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

3/RHF/jam  
5750  
034A28268

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 September to 30 September 1968

Ref: (a) LCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

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

*M. A. Webb Jr.*  
M. A. WEBB JR.

Hq BN / 3rd MAR DIV  
CMD CHRON

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SEP 1968

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

C O N F I D E N T I A L

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September To 30 September 1968

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## PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

Headquarters Battalion,  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FME

COMMANDER

Maj G. F. KURTH  
(1 - 18 Sep)  
Maj R. D. WALTERS  
(19 - 27 Sep)  
Col M. A. WEBB JR.  
(28 - 30 Sep)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

Capt D. L. CHILCOTE

Communications Company

Maj F. J. REISINGER

Service Company

Capt R. G. SNYDER

Military Police Company

Maj V. E. FIRNSTAHL  
(1 - 22 Sep)  
Maj K. J. SKIPPER  
(23 - 30 Sep)

2. LOCATION

1 - 30 Sep 1968 Quang Tri, Republic of Viet Nam, (less Communications  
Company, Dong Ha, RVN)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj R. D. WALTERS  
(28 - 30 Sep)

S-1/Adjutant

1stLt. J. V. FISHER JR.

Assistant Adjutant

CWO R. T. POWELL JR.

Operations/Logistics Officer

Capt R. H. FLAGLER

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt. A. E. DOSS JR.

Supply Officer

1stLt. J. P. SHERMER JR.

Surgeon

Lt. M. W. K. ROTHMAN  
(USNR)

Chaplain

Cmdr. M. J. DOERMANN

USMC

CPD

261

ENL

1623

**USN**

OFF

9

ENL

26

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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 locations of major elements are as follows.

Quang Tri

Headquarters Company (-)

Service Company (-)

Military Police Company (-)

Dong Ha

Communications Company (-)

2. UNIT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

On 1 September G-5 participated in the dedication of a Childrens' Hospital at Dong Ha Combat Base. The hospital was erected with funds donated by 3d Marine Division personnel. The hospital was dedicated in memory of 3d Marine Division personnel who died while serving in Viet Nam.

A weapons display of both friendly and enemy weapons was held at the 2nd ARVN Regiment at Dong Ha. The display of friendly weapons, set up by the S-3A, 1stLt. M. J. COLLINS, was commented on very favorably. The display was held 1 September 1968.

In the Quang Tri area during 1 - 6 September 1968 an Australian singing and dancing group entertained various units. The program was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended. The group was called the "WALLABY TROOP".

On 3 September "D" Company, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, was chopped from Headquarters Battalion Operational Control, and their mission at Fire Base PEDRO was assumed by "F" Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, who then came under Operational Control of Headquarters Battalion. The Company's mission was to man Fire Base PEDRO and conduct security patrols throughout their area of operation.

During the period 4 - 6 September a typhoon with heavy rains hindered the Minimum Essential Requirements building program. The Battalion Aid Station established a Mass Casualty Team for use in future typhoons and other emergencies.

On 11 September "F" Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, was chopped from Operational Control of Headquarters Battalion, and Fire Base PEDRO was abandoned on orders from Division Headquarters.

Major G. F. KURTH, Headquarters Battalion Commanding Officer, rotated to COMUS and was relieved by Major R. D. WALTERS. Major KURTH served as Commanding Officer from 1 to 18 September 1968.

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On 22 September at about 2320 the Security Platoon of Headquarters Company was helolifted from their positions due to heavy rains that flooded the area which they occupied. The evacuation of Security Platoon was handled quite efficiently by the Headquarters Company's Commanding Officer with the aid of personnel on duty within the Battalion.

On 23 - 24 September a Typewriter Repair Contact Team from 1st Force Service Regiment visited all units in the area. Minor repair and cleaning was done by the team, and typewriters needing major repairs were sent to M33-B. The work done by the Contact Team helped greatly in providing needed service on all office equipment, and helped to better meet our administrative commitments.

From 26 - 29 September the DORBINZ BROTHERS' show was in the Quang Tri area. Their performances were enjoyed greatly and were appreciated by all who attended the shows.

On 26 September Colonel M. A. WEBB JR. assumed duty as Headquarters Battalion Commanding Officer, relieving Major R. D. WALTERS, who became the Battalion Executive Officer.

The 5-man Military Police detachment at Ca Lu was reduced to 4 men. Two additional Military Police were assigned to the north gate and one to the south gate to aid in traffic control as Highway 1 was closed on 6, 8, and 9 September due to heavy rains.

Road blocks established on the 16th and 20th of September for the purpose of inspecting vehicles and personnel resulted in a total of 25 citations being issued.

The joint Marine and Army military police patrols with the personnel of the 5th Division, 1st Brigade, has been terminated due to operational commitments on the part of the Army. The joint Marine and Army military police patrols with personnel of the 504th Army Military Police Company remains in effect.

A total of five-hundred (500) traffic citations were issued by Military Police Company, three-hundred and eighty-five (385) of which were moving violations. Eighty-four (84) Military Police reports were initiated during the month of September 1968. One-hundred and fifteen (115) vehicles were impounded for exceeding posted speed limits, by 10 miles an hour or more. Twenty-one (21) vehicular accidents were investigated, resulting in one death and three injuries. Consolidated property damage was approximately \$1480.00.

During the month of September, 26 persons were detained and processed as follows:

Prisoners of war	5
Innocent civilians	20
Returnees	1

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## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

~~DECLASSIFIED~~a. Combat Missions Assigned

(1) Maintain two vital area reaction companies for employment as required.

(2) Perform Military Police functions as required throughout the 3d Marine Division area of operation.

(3) Maintain Sector "H" of the perimeter defense of Quang Tri Combat Base.

(4) Provide personnel for convoy security as required.

b. Significant Operations Conducted

Continued Operation SURE (Small Unit Rehabilitation Exercise) in accordance with Division Order 10120.2.

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

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

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

g. Equipment. Headquarters Battalion received four M35A2C multifuel vehicles to replace like number of M35's. All M16 rifle barrels are currently being replaced with rifles with chrome barrels. Also this month Headquarters Battalion received one 3000 pound, rough terrain fork-lift.

h. Logistics. Task Force Hotel is continually being supported by officers and men and logistical material and equipment, such as tents, garrison property and office supplies from Headquarters Battalion. Headquarters Battalion's MER's (Minimum Essential Requirements) project has run smoothly with maximum cooperation of all units involved with the program. Allotted to Headquarters Battalion were 236 seahuts, of which 39 were constructed for Operation SURE.

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i. Civic Action. Local National Civilians continue to be employed by Headquarters Battalion. They are utilized in policing the Battalion area, making trash runs under the supervision of Battalion personnel and also for the construction of sandbag bunkers. On 30 September 54 local civilians were brought aboard the base to remove graves as arranged by the Quang Tri Base Coordinator. The grave removal was accomplished in the Headquarters Battalion area under the supervision of Headquarters Battalion personnel, assisted by two Military Policemen and one interpreter.

j. Administration. From 18 to 24 September the Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, conducted an inspection of the administrative sections within Headquarters Battalion.

k. Personnel.

(1) No significant occurrences.

(2) Casualties

(a) KIA Enlisted - Sergeant Jerry F. GRAJEWSKI 2007186/0211, USMC, Headquarters Company, 1015, 25 Sep 1968, vicinity of Quang Tri Combat Base, wounded when vehicle ran over a land mine and was blown apart. Died of wounds 1315, 25 Sep 1968, on the USS REPOSE.

(b) Injury Officer - Brigadier General W. C. CHIP 010939/9903, USMC, Headquarters Company, 1335, 17 Sep 1968, vicinity of LZ WINCHESTER. Helicopter enroute from LZ VANDEGRIFT to LZ WINCHESTER lost altitude striking tree tops causing craft to crash and burn. Condition, good, prognosis, good. Treated at USS SANCTUARY and further evacuated to CONUS.

(c) WIA Officer - First Lieutenant Isham Green SHELL JR. 097063/0210, USMC, Headquarters Company, vicinity of Quang Tri Province, 1015, 25 Sep 1968. He received contusion entire body when vehicle ran over mine. Treated at 18th Surgical Hospital, U. S. Army.

(d) Injury Enlisted, Non-battle - Private First Class Harold Clinton GAMMNE III 2425135/2511, USMC, 2340, 10 Sep 1968. Self inflicted wound, while posted as a sentry on perimeter watch. Shot self in foot. Treated at 3d Medical Battalion and sent to CONUS. Condition at time good, prognosis good.

l. Intelligence. Nothing significant.

m. Communications

(1) Direct tactical teletype circuits were installed from the Division COC to each Regimental COC to speed transmission of high precedence operational messages.

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(2) An additional radio relay system was installed between Dong Ha and Quang Tri to provide alternate telephone communications.

(3) Maintenance construction was completed to provide all weather maintenance facilities for radio vehicles and generators.

n. Weather. During the month of September, heavy rains slowed work on the Minimum Essential Requirements program being accomplished by the Seabees of the Construction Battalion.

o. Fire Support. Nothing significant.

p. Air Support. Nothing significant.

q. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignation. None.

r. Personnel Service

(1) Postal. Approximately 10,500 pounds of mail were processed during the period of this report.

(2) Medical. The Mass Casualty Team was set up in the Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Mess for the typhoon and any future emergencies.

(3) Special Services. Nothing significant to report on special services other than pre-recorded tapes are now available for ordering.

(4) Chaplain. A total of 15 worship services were conducted by the Battalion Chaplain, with a combined attendance of three hundred and twenty-seven (327). In addition, Headquarters Battalion Chaplain conducted services for 3d Marine Division CP, Dong Ha, 11th Engineers, and CAP Unit 4-2-1. The Chaplain held an invocation for the graduating Staff Noncommissioned Officers School class, of which seventeen graduated. The Chaplain also counseled a number of men concerning religious instructions, and delivered seven Red Cross messages.

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PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE UNITS

AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ 1. Program of Children Hospital's Dedication.

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