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BT#159569

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

3/RTC/lwl  
034A12969  
9 May 1969

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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 Marine Amphibious Force  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology, for period 1 April to 30 April 1969

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

Encl: (1) Headquarters Battalion, 3d 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.

*S. B. McGarty*  
S. B. MC GARTY, JR.

*Hqs BN/3rd MAR DIV*

*CHD CARON*

*APR 1969*

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 April to 30 April 1969

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

Headquarters Battalion  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Col M. A. WEBB

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

Capt D. L. CHILCOTE

Service Company

Capt T. M. GARBOWSKI  
(1-18 Apr 1969)  
2ndLt B. F. LONG IV  
(19 -30 Apr 1969)

Military Police Company

Maj E. L. ROTTSOLK

Communications Company

Maj F. C. MULLEN

2. LOCATION

1 - 30 April 1969 Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam (Less Communications Company, Dong Ha, RVN)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj R. D. STUCKEY

S-1/Adjutant

CWO R. T. POWELL

S-1/Assistant Adjutant

CWO D. A. DE BARGE

Operations/Logistics Officer

Maj R. T. CARNEY

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt M. P. MCBRIDE

Supply Officer

Capt W. W. HOBBS JR

Surgeon

Lt S. M. COHEN

Chaplain

LtCmdr J. D. ALLEN

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	USMC	
<u>OFF</u>		<u>ENL</u>
286		1672

	USN
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
10	21

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## PART II

## Narrative Summary

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

Quang Tri	Headquarters Company	(-)
	Service Company	(-)
	M.P. Company	(-)
Dong Ha	Communications Company	(-)

2. Unit Activities and Events

## a. Headquarters Battalion:

During the month of April 1969 Marines were processed through COATIP. The Battalion training increased as a Drug Abuse Orientation program was given throughout the Battalion. On technical training, three Marines attended out of country schools and 10 Marines attended in-country schools. Messing is expected to improve as four (4) new MELO units were installed for the Staff and Officer's mess. A coat of paint and tile deck completed the Assistant Division Commander's guest house. The Officer's Club was remodeled with a new ceiling and air-conditioning. Construction continues in other areas as a basketball and handball court foundations have been completed. The enlisted and officer's mess both received a new patio and barbecue through the efforts of the cooks and S-4 personnel, while construction was completed on Motor Transport's Butler Building. Dedication of the Third Marine Division's Children's Memorial Hospital took place on location at Quang Tri Combat Base as General R. G. DAVIS laid the corner stone with the Minister of Health from Saigon. Local Vietnamese officials were in attendance and the ceremony was open to the public. On the 14th of April 1969, Major General W. K. JONES relieved Major General R. G. DAVIS as Commanding General, 3d Marine Division. On 26 April 1969, Brigadier General R. FULLER relieved Brigadier General F. E. GARRETSON as the Assistant Division Commander. A Change of Command ceremony was conducted on 30 April 1969 for the relief of Col M. A. WEBB by LtCol S. B. MC CARTY Jr as Commanding Officer of Headquarters Battalion, effective date of relief is 1 May 1969. A presentation of decorations was also conducted, at which time General R. FULLER presented decorations to over 20 Marines from Headquarters Battalion. The Battalion Chaplain conducted over 24 services during the month of April with a total attendance of 995.

## b. Headquarters Company:

During the month of April 1969 this unit was commanded by Captain David L. CHILCOTE. The average monthly strength was 260 officers and 925 enlisted.

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There were 36 officers joined, 32 dropped; there were 137 enlisted joined, 98 dropped. The administration of 1150 + personnel to include 303 joins and transfers was accomplished with 9 effective office personnel. Security Platoon, with 7 Kit Carson Scouts attached, was employed on 6 day-time patrols and 6 night ambushes. One enlisted Marine was KIA while on patrol with the Security Platoon west of QTCB by enemy surprise firing device on 11 April 1969. One Marine Officer was KIA when the helicopter in which he was riding was shot down 16 miles Northwest of QTCB while participating in operations with ARVN Forces on 22 April 1969.

c. Service Company:

During the month of April 1969 this unit realized a significant turnover in command. The Company Commander was transferred and the Company Executive Officer assumed command without replacement. From 1 April to 18 April Captain T. M. GARBOWSKI was in command of Service Company and on 19 April 2nd Lt B. F. LONG IV assumed command. The average monthly strength was 20 officers and 270 enlisted. There were 3 officers joined and 1 officer dropped and 34 enlisted joined and 28 enlisted dropped. During the month a company size FAM fire was begun with over half of the personnel firing on 26 April. In Company Training three April GMS classes were held. The maintenance Section installed florescent lights in the G-5 building, Library and the Officer's Club and started building a head and shower at the Division P.X. Another project of building rifle racks for each barrack was begun for an emphasis on weapon security. Three men from the maintenance Section relieved the C.B.'s in the operation of the base generators.

d. Communications Company:

The automated circuit records system has proved to be a useful tool in the Division Communications Facilities Control Center (CFCC). Using it several duplicate circuits were detected and deactivated. The system of restoration priorities for Third Marine Division circuits under the cognizance of the CFCC was reviewed, recommendations made and accepted by the Division CEO. The Division Communications Center processed a total of 50,273 messages during April. In order to increase efficiency, the internal arrangement of the Communication Center was rearranged. This has also improved security. A severe environmental control problem exists in the Division Communications Center. Dust and heat continue to contribute to frequent equipment failures. CBMU-301 has worked on improving the venting system for the air conditioners and has been tasked to paint the deck with deck paint to help eliminate the dust. The Division TACP members undergoing OJT with 1/4 were recalled due to shortages of personnel in the ANGF Platoon. CBMU-301 has completed rewiring the company area. The new power sub-system was completed by MCB 62. Motor generators for converting 60Hz AC to 400Hz are currently 100% either inoperative or evacuated to higher maintenance echelon. This has resulted in a shortage of 400Hz generators and the inability to power the maintenance/technician

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benches for the AN/TRC-75 family of radios. Routine maintenance of the extensive Division multi-pair cable network continued. A crew of two men from 7th Communication Battalion, with the equipment necessary to locate underground cables, worked with Wire Platoon personnel from 1-14 April 1969. As cables were located they were conspicuously marked. Approximately 2000 feet of 50 pair cable was installed to support MASS-2 and their increased DASC operations. The Maintenance Platoon processed 282 work orders despite a 20% shortage of authorized manning level personnel. For the first time in memory the maintenance shop was able to operate without the aid of a tactical 60 Hz generator. The newly installed power sub-system provides 120 VAC, 3 phase power. Company Motor Transport has implemented a program to rehabilitate the company rolling stock. Ten vehicles have been repainted and many minor body repairs made. Two Vietnamese are now employed by the Motor Pool to assist in the maintenance.

e. Military Police Company:

During the period covered by this report, this Unit has conducted operations that fall into four categories: Traffic control, criminal investigation and apprehension, operation of P.O.W. facilities, and base security. Traffic citations totaled 165 for the period as compared with 155 for the previous period. There were ten traffic accidents recorded, none of which were fatal. A two unit patrol is effective daily during hours of daylight between Dong Ha and Khe Gia Bridge. A total of twenty seven Class I offenses and 135 Class II offenses were committed during the period. Thirty six investigations were carried over from the previous period and sixty two new cases were opened. Twenty two cases were completed and a balance of twenty three cases are carried over into the new period. During the evening of 21 April, an N.V.A. P.O.W., Lang Quyet Thang, escaped from the P.O.W. facility at Dong Ha Combat Base. At approximately 2130 on 22 April he was killed in a friendly mine field (YD234609). The body was discovered by elements of 2nd ARVN Regiment. Investigation now in progress. This unit continues to furnish a ready reaction force for Sector "C" of the Quang Tri Combat Base perimeter. During the hours of daylight this unit furnishes security at five (5) gate posts within Quang Tri Combat Base. Security is further provided on the gates to Dong Ha Combat Base. During hours of darkness, three (3) posts are manned on the quarters of the Commanding General and the Assistant Division Commander.

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PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events

1. Combat Mission Assigned:

- a. Headquarters Company maintained defensive perimeter of "A" and "C" Sectors, Quang Tri Combat Base.
- b. Military Police Company is responsible for traffic control, prevention and investigation of criminal offenses, apprehension of criminal offenders, P.O.W. collections and base security.
- c. Service Company is responsible for the reaction force, on call to the Base Defense Coordinator and the Battalion Interior Guard.
- d. Communications Company is responsible for the perimeter guard of Sector VII, Dong Ha Combat Base, and other operation deemed in support of the 3d Marine Division.

2. Significant Operations Conducted:

- a. 9-15 April Communications Company provided a reinforced rifle squad as security for the road sweep team along Route 9 from Dong Ha Combat Base to Cam Lo.
- b. 11 April Security Platoon conducted search and clear patrol.

3. Casualties inflicted on the enemy:

- a. None

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
1	1	0	2	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0

5. New Techniques Employed:

- a. None

6. Command Relations:

- a. Satisfactory

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7. Equipment:

a. Requests have been submitted for additional communication equipment on a loan basis.

8. Logistics:

a. 4 April - Communications Company provided P.A. system for Division awards ceremony.

b. 9 April - Communications Company provided P.A. system for dedication ceremony for 3d Marine Division Memorial Children's Hospital.

c. 14 April - Communications Company provided P.A. system and radio support for change of command ceremony.

9. Civic Actions:

a. 7, 14, 21, 28 April - weekly class in English Language was conducted by the Battalion Chaplain at Tri Bui Convent, Quang Tri City.

b. 9, 13, 22, 28 April - Communications Company Marines visited 3d Marine Division Children's Hospital and distributed candy to patients. One visit was made to the Dong Ha Catholic Orphanage.

10. Administration:

a. 5, 12, 19, 26 April - Battalion Commander's building and grounds inspection.

b. 14 April - Change of Command, 3d Marine Division, General W. K. JONES relieved General R. G. DAVIS.

c. 24 April - Communications Company was given courtesy inspection by Division Motor Transport.

d. 25-27 April - Communications Company was given courtesy Communications-Electronic inspection by the Division Communicator-Electronic Maintenance Inspection Team.

e. 30 April - Assistant Division Commander presented one Silver Star, four Bronze Star Medals, five Navy Commendation Medals, four Navy Achievement Medals and eight Purple Heart Medals at awards ceremony.

11. Personnel:

a. 5, 12, 19, 26 April - COATIP processed a total of 144 Marines.

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## b. Casualties:

KIA OFFICER - First Lieutenant Meadow J. OLSON 010 60 06/0301 USMC Headquarters Company 1000 22 Apr 1969 vicinity of Dong Ha Mountain, Quang Tri Province, RVN approx 16 miles Northwest of Quang Tri Combat Base. Recd 3rd degree burns over entire body as helicopter was shot down while participating in joint operation with ARVN. Body graves registration at U.S. Mortuary, Danang.

KIA ENLISTED - Private First Class Sherwood SAYNER 247 61 35/0811 USMC HqCo 1610 11 Apr 1969 vicinity of Sector J, Quang Tri Province. Recd multiple shrapnel wounds to entire body from an enemy surprise firing device while on patrol. Body graves registration at U.S. Mortuary, Danang.

WIA ENLISTED - Lance Corporal F. STAHLIN 242 81 31/0811 USMC HqCo 1830 11 Apr 1969 vicinity of Sector J, Quang Tri Province. Recd frag wound to right thigh while on patrol from enemy surprise firing device. Treated at 3dMedBn, Cond and Prog excellent.

WIA ENLISTED - Private First Class Douglas MCEWAN 213 49 11/1811 USMC HqCo 1830 11 Apr 1969 vicinity of Sector J, Quang Tri Province. Recd frag wound to right thigh while on patrol from enemy surprise firing device. Treated at 3dMedBn, Cond and Prog excellent.

## 12. Intelligence:

- a. Nothing Significant.

## 13. Communications:

a. 4 April - Deactivated AN/MRC-62 radio relay shot Vandegrift Combat Base to L.Z. Saigon.

b. 6 April - Established AN/MRC-62 radio relay shots Vandegrift Combat Base to L.Z. Sierra and L.Z. Wireman.

c. 17 April - Established AN/TRC-27 radio relay shots Dong Ha to Con Thien and Dong Ha to Cam Lo.

d. 29 April - Deactivated AN/MRC-62 radio relay shot Vandegrift Combat Base to L.Z. Sierra.

e. During the month of April Communications Company provided the full range of communications support to the Division Commander and his staff. This included teletype processing; telephone and telephone switchboard service, both manual and automatic dial; multi-channel radio and radio relay support between the various combat bases and to superior and subordinate headquarters using VHF-FM, SHF and troops scatter equipment; radio communication support, both covered and plain, was provided the Commanding General and his staff, and to Dong Ha and Quang Tri Base Defense.

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14. Weather:

- a. Nothing significant.

15. Fire Support:

- a. None

16. Air Support:

- a. None

17. Activations/Deactivations/Redesignations:

- a. None

18. Personnel Services:

a. Postal - approximately 19,275 pounds of mail was processed during the period of this report.

b. Special Services continued to provide recreation in sports and support for parties.

c. Chaplain:

(1) The Battalion Chaplain held twelve services during the month of April with a total attendance of 495.

(2) LCDR John C. Mignone, CHC, USN, Assistant Division Chaplain, celebrated Catholic Mass on both Sundays and weekdays in the battalion chapel.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.

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