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HEADQUARTERS
3rd Battalion, 7th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3A/JEC/gad
5750
04 July 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines
Subj: Command Chronology; month of June 1966
Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A

Encl: (1) 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Chronology with attachments.
1. In accordance with reference (a), the command chronology for the month of June 1966 is submitted with attachments.

[Handwritten Signature]
E. B. DEWITT

3/7

3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No
283-66 Copy # 1010
501-033-66

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June 1966

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

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3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINES COMMAND CHRONOLOGY WITH ATTACHMENTS

A. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA:

1. Designation and location of reporting unit: 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FME, Chu-Lai, Republic of Vietnam
2. Period covered: 1 June to 30 June 1966
3. Commanding Officer LtCol B. B. DEWITT
 Executive Officer Maj C. R. VORGANG
 S-1 Adjutant 1st Lt J. J. COVERT 1 - 19 June
 S-2 Officer SSgt H. C. ALDERIN 20 - 30 June
 Capt W. M. CLAPP 1 - 18 June
 SSgt C. G. PUTNAM 19 - 30 June
 S-3 Officer Maj R. A. CLARK 1 - 9 June
 Capt J. E. CLEMENTS 10 - 24 June
 Maj D. L. DIAMOND 25 - 30 June
 S-4 Officer Capt H. E. F. VONCARP
 Communications Officer Capt H. C. SCHROEDER
 Supply Officer Gysgt L. A. WEST 1 - 3 June
 2ndLt G. R. KEMPER 4 - 30 June
 Motor Transport Officer 1st Lt H. R. MARWITZ 1 - 9 June
 SSgt S. B. JOHNS 10 - 30 June
 Bn Surgeon Lt (MC) M. G. ASKAR 1 - 14 June
 Lt (MC) A. L. MANALE 15 - 30 June
 Lt (CHC) W. W. EPTS
 Bn Chaplain Capt E. T. FITZGERALD 1 - 3 June
 H&S Company Capt M. J. QUINN 4 - 18 June
 Capt P. R. GOTTLIEB 19 - 30 June
 "I" Company Capt P. R. GOTTLIEB 1 - 18 June
 Capt W. M. CLAPP 19 - 30 June
 "K" Company 1st Lt W. L. BYRD 1 - 19 June
 Capt M. J. QUINN 20 - 30 June
 "L" Company Capt M. J. QUINN 1 - 3 June
 1st Lt H. B. WILBER 4 - 30 June
 "M" Company Capt T. V. DRAUDE
4. Average Strength USMC: 21 Officers USN: 3 Officers
 840 Enlisted 53 Enlisted

The total number of personnel on hand within 3/7 as of 30 June 1966 is 906. The total effective strength on 30 June 1966 is 853.

During the month of June 116 new personnel were joined to this unit, while 144 were dropped from the rolls.

A total of 129 personnel have rotated, 25 personnel were KIA.

This Battalion in category C-3 on 30 June 1966.

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B. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

At 011130H the 3rd Platoon of Company "I" while on a recon mission at BS 521962 captured 2 VC, one male and one female. At 011230H Company "I" at BS 523935 received 40 small arms rounds and 3 mortar rounds enemy fire from BS 522937 and BS 524934 from approximately 8 VC. Company "I" pursued by fire with negative results.

At 021130H a squad from Company "I" on a Recon/Combat mission at BS 538983 found a booby trap consisting of a 105mm projectile on top of a buried 60mm mortar round. The booby trap was destroyed in place.

At 030900H a squad from Company "I" on a recon/combat patrol at BS 564948 received 3 rounds semi-automatic sniper fire from BS 564948. At the same location three female VCS were captured near a haystack which was burning and from which ammo was exploding. Search of the haystack revealed expended 30 cal. cartridges. At 030945H the same patrol at BS 574948, received numerous small arms sniper rounds from BS 574948. The patrol maneuvered and swept through the sniper position. The VC broke contact and fled.

At 061500H Company "I" at BS 524936 on a search and destroy mission found three female VCS without identification cards. Suspects were turned over to ITT.

At 062100H Company "K" at BS 521999 received approximately 30 rounds small arms fire. Company "K" returned fire with approximately 100 rounds small arms fire under 81mm illumination with negative results.

At 080800H the rear vehicle of a convoy to Quang Ngai was hit by an electrically detonated mine vicinity coordinates BS 593935 resulting in one friendly WIA non-med evac. The security element consisted of a platoon from CO. "I" 3/7. The security element searched area and found one VCS fleeing. The road was checked and one additional mine was found. It consisted of three 105 rounds wired for electrical detonation. The mine was blown in place.

At 081550H a platoon from Company "I" while conducting a sweep vicinity coordinates BS 585946 set off a mine resulting in one friendly WIA.

At 090700H Company "I" and Company "L" departed 3/7 CP to commence operation "Clean Sweep". At 100815H Company "L" apprehended one VCS at BS 515925 with no I.D. He admitted being a VC guerrilla from Tan Phuoc 4 BS 524906.

At 101330H Company "L" at BS 521901 in conjunction with "Clean Sweep" routed two VC from a tree-line ambush. The two VC were killed. One U.S. Carbine, one Russian Carbine, two grenades, two cartridge belts, a wallet and papers were recovered from the VC.

At 111130H Company "L" at BS 500913 sighted eight VC without weapons. The VC fled and were pursued by fire resulting in two VC KIA and six VC captured. Captured equipment included two bags of rice, one hammock and one poncho. VC were processed to ITT.

At 111810H an element of 81mm mortars manning OP#35 spotted approximately (10) VC BT 529005 trying to get through the tactical wire. OP#35 personnel took the VC under fire with s/a and hand grenades. The VC fled into the brush and broke contact. An 81mm fire mission was requested and fired with excellent coverage.

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At 112300H Company "L" at BS 52492A received one hand grenade in their position causing two friendly WIA and evac. Company "L" observed two VC moving across a rice paddy and took them under fire. The VC did not return fire. At first light a patrol was dispatched to search the area and reported finding two separate blood trails leading from the area.

At 112325H an element of 81mm mortars manning OP#35 were probed by an undetermined number of VC at BT 531006. OP#35 personnel returned fire with small arms. Illumination was called for and received and 81mm mortar and 107 mm fire missions were fired, resulting in one probable VC KIA.

At 121015H Company "L" at BS 550918 heard a shot fired and saw three people running south across the ridge line. An element was deployed to check the area and was taken under fire. The element returned fire, and one figure fell. He was picked up by the other two and taken over the ridge line.

At 131200H a four man team from Company "I" while drawing water from a well and passing out candy to children in Thanh Tra (2) BS 535947 received three hand grenades and two rounds of small arms fire from three VC resulting in three friendly WIA. A squad from Company "I" pursued the VC and received six rounds of 60mm mortar at vicinity BS 531948. Company "I" swept Thanh Tra (2) and the surrounding vicinity. The VC fled and broke contact.

At 181800H two Company "I" recon patrols captured one VCC at BS 525958 and two VCS at BS 538961. The VCC and VCS fled as the patrols approached. They were pursued and captured. One of the VCS was of military age. The VCC's name appeared on the blacklist and he admitted being a VC intelligence agent after being questioned by an interpreter.

At 201430H Company "I" at BS 534946 apprehended 3 VCS from village at same location. Information was received from VCS apprehended 201330H. All three names appeared on blacklist. One VCS admitted working for VC, for seven months as chief of farmers association for same village. A search of the homes of the VCS produced negative results.

At 202330H the Company "M" squad manning OP#35 at BT 532002 heard movement in front of their position at BT 533005. The Marines fired three rounds small arms and received approximately 6 rounds small arms in return. The Marines returned fire and received approximately 100 rounds small arms. Illumination was requested. Under the illumination approximately eleven VC were observed. The Marines fired approximately 300 more rounds small arms. The VC broke contact and fled into the brush. Then a small light appeared in the vicinity of BT535005. The Marines fired 3 rounds at the light and it went out.

At 210030H the 3rd Platoon of Company "L" manning OP#39 at BS 573965 received five recoilless rifle rounds and 300 - 400 automatic and semi-automatic small arms rounds from BS 568595, 573962, and 575965. The Marines ignited 10 illumination hand flares and called for mortar illumination. Under the illumination the Marines returned fire with approximately 50 rounds small arms. A search at first light revealed two fin assemblies from a Russian RIG-2, an unexploded American made rifle grenade and numerous fragments of RFG-2s.

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At 241430H a Company "L" recon/ combat patrol at BS 582948 received approximately 50 rounds automatic and semi-automatic small arms fire. Two VC were spotted from OP#39 and the patrol returned fire of approximately 30 rounds small arms. The patrol swept the area with negative results. As the patrol continued their mission they received fire again from approximately 10 VC at BS 583938. Five 106mm RR rounds from OP#39 were fired at the location of the 2 VC at BS 582948, and the patrol returned fire of approximately 70 rounds small arms on the 10 VC. The VC broke contact and fled south toward Highway #1. The patrol was unable to pursue because the Popular Forces were firing at the VC also and stray rounds were coming into the patrols position.

At 250820H Company "L" on a recon mission at BS 571938, received thirty rounds of sniper fire from an estimated reinforced squad from the vicinity of BS 572938, causing one friendly WIA. Company "L" returned fire with five WP rifle grenades, 10 M-79 rounds, and 300 small arms rounds. A female coming out of the village, who had no ID card, was apprehended as a VCS.

At 261005H an Ontos attached to Company "I" was proceeding along the road from Company "I" to OP#39. At BS 554956 the Ontos detonated a small mine and fired its machine guns at some fleeing VC in the vicinity of BS 554955. The Ontos proceeded along the road for approximately 50 meters and detonated a second mine resulting in one KIA and one WIA. Company "I" dispatched another Ontos and a security element to the scene. The second Ontos fired its machine gun and two rounds of 106mm at suspected VC movement in the vicinity of BS 553972. The first mine appeared to be a home made type wrapped in plastic and the second, a 155mm round electrically wired.

At 261230H Company "I" on a search and destroy mission at BS 521915 received one M-79 round and approximately 30 rounds automatic fire from the vicinity of BS 522913. Company "I" returned fire with 8 M-79 rounds, five 3.5 rounds and approximately 400 small arms rounds.

From 270120H until 270320H the artillery personnel and the Company "L" security squad manning OP#39, BS 572964, received approximately 2000 rounds of automatic and semi-automatic small arms fire and approximately six grenades from an undetermined number of VC from the vicinity of BS 571968, BS 566966, BS 565962 and BS 578967. The OP personnel returned fire with approximately 2000 rounds small arms, 350 - 50 caliber machine gun rounds, 12 M-79s, 3 - 106 rounds, 6 LAWs, and 12 frag grenades. The VC ceased fire and broke contact at approximately 270320H. A search at first light produced negative results.

At 291400H a platoon (-) combat patrol from Company "L" at BS 572947 received five 60mm mortar rounds from the vicinity of BS 570920 and automatic weapons fire from BS 578928 causing one friendly KIA and two friendly WIA who were med evaced. The patrol returned fire with machine guns, M-79s and called in a gunboat. The fire of the patrol and the gunboat caused one enemy WIA and five probable enemy KIA.

At 291925H a Company "L" combat patrol squad at BS 572941, 573943 and 572940 received 100 rounds of sniper fire from the vicinity of BS 572943, 575940, 571937, and 567939. The patrol returned fire with small arms, 20 M-79s, 3 W.P. rifle grenades, 4 LAWs and was supported from OP#39 with 10 - 106mm RR rounds. This fire resulted in 10 - 15 probable enemy KIA and an M-79 round which struck the roof of a stone frame house located at BS 572943 caused many secondary explosions from within the house indicating a probable VC ammo storage space. This house was still burning at 300400H.

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Enclosure (1)

At 300930H a Company "I" Platoon combat patrol at BS 508954 apprehended one VCS who ran from the patrol. The VCS is healthy, 55 years old, has ID card and not on blacklist. The VCS throw an improvised first aid kit away when he saw the patrol. The first aid kit has a battle dressing, and bottles of merthiolate in a C-ration box. Also found in the vicinity of where the VCS was apprehended were six carbine rounds reloaded with wooden slugs, one section of BA279, one US helmet and and what appears to be a propaganda training manual. The VCS and material were forwarded to ITT for processing.

At 301035H a Company "I" platoon sized combat patrol at BS 502947 apprehended five VCS, four males and one teenage boy. The VCS were hiding in the bushes along the river bank. The VCS are all healthy, have military haircuts, are not on the blacklist and all but one has an ID card. Also apprehended with the VCS was assorted military clothing. The VCS and clothing were forwarded to ITT for processing.

At 301205H a Company "I" platoon sized combat patrol at BS 502947 received three to four rounds of sniper fire from a well concealed sniper at BS 501948 causing one friendly WIA (Med Evac). A VCS on the point of the patrol escaped under the cover of the sniper fire. The patrol was sweeping the area to locate the sniper and recapture the VCS.

At 301245H a Company "I" platoon sized combat patrol at BS 505943 wounded one fleeing VCS at BS 506942. The VCS is of military age and has no ID card. He was ordered to halt but did not stop. In the same area the patrol apprehended a female VCS who was fleeing after the firing took place. The wounded VCS was Med-Evaced with a request for interrogation at hospital. The female VCS was turned over to ITT for processing.

At 301630H a Company "L" OP at BS 565956 observed 2 VCS hiding in a rice paddy at BS 567953 observing the Company "L" position. The OP went to investigate the VCS and they fled. The Marines fired 4 rounds of small arms fire at the VCS, killing one. At the same time the Marines received one round sniper fire from the tree line in the vicinity of BS 564951.

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HEADQUARTERS
 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines
 FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/RAC/gad
 3480
 06 June 1966

1. Mission: One Company will conduct aggressive patrolling throughout the BINH YEN, BS522928, DUC AN, BS 500910, areas, while a second company establishes a combat base after displacement to the THANH TRA (2) area, BS 535945. When construction of the combat base is completed, the company operating from the combat base will commence extensive combat operations throughout the Company Tactical Area of Responsibility (see Operation Overlay).

2. Concept of Operation. On D-Day, one Company (-) (Rein) will commence extensive combat operations adjacent to and during the period that a second Company is constructing a combat base in the THANH TRA (2) area BS 535945. A permanent combat base will be constructed that is capable of being defended with a minimum number of personnel, yet capable of supporting, on a continuing basis, extensive Company minus in size operations away from the combat base.

3. Coordinating Instructions.

(a) D-Day - 9 June 1966

(b) Unclassified Code Name - Operation "CLEAN SWEEP"

(c) Thrust Points - BEVERAGE - 5092
 RIVER - 5493
 STATE - 5595

(d) Anticipated duration of the operation

Company "L" - 5 - 7 days
 Company "I" - Indefinite

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