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

3/EPHJR/rem
5750
13 Oct 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology for the period of 010001H to 302400H
September 1968

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 reference (a), (b) and (c), the Command Chronology for the month of September 1968 is hereby submitted.

E. F. Hertling
E. F. HERTLING, JR.
By direction

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1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Command Chronology
010001H to 302400H Sept 1968

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Period Covered</u>
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines	LtCol R. A. SEYMOUR	

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	1stLt J. J. LAZARUS	Fr 1Sept68
Co "F"	1stLt A. M. CLEMENTS	To 1Sept68
	Capt M. A. GURROLA	Fr 2Sept68
Co "E"	Capt D. W. MEYERS	
Co "D"	Capt R. G. SNOWDEN	
Co "C"	1stLt B. P. BARRON	
 <u>2. Location.</u> Quang Nam Province, RVN.		
 <u>3. Staff Officers</u>		
XO	Major E. F. HERTLING, Jr.	
S-1	CW02 J. S. BISESI	
S-2	1stLt K. J. SALAMON	Fr 1Sept68
S-3	Major R. C. RICH	To 11Sept68
	Capt M. P. DOWNS	Fr 12Sept68 to 20Sept68
	Major W. F. BURT	Fr 21Sept68
S-4	1stLt W. G. HOEY	To 8Sept68
	Capt J. D. NIOTIS	Fr 9Sept68
SupplyO	1stLt R. J. NUSS	To 17Sept68
	1stLt G. C. FERREE	Fr 18Sept68
CommO	1stLt C. A. MOORE	
MTO	1stLt J. D. ANDERSON	

4. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
32	1134	3	54



ENCLOSURE (1)

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During this reporting period, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines terminated operation SUSSEX BAY and participated in operation MAMBLUKE THRUST in the Arizona area. Light to moderate enemy contact was encountered throughout the month with no significant problems experienced. Indications are that the Battalion's efforts both in an offensive and rice denial role have greatly hindered enemy freedom of movement and contributed significantly to enemy food procurement problems. In this regard, security in the form of OP's and combat patrols was provided for a six day rice harvest by Duc Duc district refugees.

2. The capture of six NVA soldiers during the period 10-12 Sept 1968 is considered significant and provided conclusive proof of the presence of the 21st NVA regiment in the Arizona area.

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) The Battalion began the month of September with an on board strength of 29 Marine Officers, 1147 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 58 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 33 Marine Officers, 1155 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 55 Navy Enlisted.

(2) The current effective strength of the Battalion is 30 Marine Officers, and 972 Marine Enlisted.

(3) 1 Marine Officer, and 16 Marine Enlisted rotated during September 1968.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
0302	1
0311	7
0331	3
0341	2
0351	1
3051	1
0141	1

(4) Critical MOS shortages are shown below:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>SHORTAGES</u>
0130	2	1	1 Lt
0202	1	0	1 Lt
0302	32	28	4 Lts
0402	1	0	1 Capt
0311	577	536	31 Sgts, 10 Cpls
2533	33	12	6 LCpls, 15 PFC/Pvts
3041	8	5	1 Cpl, 2 LCpls

(5) Casualties

KIA	24
DOW	3
NON HOSTILE DEATH	1
WIA EVAC	73
WIANE	56
NON HOSTILE WOUNDED	10
MIA	0
DAI	0

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c. Intelligence

(1) Personnel

(a) During the month of September 1968, the Battalion Intelligence Section lost one 1stLt/0302, one CySgt/0239, one Cpl/0231 and two Cpl's/0311. During the same period one 2ndLt/0301, one SSgt/0239, one Cpl/0311 and one PW/0331 were joined.

(b) An Interrogation Translation Team was employed with the Battalion Command Group, providing timely intelligence gained from field interrogations of POW's, detainees and local civilians.

(2) Collection. During the reporting period, the main collection efforts have been as follows:

(a) Enemy Order of Battle

(b) Enemy Infrastructure

(3) Enemy Activity.

(a) Synopsis. During the reporting period enemy activity consisted primarily of food gathering missions and political indoctrination of local villagers.

(b) Capabilities. Continued harrassing actions to include:

- a Sniping
- b Small scale probing attacks
- c Use of mines and booby-traps
- d Ambushes
- e Propaganda
- f Mortar and rocket attacks
- g Attacks by fire

(4) Vietnamese Attachments.

(a) Interpreters. The Battalion employs six (6) ARVN interpreters. Efforts are continually being made to ensure that each of the rifle companies, the Alfa Command and the S-5 have at least one qualified ARVN interpreter.

(b) Kit Carson Scouts. The Battalion is presently employing four (4) Kit Carson Scouts. They have been assigned to the three rifle companies working in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Area of Operation.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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(5) Enemy losses:

KIA: 65 NVA KIA, 10 VC KIA
 POW: 6 NVA POW, 8 VC POW
 DET: 24
 CHIEU HOI: 3

(6) Weather.

(a) Rainfall: Moderate

(b) Temperature:
 1. Avg. High; 86
 2. Avg. Low; 74

(c) Light:
 1. Avg. Sunrise; 0613H
 2. Avg. Sunset; 1927H

(7) Terrain. The terrain consisted of large open rice paddies mostly underwater due to the rainfall of the reporting period. Throughout the rice paddies were areas of highground on which the hamlets and villages were located. The approach routes and populated areas were enemy fortified for the most part.

(8) Captured Weapons. The following is the total weapons and equipment captured by the battalion during September 1968:

(a) Weapons. 4 RPD maxhinoguns, 7 B/41 rocket launchers, 1 60mm mortar, 2 RPG's, 21 AK-47, 2 M-1 carbines, 8 SKS rifles, 2 AK-44 carbines, 3 ChiCom pistols, 53,210 AK-47 rounds, 20 .30 caliber rounds, 255 B/41 rocket rounds, 19 82mm mortar rounds, 20 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 4 M-26 grenades, 40 ChiCom grenades, 3 anti-personnel mines and 1 RPD magazine drum.

(b) Equipment. 1 ChiCom radio, 1 short-wave radio, 1 EE-8 field-phone, 600 feet communications wire and approximately 45 pounds of miscellaneous 782 gear.

(c) Documents. 50 pounds

(d) Other. 21,275 pounds of rice, 3,600 pounds of corn, 850 pounds of tobacco, 100 pounds of potatoes, 96 enemy uniforms, 1 first-aid kit, 50cc of blood supplement and 20,000 SVN plasters

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~~SECRET~~(c) Training.

(1) Training included lectures, demonstrations, and/or practical applications in the following subjects:

- (a) Weapons
- (b) Radio Procedures
- (c) Spot Reports
- (d) FO & FAC Procedures
- (e) Field Communications Expedients
- (f) Fam firing of all individual and crew-served weapons.

(2) Seven Indoctrination Schools were conducted by 5th Marines. Classes on FO procedures, and on care and cleaning of the M-16 are included in the school syllabus.

(3) Personnel attended the following schools:

(a) Staff NCO Leadership School	2
(b) Embarkation School	2
(c) Officer Leadership School	2
(d) Vietnamese Language School	2
(e) NCO School	6
(f) Basic Organic Supply Accounting	2
(g) Movie Projector School	1
(h) Kit Carson Scout School	1
(i) Registered Publication School	1

(d) Operations.

(1) 090800H 3 Sept 68 Lima Co 3/5 chopped to 5th Marines 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines terminated Operation SUSSEX BAY and commenced Operation MAMELUKE THRUST.

(2) 110730H Sept 68 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed OPCON Lima Co from 5th Marines.

(3) 302400H Sept 68 Operation MAMELUKE THRUST continues.

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c. Artillery Support

(1) Battery F, 2nd Bn 11th Marines provided direct support to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines during the month of September. Artillery support was both timely and effective.

(2) A total of 8370 rounds were expended as follows:

(a) Observed Fire: 3135 (2300HE, 685 illum and 150 WP)

(b) Unobserved Fire: 5235 HE

(3) Preparation fires were used extensively. In order to better coordinate with air support, artillery prep fires were scheduled between 0500 and 0800 whenever possible.

(4) Nine TOT missions were fired on sites of previous enemy contact, intelligence targets and enemy sightings.

(5) An average of 30 H&I targets were fired each night.

d. Air Support

(1) Tactical Fixed Wing Support

(a) 76 TAC (A) controlled

(b) 12 FAC controlled

(2) Helicopter Support

(a) 37 medevac missions

(b) 5 Huey gunship strikes

(3) Miscellaneous

(a) 2 Flare ship missions

(b) 23 AO missions

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g. Communications

(1) Supported battalion operations with primary use of FM radio communications (AN/PRC-25); participating in the 5th Marines evaluation of the KY-38/PRC27.

(2) HF communications (AN/PRC-47) used to maintain liaison with Kilo Co attached to 26th Marines.

(3) Inspected by Division Communications (GEO) representatives. Evaluation was satisfactory with no discrepancies. Considered noteworthy were the maintenance and supply procedures, PM records, battery shop and the overall organization of the Comm Section.

(4) AN/PFS-6 was used extensively in the defense posture of the An Hoa combat base.

(5) Formal training on all procedures and equipment (150 hours) completed on all newly joined comm personnel including transfers from other units.

h. Logistics

(1) General. The overall logistics status of the battalion is satisfactory. Battalion S-4 has supported the battalion with resupplies on a daily basis. Due to the geographical location of the AN Hoa combat base, transportation of requisitioned supply items from Danang is limited.

(2) Supply Situation. Battalion supply will lose two (2) 3051's, one (1) 3041 and one (1) 2111 performing duty as the formal account clerk within the next thirty (30) days. Supply trained replacement personnel are ~~not readily available~~. 0311's are being assigned to these billets. Preparation is now being made to initiate a battalion rear in Danang. This will expedite the handling of essential supply items between Danang and An Hoa.

(3) Motor Transport. The motor transport section is still in need of three items of test equipment, test set tack and dwell, low voltage circuit tester, and adapter set electric.

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Problems still exist with slow arrival of requisitioned repair parts for the E-27/A2. This has caused unnecessary second echelon deadlines of NORS status.

The motor transport section has been assigned a motor transport chief. This alleviates the lack of Staff NCO supervision, previously experienced by the section.

1. Civic Action

Assistance was given to two (2) civilian medical evacuees.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

a. 28 Aug - 9 Sept 1968	Operation SUSSEX BAY
b. 2 Sept 1968	Capt. M. A. GURROLA assumed duties as INDIA Company Co.
c. 9 Sept 1968	Capt. J. D. NIOTIS assumed duties as Battalion S-4
d. 18 Sept 1968	1stLt G. C. FERRER assumed duties as Battalion Supply Officer
e. 21 Sept 1968	Maj. W. D. BURT assumed duties as Battalion S-3
f. 30 Sept 1968	Operation MAMELUKE THRUST continues.

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