

HEADQUARTERS

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

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SERIAL NO. 00121-67

1 April 1967

COPY# 3 of 30 COPIES

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 281601Z Feb67 to 311600Z Mar67

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

3RD BN/5TH MAR CMD CHRON

MAR 1967

5TH MAR SEC FILES

00389-67
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
281601Z Feb67 to 311600Z Mar67

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

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

2. LOCATION

a. 281601Z Feb67 - 311600Z Mar67: 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	2nd Lt W. M. GORTZ	6 March 1967
S-2	1st Lt S. E. LINDBLOM	7 January 1967
S-3	Maj 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	1st Lt M. D. CAREY	9 December 1966
I Company Commander	Capt D. N. T. PERKINS	9 March 1967
K Company Commander	1st Lt R. O. TILLEY	1 March 1967
L Company Commander	Capt R. W. VORREYER	20 November 1966
M Company 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>
34	1225	2	47

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. The Battalion began the month of March with an on-rolls strength of 36 Marine Officers and 1233 Enlisted Marines. Our current on-board strength is 39 Marine Officers and 1238 Enlisted Marines.

b. To date the Battalion has 11 Marine Officers and 179 Enlisted Marines rotating during the month of April. Critical shortages will result in MOS's of 0202, 0302, 0402, 3002 and 3502 in the Officers ranks and MOS's of 0141, 0341, 0351, 0369, 0431 and 9999 in the Enlisted ranks. These shortages have been reported and personnel of these MOS's joining from CONUS are being assigned to this organization by higher echelon to eliminate the critical shortages.

c. The regular promotion cycle to Corporal and Lance Corporal helped to alleviate the shortages in NCO ranks. Composite scores have been published by CMC for promotion to Sergeant.

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

2. INTELLIGENCE

a. Personnel changes for the month of March included the loss of one scout and the addition of a Master Sergeant as the Intelligence Chief who is an 02 by MOS.

b. During the month, the Battalion S-2 Scouts have been employed with the companies in patrolling the TAOR and in handling the intelligence matters for our long range patrols outside of the TAOR. The scouts training has been continuous and has included Vietnamese Language school, TPS-21 school and interrogation of VCS.

c. The Battalion gained another Vietnamese interpreter during March, for a new total of four. Two scouts are temporarily "off duty" due to broken bones and a slight gunshot wound; the remaining two are kept busy.

d. Enemy activity for the month has continued to be very slight, with the predominant types of activity still being line-probing (twice with rocks), small-arms harrassing fire and some laying of mines and boobytraps. On one long range patrol outside of the TAOR into the Phuoc Khach Valley (BT 3706) the enemy activity encountered was sniper-fire and booby-traps. However on a patrol into Tho An Valley (BT 4794) a VC local force squad was encountered and disposed of.

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e. Enemy casualties for the period consisted of eight KIA's (confirmed) two KIA's (probable), three WIA's (Probable), ten detainees forwarded to 9th IIT, and three civil defendants. Two shot-guns and one Chicom rifle were captured along with ten grenades and an assortment of small-arms ammunition. Assorted clothing and equipment was turned into the S-2 which included ten pounds of VC medical supplies, two NVA flags, and approximately fifteen pounds of assorted documents. Fifteen M-16 mines were recovered as a result of information from Vietnamese informants; monetary rewards were given on the spot. Seventy-five refugees were evacuated from the Tho An Valley (BS 4794) area to Binh Son District Headquarters; this was done at their request because VC used them as a work force.

3. TRAINING

a. During the month of March, two one-week troop indoctrination courses were conducted for newly joined personnel of this command. A total of 50 Marines and Navy Corpsman 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, Civic Action, and Compass and Map Reading. Classroom instruction and familiarization firing of the M-16E1 rifle were conducted.

b. Three, three-day landmine warfare, booby trap, and demolition courses were conducted by the 1st Engineer Battalion for 50 personnel.

c. A one-week Mule Driver School was conducted by the Motor Transport Officer for 12 personnel from 20 to 24 March.

d. During the week of 6 to 10 March a 60mm Mortar school was conducted for 16 personnel.

e. On 19 March a Man Pack Personnel Detector school was conducted for 26 personnel.

f. On 28 March a Mine Detector school was conducted for 8 personnel.

g. During the month of March selected personnel of the command attended the following formal schools in Japan and Okinawa:

Crypto Comm Security	1
Field Wireman	2
NCO Leadership	2
Vietnamese Language	3

4. OPERATIONS

a. From 2 to 5 March, 1st Platoon (Rein), Company L conducted a long range patrol in the vicinity of Grid Square BS 4795 in the southern portion of the TAOR.

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b. From 3 to 8 March Operation PLYMOUTH was planned but not executed due to postponement.

c. From 10 to 14 March Company M(-)(Rein) conducted a search and clear operation in the southern corner of the TAOR in the vicinity of Grid Square BS 4795.

Results:

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Friendly</u>
2 KIA	2 KIA
2 VCC	5 WIA
2 Wpns captured	75 refugees evacuated

d. On 11 to 12 March Company L conducted a company size search and destroy operation and PsyOps/MEDCAP on the Khuong Dai peninsula in the vicinity of Grid Square BT 4410. Results 1 VC KIA.

e. From 18 to 22 March Company K conducted a platoon (Rein) search and destroy operation in the southern corner of the TAOR.

Results:

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Friendly</u>
8 KIA	1 WIA
1 Wpn captured	

f. From 21 to 24 March Company L(-) conducted a search and destroy operation in the northwest corner of the TAOR in the vicinity of Phuoc Khach (BT 370060).

Results:

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Friendly</u>
3 Large caves destroyed	5 WIA

g. From 24 to 28 March Company I(-) provided a "Rough Rider" convoy escort to Da Nang.

h. On 25 March 1st Platoon.(Rein), Company I was assigned as security for a U. S. Army 175mm gun battery at Nui Vo (BS 623845).

i. From 28 to 31 March Companies K and L conducted long range platoon (Rein) operations in the central and southern sectors of the TAOR.

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5. ARTILLERY SUPPORT

a. During the month of March 1428 rds of artillery were fired in support of the Battalion.

(1) Harrassing and interdiction fires accounted for 728 rds HE, and 29 rds illumination.

(2) 278 rds HE and 15 rds WP were expended on landing zone prep fires.

(3) Fire missions: 269 rds HE observed, 102 rds HE and 7 rds illum unobserved.

(4) A counter-rocket illumination program complemented by observation posts has been put into effect.

(5) 2ndLt J. C. MINAHAN assumed duties of Artillery Liaison Officer on 22 March.

6. AIR SUPPORT

a. During the month of March, the Battalion submitted 27 air requests with 4 requests cancelled due to non availability of aircraft.

b. 2790 pounds of cargo and 278 personnel were transported.

c. 10 Medevacs were requested and completed.

d. There were 3 liaison visits and 2 recon flights by the Battalion Commander and his staff.

e. On 12 March 75 Vietnamese civilians were evacuated by helicopter to Binh Son District Headquarters.

7. LOGISTICS

a. General. The overall logistic status of the Battalion is excellent. At the present time, there are no major logistical problem areas.

b. Supply. During the month of March, Battalion Supply was re-located from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines rear (Hill 49) to its present location (Hill 69). The move was conducted without difficulty. A complete supply inventory was conducted after the move. Maintaining a proper level of operating stock of BA-386's has been difficult because of the shortages in the supply system. Communications equipment is in satisfactory condition; however, hand sets and tape antennas for the AN/PRC-25 have been difficult to obtain.

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c. Construction: A total of 20 new strongbacks have been constructed at the Battalion CP of which 10 are tin roof buildings; all working and storage spaces are under tin roofs. The Battalion mess-hall has been enlarged and improved with a tin roof and concrete serving line. Future plans include construction of a new garbage shed and additions to the general mess.

8. CIVIC ACTION

a. Medcap: 5,890 Vietnamese were treated in the villages of Kylien, Ky Khuong, and Ky Sanh. Three PF's completed a medical training course, while three other PF's are currently undergoing a refresher course at the Ky Khuong medical facility. A Med/Dent Cap was held in hamlet of Thanh My Trung, Ky Sanh Village. 275 Vietnamese were treated, over 100 toothbrushes, and 200 bars of soap distributed, and a class on basic oral hygiene was given to the people. 25 Vietnamese have been evacuated from the Ky Khuong Hospital to Chu Lai for additional treatment.

b. Construction of a new dispensary in the hamlet of Long Phu (1) has begun. Materials which include cement, lumber, paint, and tools will be supplied through Civic Action. The actual labor and construction will be done by the people of the hamlet, under supervision of the Hamlet Chief and a 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Civil Affairs representative.

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 held daily in the village of Ky Khuong and hamlet of Long Phu (1). Approximately 100 children and 25 adults attend these classes. The classes are taught by Civil Affairs personnel.

e. Three solatium payments were made during this month. (10,000 \$VN).

f. A total of 15,000 leaflets were circulated in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOK through air drops and hand distribution. Also distributed, 3,500 Vietnamese Newspapers, 1500 Agricultural magazines, 300 Hygiene posters, and 300 VC booby trap warning posters. An audio visual team and aerial broadcasts were used in a sweep of Thanh My Trung hamlet.

g. 15 movies were shown at the Ky Khuong Village Headquarters building in the CAC unit compound; approximately 1700 Vietnamese attended.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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h. 75 refugees were evacuated from An Khuong (1) BT 477938 to Binh Sonh District Headquarters during an operation conducted by 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

i. Civic Action material distributed during the month of March includes:

- 400 pounds rice
- 400 pounds wheat
- 100 pounds clothing
- 5,000 bars soap
- 150 boxes soap
- 325 toys
- 10 cases cooking oil
- 5 carpenter kits
- 15 gallons paint
- 10 cases mouthwash
- cement, lumber, tools for dispensary project

9. CAC PROGRAM

a. On 2 March CAP K-4 received information from an ARVN soldier on leave that 10 VC were hiding in caves at BT 448078. CAP K-4 conducted a sweep in the objective area and found 3 caves and 1 M-16 type AP mine. Rice flakes in caves indicated recent use. The caves and mine were destroyed by demolitions.

b. On 22 March, CAP K-4 PF 20 man patrol encountered 8 VC at BT 442117.

Results:

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Friendly</u>
1 KIA	None
2 Frag grenades captured	

c. During the month of March, CAP K-4 showed 20 films to villagers of Ky Khuong. Average attendance was 300 people per night. Films were shown dealing with rural health, sanitation, rice production, village government, village and hamlet defense, and Viet Cong tactics. Also, 5 films were shown depicting life in the United States.

d. CAP K-4 furnished security for rice distribution at Ky Khuong market place on 6 occasions. On 25 March CAP K-4 furnished supplies for Plague immunization of 700 school children and adults.

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e. On 20 March the Battalion Personal Response Council initiated a program to allow Marines to better understand Popular Force personnel and the Vietnamese way of life. Under this program 2 men from each company are assigned to the CAP for a four-day visit. During their visit these men participated in Combined Action training and patrols, visited PF families, and had an introduction to the Vietnamese language by associating with Vietnamese speaking CAC Marines. This has been instituted as a weekly program and initial indications are that it will be very worthwhile.

f. On 24 March a ceremony was held at the CAP K-4 Command Post during which the Ly Tin District Chief decorated 2 PF's who had participated in the 22 March contact. The Ly Tin Sub-sector Advisor and the OPCON Battalion Commander attended along with numerous village elders.

PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 March	1stLt R. O. TILLEY assigned as Commanding Officer of Company K.
2 March	1st Platoon, Company L departed on long range patrol.
5 March	1st Platoon, Company L returned from long range patrol.
	1stLt G. I. FELT, Jr. Air Liaison Officer, departed for duty with VT-7, NAAS, Meridian, Miss.
6 March	2ndLt B. F. BEGGS, Battalion Adjutant departed for duty with 5th Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California.
	2ndLt W. M. GORTZ assigned as Battalion Adjutant/S-1 Officer.
9 March	3rd Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON to 5th Marine Regiment. Capt D. N. T. PERKINS assigned as Commanding Officer of Company I.
10 March	Company M(-) departed on search and destroy operation.
11 March	Company L commenced search and destroy operation.
12 March	Company L returned from search and destroy mission.
14 March	Company M(-) returned from search and destroy operation.
18 March	1st Platoon Company K commenced long range patrol.
21 March	Company L(-) commenced search and destroy operation.
22 March	1st Platoon Company K returned from long range patrol.
23 March	1stLt G. E. CROWELL, S-3 Liaison Officer departed for duty with Task Force X-Ray as Staff Secretary.
24 March	Company L(-) returned from search and destroy operation. Company I(-) departed on "Rough Rider" convoy escort to Da Nang.
25 March	1st Platoon, Company I assigned as security for U. S. Army Artillery at Nui Vo.

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26 March Capt. Mosby PEKROW III, Motor Transport Officer, departed for Marine Barracks, Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia.
28 March 1st Platoon, Company L departed on long range patrol.
29 March 2nd Platoon, Company K departed on long range patrol.
 Brigadier General F. C. LAHUE, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, visited for staff briefing and tour of combat bases.
30 March Company I returned from "Rough Rider" convoy escort to Danang.
31 March 1st Platoon Company L returned from long range patrol.
 2nd Platoon Company K returned from long range patrol.
 Company L departed for Operation BOONE.

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