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

215367

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)  
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 1-30 Apr 1967 (U)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.24  
(b) FMFPAGO 5750.8

Encl: ✓(1) Part I, Organizational Data  
✓(2) Part II, Narrative Summary  
✓(3) Part III, Sequential Listing of Significant Events

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are submitted.

2. Upon removal of enclosures (1), (2) and (3), this letter is unclassified.

R. F. ARMSTRONG

3rd MT BN

CMD CHRON

APR 1967

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

H&SCo. (-)  
 Co"A"  
 Co"B" (Rein)  
 2d Plt, Co "B", 9thMTBn (OPCON)  
 Co"C" (-)

b. Phong Dien (Operation SHAWNEE)

2d Plt, Co"C" (OPCON 4th Marines)  
 Det, H&SCo (6 Otters) (OPCON 4th Marines)

c. Dong Ha Enclave

Det, H&SCo (6 Otters) (OPCON 9thMTBn)

2. Commanding Officer and Staff

Major R. F. ARMSTRONG	Commanding Officer
Capt P. H. WEBERLING (effective 8Apr67)	Executive Officer
2dLt V. I. HEAP	S-1/Adjutant
1stLt R. M. THACHER	S-3
1stLt J. T. KEEL	S-4
2dLt V. I. HEAP (through 7Apr67)	Co Cmdr, H&SCo
2dLt G. R. WADE (effective 8Apr67)	Co Cmdr, H&SCo
1stLt B. P. HANNAH (through 4Apr67)	Co Cmdr, Co"A"
1stLt E. H. DUPREE III (effective 5Apr67)	Co Cmdr, Co"A"
1stLt W. E. THOMPSON	Co Cmdr, Co"B"
Capt P. H. WEBERLING (through 8Apr67)	Co Cmdr, Co"C"
Capt P. E. SULLIVAN (effective 9Apr67)	Co Cmdr, Co"C"
SgtMaj H. C. MURRAY	BnSgtMaj

3. Average Monthly Strength

- a. 13 Officers, 354 enlisted, 5 USN enlisted.
- b. 53 Enlisted OPCON from 2d Plt, Co"B", 9thMTBn

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## PART II--NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Operations.

a. Another factor presented itself to lend weight to the statement that "Vietnam is a motor transport war." As the Battalion began receiving its new M-35A2C cargo trucks it was directed to retain the replaced M-35's for a short period of time. It is interesting to note that with the exception of 8 days every truck available to the Battalion was committed every day of the month.

b. As operation "SHAWNEE" commenced it was decided to bring the operating area supply dump to a 10 day level of supply; accordingly, two Road Runners of 50 vehicles each were scheduled to meet the sudden demand for supplies, especially class V items. Initially the move was plagued by shortages of materials handling equipment, however problem areas were quickly resolved and the operation was conducted with great success. During the period 21-30 April 1,021 loads of cargo were transported to the SHAWNEE Operating Area.

c. Daily commitments for the month averaged 84 percent of on hand task vehicles (includes deadlined equipment). This is an all time monthly high for the Battalion since entering Vietnam and represents a 12 percent increase over the previous month's rate of commitments.

(1) 150,477 miles were driven, including 129,633 tactical miles.

(2) 10,264 tons of cargo were transported.

(3) 36,724 personnel were transported.

d. 12 incidents involving enemy action occurred. These actions resulted in one killed in action, 4 wounded in action and loss or damage to 8 vehicles (see Sequential Listing for details).

2. Maintenance.

a. The average daily availability of task vehicles for the month was 86.2 percent (a deadline rate of 13.8 percent). This is considered particularly noteworthy in view of the high commitment rate of 84 percent.

b. The 6 task vehicles in field maintenance as of the end of the month have been in an average of 22 days each.

c. 3 vehicles were repaired by field maintenance during the month. Average turn-around-time was 9 days each.

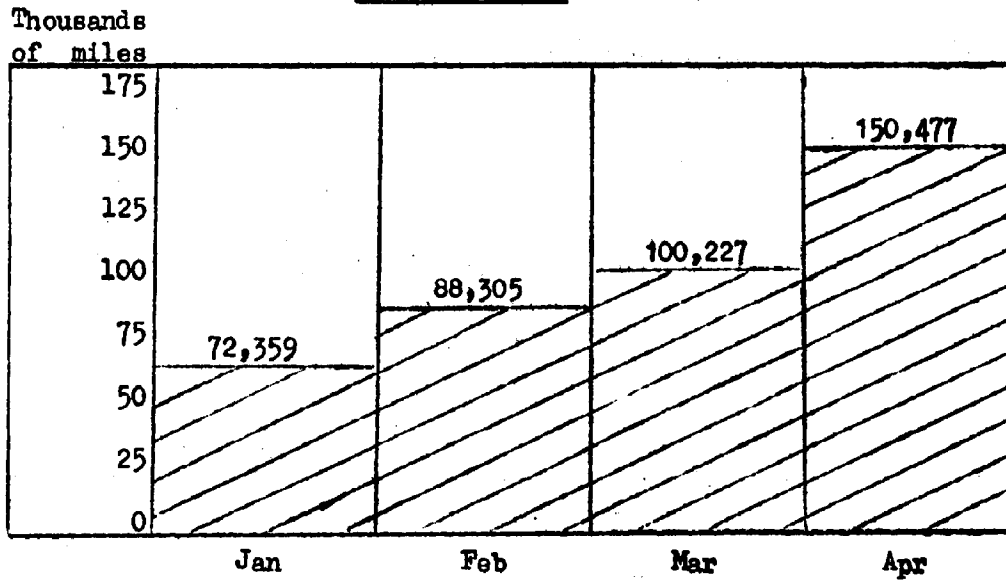
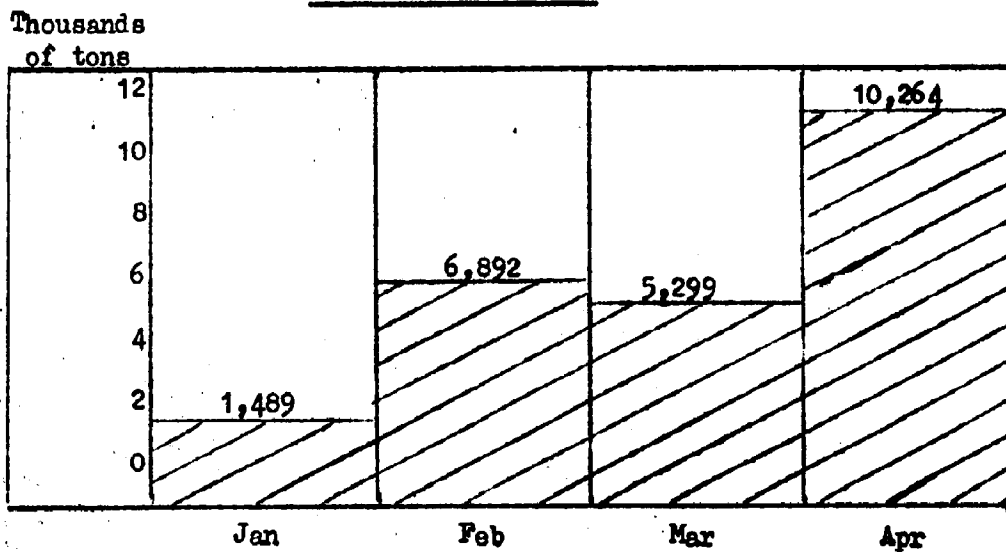
d. The 9.00X20 tire and Otter inner tube shortages have been alleviated. Otter track, however, remains critically short.

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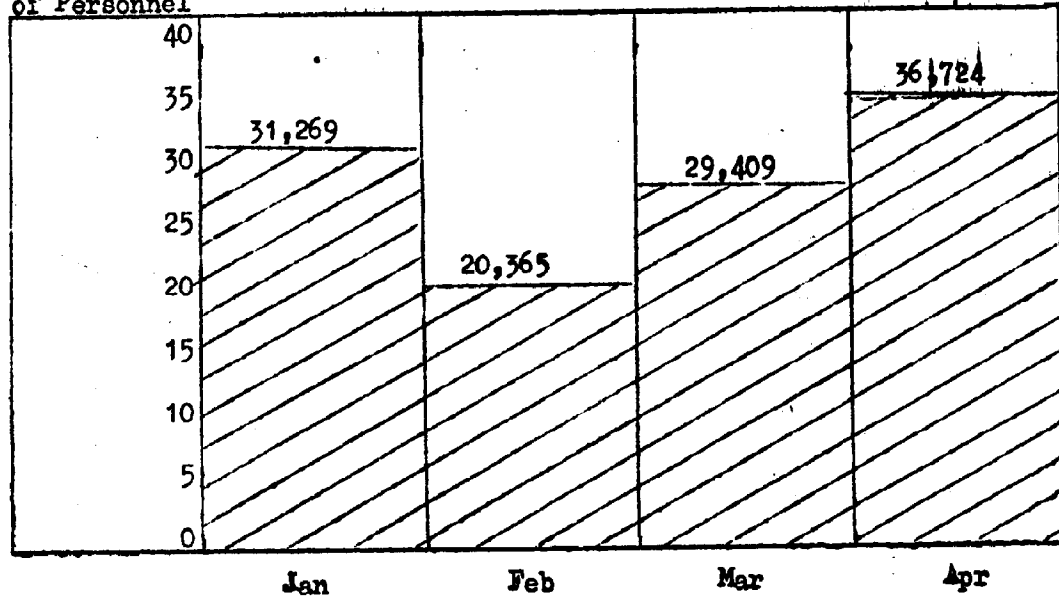
3. The following graphs reflect significant operational and maintenance data for the first four months of 1967.

MILES TRAVELEDTONNAGE TRANSPORTED

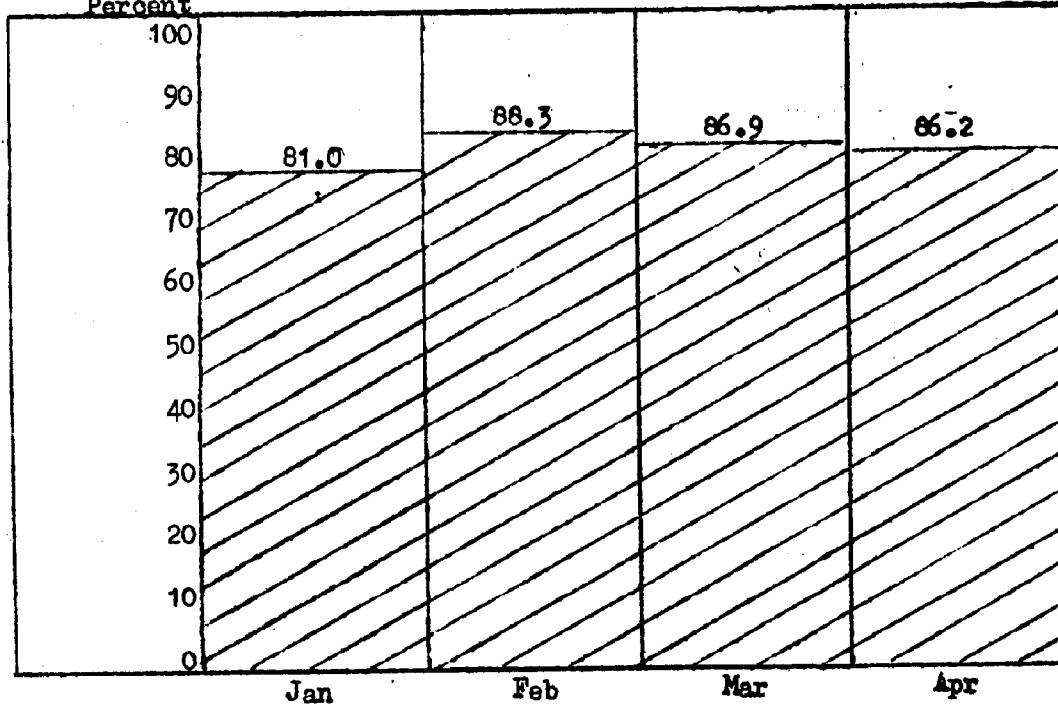
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PERSONNEL TRANSPORTEDThousands  
of PersonnelTASK VEHICLE AVAILABILITY RATE

Percent



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4. Civil Affairs

a. The Battalion conducted a MEDCAP Program in Phu-Loung treating 35 persons.

b. English classes for 57 adults and children are held daily at Diem-Tu Hamlet. 3 members of the Battalion serve as instructors.

5. Psychological Warfare Program

a. In response to an increased incidence of mining activity, the Battalion inaugurated a PSYOPS program combining the distribution of reward leaflets along routes of march and supplying each convoy commander with reward funds to pay for information of intelligence value (see Sequential Listing for details).

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PART III--SEQUENTIAL LISTING

- 3 Apr- The Road Runner sweep team found and destroyed a mine in the roadway at the same location where Lt. FLORES and LCpl MYERS were wounded by a mine detonation on 29 March (see Chronology for March 1967).
- 4 Apr- A mine sweep team was dispatched to sweep a 5-mile section of road in the vicinity of Phu-Loc in advance of the Rough Rider going to Da Nang. After the team had swept a section of roadway leading to a bridge, 3 ARVN vehicles came down the road traveling in the same direction. The first ARVN vehicle hit a mine. One of our vehicles backed up to move the ARVN vehicle and in turn detonated another mine. Accordingly, the right rear dual wheel of the vehicle was destroyed. 3 Marines were wounded and were immediately medically evacuated.
- 5 Apr- Two Otters received ~~hostile~~ fire while operating in support of Operation "Big Horn". This action resulted in one Otter disabled. Pfc R. J. FITCH received enemy gunshot wounds which penetrated his chest resulting in his death. LCpl L. H. UNDERWOOD and Pfc G. R. POBANZ received injuries. Pfc FITCH was manning the Otter's .50 caliber machine gun at the time.
- 5 Apr- "Rough Rider" No. 43-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to DaNang to transport cargo for FLSG-A. 140 personnel and 68 tons of cargo were transported. The convoy consisted of 70 vehicles and was commanded by Lt. W. E. THOMPSON.
- 6 Apr- "Rough Rider" No. 44-67 was conducted from DaNang to Phu-Bai to transport cargo and elements of the 3d Marine Division Rear. 224 tons of cargo and 288 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 144 vehicles and was commanded by Lt. W. E. THOMPSON. An intelligence report was received indicating that a VC Company was prepared to ambush the convoy; accordingly, H & I fire was called in on the suspected area. When the Rough Rider approached, air, which was on a strip alert, was sent airborne and made several low level passes over the suspected area. No enemy were observed and no hostile action reported.
- 7 Apr- Second Lieutenant G. R. WADE became Commanding Officer of H&S Company.
- 8 Apr- During a standard Road Runner to Big Horn, a M-35 struck a mine with its right front tire. The vehicle was the 26th truck in the column. When the mine detonated, the vehicle was blown off the road. It came to rest on its right side and began burning. Approximately 15 minutes later the load, 4 pallets of 106mm Recoilless Rifle ammunition, began exploding. The truck and trailer, driven by Pfc G. S. SIMONSON, was completely destroyed. The driver sustained 1st and 2nd degree burns on his right hand, right arm and face.
- 9 Apr- In order to comply with an urgent request to move elements of 2/26 from the Phu-Bai Air Freight Terminal to Phong-Dien (2/26 was flown in from DaNang), 25 vehicles were collected from many 3dMarDiv units and used to conduct the move (the majority of 3dMTEB organic vehicles were on the road). As soon as the daily Road Runner came in, 10 additional vehicles were dispatched as Road Runner number 2, and a total of 780 troops were moved to Phong Dien. Lt. W. E. THOMPSON was convoy commander.

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- 10 Apr- While the Road Runner was returning from Phong Dien, the Engineer sweep team discovered a large mine at the same location as the 8 April incident. The mine was blown in place.
- 10 Apr- Two Road Runners were conducted: The first consisted of 23 vehicles hauling supplies and 220 troops from 1/9. The second consisted of 32 trucks and 16 trailers of ammunition.
- 11 Apr- Two Road Runners were conducted: Road Runner No. 1 consisted of 32 trucks and 7 trailers transporting 90 tons of ammunition and 5 tons of other supplies. Road Runner No. 2 was conducted to move 400 troops of 2/26. 21 trucks and trailers were used.
- 12 Apr- A Road Runner was conducted to move 400 troops of 2/26 and transport 12 tons of cargo.
- 12 Apr- 1st Marine Division Rough Rider arrived with cargo from 2/26.
- 12 Apr- The Battalion received the first of its allotted 96 M35A2's.
- 13 Apr- "Rough Rider" No. 45-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Dong Ha to transport cargo and elements of 1/9. 154 tons of cargo and 323 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 107 vehicles and was commanded by Lt. W. E. THOMPSON.
- 13 Apr- In response to an urgent request to immediately transport 300 rounds of 105mm ammunition to CAC H-5 at Phu-Loc, 4 11thMTBn M-54's and 2 3dMTBn vehicles were used. The convoy was commanded by Capt W. J. KISER, 11th MT Bn.
- 13 Apr- The 1st Marine Division Rough Rider was delayed one day due to the Namu bridge being impassable.
- 14 Apr- "Rough Rider" No. 46-67 was conducted from Dong Ha to Phu-Bai to transport cargo and personnel of Headquarters, 4th Marines. 141 tons of cargo and 148 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 67 vehicles and was commanded by Lt. W. E. THOMPSON.
- 14 Apr- A Road Runner of 6 3dMTBn vehicles and 10 3dTKBn vehicles was conducted to transport troops of 2/4 to operation "Big Horn".
- 15 Apr- In addition to the standard Road Runner, a 3 vehicle supplemental Road Runner was made to provide critically needed MORGAS and batteries to "Big Horn".
- 15 Apr- HM3 H. A. WILLIAMS, an active participant in the Battalion's MEDCAP program, departed to attend a 3 day "PSYOPS" School at III MAF Headquarters.
- 15 Apr- An eleven vehicle detail, 3 3dMTBn vehicles and 8 vehicles from other organizations began receiving 450 Special Forces Troops and moving them from Air Freight to their new CP in the Jollet area. In addition to the personnel, approximately 280 tons of organic cargo was transported.

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- 17 Apr- A 12 vehicle convoy was conducted to move K/3/26 to Nam Ho. M/3/26 was returned to Phu-Bai. 2dLt. D. L. FAUST was convoy commander.
- 18 Apr- Two Road Runners were conducted. The 2nd trip was to move elements of 2/4.
- 20 Apr- "Rough Rider" No. 47-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Dong Ha to transport cargo and personnel of 2/12. 185 tons of cargo and 235 personnel were transported. 19 vehicles from 2/12 joined the convoy at the "Big Horn" area and continued with the convoy to Dong Ha. The convoy consisted of 68 vehicles and was commanded by Lt. W. E. THOMPSON.
- 20 Apr- HM3 H. A. WILLIAMS returned from "CSYOPS" School at III MAF Headquarters.
- 21 Apr- "Rough Rider" No. 48-67 was conducted from Dong Ha to Phu-Bai to deliver urgently needed ammunition to Operation "Big Horn". 35 tons of cargo and 154 personnel were transported. A U.S. Army M-55 (Quad .50), the 35th vehicle in the Rough Rider was damaged beyond economical repair by a command detonated mine that exploded under the front end of the truck. Bridging was used to effect a crossing over the crater and the column continued its mission without further incident. Lt. W. E. THOMPSON was convoy commander.
- 22 Apr- During a standard Road Runner to Operation "Big Horn" the convoy received 5 rounds of sniper fire resulting in minor damage to an Army M-55 (Quad .50). The convoy returned fire with its security elements. No casualties resulted and the convoy continued on without incident.
- 24 Apr- A serial of 15 cargo trucks was attached to a 1stMarDiv Rough Rider going to DaNang. The vehicles will join a III MAF sponsored program of moving several hundred tons of rice from DaNang to Quang Tri and Hue.
- 24 Apr- During a standard Road Runner to Operation "Big Horn", a low-bed trailer transporting a TD-18 tractor detonated a mine while crossing a bridge, resulting in the rear axle being blown off the trailer. The TD-18 however, backed off the trailer and continued to Operation "Big Horn" under its own power (2 3/4 miles).
- 24 Apr- 30 drivers reported for TAD from 9thMTBn for duty.
- 25 Apr- The Low-bed trailer that was damaged on 24 April was recovered by 11th Eng. Bn.
- 26 Apr- As the daily Road Runner convoy was proceeding to Operation SHAWNEE the 26th vehicle in line, a M-35 detonated a small mine resulting in minor damage to its right front wheel. The disabled vehicle was taken in-tow and the Road Runner continued its mission.

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- 27 Apr- The Battalion implemented a Reward and Psychological Warfare Program, the purpose being to obtain information of tactical intelligence value by providing monetary rewards to indigenous personnel who report useful information. Lt. N. M. THACHER was appointed Battalion Reward Fund Custodian. Based on this organization's experiences from VC mines every possible means is being exploited to detect mines before they are detonated.
- 28 Apr- At 0130 the Phu-Bai Vital Defense Area under went a mortar attack. 7 82mm rounds were received in the Battalion Area resulting in negligible structural damage and no casualties.
- 29 Apr- The Battalion received 26 new M-35A2C cargo trucks. Joining a 1st MarDiv Rough Rider in DaNang the vehicles participated in the III MAF rice program. (see Apr 24).
- 30 Apr- 3dMTBn attached 36 personnel to a 1stMarDiv Rough Rider enroute to DaNang to transport 26 new M-35A2C's. Additionally, the Battalion supplied the personnel necessary to transport 5 M-36's for 9thMTBn, and 5 M-54A2 wreckers which will be distributed to various 3dMarDiv organizations.

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ENCLOSURE (3)