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

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From: Commanding Officer

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)

Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period of 1 February to 29 February 1968

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

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

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

E. F. VOZELLA
E. F. VOZELLA
By direction

HQ BN/3RD MAR DIV

COMD CHRON

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 February to 29 February 1968

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Headquarters Battalion
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Col A. I. THOMAS

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

Capt R. L. JOHNSON

Service Company

Capt D. R. SYKES
(1-2 Feb 1968)
1stLt J. GEISKE
(3-29 Feb 1968)

Communications Company

LtCol J. D. MINES

Military Police Company

Maj G. W. GEYER

Sub Unit #2

LtCol G. F. MEYERS

2. LOCATION

1-29 February 1968: Phu Bai, Republic of Viet Nam (Less
Sub Unit #2, Dong Ha, RVN).

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj W. D. ISBELL
(1-12 Feb)
Maj E. F. VOZELLA
(13-29 Feb)

S-1/Adjutant

Capt C. RIGGS

Assistant Adjutant

1stLt J. V. FISHER Jr.

Operations/Logistics Officer

Maj R. I. JAMES

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt T. J. GLEASON

Supply Officer

1stLt B. A. HALL

Surgeon

Lt H. D. JORDAN
(USNR)

Chaplain

Lt Cmdr D. F. FOGARTY
(USN)

Encl (1)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	USMC
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
255	1677

	USN
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
12	24

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Headquarters Battalion continued to have elements positioned throughout the 3d Marine Division Area of Operations during this period. Location of major elements are as follows:

Phu Bai

Headquarters Company (-)
Service Company (-)
Military Police Company (-)

Dong Ha

Sub Unit #2
Communications Company (-)

~~Phu Bai~~~~Sub Unit #5~~2. Unit activities/Events

a. The displacement of the remaining elements of Headquarters Battalion to Dong Ha was halted due to the tactical situation. A variety of plans were prepared for air and/or ground movement to Dong Ha during the month. The location of the Division Administrative and Logistics Command Post was changed in late February from Dong Ha to Quang Tri. New plans were prepared for the movement of the remaining elements of Headquarters Battalion by truck to Quang Tri. Liaison visits were conducted by members of the Battalion staff to the proposed site in order to plan for the orderly development and occupation of the new area.

b. Huts for administration, maintenance, and storage have been allocated and construction started at the new rear CP. Plans have been made for a "Tent City" to house all hands in the new area while waiting for permanent construction. Protection for the inhabitants of the area has been planned in the form of blast walls around the tents made of sandbags and trenches between the tents.

c. The Headquarters Battalion area received occasional rounds of incoming rocket fire during the first week of February with only minor casualties and damage. The Battalion reaction companies were put on a stand-by status when intelligence information indicated a threat to the Phu Bai area.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

a. Combat Missions assigned

- (1) Furnishing security details for convoys as required.
- (2) Furnishing security for road clearance/mine-sweep details.
- (3) Maintaining two Vital Area Reaction Companies for employment as required by the Vital Area Defense Coordinator.
- (4) Performing Military Police functions as required throughout the 3d Marine Division AO.

b. Significant Operations Conducted. None

c. Casualties Inflicted on the enemy. None

d. Casualties sustained.

KIA		WIA		Injury, non-battle		Death, non-battle		MIA		
Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Enl
1	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

e. New Techniques Employed. None

f. Command Relations. Satisfactory

g. Equipment. All companies have been placed "in-Service" with the M16A1 Rifles at this time.

h. Logistics. Operation of two Command Post has produced a requirement for 4-ton vehicles which exceeds the Battalion assets. This situation is further aggravated by the high deadline rate of M422's. Several methods to relieve the situation have been tried including pooling of vehicles, high priority requisitions and use of the "Red Ball" system. Battalion Supply packed the majority of its gear for the displacement of the Battalion.

i. Civic Action. Local indigenous workers employed by this Battalion failed to report for work following the TET Offensive action in this area. They informed us that they were unable to purchase food for their families, and the Battalion provided bags of rice in addition to feeding them while at work.

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- j. Administration. Nothing significant.
- k. Personnel. Nothing significant.
- l. Intelligence. Nothing significant.
- m. Communications. Nothing significant.
- n. Weather. Nothing significant.
- o. Fire Support. Nothing significant.
- p. Air Support. Nothing significant.
- q. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignations. None
- r. Personnel Services

(1) Postal. Approximately 9000 pounds of mail were processed during the period of this report.

- (2) Medical. Nothing significant.
- (3) Special Services. Nothing significant.
- (4) Chaplain. Nothing significant.

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PART IV
CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE UNITS
AND
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. None

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Headquarters Battalion	Col A. I. THOMAS
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF	(1-3 May 1968)
	LtCol E. F. VOZELLA
	(4-12 May 1968)
	LtCol E. A. DEPTULA
	(13-31 May 1968)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company	Maj R. L. JOHNSON
	(1 May 1968)
	Capt W. F. HURLEY
	(2-31 May 1968)
Service Company	1stLt J. GEISKE
Communications Company	LtCol J. D. HINES
Military Police Company	Maj G. W. GEYER
Sub Unit #2	LtCol E. A. DEPTULA
	(1-12 May 1968)
	LtCol W. M. CRYAN
	(13-27 May 1968)
	LtCol E. R. TONER
	(28-31 May 1968)

2. LOCATION

1-31 May 1968: Quang Tri, Republic of Viet Nam (Less Sub Unit #2, Dong Ha RVN, and Communications Company)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	LtCol E. F. VOZELLA
S-1/Adjutant	Capt C. RIGGS
Assistant Adjutant	1stLt J. V. FISHER Jr.
Operations/Logistics Officer	Maj R. L. JAMES
	(1-20 May 1968)
	Capt C. B. HARTZELL
	((21-31 May 1968)

Motor Transport Officer

1st Lt A. E. DOSS Jr.

Supply Officer

1st Lt B. A. HALL

Surgeon

Lt C. C. WILSON (USNR)

Chaplain

Cmdr A. E. PHILLIPS (USN)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	USMC		USN	
<u>OFF</u>		<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
261		1720	14	22

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Headquarters Battalion continued to have elements positioned throughout the 3d Marine Division Area of Operation during this period. The location of major elements is as follows:

Quang Tri

Headquarters Company (-)
Service Company (-)
Military Police Company (-)

Dong Ha

Sub Unit #2 (-)
Communication Company (-)

2. Unit activities/events

a. During this reporting period a shower unit and drainage system were built in the officers' area to improve sanitation.

b. The new 500-man messhall was completed on 10 May 1968.

c. A transient facility consisting of 23 General Purpose tents and a shower unit was erected for the purpose of providing companies returning from the field a rest and rehabilitation area. On the 31st of May the 2nd Bn. 9th Mar was the first unit to use this facility. The operation is codenamed Operation SURE. Continued improvements are being made on this project, to include the installation of wooden decks within the tents, a protective trench system, a reissue point for unserviceable clothing, and equipment, and the construction of two new helicopter landing zones for the embarkation and disembarkation of the transient companies.

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSa. Combat Missions Assigned.

- (1) Furnishing security details for convoys as required.
- (2) Furnishing security for road clearance/mine-sweep details.
- (3) Maintaining two vital area reaction companies for employment as required.
- (4) Performing Military Police functions as required throughout the 3d Marine Division Area of Operation.
- (5) Responsible for maintaining Sector H of the perimeter defense of Quang Tri Combat Base.

b. Significant Operations Conducted.

Commenced Operation SURE in accordance with CG 3d Mar Div msg 290837Z May 1968.

c. Casualties Inflicted on the enemy. Noned. Casualties Sustained.

KIA		WIA		Injury, non-battle		Death, non-battle		MIA	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
0	2	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0

e. New Techniques Employed. Nonef. Command Relations. Satisfactory

g. Equipment. The high dead-line rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton and $\frac{1}{2}$ ton vehicles has seriously hampered the combat support missions of this Battalion. Extensive use of the Red Ball system has partially alleviated this condition. Replacement of the M422A1 vehicles with M-151 vehicles expected during June 1968 will further alleviate the problem.

h. Logistics. Headquarters Battalion continues to support various units throughout Northern I Corps. Task Force Hotel has been provided with vehicles and items of housekeeping supplies and equipment. On 29 May Task Force Robbie was disbanded. Headquarters Battalion had been supporting Task Force Robbie with housekeeping items since its initial formation.

i. Civic Action.

(1) During the month of May the Battalion hosted a Vietnamese Cultural Drama team from a Revolutionary Development Team. Relations were cemented by the presentation of several items of musical equipment to the Cultural Drama team by the Division Band. In addition, the battalion executive officer presented mementoes to each participant.

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(2) The Division Industrial Relations Office continues to employ approximately 250 Vietnamese per day to fill sandbags for use by units at the Quang Tri Combat Base.

j. Administration. Nothing Significant

k. Personnel.

(1) During May, 256 personnel were joined and 229 personnel were transferred from this Battalion.

(2) Casualties

a. One man from Service Co. received fragmentation wounds on the right side of his stomach from enemy artillery on 13 May 1968.

b. One man from Headquarters Co. died from multiple shrapnel wounds received from friendly explosive device while installing a booby trap at an ambush site on 14 May 1968.

c. On 14 May 1968, a Marine from Communications Co. received shrapnel wounds on his left side from incoming enemy artillery at Dong Ha Combat Base.

d. One man from Service Co. was killed in action at Cua Viet while crossing a stream during a fire fight on 19 May. This man received shrapnel in his right eye and was swept away and drowned.

e. One man from Communications Co. was a non-battle casualty as a result of an M-26 hand-grenade firing device detonating in his hand on 19 May at Quang Tri Combat Base.

f. Communications Co. obtained a non-battle casualty on 22 May after a man fell from a truck at Dong Ha, receiving a hip wound.

g. Sub Unit #2 at Dong Ha on 27 May, obtained one casualty from incoming enemy artillery. Man received a fragmentation wound in the right hand.

h. Communications Co. on 28 May obtained one KIA at Khe Sanh. Man received traumatic amputation of both legs below the knees from missile wounds in the lower extremities.

1. Intelligence. The Headquarters Battalion security platoon continues to discover evidence of continuing enemy observation of Sector H of the Quang Tri Combat Base perimeter. Recent patrolling discovered male Vietnamese acting suspiciously in close proximity to the perimeter. Also discovered were bamboo poles cut in such fashion as to give the direction toward which two .50 caliber machine guns on the Sector H perimeter are located. These instruments were destroyed. The male Vietnamese were turned over to the Quang Tri Provost Marshal for disposition.

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