

3/26 arrives

DONG HA — The 3rd Battalion, Twenty-sixth Marine Regiment landed for the first time in Vietnam Dec. 11, as part of the Fourth Marine Regiment at this northernmost Marine base.

Commanded by Lieutenant Garland T. Beyerle, the battalion joins forces with 3rd Division units in Operation Prairie, just south of the DMZ.

First formed in December 1943 as part of the "Spearhead" 5th Division, the battalion participated in the capture of Iwo Jima during World War II. The Fifth Division was disbanded after the war, but was reactivated in July of this year.

After concluding two months of intensive training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., the battalion sailed for the Far East where they participated in training operations "Mud Puppy 1" and "Hilltop VIII" in the Philippines.

Prior to landing the battalion was assigned a battalion landing team of the special landing force and deployed in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam.

All three battalions of the regiment are now in Vietnam.