

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

~~SECRET~~

3/EFHJR/rm  
5750  
5 Jan 1969

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

Subj: Command Chronology for the period of 010001H to 312400H  
December 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's (a), (b), and (c), the Command Chronology for the month of December 1968 is hereby submitted.

2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to unclassified.

3. This letter is signed by the Executive Officer due to the nonavailability of the Commanding Officer by virtue of combat commitments.

5TH MAR S&C FILES

0016-69
COPY NO. 5 OF 6

E. F. Hertling Jr.  
By direction

315 S&C  
004-69

COPY# 7 of 11 COPIES

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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Command Chronology  
010001H to 312400H Dec 1968

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- Part I - Organizational Data
- Part II - Narrative Data
- Part III - Sequential Listings of Significant Events

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	1stLt J. J. LAZARUS To 5Dec68 Capt T. P. BURNS Fr 6Dec68
Co "I"	Capt M. A. GURROLA
Co "K"	1stLt W. W. RIGGS
Co "L"	Capt R. G. SNOWDEN To 17Dec68 1stLt H. B. OVERTON Fr 18Dec68
Co "M"	1stLt B. P. BARRON To 6Dec68 1stLt R. A. HUDSON Fr 7Dec68

2. Location Quang Nam Province, RVN

3. Staff Officers

ExecO	Major E. F. HERTLING Jr.
S-1	1stLt W. G. BINES Jr.
S-2	1stLt K. J. SALAMON
S-3	Major W. F. BURT
S-4	1stLt W. C. HOEY To 22Dec68 Capt R. A. BEELER Fr 23Dec68
SupplyO	1stLt G. C. FERREE
CommO	1stLt D. W. RODDY
MTO	1stLt G. C. FERREE

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
27	1131	3	58

PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The battalion's officer shortages are one WO 0130, one Capt 0202, two Capt's and one Lt 0302, one Lt 3502, and one Capt 0402. The Battalion enlisted shortages are: three GySgt's, six SSgt's 0369, and 56 Sgt's 03. The Battalion has 95% of its M/L strength of Lt's 03, 73% of its M/L strength in Staff NCO's 0369, and 34% of its M/L strength in Sgt's 03.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART III  
SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) The Battalion began the month of December with an on board strength of 30 Marine Officers, 1122 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 58 Navy enlisted. The current on board strength is 32 Marine Officers, 1115 Marine enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 60 Navy enlisted.

(2) The current effective strength of the battalion is 25 Marine Officers, and 940 Marine enlisted.

(3) 3 Marine Officers, and 67 Marine Enlisted rotated during December 1968.

MOS	NUMBER	MOS	NUMBER
0130	1	2111	1
0302	2	2511	1
0141	3	2531	3
0311	34	2533	2
0331	2	2519	1
0341	8	2539	1
0351	6	2542	1
0369	1	2815	1
1441	1	3516	1

(4) Critical MOS shortages are shown below:

MOS	M/L	OH	SHORTAGES
0202	1	0	1 Capt
0302	32	29	2 Capt's, 1 Lt
0402	1	0	1 Capt
3502	1	0	1 Lt
0311	586	573	13 Sgt's
0369	33	24	3 GySgt's, 6 SSgt's

(5) Casualties

KIA	4
DOW	4
NON HOSTILE DEATHS	0

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WIA (EVAC)	35
WIANE	28
NON HOSTILE WOUNDED	5
MIA	0
DAI	0

b. Intelligence(1) Personnel

(a) During the month of December 1968, the Battalion Intelligence Section lost one Cpl/0331 Scout and transferred one LCpl/0311 Scout. One PFC/0311 Scout was added and then dropped when Medevaced out of RVN. During this same period, two PFC's/0311 Scouts were joined.

(b) During the reporting period, one Interrogator Translator Team, one Scout Sniper Team and three Scout Dog Teams were employed for portions of the reporting period.

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

- (a) Enemy Order of Battle
- (b) Enemy Infrastructure
- (c) Enemy supply denial
- (d) PSYOP's operations
- (e) Map corrections

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

(4) Enemy Activity

(a) Synopsis During the reporting period, enemy activity consisted of food gathering, small scale attacks against US/ARVN military installations, continued use of mines and booby traps and stepped up recruiting and political indoctrination of the local populace.

(b) Capabilities Continued harrassing actions include:

- a Sniping

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

(5) Vietnamese Attachments

(a) Interpreters The Battalion is presently employing (4) ARVN Interpreters. Continuing efforts are being made to obtain (2) additional interpreters in order that each of the rifle companies, the Alpha Command and the S-5, have at least one qualified ARVN Interpreter.

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

(6) Enemy Losses:

KIA:	63	NVA
POW:	0	
DET:	0	
CHIEU HOI:	0	

(7) Weather

- (a) Rainfall: Light
- (b) Temperature:
  - (1) Avg. High; 82
  - (2) Avg. Low; 72
- (c) Light:
  - (1) Avg. Sunrise; 0707
  - (2) Avg. Sunset; 1818

(8) Terrain For the first portion of the reporting period the Battalion moved through rice paddy area. The last portion of the reporting period was steep mountainous terrain and for the most part covered with dense canopy. Approach routes were often booby trapped and so marked by the enemy.

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

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a. Weapons 9 ChiCom grenades, 10 pound anti-personnel booby trap, .30 cal. ammo, SKS ammo, and AK-47 ammo

b. Equipment 1 flash light battery, assorted men's and women's clothing, 1 SKS clip, and 1 AK-47 magazine

c. 782 Gear 2 gas masks, 2 cartridge belts, 1 rifle bag, 1 canteen, and 1 NVA pack

d. Documents 30 pounds assorted documents, 1 map of the An Hoa area, 1 map of the Da Nang area, admittance papers to hospital and medical text books

e. Other 1,500 pounds rice, 1 VC battle flag, 2 medical bags, and assorted medical supplies consisting of bottles, vials, syringes, needles, and tablets

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 Communication Expedients
- (f) FAM firing of all individual and crew served weapons
- (g) Mines and booby traps

(2) Seven Indoctrination Schools were conducted by the 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) NCO School                             | 4 |
| (b) SNCO School                            | 2 |
| (c) Kit Carson Scout School                | 1 |
| (d) Basic Organic Supply Accounting School | 2 |
| (e) Basic Infantry Weapons Repair School   | 1 |
| (f) Vietnamese Language School             | 1 |

d. Operations

(1) At 051300H Dec 68 Operation MEADE RIVER terminated.

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- (2) At 062400H Dec 68 Operation HENDERSON HILL terminated
- (3) At 070001H Dec 68 Operation TAYLOR COMMON commenced.
- (4) At 091600H Dec 68 Mike company 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped from 5th Marines to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Lima company 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 5th Marines, and Bravo company 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines to 5th Marines simultaneously.
- (5) At 110001H Dec 68 5th Marines chopped 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (-) Lima company to the Third Marines.
- (6) At 301800H Dec 68 Lima company 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to Third Marines for return to OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

e. Artillery Support

- (1) The 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines provided both direct and general support to the Battalion for Operations MEADE RIVER and TAYLOR COMMON during 1-11 Dec 1968. In addition to 500 H&I rounds fired, 1,439 rounds of HE, 121 rounds of WP and 13 rounds of illumination were fired on 30 called missions, 25 observed fire missions (15 registration NDF) and five unobserved fire missions.
- (2) The 1st Battalion, 12th Marines, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines and 1st FAG, G/S Task Force Yankee provided both direct and general support to the Battalion for Operation TAYLOR COMMON during the last 20 days of December. These units fired 2,850 rounds of HE, 189 rounds of WP, and 17 rounds of illumination on 24 observed fire missions (primarily registration NDF) and two unobserved fire missions.
- (3) A total of 5,129 rounds were fired in support of this Battalion.

f. Air Support

- (1) Tactical Fixed Wing Support
  - (a) 3 FAC controlled
  - (b) 12 TAC (A) controlled
- (2) Helicopter Support
  - (a) 22 Medevac missions

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(3) Miscellaneous

(a) 13 AO missions

g. Communications

(1) Supported Battalion Operations with primary use of FM radio communications (AN/PRC-25, AN/PRC-77 w/KY-38).

(2) AN/PPS-6 was used extensively in the defense of the An Hoa Combat Base.

h. Logistics

(1) General The overall logistic status of the battalion is satisfactory. Battalion S-4 has resupplied the battalion in the field on a daily basis.

(2) Supply This unit has a shortage of 912 body armor upper. The battalion has received shipping status on a Trailer, Tank, Water from Barstow. The item has not yet arrived. This item is needed to resupply water to the units in the field. Rubber mattresses are needed to permit the troops in the field to sleep off the ground.

(3) Motor Transport Three items of test equipment, Test Set Tac and Dwell, Low Voltage Circuit Tester, and Adapter Set Electric have been requisitioned. They are considered essential to the efficiency of the motor transport section.

i. Civic Action

(1) PSYOPS: 800 hand leaflets were distributed. The themes were: Chieu Hoi & Rewards

(2) An armed propaganda team was used on Operation MEADE RIVER.

(3) 3 dozen pens, 25 pounds candy, and 100 pounds of clothing were distributed on Christmas day.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- |               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. 5 Dec 1968 | Operation MEADE RIVER terminated    |
| b. 6 Dec 1968 | Operation HENDERSON HILL terminated |
| c. 7 Dec 1968 | Operation TAYLOR COMMON commenced   |

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d. 31 Dec 1968

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines con-  
tinues on Operation TAYLOR  
COMMON

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