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HEADQUARTERS BATTALION
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco 96602

TJJ/meh
5750
10 Jan 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
(2) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December to 31 December 1966

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

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


T. J. JOHNSTON, JR.

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December to 31 December 1966

INDEX

- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

Headquarters Battalion

3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

COMMANDER

LtCol T. J. JOHNSTON, JR.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

Capt R. G. BURNSTEEL
(1-20Dec66)
Capt R. A. FREDRICKSEN
(21-31Dec66)

Service Company

Capt E. L. FOX

Communications Company

Maj P. C. WALKER

Military Police Company

Maj J. H. OLDS

3d Dental Company

Capt L. H. CORDONIER (USN)

Sub Unit #2

Capt R. L. STEWART

Sub Unit #4

Maj R. S. DENNIS

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2. LOCATION

1 - 31 December 1966: Phu Bai, RVN (Less Service Company, 1-31Dec66, Da Nang; 3d Dental Company, 1-31Dec66, Da Nang; Sub Unit #2, 1-31Dec66, Dong Ha.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj D. L. YOUNG
(15-31Dec66)
2ndLt J. B. SHAUGHNESSY

S-1/Adjutant

Assistant Adjutant

2ndLt T. P. GRAHAM
(2-31Dec66)

S-3/S-4

Maj D. L. YOUNG
(1-20Dec66)
Capt W. A. BYRNE
(21-31Dec66)

ENCLOSURE (1)

Motor Transport Officer

WO-1 J. W. BURKE

Supply Officer

1stLt D. J. FARLEY

Assistant Supply Officer

WO-2 J. J. WIESE

Surgeon

Lt L. J. JOHNSON (USNR)

Chaplain

Cmdr M. D. SEIDERS

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
191	1449

USN	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
34	79

OTHER	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of December 1966, Headquarters Battalion operated from four dispersed locations. The largest portion of the Battalion was deployed in the Phu Bai Vital Area in support of the 3d Marine Division Command Post. This portion included Headquarters Company, Communications Company, Military Police Company, and Sub Unit #4. Sub Unit #4 administered to and coordinated the efforts of Combined Action Company "A", which was deployed in the Huong Thuy District and Combined Action Company "H", which was deployed in the Phu Loc District. A second portion of the Battalion was deployed in the Dong Ha Area in support of the 3d Marine Division Headquarters (Forward). Personnel in the Dong Ha Area were, in the main, administered by Sub Unit #2, although many personnel in the Dong Ha Area were simply sent forward as representatives from the main Division Staff Sections. A platoon of the Military Police Company was also deployed in the Dong Ha Area. A third portion of the Battalion was deployed in the Da Nang area. This included Service Company, which had the mission of supporting the elements of the Division Headquarters that remained in the Da Nang area. This portion also included the Headquarters of the 3d Dental Company. The fourth and final significant portion of the Battalion was deployed in the Khe Sanh area. This portion was deployed in support of the Senior Officer Present, Khe Sanh, who had the task of coordinating all military activities in the Khe Sanh area. Personnel in the Khe Sanh area were simply deployed forward from their normal Staff Section and a separate Command was not established to administer them. This resume of the deployment of the Battalion does not include the numerous small detachments deployed in many other locations in support of other units of the Division.

2. Headquarters Battalion's mission during the month of December was generally as set forth above. In addition to the supporting missions normally assigned to Headquarters Battalion, two combat missions were worthy of note. The first of these was the combined action mission assigned to Sub Unit #4. This involved the assignment of marine rifle squads to various strategic sites where they operated in conjunction with Vietnamese Popular Forces in the defense of Route 1. The second significant combat mission involved the defense of the Phu Bai Vital Area Perimeter. A platoon of Headquarters Battalion was assigned nightly to the mission of manning a portion of the defensive perimeter or to the mission of conducting patrols in support of the perimeter defense. In both of the missions, the elements of Headquarters Battalion operated under the operational control of the Vital Area Defense Battalion. From 1 December until 13 December, this was the First Battalion, Fourth Marines, and, from 14 December until the end of the month, this was the Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

3. No major operations were conducted during the month although the Combined Action units conducted 206 daylight patrols and 184 night patrols and the perimeter defense forces conducted 156 night patrols. The Combined Action units made seventeen significant contacts with the enemy. The perimeter defense forces made no contacts.

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4. The Combined Action Forces killed six Viet Vong confirmed and possibly one more. Twenty one Viet Cong were believed to have been wounded in various encounters. Three Viet Cong were captured by Combined Action Forces. Headquarters Battalion suffered one KIA and three WIA.

5. December was marked by major progress in the development of the Combined Action program. The original Combined Action Company was expanded to include two companies, Combined Action Companies "A" and "H", under the administrative control of Sub Unit #4. Headquarters, Combined Action Company "A", was established at Huong Tuy District. Headquarters and Headquarters, Combined Action Company "H", was established at Phu Loc District Headquarters. Combined Action Company "A" is responsible for all Combined Action Platoons north of the Phu Bai Vital Area. Combined Action Company "H" includes all original Combined Action Platoons south of Phu Bai plus four new ones established in Phu Loc District. This expansion involved the assignment of 61 new marines to the Combined Action Program during the month of December. Each new man received ten days Combined Action Training prior to assignment to a Combined Action Platoon.

6. In addition to the above, a Table of Equipment was established for the Combined Action Companies during the month of December. This enabled Headquarters Battalion to requisition the equipment needed for the Program. Unfortunately, the majority of this equipment could not be provided in sufficient time to keep pace with the expansion of the Program and the Combined Action Companies were, in the main, outfitted through a redistribution of equipment within the 3d Marine Division.

7. During the month of December, Headquarters Battalion's program for medical assistance (MEDCAP) treated 2157 indigenous civilian and indigenous military personnel throughout the Huong Tuy and Phu Loc Districts. Third Dental Company's Dental Civilian Affairs Program treated 1346 patients throughout the 3d Marine Division's areas of responsibility. At the end of December, Headquarters Battalion was employing 46 local national civilians. On 24 December, Headquarters, 3d Marine Division was host to approximately 1,000 Vietnamese nationals who visited the Command Post to distribute Christmas presents. On 25 December, the Military Police Company hosted a Christmas party attended by 80 Vietnamese civilians.

8. In addition to normal communication support to the Division, Communications Company provided additional support for Operation CHINOOK, commencing 19 December 1966. A MRC-62 radio relay link was established initially with the Second Battalion, Twenty Sixth Marines. It was shifted to the Fourth Marines' Command Group upon their arrival in the CHINOOK area of operations.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel. None.
2. Administration. None.
3. Training

a. Individual

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Leadership	4
Viet Cong Mines and Booby Traps	1
Operations Against Guerrillas	1
Land Mine Warfare	1
Basic Weapons	1
Troop Indoctrination and Orientation	6

b. Technical

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Radio AN/PRC-25 and AN/PRC-47	7½
Message Center Operations	8
Drivers Training	1

c. Schools Attended

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Motion Picture Projectionist	Yokosuka	1
Vietnamese Language	III MAF	3
Vietnamese Language	Okinawa	2
Fixed Plant Teletype Repair	Subic P.I.	1
Comm Equipment Waterproofing	Phu Bai	35
Wheeled & Tracked Vehicle Waterproofing	Phu Bai	3

d. Weapons Line Firing

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Rifle, M-14	62
LMG, M-60	35
Pistol, Cal .45	5

4. Special Operations. Manned 880 meters nightly of base defense perimeter during the period 14-19 December and conducted 156 night security patrols in conjunction with defense of the Phu Bai Combat Base during the period 19-31 December 1966.

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5. Command Relations. None.

6. Equipment. None.

7. Logistics. None.

8. Community Relations

a. The Battalion Aid Station rendered medical aid to the following villages:

THUY LUONG	LOC BON
THUY TAN	LOC SON
THUY PHU	LOC AN
THUY PHUONG	THUY
THUY DUONG	

b. The 3d Dental Company rendered medical aid to the following villages:

AP DA TAOC	AP ZUON DUONG
BINH KHUE CAM	CHILDRENS' HOSPITAL, FLC, RED BEACH
DINH CU	HOA AN ANH
HOA AN	HOA PHAT
HO KHANH	NAM O
PHONG BAC	PHUOC TON
TRAM HAM O	ZUONG BINH
LOC BANG	

9. Communications

a. Communications support was provided for Operation CHINOOK commencing on 19 December. In addition to the normal radio circuits, a MRC-62 Radio Relay link was established with the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines. It was shifted to the 4th Marines command group upon their arrival in the CHICOOK area of operations.

b. Support of the Combined Action Companies continued. The PRC-10 program has produced 38 radios from FLSU-2. Communications Company will provide second echelon maintenance and serve as the point of contact between the Combined Action units and FLSU. A Staff Sergeant Radio Chief was assigned to the Combined Action units on a semi-permanent basis to serve as the NCOIC of communications. The land lines have proven to be undependable and are supportable only by daily restoration of cut lines.

10. Activations/Deactivations/Redesignations. None.

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