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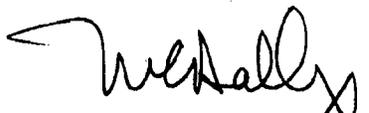
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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CG, III MAF ltr 3/ew over 3480
Ser: 00157666 of 4Nov66

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To : Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

1. Forwarded.


M. C. DALBY
By direction

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HEADQUARTERS
III Marine Amphibious Force
Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
C/O FPO San Francisco, California 96602

66 #690

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[REDACTED]
3/ew
3480
Ser:00157666
4 Nov 1966

[REDACTED] - - Unclassified when basic material is removed

From: Commanding General
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
Subj: Command Chronology (U)
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) CG FMFPac msg 251942Z Aug65
Encl: (1) III Marine Amphibious Force Command Chronology for
September 1966.

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with references (a) and (b).

J. R. Chaisson
J. R. CHAISSON
By direction

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III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
SEPTEMBER 1966

GROUP - 4
DOWN GRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS


ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART ONE	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART TWO	SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART THREE	CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
PART FOUR	ENCLOSURES

ENCLOSURE
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PART ONE

ORGANIZATION DATA

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

DANANG REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

LEWIS W. WALT

LIEUTENANT GENERAL UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

COMMANDING (8-30 SEPTEMBER 1966)

LEWIS J. FIELDS

MAJOR GENERAL UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

COMMANDING (1-7 SEPTEMBER 1966)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR PERIOD 1-30 SEPTEMBER 1966

CHIEF OF STAFF	BGEN JONAS M. PLATT, USMC
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF	COL ROBERT B. NEVILLE, USMC
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1	COL JOHN L. MAHON, USMC
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2	COL CARL A. SACHS, USMC (1-6SEPT) COL ROY H. THOMPSON, USMC (7-30SEPT)
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3	COL JOHN R. CHAISSON, USMC
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-4	COL JOSEPH F. QUILTY JR., USMC
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-5	COL ERIC S. HOLMGRAIN, USMC
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-6	LTCOL MARVIN D. VOLKERT, USMC
PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS OFFICER	COL ROBERT R. READ, USMC
SUPPLY OFFICER	COL DAVID M. SHUMAKER, USMC
FORCE ENGINEER OFFICER	COL CHARLES H. HORN, USMC
ADJUTANT	MAJOR JOHN T. REVILLE, USMC
COMPROLLER	LTCOL MELVIN W. SNOW, USMC

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CHAPLAIN

COMBAT INFORMATION BUREAU

LOGISTIC COMBAT OPERATIONS CENTER

FOOD SERVICES OFFICER

LEGAL OFFICER

SURGEON

MOTOR TRANSPORTATION OFFICER

ORDNANCE OFFICER

PROTOCOL OFFICER

SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICER

TRANSPORTATION/EMBARKATION
OFFICER

FORCE INSPECTOR

SUBORDINATE UNITS

1ST MARINE DIVISION

3RD MARINE DIVISION

1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND

1ST MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

7TH ENGINEER BATTALION(REINF)

9TH MOTOR TRANSPORT BATTALION

9TH ENGINEER BATTALION

[REDACTED]
CAPT FRANCIS L. GARRETT, USN

COL THOMAS M. FIELDS, USMC

LTCOL ALEXANDER S. RUGGIERO, USMC

MAJOR WILLIS P. HALL JR., USMC

COL ROBERT B. NEVILLE, USMC

CAPT HOWARD A. BAKER, USN

MAJOR CHARLES W. TONNAKLIFF, USMC

LTCOL JOHN C. THOMAS, USMC

MAJOR RALPH H. BROWN, USMC

COL JOHN F. GORMAN, USMC (1-6SEPT)
COL CARL A. SACHS, USMC (7-30SEPT)

MAJOR EUGENE A. SILVERTHORN, USMC

COL CLAY A. BOYD, USMC

COMMANDERS

MGEN LEWIS J. FIELDS, USMC

MGEN WOOD B. KYLE, USMC

MGEN LOUIS B. ROBERTSHAW, USMC

COL GEORGE C. AXTELL, USMC

LTCOL PAUL G. STAVRIDIS, USMC

LTCOL FRANK W. HARRIS, III, USMC

MAJOR DONALD R. TYER, USMC

LTCOL RICHARD W. CRISPEN, USMC

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5TH COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION

LTCOL PHILLIP K. LEESEBERG, USMC

SUB UNIT #1, FIRST RADIO
BATTALION

CAPT RUSSELL W. RADER, USMC

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE
COMPANY, III MAF

CAPT JOHN J. BURKE JR., USMC

SUB UNIT #1, 1ST ANGLICO
(REMOVED FROM OPCON AND ADCON
III MAF 15SEP66)

LTCOL CARROLL B. BURCH, USMC

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ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRETPART TWOI. INTRODUCTION.

A. GENERAL. During September the III Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters was located at (BT 041784) in East Danang, Republic of Vietnam. The average personnel strength for September was 58,717 an increase of 366 over August.

B. ACTIVITIES. III MAF continued to be guided by COMUSMACV Letter of Instruction (LOI 3-66) dated 30 March 1966 in the pursuit of III MAF objectives for September.

II. OPERATIONS.

A. OVERALL EVALUATION. III MAF continued to pursue three major objectives during September: 1. Destruction of VC forces, 2. Revolutionary Development, and 3. Base Defense.

(1) Destruction of VC Forces.

(a) On 11 September the provinces in the ICTZ recorded an unexpectedly high percentage of eligible voter turnout for the national election. III MAF forces helped make this possible by placing nine infantry battalions in the field on Search and Destroy operations from 1-11 September. It is most important to note that these nine battalions conducted eight operations away from population centers, screening these centers, thus preventing NVA and VC main force units from harassing the population prior to and during the elections. These operations are summarized in Part II.

(b) The most successful rice harvest protection operation conducted by III MAF forces since arriving in RVN was Golden Fleece 7-1. During 17-27 September one Marine Battalion protected the harvesting of 7,620 tons of rice and inflicted 244 VC KIA while sustaining 1 USMC KIA. The success of the operation indicates that III MAF forces have learned and refined rice harvest protection techniques, and have now provided a basis for the expansion of the rice protection program.

(c) Throughout September, III MAF conducted 11 major operations. Three of these, Pawnee, Macon, and Prairie were continued from August. Macon and Prairie continued into October. III MAF forces conducted 10,375 small unit operations, resulting in 860 small unit contacts. III MAF forces in all operations inflicted 1733 enemy KIA confirmed and 2084 KIA probable, a new monthly high for III MAF operations in RVN. Of the total confirmed enemy KIA, 466 were inflicted during small unit operations. 286 of the 466 confirmed KIA were inflicted by Marine Air. A comparison of July, August, and September results is shown in Table I.

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There were 204 infantry battalion days recorded by III MAF forces in September as compared to 177 in August and 193 in July.

Table IVC KIA

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Small Unit Ops</u>	<u>Major Ops</u>
July	1611	576	1035
August	973	319	654
September	1733	466	1267

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(2) Revolutionary Development. The 10,375 small unit operations (patrols, ambushes, clearing) saturated the areas of guerrilla activity in support of ICTZ revolutionary development operations. There were 14 County Fair operations during September in areas made secure by small unit operations.

(3) Base Defense. The 1st MP Battalion continued to provide security for the Danang Air Base complex. The Chu Lai Defense Command performed a similar function for the Chu Lai Air Base complex. The small unit patrolling mentioned in paragraph (2) also continued to be most important to base defense in both complexes.

B. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

(1) Major Operations.

(a) MACON: During 1-30 September the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines had the following significant contacts. During the first week of September contact increased sharply, resulting in 112 confirmed enemy kills, 225 probable enemy kills, and 3 VC captured. The majority of these resulted from 2 major encounters, one on 3 September and the other on 5 September 1966. On 3 September, a reinforced platoon from Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines engaged an estimated VC company and with the aid of an AO controlling Air and Artillery, accounted for 32 VC KIA (Conf) and 33 VC KIA (Prob). Again on 5 September Companies K and I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines along with ARVN forces engaged a VC Battalion in a seven hour battle which cost the enemy 73 VC KIA (Conf) and 165 VC KIA (Prob). Throughout the remainder of the month contact was constant although the units engaged were small. There were 13 Tactical Air Sorties in support of operation Macon during September, 54 since beginning of the operation in July. Operation Macon results for September are: Enemy: 163 KIA (1 KBA), 245 KIA (Probable (13 KBA Probable), 3 VCC, 16 VCS, 15 weapons captured. USMC 9 KIA, 98 WIA. Total results since beginning of Operation Macon on 4 July 1966 are: Enemy 422 KIA (63 KBA), 583 KIA Probable (14 KBA probable), 5 VCC, 47 VCS, and 25 weapons captured: USMC 22 KIA, 160 WIA.

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(b) PRAIRIE: This narrative covers the period 1-30 September 1966 inclusive. September began with 3 Battalions involved in the operation and little contact being made. By the end of the month six battalions were engaged and contact had increased considerably. There were nine major contacts during the month, the first one occurring on 8 September when Company G, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines engaged in a 2½ hour battle with a reinforced NVA platoon during which 114 enemy were killed. Then on the 9th in the same general area, Companies E and F, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines made contact with an enemy company and in a 3½ hour struggle inflicted 23 KIA (Conf) and 14 KIA (Prob). Activity subsided until the 16th when Companies B and D, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines made initial contact with elements of an NVA battalion and began a fight that was to last 2½ days, at the end of which 171 NVA were killed and another 210 were listed as probably killed. On the next six days Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines engaged in 2 sharp conflicts near the DMZ during which they accounted for 75 NVA KIA (Conf) and 106 NVA KIA (Prob). Heavy contact continued for the following five day period with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines involved; killing 121 NVA KIA (Conf) and 167 NVA KIA (Prob). Finally the last heavy contact of the month was made by 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines on the 28th and 29th when they added 101 additional NVA KIA (Conf) and 207 KIA (Prob) to the rapidly mounting toll of enemy dead. Fixed Wing aircraft flew 1227 sorties and expended 1652 tons of bombs. Bomb damage was 15 KBA confirmed, 162 structures destroyed, 5 bunkers destroyed, 2 bridges destroyed, and 16 secondary explosions. Helicopters flew 4127 sorties, carrying 4337 passengers and 324 tons of cargo. Results for the month of September were: USMC 98 KIA, 364 WIA; Enemy: 724 KIA (15 KBA), 890 KIA probable (28 KBA probable), 2 VCC, 32 weapons. Cumulative results of operation since 3 August to 30 September 1966 are: USMC: 130 KIA, 504 WIA; Enemy: 943 KIA (21 KBA), 1385 KIA probable (207 KBA probable), 2 NVAC, 2 VCC, and 100 weapons.

(c) PAWNEE: As a result of increasing sabotage activity directed against the railroad and highway in the area, and other intelligence indicating enemy buildup, a battalion size search and destroy operation was conducted on 26 August through 6 September 1966 in the area bordering Route #1 extending from Phu Loc 15 km east. The first five days produced no contact; civic and medical action programs were initiated in the villages throughout the zone. Light contact was made on the sixth day resulting in two VC KIA (conf), and on the seventh day Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines received small arms, M-79, 82MM, and several 1 pound blocks of TNT, in what turned out to be the major contact of the operation resulting in 6 VC KIA (conf). Fixed Wing aircraft flew 29 sorties, expending 14.4 tons of bombs with no bomb damage estimate reported. Helicopters flew 72 sorties lifting 332 passengers. Results were: USMC: 12 WIA; Enemy 9 KIA (Conf), and 6 KIA (prob).

(d) TROY: During 2-4 September the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines conducted an S&D operation in an area of 17 kilometers south of Danang Airfield. Prior to H-hour elements of the battalion established blocking positions on the western and northern boundaries of the operational area. An ARVN battalion swept in a generally northeast direction. During the operation Marines called airstrikes on many small groups of VC moving through the area, and one CH-46 aircraft was lost to enemy ground fire.

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There were 21 tactical air sorties in support of Operation Troy. Results were: USMC 21 WIA; Enemy: 57 KIA (Prob).

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(e) NAPA: On 5 September, 1st Battalion, and 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines attacked to the west in area of operation in Quang Tin Province, 11 km west of Tam Ky. On 7 September 1/5 Marines withdrew from operation, 3/5 Marines established a combat base and began vigorous patrol and ambush activity. The operation was characterized by frequent small contacts and many VCC. The most significant single action of the operation occurred on 6 September when Company L, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines after an intense fire fight, captured 16 VC. Fixed Wing aircraft flew 30 sorties, expending 3.6 tons of bombs with no bomb damage reported. Helicopters flew 228 sorties carrying 179 passengers and 17.4 tons of cargo. Final results were: USMC: 7 KIA, 41 WIA; Enemy: 26 KIA (Conf), 52 KIA (Prob), 71 VCS, 43 VCC, and 10 weapons captured.

(f) CANNON: On 7 September, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines conducted a search and destroy operation in Duy Xuyen area, 20 kilometers south of Marble Mountain Air Facility, in order to prevent terrorism and interdiction of the highway by enemy forces during national elections. On 9 September, the most productive day of the operation, 15 VC were killed, 11 as a result of one action. After that contacts were few and light. There were 4 tactical air sorties in support of Operation Cannon. Final results were: USMC: 1 KIA, 12 WIA; Enemy: 17 KIA (Conf), 16 KIA (Prob), 1 VCC and 25 VCS.

(g) PAWNEE II: Operation Pawnee, conducted in the Phu Loc area, terminated on 6 September 1966. On 7 September a train struck a mine and was derailed near Phu Loc. In view of the approaching elections, and concern due to the mine incident, ARVN and GVN officials requested that operations be resumed until after the elections. As a result of this request, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines conducted Pawnee II during 8-14 September 1966, in an effort to destroy enemy supplies and personnel as well as prevent acts of sabotage and terrorism. Contact was light and scattered and, although no significant enemy losses occurred, there were no acts of sabotage and few incidents of terrorism. There were thirteen tactical air sorties in support of Pawnee II. Final results were: USMC 2 WIA; Enemy: 3 KIA (Conf), and 16 KIA (Prob).

(h) FRESNO: The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines conducted an operation during the period of national elections, 8-17 September to help prevent sabotage and terrorism in the Mo Duc area, Quang Ngai Province, 15 kilometers south of Quang Ngai City. The operation was characterized by many contacts and extensive Naval gunfire. During the operation Naval Gunfire expended 2,592 rounds resulting in 4 VC KIA (Conf), 6 VC KIA (Prob), 4 structures destroyed and 68 structures damaged. Fixed Wing aircraft flew 30 sorties expending 12.5 tons of bombs with bomb damage estimate of 24 structures and 2 foot bridges destroyed. Final results were: USMC: 4 KIA, 28 WIA; Enemy: 83 KIA (Conf), 120 KIA (Prob), 1 VCC, 21 VCS, and 2 weapons captured.

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(i) GOLDEN FLEECE (7-1): The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (-) (Reinf) conducted an S&D operation during 17-27 September 1966 to protect the rice being harvested in the area generally south of the Song Ve River and east of Highway #1, 23 kilometers southeast of Quang Ngai City. The operation was characterized by frequent small unit contacts with no major engagements being fought by ground forces. Artillery and Naval Gunfire were extremely effective under control of an observation post which called in several fire missions on large numbers of VC, accounting for 148 VC KIA. Included in the missions were 3 artillery/NGF TOT's. A total of 7,620 tons of rice was harvested. Several large caches were found and turned over for redistribution to the VN. Finally a troublesome hamlet, Van Ha (1), was destroyed by the use of 13,150 lbs of explosives. When the operation terminated and the Marines left, the villagers turned out 3,000 strong led by the district chief to thank them for help provided during the harvest. Fixed Wing aircraft flew 23 sorties, expending 18.5 tons of bombs for a bomb damage estimate of 19 KBA, 13 structures and 2 automatic weapon positions destroyed. Helicopters supported the operation with 121 sorties, carrying 145 passengers and 12 tons of cargo. Final results were: USMC: 1 KIA, 19 WIA; Enemy: 244 KIA (Conf), (19 KBA), 56 KIA (Prob), (1 KBA), 30 VCS, 1 VCC, 6 weapons captured.

(j) COFFEE: On 24 September 1966, 2nd Bn, 1st Marines (-) conducted a search and destroy operation 11 kilometers west of Hoi An to search out enemy personnel suspected of having used the area as a sanctuary. There was little contact. Final results were: USMC: None; Enemy: 5 KIA (Prob), 1 VCS.

(k) MONTEREY: On 29 and 30 September 1966 the 1st Bn, 5th Marines (-) (Reinforced) with Companies K, L, and M of the 3rd Bn, 5th Marines conducted a search and destroy operation in an area northwest of and adjacent to the Chu Lai TAOR, 34 kilometers northwest of the Chu Lai Airfield. Elements of the force in coordination with the 6th ARVN Regiment (Iden Ket 62) conducted operations in the area during 29 September with very light contact. The operation ended at first light on 30 September due to another contingency. Results of operation were: no USMC losses, and 1 VCS.

(l) III MAF artillery fired 95,863 rounds for 17,130 missions during September.

(2) Air Operations.

The First Marine Aircraft Wing flew a total of 5854 fixed wing sorties in support of RVN operations during the month of September. The tonnage of ordnance delivered was 6271 tons. III MAF forces received 83% of the total sorties for a sortie rate of 6.9 sorties per battalion per day. The Rolling Thunder/Tally Ho program was supported by 825 sorties, and 12 sorties were flown in the Steel/Tiger Hound area. Seventh Fleet was supported with 141 Electronic Warfare sorties and 7th Air Force received 34. There were 147 photo sorties flown for III MAF.

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Helicopters of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing flew 25,405 sorties in 11,055 hours, carrying 33,752 passengers and 1,727 tons of cargo in support of III MAF, ARVN and ROK Marine Corps operations.

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III. INTELLIGENCE

A. General Enemy Situation. During September, large scale VC/NVA activity was limited to company and battalion sized reaction to operations Prairie, Macon, and Golden Fleece 7-1. Constant contacts in the three operations accounted for the majority of casualties suffered by the enemy during the period. VC interdiction of lines of communications, harassing fire incidents, sabotage and terrorism increased as the enemy unsuccessfully attempted to disrupt the September GVN elections.

B. Mines and Booby Traps. Mine and booby trap incidents during September increased 16% from the previous period but remained well below the July record high of 119 incidents.

C. New Enemy Tactics, Weapons and Equipment. NVA units encountered during operation Prairie were observed to rapidly close with friendly forces during an engagement in an effort to minimize the effects of friendly supporting arms brought to bear against them.

D. Anti-Aircraft Incidents Occurring in ICTZ.

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Pct Change</u>
Incidents:	495	507*	+2.4%
Aircraft Hits:	119	117**	-1.7%

* (379 Helo, 128 F/W)

** (101 Helo, 16 F/W)

E. Enemy Statistics. Statistics pertaining to enemy activities in Marine operating areas, including combat bases, for August and September are compared below:

Enemy Initiated Incidents

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Ambush	1	0
Attack	4	1
Assaulting Fire	1	0
Harassing Fire	686	751
Mines and Booby Traps	77	89
Hamlet Harassment	2	2
Sabotage	1	4
Terrorism	6	8
AA Fire	495	507
Totals	1,273	1,362

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Enemy Casualties

	<u>August</u>		<u>September</u>	
	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Probable</u>
KBGF	644	975	868	885
KEMA	325	883	343	616
KEMTOWS	4	0	522	583
Total KIA	1,215	1,491	1,733	2,084
VCC	68		33	
NVAC	3		2	
RETURNEES	3		1	
VCS	320		156	
Weapons				
Individual	154		103	
Crew Served	7		13	

F. Weather. ICTZ experienced increasing cloudiness as the frequency and duration of light rain increased, while summer thunderstorms decreased. Total precipitation, which normally trebles from August levels, remained generally constant at approximately 4-7 inches for the period as shown in the below table. Temperatures averaged 89° to 76° low, winds were mostly variable from four to ten knots. Visibility ranged from seven to ten miles.

September Precipitation

<u>Area</u>	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Mean for Month</u>
Phu Bai	4.12 in	19.6 in
Danang	7.00 in	15.7 in
Chu Lai	5.49 in	14.4 in

G. Enemy Order of Battle.

1. New Units. The following enemy units in ICTZ were confirmed by COMUSMACV during September:

(A) 814th NVA with an estimated strength of 500, located in Hai Lang District, Quang Tri Province.

(B) V.25 Battalion (LF), with an estimated strength of 400, located in vicinity of (AT 8753), Quang Nam Province.

(C) New Subordinate units of 324th B NVA Division, located in the DMZ:

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(1) 13th NVA Arty Bn (120mm Mort), with an estimated strength of 200.

(2) 14th NVA AA Bn (12.7mm AA MG), with an estimated strength of 300.

(3) 15th NVA Engr Bn, with an estimated strength of 200.

(4) 16th NVA Sig Bn, with an estimated strength of 200.

(5) 19th NVA Med Bn, with an estimated strength of 200.

2. Enemy OOB as of 30 September

<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Probable</u>
1 Military Region Hq	1 Regiment
1 Military Sub-Region Hq	5 Battalions
2 Division Hq	6 Separate Companies
8 Regimental Hq	
51 Battalions *	
37 Separate Companies	

* Includes 6 Weapons Support, 2 Transport, 2 Signal, 1 Medical and 3 Engineer/Sapper Battalions.

3. Comparison of August/September Estimated Enemy Strength in ICTZ.

	<u>As of 31 August</u>	<u>As of 30 September</u>
Confirmed VC/NVA units	30,340	32,030
Probable VC/NVA Units	2,495	2,505
Guerrillas	15,000	15,000
Totals	47,835	49,535

H. Counterintelligence.

1. Propaganda. During the fore part of September VC propaganda activities were directed at thwarting the GVN election of a Constituent Assembly on 11 September 1966. The tempo of VC proselytizing, both oral and written, noticeably increased as the elections drew near. The majority of the VC effort appeared to be directed toward the individual voter in an attempt to dissuade him from voting, or to cast blank or invalid ballots. After the elections, which was considered by most observers as being quite successful, there was a noticeable subsiding of propaganda activities.

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However, there appeared to be a general increase in the appearance of anti-U.S. propaganda. This was directed in an attempt to divide U. S. and ARVN Forces. The VC "smear" campaign degraded the individual U. S. soldier and was expounded in both English and Vietnamese language leaflets.

2. Terrorism. A slight increase in terrorism was noted after the election. This may be attributed to the fact that the VC had lost some ground after the success of the National Election. Probably the most significant change in trend was six terrorist attacks on refugee camps. The VC entered these camps, sacked and burned the dwellings, leaving many refugees homeless. Seven assassinations and five acts of kidnapping were reported in the I CTZ.

3. Espionage and Sabotage. The VC continue to conduct low level espionage within the I CTZ. Enemy efforts have included the use of vendors near U.S. installations to collect information on troop and defensive positions. Considerable emphasis has been placed on the recruitment of women to infiltrate into areas near U.S. installations. Reports of espionage training classes and intelligence agents present in various area indicating a continuing VC effort to employ sophisticated collection efforts. Sabotage against the lines of communications continued to be the major VC effort. These occurrences appeared centered between HUE and DANANG and more pointedly directed against the railroad. A large arms cache was discovered in DANANG on 4 September, which led to the arrest of several Vietnamese. National Police were instrumental in uncovering this cache which resulted from continued investigation of the terrorist act in August on the TAKE TEN NCO Club in DANANG.

4. Civil Disturbances. There were no reports of major civil disturbances during September.

5. Political. The election of the Constituent Assembly, 11 September 1966, was probably the most significant political activity of the year. U. S. observers indicate that this was one of the most successful political gains that South Vietnam has experienced since the start of the war. From all reports it appears that 89% of the eligible voters turned out to the polls. Despite many reports of VC planned activity to prevent the election, the ICTZ was fairly free of incidents on 11 September.

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IV. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION.

A. Strength. Table VIII outlines the average personnel strength for III MAF during September 1966:

TABLE VIII

Average Personnel Strength
III Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters

	<u>OFFICERS</u>			<u>ENLISTED</u>		
	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USA</u>
HQ III MAF	138	10		199	4	
H&S Company	10			285	2	
29th Civil Affairs Co(Attached)			30			88

III Marine Amphibious Force

<u>OFFICERS</u>		<u>ENLISTED</u>	
<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
3,762	362	52,472	2,121

B. Casualties. III MAF casualties are shown in Table IX.

TABLE IX1. Battle.

<u>KIA</u>		<u>WIA</u>		<u>DOW</u>		<u>MIA</u>	
<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
161	9	1,044	63	14	0	3	0

2. Non-battle.

<u>DEATHS</u>		<u>INJ/ILL</u>	
<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
8	0	98	3

C. Command Information and Indoctrination Program. Force Order 1560.1 was published on 13 September 1966 to broaden existing training coverage in the category of general military training to include and emphasize information and education specifically related to the MACV area of operations. Subordinate commands are required to have a recurring indoctrination program.

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D. MANPOWER EVALUATION TEAM. Major General DAVIS, G-1, HQMC and the Manpower Evaluation Team arrived in Danang on 22 September to tour III MAF and discuss the Marine Corps manpower situation with all III MAF units.

E. SPECIAL SERVICES.

1. Shows:

(a) "On Stage" arrived on 10 September and departed 13 September 1966.

(b) The Betsy Duncan show arrived on 15 September and departed on 19 September 1966.

(c) The Joe Jones show arrived on 19 September and departed on 28 September 1966.

(d) The Jimmy Boyd Show arrived on 22 September and departed on 26 September 1966.

(e) Paul Hahn, trick golf shot performer, arrived on 28 September and departed on 1 October 1966.

2. China Beach Recreation Center:

(a) The cafeteria was officially opened on 1 September 1966. The beer garden opened for business on 7 September 1966.

(b) A new well has been dug. Pipe and pump are available at the site.

3. R&R Program:

(a) Starting 1 October, all pre-flight processing procedures will be conducted at the III MAF R&R Center, located in the III MAF Transient Facility.

(b) There will be no more R&R flights from Danang to Penang during October, November and December. Flights from Danang to Penang will resume 1 January 1967. Maximum utilization of aircraft was given as the reason by MACV for no Penang flights from Danang.

(c) The following are the statistics of the total III MAF (including NAVFORV in I Corps) R&R usage for each out-of-country R&R site:

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TABLE X

Bangkok	972
Hong Kong	663
Taipei	530
Tokyo	855
Manila	297
Singapore	229
Kuala Lumpur	153
Penang	237
Okinawa	526
<u>Hawaii</u>	<u>160</u>
Totals	4622

* The Okinawa R&R flights scheduled for 2,4,6,8,10,12 and 18 September were cancelled because of typhoon conditions.

F. CHAPLAIN.

1. During the first two weeks of September the FMF Project Officer for the Personal Response project conducted an attitude survey among officer and enlisted personnel of III MAF. Results will be tabulated and used as basis for further developments in this project which will be directed toward motivating positive attitudes.

2. 7 September - CDR John R. HERSHERGER, CHC, USN reported for duty as Administrative Assistant to the Force Chaplain and as Headquarters Company Chaplain.

3. A familiarization visit by the Assistant Force Chaplain FMFPAC was made during the period 17-22 September.

4. A familiarization visit by the Senior Chaplain 3d Force Service Regiment was made during the period 19-26 September.

5. On 21 September the Command was visited by the Rt. Reverend Harry S. KENNEDY, Episcopal Bishop of Hawaii. During the visit Bishop KENNEDY was shown several Civic Action projects, briefed by the Force Chaplain, and entertained at luncheon by the Chief of Staff.

6. On 27-28 September the Command was visited by the Rt. Reverend Arnold M. LEWIS, Bishop for the Armed Forces, the Episcopal Church of USA. Bishop LEWIS met with the Episcopal Chaplains, officiated at a Confirmation Service, was briefed by the Force Chaplain, and shown several Civic Action projects. Bishop LEWIS was entertained at luncheon by the Commanding General and at dinner by the Chief of Staff.

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7. The Jewish High Holy Days - New Year and Day of Atonement were celebrated 12-24 September. Chaplain R. L. REINER, III MAF Jewish Chaplain conducted 10 Jewish Services with a total attendance of 283 throughout the III MAF area culminating with a break the Fast dinner at NSA Officers Club attended by 75 Jewish personnel and guests.

8. The establishment of III MAF Chapel Funds has been authorized effective 1 October 1966. The accounting for Chaplain Civic Action Funds will hereafter be accomplished through the books of the Protestant Chapel Fund and audited by the Area Auditor.

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V. LOGISTICS.

A. General. Logistics operations for the month of September were highlighted by the upgrading of airfields at Dong Ha and Khe Sanh; a buildup of the logistic base at Dong Ha; and the introduction into ICTZ of final elements of the 2d Brigade, ROK Marine Corps, along with additional 1st Marine Aircraft Wing units, and a US Army 175mm Artillery Battery.

B. Engineer.

1. The new brig and POW compound were completed on 3 September, two days ahead of schedule.

2. In mid-September, installation of M8A1 matting was begun on Dong Ha airfield; the matting was immediately found to be unsatisfactory for C-130 landings. The bayonet lug edge protruded and was sharp enough to slice tires on taxi-type turns. After grinding the sharp edges, tests indicated the M8A1 could be used for taxiways and parking aprons. MACV authorized the use of AM-2 matting at Dong Ha and Khe Sanh; matting was received and installation began at both fields during the last week of the month.

3. The fixed span bridge over the Danang River was closed to all traffic on the 15th for extensive repairs and replacement of 2 spans. On 23 September the bridge was reopened to 3/4 ton vehicles, greatly reducing traffic congestion on approaches to the M4 floating bridge at the same location.

4. Two 45 foot towers located at BT 054716 and BT 031713 were modified and mounted with 106mm recoilless rifles.

5. A bypass from AT 945697 to AT 946707 on route 5 was completed. Route 5 is now open to route 14.

6. A 55 foot steel pole for the Korean flag was fabricated and erected at III MAF Headquarters.

7. A 150 foot M6 fixed bridge was installed on route 9 at YD 025561.

C. Supply.

1. The month's activity centered on expediting critically needed supplies into RVN. A new system for getting Red Ball nominations to the

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ultimate sources of supply, and a recommendation that Red Ball operations be performed by Force Logistic Command were submitted to CG, FMF Pac. There was a slight decrease in items remaining on Red Ball at the end of the month, attributed to new criteria in effect. A recap of Red Ball during the month of September follows:

Total line items on Red Ball 1 September 1966	914
Total line items added during September	389
Total line items deleted during September	420
Total line items on Red Ball 30 September	883

2. The findings of a special study by FSAO-4 requisitioning of supplies indicated the need for a Force Bulletin on the subject. A Bulletin was published, re-emphasizing the importance of proper requisitioning.

3. An FSAO-4 team arrived in-country on the 24th to provide assistance to III MAF units. This team will spend two weeks with the 1st Marine Division and one week with Force Logistic Command.

D. Embarkation and Port Operation.

1. Elements of MAG-13, MWSG-17, MAG-36, and MABS-13 arrived at Chu Lai during the month, as well as the 2nd battalion, 2nd Brigade, ROK Marine Corps, with remaining support elements. BLT 1/26 debarked at Danang, replacing BLT 1/9, which embarked on the 29th, bound for Okinawa. Task Force 6/27, and Army 175mm artillery battery, arrived at Danang and was further transferred to Dong Ha.

2. 59 MSTs ships and 21 US Navy ships debarked/embarked cargo at Danang. 40 LSTs moored at Chu Lai, and 6 deep craft USN ships debarked in the stream.

3. Cargo throughput was as follows:

	<u>S/T</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>M/T</u>	<u>DAILY AVERAGE</u>	<u>S/T</u>	<u>M/T</u>
Danang	161,576	228,684		5,386		7,623
Chu Lai	34,409	57,897		1,147		1,930
Phu Bai	9,012	12,641		300		421

4. Shipments to Dong Ha were as follows:

(a) From Danang - 14,446 S/T (22,221 M/T).

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(b) From Phu Bai - 213 S/T (592 M/T).

(c) Shipments from Danang included 1,590 S/T (2,036 M/T) moved by the USS WASHBURN (AKA-108) and shuttled up the Cua Viet River by LCU.

5. Fixed-wing airlift during the month in support of USMC forces was as follows (in pounds):

	<u>USAF AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>USMC C-130</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(a) To An Hoa	895,482		895,482
(b) To Dong Ha	489,179	3,123,820	3,612,999
(c) To Khe Sanh	2,494,528	339,773	2,834,301

E. Fiscal.

1. The staff study panel established in August to determine III MAF indigenous labor requirements for CY-67 concluded its session, and the Comptroller, as Chairman, submitted the report on 20 September.

2. The FMFPac Comptroller visited III MAF from 14 to 19 September to discuss and assist in matters of mutual interest with all subordinate commands.

3. The Comptroller initiated action to contract and fund for six essential III MAF projects to be paid from AIK funds. Expenditures for those contracts will occur in the 4th Quarter of CY-66. A letter to COMUSMACV was prepared requesting that favorable quarterly balance under the piaster spending limitation program be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal quarters.

4. COMUSMACV Directive 37-14 established the DOD Activity Cost Index System which will measure the extent of piaster price variations of those commodities purchased on the local economy by all agencies of the Armed Forces and contractors thereof. CG, III MAF was requested in the directive to make monthly reports of the cost of 24 specified items purchased on the open market in I Corps Tactical Zone. The MACV directive authorized CG, III MAF to designate specific ordering agencies located in ICTZ to complete and render subsidiary price reports. Naval Support Activity and Force Logistic Command both sponsor purchasing and contracting officers in ICTZ who will be required to provide subsidiary reports.

5. The Comptroller conducted a conference of 3d Marine Division and NSA Comptroller and Fiscal representatives to discuss the feasibility of transferring I Corps funding responsibility from the 3d Division Disbursing office to NSA. The discussion revealed that additional study is required, and research in this area will continue.

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F. Ordnance.

1. A review of ground ammunition expenditures has been completed. A complete listing of ground expenditure rates, including recommended revisions to previously established rates, has been prepared and forwarded to CG, FMFPac by CG III MAF speedletter Ser: 0125966 of 13 September 1966. The list also included recommended rates for items peculiar to the 2d Brigade, ROKMC, upon which support planning can be based.

2. The M1 cupolas on the M48A3 tanks are being modified by the installation of a 360° vision ring at the cupola base. The initial four installations are being applied by a Technical Assistance Team from CONUS. Subsequent modifications will be effected by in-country personnel who are presently undergoing training. Sufficient modification kits are due in from October 66 through January 67 to modify every M48A3 in-country.

3. A special team from the US Army Munitions Command has been scheduled to introduce Beehive and Canister munitions in-country during October. Sufficient ammunition for three demonstrations in ICTZ is to be furnished by USARV. Although a tentative itinerary has been established final plans must necessarily await confirmation of the team's arrival and receipt of the required ammunition.

4. Coordination efforts between III MAF and COMUSMACV continued during September to insure full support of the 2d Brigade, ROKMC until such time as the Marine Corps pipeline has responded to the Koreans' requirements.

5. Available supply rates for 105mm HE (DODAC C444 and subs), imposed during August, were increased in September based on a review of available assets. Additional ASR's were established for cal. .45 ball ammunition, M49 Surface Trip Flare and M37 Demo Charge due to decreasing assets.

6. A representative from Headquarters Company, 5th Marines reported to III MAF to assist in the scheduled field evaluation of the STONER Weapons System.

7. The Director of the Ground Munitions Office, OSD, proposed the establishment of RVN points of contact, to include III MAF. The points of contact would permit the obtaining of RVN data not available at department level or intervening headquarters. During a meeting with MACV J4 at this Headquarters on 26 September, the III MAF position was stated as follows: III MAF does not agree with the necessity for the suggested reporting channel. If, however, such reporting procedures are directed, III MAF recommends a single in-country contact at MACV. III MAF, if directed to designate a point of contact, would recommend CG, FLC. Guidance concerning this proposal has been requested of CG, FMFPac.

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G. Dental.

1. During the period 14-17 September, the Force Dental Officer visited Okinawa for the purpose of coordinating dental policies with CG, 9th MAB.

2. On 28 September, the FMFPac Dental Officer and Administrative Chief arrived at III MAF to visit Dental Units in-country.

3. Dental Civic Action conducted in the Republic of Vietnam by III MAF Dental Companies during the month of September were as follows:

a. Patients treated:	4,161
b. Dental procedures:	11,611

H. Medical.

1. Construction of facilities for the First Hospital Company at Chu Lai commenced during September.

2. The Force Surgeon attended, as Chairman, two I Corps Public Health meetings, one on 14 September and one on 28 September.

3. The daily average patient load of the two Medical Battalions of III MAF was 207, with a total of 1805 patients admitted, and 654 patients evacuated out of country. 755 pints of whole blood were expended to use.

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VI. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. A continued increase in total message traffic through the III MAF Communication Center was noted during September. Traffic totals follow:

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Incoming	41434	39090	
Outgoing	37042	43545	
Total	78476	82635	4168

B. Message traffic through the COC Communications Center also showed a significant increase. Traffic totals follow:

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Incoming	3503	3749	
Outgoing	2618	3725	
Total	6121	7474	1353

C. A team from MCLFDC arrived bringing with them several transistorized multiplex equipments. This equipment is designed for use with the new family of FM radios. Currently two teams are deployed in the Khe Sanh - Cam Lo area.

D. Four AN/TRC-97 multichannel tropospheric scatter radio sets arrived at III MAF. These units represent the first U.S.M.C. entry into tropospheric scatter systems. Site surveys and system checkouts were conducted. The first circuit is planned between Danang and Dong Ha during October.

E. A AN/PRC-47 team was provided to CTG 115.1 for use in local MARKET TIME operations.

F. An additional 50 pair cable was installed by the 5th Communications Battalion around the South end of the Danang Airfield. Route begins at Air Force Frame (east side) and terminates 31 Test Frame (vic FMAW CP).

G. USAF turned over 04 cable for use by III MAF. This cable provides 100 pair underneath the airstrip and represents a significant increase in capability.

H. With completion of above mentioned cables all radio relay circuits from III MAF to Third MarDiv and First MAW have been placed in standby status.

I. An additional 25 pair cable was installed between 31 Test Frame (vic FMAW CP) and FLC (Red Beach).

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VII. CIVIC ACTION.

A. Objectives. The basic objectives of the III MAF Civic Action Program remained the same during the month of September. Emphasis continued to be placed on improving the educational opportunities of the Vietnamese people through school construction and vocational training programs. In addition, the problem of refugee resettlement received closer attention during the month.

B. Joint Coordinating Council. The Council met four times during the month of September. Of primary interest to the Council were the reports regarding Revolutionary Development Cadre Teams (RD) and the organization of subordinate level Coordinating Councils.

1. The Council received a report from the Chief of the Thua Thien Province Revolutionary Development Cadre Program. An extensive reorganization program is presently in progress in the Province aimed at offsetting the factionalism developed during the periods of political unrest. This reorganization will also help to minimize the size of headquarters elements in order to provide the maximum number of cadre for hamlet assignments. The Senior Regional Representative of Combined Studies Division indicated that Saigon is currently considering the adoption of a standard uniform to be used by all RD Cadre throughout the country.

2. In an effort to achieve a basic understanding of the Council and its functioning, the Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division, attended the 6 September meeting of the Joint Coordinating Council. The first meeting of a subordinate level council took place at 1st Marine Division headquarters with representatives of the Provincial Teams of Quang Ngai and Quang Tin Province attending. Efforts of first meeting was directed toward determining mission, composition, function and frequency of meetings.

3. The Council continued its new policy of conducting one meeting monthly in a province capital when it met at Thua Thien Provincial headquarters in Hue on 20 September 1966.

C. Joint Coordinating Council Committees. Two Committees of the Council met during September.

1. Commodities Distribution Committee. This Committee discussed the problem of collection of information regarding donations of commodities to charitable institutions and how to avoid frequent duplication of effort. The Committee agreed that tighter controls are needed as there are institutions that go to two or more organizations, civic and military, and assistance in commodities, goods or cash. It was proposed that committee members submit a list of all institutions they assist and that a sub-committee be formed to check on duplications in assistance.

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Information was received that CARE shipments are to start coming from abroad to Danang, transhipped at Hong Kong.

2. Public Health Committee. This Committee received a report from the Inspector General Ministry of Health/Region I (GVN) that the CG ICTZ is attempting to accelerate the pacification efforts in Hoa Vang District through the use of medical aid men. Plans call for two aid men, provided from the assets of various ARVN military units, to be assigned to each hamlet in pacification area to set up hamlet health stations, conduct preventative medicine programs and to facilitate needed patient evacuation to district health facilities. These initial efforts will be followed by accredited Rural Health Worker Training for 3-4 selected trainees from each hamlet. A sub-committee was formed to establish an I Corps/Region I Epidemiological Reference Office (CERO). The first sub-committee meeting was to determine organization, communications and logistic support requirements.

D. Medical Assistance. Sixty-six MEDCAP teams operated in 222 locations during September and provided medical and dental treatments to 113,486 Vietnamese civilians. Seventy-seven health workers, including nurses received informal training during the month. An out break of plague was noted in Chu Lai TAOR with approximately 38 persons being clinically diagnosed as having plague and receiving treatments. USMC/GVN authorities have inoculated some 69,465 persons as a preventative measure against the further spread of the disease.

E. III MAF Educational Program. School construction continued to show good progress during September. Four school construction projects were completed during the month for a total of nineteen classrooms. Many other school construction projects are in progress with completion expected in a few weeks.

F. Refugee Support. The refugee resettlement project, started in August in An My (3) Phu Bac hamlet, has been completed with the construction of eight houses. A total of ninety houses were constructed in this project. During September, resettlement projects in Ai Dong and Phu Trung hamlets were started. Materials needed to complete these projects are being provided from III MAF Civic Action assets. Otherwise, completion of these projects is achieved solely by self-help.

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VIII. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

1. Ninety-five ralliers were reported in I Corps during the month of September. The drop of 20 ralliers from the total of 115 reported during July was attributed to the election unrest and counter election propaganda produced by the VC. The trend increased sharply after the election results were announced and the news spread throughout the I Corps Area.
2. Audio-Visual teams from the 244th PsyOps Company supported 15 Marine operations and activities averaging just over two days each in duration. Ralliers were taken with Audio-Visual personnel to operate with the Second Bn, First Marines for a period of about nine days. Two ralliers were utilized in standard company size operations in three hamlet areas resulting in 10 VCC. The ralliers pointed out the VC from facial recognition from working with them, while the ralliers were active in the VC units. This was the first step toward placing ralliers with Marine units in the field for extended periods of time in conjunction with tactical operations. The Audio-Visual personnel were provided to recommend application of psychological operations in normal search and destroy operations and to assist the commanders in PsyOps planning.
3. Leaflet activities in I Corps during September consisted of 3,154,000 leaflets printed by the 244th PsyOp Company and 17,091,000 leaflets dropped by the 5th Air Commando Squadron in support of Marine Units. The bulk of standard Chieu Hoi and NVA leaflets are supplied by JUSPAD and printed in Saigon. A total of 114 PsyOps sorties were flown to drop the leaflets and conduct 113 hours of aerial loudspeaker broadcasting.
4. A new fast reaction capability was developed in the formation of the POET (Psychological Operations Exploitation Team). The POET concept was developed by the 244th PsyOp Company to react to any exploitable incident reported anywhere in the Marine operating areas. The team is equipped to exploit ralliers by making tape recorded appeals in the field and take pictures for leaflets. The information for a new leaflet is sent to the unit headquarters in DaNang where the ralliers picture and hand written appeal will be immediately reproduced into a leaflet. The leaflet will be printed, cut and loaded into a 5th ACS or USMC aircraft for rapid dissemination in the area where the VC ralliers unit is operating or where the exploitable incident occurred. The effectiveness and credibility of propaganda referring to an incident only hours old should greatly increase the effect of psychological exploitation.

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IX COMBAT INFORMATION BUREAU.

A. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), the following report is submitted.

B. Background. During September 1966, 311 escorted visits were accomplished by the Combat Information Bureau. These trips covered operations, civic action and various other subjects of interest to the Press. The Danang Press Center hosted 233 newsmen and VIP's during this reporting period.

C. Transportation. The motor transport capability of the Combat Information Bureau was again improved with a PC #312260 replacing surveyed jeep #198136. Jeep #202744 was deadlined and is presently at FLSG undergoing maintenance..

D. Photography. The Photo Section forwarded a total of 26,897 feet of motion picture film during the month of September. This included film exposed by all photographic units within the III MAF. 20% of the coverage was operational, 14% was civic action and the remainder was technical and VIP. Footage of significant interest was film shot on Operation's Prairie, Allegheny, Deckhouse IV, Lou Son 310, Napa Phase III, Fresno, Franklin, Bucks, Jackson. 6600 feet of color movie footage was shot and forwarded to A03P concerning a special project for CMC. 500 feet was shot at the ROK Birthday Celebration.

E. Radio/TV. During the month of September, this section made a total of 87 releases. This included 8 radio features and 79 Fleet Hometown interviews.

F. Escorts. The 311 escorted visits during the month of September included operations "Prairie, Macon and Golden Fleece". Combined Action Companies, Civic Action, Mines and Booby Trap School, An Hoa Industrial Complex, Korean Marine Corps Birthday and personal interviews were also points of concentration. Both Golden Fleece and the KMC Birthday were featured as pictorial center spreads in Stars and Stripes. Notable media representatives and VIP's who visited the CIB during the month were: Commanding General, FMFPac, Lt. Gen. Krulak; John Flynn, CBS; George Page, NBC; Roger Peterson, CBS; Bob Ohman, AP; Bill Mc Whirter, Time; Bill Strode, Louisville Courier Journal; Edward P. Morgan, NBC; Ward Just, Washington Post; Walter Ridder, Ridder Publications; Joe Alsop, Washington Post; Richard Wilson, Cowles Publication; Al Chang, AP; Keyes Beach, Chicago Daily News; Ray Maloney, ABC; Bob Poos, AP; Marsh Clark, Time Life; Frank Moraes, Indian Express; Ralph McGill, Atlanta Constitution; Bill Beecher, N.Y. Times; Derek Taylor, Zambia Times; Bill Tuohy, L.A. Times; Arnaud De Borchgraves, Newsweek.

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G. Press Releases. During the month of September, the Press Section processed and distributed 231 news releases. The majority of these concerned Operation Prairie. Seventy-nine (79) of the releases accompanied by photographs, and there were twenty-seven (27) releases made on civic action. In addition, 5,550 releases were forwarded to the Fleet Home Town News Center. Of these, 173 included photographs.

H. Press Center. A total of 254 reporters and VIP guests checked in at the Press Center during September. 48 of the total were foreign correspondents representing Austria, India, France, Canada, Japan, Turkey, Australia, Argentina, Nicaragua, Philippines, England, Hong Kong, Greece, Holland, Mexico, Italy, Korea, Germany, and Zambia.

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X. I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE ACTIVITY (RVNAF)

A. GENERAL: The month's activities were dominated by the national elections. For the first half of the month almost all operations were directed toward making the elections a success. The success of the ARVN efforts were shown by the fact that 89 percent of the ICTZ registered voters participated in spite of marked increases in VC incidents.

B. OPERATIONS: I Corps conducted 56 battalion size operations during September as compared to 55 last month. There were 15 combined and 4 airborne included in the above figures. Contact was made with the VC/NVA in 37 of these operations. Friendly combat losses were 181 KIA and 483 WIA as compared to 155 KIA and 394 WIA last month. Enemy losses were 727 KIA and 121 VCC as compared to 1,143 KIA and 139 VCC last month. There were 200 weapons captured and 155 lost compared to 141 captured and 109 lost last month. There were six rice protection operations conducted during September. These operations allowed the people to harvest and retain a major portion of their crop.

C. VC ACTIVITIES: The number of VC initiated incidents increased for the fourth consecutive month with 310 incidents reported as compared to 266 in August. The rate of incidents rose sharply just prior to the national elections with 41 incidents reported on 10 and 11 September. Most of these incidents were designed to disrupt the elections.

At 0255 on 13 September a Company of the 4th Battalion, 4th Regiment, was attacked by a VC battalion at Nui Dang outpost. The VC conducted a mortar attack followed by a ground assault and overran the outpost. The ARVN company suffered 36 KIA, 37 WIA, two 105mm howitzers destroyed, one AN/GHC-87 radio destroyed, 4 crew served weapons lost, 89 individual weapons lost, and three AN/PRC-10 radios lost. The VC battalion suffered 4 KIA and 5 individual weapons captured by the ARVN company. By 1800 hours on 13 September, the outpost was reoccupied and the destroyed howitzers were replaced.

VC activity was heavy in two areas during the month. In northern Quang Tri Province, agents, VCC, and other intelligence sources indicated that a division size unit, the 324B Division, had moved just south of the DMZ and possibly other large units are located just north of the DMZ. In Quang Ngai Province, information indicated that two regiments are located in Son Tin and eastern Tra Bong Districts. The VC were and are capable of using all of the above mentioned forces in major attacks against friendly forces. The VC remain capable of conducting harassing operations, interdicting lines of communications, and propagandizing the local populations throughout much of the ICTZ.

D. REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPEMENT: Significant progress in the Revolutionary Development Program continued throughout most of ICTZ during September. The results of the program for the month were 10 hamlets upgraded to secured category and one hamlet upgraded to undergoing construction. Seven hamlets were regraded to VC controlled as a result of a hamlet re-evaluation study.

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The rice harvest conducted the security of ARVN, RF/PF, and FVMA forces retained a greater portion of the rice harvest than was retained in previous years.

E. PSYOPS/CA: The major psyops effort during September was directed toward educating the people with respect to the purpose of the national elections and the procedures to be followed during the elections. After elections, the effort was directed toward informing the people of the results of the elections and the importance of the results.

In support of the education and information program for the elections, ARVN press produced 1.3 million leaflets and papers concerning election news, slogans, and voting procedures. Propaganda teams from the 10th Psywar Battalion were sent to key districts in all 5 provinces, while the cultural platoon was employed in the National Priority Area. The success of the efforts was shown by the fact that 87.2 percent of the ICTZ registered voters participated in the elections.

U.S. aircraft available for support of ARVN psychological operations were decreased as III MAF assumed control of the US 244th Psyops Company and its direct support aircraft. Even though VNAF responded by furnishing two speaker equipped U-17A aircraft and periodically other nonspeaker equipped aircraft, the overall air support for ARVN Psyops was reduced. Leaflets dropped during September numbered 26.1 million as compared to 34.6 million in August. Production of printed material increased from 9.3 million leaflets and newspapers last month to 10.3 million in September. Aerial loudspeaker work totaled 240 missions and 126 hours. The number of ralliers increased from 99 in August to 109 in September.

F. PERSONNEL: JGS programmed 3,000 replacements for I Corps to arrive during the week of 26 September. When the replacements did not arrive as scheduled, a follow-up revealed that these replacements were to have been deserters collected in the National Deserter Round-up Campaign. The I Corps campaign, which started on 22 September, recovered 485 deserters during the month, 80 percent returned voluntarily. I Corps continued to have an interpreter shortage. This shortage became more significant as new subsectors were formed at Phu Thu and Phong Dien.

G. REGIONAL FORCE/POPULAR FORCE: There were no significant changes in RF/PF strength during the month. The Motivation Indoctrination Program (MIP) for the RF/PF continued. The I Corps CG, Mayor of Danang, and III MAF CG decorated 70 RF/PF soldiers for actions in combat during a ceremony of 17 September. In spite of a training suspension during the national elections, 78 PF platoons, 684 soldiers, completed MIP training during the month bringing the total number to 273 trained platoons, 8,736 soldiers. Four RF companies completed basic training at Hoa Cam.

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During September, 219 tons of foodstuff and 75 bales of civilian clothing were distributed to RF/PF personnel and their dependents. RF/PF MEDCAP teams treated 4,800 patients during the month. The RF/PF Advisory Branch supported a Mid-Autumn Festival for 750 RF/PF dependent children.

Operational results for the month show a kill ratio greater than two to one. There were 73 RF/PF forces captured 29 VC, 32 individual weapons, 21 automatic weapons, one 60mm mortar, and one AN/PRC-10 radio. RF/PF lost 101 individual weapons, 11 automatic weapons, and two AN/PRC-10 radios.

H. LOGISTICS. The logistics situation deteriorated during September. Rice stocks in depot reached a low of 9 days' supply. A shortage of 60mm mortar illumination rounds continued during the month. Low stock levels existed at the end of the month for 40mm grenades, 81mm HE rounds, 105mm howitzer HE and illumination rounds, and fragmentation grenades. A serious shortage of 1/4 ton and 2-1/2 ton truck batteries and fortification materials continued throughout the month. Resupply in the I CTZ was accomplished by road convoys, water, air, and rail. Two rail movements to the 11th DTA carried 335 short tons of cargo while 1,792 short tons were moved by road convoy, 2,398 short tons were moved by water, and 150 short tons were moved by air during the month.

I. ENGINEER. The number of enemy attacks against roads and bridges in the I CTZ decreased from 19 in August to 10 in September. ARVN Engineers reaction time continued to be excellent, enabling Highway 1 to be trafficable from the DMZ to Quang Ngai over 90 percent of the month. On 26 September Highway 1 was opened to BS 920233, a point one kilometer north of Sa Huynh. This is the farthest south Highway 1 has been open in over one year.

There were 7 enemy attacks against the railroad in I CTZ during September. The line was closed between Da Nang and Hue 60 percent of the month.

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SECRETCHRONOLOGY OF VIP VISITS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK/SERVICE</u>	<u>BILLET</u>
18 Sep 66	U. S. Grant SHARP	Adm. USN	CINCPAC
1 Sep 66	William K. JONES	BGen. USMC	Director, COC MACV
3-6 Sep 66	Victor H. KRULAK	LTGen. USMC	CG, FMFPAC
3 Sep 66	Donald H. McGOVERN	BGen. USA	MACJ-1
6 Sep 66	William C. WESTMORELAND	Gen. USA	COMUSMACV
6 Sep 66	William K. JONES	BGen. USMC	Director, COC, MACV
7 Sep 66	William W. MOMYER	LtGen. USAF	CG, 7th Air Force
7 Sep 66	C. M. TALBOTT	BGen. USAF	Director, TACC, 7th Air Force
8 Sep 66	John J. HYLAND	VAdm. USN	COMSEVENTHFLT
8-15 Sep 66	Joseph F. HOLT	Mr.	USAID Consultant
9 Sep 66	Thomas J. DALY	LtGen. AA	Chief of General Staff Australian Army
9 Sep 66	K. MACKAY	MGen. AA	Commander Australian Forces Vietnam
9 Sep 66	LEE Bong Chool	BGen. ROKMC	CG, 2d Brigade ROKMC
10 Sep 66	Carrol H. DUNN	MGen. USA	MACV J-4
10 Sep 66	Daniel H. RAYMOND	BGen. USA	Director of Construction, MACV
10 Sep 66	Robert R. WOODING	RAdm. USN	OICC, RVN
12 Sep 66	Milton ZASLOW	GS-17	National Security Agency
12-13 Sep 66	Thomas F. CONNOLLY	VAdm. USN	COMNAVAIRPAC
13-14 Sep 66	Michael P. RYAN	BGen. USMC	CG, 9thMAB

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK/SERVICE</u>	<u>BILLET</u>
13Sep66	B.C.A. NAPIER	Col. Brit. Army	British Defense Attache to RVN
13Sep66	R. M.St. GEORGE KIRKE	Col. Brit. Army	Incoming British Defense Attache to RVN
16Sep66	Barry ZORTHIAN	Mr.	Director, JUSPAO, U.S. Embassy, Saigon
16Sep66	Robert SHERROD	Mr.	Prominent Author
16-17Sep66	Michael P. RYAN	BGen. USMC	CG, 9thMAB
16Sep66	William C. WESTMORELAND	Gen. USA	COMUSMACV
16Sep66	John C. F. TILSON, III	MGen. USA	MACJ-3
16Sep66	William K. JONES	BGen. USMC	Director of COC, MACV
16Sep66	Joseph A. McCHRISTIAN	BGen. USA	MACJ-2
19-20Sep66	Joseph J. ALSOP	Mr.	Prominent Author
20Sep66	Harry S. KENNEDY	RtRev.	Episcopal Bishop of Hawaii
21-25Sep66	Joseph HOLT	Mr.	USAID Consultant
21Sep66	Charles R. MEYER	BGen. USA	CG, USA Support Command, Qui Nhon
22-30Sep66	R. G. DAVIS	MGen, USMC	Head of HQMC Evaluation Team
22Sep66	William C. WESTMORELAND	Gen. USA	COMUSMACV
22Sep66	William K. JONES	BGen. USMC	Director, COC, MACV
25Sep66	Yoshito NAKAYAMA	Mr.	Japanese Ambassador to RVN
25Sep66	Hisao ARIYOSHI	Mr.	Japanese Counselor General of the Defense
25Sep66	Ryoichi TABATA	MGen. JSDF	G-2, SDF, Japan
26Sep66	C. J. TIMMES	MGen. USA	Director (Remote Area Conflict), OSD, Advanced Research Project Agency

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK/SERVICE</u>	<u>BILLET</u>
26-27Sep66	L. H. BORDER	Mr.	Australian Ambassador to RVN
27-28Sep66	Arnold M. LEWIS	RtRev.	Episcopal Bishop for the Armed Forces
28-30Sep66	Henry L. T. KOREN	Mr.	Assistant Deputy Ambassador, U. S. Embassy to RVN
29-30Sep66	Herman NICKERSON Jr.	MGen. USMC	Incoming CG, 1stMarDiv
30Sep66	James E. HERBOLD Jr.	BGen. USMC	Incoming CG, FLC

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SECRETPART THREECHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- UNCLASSIFIED
- 1 September - Operation Macon continues
Operation Prairie continues
Operation Pawnee continues
 - 2 September - Operation Troy initiated
 - 4 September - Operation Troy terminated
 - 5 September - Operation Napa initiated
 - 6 September - Operation Pawnee terminated
 - 7 September - Operation Cannon initiated
 - 8 September - Operation Pawnee II initiated
Operation Fresno initiated
 - 12 September - Operation Cannon terminated
 - 14 September - Operation Pawnee II terminated
 - 15 September - Operation Napa terminated
 - 17 September - Operation Fresno terminated
Operation Golden Fleece 7-1 initiated
 - 24 September - Operation Coffee initiated and terminated
 - 27 September - Operation Golden Fleece 7-1 terminated
 - 29 September - Operation Monterey initiated
 - 30 September - Operation Monterey terminated

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SECRETPART FOURREFERENCES

- UNCLASSIFIED
- (A) 3d Marine Division Command Chronology, September 1966.
 - (B) 1st Marine Division Command Chronology, September 1966.
 - (C) 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Command Chronology, September 1966.
 - (D) Force Logistics Command Chronology, September 1966.

ENCLOSURES

- (1) ✓ 7th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein Command Chronology, September 1966.
- (2) ✓ 5th Communications Battalion Command Chronology, September 1966.
- (3) ✓ 9th Motor Transport Battalion Command Chronology, September 1966.
- (4) ✓ 9th Engineer Battalion Command Chronology, September 1966.
- (5) ✓ 1st Military Police Battalion Command Chronology, September 1966.

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