

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

JEC:cef
5750

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology; month of September 1966

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A

Encl: (1) 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command chronology for the month of September 1966 is submitted with attachments.

F. G. Balderston
F. G. BALDERSTON
Executive Officer

3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No

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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), FMF, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam
2. Period covered: 1 - 30 September 1966
3. Commanding Officer: Major R. J. O'LEARY 1-30 September 1966
 Executive Officer: Major F. G. BALDERSTON
 S-1 Adjutant: 2ndLt R. J. PASCUAL
 S-2 Officer: 1stLt L. J. CELMER 1-30 September 1966
 S-3 Officer: Major D. L. DIAMOND 1-28 September 1966
 S-4 Officer: Capt F. V. WHITE JR. 29-30 September 1966
 Communications Officer: Capt R. M. CLARK
 Supply Officer: Capt H. C. SCHRODER
 MTO: 2ndLt E. C. RATHBUN
 Bn Surgeon: 2ndLt J. A. WILSON
 Bn Chaplain: Lt(MC) A. L. MANALE 1-19 September 1966
 H&S Company: Lt(MC) R. F. MCCAULEY 20-30 September 1966
 "I" Company: Lt(CHO) L. L. GLOVER
 "K" Company: 2ndLt W. E. KELLER JR.
 "L" Company: Capt W. M. CLAPP
 "M" Company: Capt M. J. QUINN 1-9 September 1966
 1stLt V. K. FLEMING JR. 10-30 September 1966
 1stLt T. BOYD 1-30 September 1966
 1stLt J. S. SACKETT 1-10 September 1966
 1stLt J. G. MORRA 11-23 September 1966
 Capt K. W. JOHNSON 24-30 September 1966
4. Average Strength USMC 31 Officers 2
 940 Enlisted 46 Enlisted

The total number of personnel on hand within 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines as of 30 September 1966 is 1072. The total effective strength on 30 September 1966 is 1031.

During the month of September 181 new personnel were joined to this unit, while 138 were dropped from the rolls.

A total of 71 have rotated, 56 personnel were WIA, 3 KIA, 6 non-battle injuries and 1 non-battle deaths.

This Battalion is in Category C-2 on 30 September 1966.

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Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

During the month of September, there was a noticeable increase in VC small unit contacts and booby trap incidents. This is attributed to our troop commitments elsewhere and the subsequent decrease of friendly activities in our TAOR. Troop commitments were made to convey escort duty and OPCON 1/7 and covered the period 1 Sep to 27 Sep. The shortage of these troops in the TAOR permitted the VC greater freedom of movement and as this became evident to the VC, they began to increase their activities. It has been planned to saturate our area with aggressive patrolling and ambushes to offset this increase as soon as our detached units returned to our control.

Co M experienced problems in a hamlet approximately 1000 meters to the west of their combat base at BS 5691. This has been in the form of small unit sniper activity and extensive mining and booby trap incidents which has resulted in a number of friendly casualties. Plans have been formulated to relocate the people of this area and destroy the hamlet and its fortifications. The local Vietnamese officials have been contacted to make arrangements for the relocation of the populace and supporting units are prepared to provide assistance in the form of flame tanks, LVT-E with their line charges, and Dozers for the destruction of this area.

Detailed Description of Significant Events

Command and Control

During the period of this report, this organization provided three platoons and four squads on separate occasions for convey escort duty under OPCON 7th Marines. Additionally, Co's K and L plus the Bravo command group went OPCON to the Chu Lai defense command 041000H, reverting to parent 071200H less Co L which became OPCON 1/7 for operation Fresno (later Golden Fleece) at 081910H and 140641H respectively. On 29 September the 3rdBn, 7thMar commenced moving from Chu Lai to Dong H., RVN. Co I left on 29 September and the battalion command group and Co L left on 30 September. Co K is scheduled to leave on 1 October.

Close Combat

From 1-9 September this battalion had a number of small unit incidents involving VC snipers.

102830H A Co (-) patrol from Co M received word from the PF's of the location of a VC Company. Co M deployed two platoons into the area and made contact with an estimated two squads of VC at BS 576918. During the firefight 3 friendly WIA's resulted from premature detonation of a 60 mm mortar round. During its assault the Company (-) sustained 7 additional friendly WIA's from undetermined type booby traps. Total friendly WIA's was 10 (7 med-evacs). Total enemy casualties unknown.

160215H A squad OP from Co K at BS 584948 received close in sniper fire from two separate locations followed by a volley of hand grenades, resulting in 7 WIA's (5 med-evacs). The squad returned small arms fire and hand grenades and was supported by 105 mm illumination. At first light, a search of the area produced several finds, including 1 chi com stick hand grenade, 5 M-26 hand grenades and 1 unidentified rifle grenade which resembled an M 11A4 practice grenade but with indented grooves on give and yellow markings.

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Close Combat Cont'd

Company M has had a number of contacts in the hamlet located at BS 5691. This area has been a trouble spot for the company. In daylight ambushes, Co M has been somewhat successful in disrupting VC activity in the area and on 18 September a VC was killed and two were wounded. The wounded VC were able to escape. When the Marines moved to pick up the dead VC and pursue the wounded, they encountered a number of booby traps which resulted in a total of 7 friendly WIA's. On 20 September Co M again killed a VC in this area and captured an M-1 carbine. On that same day another encounter in the same general area resulted in two VC KIA and a weapon captured. As a result of extensive Marine activity in this area the VC have extensively booby trapped it. Since it has been a continuing trouble spot for the company, steps are being taken to relocate the people and destroy the hamlet. The details for this operation are being coordinated with the local Vietnamese authorities.

From 16-27 September this battalion had a number of small unit contacts involving snipers and booby trap incidents.

Civil Affairs/Civic Action

The Mid-Autumn festival for children was participated in by Marines on 29 September in the hamlet of Phu Le (3), BS 577928. Candy, toys and clothes were handed out.

On 19 September a dispensary was opened in Phu Le (3). This dispensary was built by the people and has been used by the Navy Corpsman to hold sick call.

In Tri Binh (4) and Binh Tuy hamlets, BS 560975, eleven cases of plague was discovered. On 17 September a preventive medicine team from 1st Med Bn was called in and sprayed organic phosphate. The battalion medical officer treated the plague patients.

Over 2600 people have been treated in the TAOR during the month of September.

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