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HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 9th Marines
3rd Marine Division
FPO, San Francisco, 96601

210665

3/RC/jndd Mar Div
5750.1 Copy # 2
1 Oct 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) DivO 5750.1

Encl: ✓ (1) 2d Battalion, 9th Marines Command Chronology for the period
1 Sept 1965 through 30 Sept 1965

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

W. F. Donahue
W. F. DONAHUE
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

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3/RC/jnd
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FPO, San Francisco, 96601

3/RC/jnd
5750.1
30 Sept 1965

A. Organizational Data, Including Attachments.

- (1) Designations/Location(s). 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, Danang, RVN.
- (2) Period Covered by Report. 1 Sept 1965 - 30 Sept 1965.
- (3) Name/rank of Commanding Officers & staff, including T/O billet assignments.

Commanding Officer	LtCol G.R. SCHARNIER, 1 - 2 Sept 1965 LtCol W. F. DONAHUE, 2 Sept 1965
Executive Officer	Major J. V. MCLEARNAN
S-1	1stLt R. J. CRAIG, 1 - 27 Sept 1965 1stLt R. F. GORMAN, 27 Sept 1965
S-2	Capt H. A. LING II, 1 - 26 Sept 1965 Capt C. L. RUSHING, 26 Sept 1965
S-3	Capt R. LLOYD, Jr.
S-4	Capt R. L. LAWRENCE, 1 - 18 Sept 1965 Capt E. L. CHRISTENSON, 18 Sept 1965
Comm Officer	1stLt D. G. NARGELE
MT Officer	1stLt C. R. JOHNSON
Supply Officer	1stLt P. J. ARCHIBECK
Medical Officer	Lt J. L. WALKUP, USN
Chaplain	Lt R. C. FRANKLIN, USN
Civil Affairs Officer	1stLt J. F. SMATHERS
Air Liaison Officer	1stLt B. H. BALDWIN
Company E	Capt C. D. DEAN

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Company F

Capt C. L. RUSHING, 1 - 26 Sept 1965
 Capt H. A. LING II, 26 Sept 1965

Company G

Capt L. M. ORSDURN, 1 - 18 Sept 1965
 Capt R. L. LAWRENCE, 18 Sept 1965

Company H

Capt J. T. GUGGINO, 1 - 18 Sept 1965
 Capt P. L. GORMLEY, 18 Sept 1965

H&S Company

Capt P. L. GORMLEY Jr., 1 - 18 Sept 1965
 Capt R. J. DRIVER Jr., 18 Sept 1965

The below listed units were in direct support of 2/9 from 1 Sept 1965 to the dates indicated.

2d Plt, Co B, 3d Tank Bn
 1 - 24 Sept 1965

2dLt J. D. PATRICK

2d Plt, Co C, 3d AT Bn
 1 - 24 Sept 1965

2d Lt R. MILLER

1st Plt, Co A, 9th MT Bn
 1 - 30 Sept 1965

2dLt LIMSKY, B.

Btry E, 2d Bn, 12th Marines
 1 - 30 Sept 1965

Capt D. PHILLIPS

2d Plt, Co C, 3d Eng Bn
 1 - 30 Sept

2dLt R. L. BENTLEY

2d Plt, Co B, 1st Amtrac Bn

1stLt DERM. MAY

(4) Average monthly strength during the period 1 - 30 Sept 1965:

USMC	
OFF	ENL
43	907

USN	
OFF	ENL
3	51

B. Sequential Listing of Significant Events.

(1) Personnel.

(a) Promotions.

(1') A Battalion Promotion Board was convened on 1 Sept 1965, A total of 53 Corporals and 135 Lance Corporals were promoted in accordance with MCO 1300.17.

(2') One corporal received a meritorious promotion to Sergeant.

(3') Four Corporals promoted to Sergeant under provisions of ALMAR #19.

(b) Inter-Battalion Transfers.

(1') Two (2) elements were transferred in accordance with Division Order 1300.1 on 17 Sept 1965.

(2') Percentage of personnel transferred: 16.87%

(c) Casualties.

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
Battle	9	50
Non-battle	2	3

(d) Percentage of T/O strength on 30 Sept 1965: 89.07%.

(2) Administration.

(a) During the month of September 1965, the annual audit of SRB's and OQR's began in accordance with Division Bulletin 1070.

(b) A total of 67 Marines were sent on R&R flights to Okinawa and Bangkok.

(3) Intelligence.

(a) During the period covered by this report, the Battalion operated in two separate areas. From 1 - 24 Sept 1965 in the 9th Marines TAOR S.W. of Danang, and from 25-30 Sept 1965, as the Danang Air Base Defense Battalion.

- (1') During the period 1 - 24 September 1965, units of the Battalion were in constant light contact with the VC. Most of the contacts consisted of harrassing fire with the VC breaking contact when the Marines returned the fire. The fire was usually delivered from a terrain feature which could not easily and quickly be reached. The VC continued to have excellent preplanned routes of escape. They continue to do an excellent job of policing their battlefield and few VC KIA, WIA, or weapons were recovered by Marines. They also continue to refuse to engage in a firefight unless they feel they have a clearcut advantage in personnel and fire power.
- (2') There was a noticeable increase in the use of booby-traps and mines by the VC. These devices were encountered throughout the sector, and were usually located on trails and gates approaching, or within villages. CHICOM and U.S.

grenades were the most common devices employed. On two occasions, Ontos attached to the Battalion detonated AT mines believed to have been in the order of 40 to 50 lbs. of TNT. The V.C. continue to make extensive use of both bamboo and steel panji stakes.

(3') During the period, 2 AN/TPS-21's, 1 SID-150, and 16 weapons sights, infra red were employed by this Battalion. No significant contacts were made with these various surveillance devices.

(4') During the period 25 - 30 September 1965, the Battalion was employed in the defense of the Danang Air Base. Harrassing fire was received on 4 occasions, but was not returned due to the proximity of civilian housing to the perimeter of the Air Base.

(5') Statistical Recapitulation.

(a') Fortifications destroyed.

Gates - 40
Bunkers - 55
Tunnels - 224
Foxholes - 288
Caves - 12

(b') Dooby-traps and mines encountered.

Anti-personnel - 22
Anti-tank - 2

(c') Weapons captured.

M-1 Carbine - 2
K-50 Submachine gun - 1
CHICOM Frag Grenades - 3
M-26 Frag Grenades - 9

(d') VC suspects processed to higher headquarters. 54

(e') Total enemy contacts for period. 126

(4) Training. A Land Mine Warfare School was conducted for 25 Marines of this Battalion by the 3d Engineer Battalion on 27 and 28 September, 1965. The instruction covered the various methods the VC utilize in land mine warfare and the methods used in detecting and destroying land mines.

(5) Operational Summary. As of 010001H, Sept 1965, the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, with three (3) reinforced companies, occupied defensive positions south of the Cau Do River in the southwest portion of the Regimental TAOR, and with one (1) reinforced company provided security for the FLSG Ammunition Dump, Division Water Point, and adjoining Railroad Bridge over Cau Do River. The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines was disposed as follows:

- (a) Company E provided security for the FLSG Ammunition dump (AT 988733) with two (2) platoons. One (1) reinforced platoon provided security for the Division Water Point (AT 998707) and adjoining Railroad Bridge over the Cau Do River.
- (b) Company F occupied front line defensive positions from (AT 997683) to (AT 988678). One (1) squad provided security for a medical station at (AT 980686); the medical station provided assistance to Villagers of the Cam Ne Complex.
- (c) Company G occupied front line defensive positions from (AT 962686) to (AT 972683).
- (d) Company H occupied front line defensive position from (AT 991676) to (BT 009676).

At 050600H September 1965, Company F proceeded south from its defensive position in a mechanized column supported by onts and amphibian tractors to the vicinity of (AT 995644), and established a platoon sized blocking position. Company F then executed a sweep of Ha Dong (AT 997643); established a blocking position therein, and conducted patrol and ambush activities in its assigned sector from 5 to 8 Sept 1965, in support of RVN Operations to the south of the Bau Xau River. Upon the completion of the RVN Operation, Company F returned to its previous defensive positions.

During the period 9 - 10 Sept 1965, Company E elements conducted clearing operations in Yen Ne (4), (AT 975677) and La Bong (3), (AT 963677); and Co G elements conducted similar operations in Qua Giang (2) (BT 003668). On 12 Sept 1965, Co H conducted a company-sized clear and hold operation in La Son (1), (AT 980660), and Yen Ne (1), (AT 987664), and established defensive positions therein. On 14 Sept 1965, the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines commenced Operation Rice Straw, and proceeded to move south to Phase Line Orange, and establish defensive positions.

- (a) Company E established three (3) platoon strong points in their assigned sector; Duong Son (2), (AT 993677), (AT 993663), and at Nhon Tho (1), (BT 007660).
- (b) Co F provided security for the FLSG Ammunition Dump (AT 988733), with two (2) platoons; a platoon (-) remained in Yen Ne (2), (AT 986684); and a squad continued to provide security for the Medical Station in Cam Ne (2), (AT 979686).

- (c) Company G established defensive positions from (AT 959658), to (AT 967661); and established a river checkpoint at (AT 959658).
- (d) Company H realigned positions in its assigned sector with one (1) platoon in Yen Ne (1), (AT 987664), another in the vicinity of AT 974655; one Platoon in Le Son (1), (AT 982653).
- (e) The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines established its CP in the vicinity of Cam Ne (2), (AT 986684), with Company F (-).

On 19 September 1965, the 2d Bn, 9th Marines made the following adjustment to its front line positions: Co H occupied positions in the vicinity of Nhon Tho (1), (BT 005660), with one (1) platoon. Company E moved one (1) platoon and its command group to the vicinity of Mieu Dong (1), (BT 017679); the remaining two (2) platoons conducted Clear and Hold Operations and established defensive positions in the vicinity of Nhon Tho (2), (BT 017656); and Bo Mung (2), (BT 021652). On 19 - 21 September 1965, Company G (-), in conjunction with Co C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, conducted a mutually supporting Search and Clear Operation along both sides of the Yen River from Phase Line Orange to the vicinity of (AT 965690), sweeping all villages along their axis of advance.

During the same period, Co E conducted Search and Clear Operations to the south, sweeping Qua Giang (1), (BT 017635); Nhon Tho (2), (BT 017656); and upon completion of the operation established defensive positions along Phase Line Orange.

On 21 September 1965, the 2d and 3d Battalions, 9th Marines exchanged advance parties in preparation for the 2d Battalion relief in place of the 3d Battalion at the Danang Air Base. During the period 22 - 24 September 1965, the 2d and 3d Battalions exchanged missions, the 2d Battalion assuming responsibility for the defense of the Danang Air Base Perimeter at 240906H September 1965.

As of 302400H September 1965, the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines under OpCon III MAF, defends the Danang Air Base Defense Perimeter with four reinforced rifle companies and conducts continuous and aggressive patrolling in its assigned sector. The Battalion CP is located at (BT 001748).

During the period covered by this report, the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines conducted many lesser activities and operations which are too numerous to mention. However, the following table provides information relative to various activities and aspects of operational interest:

(a) Operational Activities.

(1) Patrols	25	27	285
(2) Ambushes			58
(3) Listening Posts			99
(4) Scout - sniper teams			57
(5) Sweep and Clear Operations (minor)			13

(b) Casualties.

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>POW</u>	<u>MIA</u>
USMC	9	2	50	0	0
VC (confirmed)	26	0	17	0	Unk

(6) Nuclear, Biological, Chemical and other special types of warfare.
Not applicable.(7) Command and Control.

(a) On September 1965, LtCol W. F. DONAHUE, 043144/0302, U. S. Marine Corps, relieved LtCol G. R. SCHARNERG, 048379/0302, U. S. Marine Corps as Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

(b) Command Post Locations.

(1) 1 September 1965, (AT 985723)
 (2) 15 September 1965, (AT 985683)
 (3) 24 September 1965, (BT 001748)

(8) Communications-Electronics. Between 1 September 1965 and 30 September 1965, the Battalion has received wire, radio, and cryptographic communications support continually under all conditions of weather and terrain. Two (2) major CP displacements were conducted. Operational commitments required the employment of all radios without backup during the month of September. High standards of preventive maintenance and repair have kept 90% of all radios available for use by tactical units. Two (2) major wire systems of 70 miles length each have been utilized and maintained during this month. Approximately 120 telephones on the average (per day) have

been effectively utilized by the Battalion. Approximately 500 encrypted messages were handled by the Battalion Communication Center in 30 days. The Battalion has received and successfully overcome enemy attempts at jamming and other deliberate radio interference. Wire lines were cut on numerous occasions. One (1) AN/PRC-6 was destroyed due to enemy action.

(9) Close Combat. Not Applicable.

(10) Fire Support and Fire Coordination (FSOC).

(a) Fire Missions for September 1965. Battery E, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, direct support of 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

(1') Artillery Fire Missions.

<u>TYPE MISSION</u>	<u>NO. MISSIONS</u>	<u>NO. ROUNDS FIRED</u>
HE	6	100
Illumination	9	41
Total	15	141

(2') 81mm Mortar Fire Missions.

<u>TYPE MISSION</u>	<u>NO. MISSIONS</u>	<u>NO. ROUNDS FIRED</u>
HE	2	57
Illumination	3	12
Registration	1	18 (HE)
Total	6	87

(b) Summary of Fire Missions for September 1965.

(1') Targets were enemy small arms positions and suspected VC movement during hours of darkness.

(2') All missions were fired with good to excellent effect on targets.

(c) Air. (See paragraph (13)).

(d) Miscellaneous. 1stLt Franklin COX replaced 1stLt Richard TRAPP as Battalion Fire Support Coordinator upon the latter's transfer.

(11) Logistics.

(a) Several logistic and supply problems were encountered during this reporting period. These difficulties existed primarily while operating in two separate areas.

- [REDACTED]
- (1') During the first portion of this reporting period, the command was assigned a sector within the 9th Marines TAOR. The MSR used in support of the Command Post and forward companies was a rapidly constructed, unimproved road, built on low ground. Heavy rains made the MSR impassable to resupply vehicles for approximately 10 days. All resupply was done by helicopters. This arrangement was satisfactory considering adverse weather conditions.
- (2') The relief of 3d Battalion, 9th Marines at Danang Air Base was conducted during the period of 18 - 25 September 1965. Movement of supplies and equipment commenced on 18 September 1965. No significant difficulty was encountered in this area. Movement of the advance CP and forward companies commenced on 22 September 1965. Land routes to assembly areas within the TAOR were impassable to troop and equipment carrying vehicles. Helicopters were again used to effect the relief. 3d Battalion, 9th Marines used the same helicopters in transporting personnel and equipment in relief of units in TAOR. This relief was conducted over a three day period and completed without any significant problems.
- (3') Upon arrival at the area assigned the Battalion CP, within the Danang Airbase Perimeter, many logistical problems existed:
- (a') Due to a shortage of GP tents in this Battalion, troops lived under shelter halves, tentage, and dilapidated tin buildings used primarily for offices and storage space. These conditions can be expected to contribute to excessive depreciation to government and personal property.
 - (b') The Battalion mess had logistical deficiencies. Decking, screening, strongbacking, proper grease traps, and other logistic material was not available. C-Rations were used initially to avoid any outbreak of food-borne disease. A temporary mess has since been established but is deficient in many areas. Two separate company messes are utilized. These messes rely on water cans for water support since only one water trailer has been provided to support the Battalion.
 - (c') Waste disposal facilities were unsatisfactory. Heads were dilapidated and in need of repair. The water level was such that holes for heads could only be dug 2 - 3 feet below surface in the highest areas.

This requires constant moving of heads. Platoon latrines fill rapidly due to water level. Rain will render latrines virtually useless.

- (b) A cantonment program commenced on 25 September 1965. To date, 26 GP strongbacks have been completed. This program includes plans for messing facilities. Upon completion of the program, the existing living conditions and sanitation problems detrimental to the health and welfare of personnel should be vastly improved. Sanitation will continue to be a problem however until sufficient engineering effort is provided to fill the low, swampy areas which characterize the Battalion's assigned bivouac area.

(12) Air Defense. Not applicable.

(13) Combat Air Support.

(a) Close Air Support.

Date - 1 September 1965

Mission - Cover for patrol at (AT 956678)

Aircraft - Four (4) UH-1E from 1650 - 1800H.

Ordnance Expended - Eight (8) rocket pods; M-60 fire.

Remarks - Platoon (-) patrol hit mines and was immediately brought under small arms fire. UH-1E aircraft covered for med-evacs, and the patrols withdrawal from the area. Evacuated three (3) KIA and eight (8) MIA.

Date - 5 September 1965

Mission - Destroy footbridge and trenches at (AT 996641)

Aircraft - Four (4) A-1H from 0645 - 0745H.

Ordnance Expended - Twenty 250 lb. bombs

Remarks - Mission was to knock out footbridge and trenches which were escape routes, immediately before company size sweep commenced.

Date - 5 September 1965

Mission - Cover for sweep at (AT 996641)

Aircraft - Two (2) UH-1E from 0630 - 0830.

Ordnance Expended - None

Remarks - Mission was to control fixed wing aircraft and to cover sweep, and was used as a command helicopter.

Date - 9 September 1965

Mission - Cover for sweep at (AT 9667)

Aircraft - Two (2) UH-1E from 0830 - 1100

Ordnance Expended - Several rockets and M-60 fire.

Remarks - Mission was to observe and fire on small arms positions.

(b) Logistics.

Missions - Twenty-three (23)
 Aircraft Utilized - Fifty-two (52) UH-34D
 Pounds of Cargo Lifted - 138,000
 Type Cargo Lifted - C-Rations, water, explosives
 Time Utilized - Fourty hours

(c) Reconnaissance.

Missions - Five (5)
 Personnel Carried - Forty-eight (48)
 Time Utilized - Three (3) hours forty-five minutes.
 Number of Aircraft - Ten (10)

(d) Troop Lifts:

Missions - Four (4)
 Personnel Lifted - 1,825
 Time Utilized - Nineteen hours
 Number of Aircraft - Fourteen (14)
 Remarks - Mission was rotation of 2d Battalion, 9th Marines from vicinity (LT 9766) (BT 0066) (BT 0266) to Danang Airfield and 3d Battalion, 9th Marines from Da Nang Airfield to vicinity (LT 9766) (BT 0066) (BT 0266). Rotation took place over a period of four (4) days.

(e) Medical Evacuations.

Missions - Twenty-nine (29)
 Personnel Lifted - Thirty-six Marines, five (5) ARVN, thirteen civilians.
 Aircraft Utilized - Fifty-eight (58)
 Time Utilized - Nine (9) hours forty minutes
 Remarks - Average time of med-evacs from time requested until they landed at C&C was twenty minutes.

(14) Medical and Dental Support.

- (a) During the month of September, there were 534 military personnel treated at the BAS. A total of 1352 Vietnamese civilians were treated in support of the Battalion Civil Affairs Program. Of the military personnel treated, three were referred to the USMC Co, 3d Mod Bn for further treatment. This is in addition to battle casualties who were evacuated by helicopter to the USMC Co, 3rd Mod Bn. Several referrals to the USOM Hospital in Da Nang were made, including one case of a blind Vietnamese male who had cataracts removed from both eyes.

- (b) In the month of September, the Dental sick call was minimal, and referrals were made to G/C. The latter part of the month, Dental sick call held at the 3rd Dental Company at FLSG.
- (c) By far, the majority of cases that are treated at the Battalion Aid Station were superficial skin infections that were encountered during operations. Colds and sore throats are still the most common complaint. The average military sick call is approximately 20 to 30 persons per day. The Civil Affairs sick call during the last two weeks has been at a standstill due to a change of location and mission.
- (d) With the relocation to the air field area, various sanitation problems were encountered, including mess areas, heads, etc. One new head was installed in a central area and the remaining areas were cleaned and properly treated in accordance with a sanitation inspection of 22 September 1965.
- (e) Medical supplies at this time seem to be up to standards, except for some items which are very hard to get. These items are foot powder and fungicidal solutions which are very much in need for the proper treatment of various foot diseases.

(15) Chaplain support.

- (a) During the month of September, the Chaplain visited all rifle companies in the field. When in the judgement of the Company Commander, operational and tactical situations permitted, the Chaplain held services in the field as well as at the Battalion Command Post.
- (b) A total of 12 Catholic Masses were celebrated by the Chaplain on Sundays with an overall attendance of 440. 23 Masses were celebrated on weekdays with a total of 323 attending. The Sacrament of Penance was administered daily, before and after every Mass and at any time of the day or night upon request.
- (c) Protestant Services were conducted in the Battalion CP area on 4 Sundays with an overall attendance of 164. Special arrangements were made for a Lutheran and Episcopal Communion Service, which were attended by 19 men.
- (d) The Chaplain arranged for Protestant Services in the field for the convenience of the rifle companies. Three such services were held with a total of 37 men attending.
- (e) One Catholic and one Protestant Memorial Service was held for deceased members of the Battalion during this month.

- [REDACTED]
- (f) The Battalion Chaplain also provided Catholic services for the following commands:

HQ, 9th Regiment
Co A, 1st Bn, 9th Marines
3rd Tank Battalion
3rd Recon Battalion
9th Motor Transport Battalion
3rd Battalion, 9th Marines

- (g) By direction of the III MAF Chaplain, all offerings contributed at Catholic Masses on Sunday, 5 September were donated to the Catholic Bishop of Danang for use in the diocesan refugee program. A sum of \$66.43 represented our donation.
- (h) On 9 September, Captain John CRAVEN, CHC, USN, Staff Chaplain, FMFPAC paid a visit to the Battalion Chaplain and the Battalion Commander.

(16) Civil Affairs.

- (a) A majority of our Civil Affairs Activity during the month of September was conducted in the Village of Hoa Thai and its Cam Ne Hamlets. A schoolhouse in Cam Ne (6), was used as a village headquarters and a dispensary site for our medical assistance teams. A squad of Marines was positioned around the area to provide security. Mr. Luong, the Hoa Thai Village Chief, was consulted with on all projects, and provided a great deal of assistance.
- (b) A "Claims Day" was held on 5 September 1965. Over 150 villagers came forward to file claims for damages done to their property during recent sweeps. On 6 September, several hundred lbs. of clothing, furnished through operation "Hand Clasp", were distributed to the Cam Ne inhabitants.
- (c) On 10 September 1965, hundreds of cookies and candies were distributed to the Hoa Thai Villagers and members of this Command took an active part in the celebration of the Mid Autumn Festival. Medical assistance was provided daily and an average of over 50 persons a day were treated. During the month, other items such as books, soap, dolls, buttons and thread were distributed as they were available.