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HEADQUARTERS
1st Combined Action Group
III Marine Amphibious Force
APO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/RLP/lis
5700
Ser: 03-70

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CONFIDENTIAL (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Combined Action Force
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March 1970 to 31 March 1970

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Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) M.FPacO 5750.8B
(c) CAFO 5750.1

Encl: (1) 1st Combined Action Group 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, DOD Dir 5200.10.

D F Seiler
D. F. SEILER

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TAB (A)

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Combined Action Group
III Marine Amphibious Force
APO, San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March 1970 to 31 March 1970

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

1st Combined Action Group
 III Marine Amphibious Force
 WFO, San Francisco, California 96602

LtCol D. F. SEILER
 1Mar70 31Mar70

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Combined Action Company I-1

Captain N. H. GROSZ
 1Mar70 10Mar70
 Captain R. J. DALTON
 11Mar70 31Mar70

Combined Action Company I-2

Captain J. E. KNIGHT
 1Mar70 31Mar70

Combined Action Company I-3

Captain J. W. MURPHY
 1Mar70 20Mar70
 Captain D. L. IAPHAM
 21Mar70 31Mar70

Combined Action Company I-4

1stLt. W. R. BLACK JR.
 1Mar70 31Mar70

ATTACHED UNITS

1. None.

2. Locations

Hq 1st CAG

Chu Lai, Ly Tin District, Quang Tin Province,
 RVN

CACO 1-1

Tam Ky District, Quang Tin Province, RVN

CACO 1-2

Ly Tin District, Quang Tin Province, RVN

CACO 1-3

Binh Son District, Quang Ngai Province, RVN

CACO 1-4

Son Tinh District, Quang Ngai Province, RVN

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the reporting period the 1st Combined Action Group continued to conduct operations that enhanced the accomplishment of its assigned mission of village and hamlet security and the goals of the GVN Accelerated Pacification Program (APP). In conjunction with the APP, two CAP's in Son Tinh District changed boundaries.

2. Enemy activity increased from the preceding month and the Group accounted for more enemy kills, more POW's and more Hoi Chanh's, while suffering fewer Marine Casualties. The number of contacts increased in all four company areas and CAGO 1-2 was the only company to end the month with less kills than the previous month.

3. The Americal Division, USA continued to experience moderate contact throughout its TAOR, with the 196th Infantry Brigade (Operation Frederick Hill) accounting for the bulk of the enemy contacts and kills. The infantry company from the 198th Brigade participating in the Combined Unit Pacification Program (CUPP) was relocated to a new area north of CAP 1-4-5 in Son Tinh District and CAP's 1-4-5 and 1-4-6 modified their AO's to include a portion of the area formerly covered by the CUPP. The 196th and 198th Infantry Brigades continued to provide logistical support for the Group during the month.

4. Two of the battalions of 198th Infantry Brigade (1/6th and 5/46th) exchanged TAOR's which affected the CAP's located in these areas with regard to logistical resupply and it took approximately two weeks to correct the resupply problems. A shortage of helicopters in the Americal Division is resulting in irregular resupply of many of the Third and Fourth Companies CAP's.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Operations Summary

- a. Nighttime activities - Patrols - 958; Ambushes - 1617
- b. Daytime activities - 860
- c. Multi-CAP operations - 1
- d. Combined operations - 2
- e. Significant operations conducted - None

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2. Neutralization of Enemy Forces

- a. NVA KIA -- 10
- b. VC KIA -- 14
- c. NVA POW -- 0
- d. VC POW -- 11
- e. VCI POW -- 0
- f. Hoi Chanhs

(1) NVA -- 2
 (2) VC -- 8
 (3) VCI -- 29

3. Casualties Sustained

- a. USMC KIA -- 1
- b. USMC WIA(OA) -- 9
- c. USMC WIA(M) -- 7
- d. USMC MIA -- 0
- e. USN KIA -- 0
- f. USN WIA(E) -- 2
- g. USN WIA(M) -- 1
- h. USN MIA -- 0
- i. CAP PF KIA -- 14
- j. CAP PF WIA(E) -- 25
- k. CAP PF WIA(M) -- 7
- l. CAP PF MIA -- 0

4. New Techniques Employed: The PF Trung Si's are being encouraged to plan all or most of the activities and the Marine squad leader is staying in the background unless the proposed activities are tactically unsound.

5. Command Relationships

a. VN: Daily contact between the CACO CO's and the District Chiefs was maintained. The Group CO and S-3 made frequent visits to District and Province, coordinating with the District Chiefs, District Senior Advisors, Province Chiefs, Province Senior Advisors and their respective Staffs.

b. Local IWMF Units: Constant liaison was maintained throughout the reporting period between the CACO CO's and their proximate USA battalions and between the Group and the 196th and 198th Brigades and the Americal Division.

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d. Motor Transport

- (1) During the month Group motor transport logged 21,464 miles.
- (2) Deadlined vehicles increased during the month and on occasions has created problems within the Group.

e. Miscellaneous

N/A

9. Civic Action.

a. Civic Action projects during the month of March 1970 proceeded at a normal pace, with the continuation of S-5 personnel holding Civic Action meetings at each of the CACO Headquarters. These meetings are held bi-monthly for the purpose of advising and adjusting Civic Action work in the 1st Combined Action Group Area of Operation. The following commodities were distributed throughout the 1st Combined Action Group Area of Operation during March 1970:

- (1) Roadstuffs - 757 pounds
- (2) Meals - 449
- (3) Clothing - 12 pounds
- (4) Soap - 129 pounds

b. Educational assistance. Forty-five (45) English classes were taught by CAP personnel for one hundred and four (104) Vietnamese students.

c. Financial aid. - None

d. Other projects.

(1) Lumber was delivered to Quang Ngai Hospital for the construction of artificial arms and legs.

(2) CAP 1-1-6 arranged for one Vietnamese youth from their area to go to Quang Ngai to be fitted for an artificial leg. He was from Ky My Village north of Tam Ky.

(3) CAP 1-3-3, located in Phouc Hoa (1) B5663977 Binh Son District Quang Ngai Province, helped rebuild a fence around the village that had been destroyed by the VC.

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(4) JAG-Type Investigations Completed: 1

d. Award Recommendations

SSM - 1

BSM - 5

NCM - 3

NAF - 3

PH - 20

e. CONGRATS/SPLINTS/WELREPS

The command has responded to:

CONGRATS - 0

SPLINTS - 0

WELREPS - 7

f. Morale and Welfare

(1) R&R. The command has utilized the following number of quotas to the R&R areas listed:

(a) Hong Kong (1)	Japan (2)
Hokpei (4)	Bangkok (12)
Hawaii (11)	Sydney (7)

(b) Ta Country

China Beach Recreation Center: 60

(2) Mail. Daily average bags of mail processed:

Incoming

Outgoing

5

2

(3) Hospital Visitations. Hospital visits are made daily by the Hospital Corpsman Representative, the Casualty NCO and the Mail Orderly, who also delivers mail to the patients located in hospitals at Chu Iai. Frequent visits are made by the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Adjutant, First Sergeant and S-1 Administrative Chief.

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c. Significant Problem Areas: None

6. Significant Accomplishments of Attachments: The Kit Carson Scouts accounted for five (5) enemy kills, one (1) enemy POW and three VCS detained. They also participated in four (4) psyops aerial broadcasts.

7. Lessons Learned: No new or significant lessons learned during the period.

8. Logistics

a. Significant Events

(1) Combat losses for the month were one rifle, 5.56mm, M-16, one rifle, 7.62mm, M-14, one Grenade Launcher, M-79, one transceiver, PRT-4, five antenna, whip, PRC-25 and one pair of binoculars, 6x30.

(2) The loading/unloading dock at Group Supply was not completed during the month due to other commitments but will be completed during the month of April.

(3) EMLREP report has been submitted on all items.

(4) An accident occurred between an ARVN M151 truck and a vehicle from 1st CAV, one M35, 2 1/2 ton truck, during the month. An investigation was conducted into the circumstances surrounding the accident and the Marine was found not to be at fault.

b. Supply

(1) The Group is short some T/E items but they do not effect the unit readiness. The items short are expected at Group Supply soon.

(2) Fifty (50) rifles, M-16, fourteen (14) SIDs, one (1) 3.5 rocket launcher, five (5) 50 caliber machine gun barrels, three (3) base plates for 81 mortars, one (1) flame thrower and two (2) 81 mortar tripods were turned in to MC114, disposal unit at FLC during the month.

(3) Three (3) FSIDs were taken to Cam Ranh Bay for repair. Upon arrival we were informed that the items are not repairable and when the items break down they are to be disposed of.

c. Maintenance

(1) No problem during the month in this area.

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g. Career Planning

Re-enlistment: None

Extentions: One 3 months

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11. Intelligence

a. First Company, in the Tam Ky area received the brunt of its contact from the main force and local force Viet Cong that inhabit the area. There were no sustained ground attacks or large scale enemy ambush tactics employed during the month. The 409th Sapper Battalion which has been a constant adversary in the past, is reported to have moved too far south to pose any threat to 1st Company's CAPs. One incident at 1-1-6 resulted in the death of seven NVA probably from the 1st Infantry Battalion (NVA). Among the dead was one NVA Captain.

b. Second Company did not make contact during the entire month with the elements of the 31st NVA Regiment which are believed to be in the companies AO. They did, however, succeed in occassionally ambushing the local force VC who inhabit the area.

c. The Third Company, in Northern Quang Ngai had very limited contact with NVA forces during the month, but managed to kill three NVA in two contacts. Two of the NVA are believed to be from the 95B Sapper Battalion, while the other one is probably from the 48th Battalion, which has been reported as high as 80% NVA. Most of the remainder of the contacts came from the enemy units that are firmly entrenched in the area between the inland and coastal CAPs east of Binh Son. These include the P-31st Infantry Company, and the K-51st Weapons Company.

d. As Fourth Company, in Son Tinh District, the main aggressor is the 48th Battalion. Strategically located just north of the infamous My Lai area, the 48th seems to have ample time to conduct their operations against the CAPs and steal away before they can be hit. The T-20th Infantry Company and the 95th A Sapper Company are the other units identified in this area.

e. Enemy units

By the end of the month, Americal Order of Battle placed the following enemy units in, or in close proximity of the 1st Combined Action Group area of operation:

Quang Tin Province

Unit	Strength
70th Infantry Battalion	130
V-58th Infantry Company	80

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40th Infantry Battalion	245
V-15th Infantry Company	65
1st Infantry Battalion NVA	245

Quang Ngai Province

Unit	Strength
48th Infantry Battalion	400
F-11st Infantry Company	35
K-11st Weapons Company	30
95 A Sapper Company	40
95 B Sapper Company	45
T-20 Infantry Company	55

f. Enemy forces in 1st Combined Action Group's AO continued to be vulnerable to detection by tactical air and combat assault directed by CAP Marines. Enemy morale remains vulnerable to psychological exploitation with themes covering defeats in combat, fear of death, battle hardships disease and lack of food and the number of Hoi Chanh is rapidly increasing.

12. Communications

a. Communications within the Group continue to improve and a new capability was added with the installation of the KY-38 radios at the CAGC Headquarters and the Group COC.

b. MG-19 and TSU-B continue to provide maintenance support and they are making every effort to reduce the down time of the Group's radios.

13. Fire Support

a. Fire support during the period was provided by Division Artillery, Amical Division (1/14th and 1/82d Bn's) and ARVN artillery, on occasions in the Tam Ky area. The artillery support has been quite timely and effective, with very few exceptions.

14. Air Support

a. Tactical air support was used frequently during the month; this included fixed wing strikes, helicopter gunship strikes and visual reconnaissance missions. No major problems were encountered with close air support and the CAP's continue to utilize the Air Force FAC's to support their daylight operations. The FAC's not only observe for the CAP's but also call artillery missions and control air strikes.

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b. Air support is not limited to tactical requests, as logistical resupply of outlying CAP's requires daily attention. The time for these missions is allotted by the proximate battalion on a daily basis. These missions are neither requested nor controlled by the CAG. At times the availability of aircraft was reduced by the requirement for helicopters to support Combat Assaults (CA's) in the Americal Division.

15. Activations, Deactivations, Redesignations, Relocations of CAP's

a. No CAP's were activated or deactivated during the period.

b. CAP's 1-4-5 and 1-4-6 modified their boundaries to improve their respective operating areas.

16. Combined Action Force School

a. Graduated: 54

b. Attending: 17

17. Combined Action Force Vietnamese Language School

a. Graduated: 10

b. Attending: 7

18. Other Schools

a. Infantry Weapons Repair Course: 1

b. 1st Marine Division NCO School: 6

c. Americal Division Artillery School: 8

19. Psychological Operations

a. Friendly operations

(1) The Group distributed 5,919,000 leaflets by aircraft and 41,500 by hand for a total of 5,960,500.

(2) Aerial broadcasts were used for a total of 10 hours and 50 minutes. The "Early Word" aerial broadcast was utilized fourteen times during the month.

(3) The Combat Speaker Team, of the 198th Infantry Brigade was used a total of 18 hours, broadcasting the Chieu Hoi theme.

(4) The Movie Teams showed a total of 10 hours and 15 minutes of film.

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20. Volunteer Informant Program

a. During the month of March the Group paid 97,650\$VN to Vietnamese nationals for ordnance under the VIP. This was an all time high for any month since the program was initiated. CACO 1-1 in Tam Ky continues to lead the Group and it should be noted that six SFD's were turned in and the people would not accept any reward; they just asked that the Marines destroy the SFD's.

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