

DECLASSIFIED

Command Chronology
Unit: 1st CAG
Date&Page: 7/69
chron cover

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

6/JEH/djm
5700
Ser: 020-69
14 Aug 1969

~~REDACTED~~ (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 July 1969 to 31 July 1969

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.11A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8A

Encl: (1) 1st Combined Action Group, III Marine Amphibious Force
Command Chronology

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

2. Downgraded at 3-year intervals, declassified after 12 years,
DOD Dir 5200.10.

J. E. Henneagan
J. E. HENNEGAN

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7 July

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New Life Hamlet and moved to that area where civilians and RD cadremen stated 4 VC, dressed in ARVN uniforms and wearing 2d ARVN Division patches, had entered the hamlet and opened fire on the RDs. The RDs returned fire and the 4 VC broke contact and withdrew SW. RESULTS: 1 RD WIA.

CAP 1-3-2. A VN civilian brought a 105mm round and a bangalore torpedo to CAP at BS 577905. The CAP destroyed the ordnance and made a VIP payment. RESULTS: 1 105mm round and 1 bangalore torpedo destroyed.

CAP 1-3-2. 2 105mm rounds were delivered to CAP at BS 577885 by a VN male civilian. The rounds were destroyed and a VIP payment made. RESULTS: 2 105mm rounds destroyed.

CAP 1-4-3. 1 female and 3 male Hoi Chanh turned themselves in to CAP at BS 768827. The Hoi Chanh reported they had been operating in the vicinity of BS 595866 but had been driven E by airstrikes. The Hoi Chanh also reported to the CAP that VC live in large tunnels at BS 777836. Further interrogation is being conducted by VN officials. CAP swept the area of the reported tunnels on 8 July 1969 with negative findings. RESULTS: 4 Hoi Chanh.

8 July

CAP 1-1-4. CAP received SAF and 1 60mm mortar round from approx 6 VC in a tree line at BS 262203. The CAP returned organic weapons fire and called an artillery mission, causing the VC to flee SW. A sweep of the area found 4 VC KIA. RESULTS: 4 VC KIA.

CAP 1-3-9. A Chieu Hoi came to CAPs position at BS 473866 for the reported reason that he had heard there was going to be a USA operation in the area. The Hoi Chanh carried an AK-47 and had 2 M-26 grenades, 2 AK-47 magazines with rounds and 1 cartridge belt. RESULTS: 1 Hoi Chanh, 1 IW.

CAP 1-3-5. CP in the hamlet at BS 712973 received approx 400 rounds of SAF from an USMC at grid BS 708966. The CAP element returned fire with organic weapons, illuminating

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14 July

ing. The Hoi Chanh was delivered to Binh Son District Headquarters for further interrogation. RESULTS: 1 Hoi Chanh, 1 NVA/VC KIA, 500 lbs of rice and foodstuffs, 2 chicken grenades, 1 NVA pack, and 3 ponchos

CAP 1-3-9. A patrol apprehended 2 VN females at grid BS 513876, after it was determined they had information concerning VC activities in the area. The suspects were turned over to the DIOCC for interrogation. RESULTS: 2 VCS.

CAP 1-4-2. 1 VC Hoi Chanh, age 44, and 2 boys ages 10 and 7, surrendered to CAP at BS 777858. They informed the CAP of an unknown number of enemy at grids BS 732893, 695898, and 7285 and reported tunnels and bunkers in grid BS 7289. The enemy was alleged to be from the 48th Regiment commanded by LE-THO. Weapons were reported to consist of 2 81mm mortars, 2 60mm mortars, 8 M-79s, 3 50mm (NFI), 15 M-16s, a number of AK-47s, 8 B-40 rocket launchers (NFI), a quantity of AP mines, and one 90mm RR. The Hoi Chanh stated the enemy had been in these locations for about one week and that they were to stay there for another week. The TAOR commander was notified. RESULTS: 1 Hoi Chanh and 2 boys.

15 July

CAGO 1-3. Reported that Binh Son District Headquarters at BS 602922 received 5 incoming 82mm mortar rounds from grid BS 628938, causing negative casualties or damage. Artillery was called on the enemy gun position and a first light sweep of the area was conducted by CAP 1-3-7. RESULTS: Negative.

CAP 1-3-3. An element was moving into position vicinity BS 665960 to act as a blocking force for an RF sweep when it received 82mm mortar, AW, and SAF from an estimated 50 enemy located in fortified positions. 1 PF was KIA in the initial contact. The CAP element returned fire, requested artillery and gunship support, and called the remainder of the CAP as reinforcements. CAP 1-3-3 moved to BS 664973.

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III Marine Amphibious Force
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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5700
Ser: 024-69
10Sep69

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(4) CAGO 1-3 experienced the greatest amount of enemy activity with forty-eight significant contacts. The enemy continues to use the Song Tra Dong River and surrounding valley as a primary infiltration route into Quang Ngai Province. The enemy usually tries to navigate around the areas controlled by the CAP's but due to aggressive patrolling and ambushing he is frequently intercepted. The Popular Forces are gaining self confidence by successfully engaging the enemy with the CAP's.

1-3-9, 2 + 8

(5) CAGO 1-4 established two new CAP's during the period; CAP 1-4-5 and CAP 1-4-6 seven kilometers south of the Datangan Peninsula. Based on the number of enemy sighting in the area, it appears that these new CAP's will be very productive in the coming months. Contact was relatively light in CAGO 1-4's area with only seven significant contacts for the period. The Company received two Hoi Chanhs, captured eight VCS during the month and accounted for one (1) enemy KIA.

(6) The following statistics are the results of 1st CAG's operations and activities for the month of August:

(a) Friendly Activities

Night Patrols	85
Day Patrols	826
Ambushes	1495

(b) Enemy Casualties/Losses

KIA	POW	DETAINEES	CHIEU HOI'S/HOI CHANH'S
20	2	23	3

(c) Weapons and Ordnance Captured

LWC	CSWC
0	0

(d) Friendly Casualties Sustained

	KIA	WTAS	WTAM	MIA	POW
USMC	6	9	1	0	0
USN	0	1	0	0	0
AF	2	9	4	0	0

c. Training

(1) General. Formal training covered the subjects of General Military Subjects, Leadership, Small Unit Tactics, Infantry Weapons and Supporting Arms. Personal Response and Vietnamese Language was included for USMC personnel only.

(2) CAP Training. The individual CAP's conducted daily classes as directed by the Group training schedule which is promulgated weekly for the coming week. Each CAP Leader returns the schedule at the completion of the training

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16 Aug

CAP 1-4-2. 2 VN civilians received VIP payments for informing CAP of the location of 1 40mm round and 75 rounds of 30 cal. ammunition, at BS 777558. The ordnance was destroyed. RESULTS: 1 40mm round and 75 rounds of 30 cal. ammunition destroyed.

CAP 1-3-9. OP called an artillery mission on an estimated platoon of VC at BS 473863. A sweep of the area produced negative results. RESULTS: Negative.

17 Aug

CAP 1-4-4. After receiving 5 grenades from an USMC, and returning organic weapons fire, CAP 1-4-4 was informed by RD's of a large VC force present in a village at BS 758819. The CAP proceeded to the village and initiated organic weapons fire on an USMC spotted leaving the village. The enemy returned SAF and the CAP called for artillery and gunship support. A sweep of the area produced 1 M-33 and 1 M-26 grenade, and evidence that a platoon size or larger VC unit had been present in the village. RESULTS: 1 M-33 and 1 M-26 grenades captured.

CAP 1-1-4. Elements on a sweep tripped a booby trapped M-26 grenade at BS 260170, causing 1 USMC KIA. RESULTS: 1 USMC KIA.

18 Aug

CAP 1-4-4. 2 VN boys were rewarded for reporting the location of ordnance to CAP. One for reporting the location of a booby trapped 105mm round at BS 749814, the other for reporting a 60mm dud at BS 746813. The ordnance was blown in place. RESULTS: 1 booby trapped round and 1 dud 60mm round destroyed.

CAP 1-3-8. Personnel, while helping RDs prepare holds of fire vicinity BS 582924, received one incoming grenade wounding 1 USMC. The CAP CP at BS 582923 opened fire on suspected enemy positions and received approximately 50 small arms rounds from an estimated 20 VC who immediately moved to the SW. Artillery was employed on possible withdrawal routes and a sweep was conducted with negative further contact. RESULTS: 1 USMC KIA.

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September 1969 to 30 September 1969

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2. Intelligence

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a. General

(1) The month began with a continuation of the previous month's lull in enemy initiated activity. Once again, the majority of contact was centered around the Third Company's TAOC in Quang Ngai Province. This month however, the Third Company capitalized on the enemy's presence by leading the four companies in total kills for the month. The Second Company, in the area of Ly Tin District, conducted at least two productive ambushes that resulted in two VC KIA and one crew-served weapon captured. Although they received the least contact of all the CAGO's, they continued to influence the people to support the GVN, and received one Chiou Hoi for their efforts. The majority of the kills were produced between the 13th and the 28th of the month, as the enemy attempted to use this period of negligible moonlight to conduct his night activities. Third and Fourth companies received the largest amount of contact, and claimed 140 kills during the month.

(2) First Combined Action Company, the hottest of contact in recent months experienced fewer kills than in the past. During the month, they claimed 8 enemy kills and one individual weapon captured. Recently, the CAPs in the northwest portions of the TAOC (including 1-1-4, 1-1-6, and 1-1-7) have been plagued by the presence of a large amount of mines and booby-traps. Precautions are being taken to mark the mined areas as well as collect and destroy the ordnance. The CAGO suffered 7 Marines WIA and 5 IF soldiers WIA, as well as 3 PF soldiers killed, the majority of which were casualties of mines and booby-traps.

(3) The Second Combined Action Company continued in its role of security for the Ly Tin area. Enemy activity consisted of mortar attack on the Ly Tin District headquarters. The mortars did slight damage to an Army vehicle. Other highpoints included two successful ambushes that resulted in 2 VC KIA and one crew-served weapon captured.

(4) The Third Combined Action Company, historically the center of contact in the Group, proved their worth on the 13th of the month, they killed 116 NVA soldiers in one night. The 6th Battalion, 21st Regiment, NVA infiltrated the village and attempted to eliminate the CAP 1-3-9. Their objective was to control the village of An Phong for two days. They were unsuccessful due to the determined efforts of the CAP. In the morning, an additional reaction force was sent from First CAG Headquarters that included the CO and S-3 Officer. Later that day, the CO was WIA minor, and not evacuated. The results of the battle, from the CAP with the help of its support were 116 NVA KIA. In addition to destroying almost half of the village, the enemy killed a number of civilians. Activity during the remainder of the month was limited to harassment and attacks by fire.

(5) The Fourth Company had frequent contact throughout the month. CAPs 1-4-5 and 1-4-6 were confronted with the 48th Bn. The company had 24 enemy kills, and collected 19 POW's. During one airstrike, members of the CAP

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team observed a vehicle attempting to avoid the bombs by racing for about 60 meters in the open from one ~~trailing~~ to another. This evasion proved ineffective, as the forward air controller failed to spot the vehicle. Although the CACO failed to produce its usual high number of Chieu Hoi's, the CAP was successful in the apprehension of 19 POWs.

(6) In retrospect, the month saw only one large ground attack, which was in the Binh Son area, at CAP 1-3-9. The attack, as told by a POW taken from the action, was primarily for political reasons. First of all, it was to show the people of An Phong that the GVN is unable to protect them. The attack was timed to disrupt the elections which were slated for the following day. The idea was to hold the village for two days and then retire back into the mountains.

(7) With the First Company being hampered by booby-traps, and the Second Company relatively quiet, the only other fighting occurred in the area northeast of Quang Ngai City, where the two new TAOC's of the Fourth Company coincide with the reported location of the VC 48th MF Bn. The future of the two new CAPs rests with their ability to force the 48th Bn out of their TAOC, or destroy them completely. The presence of a vehicle in the hands of the 48th Bn tends to demonstrate that they are well established and will be difficult to move out. Intelligence sources point to an increase in enemy activity in Quang Ngai for the coming month.

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assignment of a liaison officer from the proximate battalion (1/6) to the District advisory staff has proven extremely helpful and greatly reduced coordination problems. The increase in enemy activity in CACO 1-2's TAOG resulted in two (2) enemy KIA for the period.

(4) During the reporting period CACO 1-3 came to the foreground with the largest number of enemy kills as a result of the battle of An Phong (1) on 13 September when the 6th Battalion, 21st Regiment NVA infiltrated the village and attempted to annihilate the CAP and capture the village. Due to the support of the people in protecting the CAP Marines and the aggressive fighting spirit of the Marines the enemy failed and lost one hundred sixteen (116) soldiers in the battle. CACO 1-3 continued to participate in numerous combined operations with the Regional Forces in Binh Son District. One such operation of particular note was one involving CAP's 1-3-1, 1-3-3 and 1-3-4 and an RF Company in the vicinity of the Dong Le hamlets. The RF's were met with a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire from the surrounding high ground. CAP 1-3-3 lost their corpsman KIA during the one day operation. The Dong Le's have been targeted by the District Chief as an intensive pacification area and plans are underway to relocate CAP 1-3-4 into that area. Indications are that an increase in the enemy activity in CACO 1-3's area is forthcoming.

(5) CACO 1-4 experienced a moderate amount of activity with CAP's 1-4-4, 1-4-5 and 1-4-6 providing the bulk of the contacts and sightings. The enemy continues to maintain sizeable forces in the area north, northwest of CAP 1-4-5 and 1-4-6. CACO 1-4 participated in a total of twenty seven (27) combined operations, most of which were to protect the rice harvesting operations of the villagers. Indications are that CACO 1-4 can expect and increase in enemy activity along with CACO 1-3.

(6) The following statistics are the results of 1st CAG's operations and activities for the month of September:

(a) Friendly Activities

Night Patrols	65
Day Patrols	932
Ambushes	1643

(b) Enemy Casualties/Losses

KIA	POW	DETAINEES	CHIEU HOI'S/HOI CHANH'S
151	20	0	14

(c) Weapons and Ordnance Captured

IMC	CSWC
78	3

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11 Sept 69

CAP 1-2-3. An ambush initiated organic weapons fire on 4 VC moving N at BT 440907. The enemy fled NW and NE. One VC escaped through a dual entrance bunker which the CAP subsequently destroyed. The sweep of the area disclosed 1 VC KIA, 1 RPG, 3 B-40 rounds, 3 chicom grenades and miscellaneous individual equipment. RESULTS: 1 VC KIA, 1 CSWG, 3 B-40 rounds and 3 chicom grenades destroyed; and miscellaneous individual equipment captured.

CAP 1-3-6. Acting on information from a KCS, the CAP detained 3 VCS at BS 574937. 1 VCS was in possession of 2 dissimilar ID cards. The VCS were turned over to Binh Son District Headquarters for interrogation. RESULTS: 3 VCS.

12 Sept 69

CAP 1-2-4. A patrol received SAF from approximately 10 VC in spider holes at BT 448072. The CAP returned organic weapons fire and were reinforced by RF's and RD's. The VC fled in an unknown direction. 1 USMC was WIA(E) in the contact. A sweep of the area disclosed several spider holes, a small tunnel and 1 VC canteen. RESULTS: 1 USMC WIA(E).

CAP 1-1-7. An ambush observed 1 mortar round hit a friendly village at BT 297287. The mortar, later determined to be 82mm, resulted in 7 VN civilians WIA(E). RESULTS: 7 VN civilian WIA(E).

CAP 1-3-4. A Hoi Chanh turned himself over to PF's at BS 622008. The Hoi Chanh surrendered 2 chicom grenades which the CAP destroyed. The Hoi Chanh was delivered to District Headquarters for interrogation. RESULTS: 1 Hoi Chanh, 2 chicom grenades destroyed.

CAPs 1-4-5 and 1-4-6, and a platoon of RF's from the 380 RF Company conducted 2 all day search and clear operation in the vicinity of BS 704792. 9 VCS without ID Cards were detained. As the sweep continued, CAP 1-4-6 called an artillery mission on 7 VC spotted at BS 703794. The CAP received heavy SAF in return from the 7 VC and an USMC at BS 705794. Airstrikes requested by the CAP silenced the enemy at both positions. A sweep of the area was nonproductive. RESULTS: 9 VCS.

13 Sept 69

CAP 1-1-7. While CAP was participating in a sweep with Biet Lop forces, a booby trap (NFI) was tripped wounding one USN and one Biet Lop. As the booby trap exploded, an USMC at BT 278282 initiated SAF. The joint forces returned SAF and called an artillery mission causing the enemy to flee in an unknown direction. A sweep of the area was nonproductive. RESULTS: 1 USN WIA(M), 1 Biet Lop WIA(M).

CAP 1-3-9. An estimated 2 NVA Companies attacked the village of An Phong at BS 473877, in an attempt to overrun CAP 1-3-9. The NVA used satchel charges, grenades, SA, AM, RPG, and mortar fire during the assault. The CAP returned organic weapons fire and was supported by artillery, spookies, and flareships. The CAP was reinforced at 0930 by an RF Company and at 1130 by A 1/52 USA. Present count of enemy toll is 60 KIA. Numerous weapons have been captured. 1 USMC and 1 USN

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13 Sept 69

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were KIA. Eight PF's were KIA. 2 USMC and 1 USN were wounded. RESULTS: (NOT FINAL) 60 NVA KIA, numerous weapons captured, 1 USMC KIA, 1 USN KIA, 8 PF's KIA, 1 USMC WIA(E), 1 USMC WIA(M), 1 USN WIA(M).

CAP 1-1-5. Quang Tin Province Headquarters received 2 122mm rockets at BT 298221. A patrol at BT 312175 heard the rockets launched from the vicinity of BT 304170. The CAP patrol reported the suspected launch site and remained in position. A subsequent sweep of the suspected rocket launch site turned up a SFD composed of an M-16 rifle ammunition can filled with explosive and rigged with a trip wire firing device. The SFD was blown in place. RESULTS: 1 SFD destroyed.

14 Sept 69

CAP 1-3-9. RD's who reinforced CAP took 1 NVA prisoner. He is reportedly a PFC from the 10th Company, 6th Battalion, 21st Regiment, 2nd NVA Division. The prisoner is still undergoing interrogation. The latest count of NVA KIA is 116. Seventy IW and CSW were captured. Friendly casualties remain unchanged. RESULTS: (To be added to results of item #21 of CAP OPSUM of 13 SEPTEMBER 1969) an additional 56 NVA KIA, 70 IW and CSW captured, 1 POW (NOT CAP).

CAP 1-3-6. Acting on information from the village chief, CAP detained 2 VCS at BS 574937. The VCS were taken to District Headquarters for interrogation. RESULTS: 2 VCS.

CAP 1-4-5. An ambush received 13-15 rounds of 60mm mortar fire from an USMC in the vicinity of BS 765824 and BS 761825. The CAP called artillery on both locations silencing the mortars. A CAP 1-4-4 sweep of the area found 2 VC KIA, 1 AK-50 and 1 M-72 LAAW. RESULTS: 2 VC KIA, 2 IWC.

15 Sept 69

CAP 1-3-9. Of the 70 weapons captured by CAP 1-3-9 on 13 Sept 69, 68 were IW and 2 were CSW. RESULTS: 68 IW, 2 CSW.

CAP 1-4-6. A patrol initiated S&F on 1 VC spotted at BS 717787. The VC was KIA. A search of his body revealed a document indicating the individual had been a VC for 1 year. RESULTS: 1 VC KIA, document captured.

CAP 1-3-3. While at CP, 1 USMC was WIA(E) by a sniper in the vicinity of BS 675985. The CAP did not return fire due to friendlies in the area. RESULTS: 1 USMC WIA(E).

16 Sept 69

CAP 1-1-3. An ambush initiated organic weapons fire on the point element of an estimated VC Company at BT 351172. The enemy returned fire on the CAP who requested and received spook support. The VC fled to the SW. A sweep of the area revealed 4 VC KIA and 3 AK-47 magazines. 1 PF was KIA and 1 PF was WIA(E) in the

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contact. RESULTS: 1 RF KIA, 1 RF WIA(E), 4 VC KIA.

CAP 1-3-9. CP saw 3 60mm mortar rounds hit in the hamlet of An Phong (1) at BS 473863. The CAP called an artillery mission on a suspected mortar position at BS 457870, silencing the mortars. 5 VN civilians were KIA and 35 VN civilians were wounded. No damage to property was recorded. RESULTS: 5 VN civilians KIA, 22 VN civilians WIA(E), 13 VN civilians WIA(M).

18 Sept 69

CAP 1-4-6. A Hoi Chanh turned himself in to CAP at BS 719788. The Hoi Chanh was delivered to District Headquarters for interrogation. RESULTS: 1 Hoi Chanh.

CAP 1-3-5. CAP went mobile and effected relocation in the form of a major enlargement of its TAOC. The geographic center of the new TAOC is at BS 710956. The Vietnamese element of the CAP is composed of RF platoons 180, 184, and 132.

CAPS 1-4-5 and 1-4-6. While participating in a joint operation with RF units, CAP 1-4-5 and RF Company 199 received approximately 10 rounds of 60mm mortar fire and SAF from an USMF in the vicinity of BS 709795. The CAP and RF's returned organic weapons fire and called an artillery mission causing the enemy to flee in an unknown direction. 3 RF's were KIA and 4 RF's were wounded in the contact. A sweep of the area was nonproductive. During the same operation airstrikes were called on an estimated 30 VC in the vicinity of BS 697795. A sweep of the area revealed 2 VC KIA. RESULTS: 3 RF's KIA (Not CAP), 4 RF's WIA(E) (Not CAP), 2 VC KIA (Not CAP).

20 Sept 69

CAP 1-1-1. CAP and RF Company 172 in NDP's received 60mm mortar rounds from an USMF in the vicinity of BT 288188. CAP 1-1-5 fired mortar illumination in support of CAP 1-1-1 and RF Company. 2 RD's were KIA, 3 RD's were WIA(E) and 8 RF's were WIA(E) in the mortar attack. A daylight sweep of the contact area was nonproductive. RESULTS: 2 RD's KIA, 3 RD's WIA(E), and 8 RF's WIA(E).

While participating in a joint operation with RF companies 180 and 932, CAP 1-4-5 and the RF companies received heavy SAF from an USMF in the vicinity of BS 732775. The CAP and RF's returned organic weapons fire and called airstrikes on the enemy causing them to flee in an unknown direction. During a sweep of the area, the RF units found 1 NVA KIA and captured 3 VC, 1 M-1 carbine, various documents, and medical supplies. One Hoi Chanh turned himself in to the RF's. RESULTS: 1 NVA KIA (Not CAP), 3 VC POW (Not CAP), 1 Hoi Chanh (Not CAP), 1 IAC (Not CAP), miscellaneous documents and medical supplies captured (Not CAP).

22 Sept 69

CAP 1-1-7. One RF was KIA and 1 RF was WIA(E) when an M-26 grenade booby trap was tripped during a patrol in the vicinity of BT 309291. As the booby trap exploded the CAP patrol received SAF from an USMF at BT 305297. The CAP

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