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

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5750  
034216069

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), MAF  
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

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

Ref: (a) HCO 5750.2  
(b) AFPPacO 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. McCarty Jr.*  
S. B. MC CARTY JR.

*Hqo Bvt/3rd Marine Div*

*COMD CHRON*

*MAY 1969*

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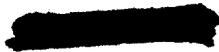
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3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO, San Francisco 96602



COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May 1969

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Enclosure (1)

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## PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Headquarters Battalion  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

LtCol S. B. MC CARTY JR.

## SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

Capt D. L. CHILCOTE

Service Company

1stLt B. E. LONG IV  
(1-17 May 1969)  
Capt D. H. MOSLEY  
(18-31 May 1969)

Military Police Company

Maj E. L. ROTTSOLK

Communications Company

Maj F. C. MULLEN JR.

2. LOCATION

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

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj R. D. STUCKEY

S-1/Adjutant

Capt C. E. SWISHER

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

LtCndr J. D. ALLEN

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC	
OFF	ENL
275	1707

USN	
OFF	ENL
10	20

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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 (-)

Military Police Company (-)

Communications Company (-)

Dong Ha

2. Unit Activities and Events

a. Headquarters Battalion joined a new Commanding Officer, as LtCol S. B. MC CANNY JR. assumed his duties on 1 May 1969. High lighting the month of May was the MAF Pac inspection, which included all units of the Battalion. Construction continues within the battalion as the new head facility was completed for field grade officers. Air conditioners were installed in the ADC's office and living quarters. The S-4 continued its program to improve the Battalion area, emphasis being placed on Ground Safety Procedures and painting of all living/working buildings. The S-4 in conjunction with the S-5 has instituted a Civic Action Program to help the children of the 1st ARVN Regiment who live and attend school in the LaVang area at the Mai Linh Buddhist Pagoda. Clothing and athletic equipment will be distributed in addition to dental and medical care. Training continued to improve as 160 Marines were processed through COATIP. Five Marines attended in country schools and five Marines attended out of country schools. NBC Defense training was increased during the month of May thus raising the standard of proficiency of the Battalion monitor/survey teams. The Battalion Commander presented two Silver Star Medals, one Bronze Star Medal and one Navy Commendation Medal, five Navy Achievement Medals, and three Purple Heart Medals, at an awards ceremony. Religious services were conducted each week during the month of May with a total attendance of 179. A weekly class in the English language was given by the battalion chaplain for the Sisters of Tri Dieu Convent, Quang Tri City. A courtesy inspection was conducted by the Division NBC Contact Team on Headquarters Battalion NBC, with satisfactory results. Drug Abuse lectures were continued during this period to include instruction to all NCO's.

b. Communications Company. During May Communications Company continued to provide reliable, speedy and flexible communications in support of the 3d Marine Division. In accomplishing this, detachments were at the following locations during the month: Quang Tri Combat Base; Vandegrift Combat Base (VCB) (Task Force Hotel); Con Thien (3d Marines); Headquarters 2d ARVN Regiment; Cam Lo (9th Marines); Forward Operating Base A-1 (2d ARVN Regiment); Cua Viet (1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion/3d Marine Division Rehabilitation Center);

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LZ Whisemen (3d Marines); LZ Razor (9th Marines); Dong Ha Provisional Rifle Platoon and Quang Tri Provisional Rifle Company. Assigned missions were to install, operate and maintain communications facilities for Division Headquarters, including radio, radio relay, wire and communications center facilities at the Division CP and the Administrative CP; and between the Alternate Division CP and the next lower echelons of the Division to enable the Division Commander to exercise command and control over the Division. This Company is assigned the mission of defending Sector VII of the perimeter of Dong Ha Combat Base and conducting such other operations deemed necessary in support by Base Defense Coordinator, Dong Ha Combat Base. A total of 298 tactical equipment repair orders were processed by the Maintenance Platoon. The maintenance float held by this Company for support of AN/TRC-75 family radio sets was turned in as directed by the Commanding General. A maintenance float for support of Radio Sets, AN/TRC-97 has been authorized this Company by Commanding General MACV. Items have been requisitioned. During May communications support provided by the Company included the following: Division Communications Center - 62,178 messages transmitted or received, with attendant message processing/distribution; Division Combat Operations Center - Radio equipment, communications center facilities, an SB-86 tactical switchboard and tactical switchboard plus air and naval gunfire support radio equipment and operators; Base Defense, Quang Tri - MTC-1 tactical switchboard, radio equipment and operators; Base Defense, Dong Ha - SB-86 tactical switchboard, radio equipment and operators; multichannel radio and radio relay support between the various combat bases and to superior and subordinate units using VHF-FM, SHF, and tropo-scatter equipment; automatic dial telephone service to units at Dong Ha Combat Base and limited dial service at Quang Tri Combat Base. Five circuits to higher headquarters were deactivated and fourteen circuits were activated. Continuous operation of these various systems coupled with a severe environment provides a daily challenge for the operations and maintenance personnel assigned. Emphasis continues to be placed on improving existing installations and designing more efficient replacement systems. During the month seven major multi-pair cables were cut or damaged by brush fires. This continues to cause an unnecessary additional workload on the limited manpower available. The Force Inspector, MACV rated this Company "satisfactory with minor discrepancies" for comm-elect. Noteworthy areas were the aggressive and continuous first and second echelon maintenance programs. The automated circuit directory used by the Facilities Coordination Center has been improved to allow FCC personnel to retrieve and analyze reasons for circuit outages on all circuits monitored. This Company continues to experience excessive circuit downtime due to lack of adequate 400Hz power. Additionally, repair of single sideband radio equipment is at a standstill due to lack of 400Hz power. Inadequate air conditioning continues to plague the Division Communications Center. The commercial window type units in use fail within 6-8 months necessitating frequent emergency trips to higher echelons to procure new units. Members of this Company visited the patients of the 3d Marine Division Memorial Children's Hospital and distributed candy on five occasions. Ten communications

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center men (MOS 2542) from the 7th Communications Battalion are currently augmenting the Division Communications Center. Shortages exist in technicians 2841 and 2847. One non-battle death occurred from a self-inflicted wound. Individual training records are now being maintained on all sergeants and below. In order to improve the quality of instruction, a syllabus is being prepared for a three day technique of military instruction course. This will also enhance the leadership qualities of the NCO's of this Company.

c. Headquarters Company. During the month of May 1969 this unit was commanded by Captain David L. CHILCOTE. Average monthly strength was 260 officers and 990 enlisted. There were 26 officers joined, 25 dropped; there were 190 enlisted joined, 144 dropped. The administration of 1200+ personnel to include 385 joins and transfers was accomplished with 9 effective office personnel. Security Platoon, with 7 Kit Carson Scouts attached, was employed in 3 daytime patrols and 1 night ambush. One Marine Officer was KIA when his light observation plane crashed during a storm in western I Corps on 6 May 1969. Headquarters Company manned sector "A" and "C" of the defensive perimeter, Quang Tri Combat Base.

d. Service Company. Captain Donald H. MOSLEY relieved 2ndLt B. F. LONG IV as Commanding Officer on 18 May, the latter being reassigned duties as the Executive Officer. The company continued to provide the services required in support of the Division. The maintenance section of this unit is presently involved in a complete inventory of all supplies and equipment. In addition, another generator has been installed during the month and is being operated by the maintenance section. There were 2 officers and 34 enlisted transferred during May and 1 officer and 68 enlisted were joined. The administrative procedures were inspected by the FMFPac inspection team with a results of satisfactory. The unit mailroom and Individual Records Accounting were considered noteworthy. The company conducted three reaction drills at Quang Tri Combat Base during the month. All personnel were assigned to provisional platoons for better control and to assist in accomplishing training requirements. Twenty five persons fired the LAAW for familiarization. Instruction and application of chemical defense (CS) was attended by 82 members of this command. The FMFPac Inspection Team inspected Ordnance, Engineer, Administration, and Ground Safety.

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, P.O.W. detention, and base security. Traffic violations totaled 176 for the period as compared with 155 last month. A total of five traffic accidents were reported resulting in one Vietnamese fatality. A two unit patrol is in effect during hours of daylight between Dong Ha and Khe Gia Bridge. A total of twenty nine Class I and 263 Class II offenses were investigated during the period. Six cases were carried over from the previous period and seventy six new investigations were opened. Thirty cases were completed and the balance of cases have been carried over

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into the new period. This Company augments Security Platoon in the defense of Sector "C", Quang Tri Combat Base, and furnishes a ready reaction force. During the hours of daylight, this unit furnishes security at six gate posts and at 3rd Medical Battalion aboard Quang Tri Combat Base. Security is further provided on the gate to Dong Ha Combat Base. Operation of maximum patrols and posts has produced a requirement for AN/PRC 25 radios which exceed the allowance of the company. 43 persons were joined during the month of May, and 36 dropped.

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## Part III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 1 May - Deactivated AN/TRC-27 radio relay shot Dong Ha Combat Base to Cam Lo supporting 9th Marines on Operation Cameron Falls.
- 2 May - Deactivated AN/MRC-62 radio relay shot Signal Hill to LZ Whisemen supporting 3rd Marines on Operation Maine Crag. Repaired 50 pair cable cut by bulldozer.
- 3 May - Drug Abuse lecture and COATIP program, attendance 42 and 33 respectively.
- 4 May - Members of Communications Company visited the 3d Marine Division Memorial Children's Hospital.
- 5 May - Members of Communications Company visited the 3d Marine Division Memorial Children's Hospital.
- 6 May - Maintenance float for Radio Set AN/TRC-75 turned in to FLSG-B. MIA OFFICER - First Lieutenant John R. HAGAN O1O 26 50/0302 USMC HqCo 1600, vicinity of Khe Sahn, Quang Tri Province, RVN. Lost in aerial flight while engaged against hostile forces. INJURY ENLISTED - Corporal John T. DUNHAM 235 81 98/4631 USMC ServCo, vicinity of Service Company Office, Headquarters Battalion, Quang Tri Combat Base. Recd frag wound to right leg from M-79 round fired by an unknown source. Treated at 3dMedBn, Cond and Prog good.
- 7 May - Provisional Platoons reassigned in Service Company.
- 8 May - Repaired 300 pair cable cut by construction machinery.
- 9 May - Activated AN/MRC-62 shot from Signal Hill to LZ Razor in support of 9th Marines on Operation Apache Snow. Reaction Drill for members of Headquarters and Service Company.
- 10 May - Courtesy inspection by Division NBC Contact Team for NBC Defense readiness. Repaired one 100 pair, one 50 pair, and one 25 pair cable damaged by fire. Began installation of inter-communications system for Division Chief of Staff and Assistant Chiefs of Staff. Drug Abuse Lecture and COATIP program; attendance was 51 and 49 respectively.
- 11 May - Reaction Drill performed by Service Company for Inter-perimeter.
- 12 May - Service Company personnel fired the M72 for familiarization at the Quang Tri Combat Base range. Communications Company activated AN/VCC-2 multibanned radio shot from Signal Hill to LZ Razor in support of 9th Marines on Operation Apache Snow. Completed installation of inter-communication system.

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- 14 May - Eight communication center men (MOS 2542) arrived from 7th Communication Battalion to augment Division Communications Center.
- 17 May - Inspection by FMFPac Inspection Team. Drug Abuse Lecture and COATIP program, attendance 31 and 52 respectively. Communications Company provided security for road sweep team along route 9 from Dong Ha to Can Lo.
- 18 May - Members of Communications Company visited the 3d Marine Division Memorial Children's Hospital. Captain MOSLEY relieved Lt LONG as Commanding Officer of Service Company. Corporal Donald A. TURSO 232 14 19/2811 USMC, CommCo, died 2315 19 May 1969 of a self-inflicted wound, vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base. He was taken to Co D, 3dMedBn where he was pronounced dead at 2345. Awards Ceremony, LtCol S. B. MC CARTY JR. presented decorations to members of this command.
- 22 May - CommCo deactivated AN/TRC-27 radio relay shot from Dong Ha Combat Base to Con Thien in support of 3d Marines on Operation Virginia Ridge.
- 24 May - Drug Abuse Lecture and COATIP program, attendance of 54 and 11 respectively. Communications Company repaired 25 pair cable cut by backhoe.
- 25 May - Communications Company conducted route survey for new cable between Dong Ha and Quang Tri Combat Base. Field grade Head facility completed at Quang Tri Combat Base.
- 26 May - ADC's office and living quarters were air conditioned. Communications Company replaced 300 meter section of 25 pair cable damaged by fire.
- 27 May - Headquarters Company Security Platoon patrol located a 155mm enemy surprise firing device at 267519.
- 28 May - Began installation of 1500 feet of 100 pair cable from "97 frame" to 12th Marines.
- 30 May - Detached AN/MRC-62 radio relay shot from Signal Hill to LZ Razor in support of 9th Marines on Operation Apache Snow.
- 31 May - Completed installation of cable to 108th Artillery Group USA. Members of Communications Company visited 3d Marine Division Children's Hospital. Drug Abuse Lecture and COATIP program completed; attendance 30 and 15 respectively.

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