

HEADQUARTERS
1st Medical Battalion (-)
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

6/RHM:dlm
5750
26 Feb 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF (Attn: G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology; forwarding of

Ref: (a) 1stMarDiv(Rein)(Rear) msg 150210Z of Dec 1965
(b) 1stMarDiv(Rein)(Rear) Bulletin 5750 of 4 Dec 1965

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is forwarded herewith.

R. H. Mitchell
R. H. MITCHELL

ENCLOSURE(14)

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1st Medical Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

H&S Company (-) (7 cooks attached to letter companies)

Co. "A" (-) (Rein)

DETACHED:

1 Collecting Section 3/1
1 Collecting Section 2/3
1 Collecting Section 1/3

ATTACHED: (From BLT 3/4)

1 Collecting Section

REINFORCEMENT:

2 cooks from H&S Company

Co. "B" (-) (Rein)

DETACHED:

1 Clearing Platoon 1/5
1 Collecting Section 1/5

Det. Co. Hq.

REINFORCEMENT:

1 cook

Additional personnel carried for WestPac move - 28 HM's

Co. "C"

Deployed with RLIT-7

REINFORCEMENT:

2 cooks

Co. "D"

REINFORCEMENT:

1 cook

a. Location
b. Period Covered
c. Commanding Officer
Executive Officer
Battalion Adjutant
Marine Advisor
Prev. Med. Officer
CO, "A" Company
CO, "B" Company
CO, "D" Company

Camp Hansen, Okinawa
1 Jan 1966 - 28 Feb 1966
CDR Russell H. MITCHELL MC USN
LT Charles A. ROPER MSC USN
LT Richard A. CUSICK MSC USN
CAPT Herbert L. SEAY USMC
CDR L. P. EISMAN MSC USN
CDR T. S. MARKS MC USN
LT George S. HARRIS MSC USN
LTJG J. A. MASSEY MSC USN

MEDICAL OFFICERS IN "A" COMPANY

LCDR R. M. BRAUN MC USNR
LCDR L. R. BROWN MC USN
LT D. M. FITZGERALD MC USN
LCDR E. E. FREEMAN MC USN
LT C. J. HARPER MC USNR
LCDR R. D. LEFFERT MC USNR
CDR T. S. MARKS MC USN

SPECIALTY

Orthopedic Surgeon
General Surgeon
Anesthesiologist
Internal Medicine & Flight Surgeon
Anesthesiologist
Orthopedic Surgeon
Thoracic Surgeon

COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF EVENTS

The battalion was brought to T/O strength by cancellation of the second half of the course at Field Medical Service School of one class which supplied us with a goodly portion of our senior petty officers. In addition, the Preventive Medicine Section was Brought up to T/O (less one CDR - MC) with the joining of four MSC officers prior to embarkation. Until 10 January the battalion efforts were directed mainly at preparation for embarkation. Loading commenced on 10 January and completed on 13 January before sailing on the 14th.

All non-mobile loaded cargo was embarked in the USS MERRICK, AKA 97. Unfortunately, space limitations dictated the depalletization of much of our equipment. This was undesirable for two main reasons: that of loss, and damaged items. In the future, even more diligent efforts will be made to prevent this.

Training was continued both aboard ship and on Okinawa, but logistic and supply problems, which make replacement of damaged items doubtful have precluded the field unit training. Current situation and concept of deployment in South East Asia makes the conservation of equipment and supplies more important than training in mobility.

During the period of 12-18 February the Battalion Commander and the Marine Advisor were on TAD in RVN to reconnoiter our assigned area and establish liaisons. Valuable information was obtained (Appendix 1).

A reciprocal arrangement was reached by CDR EISMAN, Head of Preventive Medicine Section, whereby 3 men will be exchanged with the 3d MarDiv PMS at DaNang. This combined with the early deployment of 3 officers and 9 enlisted from this section should give us a firm and early grip on the critical preventive medicine problems facing us in RVN.

While our Medical Officer strength (8) is considerably below T/O (25) it will improve by the end of March (14) and is considered adequate for the present situation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 30 Dec 1965 Non-deployables detached.
- 4 Jan 1966 Medical Phase of FMSS cancelled and balance of Navy NCO/SNCO's received to bring organization to T/O, Navy enlisted.
- 5 Jan 1966 Deployment schedule received, Msg #032010Z.
- 10 Jan 1966 All vehicles except 422's and trailers embarked aboard the USS ST. CLAIR COUNTY, LST 1096.
- 14 Jan 1966 Troops embarked.
- 14 Jan 1966 - 5 Feb 1966 Enroute Okinawa with 2 days stop in Hawaii.
Conference held there with FMFPAC, "B" Co.
Liaison and 1/5.
- 23 Jan 1966 Advance party to Okinawa by air, Executive Officer and Sgt. Major.
- 5 Feb 1966 Debarked White Beach, Okinawa.
- 5 Feb 1966 Accepted Opcon/Adcon Co. "A" and Co. "B"/RLT-5 retains Primary logistic support co. "B" (Ref. msg #202235Z).

- 5 Feb 1966 Lack of warehouse space was noted upon debarkation.
Present storage space inadequate. It was necessary
to haul some gear to Camp Hague.
- 12 Feb 1966 Battalion Commander and Marine Advisor TAD 3DMarDiv.
- 14 Feb 1966 Mobile loaded vehicles and balance of organizational
material debarked White Beach and Naha, Okinawa.
- 18 Feb 1966 Battalion Commander and Marine Advisor returned from TAD.
- 25 Feb 1966 3 Navy Officers, 9 Navy Enlisted from H&S Preventive
Medicine Section TAD to RVN.
- 25 Feb 1966 LFTU arrived with LCDR W. E. ARMS MSC USN, Officer In
Charge, with one other officer and two enlisted.
Schedule consists of 2 one week courses in Medical
planning for combat operations.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS OF CHU LAI**I. Location and Observations****1. General area**

- a. Considered secure

2. SPECIFIC AREA**a. Perimeter**

- (1) External
 - (a) 1700 yds
- (2) Internal
 - (a) Layout
 - (b) General living conditions

(3) Drainage**b. Beach - good**

- (1) Breeze deceiving

c. Climate - good

- (1) Ocean breeze (windy at times)
- (2) Few mosquitoes
- (3) Seasons
 - (a) Dry - April thru Sept.
Temperature - up to 143°
Humidity - 80%-90%
No rain
Late summer wind from hills - mosquitoes
 - (b) Wet - Oct. thru Dec.
Rain all the time
Taper off Jan, Feb, and Mar.
 - (c) Always cool at night
1-2 blankets
 - (d) Sunrise - from ocean - 0630-0700
Sunset - behind hill - 1930

both approximately

(4) Odor - bad**d. Snakes and insects**

- (1) Bamboo snakes
- (2) Kraits
- (3) Sea snakes
- (4) Rats
- (5) Few insects
- (6) No birds (choppers)

- e. Security
 - (1) None by B-Med
 - (2) Concertina and bunkers
 - (3) Avenue of approach
 - (4) Danang in contrast
- 3. Post Exchange - poor
 - a. Inaccessible - 4th Marines, MAG-36
 - b. Very long lines
 - c. Toilet items
 - d. Few books and magazines
 - e. Cigarettes
- 4. Disbursing
 - a. Handled by 4th Marines
- 5. Mail - generally good
 - a. 305 days from states
 - b. Packages - air mail, good
parcel post - 8-10 weeks
 - c. Automatic forwarding - poor
- 6. Liberty - poor to none
 - a. Work 7 day week
 - b. 2 small villages - poor conditions
 - c. Sex - ?
 - d. Booze - 33
 - e. Peddlars
 - f. R&R
 - (1) 2-5 day periods per year
 - (2) Okinawa, Manila, Japan, Hong Kong, Bangkok
 - (3) Quota system
- 7. Clothing recommended
 - a. Good 782 gear - hard to replace
 - b. 2 blankets
 - c. field jacket
 - d. raincoat
 - e. utilities, socks, skivvies (load up)
 - (1) short sleeve
 - (2) name above right pocket
 - f. Chevrons and bars
 - (1) can't get
 - (2) wear on cover
 - g. civilian clothes - for R&R
 - h. Khakis
 - i. Towels, swim suit, (sun tan oil)
 - j. greens, tropes, dress shoes - ?

8. Special Services - short

9. Country - very pretty

- a. paddies
- b. tapioca
- c. graves
- d. water, hills and cloud formations
- e. women - hard workers

10. Casualties, booby traps and general observations

a. booby traps

- (1) Taped spoon on hand grenade gas tank - 3 min. to 5 hrs.
- (2) Cement spikes (boot insert)
- (3) AM - Track (mined)
- (4) emptying trash
- (5) TNT

b. Casualties

- (1) light - squad
moderate - platoon
heavy - excess of 1 platoon
condition - good
- (2) legs shot up
- (3) head between legs
- (4) graves registration
- (5) children
- (6) Med care good
- (7) Double Eagle -
- (8) Emersion foot

c. General observations

- (1) Patrol ambushed - 5 men
 - (a) Tortured
 - (b) ample ammo
 - (c) Well fed
- (2) Meat hooks
- (3) Choppers
 - (a) HUE, (2.7mm); 2 pods; 18 rockets
80-120 mph
6 M-60's
 - (b) HOG-2 pods; 24 rockets (2.7mm)
2 M-60's
1 nose gun (40mm-150rds)
 - (c) SLICK - Med - evac
2 pilots
1 crew chief
1 HH
carries 3 casualties
- (4) Front line troops

strike (%)

strike

11. Medical trends

- a. T/O being disregarded
 - (1) CAC's not functioning as company
 - (2) Hospital
 - (3) Pool men and resources
- b. Shock-resuscitation team
 - (1) Teams in place of shock-surgical team
 - (a) 3-6 MO's
 - 16-18 HN's
 - 5-6 ME
 - (b) Operate 5-10 miles from front lines
 - (c) functions: stoppages, drainage, tracheotomies
administer IV fluids
 - (d) from there evacuated to MedBn or ship
 - (e) Double Eagle - conditions good
- c. Repose
 - (1) beautiful facilities
 - (2) holds 450 patients comfortably
 - (3) 750-1000 patients maximum
 - (4) personnel
 - (a) 27 doctors (approximately)
 - (b) 14 nurses
 - (c) 258 HN's

12. SHOWERS, TOILETS, HOT BATHS, SINKS, HAIRCUTS13. BOREDOM

II: Personnel at B-Med

1. General

- a. lack of command attention
- b. lack of assuming responsibility (locally)
- c. lack of leadership and supervision
- d. internal apathy
 - (1) however, anticipating our arrival
- e. discipline - poor
- f. morale - marginal

2. 131 personnel

- a. 21 officers
 - (1) 11 doctors (2 Ortho; 3 Surg; 1 Psych; 2 Anesth; 3 GNO)
 - (2) 6 dental
 - (3) 2 chaplains
 - (4) 2 MSC
- b. 27 Marines (MT, supply, Admin, O311(1), Uty, cooks)
- c. 72 corporals
- d. 11 dental

3. Rotation tour date

III: OBSERVATIONS OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIAL SECTIONS

1. Supply; pages 6 & 7
2. Comm; page 8
3. Mess; pages 9 & 10
4. Ordnance; page 11
5. Motor transport; pages 12 & 13
6. Utilities; page 14
7. Disposition and shortage of "C"Co. equipment and "B"Med vehicles; pages 15 & 16
8. Some future and additional duties for MedBn; page 17
9. Personal and comfort items; page 18
10. Roster of "B"Med personnel; (original only)
Officers; page 19
Marines; page 20
Corpsmen; pages 21 & 22
Dental; page 22
"C"Med personnel; page 23

SUPPLY

1. Generally unsatisfactory
 - a. Organic supply
 - b. Med block
 - c. Storage space
2. Formal accounting - not signing for gear
3. FLSU - supply source (had for organic & ordnance)
4. Serounging
 - a. Tin - can possibly be obtained from MAG-36
 - b. RMK - civilian construction group (lumber, tin & cement)
 - c. Seabees (cots)
5. 10,000 gal H2O storage
6. Utilities & boots for patients
7. Laundry - problems
8. Fork lifts are available at ramp (debarkation)
9. Recommended items, extras, & hard to get ones
 - a. C rations
 - b. Linseed oil & cleaning gear; WD-40 rust preventive
 - c. 782 gear & organic equipment
 - d. Office machines & typewriters (hard to get spare parts & repair)
 - e. Concertina and sandbags
 - f. Fire extinguishers (also establish disposition & order)
 - g. Tools, scythes (grass and weeds)
 - h. 55 gal drums (head, shower, etc)
 - i. Cleaning supplies; black board
 - j. Barber clippers; clip boards; stop watches (3-way)
 - k. Signs for tents & numbering systems
 - l. Blood reefers (club)
 - m. Blank forms: 708, slit, etc)
 - n. Cinemascope lens for standard Bell & Howell (for movies)
 - o. CONES boxes (storage)
 - p. List of Caltipak items

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

1. Short
 - a. Stretchers
 - b. Pajamas (patients)
 - c. Penicillin
 - d. Griseofulvin
 - e. White gas for autoclaves
2. Riffel Model Fourrigger machine
 - a. Requested Sept 65 - don't have
3. Jewett blood refrigerator (350 units)
 - a. Requested but haven't received

COMM

1. Maintenance & parts big problem
 - a. Faster than electrical maintenance (Div. CommCo.) than thru FLSU
2. Load up on wire, batteries, & spare parts
 - a. Keep wire off ground (bomb racks)
3. Call signs - all Vietnamese
4. Shackle sheets
5. Presently using FLSU switchboard
 - a. Lines to ADC & ComHqs
6. Danang:
 - a. SB-22(2) 24 hrs
 - b. MEC-63 - bad alternator; also missing parts
 - c. Rated 8 phones - had 37 (28 working)
 - d. Message center not will comm - should be

ENCL (1)

MESS IN GENERAL

1. Generally a poor mess
 - a. Chow hours needs revision until larger facilities are prepared
prime importance
 - b. Mess hours

0630-0730	Mon-Sat	0800-1000	Sun
1200-1300		1600-1700	
1700-1800			
 - c. Personnel
 - (1) 131 persons with following seating capability in mess:

(a) General mess (E-1-E-3)	- 32 per setting (39 total)
(b) E-4-E-6's	16 per setting (62 total)
(c) E-7 & above	16 per setting (9/21)
(d) & patients	
(e) "A" Co 10/60	
EAS 11/81	
"B" Co 1/91	
22/232	
21/110	
43/342	-when we get there
2. Ask for cement deck
3. Working (H2O) from buffalo and cane
4. Tentage - code X (10 months)
5. Tables can be made from bomb racks and plywood
6. Reefers (used for bodies)
 - a. poor storage capacity
 - b. result - A rats - most of time
541's - frequently
C's - occasionally
7. Recommended mess items for Vietnam

a. Recommended	On hand at B-Med
Generators	9
Egg turners	1
Immersion burners	6
Metal sponges	NIS
Bowl brushes	NIS
Scrub brushes	NIS
Straw brooms	3
Food containers w/inserts	3
Vacuum jugs	2
Deep sinks	NIS
Ice machine	NIS
M.E. 10 motor	1-2 box

7. (Con'td)

630 cube ft. cooler	NIS
Air pumps	1
Can opener (table)	1
Tongs, covering	NIS
Asbestos pads	NIS
Adding machine	NIS
Cutting board	1
Cook's hats	NIS
Rolling pin	NIS
Steel wool	NIS
Dishpans and colanders	NIS

b. Food items that are always NIS

Catsup
 Oregano
 Garlic
 Tomato paste
 Hot sauce
 Chile Sauce
 Tuna fish
 Salmon
 Chili powder
 Paprika
 Tea
 Jello
 Fruit cocktail
 Olives (all types)
 Salad oil
 Ice cream freezer

c. Nice to have items

Mixing machine
 Fly swatters
 Paper cups
 Silver ware
 Cups
 Plates
 Chow passes
 Napkins
 S&P shakers

ORDNANCE

1. Generally unsatisfactory
 - a. Weapons - dirty, rusty
 - b. No armory, no ammo dump
 - (1) No security
 - c. .50 cal air mount unsat
 - d. No cleaning gear
2. Casualty weapons, ammo & 762 gear
 - a. 24 hour standby
 - b. Tagged, cleaned & secured
 - c. Unit notified
 - d. If unit does not call for gear, send out excess property listing; turn over to FLSS for final disposition
3. WD-40 rust preventive (Rocket Chemical Co.)
4. Build armory for drainage
5. M127A1 - parachute, illuminating (handy)

MOTOR TRANSPORT

1. Generally poor shape
 - a. No 1st echelon maintenance in over a month
 - b. No "hard-nosed" dispatcher - no control
 - c. Tools rusty
 - d. 1 driver used as police agt.
 - e. 14 drivers, 2 mechanics
 - f. Working hours 0800-1600
2. Hardstand - fair
3. Fuel & POL - no problem; resupplied by FLSU
4. Camouflage nets - not used
5. Vehicle requirements (runs)
 - a. Mass (1) 6X - all day
 - b. H2O (1) 6X - all day
 - c. Trash (1) 6X - all day
 - d. Mail 2-3 times daily (admin runs)
 - e. AAS (1) 43: 24 hrs
 - f. Laundry (OR) (1) mit 5-6 times a wk (FLSU)
 - g. Med evac. 6X & 43's - 6-8 vehicles; 5 mile rd trip (all morning) (Tues., Thurs., & Sat.)
 - h. Supply - ?
6. Maintain usage data sheet
7. Keep bows & canvas together
8. Items hard to get & recommended extras
 - a. Windshield & covers
 - b. Torque rods; universal joints
 - c. CV joints & points for mites & PC; extra carburetors
 - d. All kinds of tools
 - e. Flugs & bearings; nuts & lug bolts
 - f. Battery clamps
 - g. Radiator hoses
 - h. 2nd echelon material
 - i. Faucets for buffaloes
 - j. Emergency brakes & lights
 - k. Tires, tubes & tire patches
 - l. Maintenance tent (26X size); rig lights for night work
 - m. Sprags & pullers (FSR)
 - n. All items pertaining to brakes; anchor pins, brake fluid, brake shoes, brake linings
 - o. Springs for cracker boxes

MOTOR TRANSPORT (CONT'D)

9. Perform annual PM each time
10. BVM has all new vehicles

UTILITIES

1. Take all extra
 - a. Wire & receptacles
 - b. # 2 wire (against voltage drop)
 - c. Light bulbs (100-150)
 - d. Tools
 - e. Filters for generators
2. When putting light systems in tent, plan ahead for tin roof as well
3. Keep wire off ground

DISPOSITION AND SHORTAGES OF C Co's EQUIPMENT

1. 1st Platoon - transferred to 3rd Medical Battalion, DaNang with galley gear to support one platoon - less rolling stock and organic gear.
2. 2nd Platoon -
100 Series admission and Sorting-
Litters have been depleted -
Need resupply - has been inventoried, no major items of equipment missing
3. In Use in "B"Med
200 Series - O.R. Section
Box 206 Anesthesia apparatus
207 Suction apparatus
209 Surgical, light
217 Packs and Linen
218 Surgical Packs
219 Surgical Packs
220 Anesthesia Set
4. In Use with "B"Med
300 Series X-Ray
304 Tube unit assembly (50 MA)
309 Transformer
310 Control Panel
314 Collimator
5. 400 Series - Ward Set
Needs Re-supply
No major-equipment missing
6. 500 Series Platoon Supply
 - a. Litters and lighting sets have been expended in use in "B"Co
 - b. All cots and litters, are either expended or in use in "B"Co
 - c. All tentage is currently in use in "B"Co
 - d. Essentially the same items are in use from the D-Block - There was no canvas or rolling stock with this block.
7. 10 and 30 day Blocks -
Are approximately 90-95% complete
8. 600 Series galley gear -
In use in "B"Med
9. Weapons transferred into "B"Med armory less 4.45 cal pistols
10. Rolling stock -
185301 - M-35 - Running
183954 - M-35 - Running
202760 - M-35 - Running

10. (Con'td)

217565 - M-35 - Deadline frozen engine
 186280 - M-35 - Deadline broken front spring
 312519 - M-43 - Deadline leak in gas tank
 312466 - M-43 - Running
 312478 - M-43 - Running
 312493 - M-43 - Running
 312468 - M-43 - Running
 307388 - M-170 - Running
 202461 - M-170 - Running
 202255 - M-170 - Running
 202349 - M-170 - Deadline (engine)
 202120 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton M-105 (good)
 180228 - M-107 (good)
 192856 - M-100 - (good)
 201094 - M-107 (good)

Mite wrecked and surveyed at Qui Nhon - turned into LSU

306166 - On line 30 KW
 304261 - Field Main (temp) 30 KW

304354 - Turned into 3rd FSR received 304261 in exchange

11. "B" Med vehicles

M-35 -

217531 (6 wks) deadlined batteries, accelerator linkage
 177137 (3 wks) deadlined, torsion air rod, batteries
 211371

M-43

312510
 237239
 312485

M-170

202359 (xx 2wks) deadlined, batteries
 202265 (3 wks) deadlined, bell crank, tie rod ends
 218572

M-422

243104 (6 wks) deadlined, hub assy, front, universal joint
 in Jun 14 - Oct for propeller shaft

M-107

176662
 206125

SOME FUTURE ADDITIONAL DUTIES FOR MED BATTALION

1. Casualty Reports Officer
2. Collection Agent
3. Evacuation Officer
4. Cantonment Commander
5. Labor Control Officer
6. Language Control Officer
7. Registered Publications Officer
8. Decedent Affairs Officer
9. Civil Affairs Officer
10. Guard (Security) Officer

PERSONAL & COMFORT ITEMS

1. Pillows, pillow covers (plastic), sheets, mattresses, & bunks
2. Desk, chairs
3. Extension cords, pull cords, sockets, light bulbs, & lamps
4. Fans & refrigerators
5. Tools, nails, hooks, hinges, screws & locks
6. Screen door sets, door handles, & door catches
7. Hot locker
8. Lumber, tin plywood, screening material
9. Paint, thinner, varnish, & paint brushes
10. Nozzles (for H2O cans)
11. Poles for mosquito netting & insect spray
12. Flashlight & batteries
13. Radio (excellent for morale)
14. Soap, shaving gear, & general toilet articles
15. Medicated powder & soap
16. Clothes line & pins
17. Wash basin & mirrors
18. Lighter fluid
19. Books, cards & poker chips
20. Napkins, plastic trays & ash trays
21. Sun tan oil
22. Cleaning gear for individual weapons.