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A N N E X A B L E

TO

FOURTH

MARINE DIVISION

OPERATIONS REPORT

IWO JIMA

A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

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SECTION I - PLANNING AND PREPARATION

(a) Administrative.

Planning for the conduct of administration began on September 1, 1944, immediately after return from the Marianas Operation. Based on the experience gained in handling casualty reports on that operation, the casualty card inaugurated and used by this Division was revised, 100,000 copies being printed and distributed to subordinate units. These units filled out and kept up-to-date a set of these cards for each officer and man. Organizations ordered to duty with the Division during the operation were furnished copies of orders pertaining to administration and furnished blank casualty cards. Officers who were to handle casualty reporting attended a conference held at Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific for the purpose of clarifying that Headquarters' desires in connection with such reporting.

Orders governing submission of embarkation rosters and submission of recommendation for award of medals and decorations were revamped and reissued.

Previous efforts to obtain an identification tag stamping machine for the use of this Division were continued with the result that such machines have now been authorized for all divisions. However, the machine was not delivered prior to the operation and identification tags had to be obtained by the Division Surgeon through the cooperation of nearby units having such machines. In addition a supply of 3,000 tin bound cardboard tags were obtained by the D-1 Section for use by the division medical units aboard each ship as emergency identification tags to replace those lost by officers and men enroute to the target.

The 24th and 30th Replacement Drafts of approximately 126 officers and 2600 enlisted were assigned to this Division during November, 1944. These drafts were assigned and ordered held intact, to be used as ships platoons and shore parties and later released to regiments. Due to the shortage of junior officers throughout the Division, replacement officers were released to the Division for assignment to combat teams, together with some medical personnel assigned to other units by higher authority. This reduced the officer personnel of the drafts to 63 Marine Corps and 3 Navy.

Each combat team was assigned a portion of the Replacement Drafts for training as a separate unit and for use as ships platoons during the operation.

Upon leaving the combat area following the Marianas Operation this Division had no information on the whereabouts of 555 officers and enlisted men. Some few of these were missing in action

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but the vast majority had been wounded and evacuated by ship and plane to hospitals located throughout the Pacific. By means of unremitting effort and utilizing the record resources of all hospitals, casual centers and Fleet Post Offices in the Pacific, all of the officers and men still alive were located at such widely separated points as Guadalcanal and Seattle. To avoid this state of affairs following the current operation, this Division decided to leave on each transport at the target a clerical noncommissioned officer whose sole duty would be to record data on all casualties brought aboard that ship for treatment. Once a casualty's presence aboard a particular ship is known, it is a comparatively easy task to trace his disposition thereafter. In order to obtain information on 4th Marine Division personnel who might be evacuated as casualties to vessels on which the 3rd and 5th Marine Divisions arrived at Iwo Jima, this Division requested that the Commanding General, V Amphibious Corps, issue orders that all units participating in the operation likewise leave a casualty reporting noncommissioned officer aboard each ship. Reports were submitted daily by these noncommissioned officers to Headquarters, V Amphibious Corps which disseminated the information to the various divisions. This information has already proven of great assistance.

An additional aid in locating wounded officers and men was developed where by means of a personal message from the Commanding General, and a cartoon bringing out the main points of that message, all officers and men were urged in case they were evacuated to write or have someone write for them, first to their next of kin and next to the Commanding General, or any other officer of the Division, by title, advising of their current address.

(b) Provost Marshal.

Planning and preparation of the Military Police Company consisted of final training for their duties in combat.

(c) Religious Activities.

Chaplains were so assigned to the various ships as to provide a Catholic and Protestant Chaplain for each vessel as far as practicable. Two additional chaplains were assigned, one of whom was assigned to the Rear Echelon and the other assigned to the Division Burial Section.

(d) Morale.

(1) Recreation - Prior to leaving the Division Base Camp, the commanding officer of troops aboard each ship assigned to the Division was allocated recreation funds approximating fifty cents per man for expenditure during organized recreation at Pearl Harbor

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after rehearsal and prior to sailing for the staging area. In addition, unit recreation officers were directed to take a supply of small games, cards and books to be used aboard ship.

(2) American Red Cross - Of the five American Red Cross representatives in this Division, four accompanied the Division. They procured and furnished commanding officers of troops on Division ships recreational supplies and comfort articles ranging from playing cards to razors, and including 6,000 ditty bags for use for the personal effects of our dead. In addition the ladies of the Red Cross Chapter on Maui made up and delivered through the Division American Red Cross Field Director a large contribution of battle dressings and wrappings.

(3) Other steps - Division Recreation and Morale funds were appropriated for the purchase from the Division Post Exchange of 20,000 folders of air mail stationery for distribution to troops at the target by the various unit mail orderlies. Magazines purchased by the Recreation Fund were intercepted at Pearl Harbor and distributed to commanding officers of troops aboard the various ships assigned to the Division. Books and magazines were assembled by the chaplains beginning two months prior to the operation and together with an additional supply obtained at Pearl Harbor, distributed to the ships on which the Division was embarked.

(e) Postal.

By November, plans for the operation had crystalized sufficiently to begin postal planning. At a conference of the Postal officers concerned, arrangements were made to secure plane priority for the mail of the combat troops involved, for working space at Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok and Saipan enroute to the target, for the establishment of an LST borne Fleet Post Office at the target and for the loading aboard that LST of supplies, equipment, V-Mail forms and other reserve postal supplies. The Division Postal Officer evolved a plan of sending fifteen postal clerks to Pearl Harbor to intercept all mail for the Division at that point and to break down this mail into 107 components comprising the Rear Echelon and troops aboard the 51 ships on which the Division was to be embarked. Postal supplies assembled and packed for the operation included a complete V-Mail sending station; \$15,000 in stamp stock including 55,000 air mail envelopes, in addition to a \$4,000 stock provided each of the four regiments.

(f) Civil Affairs.

The Corps Civil Affairs Unit, consisting of two Navy officers, Civil Affairs specialists; one Marine officer, a Japanese linguist and five enlisted men, reported to the Division immediately prior to the operation. The unit was outfitted with two trucks which

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were preloaded with the prescribed equipment of the unit.

## SECTION II - MOVEMENT TO OBJECTIVE

### (a) Administrative.

Embarkation rosters were secured from the various ships, verified and despatched to the Commandant of the Marine Corps; the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; the Division Rear Echelon and the various Division Postal Echelons immediately prior to departure from Pearl Harbor.

During the movement to the objective normal administrative work and final preparations for the tasks ashore were conducted.

### (b) Provost Marshal.

The Provost Marshal utilized the military police under his control to augment Navy Shore Patrols during the weeks liberty granted members of the Division in Honolulu after rehearsal and prior to departure for the target.

### (c) Religious Activities.

During the period spent aboard ship, chaplains conducted religious services, arranged for movies, organized amateur shows and assisted whenever possible in the conduct of ship's libraries and recreational facilities. During stop-overs, chaplains conducted services on ships having no chaplain of their denomination.

### (d) Morale.

(1) Recreation - Upon arrival at Pearl Harbor, the recreation funds previously allocated to commanding officers of troops were pooled under the V Amphibious Corps, as were all available recreational facilities in the Pearl Harbor area. Each ship was allotted a quota and assigned a daily recreational area. Areas were rotated so that the preferred recreational facilities could be shared by the greatest possible number of men. Iced beer and Coca-Cola was purchased through the Navy and provided free to the men with sandwiches the men had brought from their respective ships.

(2) American Red Cross - Enroute to the target additional Red Cross recreational gear was supplied to the ships at Pearl Harbor.

### (e) Postal.

This Division effected a completely successful delivery of mail to the Division scattered over 51 ships, and components of which were transferred from one ship to another over a period of 43 days

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consisting of 37 separate deliveries at Lahaina Roads, Maui; Pearl Harbor, T. H.; Eniwetok and Saipan. This delivery to ships was possible through the work of the fifteen man detail at Pearl Harbor which sorted all the mail of this Division and, employing rosters, sent to the Division's base camp the mail of the Rear Echelon and to each ship the mail for the troops embarked on it. Result was that all current mail (except 12 pouches) was delivered to the officers and men of the Division before leaving Saipan for the target. As a censorship matter from the time the Division left Pearl Harbor until D-Day, all outgoing mail was impounded and released when directed by the Commanding Officer, Expeditionary Troops.

### SECTION III - NARRATIVE

#### (a) Administrative.

Periodic reports were prepared throughout the operation and beginning on D-Day casualty information in the form of cumulative figures on killed in action; wounded and evacuated (from the reporting organization); missing; wounded but not evacuated; sick and evacuated and total casualties, each divided between officers and enlisted men were furnished D-3 for inclusion in the Division daily despatch report. On D plus 3 a representative of the D-1 Section landed with the Division Advance Message Center to obtain and provide these figures and to compile the periodic report. After Headquarters, V Amphibious Corps came ashore C-1 of that organization was furnished by telephone each day the same casualty figures as were included in the daily despatch report to that Headquarters.

The main body of the D-1 Section landed on D plus 5. The first administrative casualty report by name was prepared on 28 February, 1945, and before leaving Iwo Jima, 14 administrative casualty reports, containing a total of 6527 names of officers and men had been prepared and despatched. An additional administrative casualty report containing 124 names of officers killed in action and died of wounds was radioed from Guam. Casualty reports were submitted in mailbrief form although during the last few days of its stay ashore this Division was permitted to report daily the names of twelve killed in action by radio.

The 24th and 30th Replacement Drafts accompanied this Division on the Iwo Jima operation. During the first phase of the operation these drafts functioned as ship platoons and shore parties until ships were unloaded when they were assigned to combat teams, they having been released to the Division early in the operation to be used as replacements.

The 24th Replacement Draft consisted of 30 Marine officers, 1267 Marine enlisted, and 7 Navy corpsmen. The 30th Replacement Draft consisted of 29 Marine officers, 3 Navy medical officers, 1214 Marine enlisted and 36 Navy corpsmen, and a total of 62

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officers and 2524 enlisted. At the completion of the operation all of these replacements had been assigned to other units except 4 Marine officers, 57 Marine enlisted, 3 Navy medical officers and 15 Navy enlisted (corpsmen), of which 11 enlisted Marines were missing in action.

A rear echelon at base camp from these two drafts consists of 4 Marine officers and 38 Marine enlisted.

The assignment of personnel of these Replacement Drafts was by specification number as far as possible, in accordance with existing instructions.

On 9 March, 1945 by Division Special Order #12-45, a temporary Provisional Battalion consisting of 38 officers and 488 enlisted was organized from the Support Group and assembled as a Division Reserve for emergency use in rear areas. These troops were used in rear area patrolling for two days, at which time forward elements had been returned to that area and the temporary battalion was no longer necessary. Officers and men rejoined their units.

Following are cumulative casualty totals as of 1800 on each date shown:

1945	KILLED			WOUNDED EVACUATED			SICK EVACUATED			MISSING IN ACTION			TOTAL KIA EVAC & MIA		
	Off	Enl	To-	Off	Enl	To-	Off	Enl	To-	Off	Enl	To-	Off	Enl	To-
			tal			tal			tal			tal			tal
2/19															
2/20															
2/21	33	347	380	96	1655	1751	1	51	52	2	332	334	132	2385	2517
2/22	36	391	427	92	1720	1812	1	99	100	1	354	355	140	2564	2704
2/23	39	417	456	101	1959	2060	4	138	172	-	300	300	144	2844	2988
2/24	46	520	566	122	2318	2440	6	339	345	1	340	341	175	3517	3692
2/25	45	543	588	120	2379	2499	7	347	354	2	304	306	174	3573	3747
2/26	48	620	668	144	2557	2701	11	432	443	2	316	318	205	3925	4130
2/27	56	705	761	161	3063	3224	14	572	586	2	338	340	233	4678	4911
2/28	57	728	785	159	3149	3308	12	633	645	1	347	348	229	4857	5086
3/1	58	769	827	176	3365	3541	13	712	725	1	352	353	248	5108	5446
3/2	64	816	880	183	3573	3756	14	761	775	1	286	287	262	5433	5698
3/3	65	927	992	187	3799	3986	14	847	861	1	276	277	267	5849	6116
3/4	66	1025	1091	193	3993	4186	15	909	924	1	228	229	275	6155	6430
3/5	67	1102	1169	201	4171	4372	15	955	970	1	191	192	284	6419	6703
3/6	69	1148	1217	205	4293	4498	14	967	984	1	174	175	289	6582	6871
3/7	73	1224	1297	210	4461	4671	19	1008	1027	2	162	164	304	6855	7159
3/8	77	1265	1342	215	4663	4878	15	1043	1058	2	136	138	309	7107	7416
3/9	77	1271	1348	214	4751	4965	16	1059	1075	2	132	134	309	7213	7522
3/10	79	1315	1394	217	4793	5010	17	1115	1132	1	111	112	315	7558	7873

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1945	KILLED			WOUNDED EVACUATED			SICK EVACUATED			MISSING IN ACTION			TOTAL KIA, EVAC & MIA		
	Off	Enl	To-tal	Off	Enl	To-tal	Off	Enl	To-tal	Off	Enl	To-tal	Off	Enl	To-tal
3/11	82	1366	1448	222	4913	5135	16	1122	1138	1	112	113	321	7513	7834
3/12	83	1429	1512	223	5006	5229	17	1143	1160	1	89	90	324	7667	7991
3/13	84	1481	1565	223	5087	5310	18	1167	1185	1	95	96	326	7850	8156
3/14	84	1513	1597	222	5158	5380	18	1180	1198	1	88	89	325	7937	8264
3/15	88	1606	1694	221	5155	5376	21	1200	1221	1	78	79	331	8039	8370
3/16	90	1622	1712	220	5196	5416	22	1211	1233	1	74	75	333	8103	8436
3/17	91	1640	1731	219	5209	5428	22	1213	1235	1	74	75	333	8136	8469

WOUNDED BUT GRAND  
1945 NOT EVACUATED TOTAL CASUALTIES

	Off	Enl	To-tal	Off	Enl	To-tal
2/19						491 #
2/20				93	1918	2011
2/21	None Reported			132	2385	2517
2/22	14	144	158	144	2708	2852
2/23	17	158	175	161	3002	3163
2/24	18	220	238	193	3737	3930
2/25	24	238	262	198	3811	4009
2/26	27	310	337	232	4235	4467
2/27	33	335	368	246	5013	5259
2/28	35	377	410	262	5234	5496
3/1	37	397	434	285	5595	5880
3/2	36	435	471	298	5871	6169
3/3	39	436	475	306	6285	6591
3/4	41	462	503	316	6617	6933
3/5	41	471	512	325	6890	7215
3/6	41	485	526	330	7067	7397
3/7	38	498	536	342	7343	7685
3/8	43	520	563	349	7627	7976
3/9	45	527	572	354	7740	8094
3/10	44	532	576	359	7869	8228
3/11	47	543	590	368	8056	8424
3/12	48	556	604	372	8223	8595
3/13	49	560	609	375	8390	8765
3/14	50	565	615	375	8504	8879
3/15	50	572	622	381	8611	8992
3/16	50	575	625	383	8678	9061
3/17	51	578	629	384	8706	9090

# Includes estimate of 470 from RCT 23. No reports received from RCT 24 and RCT 25.

(b) Provost Marshal.

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The Military Police Company strength of 7 officers and 133 men was sub-divided into 5 platoons and company headquarters on this operation. Three platoons, each consisting of 1 officer and 23 men, were attached to the regimental combat teams with whom they performed military police duties for the duration of the operation. The two remaining platoons provided Division Command Post security as well as traffic control and straggler patrol initially on the beach and later along established straggler lines. 219 stragglers were apprehended and returned to parent organizations. A prisoner of war stockade was established and maintained for 22 days.

(c) Religious Activities.

On arrival at Iwo Jima, all chaplains landed with the organizations to which detailed. Later it was necessary to assign them for alternating tasks of a divisional nature such as the continual presence of one chaplain at the beach casualty evacuation station, and the nightly vigil at the Division Hospital of one Protestant and one Catholic chaplain. In addition unit chaplains visited the wounded of their units at the hospital. The chaplain on continuous duty at the Division Cemetery conducted a committal service when each officer and man was interred. On 15 March, 1945, the 4th Marine Division Cemetery was dedicated, after which the chaplains conducted Jewish, Catholic and Protestant memorial services.

(d) Morale.

(2) American Red Cross - Red Cross personnel assisted in caring for the wounded, both aboard ship and after landing ashore. After establishment of the Division Hospital ashore they furnished most of the health and comfort items to the patients.

(3) Other Steps - The air mail stationery provided by the Division Morale and Recreation Fund was distributed to the Division in the same postal pouches in which incoming mail was sent to the units. Because in combat men cannot be expected to have preserved air mail stamps and may be prevented either by lack of funds or other circumstances from obtaining such stamps, initially \$115.00, an amount later increased by \$100.00, of morale funds was turned over to the Postal Officer so that every letter leaving the Division Post Office would have an air mail stamp affixed to it. Men were encouraged to write home to allay their next of kin's fears for their safety. By appropriating to the Division Morale and Recreation Fund money realized from the sale of Division Post Exchange supplies placed aboard such vessels as did not have ship's service stores, sufficient funds were realized to give each commanding officer of troops 22.6¢ per man to be expended for the health

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and comfort of the enlisted men on the trip from Iwo Jima to the Division's base camp.

(e) Postal.

Division Post Office personnel landed on Iwo Jima on D plus 6 and the Division Post Office was in operation the following day. No conclusive arrangements to receive incoming or to despatch outgoing mail by air having been made, this Division recommended to higher authority that mail be dropped with the result that mail was dropped by parachute on 1 and 2 March. On 3 March an airfield was in operation, after which all division mail was received and despatched by air. A portable V-Mail station of this Division was put into operation by the Division Postal Officer in a shell pocked water reservoir on D plus 7 and the first outgoing V-Mail despatched via press plane the following day. This V-Mail station was the only such station operating on Iwo Jima and served all Marine, Navy, Army and Coast Guard personnel on the island as well as on ships anchored there.

Following is a tabulation of mail handled by the 4th Marine Division Post Office during the 22 days it was in operation on Iwo Jima:

OFFICIAL V-MAIL-OUTGOING

Rolls	Documents	Division
17	105	3rd
14	89	4th

REGULAR V-MAIL OUTGOING

Rolls	Letters
117	161,777

INCOMING AIR MAIL  
MAR 1 - MAR 19TH INCLUSIVE

4th MarDiv:	For Other Organizations:
364 pouches	420 pouches

OUTGOING AIR MAIL  
FEB 28 - MAR 19 INCLUSIVE

264 pouches

(f) Civil Affairs.

No civil population was encountered in the 4th Marine Division zone of action on Iwo Jima.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

(a) Administrative.

It is recommended:

(1) That in the future, as on this operation, casualty noncommissioned officers be left on board each vessel during the operation. The sole duty of these men would be to record and report casualties brought on board their ship. This system worked very well and it is highly desirable that it be continued.

(2) That higher echelons of command make a definite study, determine and announce at least two months prior to embarkation for an operation, the exact information relative to personnel, which will be required during the operation from divisions and positive time these reports are to be made. Further, that once this is done no changes be made during the operation. The information desired should only be of such vital nature and such that front line troops will be able to furnish it with the least amount of diversion from the job at hand.

(3) That Division Commanders be given a quota of meritorious field promotions for noncommissioned officers, allotted by pay grades, for use on the field of battle. This will enable a Division Commander to make just awards for outstanding work in the face of the enemy and at the same time fill vacancies resulting from the battle.

(4) That personnel replacements be furnished as excess per regiment and be assigned for training and use of the regiment. If this is done the personnel will become acquainted with the leaders in their units and feel they are a part of the regiment. This excess will provide sufficient personnel for ships platoons and Regimental Shore Parties. When these men are put into combat they will be a reserve being sent forward to their own unit. When held out as separate replacement drafts as done in the last operation, men were committed with units utterly strange to them, which did not lend to the utmost efficiency.

(b) Provost Marshal.

It is recommended:

That the present strength of the Military Police Company in this Division, 7 officers and 133 enlisted, which provides 5 platoons and a headquarters section be included in the Table of Organization. Recent reduction in Table of Organization strength to three platoons, one platoon being assigned to each of the three

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regimental combat teams, makes no provision for Division Command Post security; for Division prisoner of war compound; for traffic control on the beaches or for rear straggler lines, tasks which could not very well be delegated to Military Police of another unit such as Corps Military Police.

(d) Morale.

(3) Other Steps

It is recommended that:

(a) Money allotted to troops for recreational purposes at Pearl Harbor or any other intermediate stop between the base and target be delivered to each man by the commanding officer of troops on his ship to be spent by the man at the recreation center assigned as he sees fit. That beer, Coca-Cola, cigarettes, and such other articles as may be furnished, be provided by the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, at those recreation centers for sale to the liberty parties. This insures each man receiving his apportioned share and he alone is responsible that he obtains the articles. This requires coordinated effort between Divisions and higher echelons.

(e) Postal.

It is recommended that:

(1) A postal detail be left at each intermediate mail stop between the base and the target for the purpose of expediting mail and for the purpose of holding out and delivering where possible mail of men evacuated. This was done at Pearl Harbor on this operation with the result that men evacuated to that area received immediate mail service, as their mail did not go beyond that station.

(2) That members of this Division when enroute to an operation be permitted to write letters under the same censorship rules which obtain during rehearsals, i.e. no mention being made of the rehearsal or an impending operation and no mention being made that the writer is aboard ship, and that such letters be placed in the postal system immediately upon the arrival of the Division at each way-point enroute to the target. It is believed this would do much to relieve the anxiety of the next of kin, improve the morale of officers and men, and let thousands less civilians know that an operation impends than does the present system of suddenly stopping all despatch of personal mail to the mainland of the United States.

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