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

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9 Jan 1969

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

Subj: Command Chronology, for period 1 December to 31 December 1968

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

Encl: ✓(1) Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, Command Chronology

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

2. Upon detachment of enclosure (1) this letter will be unclassified.

*M. A. Webb*  
M. A. WEBB

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3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December to 31 December 1968

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

Headquarters Battalion

Commander

Col M. A. WEBB

Subordinate Units

Headquarters Company  
 Communications Company  
 Service Company  
 Military Police Company

Capt D. L. CHILCOTE  
 Maj F. C. MULLEN  
 Capt D. C. RYDSTROM  
 Maj K. J. SKIPPER  
 1-14 Dec 68  
 Maj K. J. ROTTSOIK  
 14-31 Dec 68

2. Location

1-31 December 1968 Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam  
 (Less Communications Company, Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam)

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Maj R. D. WALTERS  
 1-28 Dec 68  
 Maj R. D. STUCKEY  
 29-31 Dec 68

S-1/Adjutant  
 Operations/Logistics Chief  
 Motor Transport Officer  
 Supply Officer  
 Surgeon  
 Chaplain

CWO R. T. FOWELL Jr.  
 Capt R. R. CRONK  
 1stLt M. P. McBRIDE  
 Capt W. W. HOBBS  
 Lt. D. A. DYKEMA, USN  
 Lt. C. J. GRECO, USN

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN	
Officer	Enlisted	Officer	Enlisted
265	1725	9	28

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Headquarters Battalion elements were positioned throughout the 3rd Marine Division area of operations during the period. Location of major elements were as follows:

Quang Tri	Headquarters Company	(-)
	Service Company	(-)
	Military Police Company	(-)
Dong Ha	Communications Company	(-)

2. Unit Activities and Eventsa. Headquarters Battalion

During the month of December, Major R. D. WALTERS assumed the duties of Battalion Commander while Col M. A. WEBB was on emergency leave. Camp Carroll was officially closed with this battalion furnishing the honor guard. The Red Cross put on a demonstration to show the troops how they could improve morale. Attendance at classes in the Combat Orientation and Troop Indoctrination Program for the month increased considerably over the previous month. The Assistant Division Commander presented combat awards to 20 Marines from this command. Because the crime rate continues high, the Phuoc Tinh laundry, used by some battalion personnel, was placed off limits due to the suspected traffic in Marijuana and sale of American commodities. The Division Band held a concert in the New Quang Tri Combat Base Amphitheater.

b. Headquarters Company

During the month of December 1968, this unit was commanded by Captain David L. CHILCOTE. The average monthly strength was 227 Officers (123% of M/L and 197% of T/O) and 842 enlisted (128% of M/L and 182% of T/O). There were 19 officers joined, 23 dropped; there were 123 enlisted joined and 98 dropped. The Security Platoon enlisted strength increased to 60 during December. The administering of 1050 personnel to include 263 transfers were accomplished with 9 effective office personnel. The Headquarters Company Gunnery Sergeant attended Career Planning School in Okinawa. Company training efforts were blemished by poor attendance. During the holiday season, unlawful detonation of pyrotechnics necessitated an inventory of all pyrotechnics, required more stringent security storage for such items, and resulted in the awarding of 2 Article 15 punishments and publication of a Company Directive relating to the matter. The Security Platoon conducted

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several search and destroy patrols and night ambushes.

c. Communications Company

During this period radio relay links were activated from Vandegrift Combat Base (AN/MRC-62) to LZ Dick and to Dong Ha Mountain in support of the 9th Marines and 4th Marines respectively. In addition a 12 channel AN/TRC-97 system was activated between Vandegrift Combat Base and Quang Tri Combat Base, primarily to provide additional common user trunks between field command posts and battalion/regimental rear command posts. In conjunction with the closing of Camp Carroll, multi-channel systems from Dong Ha to Camp Carroll and from Vandegrift Combat Base to Camp Carroll were deactivated. The 588th Signal Company assumed responsibility for telephone system operations at Quang Tri Combat Base and the AN/MTC-1 switchboard which served Quang Tri Marine subscribers was deactivated. The high deadline rate for tactical generators remains a serious problem; however, the provision of two commercial precision power generators to provide power for the communication center and the AN/TCC-28 dial telephone exchange have reduced this problem considerable. Repair parts for fixed plant teletype equipment were also in very short supply during this time; III MAF establishing a float of this equipment at Danang which should reduce the deadline rate considerably. Major items of new equipment received during the month were an AN/MRC-83 Radio set and an AN/MRC-631 radio relay van, both through the rehabilitation program. Personnel remained approximately at the manning level overall, with specific shortages in communication center, supply, motor transport, and generator maintenance personnel.

d. Service Company

During the month of December, this unit's average monthly strength was 101% of M/L and 122% of T/O for officers and 107% of M/L and 162% of T/O for enlisted. The maintenance section has completed much of the internal electrical wiring within the battalion area. Company training covered such subjects as Leadership, Naval gunfire-Artillery support, and infantry coordination. The loss of two key personnel in the Maintenance Section has seriously hindered operations. Replacements are still pending.

**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIALe. Military Police Company

During this period a total of 21 trained military policemen were transferred. Nine Marines joined the company from various other units. Programmed losses include 8 for the month of January. A standing post at the Quang Tri Bridge, and the joint patrol with the personnel of the 504th Army <sup>MP BN</sup> has been discontinued due to lack of personnel. An 8-man security patrol apprehended 3 Vietnamese women with no identification papers. They were turned over to ITT and were later released. Military Police Company continues to defend the Southwestern portion of the Quang Tri perimeter.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat Missions Assigned

- a. Maintain two vital area reaction companies for employment as required.
- b. Maintain Sector "H" and "A" of the perimeter defense of Quang Tri Combat Base.
- c. Provide personnel for convoy security as required.
- d. Perform Military Police functions as required throughout the 3rd Marine Division area of operations.

2. Significant Operations Conducted

- a. 6-8 December - Security platoon conducted search and destroy patrol in grids 2653, 2654, 2753, and 2754. One booby trapped 105MM artillery round was found. The patrol was probed during the hours of darkness by enemy small arms fire. Exchange of small arms fire and the addition of friendly artillery produced no casualties on either side.
- b. 11 December - The Security and Reaction platoons were called out on condition "1" to the Hotel Sector of the perimeter. Small arms fire, aircraft and "Spooky" fire were employed against suspected enemy in the wire, with negative results.
- c. 15-18 December - The Headquarters Company Security platoon, with ten Kit Carson Scouts attached, conducted a search and destroy patrol covering eight grid squares and resulted in the killing of two NVA Officers.
- d. 18-19 December - The Security platoon conducted night ambushes at grids 3055, 2855, and 2853, with negative results.
- e. 24 December - Security platoon conducted search and destroy patrol covering a thirteen grid square area, with negative results.
- f. 26-31 December - Security platoon conducted a search and destroy patrol covering seventeen grid squares, with negative results. Ten Kit Carson Scouts accompanied the platoon.
- g. Headquarters Battalion continues to support operation SURE (Small Unit Rehabilitation Exercise) at Cau Viet.
- h. 13-14 December - First session of COATIP was conducted during December. On the 13th and 14th, there were 34 in attendance at classes, with 65 firing the M16 rifle for field zero. On the 27th and 28th, 48 attended classes, with 63 firing the M16 for field zero.

3. Casualties inflicted on the enemy

KIA

2

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<u>KIA</u>		<u>MIA</u>		<u>Injury</u> <u>Non Battle</u>		<u>Death</u> <u>Non Battle</u>		<u>MIA</u>	
Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Off	Enl
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

5. New Techniques Employed

NONE

6. Command Relations

Satisfactory

7. Equipment

a. Recommendations were submitted in justification for keeping 8 M35A2C cargo trucks which were over the T/E allowance.

b. Repair parts for motor transport continues to be a problem. Regulators, carburetors, and electro-lite battery acid are the most difficult items to maintain in stock.

c. The 7 AN/TSC-15's in the battalion are all inoperative due to lack of repair parts.

d. Shortage of tin, lumber, insulators, and receptacles have seriously hindered maintenance task.

8. Logistics

a. Headquarters Battalion continues to support Task Force Hotel at Vandegrift Combat Base with personnel, material and equipment.

b. Operation SURE continues to receive logistical support from Headquarters Battalion.

9. Civic Action

a. Local civilians were to be employed by Headquarters Battalion. They were utilized in policing the battalion area, making trash runs, and the filling of sand bags for the construction of bunkers. They are all under the constant supervision of an NCO.

10. Administration

a. 9 December - The Assistant Division Commander presented 3

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Bronze Stars, 1 Navy Achievement, and 16 Purple Heart Medals at an awards ceremony.

b. 28 December - An Honor Guard was furnished for the closing of Camp Carroll.

11. Personnel

- a. No significant occurrences
- b. Shortages of personnel exists in MOS 1161, 1141 and 1121
- c. Casualties

(1) KIA Officers. First Lieutenant Richard E. LATIMER Jr. 0102074/0302 USMC Headquarters Company, at 1030 hours on 2 December 1968 in the vicinity of Quang Tri Combat Base, received multiple injuries and burns when his plane was shot down by enemy ground fire while participating in operations against hostile forces.

(2) Non-battle Injury. PFC J. B. ALLEN 23335600/3531 USMC, Service Company at 2145 on 2 December in the vicinity of Vandegrift Combat Base received a gun shot wound in his left leg, with the projectile passing through the leg. The shot was from friendly forces. His condition was listed as good and prognosis was also good. Treatment was at Company "B", 3rd Medical Battalion.

12. Intelligence

- a. Nothing significant

13. Communications

- a. AN/TCC-28 Site was put on commercial power. This will help alleviate the high deadline rate mentioned in the October report.
- b. Dissolved Division teletype maintenance float.

14. Weather

- a. Nothing significant

15. Fire Support

- a. Artillery fired a 155 mm howitzer in support of "H" Sector.

16. Air Support

- a. None

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a. None

18. Personnel Service

a. Postal - Approximately 35,600 pounds of mail were processed during the period of this report.

b. Special Services - Continued to provide games and amusement to the troops in a satisfactory manner. A total of 55 Battalion troops were flown to Danang to see the Bob HOPE Christmas show.

c. Club's Activities - The Staff NCO Club was entertained by the "Diana Dawn" show on 3 December. On the 14th of December, the "Hi Paisa" show from Australia entertained the Staff Club. The "7 Up's" staged a show for the troops at Cau Viet on the 24th of December. The Officer's Club and the Staff Club were both entertained by the "Smart Affairs" on the 26th of December.

d. Military Police -

(1) A total of 101 traffic citations were given for moving violations, and 72 vehicles were impounded for exceeding the posted speed limit.

(2) Within the division, 38 military police reports were initiated during December, and 23 vehicle accidents were investigated. Five deaths and 11 injuries occurred with property damage at \$8037.00.

(3) During this period, 18 persons were detained as follows:

(a) POW	2
(b) Civil Defendent	2
(c) Innocent Civilians	5
(d) Returnees	3
(e) Unidentified	6

(4) A total of 23 criminal complaints were processed, with 21 from Quang Tri Combat Base and 2 from Dong Ha. Value of government property was \$652.00. Private property was \$1668.00. The total value of property recovered is none. Military Police Company reports that Division had the following offenses:

CLASS I

Assault	1
Murder	1
Larceny of Government Property over \$50.00	2

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Larceny of Private Property over \$50.00	6
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CLASS II

Narcotics	8
Homosexual	2
Postal Violations	2

**e. Chaplain**

(1) Chaplain Evan J. GRECO replaced Chaplain John BELL on 7 December 1968 as the Battalion Chaplain.

(2) In addition to the regular scheduled Catholic Masses, Chaplain GRECO provided extra masses for the holiday season.

(3) Chaplain John ZOHLER and Chaplain Hollis BOND, Division Chaplain and Assistant Division Chaplain respectively, provided religious services for Protestant worship, including special services for the holidays.

(4) The Battalion Chaplain has provided weekly masses for the following units at Quang Tri Combat Base:

4th Marines (Rear)  
9th Marines (Rear)  
12th Marines  
492nd Army Support Group

**f. Medical**

Nothing significant