

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

3/HDC/plb  
5750  
2 December 1967

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein)  
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for period 010001H Nov67 to 302400H Nov67

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

Encl: (1) Command Chronology Report

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c) the Command Chronology for the month of November 1967 is hereby submitted.

*R. C. Wise*  
R. C. WISE  
By direction

3/5 S+C  
00466-67  
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5TH MAR DIV  
001268-67  
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3rd BN/5th Marines

CMD CHRON

Nov 1967

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
010001H Nov to 302400H Nov 1967

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PART III - Sequential Listings of Significant Events

010001H  
010001H

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>PERIOD COVERED</u>
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines	LtCol W. K. ROCKEY	

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	Capt L. W. FARMER Capt R. J. MARNELL	1-23 Nov67 23 Nov67
Co I	Capt J. S. SPEICHER 2ndLt CORR (acting) Capt H. KOLAKOWSKI Jr	1-11 Nov67 12-14 Nov67 15 Nov67
Co K	Capt J. R. TENNEY Capt L. W. FARMER	1-22 Nov67 23 Nov67
Co L	Capt J. D. NIXON	
Co M	Capt J. D. MURRAY Capt J. B. FREYWELL Capt J. E. MITCHELL	1-2 Nov67 3-8 Nov67 9 Nov67

STAFF OFFICERS

XO	Maj R. C. WISE	
S-1 Adj	1stLt J. W. HORTON	
S-2	1stLt D. R. DUNAGAN	
S-3	Maj P. E. SHAW	
S-4	1stLt W. W. KING 1stLt F. W. SMITH	1-18 Nov 67 19 Nov 67

AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
34	1043	3	50

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PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

There currently exists in the command the need for a Captain 0402. At present the billet is being filled by a Lieutenant, ~~0302~~. There is a need for a Captain, 0302. The billet is being filled by a Captain, 2502. There is a need for one First Sergeant. There is a need for one Master Sergeant, ~~three~~ gunnery Sergeants, and six Staff Sergeants, 0369.

At present, all companies in the battalion are commanded by Captains. Officer strength and enlisted strength is at a minimum for operational commitments.

The battalion intelligence collection and processing activities during November included the development and distribution of three intelligence estimates, one intelligence estimate for a counter rocket and mortar plan, one PIR reporting on battalion TAOR and six reports of interviews/interrogations conducted in the field.

Enemy activities continued in the TAOR in the form of sniping, mining incidents and seven bridges/culverts blown.

The Battalion has completed two hole hunting operations, three quick reaction operations and one multi-company operation in the southern part of the TAOR. Intensive patrolling of the Rocket Belt has continued.

At the present time there are few communication problems and action is being taken to rectify those which do exist.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Topics(a) Personnel and Administration

(1) The Battalion began the month of November with an on board strength of 38 Marine Officers, 1016 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers and 53 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 34 Marine Officers, 1135 Marine Enlisted, 2 Navy Officers, and 48 Navy Enlisted.

(2) Three Marine Officers are TAD (in excess of 30 days). The current effective strength of the Battalion is 29 Marine Officers and 1013 Marine Enlisted.

(3) One Marine Officer and 100 Marine Enlisted are scheduled for rotation during December 1967 as shown below.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
0130	1st Lt	1
0141		1
03		92
Q369		2
2841		1
3041		1
3042		1
3371		1
9999		1

(4) Critical MOS Shortages are shown below.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>ML</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>SHORTAGE</u>
0402	1	10	1 Captain
2311	1	10	1 Corporal
2815	1	10	1 Corporal
2867	1	10	1 SSgt
9999	6	5	1 1st Sgt
0302	6	5	1 Captain
0302	25	15	10 Lt
0311	38	18	20 Sgt
0331	112	74	30 Sgt & below
0369	30	20	1 MSgt, 3 GySgt, 6 SSgt

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CASUALTIES

KIA	15
WIA	76
WIANE	16
DOW	0
DAI	2
MEDEVAC	36

b. Intelligence

(1) Personnel. During the month of November, the Battalion Intelligence/Scout Section lost one Scout, Cpl 0311, to normal rotation and joined one Scout trainee, LCpl 0311, replacement.

(a) S-2 Attachments. The two Scout Dog Teams previously in direct support, were withdrawn to III MAF on 3 November, together with all kennel equipment. Remaining attachments include one MP, IT and ITT Team and three Scout Sniper Teams.

(2) Information Collection. The main information collection/target acquisition efforts during the month of November were directed toward the analysis of activities and the continuation of the terrain studies of operational areas.

(3) Intelligence Reporting. During November, the following information on enemy activities and processed intelligence was developed and reported within this Command with copies, as appropriate, to other echelons:

Two Intelligence Estimates for company operations.

One Intelligence Estimate for a counter-rocket and mortar plan.

One PIR reporting on the Battalion TAOR.

Six reports of interviews/interrogations conducted in the field reporting low-level, local guerrilla activities and COB.

The Battalion S-2 Section conducted not less than one Battalion Command and Staff Intelligence briefing, one individual company and four small unit briefings each day.

(4) Enemy Activity(a) Synopsis

Disposed in the TAOR, the local, semifixed Viet Cong have 250 to 300 men and women under arms. These local guerrillas have been found to be organized into cells of from 3 to 7 members for the conduct of most activities.

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The local Viet Cong have continued their activity in sniping, 30 mining incidents, and the demolition of 7 bridges/culverts. The bridge blown at Thanh Quit was coordinated with a mortar attack on the CAP D-1 Compound. One ambush was conducted by 10 to 15 VC on West Anderson Trail.

The only known permanently located enemy force in the TAOR is the Dien Ban Local Force Company which is also known as Q.82 Company and the Q.15 Company.

The local force and guerrillas that operate in the TAOR generally remain in cell sized groups to avoid suspicion but they are capable of combining to form reinforced squads.

(5) Vietnamese ARVN Attachments. During the first week of November one Vietnamese SSgt Interpreter was killed in action. One interpreter joined in mid-November. Presently two interpreters are employed in support of combat operations and one is utilized in S-5 programs.

(6) Kit Carsons. The Battalion presently has five Kit Carsons and one Kit Carson trainee on the roles. During November they have proven themselves useful on search and clear and hole hunting operations.

(7) Enemy Losses. The enemy suffered the following casualties as a result of actions this month:

KIA (C)	12
KIA (P)	19
WIA (C)	0
WIA (P)	3
Detainees	4

(8) Weather

(a) Rain total as of the 27th was 7.71 inches.

(b) Temperature: Average High: 83; Average Low 72

(c) Light: Average Sunrise: 0646; Average Sunset: 1814

(d) Winds: The winds ranged from 5 to 10 knots.

(9) Terrain. See Command Chronology for period 01000H Oct67 to 312400H Oct67.

(10) Itemized Account of Enemy Equipment Captured or Destroyed:

1 U.S. Carbine #5016329

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- 1 Green Smoke Grenade
- 1 Newspaper, assorted papers and pamphlets
- 2 Main Force uniforms with sandals
- 1 pair green trousers
- 1 U.S. Steel helmet

c. Training

(1) Training included lectures, demonstrations, and/or application in the following subjects;

- (a) M-60 machine gun training
- (b) Care and cleaning of weapons
- (c) Weapons safety
- (d) Map and compass reading
- (e) Scouting and patrolling
- (f) Radio procedures
- (g) Field sanitation
- (h) Spot reports

(2) Additional classes for officers and staff NCOs were held on JAG Manual Investigations, E-8 CS dispenser and Marijuana.

(3) The S-3 has conducted three indoctrination schools. Classes on FO/FAC procedure, and on the care, cleaning, maintenance, and safety of the M-16A1 Rifle are included in the school syllabus.

(4) Two classes were conducted on preventive measures concerning lightning.

(5) All units Fam Fired their individual weapons at least twice this month. All crew served weapons have been fired.

(6) Personnel attended the following schools:

- |                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| (a) Embarkation                | 10 |
| (b) Vietnamese Language School | 2  |
| (c) NCO Leadership School      | 6  |
| (d) Ammo Tech School           | 2  |

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(e)	Land Mine Warfare	28
(f)	CAG	3
(g)	AN/PSS-6 Radar Operations and Maintenance	5
(h)	Civic Action	1
(i)	Personnel Response	2
(j)	Registered Pubs School	1

d. Operations

- (1) At 010915H Company I chopped back to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- (2) At 050200H Company L chopped to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.
- (3) At 051300H Company L chopped to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- (4) At 051650H Company M chopped to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines for Operation ESSEX.
- (5) At 101230H one platoon, Company I chopped to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- (6) At 110905H Alpha Command Group and Company L commenced hole hunting operation.
- (7) At 110905H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines chopped to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- (8) At 111340H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- (9) At 111445H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines chopped to parent unit.
- (10) At 111600H Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to parent unit.
- (11) At 111710H Alpha Command Group displaced to combat base.
- (12) At 112120H Company L concluded hole hunting operation.
- (13) At 180900H Company M and platoon Company I chopped back to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines at termination of Operation ESSEX.

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(14) At 210925H Company K moved from combat base for a company operation.

(15) At 230820H Company K returned to combat base from company operation.

(16) At 231007 one platoon, Company I chopped to III MAF.

(17) At 240200H Company I commenced a hole hunting operation.

(18) At 240730H the Alpha Command Group displaced for a hole hunting operation.

(19) At 241300H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(20) At 241550H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to parent unit.

(21) At 241550H Alpha Command Group displaced to combat base from hole hunting operation.

(22) At 250920H Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(23) At 251100H the Alpha Command Group, Company K and Company F commenced operation in Southwest Sector of TAOR.

(24) At 251130H Company I concluded hole hunting operation.

(25) At 271530H the Alpha Command Group, Company K, and Company F terminated operation.

(26) At 280850H Company F chopped to parent unit.

(27) At 291100H AF Platoon chopped to parent unit.

(28) At 300905H Company I commenced search and destroy operation.

(29) At 301735H Company I concluded search and destroy operation.

e. Artillery Support

(1) During November, Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support of this Battalion.

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(2) An increased H&I program was implemented within the TAOR to offset an increase in enemy activity. Artillery was used more frequently in support of operating forces. Considerable preparatory fires were employed on a multi-company operation from 25-27 November, supplemented with numerous fire missions utilizing Battery F and the 8 inch Howitzer Battery.

(3) Presently, there are three artillery officers assigned. One is the Battalion FSC, two officers are assigned to companies as FOs and enlisted FOs are assigned to the other two companies.

#### f. Air Support

(1) During November, 9 air strikes were conducted in support of tactical operations.

(2) Helicopter support included 31 Med Evac missions. Transport helicopters and UH-1E gunships were employed on three quick reaction operations. One tactical helilift was conducted in support of a hole hunting operation.

(3) 9 aerial observation missions were flown. In addition the aerial observers assisted in controlling the air strikes.

(4) At present, there are two ALO/FAC Officers assigned. There are sufficiently trained personnel to provide companies and battalion air-ground radio teams.

#### g. Communications

(1) The AN-PRC/25 radio provided a majority of all inter battalion communications as well as communications with Regiment. Phone communications via radio relay served voice communications with Regiment and Division. While at the Combat Base, teletype communications was utilized to pass messages to higher echelon and for lengthy reports and for unclassified administrative traffic. There are three artillery officers assigned. One is the Battalion FSC, two officers are assigned to companies as FOs and enlisted FOs are assigned to the other two companies.

(a) The AN-PRC/25 was extremely reliable except occasionally during wet weather. Continuous emphasis must be given to methods of grounding this radio and keeping it water tight.

(b) Radio relay to Regiment was extremely poor and in many instances phone communications were not in service for long periods of time. Radio relay personnel must continuously check and inspect the equipment. One tactical helilift was conducted in support of a hole hunting operation.

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(c) A lack of training of communication personnel accounted for several teletype problems, particularly in the installation of a RATT circuit. A school is now being held and training in RATT procedures is being emphasized.

(d) The AN-PRC/47 is an excellent radio but its weight is a great limitation in the field, especially when traversing rice paddies and fording streams. A lighter piece of gear is needed for reliable HF communications in the field.

(3) Continuous schooling has been conducted for all communications personnel to increase their proficiency and to insure reliable, secure, and rapid communications.

#### h. Logistics

(1) General. The overall logistical status of the battalion is satisfactory. Accounts are in the process of being reconciled and shortages of equipment are being filled by requisition.

(2) Supply. Battalion Supply concluded its move from Hill 63 with a thorough police and re-palletization of items stored in the warehouse at 11th MT Bn. On 3 November 1967 Battalion Supply received a material management inspection and a material readiness inspection. The results were satisfactory with discrepancies.

(a) On 12 November 1967 Second Lieutenant Richard J. NUSS assumed duties as Battalion Supply Officer.

(b) A truck was dispatched daily to the FLC to pick up necessary items of supply. Battalion Supply is also utilizing the new SERV/MART facilities at the NSA for the procurement of many office supplies and other expendable items.

(c) Supply is in the process of reconciling all pending requisitions.

(d) A Battalion Supply SOP was drafted and is now being staffed. Current allowance lists are being distributed to responsible officers. Component parts lists are being prepared for each responsible account.

(3) Motor Transport. On 3 November a material readiness inspection was conducted. The Motor Transport Section was rated satisfactory with discrepancies. All 18 M416B1 trailers have been repainted. Several M422A1's have also been sent to FLC in accordance with the goal of having all vehicles repainted within the near future.

(4) Construction. The attached 1st Engineers have completed a new well which provides 12,000 gallons of water daily. In addition, they have completed the repairs of the drainage and grease trap systems of the mess hall and improved the roads within the combat base partially alleviating the problem.

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of standing water. A request is being sent to Division for engineering assistance in making the observation tower more stable.

1. Civic Action

(1) Medcaps. 1511 Vietnamese from the local area were treated at the Battalion MEDCAP station, and 209 were treated on mobile MEDCAPS in the village of Mieu Bong. 2809 sanitation and health leaflets were hand delivered to the MEDCAP patients.

(2) Problems. Due to lack of supplies, only one mobile MEDCAP was held. In order to continue the mobile MEDCAPS the Battalion Aid Station will have to procure increased funds for project 10.

(3) PsyOps. Armed Propaganda Teams broadcasted for 28 1/2 hrs. The broadcasts consisted of appeals to the VC to return to GVN control and appeals to the people to report all mines and booby traps. Ten aerial broadcasts and leaflet drops were requested through Regiment. The Jeepster Audio Visual Unit from the 244th PSYOPS Co showed a total of 4 hours of cartoons and movies. The total attendance was 500 adults and 400 children.

(4) Civil Affairs Assistance. Four tool kits were given to needy families. Three mid-wife kits were given out to expectant mothers, and 6 carpenter/mason kits and 350 lbs of rice were given out to unskilled Vietnamese who were unable to support their families. Three women were evacuated to Da Nang; one with malaria, one with a gun shot wound and one with heart trouble. One young boy was also evacuated for wounds received from an M-79 round. The Vietnamese nurse that assists at the Battalion MEDCAP Station was sent to English Language School in Da Nang.

(5) Classes. All new members joining this command during November were given an indoctrination class on civil affairs.

(6) Contact with Local Officials. The Civil Affairs Chief met with the District Chief of Hoa Vang and Binh Ba concerning the names of the village Chiefs who were recently elected and the number and location of PF units and RD teams.

(7) Projects. Three self help projects are in the planning stages. They are: a school building in the village of Vinh Kuong, a market place in the village of Thanh Troung and way stations in the villages of Mieu Dang and Bo Hung.

(8) Serious Incidents. On 18 November a Vietnamese woman was shot and killed by a Marine from this Battalion. A serious Incident Report was submitted concerning a Vietnamese civilian who was killed by a Marine Corps Truck. The family of the woman shot by a Marine of this Battalion was presented with a solatium payment.

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2. Chronology Of Events

- 9 November - Conducted Quick Reaction operation.
- 11 November - Conducted Hole Hunting Operation.
- 15 November - Capt H. KOWIAKOWSKI assigned to Company I for duty as Commanding Officer.
- 19 November - 1st Lieutenant F. W. SMITH assigned to duty as the S-4 Officer.
- 21 November - Conducted Quick Reaction Operations
- 23 November - Capt L. W. FARMER assigned to Company K for duty as Commanding Officer.
- 24-25 November - Conducted Hole Hunting Operation
- 25-27 November - Conducted Multi-Company Operation.
- 30 November - Conducted Quick Reaction Operation

3. General Information

- 9 November - Conducted Quick Reaction operation.
- 11 November - Conducted Hole Hunting Operation.
- 15 November - Capt H. KOWIAKOWSKI assigned to Company I for duty as Commanding Officer.
- 19 November - 1st Lieutenant F. W. SMITH assigned to duty as the S-4 Officer.
- 21 November - Conducted Quick Reaction Operations
- 23 November - Capt L. W. FARMER assigned to Company K for duty as Commanding Officer.
- 24-25 November - Conducted Hole Hunting Operation
- 25-27 November - Conducted Multi-Company Operation.
- 30 November - Conducted Quick Reaction Operation

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