

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS  
2d Battalion, 9th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California, 96602

3/RIM/jnd  
5750  
1 July 1966

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  
of 1-30 June 1966.

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

*John J. Hess*  
John J. HESS

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS  
2d Battalion, 9th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California, 96602

3/RIM/trb  
5750  
1 July 1966

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A. Organizational Data
- B. Sequential Listing of Significant Events
- C. Documentation

- 71F {
- (1) 2d Battalion, 9th Marines Operation Order 13-66 (Annex A OpOverlay)
  - (2) S-1 Journal
  - (3) S-2 Journal
  - (4) S-3 Journal
  - (5) Summarized Weekly Operation Overlays.

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

## HEADQUARTERS

2d Battalion, 9th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California, 96602

3/RIM/trb  
5750  
1 July 1966

A. Organizational Data Including Attachments

- (1) Designations/Locations. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines
- (2) Period Covered by Report. 1-30 June 1966
- (3) Name/Rank of Commanding Officer and Staff Including T/O Billet Assignments.

Commanding Officer	Lt Col W. F. DONAHUE	1-23 June
	Lt Col J. J. HESS	24-30 June
Executive Officer	Maj D. E. ERWAY	
S-1	1stLt R. J. VOMDORP	1-30 June
S-2	1stLt T. M. BELDON	1-18 June
	SSgt T. J. TERRELL	19-30 June
S-3	Capt L. W. SULLIVAN	
S-4	1stLt P. J. ARCHIBECK	1-6 June
	2dLt R. L. NUMPER	7-30 June
Comm Officer	Capt D. G. NARGELE	1-4 June
	MSGT J. E. STUDEBAKER Jr.	5-24 June
	2dLt C. R. GRIFFIN Jr.	25-30 June
MT Officer	1stLt J. J. LUKASZEWICZ	1-5 June
	2dLt R. L. NUMPER	6-30 June
Supply Officer	2dLt NUMPER	
Medical Officer	Lt E. H. PALMER	
Chaplain	LtCmdr T. J. McDERMOTT	
Civil Affairs Officer	1stLt R. J. VOMDORP	
Company E	1stLt G. L. HORNICK	
Company F	Capt C. A. RECKWELL	1-11 June
	2dLt R. H. WECHT	12-30 June

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Company G

Capt P. H. TORRY

Company H

Capt E. S. ROANE

H&amp;S Company

Capt W. A. CUTI 1-14 June  
1stLt R. J. VOMDORP 15-30 June

- (4) The average monthly strength during the reporting period  
1-30 June 1966.

USMC	
OFF	ENL
24	929

USN	
OFF	ENL
3	57

## B. Listing of Significant Events

### (1) Personnel.

- (a) There were 2 Corporals, 1 Lance Corporal, and 33 Privates First Class promoted during June 1966.
- (b) Rotatees. There were 12 officers and 67 enlisted personnel (in addition there were 2 officers USN and 8 enlisted USN) transferred to CONUS during the reporting period. The percentage transferred: 10%.
- (c) Casualties. There were 6 KIAs, 72 WIAs, 7 DOWs, and 39 Non-battle casualties during the reporting period.
- (d) The percentage of T/O Strength on 30 June 1966 was 80%.

- (2) Administration. A total of 68 personnel were sent on R&R during the reporting period.

### (3) Intelligence.

- (a) During the period 1-30 June, the majority of the contacts with VC forces were made by platoon to company size search and clearing missions in which light to heavy S/A fire, grenades, and 60mm mortars were received from the treelines and across the rice paddies. The VC continue to have excellent pre-planned routes of escape and remain proficient in the art of camouflage. Battlefield police remains good. The VC continue to refuse to maintain contact in fire fights unless they feel they have an overwhelming number of personnel.
- (b) Mines and booby traps continue to be found throughout the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines TAOR. The first minefield, as such, was encountered on 11 June at coordinates AT 987607. It was approx 100 x 40 meters and located in a grassy area just South of a footbridge across the La Tho River. This mine field was apparently composed of M-16-A1 AP mines.

UNCLASSIFIED

This type of mine together with M-26 grenades, and artillery and mortar duds were the most prevalent. On two occasions shaped charges were encountered. A ditch 20' x 15' x 10' was discovered at 995555 that gave all appearances of having been specifically prepared as a tracked vehicle obstacle.

- (c) On 27 June Company E found a large quantity of medical supplies at AT 997554 and on 29 June at BT 000573 uncovered a cache of 57 60mm rounds.

(1') Fortifications destroyed.

Fighting holes	365
Caves	160
Tunnels	410 meters
Trenches	1900 meters
Bamboo barriers	325 meters
Bunkers	195
Gates	11
Man Traps	7

(2') Weapons captured

M-14	1
M-1	1
US Carbine	1
Thompson SMG	1

(3') VC Casualties Inflicted

VC KIA (Confirmed)	12
VC KIA (Probable)	18
VC WIA (Confirmed)	3
VC WIA (Probable)	10
VCC	1
VCS	22

(4') AP mines and booby traps destroyed. 87

(5') Total number of enemy contacts. 85

- (4) Training. During the reporting period, the following training was conducted.

- (a) All personnel of the Battalion received refresher instruction on the Rules of Engagement and safety of individual weapons and grenades.
- (b) All replacement personnel received 4 days of training prior to assignment to their billet.

UNCLASSIFIED

- (c) Rifle companies conducted varied numbers of hours of instruction, emphasizing gun drill, scouting and patrolling, ambushes, small unit tactics, first aid, FO procedures, and demolitions. Replacement Marines were given the opportunity to FAM fire their T/O weapon and the M-72 (LAW).
- (d) Twenty (20) NCO's attended Mine Warfare School.
- (e) H&S Company. General Training.
- (1') Flame Thrower Training
 

Portable Flame Thrower Training (General)	12 hours
Fuel Mixture and Capabilities	5 hours
Maintenance	28 hours
Pistol, .45 Cal	4 hours
Scouting and Patrolling	8 hours
Ambushes	4 hours
Live Firing	12 hours
  - (2') 106RR Platoon Training.
 

Care and Cleaning	9 hours
Rifle Inspection	1 hour
106RR Inspection	1 hour
Preventive Maintenance of M-274 (Mule)	12 hours
Instruction on M-274 (Mule)	3 hours
Instruction on 106RR	4 hours
  - (3') The Battalion Executive Officer inspected all crew served weapons.
  - (4') The 81mm Mortar Platoon conducted 120 hours of training on basic functioning and utilization of the 81mm mortar. Approximately 50 hours were utilized in preventive maintenance.
- (5) Operations Summary
- (a) Highlights. Operations during the month of June were highlighted by Operation Liberty which took place between 11-30 June. A change of Command Ceremony was held on 231400H on the Battalion Parade Field. LtCol John J. HESS relieved LtCol W. F. DONAHUE as Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines. The Commanding General and the Assistant Division Commander, 3d Marine Division attended the ceremony. On 16 June the Battalion was visited by Brigadier General ELWOOD, Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Air Wing in conjunction with an orientation visit to various 9th Marines units.

UNCLASSIFIED

On 9 June, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines took OPCON of a Commando Platoon from the Headquarter's Company of the 51st Regiment (ARVN). This platoon was employed with a Marine Company as a separate tactical unit with highly gratifying results. The Marines established an excellent rapport with the Vietnamese and gained invaluable knowledge as to the most effective techniques to be used in searching a village. The Commandoes either killed, or were directly responsible for the Marines killing 9 VC who were hidden in well camouflaged trenches and fighting holes.

- (b) Operations 1-10 June. Two company size search and destroy operations were held during this period. Neither of these operations, nor the numerous platoon and squad patrols and ambushes, established significant contact with the VC. A County Fair was held in Phong Nhut (BT 0360) on 4-5 June. It was not marked by any particular success in terms of VC killed or captured.

During the period 6-7 June the Battalion provided 1 reinforced rifle platoon from Company H for Operation Mark Twain. This operation was under OPCON of 3d Amtrac Battalion and involved a reconnaissance of the Vinh Dien River from BT 025675 to BT 055588.

- (c) Operations 11-30 June

(1') During this period all units of the Battalion were primarily involved with Operation Liberty. Company M, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines came under OPCON of 2d Battalion, 9th Marines on 9 June for this operation. From 13-16 June, Company G was under OPCON of the 9th Marines in connection with a joint US/ARVN operation East of Hoi An (BT 1457). A County Fair was held in the Phong Luc (3)/Dong Tien (2) complex (BT 0161) on 23-24 June resulting in 1 VC KIA with weapon. During the period 17-18 June Companies E and H provided a blocking force to the West for a 2 Battalion ARVN sweep in Grid Squares 0158, 0159, 0258, 0259. No VC were encountered by the sweeping elements.

(2') Operation Liberty was divided into two phases in the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines TAOR. In Phase I the objective was to clear an area South of the La Tho River and North of Grid Line 595 between Grid Lines 986 and 010, (Objective C-1) (See ~~Annex A1~~ to OpOrder 13-66). Four companies were deployed for an intensive 3 day operation designed to cordon and search this area which had a long history of heavy VC contact. In terms of confirmed VC KIA (12 w/4 wpns) this was the most profitable phase of the operation. On 11 June as Company "F" commenced moving into the western side of

UNCLASSIFIED

Objective C-1 they encountered the first minefield as such in the 9th Marines area (AT 987607). Two M-16-A1 AP mines were detonated by Marines and an additional 8 exploded as a result of a grass fire that started in the area. 25 USMC casualties were incurred, all from the initial two mines. An artillery destruction mission was fired in the area the following day and an estimated 7 secondary explosions occurred.

On 14 June, with 3 companies forward, 1 in reserve and 1 operating in the Battalion's rear area, a series of deliberate attacks were launched against the objectives shown in Annex A1 to OpOrder 13-66. With the exception of 20 June there was an almost total lack of any contact with the VC. On the night of 20 June, Company H, operating in Objective C-5, received 60-75 rounds of 60mm mortar fire and a heavy volume of small arms fire from an estimated 50-75 VC positioned from the N.E. to S.E. The small arms fire was suppressed immediately and a subsequent search of the area revealed 1 VC KIA confirmed and 11 probables. All other contacts through 271500H when the last objective was secured, were confined to isolated instances of relatively long range sniper fire. It had initially been anticipated that contacts would be stronger and more frequent as the southward movement progressed. This did not prove to be the case. Relatively few mines were encountered, and once the attacking companies passed South of the 59 Grid Line almost no new or recently rehabilitated fortifications were uncovered. During the course of Operation Liberty some 19,130 lbs of C-4/TNT was expended in destroying the various fortifications.

On 28 June construction was started on a semi-permanent company base camp at BT 024577. The remaining forward companies concentrated on a series of deliberate search and destroy operations in the area between Route #14 and the Ky Lam River.

(6) Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare. Not applicable.

(7) Command and Control

(a) During the period 1-30 June, the Battalion CP was located at BT 015627.

(b) Company Command Post Locations

(1') Company E: 1-10 June AT 990644; 11-12 June BT 003612; 13-15 June AT 015627; 16-30 June Operation Liberty.

(2') Company F: 1-3 June AT 003612; 4-5 June conducted County Fair BT 0360; 5-9 June BT 015627; 10-14 June Operation Liberty; 15-30 June June BT 015627.



UNCLASSIFIED

- (3') Company G: 1-3 June BT 015627; 4-9 June BT 030610; 9-12 June BT 015627; 13-15 June OPCON 9th Marine Regiment; 16-19 June BT 015627; 20-30 June Operation Liberty.
- (4') Company H: 1-9 June BT 017637; 10-25 June Operation Liberty; 26-30 June BT 015627.
- (5') Company M/3/9: 11-20 June Operation Liberty; 21-22 June BT 015627; 23-24 June County Fair BT 0161; 25-29 June Operation Liberty; 29-30 June BT 015627.
- (8) Communications-Electronics. The Communications Platoon accomplished the following during the reporting period.
- (a) Maintained and repaired telephone lines within the Battalion TAOR.
  - (b) Erected telescopic telephone poles to Hill#55 and installed a new 10 pair cable for communications to Regimental Headquarters.
  - (c) Supported rifle companies on platoon and company size operations with wire and radio communications.
  - (d) Communication Center operated an on-line covered circuit on radio teletype or wire circuit.
  - (e) Tech shop supported five rifle companies, H&S Company, AT, Engineer, Tank attachments, and the ARVN Commando Platoon with radio and telephone maintenance facilities.
  - (f) Installed radio relay site for backup of telephone communications to the Regimental Headquarters.
  - (g) Maintained the electrical system for the Battalion.
- (9) Close Combat. Not applicable.
- (10) Fire Support and Fire Coordination (FSCC). 2d Battalion, 12th Marines direct support of 9th Marines.

(a) Artillery Fire Missions

<u>Type Mission</u>	<u>No. of Missions</u>	<u>Rounds Fired</u>
Illumination	4	136
Targets of Opportunity	48	1871
Registration	54	125

UNCLASSIFIED

(b) <u>81mm Mortar Fire Missions</u>	<u>No. of Missions</u>	<u>Rounds Fired</u>
Targets of Opportunity	29	1005
Registration	11	12
Illumination	11	64
H&I	6775	6775

(11) Logistics

- (a) Two troop movements were completed by vehicle during the period lifting 70 personnel using 6 vehicles.

(12) Air Defense. Not Applicable.(13) Air Support(a) Close Air Support

Missions - 5

Aircraft - 10 A4E, 2 UH-1E

Ordnance Expended - 140 2.75 FFAR, 10 500 napalm, 600 rds 20mm, 7.62.

(b) Logistics

Missions: 29

Aircraft Utilized: 44 UH-34D, 14 CH-46A

Type Cargo: MCI, water, ammunition, explosives

Time Utilized: 42 hours

(c) Troop Lifts

Missions: 9

Personnel: 1,126

Time Utilized: 15 hours

Aircraft Utilized: 35 UH-34D, 28 CH-46A, 5 CH-37

(d) Medical Evacuations

Missions: 50

Personnel Evacuated: 83 U.S., 22 V.N. civilians

- (14) Medical Support. The Battalion Aid Station treated 1,277 Vietnamese civilians in the people to people sick call. At the same time 1,438 Marines were treated and 200 immunizations administered to men of this Battalion. The BAS also participated in classes administered to replacement Marines.

- (15) Chaplain Support. Weekly Catholic and Protestant Services for all companies were held at the convenience of each unit. Both Catholic and Protestant memorial services were also held in each company for men killed during the month.

Catholic services were held weekly in An Trach (AT 9666) for the Vietnamese. A lecture on the religions of Vietnam was given to each group of replacement Marines.

DECLASSIFIED

- (16) Civil Affairs. During the month of June, a total of 1,277 Vietnamese civilians were treated. Also during the month, the following items were distributed: two-hundred (200) pounds of wheat, ten (10) cases of cream of tomato soup, thirteen (13) bags of rice, two (2) boxes of bubble bath, one-thousand (1000) cans of food, two (2) cases of cotton seed oil, two-hundred and fifty (250) pounds of clothes, eighteen-hundred (1800) bars of soap, fifty-nine (59) boxes of candy, one (1) box of pencils, one (1) sewing kit, and four-hundred and fifty (450) Vietnamese comic books and literature pamphlets.

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~