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HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion 4th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

3/MED/grb
5750
1 September 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 August to 31 August 1969.

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) August Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Downgraded at three year intervals, declassified after twelve years.

and field
D. C. CAULFIELD
By direction

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2d BATTALION 4th MARINES (Rein)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

2d Battalion 4th Marines

LTCOL W. C. BRITT

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1STLT C. P. GARBER	1-31 August
E Company	CAPT H. C. BAXTER	1-31 August
F Company	CAPT J. W. MURPHY	1-31 August
G Company	CAPT C. A. ROBINSON	1-31 August
H Company	CAPT F. ZAVACKI	1-31 August

UNITS IN
GENERAL SUPPORT

Company A 3d Engineers

Battery H, 2d Bn. 12th Mar.

2. LOCATION

1-31 August	FSB Russell
1-31 August	2/4 Forward Located at FSB Russell
1-31 August	2/4 Rear Located at VOB

3. STAFF OFFICERS

XO	MAJ D. C. CAULFIELD	1-31 August
S-1	1STLT W. R. BOGGS	1-31 August
PERSONNEL OFF.	1STLT P. J. SHIRK	1-21 August
	1STLT T. W. CLARK	22-31 August
S-2	GYSGT M. A. BETZALE	1-31 August

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S-3	MAJ J. J. O'MEARA	1-31 August
S-3A	1STLT F. W. GRIFFIN	1-31 August
PSC	1STLT G. D. WILSON 1STLT T. H. PACE	1-21 August 22-31 August
ALO	CAPT A. J. HANLE	1-31 August
PAC	1STLT C. D. PERRIGUEY 1STLT J. R. TURANO	1-25 August 26-31 August
SUPPLY OFF.	1STLT J. D. WILSON	1-31 August
COMM OFF.	1STLT W. G. SIMPSON	1-31 August
MTO	1STLT W. F. ENDERLE	1-31 August
MEDICAL OFF.	LT. W. H. KNAPP	1-31 August
CHAPLAIN	LTCMDR R. W. Mc CARTHY	1-31 August

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
35	1165	2	49	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. General Overview of Activities. The 2d Battalion 4th Marines continued security of FSB Russell and search and destroy activities in the TAOR. Extensive improvements were commenced on the defensive works at FSB Russell.

2. Command Relations

a. As Commanding Officer 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, the Battalion Commander exercised command over those units assigned opcon and support to the Battalion through normal channels.

b. Contact with Regiment and adjacent Battalion Command echelons was maintained through normal control/communication channels and command/staff visits.

3. Missions Assigned

a. Continued Operation Arlington Canyon

b. Maintained security of FSB Russell and conducted search and destroy activities in the surrounding area.

4. Intelligence

a. Enemy. The enemy activity for the reporting period remained consistent with the tactics of the last reporting period. That being limited number of contacts encouraged by the enemy. It appears as though the enemy have a main infiltration route to the northeast of our AO. There were very high sensor readings for the reporting period which indicates much movement on the enemy's part. This would also seem to indicate either or both a resupply period or pre-operation planning period. A very interesting contradicting fact is an occasional incident where aircraft were fired on by the enemy. Also an increase of incoming on friendly positions.

b. Weather. The weather for the reporting period remained consistent with previous years. The Battalion, as par for this time of year, experienced increased heat casualties.

c. Terrain. The terrain remained the same as the last reporting period due to our working in the same A.O.. Our A.O. consists of mountainous regions with heavy foliage which are detrimental to aerial observation.

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5. Operations. On 3 August the rehabilitation of Company G was postponed and the company was returned to the field. Company G and Company H were deployed to blocking positions in the vicinity of XD 011648 , XD 012636 respectively. On 4 August Company G and H moved to the South. Company G was extracted from the field on 20 August to commence rehabilitation at the Qua Viet center. On 27 August Company G relieved Company E in the field so that Company E could commence rehabilitation. Rehabilitation center operations were suspended on 27 August and Company E was chopped opcon to 3/4. On 31 August Company H relieved Company F as the security force for FSB Russell. On 27 August Company G was assigned the mission of sweeping the river line in the southern section of the A.O..

6. Results of Operations during the month of August

- a. Enemy KIA - 10
 b. Casualties sustained KIA - 5
 WIA - 18
 c. Equipment, Ordnance, and Supplies, Captured, Destroyed, or Damaged:

AK 47	-	3
Chi-com grenades	-	10
Dog Tag	-	1
Canteens	-	3
First Aid Packets	-	3
Satchel Charges	-	10
Boots	-	1 pair
Cartridge Belts	-	2
Towel	-	1
Packs	-	5
Cig. Lighters	-	2
60mm Tube	-	1
9mm Pistol	-	1
Gas Mask	-	1
AK 47 Ammo	-	200 rounds

7. Supporting Arms

a. Fire Support

(1) Artillery Targets	-	405
HE rds.	-	20,397
WP rds.	-	221
Illum rds.	-	28
	6	

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(2)	81mm Mortar Targets	-	195
	HE rds.	-	7,918
	WP rds.	-	405
	Illum. rds.	-	46

b. Air Support

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Received</u>
Medevacs	122	122
Troop Lifts	10	10
A.O.	11	73
Fixed Wing Strikes	33	53
TPQ Strikes	334	31
Beacon Strikes (A-6's)	8	3
Spooky Gunship	4	4
Huey Gunship	12	12
Flareship	7	7
Visual Recon	5	5
ARC Light Strikes	0	5

8. Logistics

a. Supply. Primary source of supply was FSLU at Vandegrift Combat Base with secondary sources at FSLU at Dong Ha Combat Base and Quang Tri Combat Base.

b. Resupply. Resupply was accomplished by helicopter primarily through routine resupply.

9. Communications

a. Normal communications were maintained between higher headquarters and subordinate units.

b. The 2d Battalion 4th Marines Message Center processed a total of 601 messages.

10. Equipment. Equipment was maintained through normal first and second echelon maintenance.

11. Civic Action. Due to the nature of the TAOR in which the Battalion was operating, no civic action operations were conducted.

12. Personnel and Administration

(a) Personnel rotated during the month.

USMC	
OFF	ENL
9	157

USN	
OFF	ENL
1	9

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(b) Replacements during the month of August.

USMC	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
9	157

USN	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
1	9

13. Training. Training for the month of August consisted of individual and small unit training in tactics and weapons, and COATIP training for troops newly arrived incountry.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Significant Events During or in Direct Relation to Combat Operations.

a. 1 August. Company Hotel observed three NVA crossing a streambed moving toward their position in the vicinity of XD 936596. Called in an 81mm mortar mission with unknown results. Company Hotel, second platoon, while searching a site in the vicinity of XD 928631 which was subject to an ARC LIGHT the night previous. Found trail markings that indicated 3d NVA Battalion. Found markings on trees, (AZ) with smaller (v) marking over the (Z). Also found a bunker complex in the vicinity of XD 932631 of approximately eight-
 teen "A" frame bunkers. A complete search of the bunker complex was made that revealed cooking gear, entrenching tools, radio antenna, and radio knobs all of which were Russian made. Three flights of fixed wing were run on the bunker complex. One large and small secondary explosions were observed. The bunker complex was completely destroyed. Company Golf observed a shining object and movement in the vicinity of XD 893538. Fired 106's and 81mm mortars. Ran fixed wing on suspected enemy position and escape routes with unknown results. Company Echo, third platoon commenced surveillance of ARC LIGHT TA 29-268. First three hundred meters north from LZ heavily scarred by shrapnel. The finger in the vicinity of XD 871599 was totally destroyed.

b. 2 August. Company Golf observed four NVA in the vicinity of XD 924533. AO on station observed trails that appeared to be used heavily. Called in 60mm and 81mm mortar fire. AO strafed area; results were unknown. Company Hotel second platoon while on a routine patrol found a bridge crossing a stream in the vicinity of XD 915623. Also found grass hootches and fresh foot prints. A tree bearing the mark "139" was also found. Marking was scraped off tree and bridge and hootches were destroyed.

c. 3 August. Company Hotel second platoon while on a routine patrol found a bunker complex in the vicinity of XD 912635. The complex was destroyed by previous arty and air strikes. A complete search of the area revealed tree marking indicating mines and booby traps, also indicating trails; two booby trapped and one safe. One large bunker was also found still intact containing one NVA belt and one 82mm mortar fuse. The bunker and NVA gear was destroyed. Company Echo observed fifteen NVA in the vicinity of XD 888619 running from the area while a routine preparation fire was being called in. Company Echo took NVA under small arms

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fire. Called in arty and 81mm mortars. Fixed wing on station worked enemy avenues of escape and suspected positions with unknown results. A complete search of the area at first light was made which uncovered one NVA pack, 7 lbs. of rice, one canteen with holder, one cigarette lighter, and one bottle of unknown pills. Twenty-five meters from a stream a bomb crater with grave-like holes dug in it was found; the holes had not been used. NVA pack and cigarette lighter had bullet and shrapnel holes in them. All gear was destroyed.

d. 4 August. Company Hotel third platoon had a fire team ambush at XD 927596. The fire team ambush heard movement on the stream in the vicinity of XD 933595. Called in 81mm mortars with unknown results. Movement ceased. A search of the area at first light was made and one chi-com grenade was found. Company Echo second platoon while on a routine patrol observed two NVA in the vicinity of XD 882617. Called in fire mission using arty. AO on station observed with negative results.

e. 5 August. Company Golf second platoon sent out a fire team to its designated ambush site. On the way the fire team found blood trails and drag marks in the vicinity of XD 881537. The team continued its mission. A search at first light was planned.

f. 6 August. Company Golf second platoon continued to follow a blood trail found the previous night. The blood trail led to a bunker complex of forty-one "A" frame bunkers in the vicinity of XD 879539. Company Golf second platoon maneuvered out of that area to make maximum use of fixed wing that was called on station. Fixed wing took small arms fire from hill 844 while dropping ordnance on the bunker complex. Fired 81mm mortars on suspected enemy position and enemy fire ceased. Fixed wing continued to work target area. Company Golf second platoon held a complete search of the bunker complex after the fixed wing had secured. Bunker complex was totally destroyed and rendered unusable to the enemy. Several bottles of unknown medicine that were mostly empty were found along with four 82mm mortar rounds. Medicine bottles and 82mm rounds were destroyed. Company Fox first platoon observed two NVA in the vicinity of XD 898620. Company Fox first platoon took NVA under small arms fire. Called in 81mm mortars and AO adjusted; negative results.

g. 7 August. Company Golf second platoon assaulted hill 844 at XD 869537 where suspected enemy of unknown size was firing on fixed wing during an air strike. Contact was negative. Seven bunkers were found on top of the hill. None appeared to have been used recently. All were partially destroyed by air strikes. Fresh foot prints were

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found along with one NVA gas mask and two 82mm mortar rounds. All enemy gear was destroyed. Battalion "Alpha Command" received a transmission from an unknown station with a call sign of "Fighting Mad X-Ray." FMXRAY wanted the following information: sightings, contacts, and positions of recon inserts. Fighting Mad X-Ray claimed to be a liason team operating in the Mai Loc TAOR. All the above information was asked for in the clear. Fighting Mad X-Ray was directed to leave the Battalion frequency and contact Fighting Mad on MIKE 1164.

h. 8 August. Company Echo observed two NVA in the vicinity of XD 878597. 81mm mortars and arty were called in on enemy's position and suspected avenues of escape. Results were unknown. Company Golf third platoon while on a routine patrol in the vicinity of XD 915574 found a hut with wicker baskets inside. Also a 500 lb. bomb which appeared to be a dud was found. Huts and baskets were destroyed. The bomb was marked for later destruction.

i. 9 August. Company Fox first platoon sent out a squad patrol that initiated contact with an enemy unit of unknown size in the vicinity of XD 898618. One Marine was killed during the exchange of small arms fire and one NVA fell after the first burst of small arms fire was returned on the enemy. Company Fox committed the other squads in first platoon to resupply the squad in contact. An AO was called on station. The AO took small arms fire while making a strafing run on the enemy's position. Called in 81mm mortars and arty. AO on station adjusted. "Spooky" was utilized using arty for illumination when darkness set in. A search of the area at first light was made. The following gear was found: one canvas bag of chi-com grenades and one pair of hand made crutches. All enemy gear was destroyed. Company Echo second platoon while at a night ambush site observed three NVA. One of the three was being carried by the other two. Called in 81mm mortars, and fired 106's. AO on station adjusted the supporting arms with unknown results. Company Fox received thirty to forty rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire that landed 100 meters short of the perimeter. The enemy fire was observed coming from XD 912623. AO on station directed arty. Company Fox fired 60mm mortar and 81mm mortars on the enemy's position with unknown results. Enemy fires were silenced. Company Echo observed moving lights in the vicinity of XD 882617. Arty, 81mm and 60mm mortars were called in on suspected enemy activity. A secondary explosion was observed and lights of suspected enemy activity ceased.

j. 11 August. Company Fox received twelve rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire landing short of their position by 100 meters. Fired arty, 81mm mortars and 60mm mortars on

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suspected enemy's position in the vicinity of XD 887621 with unknown results. Enemy fire was silenced. Company Echo second platoon observed twelve NVA in the vicinity of XD 888630 during an air strike supported with arty illumination. Directed air support on station to deliver ordnance on enemy's position. After air support, called in arty and 81mm mortar fire on suspected enemys' avenues of escape. Due to darkness results were unknown.

k. 12 August. Company Fox received twenty to thirty enemy 82mm mortar rounds that landed 100 meters short of their perimeter. Called arty and 81mm counter mortar fire on suspected enemy position in the vicinity of XD 923627 with unknown results. Company Echo third platoon was attacked at their night position in the vicinity of XD 855600 by an estimated fifteen NVA sappers. The perimeter came under intense AK 47 small arms fire and sappers throwing satchel charges and chi-com grenades. Company Echo third platoon suffered two KIA, five WIA medevacs. A CH-46 helicopter while attempting to land and lift out medevacs, came under enemy AK 47 fire and sappers again attempted to enter the perimeter throwing satchel charges and grenades. Company Echo third platoon again immediately took enemy under small arms fire. Called in and adjusted 81mm and 60mm mortar fire on the enemy's position causing him to withdraw. Medevac chopper using gunships and spookys with illumination landed inside the perimeter and all the medevac was complete. After medevac was complete spookys fired in a 360 degree pattern around the perimeter. A complete search of the area at first light uncovered the following gear: two NVA KIA, one AK 47 rifle, nine chi-com grenades, one dog tag, three canteens, three first aid packets, ten satchel charges, one NVA pair of boots, two cartridge belts, one towel, three NVA packs, and one NVA cigarette lighter. All NVA gear was turned into S-2 for intelligence purposes.

l. 16 August. Company Echo third platoon while at a listening post detected heavy movement 75 meters from their position in the vicinity of XD 919614. The LP delivered small arms fire and threw grenades. A search of the area at first light was made and one AK 47 round was found. All other results were negative.

m. 18 August. Company Echo while on a routine patrol found a grave site. The grave was dug up and one corpse was found approximately two years old. Company Golf while seizing their assigned objective in the vicinity of XD 909630 received small arms fire and automatic weapons fire. Company Golf returned small arms fire and called in 81mm mortars and gunships. Company Golf successfully completed to seize their assigned objective and a complete search of the area

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was made with negative results. Company Hotel while moving to their assigned objective observed one NVA in the vicinity of XD 925627. Company Hotel called in 81mm and 60mm mortars with unknown results. Company Hotel ~~called in~~ continued to move and observed an unknown size enemy force on their objective in the vicinity of XD 925627. Company Hotel took the enemy force under small arms fire. Called in 81mm mortars and arty. Requested fixed wing and A0 as Company Hotel continued to meet heavy resistance. Fixed wing on station with A0 took .50 caliber automatic weapons fire while delivering ordnance on enemy's position. After fixed wing completed, gunships came on station and works suspected enemy's avenues of escape. Enemy began to withdraw. While assaulting the enemy position two Marines were wounded. Having successfully taken their objective the wounded Marines were medevaced and a complete search of the area revealed three NVA KIA. Two Marines attempting to move one of the NVA bodies were wounded by a chi-com that exploded. The NVA body had been booby trapped. The wounded Marines were later medevaced. The search continued and the following gear was found: one 60mm tube, two AK 47 rifles, one 9mm pistol, one gas mask, one grenade, two-hundred rounds of AK 47 ammo, assorted web gear and clothing, assorted medical gear, and assorted documents. All gear was turned into S-2 for intelligence purposes. Company Hotel consolidated and set in a good defensive perimeter for the night.

n. 19 August. Company Hotel received four rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire in the vicinity of XD 921639. Called 81mm mortar fire and arty with unknown results. Company Hotel observed one NVA in the vicinity of XD 932629. Called 60mm mortar fire with unknown results.

o. 20 August. Company Hotel received five rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire from the vicinity of XD 939648. Called arty on suspected enemy's position with unknown results. Company Hotel first platoon while on a routine patrol found fresh foot prints and propaganda leaflets dropped by the enemy. First platoon continued to move and was ambushed from an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of XD 920626. The enemy used claymores and grenades to initiate the ambush and followed up small arms fire. Three Marines were killed and eight wounded. First platoon returned small arms fire and called in supporting arms. 81mm mortars and arty were fired and adjusted by A0 on station. Company Hotel third platoon moved to support first platoon and to carry medevacs to a nearby LZ. Company Hotel second platoon while moving to secure the LZ received four rounds of 82mm enemy mortar fire causing negative casualties. Called 81mm counter mortar and arty on suspected enemy's position. Fixed wing worked enemy's withdrawal routes with unknown results. Medevac was completed after maximum use of supporting arms.

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p. 23 August. Company Echo while on a routine patrol found a bunker complex in the vicinity of XD 872600 which was made up of thirteen bunkers. Six bunkers were a week old and seven appeared to be seven months old. There was also an 82mm mortar pit and .50 caliber machine gun site that appeared to have been used recently. A complete search of the area and of all the bunkers was made and the following gear was found: twenty-one 82mm mortar rounds, forty fuses, twenty-one primers, both for use with 82mm mortar rounds, and ten pounds of rice. All gear and bunkers were destroyed.

q. 24 August. Company Echo observed seven NVA in the vicinity of XD 876589. Called for arty, and AO on station adjusted with negative results.

r. 25 August. Company Echo while on a routine patrol discovered one NVA KIA in the vicinity of XD 869593. A complete search of the area revealed the following: one Soviet 7.62mm AK 47 assault rifle, eighteen satchel charges, six concussion grenades, five dynamite sticks, (1 lb. each), six blasting caps, and nine chi-com grenades. All gear was destroyed, and body was buried.

s. 27 August. AO on station received small arms fire from the vicinity of XD 912623. Called in arty and fixed wing on enemy's position. AO observed five bunkers destroyed, one 82mm mortar pit damaged and one NVA KBA. Company Echo while moving to their night position found freshly dug fighting holes with enemy shovels and two rolls of comm wire laying nearby. Position believed to be an enemy ambush site for that night. All gear was destroyed.

t. 29 August. Company Hotel while on a routine patrol discovered "A" frame bunkers spaced about every ten meters along a well defined but not recently used trail in the vicinity of XD 878578. One cache of 82mm mortar rounds was also found. Markings on trees nearby indicated that a unit of the 5th NVA Regiment had killed nineteen Marines in a two day fire fight at Dong Thieu in the vicinity of XD 925626. Markings were about five days old. Enemy 82mm mortar rounds and all bunkers were destroyed. The markings were scraped off trees.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓1. Copies of All Staff Journals. The staff journal for the month of August is attached to this document. *Filed Sg.*
- ✓2. Originated Messages. All originated messages are submitted with this document. *Filed Sg.*
3. Copies of All Operation Orders. No operation orders were issued during the month of August. All operations were initiated by a frag order.
4. Combat After Action Reports. There were no After Action Reports submitted from this unit during the month of August.

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