiding in bunker who refused to come out. A hand grenade was thrown in bunker. Results: 2 NVA KIA and 1 VC KIA confirmed, 1 semi-automatic Chicom weapon AK-44, serial number 1010044, and documents were forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(11) 061305H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located at (BT 088308), apprehended 2 detainees, approximately 40-45 years of age, wearing white shirts and trousers, only 1 had an ID card. Detainees forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(12) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 111-67 promulgated. (See Enclosure (7)).

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(13) 061212H-070100H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commenced attack to Objective 6 (See Enclosure (7)), Company B and Company D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines attacking on line with Company B in the southern zone. Company B immediately received sniper fire which became more intense as Company B advanced towards (BT 104304). Company D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines maneuvered to the enemy's left flank as Company B's casualties mounted. It was obvious that an enemy of at least Battalion size had been engaged. With night approaching 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was ordered to consolidate its forces at (BT 100307). At this time, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines began to receive intense mortar and small arms fire. The consolidation by the enemy fire and consequent casualties. As the lines were consolidated, the enemy attempted to infiltrate. At one point 5 to 15 were within 10 meters of the perimeter before they were killed by the defensive fires. The perimeter was consolidated as 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continued to receive small arms fire and mortar fire throughout the night. Casualties were treated, and the night defense established as the enemy ceased activity except for small arms fire at the medical evacuation helicopters coming in to the LZ. Results: for 6 September 1967: 35 USMC KIA, 92 USMC WIA, 61 NVA KIA confirmed, 106 NVA KIA probable.

d. D+3 7 Sept. 1967 (See Enclosure (8)).

(1) 070730H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, while searching area for WIA, KIA, and equipment, found 2 NVA approximately 25 years old, both wearing khaki uniforms, no weapons. Detainees were forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(2) 071130H Platoon patrol from Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines found 9 NVA bodies in green clothing vicinity (BT 095310). Platoon continued to search area with no further significant results. Results: 9 NVA KIA confirmed.

(3) 071725H First elements of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines lifted from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines patrol base vicinity (BT 100307) to Nui Lac Son.

(4) 071800H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines completed helilift to Nui Lac Son OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Rear.

(5) 071828H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, OPCON from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Rear, to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(6) 072330H Received Regimental Frag Order 2-67. See reference (C).

e. D+4 8 Sept. 1967. (See Enclosure (12)).

(1) 080130H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines assumed OPCON Company A 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and Company I, 3rdBn, 1st Marines.

(2) 080630H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 112-67 promulgated. (See Enclosure (9))

(3) 080730H Company D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines commenced assault of objective (7) after delivery of extensive artillery preparatory fire.

(4) 080820H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines observed 5 VC wearing black clothing, running across rice paddy approximately 600 meters away. Company C fired 20 rounds small arms fire and observed one VC fall. The area was searched with negative results.

(5) 080930H Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines commenced movement to objective 8 after preparation of the objective with air strikes.

(6) 080950H Company D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, reported medical evacuation helicopter down in vicinity (BT 100301). No friendly casualties were sustained, but the helicopter was seriously damaged when it struck a tree.

(7) 081025H OPCON Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, passed to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Rear.

(8) 081115H Platoon Patrol from Company D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines observed 2 VC wearing black clothing and carrying packs and weapons, heading in northwest direction vicinity (BT 098298). Patrol fired 50-60 rounds small arms fire, called and received artillery mission with good target coverage. Searched area with negative results.

(9) 081615H Downed helicopter destroyed. (See 080950H)

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(10) 082130H Received Regimental Frag Order 3-67. See Reference (d).

(11) 082230H Battalion Frag Order 114-67 promulgated. (See Enclosure (11)).

f. D+5 9 Sept. 1967 (See Enclosure (14)).

(1) 090847H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines discovered cave with ammunition cache in vicinity (BT 104294). Cache contained 40 cases (720 rounds per case) of 7.62 short/long, 6 cases, (3 rounds per case) of 75RR rounds, 13 cases (3 rounds per case) of 82mm mortar ammunition with shotgun propellant. One round each type forwarded to Regimental S-2, remainder destroyed.

(2) 090915H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines discovered tunnel complex continuing the following ordinance: 18 Anti-tank Rockets; 13 cases (3 rounds per case) of 82mm mortar; six 75RR rounds; 40 cases 7.62 (556 rounds per case) short Ak-47 type; one case 7.62 long (Quantity unknown); and one case 60mm mortar rounds, (8 per case). Ammunition was destroyed except one round each type forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(3) 091055H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines second cache in cave, contents 36 57mm RR rounds; 20 rounds 82mm mortar; 458 Chicom concussion grenades; 1190 50 cal. tracer rounds and 84 60mm mortar rounds with detonators and charge increments. Ammunition destroyed in place except one item of each type forwarded to 5th Marines S-2. (See Photo)

(4) 091130H Battalion Frag order 114-67 promulgated (See Enclosure (13)).

(5) 091715H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines discovered freshly dug fighting holes in vicinity (BT 120304). Positions appeared to be set up for night defense with a diameter of 2 feet and a depth of 4 feet.

(6) 091800H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, observed one VC in vicinity (BT 129298) wearing green utilities and carrying pack. Enemy was taken under fire with 70 rounds small arms fire, 7 M-79 rounds with negative results. In his hasty departure he dropped his pack which was recovered by the patrol. Results: 2 BA 386 riggers from electrical blasting caps, one friction type blasting cap. Anti-American propaganda sheet and a record book. All gear forwarded to Regimental S-2 except blasting caps, which were destroyed in place.

(7) 092120H Received Regimental Frag Order 4-67. See Reference (e).

(8) 092120H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines COP observed 3 VC in vicinity (BT 126294). Fired 60 rounds 5.56mm, 2 60mm illumination rounds. Area was searched with negative results.

(9) 092335H Battalion Frag Order 115-67 promulgated. See Enclosure (14).

g. D+6 10 Sept. 1967 See Enclosure (16)).

(1) 100001H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted detailed search of area from present positions vicinity (BT 132303), including daylight and night patrols and ambushes IAW Regimental Frag Order 4-67. (See Reference (e)).

(2) 100855H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines patrol found one male Vietnamese, about 22 years old vicinity (BT 100855), wearing black shorts and white shirt. Detainee had no I.D. card. Detainee forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(3) 101000H Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines platoon patrol observed one VC vicinity (BT 112303) in a fortified position. VC was dressed in white shirt and green shorts. As patrol approached, VC attempted to flee. Patrol fired 3 rounds of 5.56mm killing VC. The area was searched and one bundle of punji stakes was found and destroyed. Results: 1 VC KIA confirmed.

(4) 101200H Interrogation by ITT of detainee revealed that an NVA unit had retreated to the vicinity of Dong Linh (2) vicinity (BT 122262). Interrogation report completed and forwarded to Regimental S-2 with detainee.

(5) 101210H Patrol from Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines found 25 2.75 MK-43 rockets in vicinity (BT 132285). Rockets destroyed in place except one item forwarded to Regimental S-2.

(6) 101415H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines COP observed two VC, wearing black and gray clothing, carrying packs and rifles, moving east in vicinity (BT 144298). Fired 7 rounds of 5.56mm. Enemy fled to the east away from the area of observation. Area was searched with negative results.

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(7) 102100H Battalion Frag Order 116-67 promulgated. See Enclosure (17).

(8) 102310H Squad ambush reported heavy movement vicinity (BT 137288) and squad received approximately 10 rounds small arms fire. Returned 38-50 rounds small arms fire and 2 M-26 grenades as enemy broke contact to the south. Area was searched with negative results. Ambush was repositioned.

h. D+7 11 Sept. 1967 (See Enclosure (19)).

(1) 111400H Battalion Frag Order 117-67 promulgated. (See Enclosure (18)).

(2) 112220H Received Regimental Frag Order 5-67. (See Reference (f)).

i. D+8 12 Sept. 1967 (See Enclosure (21)).

(1) 120835H Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines commenced attack to Objective 17. (See Enclosure 12)).

(2) 120930H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, commenced movement to objective 21.

(3) 121020H Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, commenced movement to objective 19.

(4) 121150H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines observed 4 VC, with weapons, dressed in black clothing, in vicinity (BT 155290) fleeing from an air strike. Fired 150 rounds small arms fire and observed one VC receive direct hit from air strike. Remaining VC fled into dense vegetation. Results: 1 VC KIA confirmed.

(5) 121300H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines apprehended one Vietnamese male approximately 45 years old, wearing white clothing hiding in hole vicinity (BT 145286). Detainee was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2. Results: 1 detainee.

(6) 121430H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines secured portion of Task Force objective 1 in zone.

(7) 121630H During sweep in vicinity (BT 153284) Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines apprehended 2 Vietnamese males, ages 30 and 40. Detainees were hiding in hut and refused to answer questions. Detainees were forwarded to Regimental S-2. Results: 2 detainees.

(8) 121645H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines found one body, wearing green uniform, vicinity (BT 156200)[156280?], shot in back of the head. Results: 1 VC KIA confirmed, 1 AK-47 Assault rifle, serial number 9472760; 1 cartridge belt; 1 canteen; 3 loaded magazines and papers, rifle and gear were forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(9) 121700H During search of area vicinity (BT 155284) Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines discovered two males in cave, one a Vietnamese boy and the other a Vietnamese male age approximately 40-45 years old. During questioning, man got up and started to run, was told to stop 3 times in Vietnamese but refused. Fired one round 5.56mm wounding Vietnamese male. Detainee was forwarded to Regimental S-2. Results: 1 detainee, WIA.

(10) 121805H Received Regimental Frag Order 6-67. (See Reference (g))

(11) 122100H Battalion Frag Order 118-67 promulgated. See Enclosure (20)

j. D+9 13 Sept 1967. (See Enclosure (23)).

(1) 130700H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines platoon patrol observed one VC, with weapon, dressed in black clothing. Patrol fired 20 rounds small arms fire and one M-79 round. The area was searched and a heavy blood trail was found and followed with negative results.

(2) 131000H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines patrol observed 3 males running to southeast vicinity (BT 171287). VC were wearing black clothing and carrying packs. Challenged and pursued VC. Apprehended 1 detainee with no ID card. While searching pack VC ran from Marines and was killed. Results: 1 VC KIA confirmed.

(3) 131110H Lead elements of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines reached TF Objective B.

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- (4) 131220H Lead elements Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines reached TF Objective 2.
 - (5) 131520H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines secured portion of Task Force Objective 2 in zone.
 - (6) 131830H Received Oral Regimental Order to move to Hill 29.
 - (7) 131835H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commenced movement to Hill 29.
 - (8) 132140H Lead elements arrived at Hill 29.
 - (9) 132140H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 5th Marines.
 - (10) 132235H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commenced helicopter lift to (BT 155382).
 - (11) 132300H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines assumed OPCON Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- k. D+10 Sept 1967 See Enclosure (26).
- (1) 140030H Completed helilift to LZ.
 - (2) 140100H Battalion Frag Order 120-67 issued. See Enclosure (24).
 - (3) 140135H Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, moved out to take Battalion Objectives 25 and 26.
 - (4) 141234H Received Regt. Frag Order 7-67. See Reference (h)
 - (5) 141245H Battalion Frag Order 121-67 Promulgated. See Enclosure (25).
 - (6) 141430H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group found fresh graves vicinity (BT 135355).

Examination revealed 5 bodies dressed in brown khaki uniforms. Results: 5 NVA confirmed.

(7) 141530H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines found numerous freshly dug fighting positions appearing to be cut in a 360 degree circle with diameter roughly 100 meters, positions were located (BT 123248). Positions were square holes roughly 2X3X3 with camouflage around rim. Also found at site several articles of clothing with fresh bloodstains and green belt with chrome buckle with star in center. Clothing was forwarded to Regimental S-2. (I wrote this Spot Report)

(8) 141600H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines observed an estimated 20 VC fleeing west vicinity (BT 110352). Fired 60mm mortar and 81mm mortar missions as unit moved to close with enemy. Contact was lost as enemy continued to flee west. Area was searched with negative results.

(9) 141945H Received Regimental Frag Order 8-67.

(10) 142230H Company I 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines LP observed one VC male carrying an unknown object at a range of 35 meters in vicinity (BT 113350). VC was challenged 3 times in Vietnamese and failed to halt. Patrol fired 3 rounds small arms fire killing VC. The area was searched one VC KIA, without ID card was found. A large radio, wrapped in a camouflaged case, was found and forwarded to Regimental S-2. Results: 1 VC KIA confirmed.

(10) 142300H Regimental Frag Order 8-67 canceled.

l. D+11 15 Sept 1967. (See Enclosure (28))

- (1) 150230H Received Regimental Frag Order 9-67 (See Reference (J)).
- (2) 150600H Battalion Frag Order, (See Enclosure (27)).
- (3) 150700H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines lead elements moved out to secure Battalion Objective 31.
- (4) 150915H Battalion Objective 31 secured.

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(5) 151055H 1st helicopters arrived at LZ.

(6) 151511H Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(7) 151200H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group departed LZ.

(8) 151355H Last unit of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed LZ.

(9) 151400H Last elements of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines returned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base.

(10) 151600H Operation "SWIFT" terminated.

11. Results.

a. Friendly Casualties.

KIA 89
WIAE 225
WIANE 4
MIA 0
NBC 38

b. Friendly Equipment Losses.

6 AN PRC 25
1 60mm mortar
5 M-79 Grenade Launchers
2 M-60 Machineguns

c. Enemy Casualties.

KIA, Confirmed 223
KIA, Probable 354
Detainees 36
POW 2

d. Captured Enemy Weapons

19 AK-47 ChiCom Assault Rifles, serial numbers: 10041283, 11082565, 10061953, 11083476, 2118259-II, 10078321, 10115216, 9472216, 9473644, 10066296, 15811-II, 526732, 9468372, 9469658, 11043679, 1010044, 10066236, 20283, and

10090578.

7 AK-56 Chicom Assault Rifles, serial numbers: 10108075, 883675, 927312, 908943, 10132743, and 928547.

10091796,

1 AK-50 ChiCom Assault Rifle, serial number: 218361.

3 AK-44 ChiCom Assault Rifles, serial numbers: 10077839, 100@4763 and

10107767.

6 AK-43 ChiCom Assault Rifles, serial numbers: 7051663, 642098, 7060630,

682290,

10125156 and 80987.

5 SKS Soviet Carbines, serial numbers: 6142898, 7057160, 642270, 7058242 and 7057821.

1 K-44 Bolt Action, serial number D0340.

1 US Carbine, .30 caliber, M2, serial number 3959618.

1 US Browning Automatic Rifle, serial number 196256.

1 AK-41 Assault Rifle, serial number 1007767.

4 US M-16 Rifles, serial numbers: 646873, 713269, 714417, 710814.

1 60mm mortar tube w/sight, serial number 57481.

2 B-40 Rocket Launchers, serial numbers: 511904 and 204471.

1 60mm mortar w/base plate and bipod, serial number: 351214-55-601018.

1 ChiCom Heavy Machinegun, serial number CA 276.

c. Captured Enemy Equipment.

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- 20 Cartridge belts.
- 26 E-tools.
- 12 Picks.
- 29 Canteens.
- 12 Ponchos.
- 11 Hammocks.
- 64 AK-47 magazines.
- 1 AK-56 magazine.
- 77 Packs.
- 2 Pair field glasses.
- 250 feet communications wire.
- 40 Sets assorted uniforms.
- 5 Battle dressings.
- 1 M-16 Magazine.
- 1 US Helmet.
- Assorted papers and documents.
- 8 First Aid kits.
- 1 Battery blow horn.
- 1 NVA belt with red star on buckle.
- 1 Razor.
- 1 Wallet.
- 1 Watch.
- 1 Commercial wallet.
- 11 Gas masks, homemade.
- 17 Magazine pouches.
- 20 Canteen pouches.
- 4 Sacks 782 gear.
- 1 Commercial, 2 band, 9 transistor radio made in Japan, serial number T-220H, make, National.
- 1 Field medical kit.

f. Captured Enemy Ammunition.

- 300 rounds 7.62mm.
- 2,000 rounds 7.62mm, linked.
- 3,000 rounds, mixed ammunition.
- 63 ChiCom grenades.
- 3 M-26 grenades.
- 1 CS grenade.
- 1 Green star cluster.
- 25 M-79 rounds.
- 8 60mm rounds.
- 11 B-40 Rocket rounds.
- 1 75mm RR round.
- 1 82mm round.
- 1 57mm RR round.
- 1 Tracer round, .50 cal.
- 20 5.56mm Rounds.

g. Destroyed Enemy Equipment.

- 17 Canteens.
- 15 Canteen pouches.
- 17 Magazine pouches.

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14 Hammocks.
7 E-tools.
13 Ponchos.
7 chow cups.
6 Grenade pouches.
4 Helmets.

25 Punji stakes.

4 MG magazine pouches.
3 First aid kits.

h. Destroyed Enemy Ordnance.

463 ChiCom grenades.
23 B-40 Rocket rounds.
28,800 Rounds 7.62mm short/long
18 75mm RR rounds.
39 82mm rounds.
92 60mm rounds.
36 57mm RR rounds.
1190 .50 cal., tracer rounds.
2 BA 386 Booby traps.
1 B-40 Rocket launcher.
16 Homemade grenades.
1 Claymore mine.
1 M-79 Booby trapped round.
1 U.S. Landmine, BLU B/B, lot number 219-5-66.
2 M-26 Grenades.

i. All areas in which air strikes were called were searched except strikes called against the following targets on 8 September:

Automatic weapons	(BT 088277)
Automatic weapons	(BT 126263)
Bunkers	(BT 125272)
Automatic weapons	(BT 120278)

The above strikes were called outside the Battalion's zone of action to protect the flanks of the battalion on the move.

12. Administrative Matters.

a. Supply.

(1) Resupply was affected by helicopters, controlled by Helicopter Support Teams provided by the 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Shore Party Battalion to the Command Group and all participating companies except Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, which had a Helicopter Support Team provided by Company A, 1st Shore Party Battalion working under the 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Shore Party Battalion while Company I was attached to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(2) Initially, 6 MCIs were carried by each individual which were adequate for a three day period. A basic allowance of ammunition and three canteens were carried by each individual. Ammunition resupply requests were processed through routine resupply missions. Water presented no problem due to the numerous streams and wells located in the operating area. In addition to individual weapons, machineguns, 60mm mortars and 81mm mortars were carried on the operation.

b. Maintenance.

(1) Cleaning equipment for crew served and individual weapons was carried by all units. Weapons were cleaned and inspected on a daily basis. No maintenance problems were encountered during the operation with weapons or equipment.

c. Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation and Hospitalization.

(1) Casualties were initially treated by five Corpsmen attached to each rifle company and three Corpsmen moving with the Command Group.

(2) Casualties were evacuated by helicopter and were transported to a Collecting and Clearing Company located at the LSA at Hill 63, RVN except during some periods when the casualty overload was helilifted directly to the 1st Medical Battalion at Da Nang, RVN.

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Casualties were then processed and further transferred to field hospitals and hospital ships located in the Chu Lai, RVN, and DaNang, RVN areas.

d. Transportation.

(1) The only transportation utilized during the operation was helicopters. Complete reliance was placed on the UH-34D helicopter for all medical evacuation. CH-46 helicopters were used on two occasions to effect the initial helilift on D-Day and the helilift which took place on the night of D+9. CH-53 helicopters were used on D+11 for the lift to the Combat Base.

e. Communications.

(1) Operating units were in close proximity throughout the operation with no significant problems encountered with communications.

f. Medical Evacuation.

(1) Each Corpsman carried sufficient medical supplies to provide adequate treatment of the wounded until medical evacuation could be effected.

(2) Casualties were evacuated by helicopter. The arrival of the medical evacuation helicopters was timely whenever a reasonably secured landing zone was available.

(3) The battalion had no heat casualties despite temperature highs of 100 degrees. Omission of upper body armor and command attention to the consumption of salt tablets were felt to be significant factors in the prevention of heat casualties.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques.

a. 4 September an aerial CS attack was delivered in conjunction with an artillery mission and air strikes. Five hundred gallon napalm tanks with CS-1 (micro-pulverized powder) were dropped in the vicinity of (BT 087336), (BT 098341) and (BT 098335) with good target coverage. This drop assisted in forcing enemy troops engaged with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, to withdraw.

b. In another chemical attack on 4 September, four 500-gallon napalm tanks of CS-1 were used as a preparatory fire on Hill 63 (BT 083324). Approximately 100 NVA were observed fleeing the attack. An air strike was delivered in pursuit of the fleeing enemy.

c. 6 September an aerial CS attack was conducted at (BT 10330/3) in support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Enemy mortar and small arms fire was significantly reduced. One E 159 Cluster and four 500-gallon napalm tanks with CS-1 micro-pulverized Powder were delivered on enemy forces. Three E158 CS Clusters and 1 E 159 CS Cluster were dropped in support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at (BT 090309) and (BT 104307). The three E 158 CS Clusters were improperly fused and malfunctioned. One E 158 Cluster was recaptured the morning of 7 September.

d. In a related chemical attack on 6 September, 6 500-gallon napalm tanks with CS-1 Micro-pulverized Powder were dropped along a line from (BT 105260) to (BT 105268). This line generally coincides with a trail which the enemy might have used as an escape route. The terrain denial drop was delivered with excellent target coverage.

e. On 9 September, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines recommended five target sites for aerial delivery of CS Persistent Agent in compliance with 5th Marines MSG DTG (091035H). 1st Battalion, 5th Marines recommended that a Psychological Operations tape be delivered with the chemical agent attacks explaining to the Vietnamese why their homelands were being contaminated and urging them to return to Government controlled areas. Chemicals were not delivered due to the non-availability of Micro-pulverized CS-1.

f. On 10 September the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines requested an aerial delivery of Micro-pulverized CS-1 on a confirmed enemy ordinance storage area at (BT 105291) and on a retreat area at (BT 121261). The chemical agents were delivered with good target coverage.

g. Intelligence received from an NVA prisoner revealed that the majority of enemy personnel did not possess gas masks, that the enemy believes that CS is toxic, and that on past occasions the prisoner's unit had retreated a distance of 1000 meters when struck by chemical agents. The prisoner also stated that he is extremely afraid of chemical munitions.

14. Commander's Analysis.

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Operations during the monsoon season with its daily rain can seriously effect the mobility of infantry units. Normally insignificant streams become barriers and trafficability can be difficult, even for foot troops. Each squad should carry at least 50 feet of rope to use in river crossings and training must be conducted on river crossing techniques. Constant walking in the wet flooded areas will require added emphasis by unit leaders to insure that the individual marine properly cares for his feet and prevents immersion foot.

Helicopter availability had a direct effect on the Battalion's operational responsibilities. Resupply scheduling was satisfactory and presented few problems. However, on those two occasions that significant amounts of enemy equipment were captured, or friendly casualties and equipment required evacuation, helicopters were not readily available. The requirement, to provide security for casualties or equipment for one or two days, restricted the mobility of the Battalion and impaired its ability to react quickly to the tactical situation.

Psywar activities were planned and requested in conjunction with a proposed CS drop but non-availability of the micro-pulverized chemical agent caused the drop to be canceled. There were a minimum of local Vietnamese encountered during Operation "SWIFT" and no refugees were evacuated. Under these circumstances the civic action program was negligible.

15. Recommendations. None

E.C. CHEATHAM JR

By direction