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HEADQUARTERS

9th Motor Transport Battalion  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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1  
5750  
7 January 1967

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December 1966 to 31 December 1966

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPAGO 5750.8

Encl: (1) 9th Motor Transport Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
D. R. TYER

*974-100-T. Bon*

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*Dec 1966*

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December to 31 December 1966

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

9th Motor Transport Battalion

COMMANDER

Major D. R. TYER (27Aug66)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company  
 "A" Company  
 "B" Company  
 "C" Company  
 Transport Company

1stLt H. J. DAVIS (90ct66)  
 1stLt J. C. NELLES (22Nov66)  
 1stLt M. G. LOUGHMAN (21Nov66)  
 Capt T. J. FOX (60ct66)  
 Capt W. R. MURPHY (8Aug66)

2. LOCATION

1-31 December: (Dong Ha, RVN, (H&S Co, "B" Co, and "C" Co))  
 1-31 December: (Da Nang, RVN, ("A" Co and Trans Co))

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer  
 Adjutant  
 S-3  
 S-4  
 Medical Officer

Capt J. D. MATTINGLY (40ct66)  
 2ndLt E. A. NELSON (170ct66)  
 Capt J. D. MATTINGLY (25Jun66)  
 2ndLt J. M. THOMPSON (4Dec66)  
 Lt G. H. NUMSEN (1Dec66)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
14	340

<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
2	11

<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
	1 RVN Interp.

ENCLOSURE (7)

**CONFIDENTIAL****PART II****NARRATIVE SUMMARY**

During the reporting period (1 - 31 December 1966) this battalion participated in five "Rough Riders" and numerous troop movements. A new concept of road clearing for motor vehicles was instituted in Rough Rider Operations. The battalion is ADCON/OPCON to the 3d Marine Division with the exception of two companies being OPCON 1st Marine Division. Civil Affairs activities have been limited. Administration/Personnel, Moral and Personnel Services, Discipline and Training have been excellent considering the operational commitment of this Battalion. The MRC 109's (Radio vehicle) have been used extensively to support convoys both tactical and administrative. Close combat situations have been limited, however one WIA was sustained as a result of a VC grenade detonated near a defensive bunker. The vehicle deadline status remains good however a shortage of 6 TN batteries and 1100 x 20 tires is approaching a critical state. Lack of 3d echelon maintenance repair parts accounts for the longest down time of deadlined equipment.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- a. Combat mission assigned: To provide Motor Transport Support to 3d Marine Division.
- b. Significant operations conducted.
- (1) Four (4) trucks supported 3d Motor Transport Battalion convoy in connection with operation Rough Rider to DaNang on 1 December 1966.
  - (2) Forty (40) trucks supported tactical movement of elements of 3d Marine Division (Forward) on 2 December 1966.
  - (3) Thirty-six (36) trucks supported tactical movement of elements of 3d Marine Division (Forward) on 3 December 1966.
  - (4) Sixty (60) trucks supported tactical movement of elements of 3d Marine Division (Forward) on 4 December 1966.
  - (5) Six (6) trucks supported tactical movement of elements of 3d Marine Division (Forward) on 8 December 1966.
  - (6) Eleven (11) trucks supported tactical movement of "F" Company, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines on 11 December 1966.
  - (7) Forty-six (46) trucks supported movement of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines into Dong Ha on 11 December 1966.
  - (8) Twenty-nine (29) vehicles supported 9th Motor Transport Battalion convoy in connection with operation Rough Rider to Anlo on 13 December 1966.
  - (9) Forty-nine (49) vehicles supported 9th Motor Transport Battalion convoy in connection with operation Rough Rider to Phu Bai on 17 - 18 December 1966.
  - (10) Forty-eight (48) vehicles supported 9th Motor Transport Battalion convoy in connection with operation Rough Rider and Operation Chinook on 19 December 1966.
  - (11) Thirty (30) vehicles supported 9th Motor Transport Battalion convoy in connection with operation Rough Rider and operation Chinook on 25 December 1966.
  - (12) Twenty-eight (28) vehicles supported 9th Motor Transport Battalion convoy to CaLu Area 30 - 31 December 1966.
- c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy: None
- d. Casualties sustained: One (Non-Serious)

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e. New techniques employed: A different concept in road clearing was initiated during this period which has proved very successful. Thirty minutes prior to the lead elements of the first serial crossing the I. P. the Engineer Sweep Team with security jumps off for the 1st check point sweeping suspected mine locations in the highway. Maintaining contact with the Convoy Commander they remain at the 1st check point until directed to move on by the Convoy Commander. Air Support is on station prior to crossing the I. P. permitting visual contact and air cover of both the convoy and the Engineer Sweep Team. Under this concept the sweep team ensures the road is clear and does not cause excessive delay to the convoy.

f. Command relations:

- (1) 9th Motor Transport Battalion - ADCON - 3d Marine Division
  - (a) H&S, "B", and "C" Company - OPCON - 3d Marine Division
  - (b) "A" and Transport Company - OPCON - 1st Marine Division

g. Equipment: Operations in a wet climate and mud has had an adverse effect on all brake systems of all vehicles. General trends show a higher percentage of M-54, 5 Ton, cargo vehicles being deadlined as opposed to the M-36, 2½ Ton, cargo vehicle.

h. Logistics:

- (1) Major trends in deadline status show 3d echelon maintenance and direct exchange repairable parts as being responsible for the major portion of deadlined vehicles. Items of particular interest are: clutches, transmissions, fuel tanks, generators, engines, wheel cylinders and brake shoes.
- (2) Shortage of 6TN batteries and 1100 X 20 tires will result in a critical situation if pending requisitions are not filled in the near future.

i. Civic Affairs/Military Government/Community Relations

- (1) Periodic visits to the assigned Hamlet curtailed due to increased V. C. activity in this area.
- (2) MED-CAP postponed due to increased V. C. reportings in the designated area.
- (3) Presented dolls and toys to 2nd ARVN Regiment for their Christmas party on 24 December 1966. Civil Affairs Officer was in attendance and presented toys to the children at that party.
- (4) A letter of appreciation sent to the Province Chief, Quang Tri Province, for the Christmas show presented to the Allied troops by the citizens of Quang Tri on 23 December 1966.

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- (5) Medical Aid and evacuation to D-MED of three (3) Vietnamese, wounded by unknown explosive device on 30 December 1966.

j. Administration/Personnel

- (1) All companies on addressograph system.
- (2) Joined (1 - 31 December 1966)  
One USMC Officer Forty-four USMC Enlisted
- (3) Transferred (1 - 31 December 1966)  
Two USMC Officer Thirteen USMC Enlisted  
One USN Officer
- (4) Morale
- (a) H&S, "B" and "C" Companies - Excellent
- (b) "A" and Transport Companies - The undersigned visited both companies which are located in Da Nang and observed that their morale was in a higher state than on previous visits. The physical separation of these companies from the Battalion has had an adverse effect on morale, but the uniting of all companies to battalion control will greatly improve this situation.
- (5) Personnel Services
- (a) The physical location of "A" and Transport Companies as mentioned in subparagraph j.(4) above has given rise to administrative problems such as the processing of orders, emergency leave, discipline and assignment. We are meeting this problem through the use of couriers and close liaison, however the early return of these companies to battalion control would improve this situation.
- (6) Discipline (1 - 31 December 1966)  
One Special Court Martial (Viol Art 94, 108, and 116)  
One Summary Court Martial (Viol Art 91 and 92)
- (7) Training
- (a) Four (4) personnel received sixteen hour school on communication and wire equipment water proofing.
- (b) Sixty (60) personnel received eleven hour school on employment of claymore mines.
- (c) Four (4) personnel received sixteen hour school on water proofing of wheeled vehicles.

- (d) Four (4) personnel received eight hour school on the wrecker operator.
- (e) Twenty-two (22) personnel received one hour lecture on traffic safety.
- (f) Twenty-six (26) personnel received three hour lecture on NCO Leadership.
- (g) One hundred and fifty-five (155) personnel received six hour lecture on First Aid.
- (h) Fifty-seven (57) personnel received eight hours firing for familiarization with the .45 caliber pistol.
- (i) One hundred and fifty-five (155) personnel received eight hours firing for familiarization with the M-14 rifle.
- (j) Fifty (50) personnel received two hours lecture on 50 caliber machine gun.
- (k) One hundred and fifty-eight (158) personnel received eight hours firing for familiarization with the 50 caliber machine gun.
- (l) Fifty (50) personnel received two hour lecture on M-60 machine gun.
- (m) One hundred and fifty-four (154) personnel received eight hours firing for familiarization with the M-60 machine gun.
- (n) Twenty-two (22) personnel received four hour lecture on tactical convoy procedures.
- (o) Two (2) personnel received one hour lecture on Embarkation.
- (p) Fifty (50) personnel received two hour lecture on Safety.
- (q) Fifty-eight (58) personnel received nine hours of instruction on field fortifications.
- (r) Fifty-six (56) personnel received twenty hours of instruction on interior guard.
- (s) Twenty-seven (27) personnel received eight hours lecture on UCMJ and Code of Conduct.
- (t) Forty-four (44) personnel received one hour indoctrination lecture.

k. Intelligence: At 301945H December 1966 approximately twelve villagers brought 3 wounded Vietnamese teenagers to the defensive wire (YD 238588). They stated the wounds were a result of an explosion within their village and was not VC initiated. It was noted that approximately eight (8) adult males accompanied the party few of whom were recognized.

l. Communications

- (1) MRC 109's used extensively in support of tactical movements cited in paragraph b..
- (2) Joined 2539 (E-8) assigned billet as Communications Chief.

m. Close Combat

- (1) At 210900H December 1966 three (3) trucks supporting survey team (YD 307553) received 10-12 rounds SA from 1-2 VC (YD 305550).
- (2) At 222000H December 1966 explosive device detonated near bunker (YD 238591). Sentry observed one VC running toward village and took him under fire with 4-5 rounds SA with unknown results. One USMC WIA.
- (3) At 280035H December 1966 explosive device detonated near bunker (YD 237592). No enemy observed and no action taken.