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HEADQUARTERS  
3d Motor Transport Battalion  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

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6 Mar 1967

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF  
(2) Commanding General, III MAF  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-28 Feb 1967 (U)

Ref: (a) MCC 5750.2A  
(b) FMFACO 5750.3

Encl: (1) 1-28 Feb 67 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is unclassified.

*R. F. Armstrong*  
R. F. ARMSTRONG

3 RPT BN  
CMD CHRON

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3d MOTOR TRANSPORT BATTALION

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 Feb 1967 to 28 Feb 1967

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PART I--ORGANIZATION DATA1. Units and Locationsa. Phu-Bai Enclave (3dMTBn Hq)

H&SCo, 3dMTBn  
 Co"A", 3dMTBn  
 Co"B", 3dMTBn  
 Co"C" (-), 3dMTBn  
 Plt (-) Co"B", 9thMTBn (OPCON)  
 Plt (-) Co"C", 9thMTBn (OPCON)

b. Dong Ha Enclave

2d Plt (Rein), Co"C", 3dMTBn (Attached to BLT 2/3 on 26 Feb 1967)

2. Name/Rank Commanding Officer and Staff:

Major R. F. ARMSTRONG	Commanding Officer
Capt J. J. McDERMOTT	Executive Officer
2dLt V. I. HEAP	S-1/Adjutant
2dLt R. M. THACHER	S-3
2dLt J. T. KEEL	S-4/Supply O
2dLt V. I. HEAP	Co Comdr, H&SCo
Capt R. L. MITCHELL	Co Comdr, Co"A"
1stLt W. E. THOMPSON	Co Comdr, Co"B"
Capt P. H. WEBERLING	Co Comdr, Co"C"
SgtMaj H. C. MURRAY	Bn SgtMaj

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. 3d Motor Transport Battalion: USMC, 16 Officers and 297 Enlisted;  
 USN, 7 Enlisted.

b. 21 Enlisted OPCON from 9th Motor Transport Battalion.

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PART II--NARRATIVE SUMMARY1. Administration

a. For the first time in 12 years the Battalion was reunited with all its Companies located in the Phu-Bai Enclave, Republic of Vietnam. On 13, 14 and 15 Feb 1967 the Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Company and C Company moved from the DaNang Enclave and joined B Company in the Phu-Bai Enclave. On 21 Feb 1967, A Company moved from the Dong Ha Enclave and rejoined the other Companies, thus bringing about this historic reunion.

b. As the Battalion left DaNang it returned OPCON of A Company, 1st Motor Transport Battalion to its parent unit as 1st Motor Transport Battalion (-) displaced from Chu Lai and moved into the cantonment vacated by Third Motors in DaNang.

c. Coincidental with the Battalion's displacement was the transfer of 9 Otters to 1st Motor Transport Battalion. Operators and one mechanic were left with the vehicles to facilitate an orderly transfer of commitments and not disrupt the service being provided the infantry battalions in the Da-Nang Area.

d. On 26 Feb 1967 the Battalion was designated as the Sector Commander for a portion of the Phu-Bai Defense Perimeter. The sector is approximately 1 mile in length, crescent shaped and consists of 14 bunkers. Heretofore the sector was manned by infantry units; however, pursuant to the 3d Marine Division policy of freeing infantry units from static defense positions, the area was assigned to 3d Motor Transport Battalion with personnel support from C Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, a neighboring Unit.

e. A particularly noteworthy achievement has been recorded by B Company. Since the beginning of the six month extension program, 18 members of the Company have extended their overseas tour. During this period the average Company strength was 69 enlisted Marines.

2. Operations

a. With its complete organization and OPCON units, on 21 Feb 1967 the Battalion had 118 task vehicles under its control (88 2½ ton 6X6 cargo trucks, M-35; 10 2½ ton 6X6 cargo trucks, M-36C; 5 5 ton 6X6 cargo trucks, M-54; and 15 1½ ton amphibious cargo carriers, M-76 (Otters)). It is interesting to note that on 21 Feb 1967 88 percent of the task vehicles were available for commitments and that 83 percent were actually committed.

b. On 18 February 1967 the Battalion was assigned the mission of attaching 10 cargo trucks and 6 Otters to the 4th Marines to provide direct support during Operation CHINOOK II. Additionally, a daily resupply tactical motor march (named "Road Runner" for identification) to deliver all classes of supplies to the CHINOOK operating area was directed. A general plan for employment of the Battalion is as follows:

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(1) A platoon (-) from one truck company will be assigned the mission of attaching 10 cargo trucks to the CHINOOK II operating forces. The platoon's remaining vehicles will serve as a rotation base to insure a constant availability of 10 vehicles in the operating area. The company's remaining truck platoon will be used to fill other Division commitments. This assignment will be rotated each month.

(2) The "Road Runner" daily resupply will be filled by 21 cargo trucks from the second truck company. Remaining vehicles will be used to fill other Division commitments. This assignment will be rotated to a different company each month.

(3) The remaining truck company will conduct the "Rough Rider" motor marches that are assigned during the period and fill other Division commitments. This assignment will be rotated each month.

c. Daily commitments for the month averaged 74.4 percent of on hand vehicles (includes deadlined equipment).

(1) 88,305 miles were driven, including 56,520 tactical miles.

(2) 6,892 tons of cargo were transported.

(3) 20,365 personnel were transported.

### 3. Maintenance of Equipment

a. The average daily availability of task vehicles for the month was 88.3 percent of on hand vehicles (a deadline rate of 11.7 percent). This is considered commendable in view of the high rate of commitments and the fact that the six vehicles presently in field maintenance have been in an average of 18 days each.

b. The displacement to Phu-Bai was attended by a return to maintenance tents and complete field working conditions.

### 4. Training

a. With the imminent receipt of the new multifuel vehicles (M-35A2), 3 drivers and 3 mechanics were attached to the U.S. Army Medium Transportation Company (located in DaNang) for cross-training in the operation and organizational maintenance of the M-35A2. The detail received 5 days of on-the-job training and are presently instructing other members of the Battalion in the use and maintenance of the multi-fuel vehicles.

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**5. Civil Affairs**

a. The displacement of the battalion to Phu-Bai necessitated transferring responsibility for the civil affairs program for the hamlet of Dong Phuoc to 1st Motor Transport Battalion. Several members of this Battalion who had been teaching english language classes in both schools in the hamlet returned to DaNang for a period of three days to lend continuity to the language instruction on resumption of classes following the Tet holiday.

b. This Battalion is currently establishing a civil affairs program in the hamlet of Diem-Tu. A MEDCAP will be conducted three days per week and english language classes will commence on or about 9 March 1967. The Hamlet Chief has requested assistance in clearing approximately 3 acres of land on which homes will be built. This Organization will render assistance when the necessary equipment becomes available.

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PART III--SEQUENTIAL LISTING

- 13 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 7-67 was conducted from DaNang to Phu-Bai as the first phase of 3d Motors' displacement to Phu-Bai. The convoy consisted of 127 prime movers (including 26 U.S. Army vehicles) and was commanded by Major R. F. ARMSTRONG.
- 14 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 8-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to DaNang. The convoy consisted of 115 prime movers and was commanded by Major R. F. ARMSTRONG.
- 15 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 9-67 was conducted from DaNang to Phu-Bai as the final phase of 3d Motors' displacement. The convoy consisted of 82 prime movers and was commanded by Major R. F. ARMSTRONG.
- 16 Feb- A tactical Motor March consisting of 20 vehicles transported personnel and equipment from Phu-Bai to the CHINOOK Operating Area. 2dLt G. R. WADE, Jr. was Convoy Commander.
- 18 Feb- The 2d Platoon (Rein), A Company (2dLt. G. R. WADE, Jr.), which had been attached to the 4th Marines for housekeeping and resupply support during Operation CHINOOK I was replaced by the 1st Platoon (-), B Company (GySgt D. E. TURNER).
- 19 Feb- A tactical Motor March consisting of 23 vehicles was conducted from Phu-Bai to the Operation CHINOOK II Area. The purpose of the convoy was to transport 1st Battalion, 9th Marines personnel and equipment when it became apparent that a scheduled helilift could not be conducted due to inclement weather. Two round trips were made; 1st Lt W. E. THOMPSON was Convoy Commander.
- 19 Feb- A "Road Runner" consisting of 24 vehicles conducted the first daily resupply of Operation CHINOOK II. 2dLt L. D. LEE was Convoy Commander.
- 20 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 10-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Dong Ha to return A Company, 9th Motor Transport Battalion to its parent Organization and deliver supplies to the Dong Ha Area. The convoy consisted of 75 vehicles and was commanded by 1stLt. B. P. HANNAH.
- 21 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 11-67 was conducted from Dong Ha to Phu-Bai to return A Company 3d Motor Transport Battalion to its parent Organization. The convoy consisted of 42 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. R. L. MITCHELL.
- 24 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 12-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to DaNang. 230 tons of cargo and 102 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 67 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. R. L. MITCHELL.
- 25 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 13-67 was conducted from DaNang to Phu-Bai. 60 tons of cargo and 184 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 66 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. R. L. MITCHELL.

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- 26 Feb- The 2d Platoon (Rein), G Company (2d Lt W. H. HOOVER) was attached to Battalion Landing Team 2/3. The BLT will go to Okinawa for training and equipment refurbishing.
- 26 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 14-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Dong Ha. 167 tons of cargo and 357 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 96 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. R. L. MITCHELL.
- 27 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 15-67 was conducted from Dong Ha to Phu-Bai. 165 tons of cargo and 290 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 73 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. R. L. MITCHELL.
- 28 Feb- "Rough Rider" No 16-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Dong Ha. 27 tons of cargo and 260 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 61 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. R. L. MITCHELL.
- 28 Feb- As a result of an urgent requirement to move D/1/9 from the Operation CHINOOK II Area to Dong Ha, a convoy was formed consisting of 8 of the 10 cargo trucks assigned to the Chinook Area, 5 cargo trucks from the 12th Marines, 1 wrecker from 3d Anti-Tank Battalion and 2 U.S. Army truck mounted quadruple 50 caliber machine guns. The convoy (Rough Rider No 18-67) departed the Chinook area and proceeded to Dong Ha (40 miles) under blackout conditions. While crossing a pontoon bridge in the Hamlet of Thon My Cahn the convoy was subjected to approximately 30 rounds of VC small arms fire and 6 rounds of 60mm mortar shells. Fire was immediately returned and resulted in 3 VC killed (confirmed). There were no friendly casualties. Capt. KEENAN, D/1/9, was Convoy Commander; GySgt. D. E. TURNER, B Co., 3d MTBn was Assistant Convoy Commander.

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