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

5750  
2 November 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 301601Z Sept66 to 311600Z Oct66

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

SERIAL NO. 00269-66

COPY# 9 of 15 COPIES

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

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

5TH MAR S&C FILES

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
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ENCLOSURES (1), (2) AND (3)

3/5

Oct 1966

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~~SECRET~~COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1. Organization Data

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

(1) Location: Chu Lai.

(2) Period Covered: 301601Z Sep66 to 310600Z Oct66

(3) LtCol E. J. BRONARS	Commanding Officer
Maj J. T. ELKINS	Executive Officer
2ndLt B. F. BEGGS	S-1
Capt J. M. SIMS	S-2
Maj P. M. JOHNSTON	S-3
Capt R. W. VORREYER	S-4
1stLt D. N. T. PERKINS	S-5
1stLt W. DYER	H&S Company Commander
1stLt C. KREUZ	Company I Commander
Capt R. E. MARESCO	Company K Commander
Capt R. P. TATUM	Company L Commander
Capt H. D. PERIENGILL	Company M Commander

2. Commander's Narrative of Significant Events

a. On 29 September 1966 the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR was expanded to include the area previously controlled by the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. The Battalion Command Post was displaced to the CP formerly occupied by the 2nd Battalion to facilitate command and control throughout expanded area of responsibility. One rifle company and a detachment of H&S Company from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines were placed under the operational control of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. In order to effectively control the enlarged area, assigned forces were relocated and operational activities were revised.

b. During the month of October, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines conducted 4 company-size search and destroy operations, 3 "Rough Rider" convoy escort operations to Quang Ngai and Binh Son, and placed one company under the operational control of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during Operation DOVER. In addition, the Division Alert Company, Company E, conducted one alert mission to protect a downed helicopter north of Tam Ky and another mission to investigate a beached trawler near Tam Ky. Company M and a Command Group were assigned to the Chu Lai Defense Command during the month of October.

c. Operation GOLDEN FLEECE 5-3 was conducted for a period of three weeks in widely separated areas within the TAOR. Companies I, K and L, augmented with Popular Forces, provided security for the harvesters in the Thanh My Trung, Tien Xuan and Long Phu areas. Only a single incident of Viet Cong interference occurred. Extensive combined USMC/PF patrols and ambushes were conducted in support of the GOLDEN FLEECE operation.

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d. A highly effective indoctrination program was instituted during the month of October for personnel to the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 5th Marines. The program included familiarization firing of all infantry weapons; a two-day mines and booby traps course; the use of supporting arms to include procedures for requesting and directing missions; through indoctrination in rules of engagement and other pertinent subjects peculiar to Vietnam; historical, cultural and ethnological background relative to South Vietnam. Over 200 men were processed through the course during the month of October.

e. Considerable effort was expended on improving positions throughout the TAOR. Poorly located bunker positions were eliminated while others were added to provide better coverage; selected positions were improved and reinforced to withstand the heavy rains expected during the monsoon season; tactical defensive wire was improved and augmented to significantly strengthen positions. The ultimate goal of this effort is to allow the necessary defensive positions to be manned by a minimum of personnel, thus releasing the maximum number of personnel for offensive operations within and outside of the TAOR.

### 3. Detailed Description of Significant Events

#### a. Personnel and Administration

(1) At the beginning of the month of October there were 32 Marine Officers and 1001 enlisted Marines carried on the rolls; these figures changed by the end of the month of 31 Officers and 1082 enlisted men. The battalion has a shortage of Lieutenants 0302 and of enlisted personnel in MOS's 2533 and 3516.

(2) The authorized manning level for Corporals and Lance Corporals was reached as a result of the quarterly promotion cycle commencing 1 October 1966.

b. Intelligence. The most significant activity of the S-3 section during this month was the utilization of the Battalion S-2 scouts to man reconnaissance observation posts/radio relay stations within the Battalion TAOR. The scouts are trained in observation techniques and are capable of directing artillery fire.

#### c. Training

(1) Training for the month of October was limited because of operational commitments. Units deployed throughout the TAOR were able to conduct training at the platoon level; and to lesser degree, at the company level.

(2) Two troop indoctrination cycles were conducted from 17 to 21 October and from 24 to 28 October for 200 newly joined personnel of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. Instruction covered pertinent general information; handling of money; rules of engagement; treatment of POW's; history, religion and customs of Vietnam; personal hygiene, civic action, communications;

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land mines, booby traps and landmines; conduct of ambushes and patrolling; FO procedures and familiarization firing.

(3) Five personnel attended a one-month course in Vietnamese Language Training on Okinawa; one officer attended a three-week Embarkation Course on Okinawa; an enlisted man attended a one-week Legal Clerk School in Danang.

d. Artillery Fire Support

(1) Utilization of artillery in support of the TAOR is reflected by the following statistics:

- (a) 30 fire missions - 100 total rounds.
- (b) 15 illumination missions - 50 total rounds.
- (c) 20 81mm mortar missions - approximately 200 rounds.
- (d) Harassing and interdiction fires - 5000 rounds.

(2) Helicopter landing zones were prepared on 2 occasions by 155mm howitzers; a total of 100 rounds were expended.

(3) 500 rounds were expended during three fire missions against VC targets developed by three intelligence reports; results - 2 WIA (Probable).

(4) A counter-mortar plan, consisting of preplanned concentrations, was developed and put into effect.

(5) Counter attack blocking fires were developed and put into effect.

(6) Second Lieutenant John C. MINAHAN assumed duties as Battalion Artillery Liaison Officer on 16 October 1966 vice First Lieutenant Paul CONNELL.

e. Air

(1) Utilization of air support during the reporting period is best illustrated by the following statistics.

- (a) Total requests - 60.
- (b) Total requests filled - 43.
  - 1 Troop lifts - 10.
  - 2 Logistic lifts - 9.

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Enclosure (1)

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3 Reconnaissance flights - 1.4 Unit Commander - 3.5 Staff lift - 1.6 Tactical Air Requests filled - 3.7 Medical Evacuation - 12.8 Other - 1.a MIA evacuation - 3.b Convoy escort - 1.c Jackson flights - 1.

(c) Requests cancelled or denied - 17.

1 Cancelled due to weather conditions - 12.2 Cancelled due to low aircraft availability - 2.3 Denied no reason given - 3.

(d) Lift accomplishments

1 Total pounds lifted, cargo - 26,300.2 Total troops lifted, excluding med-evac - 746.3 Medical Evacuation data:

DESCRIPTION	MIA	KIA	ILL/INJURED	TOTAL
USMC	3	0	8	16
ARVN	1	0	0	1
Civilian	0	0	3	3
TOTAL	9	0	11	20

f. Logistics

(1) General. To effectively support operations throughout the expended TACH, it was necessary to maintain a logistical and transportation capability at both the forward and rear Command Posts. The S-4 Section, Motor Transport Section and the Supply Section performed effectively under these circumstances; no significant difficulties were encountered.

Enclosure (2)

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(2) Supply

(a) Supporting operating forces from two widely separated supply dumps posed no serious problems. Some difficulty, however, was encountered in procuring certain supplies to support TAOR activities.

1 The improvement of defensive positions was hampered initially by the unavailability of concertina wire. This condition was basically eliminated on 15 October when a large shipment of concertina was received by the Fleet Logistics Support Group Alfa.

2 DA 366 batteries have continued to be in short supply. Operational commitments, at times, were barely met and stockage levels were practically nonexistent. This situation has not improved significantly and will probably remain a problem area in the future.

3 Insect repellent must be considered to be in critically short supply. It has basically been unavailable in the supply system. It is expected that future requirements will not be filled.

(3) Maintenance. The Motor Transport, Communication and Ordnance sections have maintained very effective maintenance programs which have emphasized preventive maintenance, as a consequence, deadlined equipment has been kept to an absolute minimum. One M274 and one M422A1 represent the equipment which has been on deadline for a period in excess of 15 days. Both pieces of equipment are deadlined awaiting parts.

c. Civic Action

(1) During reporting period, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines greatly expanded its MedCap activities; over 6,270 men, women, and children were treated.

(2) On 29 September 1966, the Battalion Commander, S-2, S-5, Chaplain and Medical Officer attended the Mid-Autumn Festival in Bong Phu (1). The Hamlet Chief distributed toys, candy, cookies, soft drinks and soap to the school children who participated in the festival.

(3) The GOLDEN FLEECE Operation conducted within the TAOR provided security to the harvesters and allowed 163 tons of rice to be harvested without Viet Cong interference. Security was provided by integrating Popular Forces and Marines; the spirit of cooperation between the Popular Forces and Marines was noteworthy.

(4) On 8 October 1966, eleven gallons of paint were distributed to the District Hospital at Khuong My. In addition, eight basket balls, four volley balls, and 4000 bars of soap were distributed to the people of Ky Sanh Village.

Enclosure (1)

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(5) On 11 October 1966, a preventive medicine campaign was initiated in Long Phu (1) when three plague cases were reported. Suspected sources of the disease were sprayed with insecticide; the Ly Tin District Medical Representative, supported by medical personnel from the 1st Marine Division Preventive Medicine Section and the Battalion Air station, gave inoculations to all villagers.

(6) On 16 October 1966, the Battalion Commander, S-2 and S-5 met with the Ky Xuan Village Chief and Hamlet Chiefs of Long Phu (1) and (2). Plans were made for the improvement of medical facilities within the village, and for the establishment of cooperative agricultural projects within the hamlet.

(7) On 17 October 1966, 750 school kits were distributed to the children of Ky Sanh Village.

(8) On 19 October 1966, numerous Civic Action supplies were distributed to the people of Long Phu (1). These supplies included over 450 school kits, 500 pounds of wheat, 25 gallons of paint, clothing, salt, athletic equipment, and CARE Self-Help Kits of gardening and masonry.

(9) On 25 October 1966, 300 school kits, fifteen gallons of paint, and two cases of salt were distributed to Ky Khung Village. On the same date, three garden kits, 192 pairs of shower shoes, and one case of salt were presented to the Village Chief of Ky Sanh Village.

(10) The Battalion Commander met with the District Chief on 24 October to discuss Civic Action plans. The training of Vietnamese Aid Med and the initiation of progressive agricultural programs were emphasized.

#### 4. Chronology of Events

2 Oct - Company M assigned RECON to Chu Lai Defense Command effective 021000H.

Company L continued a search and destroy operation in the western sector of the TAOR.

4 Oct - Major General Herman NICKERSON, Jr., Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF visited the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

6 Oct - Company K began a company size search and destroy operation in southern sector of the TAOR.

10 Oct - 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines commenced Operation GOLDEN FLEECE 5-3 within the TAOR; security for civilian rice harvesters in the Tien Xuan, Thanh My Trung and Long Phu village areas was provided.

14 Oct - Company I(-) commenced search and destroy operation in RAOR.

16 Oct - Company I(-) commenced second phase of search and destroy operation within the TAOR.

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24 Oct -- 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Company E furnished convoy security to Binh Son.

25 Oct -- Company K commenced search and destroy operation in RAOB.

26 Oct -- 2nd Platoon, Company I OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for artillery security mission during Operation DOVER.

Staff Liaison visit to Anam Due Special Forces camp to gain background for preparing reaction plan.

27 Oct -- Company K assigned OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for remainder of Operation DOVER.

30 Oct -- Company K and 2nd Platoon, Company I revert to OPCON 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

31 Oct -- Companies K and M commenced relief in positions.

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Enclosure (1)



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## APPENDIX A (LIST OF REFERENCES)

1. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Bulletin 03121 of 8 October 1966 for Operation GOLDEN FLEECE 5-3.
2. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 23-66.
3. 1st Marine Division Frag Order 25-66 (Bein northern ICTZ).
4. 5th Marine Regiment Message 000430H Oct 66 (S).
5. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Plan 23-66, 23A-66 and 23B-66 (Tien Phuoc Special Forces camp).
6. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Plan 24-66, 24A-66 and 24B-66 (Kham Duc Special Forces camp).

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A-1

Enclosure 2

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## APPENDIX B (DOCUMENTATION)

- missing*
1. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Bulletin 03121 of 8 October 1966 for Operation GOLDEN PLECE 5-3.
  2. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 23-66.
  3. 1st Marine Division Frag Order 25-66 (Rein northern ICTZ).
  4. 5th Marine Regiment message 080530H Oct 66 (S).
  5. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Plans 23-66, 23A-66 and 23B-66 (Thien Phuoc Special Forces camp).
  6. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Plans 24-66, 24A-66 and 24B-66 (Khen Duc Special Forces camp).

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B-1

Enclosure 3  
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