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BT# 47769

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

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8 Feb 1969



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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AQ3D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division(Rein)FMP
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology, for period 1 January to 31 January 1969

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

Encl: ✓(1) Headquarters Battalion, 3d Marine Division (Rein)FMP, 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

Hyd 3d MARDIV

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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1 January to 31 January 1969

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

Headquarters Battalion
3d Marine Division(Rein)FMF

Commander

Col M. A. WEBB

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

Capt D. L. CHILCOTE

Service Company

Capt D. C. RYDSTROM
(1-22Jan)
2ndLt B. F. LONG IV
(23-24Jan)
Capt T. M. CARBOWSKI
(25-31Jan)

Military Police Company

Major E. L. ROTTSOLK

Communications Company

Major F. C. MULLEN

2. LOCATION

1 - 31 January 1969 Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam (Less Communications
Company, Dong Ha, IWIN)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Major R. D. STUCKEY

S-1/Adjutant

CWO R. T. POWELL Jr.

Assistant Adjutant

CWO D. A. DE BARGE
(14-31Jan)

Operations/Logistics Officer

Capt R. R. CRONK

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt M. P. HOBRIDE

Supply Officer

Capt W. W. HOBBS Jr.

Surgeon

Lt D. A. DYKEMA

Chaplain

Lt E. J. GRECO

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4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN	
Officer	Enlisted	Officer	Enlisted
275	1766	9	18

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Headquarters Battalion elements were positioned throughout the 3d 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

Headquarters Battalion Command Orientation and Troop Indoctrination Program processed 80 Marines. This program consists of one day of formal instructions and one half day of familiarization firing of T/O weapons for newly joined personnel. The Battalion improved its existing capabilities by utilizing various out of country schools. Courses of instruction included were, NCO, Embarkation, Infantry Weapons Repair, Basic AmmoTech and Communication Section/Crypto School. During the month a total of seven Marines attended courses of instruction provided by 3d Marine Division in-country schools. Headquarters Battalion continues to support the Base Defense Perimeter. An awards ceremony was conducted by the Battalion at which Lieutenant General H. W. BUSE Jr., Commanding General, FMFPAC presented two Bronze Stars and one Navy Commendation Medal to members of this Division. The Battalion was reinspected by the Division Embarkation Section on the 13th-15th of January 1969. There has been a definite improvement in the embarkation status since the initial Commanding General's inspection on 22 August 1968. The main problem area is the lack of mount-out boxes with the Battalion. Additional boxes have been ordered to correct this problem.

b. Headquarters Company

During the month of January 1969, this unit was commanded by Captain David L. CHILCOTE. The average monthly strength was 234 Officers and 861 Enlisted. There were 24 Officers joined, 17 dropped; there were 127 Enlisted joined, 68 dropped. One officer was WIA; one enlisted and two Kit Carson Scouts were KIA while on an ambush north of Quang Tri Combat Base. Security Platoon, with 10 Kit Carson Scouts attached, conducted 10 day time patrols and six night ambushes. The strength of this Platoon grew to 90 during the month. The administration of 1050+ personnel to include 236 joins and transfer was accomplished with eight effective office personnel. Second Lieutenant James A. YORG (Security Platoon) was replaced by Second Lieutenant Richard KRUPA (Joined 20 January 1969). Second Lieutenant YORG assumed the duties of Company Executive Officer.

c. Communications Company

The majority of the Company remains with the Company Headquarters

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at Dong Ha Combat Base. Detachments are currently located at the following locations: Quang Tri Combat Base; Vandergrift Combat Base; Cua Viet; Hill 819 (YDC96377); 2ndARVN Regiment FSCC; 9th Marines; and Quang Tri Combat Base Provisioned Rifle Company. In addition, during the month, detachments were at Dong Ha Mountain and LZ SMITH. The Division radio network continues to operate with near 100% reliability. A radar beacon team was deployed to Cua Viet to provide a positive navigational fix for naval gunfire support ships operating in that area. The Company provided a detachment of three men to man air and naval gunfire nets at the newly activated 2ndARVN Regiment FSCC. The critical need for tactical generators to support the various communications equipment still exists. Noteworthy is the fact that the PU-670 400Hz precise power furnished as a component of Radio Set AN/TRC-97 has proved to be unreliable. The Communications space in the Division GOC was enlarged and improved. A provisional rifle platoon was formed in the Company as a reaction force for sector VII, Dong Ha Combat Base. The Company Commander is designated as Sector Commander. The Company conducted one platoon size cordon and search operation, two platoon sweeps and two fire team ambushes both to train personnel and provide added security for the Sector. A continuing program was initiated to upgrade perimeter defensive positions, clear undergrowth from protective wire and improve blast walls and bunkers for both personnel and equipment. Communications support for Quang Tri Base Defense was improved by installing a manual telephone central office AN/MTC-1.

d. Service Company

During the month of January 1969 this unit realized a significant turnover in Command. The total monthly average strength was 101% of M/I for officers and 103% for enlisted. The maintenance section has been able to accomplish required actions although trained personnel are not aboard. Maintenance was able to install a 3000 gallon water tank at the Staff shower point to allow for better water pressure and temperature. Motor Transport remains operationally effective although eight excess vehicles were reassigned by Division Motor Transport Officer to 3d Motor Transport Battalion. This unit was commanded by Captain D. C. RYDSTROM from 1-22 January 1969; Second Lieutenant B. F. LONG from 23-25 January 1969 and subsequently Captain T. M. GARBOWSKI assumed command on 26 January 1969.

e. Military Police Company

During this period the average monthly strength was six Officers and 128 Enlisted. There were 81 criminal complaints processed by CID, 47 in Quang Tri and 34 in Dong Ha. A total of 251 traffic citations were issued and 240 vehicles were impounded for exceeding the posted speed limit by 10 miles per hour or more. A total of 30 vehicle accidents were investigated resulting in three deaths and 12 injuries. The consolidated property damage was \$12,753. Value of government property reported stolen was \$48,647. Value of government property recovered was \$34,713. This Company continues to defend the Southwestern portion of the Quang Tri perimeter.

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Combat Missions Assigned

a. Maintain perimeter defense of Quang Tri Combat Base

(1) Headquarters Company - "A" Sector

(2) Service Company - "A" Sector

(3) Security Platoon - "F" Sector

(4) Military Police Company - "C" Sector

(5) Communications Company maintains perimeter defense of Sector VII Dong Ha Combat Base.

b. Both Headquarters Company and Service Company maintains reaction companies for employment as required.

2. Significant Operations Conducted

a. 11 Jan 1969 - Night ambushes of squad size from Security Platoon were set in. At 2200, one squad of seven men moving from a primary ambush position to an alternate site made contact with 15 Viet Cong outside "A" Sector Quang Tri Combat Base. After a brief fire fight the enemy broke contact. The results were four Viet Cong killed and one Marine and two Kit Carson Scouts killed. The Service Company Reaction Force was deployed at 2300 to assist Security Platoon already deployed but made no contact with the enemy. They returned to Quang Tri Combat Base at 0700.

b. 18-19 Jan 1969 - On this night perimeter posts of Sector VII, Dong Ha received 15 rounds of small arms fire. Perimeter guards returned fire. A platoon size patrol from Communications Company searched the area at first light on the 19th of January and recovered 1 M-14 magazine and numerous articles of U. S. Uniform Clothing.

c. 21 Jan 1969 - A cordon and search operations was conducted in the same area as mentioned above. An abandoned thatched hut suspected as having been used by snipers was destroyed.

3. Casualties inflicted on the enemy

KIA: 4

4. Casualties Sustained

KIA		WIA		INJURY NON BATTLE		DEATH NON BATTLE		MIA		BATTLE INJURY	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

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a. To facilitate coordination between USMC and ARVN units on combined operations, Communications Company was given the mission of providing limited communications support in the form of radio relay and line circuits between participating ARVN Regimental Headquarters and their maneuver elements. In order to provide effective interchange of information on supporting fires and more effective response to allied unit's fire support needs, a combined USMC-USN-ARVN-VNAF FSCC was established at Headquarters, 2nd ARVN Regiment.

6. Command Relations

Satisfactory

7. Equipment

a. Eight M35A2C cargo trucks were turned in to Division Motor Transport. These vehicles were in excess of allowances. However, Division Motor Transport took over commitments handled by these vehicles.

b. Generators to support the AN/TRC-97 were allocated from III Marine Amphibious Force assets. This was necessitated by the acute shortage of operational PU-670's.

8. Logistics

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

b. During the month of January 1969, the Headquarters Battalion Supply Section has furthered its efforts in completely rewarehousing, including the packing and preserving of all open storage material, and preparing the open storage lot to withstand adverse weather conditions. The majority of the discrepancies in the embarkation inspection have been corrected, and the entire Supply Operation will be ready for embarkation during the month of February. Four new cement-floor buildings are forecasted for use by the supply section, and should be finished during early February. These buildings measure 16' by 48', and will be used as stationery and 782 gear issue points, as well as additional office and storage space. Personnel strength has been three officers, three staff, and approximately twenty-nine enlisted. Projected losses for the month of February are one officer, one staff and four enlisted. An inspection of the Supply section by the Division Supply Management Team will be made on 20 February 1969. Presently, the signing of all formal property custody cards, the inventory of all supplies, and the correction of procedures by responsible officers are the main goals of the supply section, in order to be properly prepared for the pending inspection

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9. Civic Action

a. Personnel of this Command visited the 3d Marine Division Children's Hospital on four occasions and distributed candy to patients. On 26 January 1969, personnel visited the Dong Ha Catholic Orphanage and donated toys and candy to orphanage officials. The Headquarters Battalion Brick Factory produced 13,230 bricks during the month of January. These bricks are to be used for building the 3d Marine Division Children's Hospital. On the 27th and 28th of January 1969, Major STUCKEY and First Sergeant LIPPER attended the Personal Response Course conducted by the Division G-5.

10. Administration

a. 24 Jan 1969 - The Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific presented two Bronze Stars and one Navy Commendation Medal at an awards ceremony to members of this Division.

11. Personnel

a. No significant occurrences.

b. Shortages of personnel exists in MOS 1161, 1141 and 1121.

c. Casualties

- (1) KIA ENLISTED - Private First Class Rocky W. HANNA 2486550/0811 USMC HqCo 2100 11 Jan 1969 vicinity of Quang Tri Combat Base Received multiple shrapnel wounds of abdomen, back and left leg in repelling an enemy ambush. Body graves registration at U. S. Mortuary, Danang.
- (2) NON-BATTLE ENLISTED - Private First Class Christabel T. MCCLURE 2423688/0311 USMC 1315 16 Jan 1969 vicinity of Quang Tri/Danang RVN Plane crashed enroute to Danang where he was to be manifested for R&R flight. Body graves registration at U. S. Mortuary, Danang.
- (3) HOSTILE - Corporal Leroy H. BROWN 2144450/2831 USMC CommCo HqBn 2320 30 Jan 1969 vicinity of Hill 819 Received frag wounds to left forearm from friendly mortar round. Treated at 3dMedBn and returned to duty.
- (4) HOSTILE - CMC-2 Thomas C. CRAWFORD 058649/2905 USMC HqCo 0600 22 Jan 1969 vicinity of Danang, Quang Nam Province RVN Received multiple frag wounds to lower extremities while engaged in action against hostile forces during Operation DAWSON-RIVER WEST. Treated at 1stMedBn and transferred to USNH USS Sanctuary.

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Nothing significant

13. Communications

a. On 4 January 1969, an AN/MRC-62 radio relay bank was activated from Vandergrift Combat Base to LZ SMITH in support of the 9th Marines.

b. On 31 January 1969, the first employment of the Radio Set AN/TRC-97 in support of a regimental size operation was activated.

14. Weather

Nothing significant

15. Fire Support

None

16. Air Support

None

17. Activity/Deactivations/Redesignations

None

18. Personnel Services

a. Postal - Approximately 17,350 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.

19. Chaplain

a. Chaplain E. J. GRECO 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

20. Medical

Nothing significant

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