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HEADQUARTERS
3d Reconnaissance Battalion
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

3: HFS: deh
5750.6
SerNo. 03A2201967
8 August 1967

3d Recon Bn S/C No. 3789-67

381867

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A033)
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF (Attn: A0ofS G-3)
Commanding General, 3d Marine Amphibious Force
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July 1967 to 31 July 1967.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMF PACO 5750.8

Encl: (1) 3d Reconnaissance Battalion Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

2. Unclassified upon removal of the enclosure.

R. C. Bell
R. C. BELL

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3d Recon Bn

Command Chronology

July 1967

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Reconnaissance Battalion
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1967 to 31 July 1967

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PART I

July 67

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

3d Reconnaissance Battalion

Major J. R. A. REEFUS
14 April 67 to PresentSUBORDINATE UNITSH & S Company
Company A
Company B
Company C
Company DCapt. R. J. WEIDNER 9 April 67 to Present
Capt. A. K. WARD 21 May 67 to Present
Capt. J. L. WILLIAMS 18 July 67 to Present
1st/Lt. J. F. WALKER 24 Mar. 67 to Present
Capt. R. L. KLEIN 21 May 67 to PresentATTACHED UNITS3d Force Reconnaissance Co.
(26 April 67 to Present)

Major W. C. FLOYD 6 June 66 to Present

2. LOCATION31 July HUE-PHU BAI, RVN
31 July DONG HA, RVN
31 July KHE SANH, RVNH & S Company, Company A and C
Company D and 3d Force Recon Company
Company B (Rein)3. STAFFExecutive Officer
Operations Officer
Asst. Operations Officer
Adjutant
S-2 Officer
S-4 Officer
Bn. Supply OfficerMajor E. F. BAULCH 3 July 67 to Present
Capt. J. W. HEMINGWAY 29 Apr. 67 to Present
Capt. R. R. GRECA 18 July 67 to Present
2nd/Lt. G. E. FOX 31 Jan. 67 to Present
Capt. J. L. SHEBEL 20 May 67 to Present
Capt. J. B. HANRAHAN 15 July 67 to Present
2nd/Lt. C. H. BLACK 14 Apr. 67 to Present4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

(Includes 3d Force Reconnaissance Company)

USMC

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
32	656

USN

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
0	37

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Co. A During the reporting period the Company completed 22 patrols averaging 3.8 days with an average of 8.0 men per patrol. The patrols made 45 sightings for a total of 207 VC, which resulted in 15 contacts, 17 fire missions of 1428 artillery rounds, and 5 air strikes. There were a total of 13 VC KIA (Conf), and 33 VC KIA (Prob). Patrols sighted several trails, huts and fortified positions not indicated on the map. There were 5 USMC WIA and 1 USN WIA sustained.

Co. B During the reporting period the Company completed 26 patrols averaging 4.4 days with an average of 9.0 men per patrol. The patrols made 10 sightings, totalling 114 VC, which resulted in 5 contacts, 6 fire missions with a total of 415 artillery rounds fired, and 4 air strikes. There were a total of 2 VC KIA (Conf), 7 VC KIA (Prob). There were numerous trails, huts and fortified positions observed by the patrols. There were 4 USMC WIA sustained.

Co. C During the reporting period the Company completed 21 patrols averaging 3.9 days with 7 men per patrol. The patrols made 18 sightings for a total of 81 VC/NVA, which resulted in 4 contacts, 8 fire missions of 287 artillery rounds, and 13 air strikes called. There was a total of 6 VC/NVA KIA (Conf), 3 VC/NVA KIA (Prob). Many trails, huts and fortified positions not shown on the map were sighted by the patrols, along with 1 rifle being captured. There was 1 USMC WIA sustained.

Co. D During the reporting period the Company completed 23 patrols averaging 4.4 days with an average of 8 men per patrol. The patrols made 17 sightings for a total of 128 VC/NVA, which resulted in 5 contacts, 30 fire missions of 903 artillery rounds, and 7 air strikes. There were a total of 17 VC/NVA KIA (Conf), and 51 VC/NVA KIA (Prob). Trails, hut complexes, and fighting holes not shown on the map were sighted by patrols. One weapon was also captured. There were 10 USMC WIA sustained.

3d Force Recon Co. During the reporting period the Company completed 40 patrols averaging 3.8 days with an average of 8 men per patrol. The patrols had 28 sightings for a total of 221 VC/NVA that resulted in 9 contacts, 20 fire missions of 713 artillery rounds and 6 air strikes. There were a total of 37 VC/NVA KIA (Conf) and 58 VC/NVA KIA (Prob). Patrols observed trails, huts and fighting holes not shown on the map. One weapon was captured. There were 16 USMC WIA and 2 USN WIA sustained.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- a. Combat Missions Assigned. 3d Reconnaissance Battalion and attached Force Reconnaissance Company, conduct reconnaissance operations, STING-RAY operations and other operations, as directed, within the Division area of responsibility. (3d Mar Div LOI # 1-67)
- b. Significant Operations Conducted. Units of this Battalion have participated in Operation CHOCTAW, CROCKETT, CIMARRON, CUMBERLAND, ARDMORE, FREMONT, KINGFISHER, HICKORY II, BEACON GUIDE, and BUFFALO.
- c. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy. There have been 75 VC/NVA KIA (Conf), 152 VC/NVA KIA (Prob) inflicted on the enemy during the reporting period.
- d. Casualties Sustained. There have been 36 USMC WIA and 3 USN WIA sustained by the Battalion. One scout dog was also slightly wounded.
- e. New Techniques Employed. As of 28 July 1967 three scout dogs with handlers have again been attached to this unit.
- f. Command Relations. Nothing significant to report.
- g. Equipment. Communication equipment tested for possible reconnaissance use includes an auxillary speaker for the PRC-25 and a VHF radio set to give patrols a ground to air capability. (RT-10) is still being tested.
- h. Logistics. Nothing significant to report.
- i. Civic Action. All personnel joining the Battalion from CONUS are given a class in the personal response program. One man from this Battalion attended the Division Personal Response School during this reporting period.
- j. Administration. Nothing significant to report.
- k. Personnel. Twenty radio operators joined the Battalion during July. These operators offset the losses suffered through casualties and rotation during July the scheduled losses for August.

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1. Intelligence. July reconnaissance efforts in the Khe Sanh area showed a general decrease in enemy sightings over the May and June levels. There is, however, continuing evidence of east and west movement between the Khe Sanh area and Laos. Trails clearly show usage as well as the bunker complexes to the northwest and west. Bunker construction appears to be well engineered. Contacts have been made with well equipped, armed and trained enemy troops. Sightings of lights and night movement have dropped from May and June levels.

Early in the month the enemy pushed south and southeast toward Con Thien. Reconnaissance patrols screened and supported 3d Marine Division counter efforts. Following the enemy withdrawal to the north and northwest enemy reconnaissance efforts and troop movement was again detected within the DMZ. Substantial activity from Laos in the west toward the Hai Lang Forest in the east was in evidence by the discovery of several large base camps within the Dakrong Valley. Recent area usage showed passage by a large number of people late in July. Within the Hai Lang Forest trail usage continued to be heavy.

East and southeast of the Hai Lang Forest local VC activity has been noted. Trail usage indicates VC may be operating from fairly secure areas within the jungle to avoid US/ARVN operations along National Route 1 and the "Street Without Joy" area. Attempts to patrol from Hill 674 overlooking the Co Bi Thanh Tan Ridge encountered possible enemy OP/surveillance positions in all directions. VC activity in the vicinity of the ridge itself continued to force contact and premature extraction upon recon elements. The CUMBERLAND area and Route 547 continued fairly inactive. Generally light activity running southeast and northwest continued to the south of Hue and Phu Bai. Local VC activity and contact with patrols operating in the general Phu Lo area increased in July, however, a greater reconnaissance effort has been made in this region.

m. Communications. During the month of July numerous radio relays were activated and deactivated or relocated. The radio relay located at Phu Lo, RVN (ZD 081006) was reactivated on 19 July 1967 and again deactivated on 23 July 1967. The relay on Hill 840 (YC 767963) was deactivated on 27 July 1967. The relay located at the artillery position at (YD 716107) was further relocated to the forward fire support base at (YD 620095) to support the reconnaissance teams operating in and near the A Chau Valley.

n. Weather. The month was characterized by generally clear skies with no major problems in the deployment and scheduling of operations caused by weather. During this period the mean maximum temperature was 98 degrees with humidities from 40 to 80 percent. Due to extremely high temperatures encountered on a few occasions by patrols this month, movement was restricted and a few heat casualties were sustained.

o. Fire Support. During the reporting period patrols of this Battalion directed 81 artillery fire missions expending 3746 rounds.

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p. Air Support. During the reporting period patrols of this Battalion called 35 fixed wing missions. Helicopter gunship support and med-evacs were utilized several times.

q. Activations/Deactivations/Redesignations. Nothing significant to report.

r. Training. Training was and is being held for all newly joined personnel from CONUS in all phases of reconnaissance techniques being employed by this Battalion in the RVN. Training was and is being given on familiarization firing and zeroing of the U.S. Rifle M-16 A-1 to all newly arrived personnel. Training has been conducted by the Battalion NBC, NCO. This covered monitoring, surveying, and decontamination of NBC agents. On 6 and 7 July, a school was conducted by the 3d Marine Division Engineers for 25 members of this command on VC Land Mine Warfare and Booby Traps. Again on 13 and 14 July, 20 and 21 July, 27 and 28 July, the same school was conducted for 25 additional members each week. The Battalion conducted a Motor Vehicle Weekly Preventive Maintenance class on 15 July 1967 for 17 Marines of this command. Also 6 personnel attended a 50 cal machinegun class for members of the motor transport section.

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251230H/252030H June. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 0640) conducted 8 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in almost constant contact with 5 elements of 25 NVA. Patrol was extracted under emergency conditions. Patrol observed 4 concrete bridges, 1 mine and 1 fish net. Contacts resulted in 3 KIA (Conf) and one USMC WIA. (See supporting document # 1)

251115H/281127H June. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 2348) conducted 72 hours and 12 minutes of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 1 sighting of 2 lights, 3 sightings/contacts with 12 VC/NVA which resulted in 1 NVA KIA (Conf), 2 NVA WIA (Conf) and 1 USMC WIA (Minor). (See supporting document # 2)

261430H/301415H June. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 5022) conducted 96 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 5 sightings totalling 45 NVA/VC and 3 contacts resulting in 1 VC/NVA KIA (Conf) and 8 VC/NVA KIA (Prob). Mortars fired 55 rounds of 81mm resulting in 7 NVA KIA (Prob). Artillery fired 10 rounds 155 gun with unknown results. Fixed wing ran air strikes with unknown results. Patrol followed 1 trail which has been used heavily. Patrol also found comm wire in valley and 1 rice cache capable of accomodating 200 lbs of rice. (See supporting document # 3)

270930H/010945H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 0763) conducted 96 hours and 15 minutes of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 3 contacts with an estimated platoon of NVA which resulted in 3 NVA KIA (Conf), 5 NVA KIA (Prob) and 2 NVA WIA (Conf). (See supporting document # 4)

021545H/041630H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (XD 7346) conducted 49 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 1 enemy sighting totalling approximately 30-40 VC/NVA. Patrol found numerous bunkers throughout the area. Patrol also made contact with 3 VC/NVA resulting in 2 enemy KIA (Conf). (See supporting document # 5)

051210H/051625H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 680004) conducted 4 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 6 VC/NVA KIA (Conf). Fixed wing and helicopter gunships ran numerous air strikes in support of patrol with unknown results. (See supporting document # 6)

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051210H/051620H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 680004) conducted 4 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance. Shortly after insertion patrol had moved approximately 50 meters southeast, when they observed 1 VC in a tree and 2 more VC 50 meters to their south. All VC had weapons. Patrol took VC under fire and 2 VC KIA (Conf) resulted. Patrol then observed 3 more VC at (YD 6810003) and took them under fire killing 3 VC KIA (Conf). Patrol called artillery in area with unknown results. After artillery, gunships and fixed wing ran air strikes, they were receiving SA/AW fire from area round 12. Five more VC were observed at (YD 678013). Air strikes directed in their position with unknown results. (See supporting document # 7)

040955H/080930H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (XD 9351) conducted 95 hours and 35 minutes of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 1 sighting of 2 groups of 15-20 NVA. Artillery mission called resulting in 16 NVA KIA (Prob). Area affords good observation of Con Thien. (See supporting document # 8)

060930H/101300H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 1473) conducted 99 hours and 30 minutes of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 1 contact with 5 NVA resulting in 4 NVA KIA (Conf). Area is littered with enemy dead and equipment. Area is under constant mortar, rocket and artillery barrage. (See supporting document # 9)

060730H/091630H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 1473) conducted 81 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in several sightings of bunkers and 2 contacts with an estimated 200 NVA resulting in 152 KIA (Conf). Area was under constant rocket, mortar and artillery barrage. This patrol was operating with an infantry battalion for this operation and artillery and small arms fire was controlled by the infantry. Therefore the above figures are not added into our totals, but are credited by the 9th Marines. (See supporting document # 10)

060830H/091630H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 5224) conducted 81 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 17 enemy sightings totalling 63 VC/NVA and four contacts resulting in 3 VC KIA (Conf), 2 VC KIA (Prob) and 1 friendly WIA (Minor). Artillery and mortars fired over 309 rounds in support resulting in 1 VC KIA (Conf) and 10 VC KIA (Prob). Patrol observed lights and smoke on several occasions and found one small camp sight. Area covered and observed by patrol reveals signs of enemy activity throughout the area. Patrol heard 4 secondary explosions from artillery and air strikes. Patrol also observed 3 sampans. (See supporting document # 11)

130400H/131920H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 0970) conducted 15 hours and 20 minutes of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in 3 sightings totalling 37 NVA and contact with an estimated company reinforced resulting in 11 NVA KIA (Conf) and 20-25 NVA KIA (Prob). Results of air strikes are unknown (excellent coverage by air). (See supporting document # 12)

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101215H/131140H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 1465) conducted 71 hours and 35 minutes of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in the sighting of 3 suspected NVA gun positions. Artillery mission called resulting in 25 large secondary explosions. Patrol searched area with negative results. (See supporting document # 13)

160830H/221015H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 0535) conducted 146 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in the sighting of 3-4 lights and contact with an unknown number of NVA resulting in 3 NVA KIA (Conf) and 5 NVA KIA (Prob). (See supporting document # 14)

240300H/241500H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 1170) conducted 12 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in contact with an estimated reinforced platoon or more of NVA, resulting in 18 NVA KIA (Conf) and an unknown number of (Prob) KIA. Nine USMC WIA (Minor) and 1 USMC Scout Dog (Minor). (See supporting document # 15)

230600H/261015H July. A patrol operating in the vicinity of (YD 0769) conducted 77 hours of reconnaissance and surveillance which resulted in numerous sightings of lights and enemy. Artillery mission called resulting in 2 NVA KIA (Conf), 35 NVA KIA (Prob), and 1 USMC WIA (Minor). (See supporting document # 16)

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- (1) Patrol Report 315-67 of 25 June 67 (Co. D)
- (2) Patrol Report 316-67 of 28 June 67 (3d Force)
- (3) Patrol Report 254-67 of 01 July 67 (Co. A)
- (4) Patrol Report 318-67 of 02 July 67 (3d Force)
- (5) Naval Message # 1 of 05 July 67 (Co. B)
- (6) Patrol Report 270-67 of 06 July 67 (Co. A)
- (7) Patrol Report 263-67 of 09 July 67 (Co. C)
- (8) Patrol Report 334-67 of 10 July 67 (3d Force)
- (9) Patrol Report 332-67 of 11 July 67 (Co. D)
- (10) Patrol Report 340-67 of 11 July 67 (3d Force)
- (11) Patrol Report 268-67 of 11 July 67 (Co. A)
- (12) Patrol Report 347-67 of 13 July 67 (3d Force)
- (13) Patrol Report 345-67 of 18 July 67 (3d Force)
- (14) Patrol Report 358-67 of 23 July 67 (Co. D)
- (15) Patrol Report 364-67 & 365-67 of 24 July 67 (3d Force)
- (16) Patrol Report 361-67 of 28 July 67 (Co. D)

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