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HEADQUARTERS

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

SECRET

1 March 1967

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
311601Z Jan67 to 281600Z Feb67.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

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

D. E. Esslinger
D. E. ESSLINGER

5TH MAR S&C FILES

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
311601Z Jan67 to 281600Z Feb67

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

a. Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), Fleet Marine Force.

2. LOCATION

a. 311601Z Jan67 - 281600Z Feb67: Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPANCY</u>
Commanding Officer	LtCol. D. E. ESSLINGER	23 December 1966
Executive Officer	Maj. J. P. WHITE	9 December 1966
S-1	2ndLt. B. F. BEGGS	5 April 1966
S-2	1stLt. S. E. LINDBLOM	7 January 1967
S-3	Capt. E. S. PIPER	16 November 1966
S-4	Capt. S. S. GLAIZE	19 November 1966
S-5	Capt. C. KELLY	17 November 1966
H&S Company Commander	1stLt. M. D. CAREY	9 December 1966
Company I Commander	Capt. J. M. SIMS	17 November 1966
Company K Commander	Capt. R. E. MARESCO	16 February 1966
Company L Commander	Capt. R. W. VORREYER	20 November 1966
Company M Commander	Capt. J. R. MCELROY	16 DECEMBER 1966

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
35	1234	2	46

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines began the month of February with an on-rolls strength of 36 Marine Officers and 1301 enlisted Marines. Our current on-board strength is 35 Marine Officers and 1234 enlisted Marines.

b. During the first week of January the turnover in enlisted personnel was normal; however in the middle of February 159 personnel were transferred to 1st Military Police Battalion, 7th Marines, and 1st Marines. These transfers were initiated on a man-for-man basis. This Battalion joined 144 new personnel in conjunction with the mixmaster program. This leaves approximately 204 total personnel remaining in the battalion with April RTD's.

c. The regular promotion cycle to Corporal and Lance Corporal helped to alleviate the shortage in Corporals. However, there still exists a shortage in Sergeants. Composite scores of Corporals eligible for Sergeant were submitted to CMC.

d. This organization has experienced no major problems during the month of February in the area of personnel administration.

2. INTELLIGENCE

a. Personnel changes for the month of February included the loss of the Intelligence Chief and one S-2 scout. Two new scouts joined in the third week of the month. The S-2 section at present has no O2's by MOS.

b. For the past month, the Battalion S-2 scouts have worked with the companies in patrolling the TAOR and have handled the intelligence material for units of the battalion that were involved in Operation DESOTO. The scouts are in continuous training and have attended schools on the TPS-21 and the trace metal detector during the month.

c. The utilization of the battalion's Kit Carson scout has proven quite favorable and will be used in future operations. During the month of February the Kit Carson was used to speak to the people of several hamlets within the battalion TAOR which resulted in the apprehension of four detainees and the uncovering of some caves and meeting places which the VC have used.

d. Enemy activity for the most part has continued to decline during the month of February with the predominant types of activity still being line-probing, small-arms harrassing fire and mines and booby traps.

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e. Enemy casualties for the period consisted of two KIA's (probable), five WIA's (probable), (10) detainees forwarded to 9th ITT, and two civil defendants. Assorted clothing and equipment was turned into the S-2 which included one small cross-bow and six paper NVA flags.

3. TRAINING

a. During the month of February, three one-week troop indoctrination courses were conducted for newly joined personnel of this Command. A total of 79 Marines were processed through the course. Personnel received instruction on the rules of engagement, NBC, religions, history and customs of RVN, communications, intelligence, small unit tactics, small unit tactics, civic action, and the use of the compass and map reading. Classroom instruction and familiarization firing of the M-16E1 rifle were added to the syllabus.

b. Two, three-day landmine warfare, booby trap and demolitions courses were conducted by the 1st Engineer Battalion for 30 personnel of this Command.

c. A one-week Mighty Mite driver's school was conducted from 13-18 February for 12 personnel.

d. The following formal schools in Okinawa and Japan were attended:

- Vietnamese Language
- Basic Infantry Weapons Repair
- Field Wireman
- Embarkation
- Registered Pubs Custodian
- Field Radio Operator

4. OPERATIONS

a. Company M participated with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines in Operation TRINITY within the Chu Lai combat area, from 30 January to 1 February 1967. Upon termination of Operation TRINITY, Company M was heli-lifted to Duc Pho (BS 806378) in conjunction with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in Operation DESOTO. After three weeks of significant enemy contact in the Duc Pho area, Company M returned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines combat base.

b. From 5-8 February Companies I, K, and L conducted extensive long range patrols in the northwestern and southeastern sectors of the TAOR. From 25-28 February 1967, Companies L and K patrolled the western and southeastern sectors of the TAOR.

c. During the first two weeks of February, Company L provided security for the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines on Operation RIO GRANDE.

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d. Companies L and K exchanged combat bases and commenced the improvement of their respective defensive positions on 11 and 12 February.

e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines came under the operational control of this organization on 1 February and replaced Company M during its participation in Operations TRINITY and DESOTO.

5. ARTILLERY SUPPORT

a. Ammunition expenditures in support of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines during the month of February were as follows:

- (1) 1150 rounds of HE and illumination were fired as H&I's.
- (2) 69 rounds HE were fired in unobserved fire missions based on intelligence reports. In addition, 205 rounds were fired on a Red Dot report dated 7 February 1967.
- (3) 13 HE and nine illumination rounds were fired in three observed fire missions.
- (4) 69 HE and HEVT rounds were fired for one landing zone prep fire.

b. During the month, one FO Team was attached to Company M for participation in Operation DESOTO. Company M was under the operational control of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. The FO team returned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines control on 23 February 1967.

6. AIR SUPPORT

a. During the month of February, 53 personnel were transported by helicopter.

b. There were three liaison/reconnaissance flights by the Battalion Commander and/or his staff.

c. There were no significant cargo movements this month.

d. One emergency medevac request was completed.

e. Six helicopter requests were cancelled due to non-availability of aircraft.

7. LOGISTICS

a. General. The overall logistics status of the battalion has been excellent since the last report. No major logistical difficulties have been encountered. Road conditions have improved resulting in a greatly decreased rate of deadline vehicles. All classes of supply are in satisfactory condition except Class IV. Obtaining bunker material has been difficult, although materials are on requisition. Twenty new strongbacks have been constructed of which 10 are tin roof buildings.

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b. Motor Transport. Motor transport is in excellent condition. The maintenance program has been effective; nevertheless, some problems exist in obtaining certain spare parts. At present five vehicles are deadlined due to a lack of spare parts.

c. Supply. The procurement of 782 gear, reported last month as a problem area, has been resolved. Body armor and weapons are now in adequate supply. There is no major problem area in supply. Battalion Supply is in the process of moving to Hill 69 from Hill 49. This move will be completed by 2 March 1967.

8. CIVIC ACTION

a. During the month of February 5,400 Vietnamese were treated in the Villages of Ky Lien, Ky Khuong, and Ky Sanh. Three PF's completed a medical treatment training course, while two other PF's are currently undergoing a refresher course at the Ky Khuong Medical Facility.

b. A new medical dispensary was completed in Long Phu (1). This dispensary, the dimensions of which are 16 ft x 35 ft., was built by the people of Long Phu (1) and Long Phu (2) hamlets. Materials and sufficient tools were provided through civic action. These materials included; 25 bags of cement, lumber, nails and paint. A celebration banquet was held by the Vietnamese at the opening of the dispensary.

c. Approximately 500 pounds of waste food has been distributed daily to the village of Ky Khuong and hamlet of Long Phu (1) in order to assist the Vietnamese in feeding their livestock.

d. English language classes are being held daily in the village of Ky Khuong and hamlet of Long Phu (1). Approximately 100 children attend these classes. The classes are taught by civil affairs personnel.

e. Two solatium payments were made to families of two boys from Tich Tay who were killed by a fragmentation grenade which they found in a rice paddy approximately 600 meters from the Company L Perimeter. (Total: 6,000 \$ VN).

f. A total of 23,000 leaflets were dropped by air and hand distributed throughout the TAOR by 3/5 personnel.

g. Tet Holiday activities included: dinner given by the Hamlet Chiefs of Long Phu (1) and Long Phu (2) for representatives of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. An afternoon "Tea" was given by the Battalion Commander for Village Chiefs and their wives. Tet visits were made by the Battalion Commander who exchanged Tet gifts with village and hamlet Chiefs of Ky Khuong and Ky Lien Villages.

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h. Civic action material distributed during the month of February includes: 50 school kits, 20 carpenter kits, 2,000 bars of soap, 15 cases of powdered soap, 100 pounds of clothing, 30 gallons of paint, 300 toys, 10 cases of mouthwash, 30 bags of cement, and lumber for the Dispensary Project.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 February 1967 - Company M departed for Operation TRINITY.
- 2 February 1967 - Capt James W. MYERS joined as Communications Officer. Company D, 1st Battalion, 26 Marines OPCON to the Battalion.
- 8 February 1967 - Tet Truce commenced.
- 11 February 1967 - Tet Truce ended without incident.
- 12 February 1967 - Company L and Company K exchanged tactical positions.
- 15 February 1967 - 2nd Platoon, Company L furnished security for 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines during Operation RIO GRANDE.
- 20 February 1967 - 1stLt Douglas L. BOTNEN joined as ALO Battalion Commander and Staff visited Special Force Camp at Tien Phuoc.
- 23 February 1967 - Company M returned to 3/5 from Operation DESOTO. 1stLt Mike T. HALL joined as FAC.
- 24 February 1967 - Company D and one platoon from Company I occupied positions in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR, for the duration of Operations RIO GRANDE and DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI. 2nd Platoon, Company K OPCON, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines for duration of Operation DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI.
- 25 February 1967 - Colonel Fred HAYNES, Chief of Staff, TF XRAY visited and presented awards.
- 27 February 1967 - Colonel Kenneth HOUGHTON, incoming Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment, visited for staff briefing and tour of combat bases.
- 28 February 1967 - COUNTY FAIR 5-12 which was planned and then postponed twice during February because of operational commitments and bad weather was finally cancelled.

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