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HEADQUARTERS  
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

5750

1 October 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology Report for period  
of 311601Z Aug66 to 301600Z Sept66.

5TH MAR S&amp;C FILES

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A  
(b) MCO 5750.2

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology  
✓(2) Appendix A (List of references)  
✓(3) Appendix B (Documentation)

00582-66~

COPY NO. 2 OF 11

1. The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology, consisting of  
Enclosures (1), (2) and (3) is hereby submitted in accordance with  
references (a) and (b).

E. J. BRONARS

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OF ENCLOSURES (1), (2)  
AND (3)

ENCLOSURE (5)

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

a. Headquarters, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (Rein) Fleet Marine Force.

(1) Location: Chu Lai

(2) Period covered: 311601Z Aug66 to 301600Z Sept66

(3) Lt Col E. J. BRONARS	Commanding Officer
Maj J. T. ELKINS	Executive Officer
2nd Lt B. F. BEGGS	S-1
Capt J. M. SIMS	S-2
Maj P. M. JOHNSTON	S-3
Capt R. W. VORREYER	S-4
1st Lt D. N. T. PERKINS	S-5
1st Lt W. DYKE	H&S Company Commander
1st Lt C. KELLY	Company I Commander
Capt R. E. MARESCO	Company K Commander
Capt R. P. TATUM	Company L Commander
Capt H. D. PETTENGILL	Company M Commander

2. COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

a. On 4 September 1966 Lieutenant General Victor H. KRULAK, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific visited the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR and attended divine worship. The same day the Battalion (-) (Rein) departed the TAOR and moved by truck convoy to Tam Ky in preparation for Operation NAPA. This operation, which initially employed two battalions of the 5th Marines, commenced on 5 September in the area just northwest of Tam Ky. The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines phased out on 7 September; the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines continued on the search and destroy operation until it was successfully terminated on 15 September. (For complete account see 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Combat After Action Report for Operation NAPA dated 21 September 1966).

b. During Operation NAPA the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was visited in the field by Lieutenant General Lewis W. WALT, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force and Major General Lewis J. FIELDS, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF and Brigadier General William A. STILES, Assistant Division Commander.

c. On 17 September Major General Lewis J. FIELDS, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF accompanied by Colonel Charles F. WIDDECKE, Commanding Officer, 5th Marines meritoriously promoted deserving Marines at a formation held at the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post.

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d. From 21 September to 26 September Company M (Rein) conducted search and clear operation in the southeastern sector of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. (For complete account see Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines After Action Report).

e. On 26 September 1966 Major General Lewis J. FIELDS, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF payed a farewell visit to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Medals were awarded on this occasion to deserving personnel for heroism displayed on the field of battle during previous operations.

f. During the month of September several operational commitments were assumed by the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) participated in Operation NAPA from 5-15 September. Company L was placed under the operational control of the 7th Marines from 17-27 September. Company M conducted a 5-day clearing operation from 21-26 September. Company K furnished a "Rough Rider" convoy escort to Danang and return during the period 26-27 September. On 28 September Companies K, L and M were placed under operational control of 5th Marines: Companies K and L participated in Operation MONTEREY; Company M assumed positions within the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. These three companies reverted to the operational control of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines on 30 September.

### 3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

#### a. Personnel and Administration

(1) Same personnel changes in both officer and enlisted ranks occurred during the month of September. These changes were brought about by intra-division reassignments and enlisted personnel rotating to CONUS for discharge or release from active duty. These changes have not seriously affected the combat efficiency of the Battalion. Most personnel changes reflect a logical and gradual shift of personnel with the same rotation tour date in order to lessen the impact at a future date. Present personnel strength is 32 officers and 1051 enlisted men; these figures include assigned navy personnel.

(2) Thirty personnel of the Battalion were meritoriously promoted to the next higher grade in a ceremony conducted on 17 September 1966 by Major General Lewis J. FIELDS, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, (Rein) FMF.

(3) No major problem areas in personnel administration have been encountered.

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b. Intelligence

(1) A significant contribution in the area of intelligence was made by a counter-intelligence sub-team attached during the Operation NAPA, 5-15 September 1966. The team, consisting of two staff sergeants, reported with current "Black Lists" of VC and VC sympathizers in the area of operations. The CI team had procured the services of 15 Popular Force soldiers from Tam Ky District Headquarters who had lived in the area as recently as six days prior. Teams of PF's were attached to the companies and were able to personally identify VC and VC sympathizers. Although none of the PF's spoke English they were provided cards with a working vocabulary of words and phrases printed in both English and Vietnamese. The PF's had only to point to the word and the communication problem was greatly reduced. All captives were interrogated by the CI team at the Battalion CP and a good deal of information of immediate tactical value was acquired. It is strongly recommended that such teams be attached for all future battalion operations.

(2) The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines suffers a serious shortage of interpreters for both combat operations and daily routine within the TAOR. Two interpreters are presently assigned for duty; it is felt that requirement for five exists: one with each rifle company and one at battalion headquarters.

c. Training

(1) Training for the month of September was limited because of operational commitments of this organization. Instruction and practical application was conducted in field sanitation, scouting and patrolling, map reading, field fortifications and mines and booby traps. Thirty personnel attended a two day Land Mines, Booby Traps and Demolitions Course conducted by the 1st Engineer Battalion. A one week orientation course for newly joined personnel is being prepared and will soon be initiated.

d. Special Operations

(1) Special operations consisted of operation NAPA, a two battalion search and destroy operation conducted to disrupt VC activities in an area northwest of Tam Ky. In addition a company-size five day search and clear operation was conducted in the south-eastern sector of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. A two day "Rough Rider" operation from Chu Lai to Da Nang was also conducted utilizing one company for convoy security.

e. Artillery Support

(1) The time period 1-3 September was utilized to select and

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prepare artillery OP's within the TAOR, set up the FSOC, and to prepare a list of H and I fires and night defensive concentrations.

(2) On 4 September the Battalion displaced to Tam Ky to prepare for Operation NAPA. Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines until 7 September on which date they were replaced by Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines for the duration of the operation.

(3) On 28 September a platoon of 4.2" mortars were attached to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and were commanded by 1st Lt G. B. NEWBILL.

(4) On 20 September 2nd Lieutenants CLARK, CRANSTON and MINIHAN were assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine as forward observers.

(5) On 21 September Battery H, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines was assigned to support Company M during a five day clearing operation within the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

#### g. Logistics

##### (1) Supply

(a) During the early part of the month Battalion Supply completed a physical inventory. Resupply during Operation NAPA was accomplished from the Logistical Support Area at Ky Ha.

##### (2) Maintenance

(a) During the entire month supplies and equipment were maintained in an excellent state of readiness. The only piece of equipment that was on deadline for over 15 days was one mule (M274).

(b) A thorough check of battalion organic weapons found approximately (8%) of the M-14 rifles in need of repair. Cracked rifle stocks, accounted for the vast majority of required repairs, are difficult to replace due to a shortage in the supply system.

##### (3) Medical

(a) Malaria continues to be a major health hazard to American military personnel in the Republic of Vietnam. Ten new cases of malaria had been diagnosed this month in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines; this compares favorably with the overall incident among military personnel in South Vietnam. All cases of malaria thus far have been the Plasmodium Falciparum variety which is resistant to malaria prophylaxis (chloriquine Primiquine). Continued emphasis on all measures of malaria prevention (including screening of living spaces, the use of mosquito netting in garrison, and adequate use of mosquito repellent in the field) is made.

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(b) The indoctrination of replacements will include subjects of medical importance such as self and buddy aid and sanitation and hygiene in the tropics.

h. Combat Air Support

(1) During September 1966 the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines had light air support requirements. During Operation NAPA 5-15 September the following air support was used:

(a) Fixed wingsupport: A flight of two A-4's was scrambled from Chu Lai and employed against a VC machine gun position. The flight was controlled by a Forward Air Controller. Target coverage was good with an estimated two VC KBA.

(b) Rotary gun ships: Two flights of two planes each were employed on two different occasions against enemy snipers. In both instances area coverage was excellent.

(c) Fixed wing observation: Spotter aircraft were used for reconnaissance and were available for use as Tactical Air Controllers (Airborne).

(d) Helicopter medical evacuation flights during September were requested by HST and the Tactical Air Control Party was not directly involved. Evacuation of the wounded was generally accomplished expeditiously, as an example, one man was evacuated within seven minutes after a med-evac request was submitted. Unfortunately, however, one mortally wounded Marine was not evacuated until thirty-five minutes after an emergency request was submitted.

(e) Resupply was accomplished by UH-34 helicopters.

(f) Fixed wing transports were not used during September.

i. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

(1) 1st Lieutenant D. N. T. PERKINS USMC, was assigned primary duty as Civil Affairs Officer, Sgt. T. M. SIMPLER was assigned as the Civil Affairs NCO, LCpl R. M. WEBER was assigned to the S-5 Section as clerk typist.

(2) During Operation NAPA, a total of 129 refugees were evacuated from the battalion area of operation. The refugees were transported with their personal belongings via marine helicopters to the refugee center at Tam Ky.

(3) On 14 September the Civil Affairs Officer met with the district chief, Vietnamese Captain GIOI; the political organization and

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the needs of the district were discussed in detail and will form a basis for future efforts.

#### 4. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 4 Sept 1966 - Lieutenant General Victor H. KRULAK, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, visited the Third Battalion, Fifth Marines Command Post and attended church services.
- 5 Sept 1966 - 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Commenced Operation NAPA.
- 9 Sept 1966 - Major General Lewis J. FIELDS, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF, visited the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post in the field during Operation NAPA.
- 11 Sept 1966 - Lieutenant General Lewis W. WALT, Commanding General III Marine Amphibious Force, visited the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines in the field.
- 14 Sept 1966 - Brigadier General William A. STILES, Assistant Division Commander, visited in the field.
- 15 Sept 1966 - 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines terminated Operation NAPA.
- 17 Sept 1966 - Major General Lewis J. FIELDS, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF, and Colonel Charles F. WIDDECKE, Commanding Officer, 5th Marines, visited a formation of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines to present promotion warrants. Company L, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was placed under the Operational Control of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.
- 20 Sept 1966 - Company I placed on alert status.
- 21 Sept 1966 - Company M commenced a 5-day search and clear operation in the southeastern sector of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.
- 24 Sept 1966 - Major Paul M. JOHNSTON assumed duties as Battalion S-3 officer vice Capt Hans S. HAUPT to Staff Secretary.
- 25 Sept 1966 - Company I off alert status.
- 26 Sept 1966 - Company K conducted "Rough Rider" convoy escort to Danang.

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- 26 Sept 1966 - Major General Lewis J. FIELDS, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF payed a farewell visit to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and presented awards. Company M returned from a 5-day search and clear operation in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.
- 27 Sept 1966 - Company K returned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR from "Rough Rider" convoy to Danang. Company L reverted to the operational control of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- 28 Sept 1966 - Company K and Company M in support of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for Operation MONTEREY.\*
- 29 Sept 1966 - Company L provided security for 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines during Operation MONTEREY.\*\*
- 30 Sept 1966 - Operation MONTEREY terminated.\*\*\* Companies K, L and M reverted to operational control of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

\*CO 5th Marines 272358Z Sept66 (S)

\*\*CO 5th Marines 272355Z Sept66 (S)

\*\*\*CG 1st MarDiv Rein 291514Z Sept66 (S)

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SECRETAppendix A (List of References)

1. 5th Marines Frag Order 12-66 (Operation EL PASO).
2. 5th Marines Frag Order 13-66 (Operation NAPA).
3. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Combat After Action Report (Operation NAPA) dated 21 September 1966.
4. Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Combat After Action Report dated 21 Sept. 1966
5. 5th Marines message 272358Z Sept66 (S)
6. 5th Marines Frag Order 15-66 (Operation MONTEREY).
7. 1st Marine Division Frag Order 25-66 (Rein Northern ICTZ)
8. CG 1st MarDiv Message 291514Z Sept66 (S)

Enclosure 2

SECRET

SECRETAppendix B (Documentation)

- #1. 5th Marines Frag Order 12-66 (Operation EL PASO). -
- #2. 5th Marines Frag Order 13-66 (Operation NAPA). -
- \* 3. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, Combat After Action Report (Operation NAPA) dated 21 September 1966. -
- NIF 4. Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Combat After Action Report dated 21 Sept 1966.
- NIF 5. 5th Marines Frag Order 15-66 (Operation MONTEREY).
- 6. ✓ 1st Marine Division Frag Order 25-66 (Rein Northern ICTZ)

*\* Documentation #1-3 NOT rec'd w/ this Chronology.  
    <sup>15</sup> available in Tab 2, 5th Marines C/Chron, Sep 66*

Enclosure 3

SECRET

**"SECRET"****FLASH**

ZNY SSSSS  
 THIRD MARDIV-T-SECOND BN SEVENTH MAR  
 Z O 291514Z SEP 66  
 FM CG FIRST MARDIV REIN  
 TO ZEN/FIFTH MAR  
 INFO RUMNMF/CG III MAF  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAF  
 ZEN/FIRST MARDIV REIN  
 RUMNMF/FLC  
 ZEN/FLSC BRAVO  
 XMT.FIRST MAR  
 FIRST BN ELEVENTH MAR  
 BT

**S E C R E T**

FRAG O 25-66 REINF NORTHERN XCTZ

A. CG III MAF 291012Z SEP66 NOTAL

B. FIRST MARDIV ADMINO 301-66

C. 1ST MARDIV O P02000.2C (DIV CEOI)

D. 3D MARDIV O P02000.2E (DIV CEOI)

1. ENEMY SITUATION NORTHERN ICTZ REQUIRES IMMEDIATE REINFORCEMENT  
 OPN PRAIRIE/KHE SANH AREA.

2. 5TH MAR.

A. TERMINATE OPERATION MONTEREY AS OF 300500H SEP

B. DEPLOY ONE BN MINUS (LESS ONE RIFLE CO) TO DONG HA COMMENCING  
 30 SEP AS CRAFT BECOME AVAILABLE. UPON ARRIVAL DONG HA BN (-)  
 CHOPS CG 3RD MARDIV. ESTIMATED PERIOD OF DEPLOYMENT 30 DAYS.

C. MISSION REMAINS SAME.

3. ADMIN AND LOGISTICS

A. 1ST MAF PROV A/C AS REQ IAW REF A.

B. PERSONNEL

(1) IAW ANX D TO REF B

(2) CASREP. INITIAL REP OF CAS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THIRD  
 MARDIV. ALL OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO CAS REP WILL BE ADDRESSED  
 THIS HQS. SER REC AND IN IN CONDOLENCE IN CASE OF DEATHS WILL  
 BE DELIVERED THIS HQS WITHIN FOUR DAYS.

C. ADMIN. ADDNL INSWLR TO BE FURNISHED.

D. LOGISTICS

(1) PRESCRIBED LOADS. AS DIR BY 5TH MAR.

(2) RESUPPLY. AS DIR THIRD MARDIV.

(3) TRANSPORTATION. SUBMIT REQUIREMENTS THIS HQS (ATTN MTO).

4. COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

PAGE ONE OF TWO PAGES

	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5	COMMO	MTO	SPSER	CHAP	MEDO	HQCO	SUPPO
ACTION												"SECRET"
INFO												TAB (X)

**"SECRET"**

A. SECOND BN FIFTH MAR CALL SIGNS AND FREQUENCIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE C.

B. 3D MAR DIV CALL SIGN AND FREQUENCIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE D.

C. COMMUNICATION SECURITY AIDS.

(1) AUTHENTICATION-KAA-60 KAC-QT, KAC-J SERIES

(2) NUMERAL CDE-KAC-136, KAC-QT, KAC-J SERIES

(3) OPERATIONS CDE-KAC-181

D. REQUEST 3D MAR DIV PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMM INSTRUCTIONS AS REQUIRED.

GP-4

BT

PAGE ON TWO OF TWO PAGES

TOR : 29/2359H/CCN: 1568/JTT

SUPVR SPV

TOD : 30/0005H/1,3-5/JGP

S&C \_\_\_\_\_ DT \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES 2,3,4,5

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2-11 \_\_\_\_\_ DT \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES 9,10

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COC SIGNED ON YELLOW COPY..

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	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5	COMMO	MTD	SPSER	CHAP	MEDO	HQCO	SUPPO
ACTION												
INFO												

**"SECRET"**