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HEADQUARTERS
7th Communication Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/RLG/wjh
5700
3 August 1966
SER: 00-12-66

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced), FMF
(SC-3: Attention: Field Historian)
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A
Encl: (1) Command Chronology
(2) Appendix 1 List of references
(3) Appendix 2 List of documents

1. In compliance with reference (a) enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

James H. Bird Jr.
JAMES H. BIRD JR.

S & C FILES
HEADQUARTERS
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF

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DOD DIR 5200.10

18 (18) to Appendix A to Enclosure (1)
to 1st Mar Div ltr Ser: 6201-66.

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HEADQUARTERS
 7th Communication Battalion
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Headquarters, 7th Communication Battalion
 Headquarters Company
 Communication Company
 Communication Support Company
 Radio Relay and Construction Company

LOCATION

Headquarters, 7th Communication Battalion	Chu Lai, RVN
Headquarters Company	Chu Lai, RVN
Communication Company	Chu Lai, RVN
Communication Support Company	DaNang, RVN
Radio Relay and Construction Company	Chu Lai, RVN

Period Covered: 1-31 July 1966

Name, Rank, of Commanding Officer, Staff and Chief Subordinates:

Commanding Officer: Major JAMES H. BIRD Jr.
 1-31 July 1966

Executive Officer: Major E. A. HUERLIMANN Jr.
 1-31 July 1966

Adjutant: 2ndLt R. L. DANIELS
 1-31 July 1966

S-1: 2ndLt J. E. SOMMERHAUSER
 1-30 July 1966

2ndLt R. L. DANIELS
 31 July 1966

S-3: Major R. V. WALKER Jr.
 1-31 July 1966

S-4: Major N. B. WYNN
 1-31 July 1966

Headquarters Company
 Commanding Officer: Captain A. R. BERGSTROM
 1-25 July 1966

Captain C. W. ROSS
 25-31 July 1966

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Communication Company
Commanding Officer:

Major R. O. LAFSER
1-31 July 1966

Executive Officer:

Captain G. R. HICKS
1-6 July 1966

Communication Support Company
Commanding Officer:

Captain C. FARLEY
1-31 July 1966

Executive Officer:

Captain D. B. NEWTON
1-31 July 1966

Radio Relay & Construction Co.
Commanding Officer:

Captain R. A. MATHIESON
1-31 July 1966

Executive Officer:

Captain C. W. ROSS
1-25 July 1966

Captain G. R. HICKS
28-31 July 1966

COMMANDERS NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Commanders Narrative Summary

1. 7th Communication Battalion (-), consisting of Headquarters Company and Communication Company arrived Chu Lai, Vietnam 1 July 1966 on the USS OKANOGAN APA-220. Off-loading commenced at 1000 and was completed at 0600 3 July 1966. Radio Relay & Construction Company which arrived in Vietnam during the period March through June 1966 reverted ADCON/OPCON to 7th Communication Battalion from Headquarters Battalion 1st Marine Division on 1 July 1966.
2. Communication Support Company arrived Chu Lai 19 July 1966 on the LST LITCHFIELD COUNTY with 6 Marine Officers and 95 Marine Enlisted including two Navy Corpsman.
3. On 24 July 1966 Communication Support Company departed with 6 Marine Officers and 110 Marine Enlisted including 1 Navy Corpsman for DaNang with OPCON to III MAF, ADCON to remain with 7th Communication Battalion.
4. During the month of July this organization has had personnel operating in DaNang with III MAF and 1st MAW, has furnished Radio Relay Teams for Operations FRANKLIN and HASTINGS, and has commenced the rehabilitation and expansion of the Chu Lai area cable system to include pole line construction.

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5. Personnel from this organization have commenced on-the-job training on circuits and equipment now operated by the 1st Marine Division in preparation for assuming responsibility for the Chu Lai area Communication Systems.

6. On 30-31 July 1966 Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company displaced to the new Command Post at BS527098 being constructed by 9th Engineers.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. PERSONNEL:

	USMC OFFICERS	USMC ENLISTED	USN OFFICERS	USN ENLISTED
1. 1 July 1966	32	555	0	9
2. 19 July 1966	6	93	0	2
3. Total of 31 July 1966	37	646	0	10

4. Total number of personnel TAD as to location, by rank and MOS are as follows:

III MAF	WO	5910	1
III MAF	PFC	2532	10
III MAF	LCPL	2831	2
1st MAW	SGT	2861	2
III MAF	CPL	2831	5
1st MAW	LCPL	2831	2
1st MAW	PFC	2831	1
III MAF	LCPL	2532	1
1st MAW	CPL	2532	1
1st MAW	PFC	2532	3
III MAF	PFC	2831	2
III MAF	SGT	2861	1
III MAF	CPL	2532	3
11th MAR	PFC	2532	1
MAG-12	PFC	2543	4
MAG-11	PFC	2543	1
MAG-36	PFC	2543	2
MAG-16	PFC	2543	3
11th MAR	PFC	2511	2
11th MAR	LCPL	2511	1
7th MAR	PFC	2511	3

Total number TAD is 51 personnel from this command as of 31 July 1966.

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~~REF ID: A64987~~

6. The personnel shortages and overages within this Battalion as of 31 July 1966 are attached in Appendix 2. While the Battalion is at approximately 95% Manning level in total numbers, there is an inequitable rank and MOS distribution. Of particular concern is the shortage of 20 MOS 2541 and 13 MOS 2561.

7. Replacements: NA

8. Discipline, law and order: No problems have been encountered.

9. Prisoners of War: NA

10. Grave Registration: NA

11. Morale and Personnel Service: Pay, Religion, Special Services, R&R Facilities, Leave and Liberty, Postal Service and Red Cross Facilities are considered adequate. Pay records for Communication Support Company have not been received.

B. ADMINISTRATION:

1. The only major problem encountered during the change of ADMINISTRATION and OPERATIONAL CONTROL from Force Troops, FMFPac to the 1st Marine Division was the failure to receive message traffic while in transit. Traffic addressed to this organization was routed to Chu Lai, USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY, USS OGDEN COUNTY and occasionally to the USS OKANOGAN.

2. Since our arrival Communication Support Company has CHOPPED to III MAF while ADMIN CONTROL is retained by 7th Communication Battalion.

C. INTELLIGENCE:

1. NA

D. TRAINING:

1. During the period 22-23 July 1966, 58 Officers and men attended the Mine and Booby Trap School presented by the 1st Engineer Battalion. Additional classes are scheduled for August.

2. Personnel have been assigned on-the-job training on circuits and equipment now operated by the 1st Marine Division, which includes the Communication Center and the Model 28 Teletype equipment, Torn Tape Relay Facilities, the FSCC, the Combat Operation Center and the Switchboard MTC-1.

E. SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

1. Detachments of Radio Relay and Construction Company consisting of AN/MRC-62 equipment and teams participated in Operations FRANKLIN and HASTINGS.

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2. At present this organization has 11 AN/TRC-27, 5 AN/MRC-62, and 1 MRC-63 Radio Relay equipments with teams operating at DaNang in support of III MAF.

3. Communication Support Company is in DaNang under OPCON of the 5th Communication Battalion, providing support to 1st Military Police Battalion and FLC.

4. Three (3) personnel were assigned to assist in the testing of radio communications from Special Forces camps to the Division C.P. utilizing AN/PRC-25 and AN/PRC-47 Radio Equipment.

5. Switchboards, SB-86, have been installed and are now operated by personnel from this organization at the 7th and 11th Marines C.P.'s.

6. The Chu Lai Defense Command wire system is operated and maintained by this organization.

F. COMMAND AND CONTROL:

1. The 7th Communication Battalion is under the Administrative Control of the 1st Marine Division, REIN, FMF.

2. Operational control of Headquarters Company, Communication Company and Radio Relay and Construction Company remain with 7th Communication Battalion under the 1st Marine Division, REIN, FMF.

3. Communication Support Company CHOPPED to III MAF on 24 July 1966.

G. CLOSE COMBAT:

1. NA

H. FIRE SUPPORT:

1. NA

I. LOGISTICS:

1. Adequate materials for camp construction were not immediately available to this organization. Although 107 strongback tents had been allocated to this organization, the material for such construction was not released until 27 July 1966. Only a partial release was made at that time or about 30% of required material.

2. Supply Support is much better than anticipated, the requisition fill rate has been about 30% fill of about 700 requisitions. It appears that supply support is hampered by the use of the computerized stock control system locally. Computer down time appears to cause many problems. Frequently, required items can be found in storage lots but computer inventory balances are zero.

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4. Maintenance support has been outstanding. Maintenance Company of FLSC-B is very cooperative and the various shop officers in charge exert every effort to perform timely repairs.

J. AIR DEFENSE:

1. NA

K. COMBAT AIR SUPPORT:

1. NA

L. CIVIL AFFAIRS/CIVIC ACTION:

1. 2ndLt SOMMERHAUSER was assigned the duties as the Battalion Civic Action Officer during the period 1-30 July 1966. 2ndLt KINDLER was subsequently assigned on 31 July 1966 on transfer of 2ndLt SOMMERHAUSER.

2. In that this organization arrived in Chu Lai on 1 July 1966 and has been in the process of establishing a camp area while simultaneously conducting on-the-job training on Division equipment and circuitry, Civic Action Programs were not conducted nor participated in. It is anticipated that upon completion of the permanent camp, coordination with the 1st Marine Division G-5 will permit this organization to actively participate in one or more of the programs.

M. NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL, or other special warfares:

1. NA

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REFERENCES

- (a) DivO 5750.1A
- (b) DivO 5750.2A
- (c) MARCORMAN, Par 5750.2
- (d) MCO 5750.2
- (e) DivO 3480.1

APPENDIX 1

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~~DOCUMENTS~~

✓ 1. Table of MOS, by rank of M/L and O/H of personnel of 7th Communication Battalion.

APPENDIX II

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As of 2359 31 July 1966

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MOS	E-9		Gen/E-8		Col/E-7		LtCol/E-6		Maj/E-5		Capt/E-4		Lt/E-3		CWO/WO/E-2/1		TOTAL	
	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H
0131															2	1		2 1
0406									1									1 0
2501															6			0 6
2502						1			5	5	12	7	8	7			26	19
2805													1	3	5		6	3
2810													2	2		3	2	
3002											1						1	0
3010																1	0	1
3502											1	1					1	1
5910													2			2	0	4
TOTAL						1	0	6	5	14	8	11	21	8	3	40	37	
ENLISTED																		
0121									1	1							1	1
0141						1	1	2	4	3	1	2	6	2	2	9	14	19
0441									1								1	1
0849			1	1													1	1
1141											1		1	1	2	2	4	3
1341											1		1	1	1	4	3	5
1345												1					1	0
1411								2			3					2	3	4
1461													1					1
2111										1		1			3	2		4
TOTAL																		

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As of 2359 31 July 1966

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MOS	E-9		Gen/E-8		Col/E-7		LtCol/E-6		Maj/E-5		Capt/E-4		Lt/E-3		CWO/M/2/1		TOTAL	
	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H	M/L	O/H
3041					1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	3	3	14	11	23
3042											1						0	1
3051									1		6		4	1	3	7	14	8
3371					1		1	1	2	2	3	3	4	1	2	7	13	14
3516							1	1	5	4	6		8	9	6	5	26	19
3531									3	1	8	4	12	9	33	47	56	61
3537	1	1			2	1		1									3	3
5711				1			1			1		1					1	3
9999	1	1	4	4													5	5
8404					1	1	2	2	3	3	5	4					11	10
TOTAL	1	2	11	7	21	15	37	29	94	42	139	79	185	123	191	359	679	656