

HEADQUARTERS
1st Marines (-) (Rein)
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, 96601

RegtO 5400.1
3/TMH/rhh
7 March 1966

REGIMENTAL ORDER 5400.1

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: 1st Marines Provisional Rifle Company

Ref: (a) 1st Marines OpO 343-66

Encl: (1) Composition of Provisional Company
(2) Concept of Employment

1. Purpose. To provide for the organization of a Provisional Rifle Company formed from the attached companies of the 1st Marine Regiment.

2. General

a. Due to a constantly changing tactical situation within and adjacent to the Chu Lai TAOR, it is mandatory that all available personnel be organized into provisional rifle units.

b. Two provisional platoons have been organized in Headquarters Company, 1st Marines and have been effectively employed for relief of rifle platoons in fixed position in order that they could be more effectively employed in their traditional role of infantry.

c. If the 1st Marines is attacked by an enemy force or receives a mission that requires committing the regimental reserve, it will be necessary to immediately reconstitute the reserve. It is unlikely that forces will be available from the Infantry Battalions, therefore the Regiment must be prepared to reconstitute a reserve from the Headquarters Company and the attached companies.

d. Accordingly, a Provisional Rifle Company will be formed from personnel and equipment of the attached companies. The composition of the Company is contained in Enclosure (1). The concept of employment of this force is set forth in enclosure (2).

3. Action

a. Commanding Officers, attached companies

(1) Provide personnel for the Provisional Company as indicated in enclosure (1).

(2) Maintain current rosters of personnel.

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b. Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company. Be prepared to attach one or two provisional platoons to the Provisional Rifle Company on order.

c. Commanding Officer, Co A, 1st AmTrac Battalion, FIF

(1) Provide an officer to command Provisional Rifle Company.

(2) Cause the conduct of such training and reaction drills that are felt to be necessary to ensure that the company is capable of accomplishing assigned missions.

4. Support.

a. Weapons and Equipment. Individual and crew served weapons and normal equipment will be provided by the attached companies to their personnel as assigned in enclosure (1). In addition, each man will possess body armor and steel helmet.

b. Communications. When required, AN/PRC 10s and AN/PRC 6s will be provided by Co A 1st Engr. Bn. Call signs and frequencies will be issued separately. The Provisional Company will enter the Regimental Tac net unless attached to an Infantry Battalion. In the latter instance, the company will enter the Tac net of the Battalion to which attached.

c. Supplies

(1) Class I. Members of the company will carry one MCI and two canteens of water when deployed.

(2) Class V

(a) Basic load for each weapon

(b) One frag grenade per man

(c) One illumination grenade per man

d. Resupply. If the company requires resupply of Class I and Class V, it will be accomplished by the unit to which assigned.

e. Transportation. Transportation requests will be made to this headquarters (S-4) by the provisional company commander.

5. The rules of engagement set forth in reference (a) will be strictly adhered to.

W. M. Bledsoe
W. M. BLEDSOE
By direction

Distribution: A

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COMPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL RIFLE COMPANY

Provisional Company Billet

Providing Unit

CO Co A, 1st ArtTrac Bn
GySgt Co A, 1st ArtTrac Bn
Radio Operator Co A, 1st ArtTrac Bn
Corpsman Co A, 1st ArtTrac Bn

1st Platoon

Co A, 1st ArtTrac Bn

Platoon Commander
Radio Operator
Three Squads (10 men per squad) (1)

Co A, 1st ArtTrac Bn
Co A, 1st ArtTrac Bn
Co A, 1st ArtTrac Bn

2d Platoon

Co A, 1st Tank Bn

Platoon Commander
Radio Operator
Two Squads (10 men per squad) (1)

Co A, 1st Tank Bn
Co A, 1st Tank Bn
Co A, 1st Tank Bn

3d Platoon

Co A, 1st Engr Bn

Platoon Commander
Radio Operator
1st Squad (15 men) (1)
2nd Squad (7 men) (1)

Co A, 1st Engr Bn
Co A, 1st Engr Bn
Co A, 1st Engr Bn
Co B, 3d AT Bn

Weapons Section

Co B, 3d AT Bn

MG Section Leader
2 MG (M60) Squads (4 men each)

Co B, 3d AT Bn
Co B, 3d AT Bn

Notes: (1) All members of rifle squads will be armed with M14 rifle.

Enclosure (1)

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CONCEPT OF EMPLOYMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL COMPANY

1. The Provisional Company will be employed only on the order of and as directed by the Commanding Officer, 1st Marines.
2. The Provisional Company will normally be employed to:
 - a. Occupy defensive positions in the sectors of Infantry Battalions when required to replace rifle units who are to be deployed elsewhere.
 - b. Reconstitute the regimental reserve when the reserve has been committed and no other forces are available from the infantry battalions.
 - c. To relieve Infantry units of the mission of providing security for a portion of the Vital Areas when the Infantry units are required for other missions.
3. Alert Instructions
 - a. Upon receipt of a mission from this headquarters, the provisional company commander will alert his personnel by FROST CALL to rendezvous within one hour after notice prepared for immediate deployment by truck or helicopter. Place of rendezvous will be as determined by the Company Commander.
 - b. Missions will be given to the company in the form of a frag order originating from this headquarters (S3).