

## HEADQUARTERS

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

3/EFHJR/rh  
5750  
6 Nov 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 312400H  
October 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 references (a), (b), and (c), the Command Chronology for the month of October 1968 is hereby submitted.

*H. E. Atkinson*  
H. E. ATKINSON

5TH MAR S&C FILES

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3rd BN/5th MAR

6000

OCT 1968

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

Command Chronology  
010001H to 312400H Oct 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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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	To 15Oct68
	LtCol H. E. ATKINSON	Fr 16Oct68

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	1stLt J. J. LAZARUS
Co "A"	Capt M. A. GURROLA
Co "B"	Capt D. W. MYERS
Co "C"	Capt R. G. SNOWDEN
Co "M"	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	CWO2 J. S. BISESI
S-2	1stLt K. J. SALAMON
S-3	Major W. F. BURT
S-4	Capt J. D. NIOTIS
SupplyO	1stLt G. C. FERREE
CommO	1stLt C. A. MOORE
MTO	1stLt J. D. ANDERSON

4. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC	
OFF	ENL
31	1194

USN	
OFF	ENL
3	55

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Period Covered</u>
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines	LtCol R. A. SEYMOUR LtCol H. E. ATKINSON	To 15Oct68 Fr 16Oct68

SUBORDINATE UNITS

W&S Co	1stLt J. J. LAZARUS
Co "I"	Capt M. A. GURROLA
Co "K"	Capt D. W. MYERS
Co "L"	Capt R. G. SNOWDEN
Co "M"	1stLt B. P. BARRON
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PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The Battalion's Officer shortages are one Capt. 0202, (1) Capt, (7) Lts 0302, (1) 1 Capt 0402, (1) 1 Capt 2502. The Battalion enlisted shortages are (2) 2 GySgt 0369 and (24) Sgts 03's. The Battalion has 70% of its M/L strength of Lts 03's 93% of its M/L strength in Staff NCO's 0369 and 44% of its M/L strength of Sgts 03's.
2. Operation MAMELUKE THRUST, in which this Battalion participated, terminated on 23 October 1968. The Battalion participated in Operation MAUI PEAK from 6 to 19 October 1968 under the operational control of the 7th Marines. The Battalion is presently engaged in Operation HENDERSON HILL which commenced on 23 October 1968.
3. Regimental Indoctrination School was attended by all newly joined personnel. After Operation MAUI PEAK the Battalion spent six days of rehabilitation and training at AN HOA. Training consisted of firing individual weapons, instructions in enemy mines and booby traps, patrolling, ambushes, FO and FAC procedures, and establishment of defensive positions. Additionally, all radio operators attended an intensive three day course in communication techniques and procedures conducted by the Battalion Communications Chief.

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PART III  
SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) The Battalion began the month of October with an on board strength of 33 Marine Officers, 1155 Marine Enlisted, 2 Navy Officers, and 55 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 28 Marine Officers, 1209 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 60 Navy Enlisted.

(2) The current effective strength of the Battalion is 23 Marine Officers, and 946 Marine Enlisted.

(3) Five Marine Officers, and 46 Marine Enlisted rotated during October 1968.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>MOS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
0302	4	0369	2
3002	1	2111	1
0231	1	2531	1
0311	28	3041	1
0331	2	3051	2
0341	2	3371	3
0351	2	3531	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 Capt
0302	32	24	1 Capt, 7 Lts
0402	1	0	1 Capt
0351	146	130	3 Sgts, 5 Cpls, 8 LCpls
3041	8	4	2 Cpls, 2 LCpls

(5) Casualties

KIA	10
DOW	1
NON HOSTILE DEATHS	1
WIA (EVAC)	34
WIANE	27
NON HOSTILE WOUNDED	21
MIA	0
DAI	0

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b. Intelligence(1) Personnel

(a) During the month of October 1968, the Battalion Intelligence Section lost one Sgt/0311, one Cpl/0341 and one Cpl/0311. During the same period, one Sgt/0311 and LCpl/0331 were joined.

(b) During the reporting period, one Interrogator Translator Team was effectively employed.

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

- (a) Enemy Order of Battle
- (b) Enemy Infrastructure
- (c) Rice denial

(3) The Battalion S-2 Section conducted daily Commander and Staff briefings during October 1968.

(4) Enemy Activity

(a) Synopsis. During the reporting period enemy activity consisted of food gathering, political indoctrination, recruiting, terrorism, and small scale attacks against US/ARVN military installations.

(b) Capabilities. Continued harrassing actions include:

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

(5) Vietnamese Attachments

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

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(b) Kit Carson Scouts. The Battalion is presently employing (6) Kit Carson Scouts. They have been assigned to the four rifle companies working in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Area of Operations.

(6) Enemy Losses:

KIA: 24 NVA KIA, 19 VC KIA  
 POW: 2 VC POW's, 1 NVA POW  
 DET: 16  
 CHIEU HOI: 0

(7) Weather

- (a) Rainfall: Moderate to Heavy
- (b) Temperature:
  - (1) Avg. High: 82
  - (2) Avg. Low: 70
- (c) Light:
  - (1) Avg. Sunrise: 0638
  - (2) Avg. Sunset: 1827

(8) Terrain. The terrain through which the Battalion moved, during the reporting period, varied from low agricultural areas, to high dense canopy. The lowlands were a series of rice paddies, hamlets and treelines. The high ~~terrain~~ consisted of thick overgrowth punctuated by a series of trail networks. Approach routes in both areas were usually enemy fortified.

(9) Captured Weapons. The following is the total of weapons and equipment captured by the Battalion during October 1968:

(a) Weapons. 1 SKS rifle, 1 M-1 carbine, 10 AK-47 rifles, 29 ChiCom grenades, 1 M-26 grenade, 1 M-14 rifle, 7 82mm mortar rounds, 627 AK-47 rounds, 8 B-40 rocket rounds, 1 57mm RR round, 75 7.62 red tracer rounds, 85 .50 cal. tracer rounds, 30 12.7 HMG rounds, 4 AK-47 magazines, 50 75mm RR canisters.

(b) Equipment. 1 short wave radio, 1 NVA helmet, 1 transistor radio.

(c) 782 Gear. 5 pounds

(d) Documents. 18 pounds

(e) Other. 24,395 lbs of rice

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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.
- (g) Mines and booby traps

(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) Embarkation School	2
(b) Staff NCO School	2
(c) Basic Infantry Weapon School	1
(d) Basic Ammo Tech	1
(e) Basic Organic Supply	1
(f) Officer Leadership School	2
(g) NCO School	7
(h) Career Advisors School	1

d. Operations

(1) 051830H Oct 1968 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed OPCON Charlie 1/1.

(2) 060800H Oct 1968 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped from Fifth Marines to Seventh Marines. Operation MAMELUKE THRUST temporarily terminated for this battalion and MAUI PEAK commenced.

(3) 191800H Oct 1968 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines reports OPCON to Fifth Marines and simultaneously chopped Charlie 1/1 to First Marines. Operation MAUI PEAK terminated.

(4) 211505H Oct 1968 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed OPCON Kilo company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(5) 231200H Oct 1968 Operation MAMELUKE THRUST terminated, and Operation HENDERSON HILL commenced.

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Artillery Support

(1) During the month of October 3/5 was supported by the 11th Marines. E 2/11 provided support from 6 to 19 October. General and direct support was provided to the 11th Marines for the remaining part of the month. Through the use of a centralized battalion fire direction center, any battery in the battalion could be in our support at any given time.

(2) There were 27 observed missions and 19 unobserved missions, 26 white phosphorous, 2853 HE and 81 illumination. A total of 3106 rounds were fired in the month of October.

(3) From 6 to 19 October 90% of the missions utilized fuze delay which had very effective results on enemy fortifications and bunkers accounting for the majority of targets. Fuze quick reacted similarly to that of VT fuze resulting in an air burst when detonated by the 20 foot canopy.

f. Air Support(1) Tactical Fixed Wing Support

- (a) 9 FAC controlled
- (b) 23 TAC (A) controlled

(2) Helicopter Support

- (a) 12 Medevac missions
- (b) 2 Troopliffts

(3) Miscellaneous

- (a) 18 A0 missions

g. Communications

(1) Supported Battalion operations with primary use of FM radio communications (AN/PRC-25)

(2) This command was supported by normal FM communications during the month of October. No major problems were experienced.

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

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h. Logistics The overall logistics status of the battalion is satisfactory. Battalion S-4 has supported the battalion while in the field with resupplies on a daily basis.

i. Civic Action

(1) MEDCAPS: 720 Vietnamese Nationals were treated during the period covered. Medcaps were held at the Battalion C.F. area as well as the An Hoa area.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| a. 06 Oct 1968 | Operation MAMELUKE THRUST temporarily terminated and Operation MAUI PEAK commenced |
| b. 16 Oct 1968 | LtCol. H. E. ATKINSON assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines                |
| c. 19 Oct 1968 | Operation MAUI PEAK terminated   |
| d. 23 Oct 1968 | Operation MAMELUKE THRUST terminated and operation HENDERSON HILL commenced        |