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

1/GRF/rj
5750
10 Jan 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division (Rein), FMF, FPO San Francisco, California 96602
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 December 1967 through 31 December 1967; submission of
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2 series
 (b) FMFPACO 5750.8 series
 (c) DivO 5750.2 series

Encl: ✓(1) First Medical Battalion Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

C. H. LOWERY

1ST MED BN
CMD CHRON

DEC 1967

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December 1967 through 31 December 1967

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(March 1966 - November 1967)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st Medical Battalion (Rein)

COMMANDERCDR C.H. LOWERY, MC, USN
1-31 December 1967SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company

LCDR G.R. FORD, MSC, USN
1-31 December 1967

"A" Company

LCDR S.A. NEILL, MC, USN
1-31 December 1967

"B" Company

LCDR R.C. HAMILTON, MC, USNR
1-31 December 1967

"C" Company

LCDR G.A. VAN de WYNGAERDE, MC, USN
1-31 December 1967

"D" Company

LCDR D.H. RANDELS, MC, USN
1-31 December 19672. LOCATION

1st Medical Battalion (Rein)

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

H&S Company

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"A" Company

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"B" Company, 1st PLT

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"B" Company, 2nd PLT

1-31 December 1967 Quang Tri, RVN

"C" Company, 1st PLT

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"C" Company, 2nd PLT

1-31 December 1967 afloat attached to 3/1

"D" Company, 1st PLT

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"D" Company, 2nd PLT

1-31 December 1967 Chu Lai, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS FIRST MEDICAL BATTALION DANANG

Director of Professional Services

LCDR W.J. MULLINS, MC, USN

1-31 December 1967

Executive Officer

LCDR G.R. FORD, MSC, USN

1-31 December 1967

S-1 Officer

LT J.M. ROBERTSON, MSC, USN

1-31 December 1967

S-2/S-3

LT D. RITUCCI, USMC

1-31 December 1967

Preventive Medicine Section;
Officer in Charge

CDR E.H. GLEASON

1-31 December 1967

4. Motor Transport Officer

1st Medical Battalion (Rein)

2NDLT R.J. REDICAN, USMC

1-31 December 1967

H&S Company

1-31 December 1967

"A" Company

1-31 December 1967

"B" Company

1-31 December 1967

"C" Company

1-31 December 1967

"D" Company

1-31 December 1967

ENCLOSURE (1)

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S-4 Officer

LTJG F.D.R. FISHER, MSC, USN
1-31 December 1967

S-5 Officer

LT F.N. HENSON, MSC, USN
1-31 December 19674. AVERAGE STRENGTH FOR THE FIRST MEDICAL BATTALION

USN		USMC		
OFFICER	ENLISTED	OFFICER	ENLISTED	TOTAL
46	285	3	138	472

HOSPITAL STATISTICSADMISSIONSNon-Battle

	Battle Casualties	Injuries	Disease	Total
Danang	164	97	382	643

OUTPATIENT VISITS

Danang 1499

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the period covered by this report, the command has been employed in support of U.S. forces in the Danang, Chu Lai and Quang Tri TAOR's.

On 1 December 1967 2nd platoon "C" Company was detached from the Battalion and attached to the 3rd Battalion, First Marines as an attached unit of Battalion Landing Team 3/1 of the Special Landing Force of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade.

On 18 December 1967 Mr. Earl Wilson and Barbara McNair, members of the Bob Hope Show, visited the patients at First Medical Battalion.

On 23 December 1967 RADM Kelley, Chief of the Naval Chaplain Corps, visited the facility at First Medical Battalion.

On 28 December 1967 the clearing platoon (-) of the First Medical Battalion was detached to the Command Post of the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines as a supporting unit of Operation AUBURN.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 December 1967 - 2nd platoon "C" Company attached to BLT 3/1, 9th MAB.

18 December 1967 - Visit to First Medical Battalion by members of the Bob Hope Show.

23 December 1967 - RADM Kelley, Chief of Naval Chaplains, visited First Medical Battalion.

28 December 1967 - Clearing platoon (-) attached to 3/5 in support of Operation AUBURN.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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CUMULATIVE TOTALS OF FIRST MEDICAL BATTALION

1st Medical Battalion and subordinate units since its arrival in the Republic of Viet Nam, April 1966-01 January 1968

Total Admissions	18,831
Battle Casualties	7,121
Non-battle Casualties	2,732
Diseases	8,579
Out-patients	49,399

1st Medical Battalion and subordinate units since 01 January 1967 - 01 January 1968

Total Admissions	12,367
Battle Casualties	5,237
Non-battle Casualties	1,827
Diseases	5,103
Out-patients	31,421

1st Medical Battalion in Da Nang since 01 January 1967-01 January 1968

Total Admissions	8,406
Battle Casualties	3,457
Non-battle Casualties	1,335
Diseases	3,612
Out-patients	20,650
CR Procedures	4,940

Participated in 12 operations with clearing platoon (-) in combat zone since 01 January 1967

Clearing platoon (-) - Operation Supported

HOT SPRINGS	April 66
MONTGOMERY	May 66
KANSAS	June 66
COLORADO	August 66
RIO BLANCO	November 66
SIERRA	December 66
INDEPENDENCE	January 67
DE SOTO	January 67
UNION I	April 67
UNION II	May 67
ADAIR	June 67
CALHOUN	June 67
COCHRANE	August 67
SWIFT	September 67
KNOX	October 67
ESSEX	November 67
FOSTER	November 67
AUBURN	December 67

ENCLOSURE (1)

The First Medical Battalion, First Marine Division

The mission of the First Medical Battalion is to provide for the collection, emergency definitive treatment, temporary hospitalization and evacuation of casualties. It is also to plan, supervise and perform timely protective measures for the control of disease common to field operations.

In addition to this classical amphibious warfare mission, the First Medical Battalion, in Vietnam, has acquired the mission of providing general clinical and hospital services to the men of the First Division and surrounding Marine Corps elements. This mission includes the care and treatment of sick and injured personnel with the objectives of their expeditious return to duty and the prompt disposition of those patients who require more specialized treatment not readily available or who are found physically unfit for duty in Vietnam.

As an additional mission, the First Medical Battalion provides small medical units deployed into combat zones to act as primary triage centers in support of battalion or regimental sized operations.

At the present time the First Medical Battalion, in support of the Danang TAOR, is composed of H&S Company, Collecting and Clearing Companies Alfa and Charlie, and reinforced clearing platoons from Bravo and Delta Companies. One clearing platoon, reinforced of Bravo Company, is situated in Quang Tri in direct support of the First Marine Regiment. One clearing platoon of Delta Company is attached to the First Hospital Company in Chu Lai. At its Danang cantonment the First Medical Battalion is supported by a tenant unit of the First Dental Company, two chaplains and a Graves Registration Section from the Force Logistics Command.

Personnel strength is as follows:

34	Medical Corps Officers
9	Medical Service Corps Officers
3	Marine Corps Officers
310	Hospital Corpsmen
128	Marines

Of the medical officers the following specialties are represented: 9 orthopedic surgeons, 8 general surgeons, 6 anesthesiologists, 1 internist, 2 psychiatrists, and 8 general medical officers.

The hospital facility in Danang is composed of a triage area adjacent to a helicopter pad. The casualty treatment area is constructed in such a way as to provide a continuous patient flow from the triage area through the X-Ray department, to either the shock and debridement area for minor surgery or the operating rooms for major surgery. Six operating rooms are available in air conditioned Quonset huts. There is also a 25 bed intensive care unit and recovery rooms. This unit is also in a double air conditioned Quonset hut.

The prescribed holding time for this 180 bed facility is 14 days. However, in order to stay within the recommended occupancy rate of 60% the average patient stay is three to four days.

Since its arrival in Vietnam in March of 1966, the First Medical Battalion and its subordinate units have admitted 18,831 patients. Of these, 7,121 were battle casualties, 2,731 were non-battle casualties, and 8,979 were diseased patients. 49,399 outpatients have been seen and treated. In the Danang facility alone, approximately 5000 operative procedures have been performed in the past year.

In addition to maintaining a hospital facility, the First Medical Battalion has deployed clearing platoons (minus) into combat zones in direct support of eighteen different battalion or regimental sized operations. These forward medical units have greatly facilitated the proper sorting and evacuation of the battle injured from the area of combat back to the fixed hospital facilities.

ENCLOSURE 2

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

16 Mar 1966 - H&S, "A", and "D" Companies embarked on board USS TALLADEGA and USS SEMINOLE at Tengan, Okinawa.

20 Mar 1966 - Arrived and disembarked at Chu Lai, RVN.

21 Mar 1966 - Joined with "B" Co, 3rd Medical Battalion in support of Operation TEXAS. Received over 100 casualties from Operation TEXAS.

27 Mar 1966 - "D" Co, 1st Medical Battalion embarked aboard USS SNOHOMISH COUNTY (LST-836) for movement to DaNang. Upon arrival, this company was redesignated "B" Co, 3rd Medical Battalion. "B" Co, 3rd Medical Battalion at Chu Lai was simultaneously redesignated "D" Co, 1st Medical Battalion.

28 Mar 1966 - In support of Operation INDIANA.

29 Mar 1966 - Op con changed to 1st Marine Division.

30 Mar 1966 - All personnel of the 1st Medical Battalion transferred to H&S Co for ease of administration.

21 Apr 1966 - First Clearing Platoon (-) deployed in support of Operation
23 Apr 1966 "HOT SPRINGS".

9 May 1966 - Deployed Clearing Platoon in support of Operation MONTGOMERY.

14 May 1966

22 May 1966 - "B" Co embarked on board USS RENVILLE and USS WINSTON and sailed from White Beach, Okinawa.

27 May 1966 - "B" Co arrived and disembarked at Chu Lai, RVN. 1st Medical Battalion was in full strength at this time.

17 Jun 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky in support of Operation
18 Jun 1966 KANSAS.

6 Aug 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky in support of Operation
20 Aug 1966 COLORADO. Received 533 patients.

17 Oct 1966 - "A" Co deployed to Danang to support 3rd Medical Battalion.

20 Nov 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Quang Ngai to support Operation
27 Nov 1966 "RIO BLANCO".

12 Dec 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed in support of Operation SIERRA.

31 Dec 1966

24 Dec 1966 - 1st Medical Battalion Command Post moved to Danang to assume the operation of the medical facility formerly operated by 3rd Medical Battalion. A detachment of H&S Co and "A" Co (-) moved with the CP. Companies "B(-)", "C", and "D" (Rein) remained at Chu Lai.

ENCLOSURE (3)

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8 Jan 1967 - Rest of H&S Co arrived in Danang, RVN.

31 Jan 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to An Hoa in support of Operation INDEPENDENCE.

9 Feb 1967

31 Jan 1967 - "B" Co. (-) deployed to Duc Pho in support of Operation DESOTO.

1 Feb 1967 - CDR J.C. ROBINS relieved CDR R.H. MITCHELL as Commander of 1st Medical Battalion.

1 Apr 1967 - 1st Hospital Co, Chu Lai, RVN became Op Con and Ad Con to 1st Medical Battalion.

6 Apr 1967 - "B" Co (-) secured from Operation DESOTO at Duc Pho, RVN and returned to Chu Lai, RVN.

6 Apr 1967 - "C" Co, 3rd Medical Battalion detached from 1st Medical Battalion and departed for Phu Bai, RVN.

9 Apr 1967 - "C" Co, "D" Co, departed Chu Lai for Danang by LST.

9 Apr 1967 - "B" Co attached to 1st Hospital Co at its new cantonment in Chu Lai to establish a 120 bed hospital with a holding capacity of 30 days.

13 Apr 1967 - CDR P.F. COOPER assumed command of 1st Medical Battalion.

19 Apr 1967 - Final elements of "D" Co arrive at 1st Medical Battalion, Danang, RVN.

24 Apr 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky in support of 5th Marines during Operation UNION I.

17 May 1967

26 May 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky to support 5th Marines

7 Jun 1967 - during Operation UNION II.

30 May 1967 - MUST #1 (Medical Unit Self Contained Transportable) was attached to the 1st Hospital Co for evaluation of its capabilities to act as a Collecting and Clearing Co in the field.

15 Jun 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) from "B" Co, Chu Lai deployed to Tam Ky to support Operations ADAIR and CALHOUN. Elements of MUST #1 were used for the first time by the Marine Corps in direct support of a combat mission.

28 Jun 1967 - 1st Hospital Co became a 160 bed hospital facility.

9 Aug 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Hill 63 in support of Operation COCHISE.

29 Aug 1967

1 Sep 1967 - CDR C.H. LOWERY assumed command at 1st Medical Battalion.

3 Sep 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Hill 63 in support of Operation SWIFT.

30 Sep 1967

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14 Sep 1967 - 1st Hospital Co detached from 1st Medical Battalion and placed under Op Con of 1st Marine Division. "B" Co, 1st Medical Battalion remained attached to 1st Hospital Co.

4 Oct 1967 - "B" Co detached from 1st Hospital Co and departed Chu Lai by LST.

5 Oct 1967 - "B" Co arrived Danang.

10 Oct 1967 - 2nd Platoon "D" Co departed Danang for 1st Hospital Co at Chu Lai.

15 Oct 1967 - 2nd Platoon "B" Co departed Danang by Rough Rider for Quang Tri to support the First Marine Regiment.

22 Oct 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed in support of Operation KNOX.
30 Oct 1967

5 Nov 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to An Hoa to support battalions
28 Nov 1967 2/5 and 2/3 for Operations ESSEX and FOSTER.