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

SERIAL NO. 00168-67

1 May 1967

COPY# 7 of 15 COPIES

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division (Rein)  
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment (Rein)

Subj: Command Chronology for period 010001Z Apr67 to 302400Z Apr67

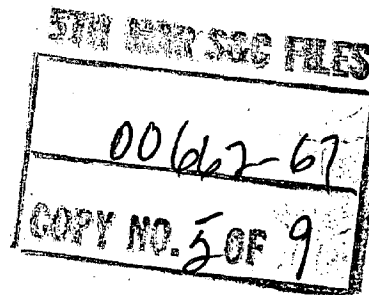
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: ✓(1) The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c),  
enclosure (1) is submitted.

*D. E. Esslinger*  
D. E. ESSLINGER

3rd Bn/5th MAR CMD CHRON



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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
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APR 1967

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
301601 Mar67 TO 302400Z Apr67

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines      LtCol D. E. ESSLINGER (23 December 1966)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	Capt W. DYKE (1 April 1967)
I Company	Capt H. W. STACKPOLE (1 April 1967)
K Company	1stLt R. O. TILLEY (1 March 1967)
L Company	Capt D. N. T. PERKINS (1-20 April 1967) 1stLt J. D. MURRAY (21 April 1967)
M Company	Capt J. R. McELROY (16 December 1967)

2. LOCATION

1-23 April at BT 462071, Hill 69, Chu Lai RVN  
24-30 April at BT 533089 Chu Lai Installation, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

ExecO	Maj J. P. WHITE (1-22 April 1967) Maj B. R. CUMMINS (23-30 April 1967)
S-1	2ndLt W. M. GORTZ (6 March 1967)
S-2	1stLt S. E. LINDBLOM (7 January 1967)
S-3	Maj E. S. PIPER, Jr. (16 November 1966)
S-4	Capt S. S. GLAIZE (19 November 1966)
S-5	Capt C. KELLY (1-4 April 1967) Lt J. E. LOUIS (MC) USNR (5 April 1967)
Supply Officer	1stLt S. C. THOMPSON, Jr. (1 April 1967)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>OFF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENL</u>
34		1153	2		50

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PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

This Battalion has experienced no major problems in the area of personnel administration. Shortages exist in certain MOS's and there is an acute need for Sergeants in all MOS's.

The Battalion scouts have been engaged in an extensive and continuous program of schools, consisting of formal and informal classes and practical application. The enemy activity has been very light. Schools have been conducted as previously planned with emphasis on educating replacement personnel.

Extensive patrolling was conducted within the TAOR. The Battalion conducted four company size operations. Presently the Battalion is engaged in Operation UNION. All fire support conducted by and for the Battalion was satisfactory.

At the present time there are no major logistical problems in the Battalion.

The Civic Action Program has progressed with good results. All activities continued in operation until 23 April 1967, at which time the 3/5 TAOR was relinquished to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, U. S. Army.

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PART III  
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Topics

a. Personnel and Administration

(1) The Battalion began the month of April with an on-rolls strength of 39 Marine Officers and 1225 Enlisted Marines. Our current on-board strength is 29 Marine Officers and 1112 Enlisted Marines.

(2) Rotating during the month of May 1967 are 2 Marine Officers and 43 Enlisted Marines. Critical shortages exist in MOS's 0202, 0302, 0402, 3502, in the Officers ranks and in MOS's 0351, 2811, 2822, 9999, in the Enlisted ranks. These shortages have been previously reported. Also the organization is short of Sergeants in all MOS's.

(3) The regular promotion cycle to Corporal helps to alleviate the shortages in the junior NCO ranks.

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

b. Intelligence

(1) Personnel changes for the month of April included the loss of the S-2 Intelligence Assistant and a chief scout. Additions were two scouts.

(2) The Battalion scouts were used extensively in conjunction with the companies to handle intelligence on long range patrols. The scout training has been continuous and has included radio and artillery procedures, patrolling and intelligence subjects. The scouts conducted a mine-detecter school or selected personnel of the companies.

(3) The Battalion acquired a Chieu Hoi (VC returnee) during the month. He was utilized to explain the Chieu Hoi program to villagers in the Ky Phu hamlet area, to familiarize personnel on VC tactics, and is currently deployed with the Battalion on Operation UNION.

(4) Enemy casualties for the period consisted of two WIA's (confirmed), two WIA's (probable), three detainees forwarded to Ly Tin and three detainees forwarded to 9th ITT. Weapons captured were 8 grenades, 7-60mm mortar rounds, 1-57mm rounds, 65 S/A rounds, 5-M-16 rounds, and 2M-48 mines. 3 other mines, 1 commercial transistor radio, 2-105mm duds, and 3 hidden caves were discovered as a result of information from Vietnamese national informants. Monetary rewards were given on the spot.

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c. Training

(1) During the month of April, a one week troop indoctrination course was conducted for newly joined personnel of this command. A total of 34 Marines and Navy Corpsmen 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, compass and map reading. Classroom instruction and familiarization firing of the M-16E1 rifle was conducted for all hands.

(2) A three day land mine warfare, booby trap, and demolition course was conducted by the 1st Engineer Battalion for 14 personnel.

(3) On 14 April, a Mine Detector school was conducted for 14 personnel.

(4) A three day LWIC (mule) drivers school was conducted for 5 personnel.

(5) During the month of April, selected personnel of the command attended the following formal schools in Japan and Okinawa;

Legal Clerk	1
Vietnamese Language	6
Field Radio Operator	4
Field Wire	2
Comm Crypto	1
Basic Infantry Weapons Repair	1

d. Operations

(1) On 7 April Company L(-) returned to the Battalion after participating in Operation BOONE with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.

(2) A Golden Fleece Operation was planned for 7 to 12 April, however, due to the harvest condition of rice, the operation was postponed.

(3) From 9 to 12 April the 2nd platoon, Company K conducted a long range patrol in the southwest corner of the TAOR. There was no enemy contact on this patrol.

(4) At 120113H Company K outpost sighted mortar flashes aimed at Chu Lai airstrip. Supporting artillery and 81mm mortars were alerted to fire counter battery fire. Clearance to fire was denied due to close proximity of Army Units. At first light, the 1st and 3rd platoons, Company K and the 2nd platoon, Company I searched suspected areas of

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mortar firing in the vicinity of BT 5202 with negative results.

(5) From 15 to 20 April, Company I conducted a search and destroy operation in the western part of the TAOR.

Results:

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Captured</u>	<u>Friendly</u>
1 WIA (probable)	2-M-16 AP mines 6-60mm mortar rds 1-57mm rds 2-M-48 flares	No casualties

(6) On 21 April, the Alpha Command group, and Companies K and M were helolifted to the vicinity of Nui Gia (BT 044273) and chopped OPCON to 1st Marines to commence Operation UNION.

(7) On 23 April Companies L and I chopped OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and relocated at Hill 54. The 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, USA assumed responsibility of Hill 69 and the TAOR. An administrative rear was established at the Chu Lai Installation (BT 533089) and the Bravo Command group moved to the area of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP on Hill 54 (BT 397145).

(8) On 25 April Company L chopped OPCON to 5th Marines and departed for Tam Ky (BT 295235) to provide security for Regimental Rear on Operation UNION.

(9) On 27 April the 1st and 2nd Platoon, Company I chopped OPCON to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines and departed to provide security for artillery located at Que Son (BT 035350) in support of Operation UNION.

e. Artillery Support

(1) From 1 to 23 April, 1483 rds of artillery were fired in support of the Battalion.

(a) Harassing and Interdiction fires accounted for 1282 rds HE.

(b) Observed fire missions accounted for 76 rds HE and 114 rds illumination.

(c) Registration of night defensive fires accounted for 11 rds.

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f. Air Support

(1) During the month of April, the Battalion submitted 13 air requests. All were completed satisfactorily.

(2) 1600 pounds of cargo and 54 personnel were transported.

(3) 6 Medevacs were requested and completed.

(4) There were 3 liaison visits made by the Battalion Commander and his staff.

g. Logistics

(1) General. The overall logistic status of the Battalion is satisfactory. At the present time there are no major logistical problem areas.

(2) Supply

(a) Relief of Supply Officer and Supply Chief.

(b) Move from Battalion CP, Hill 69 to Chu Lai Contonment. The move was completed satisfactorily and promptly due to exceptional support rendered by Chu Lai based organizations.

(c) A FSAD Inspection was conducted 26-28 April. Results are forthcoming.

(d) Milstrip was initiated 23 April for this Organization.

(e) Requisitions performance is satisfactory.

(3) Motor Transport. As previously stated, maintenance of the M-274 (mule) is still a major problem area. At the present time there are (3) three M-274 (mules) on deadline in excess of 15 days due to a lack of parts. Tracer action was taken on 1 April. The results were negative.

(4) Construction. No construction was accomplished and none is contemplated until such time as the battalion is relocated to a combat base.

h. Civic Action

(1) During the month of April there were several changes in S-5 personnel. One man returned from Vietnamese Language School and 3 were rotated back to CONUS.

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(2) The three dispensaries at Ky Khuong, Long Phu I and II continued in operation through 23 April with a total of 3799 persons being treated.

(3) Approximately 400 lbs of waste food was given to the Vietnamese at Ky Khuong and Long Phu I for use in feeding their animals.

(4) English language classes continued at 3 schools with an average daily census of 20 students. Since April 12th the summer recess has been in progress, but an average of 20 students return to the school for 1½ hours of English lessons daily.

(5) On 12 April 1967 at Khuong Nhon Hamlet, Ky Khuong Village, a payment of \$2,000 Piasters was paid to Li Thi Tho (sister of a 14 year old Vietnamese boy) accidentally shot while fleeing with an older Vietnamese male from a Marine sentry.

(6) Civic Action Supplies utilized during the first three weeks in April include:

(a) 20 bags cement

(b) 10 cots for use at Ly Tin District Hospital

(c) 50 school kits were given to the top students of hamlet schools. S-5 personnel and ISO participated with the village chief in the distribution of supplies.

(d) 25 pairs of gym shoes

(e) 2 volleyball sets given to hamlet schools at Ky Khuong. Marines (S-5) instructed and participated in several games.

(f) 2800 bars soap

(g) 200 toys

(h) 125 lbs clothing

(i) 200 lbs of rice

(j) 200 lbs of wheat

1. CAC program

(1) On 13 April a CAP K-4 PF patrol on the way to an ambush received 100 rds S/A fire from estimated three VC at BT 452108. The

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patrol returned 300 rds S/A with negative results. One PF WIA (Medevac) died enroute to hospital.

(2) On 13 April CAP K-4 on a platoon sweep, sighted a VC running at BT 445144. The VC hid in a cave and threw a grenade out which was a dud. A CAP K-4 PF threw a grenade into the cave which resulted in one VC KIA. K-4 recovered 2 homemade fragmentation grenades and documents which were forwarded to Battalion S-2. No tactical data was obtained from the documents. Three detainees (one male and two female) were captured in the same area and sent to Ly Tin District Headquarters.

(3) CAP K-4 went OPCON to 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry on 23 April 1967.

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2. ENTRIES

- 1 April K Co Sqd+ departed on long range patrol  
I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- 2 April K Co Sqd+ departed on long range patrol  
I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol  
I Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 1 April returned
- 3 April I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol  
K Co Sqd+ returned from long range patrol of 2 April  
I Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 2 April returned
- 4 April I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol  
I Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 3 April returned  
M Co Sqd+ departed on search and destroy long range patrol  
K Co Sqd+ departed on long range patrol
- 5 April K Co Sqd+ departed on long range patrol  
I Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 4 April returned  
M Co Sqd+ long range patrol of 4 April returned  
K Co Sqd+ long range patrol of 4 April returned
- 6 April I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- 7 April K Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 5 April returned  
K Co Sqd+ departed on long range patrol  
I Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 5 April returned  
2ndLt M. L. HAYDEN assigned as Liaison Officer, at Tam Ky  
Quang Tin Province, RVN
- 8 April Capt R. D. JASSEM, Battalion Supply Officer, detached  
Capt C. KELLY, Battalion S-5 Officer, detached
- 9 April Capt D. N. T. PERKINS, Commanding Officer, Company I detached  
1stLt M. D. CAREY, Commanding Officer, H&S Company, detached  
K Co Sqd+ long range patrol of 7 April returned
- 10 April I Co Ftm departed on roving patrol  
I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol  
L Co Plt- departed on long range patrol
- 11 April I Co Ftm roving patrol of 10 April returned  
L Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- 12 April Capt D. S. BOTNEN assigned as Assistant S-3 Officer (ALO)  
I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol

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- L Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- L Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 11 April returned
- 13 April L Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- L Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 12 April returned
- 14 April L Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- L Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 13 April returned
- I Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 12 April returned
- 15 April K Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- L Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- L Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 14 April returned
- I Co (-) search and destroy operation departed
- 16 April K Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 15 April returned
- L Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- L Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 15 April returned
- 17 April K Co Sqd+ departed on long range patrol
- L Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- L Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 16 April returned
- 18 April K Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- L Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 17 April returned
- K Co Sqd+ long range patrol of 17 April returned
- 19 April K Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 18 April returned
- 20 April Co I (-) search & destroy patrol of 15 April returned
- Tiger 1A (CAP K-4) search and destroy long range patrol departed
- 21 April I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- Alpha Command group, Co K and Co M departed on Operation UNION
- 22 April I Co Sqd+ departed on roving patrol
- I Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 21 April returned
- 23 April I Co Sqd+ roving patrol of 22 April returned
- Tiger 1A (CAP K-4) long range patrol of 20 April returned
- Capt R. W. VORREYER, Commanding Officer, Company L detached
- Co L and Co I relocated at Hill 54 (BT 397145)
- 25 April Co L departed on Operation UNION to provide security for
- Regimental Rear
- 27 April Co I departed on Operation UNION to provide security for
- 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines

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