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HEADQUARTERS

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

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1 December 1966

From: Commanding Officer

To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF

Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment

Subj: 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology report for period
of 311601Z Oct66 to 301600Z Nov66

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

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).

J. T. Elkins
J. T. ELKINS

5TH MAR S&C FILES

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UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF
ENCLOSURES (1), (2) and (3)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1. ORGANIZATION DATA

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

(1) Location: Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

(2) Period Covered: 311601Z Oct66 to 301600Z Nov66

(3) Maj J. T. ELKINS	Commanding Officer
Maj P. M. JOHNSTON	Executive Officer
2ndLt B. F. BIGGS	S-1
Capt R. P. TATUM	S-2
Capt E. S. PIPER, Jr.	S-3
Capt S. S. GLAIZE	S-4
Capt C. KELLY	S-5
1stLt E. P. CONTI	H&S Company Commander
Capt J. M. SIMS	Company I Commander
Capt R. E. MAFESCO	Company K Commander
Capt R. W. VORREYER	Company L Commander
Capt H. D. PETTENGILL	Company M Commander

2. COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

a. The most significant event for the month of November was the final consolidation of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 5th Marines TAOR's under control of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. The last elements of the 2nd Battalion, which consisted of a detachment of H&S Company and Company E, departed from the TAOR in late November to join their parent organization at An Hoa. H&S Company of the 3rd Battalion displaced from the former Battalion TAOR to the consolidated Battalion Command Post on the Hill 69 complex. Company K was released from control under the Chu Lai Defense Command to replace the loss of Company E of the 2nd Battalion in late November. At the end of November all units of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines were again operating from combat bases within the expanded TAOR. The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines continued to provide alert forces for the Chu Lai TAOR, security for the 5th Marine Regiment Command Post, a company for the Chu Lai Defense Command, security for convoys, and contingency commitments for the Tien Phuoc and Kham Duc Special Forces camps.

b. Because of expanded area commitments during the month of November no Battalion size operations were conducted. Operations were conducted within and without the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR employing single companies minus or reinforced platoon-size units. Added emphasis was given to extensive patrolling and improvement of fortifications.

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c. The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines conducted its first County Fair operation in November. Due to expanded tactical commitments elsewhere and the unfamiliarity of recently assigned district officials with the objective locality, a single 1-day operation was conducted. The area chosen was a hamlet known to be sympathetic to VC operating in the area and one in which there was little or no GVN control. Coordination of support for the operation was handled by the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines in cooperation with and under the direction of Ly Tin District Officials. Full use was made of Marine Corps MEDCAP facilities, Vietnamese Cultural Drama Teams, Political Indoctrination Cadre and Chieu Hoi Teams. The operation netted 11 VCS of whom District Officials determined 5 to be VC.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

a. Personnel and Administration

(1) The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines began the month of November with an on rolls strength of 30 Marine officers and 1080 enlisted Marines. The Battalion still continues to have a shortage of Lieutenants O3O2, and enlisted MOS 2533 and 3516. The shortages have been reported on weekly Personnel Status Reports.

(2) This month 110 enlisted personnel were transferred to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in order to help break up rotation tour dates in April. Replacements have reported in to fill the gap.

(3) Additional promotion quotas for Corporal and Lance Corporal have continued to fill shortages in these ranks.

(4) This organization has experienced no major problems during the month in the area of personnel administration.

b. INTELLIGENCE

(1) The Battalion Scout Section was employed with a 3-man communications detachment as an OP/Radio Relay site in support of three tactical operations during the month of November.

(2) Enemy activity has primarily consisted of the employment of mines and booby traps, both against personnel and tracked vehicles with moderate success. Light sniping activity occurs almost daily but with minimal results to friendly troops.

(3) There were no confirmed reports of the location of major enemy units, i.e. MF Battalion or larger, within the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR but guerrilla activity of a harrassing nature continues.

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(4) During the month of November there were two VC KIA, three weapons captured, and nine VCS apprehended.

c. TRAINING

(1) During the month of November four 1-week Troop Indoctrination Courses were conducted for newly joined personnel of this command. A total of 160 men were processed through the course. Personnel received instruction on the rules of engagement, religion, history and customs of RVN, communications, intelligence, NBC, small unit tactics, civic action, and a 2-day landmine warfare, demolitions and booby traps course conducted by the 1st Engineer Battalion.

(2) Formal schools training for the month of November consisted of an attendance of 6 personnel to Vietnamese Language Schools in Danang and Okinawa, one Marine to the Basic Ammunition Technician School in Okinawa, and one Officer to the S-5/Sector Advisor Course in Saigon.

(3) A 1-week 1/4 ton vehicle Drivers School was conducted for 10 company personnel by the Battalion Motor Transport Platoon.

d. Special Operations

(1) Operation GOLDEN FLEECE 5-3

(a) Operation GOLDEN FLEECE 5-3 terminated on 4 November 1966 after successfully protecting the harvest of over 163 tons of rice in the villages of Ky Chanh, Ky Khuong, Ky Sanh, and Ky Lien. Throughout the course of the harvest season, three companies established guardian positions which secured some 18,000,000 square meters of rice land.

(b) Beginning on 9 October, Company L assisted the harvesters of Tien Xuan Hamlet by providing security from a combat base atop Hill 22 (BT 409099). Close liaison with local Popular Forces was maintained and the 200 harvesters of the hamlet worked in safety until their work was completed on 19 October. Fifty tons of rice were reaped by the harvesters.

(c) Company K established a similar combat base in the hamlet of Thanh My Trung, protecting the 300 local workers from Viet Cong taxation. The rice harvest, conducted with equal success, ended on 17 October with a total of forty-five tons gathered by the farmers.

(d) To the south, Company I conducted visual and ground reconnaissance operation in Ky Lien Village, providing security for 300 harvesters in Long Phu and An Thien Hamlets. This operation terminated on 4 November with the gathering of 68 tons of rice.

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(2) Operation COUNTY FAIR 5-8. Operation COUNTY FAIR 5-8 was conducted on 14 November 1966 in a hamlet within the 3/5 TAOR known as "No Name Village". It was a 1-day operation and the first of its type accomplished by this command. Participating units were Company M, 3/5; Det H&S Company, 3/5 (S-2 Tm, S-5 Tm, BAS Med Tm); Dental Team, 5th Marines; 2nd Platoon, Company B, 3rd Amtrac Battalion; Ly Tin District Officials; District Propaganda Team; Chieu Hoi Team; Tam Ky Cultural Drama Team and a National Police Detachment. A total of 88 persons were processed and screened for ID cards. During the operation 11 VCS were apprehended, 5 of whom were determined by District Officials to be VC.

(3) Company Operations. Due to the situation of having reduced forces allocated throughout the TAOR no Battalion-size operations were conducted during the month of November. Two company-size operations were conducted in the RAOR to the west of the 3/5 TAOR. Company M conducted "Operation MUSTANG", a company clearing operation, in a sector adjacent to the 3/5 TAOR from 8 to 13 November. Upon the termination of this operation Company L commenced "Operation LONGHORN" which lasted until 18 November. Operation LONGHORN was conducted throughout the southwestern sector of the 3/5 TAOR and into the RAOR as far south as the Song Tra Bong River. Company I in coordination with blocking forces from the 2nd and 4th Battalions, 11th Marines and 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, conducted "Operation RANGER", a 1-day clearing operation in the northern corner of the 3/5 TAOR on 29 November. On 12 November the 3rd Platoon (-) Company E conducted "Operation ALPINE" in the vicinity of Hill 707 located on a ridgeline spanning the southern TAOR. Artillery fire missions were called on freshly constructed trails in the area. No enemy contact was made.

(4) Security Missions. During the month of November the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines provided one company for security of an artillery battery during Operation DOVER. FAC teams were furnished for three convoys to Quang Ngai, and one platoon and one squad (Rein) for two convoys to Quang Ngai.

(5) Alert Operations. On 22 November Company E provided an alert requirement for support of a unit of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. Company E was helilifted into landing zones, vicinity BT 711972, made a thorough search of a peninsula and recovered 4 captured VC weapons.

e. Artillery Support. During the month of November a total of 3560 rounds of artillery were fired in support of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines operational area. 3,224 rounds were H&I fires. 259 rounds were fire missions, the majority of which were the result of intelligence reports. Three helicopter landing zones were prepped with 39 rounds and 38 rounds of illumination were fired within the TAOR. Counterattack blocking fires were supplemented with the addition of new concentrations deeper within the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

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f. Air Support

(1) During the month of November a total of 462 troops were moved, plus 2 scout dogs. Included were 2 major company-size lifts, numerous liaison trips by the Battalion Commander to subordinate units in the field and two reconnaissance flights for operational planning.

(2) A total of 18,375 pounds of logistics were moved, the largest of which consisted of a total of 14,000 pounds which was moved on two separate days due to helicopter availability considerations. Excellent cooperation from the helicopter pilots was received on this relatively large logistical lift. A total of 22 tactical requests were submitted.

(3) Thirty-eight persons were medevaced. There were no undue delays encountered and in two instances the missions were completed in less than 10 minutes. A total of eleven medevac requests were submitted.

(4) One emergency medevac was cancelled after the helos were airborne because the WIA had died.

(5) Four requests were cancelled due to weather conditions.

(6) No CAS missions were directed by ground FAC's and no fixed wing requests were placed this month.

(7) It is noted the Battalion Commander was stranded at a subordinate unit's position outside the TAOR for approximately 2 hours due to mechanical failure of a helicopter. The helos returned to MAG-36 for repairs and did not request relief or replacement.

g. Logistics

(1) General. Upon the deployment of final elements of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, which went smoothly and without difficulty, H&S Company Headquarters, Battalion Armory, Motor Transport, and Battalion Aid Station of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines were moved to the present CP location. The move will help to reduce transportation requests, reduce requirements for mess facilities and speed reaction time of S-4 functions. Although Battalion Supply is remaining in the former 3/5 TAOR no difficulty is foreseen, providing timely requests are submitted by using units.

(2) Maintenance

(a) Rain and mud continue to cause a maintenance problem with vehicles, particularly brakes and wheel bearings. All efforts are being utilized to ensure proper preventive maintenance and maximum effort is being exerted to consolidate transportation requests. Four (4) M422A1, with drivers are TAD to Task Force X-Ray. This has substantially limited effectiveness in providing required support. Presently, one (1) M422A1, serial 306619, has been in FLSG-B over 15 days.

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(3) Supply

(a) Supporting (2) two TAOR's from one supply dump poses no serious problems. However, difficulty has been encountered in procuring certain supplies to support TAOR activities.

1 BA-386 and BA-30 batteries continued to be in short supply. This situation is not improving significantly and will probably remain a problem area in the near future.

2 Insect repellent is still in short supply. It has been basically unavailable in the supply system. No immediate relief from this shortage is expected.

3 Inadequate supply of M-14 rifles is a major problem and immediate corrective action is necessary. Because of the requirement to transfer Marines within the division with their individual weapons and the fact that personnel from CONUS report without weapons a shortage has resulted. The problem is that weapons are not available from higher echelon supply sources at this time.

h. Civic Action

(1) MEDCAP activities for the month of November are as follows:

(a) Medical - Men: 471; Women: 604; Children: 1467; Total - 2542.

(b) Dental - Men: 42; Women: 44; Children: 118; Total - 204.

(2) During the month of November, English language classes were initiated in Ky Khuong village. These classes take place daily at the Khuong My Hamlet School and are attended by approximately forty-eight children.

(3) One of the major Civic Action efforts took place on 14 November in support of Operation COUNTY FAIR 5-8. During the course of the one day operation, candy, soap, cookies, dolls, sporting goods, school supplies, rice, tea, salt, clothing, and magazines were distributed. In addition, medical and dental facilities were established and movies were shown utilizing a portable generator.

(4) On 15 November 1966, the village hospital at Ky-Khuong Village, was officially opened. The hospital was constructed by the Vietnamese people with materials obtained from civic action sources. The hospital is now operated solely by Vietnamese Popular Forces personnel, whom have been trained in modern medical methods by a Battalion Corpsman. An average of ninety-five patients a day are treated at the facility.

4. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1 Nov Battalion Staff liaison visit to Tien Phuoc Special Forces camp to coordinate contingency plans.

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- Company K relieved Company M at Chu Lai Defense Command.
- 2 Nov Company L relieved Company I for security of 3/5 rear CP. Company I provides security for 5th Marines CP.
- 3 Nov Battalion Staff liaison visit to Kham Duc Special Forces camp to coordinate contingency plans.
- 4 Nov Termination of Operation GOLDEN FLEECE 5-3.
- 8 Nov Company M commenced "Operation MUSTANG".
- 10 Nov 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and elements of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines commemorate the 191st birthday of the United States Marine Corps.
- 12 Nov Company L commenced "Operation LONGHORN".
3rd Platoon (-), Company E conducted "Operation ALPINE".
- 13 Nov Company M terminated "Operation MUSTANG".
- 14 Nov Operation COUNTY FAIR 5-8.
- 15 Nov Major Jim T. ELKINS relieved Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. BRONARS as Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines in ceremonies at the Battalion Command Post. Lieutenant Colonel BRONARS was assigned to G-3, Task Force X-Ray.
- New dispensary was dedicated at the Combined Action Company "K" Headquarters. Province and District Officials and the Executive Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines attended.
- 16 Nov Major Paul M. JOHNSTON was assigned as Executive Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines relieving Major Jim T. ELKINS who had assumed duties as Commanding Officer of this command. Captain Earl S. PIPER, Jr. was assigned as Battalion S-3.
- 17 Nov Capt James M. SIMS relieved Capt Cary KELLY as Commanding Officer of Company I. Capt KELLY was assigned as Battalion S-5.
- 1stLt D. N. T. PERKINS relieved 2ndLt Gary CROWELL as Executive Officer of Company I. 2ndLt CROWELL was assigned to the Battalion S-3 for duty as Liaison Officer.
- 18 Nov "Operation LONGHORN" terminated.
- 23 Nov Lieutenant General Victor H. KRULAK, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific visited the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post and interviewed key personnel.

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25 Nov Detachment H&S Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines deployed.
Chopped OFCON 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines upon arrival at destination.

106mm RR Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, relieved 106mm RR Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, as security for An Tan Bridge.

27 Nov Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines deployed to join parent organization.

29 Nov Company I conducted "Operation RANGER".

Company K returned to Battalion CP from Chu Lai Defense Command.

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APPENDIX A (LIST OF REFERENCES)

1. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 25-66 (Operation MUSTANG).
2. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 26-66 (Operation LONGHORN).
3. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 27-66 (Operation ALPINE).
4. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Order 28-66 (Operation COUNTY FAIR 5-8).
5. CO 7th Marine Regiment message 270302Z Nov66 (S).

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Enclosure (1)

APPENDIX B (DOCUMENTATION)

- Missing*
1. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 25-66 (Operation MUSTANG).
 2. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 26-66 (Operation LONGHORN).
 3. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 27-66 (Operation ALPINE).
 4. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 28-66 (Operation COUNTY FAIR 5-8).
 5. CO 7th Marine Regiment message 270302Z Nov66 (S).

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Enclosure (2)

B-1

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