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

3/RIM/trb
5750
1 August 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 1-31 July 1966.

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

John J. Hess
John J. HESS

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HEADQUARTERS

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

3/RIM/trb
 5750
 1 August 1966

Organizational Data Including Attachments

1. Designation/Location. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (015627)
2. Period Covered by Report. 1-31 July 1966
3. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer and Staff Including T/O Billet Assignments.

Commanding Officer	Lt Col J. J. HESS	1-31 July
Executive Officer	Maj D. E. ERWAY	1-12 July
	Maj F. A. KARKER	13-31 July
S-1	1st Lt R. J. VOMDORP	1-28 July
	2dLt M. L. THOMAS	29-31 July
S-2	SSgt-2dLt T. J. TERRELL	1-31 July
S-3	Capt L. W. SULLIVAN	1-26 July
	Capt N. E. HENRY	26-31 July
S-4	2dLt R. L. MUMPER	1-31 July
Comm Officer	2dLt C. R. GRIFFIN Jr.	1-31 July
MT Officer	2dLt R. L. MUMPER	1-31 July
Supply Officer	2dLt R. L. MUMPER	1-31 July
Medical Officer	Lt E. H. PALMER	1-31 July
Chaplain	Lt Cndr T. J. McDERMOTT	1-31 July
Civil Affairs Officer	1stLt R. J. VOMDORP	1-28 July
	2dLt M. L. THOMAS	29-31 July
Company E	1stLt G. L. HORNICK	1-3 July
	1stLt G. J. MURDOCK	4-31 July
Company F	1stLt W. B. CLARY	1-18 July
	2dLt R. H. WECHT	19-31 July
Company G	Capt P. H. TORREY	1-31 July
Company H	Capt E. S. ROANE	1-26 July
	Capt R. F. JOHNSON	27-31 July
H&S Company	1stLt R. J. VOMDORP	1-6 July
	2dLt D. E. HUMPHREY	7-31 July

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S-1 CHRONOLOGY

1. General. The personnel situation remains critical. The Battalion is experiencing the effects of too few officers and staff NCO's. Not only the quantity but the quality has had its noticeable effects. Many junior officers billets are filled by Staff NCO's, while second lieutenants are filling billets normally occupied by senior officers. With an on-board strength of 28 and a manning level of 41 officers, this fact is readily ascertained.

a. Strength. The end of the month strength for the period ending 31 July 1966 was as follows:

USMC		USN	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
28	907	3	57

(1) Percentage of T/O Strength is 86%

b. Losses

	USMC		USN	
	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
Battle	5	69	0	2
Non-Battle	3	27	0	0
Admin	3	79	0	0

(1) Of the battle casualties, 6 were KIA's, 4 DCW's and 65 WIA's, 13 of which were transferred to Camp S. D. BUTLER, 37 returned to duty and 15 still remain hospitalized.

(2) Of the 30 non-battle casualties, all but 13 have returned to duty.

(3) Three USMC officers and seventy-nine enlisted (plus 8 USN enlisted) rotated to CONUS - Transfer percentage - 9%

c. Replacements. This command joined 10 USMC officers, 192 USMC enlisted and 10 USN enlisted as replacements during the reporting period. There remains a shortage of all ranks OF 03, an average of 52 per rifle company.

d. Administration

(1) State of Morale. The morale of the battalion is considered to be excellent. We now have our own PX truck within the battalion CP at all times. It is well stocked with essential items.

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(2) Promotions. Two Staff NCO's were commissioned 2dLt and 13 NCO's received a one step promotion in Staff NCO ranks. The battalion promoted 49 Corporals, 161 to Lance Corporal, and 47 to PFC during July.

(3) Significant Activities or Personnel Services. Special Services distributed 200 Athletic kits, 192 decks of playing cards and 15 MB-16 Game kits to the personnel of the battalion. A water point was established and shower facilities were completed during the period covered.

(4) Unusual Events or Problems. There were 57 men sent on R&R during the reporting period. Ten quotas were turned back to Regiment due to operational commitments. However, even if the distribution of quotas is continued at the current level, the battalion will not be able to offer R&R to all eligible personnel. Quotas utilized were to Hong Kong, Singapore, Okinawa, Taipei, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Tokyo, Bangkok and Hawaii.

e. Discipline, Law and Order. There was 1 Special Court-Martial tried and 1 General Court-Martial completed. There are 2 Special Courts-Martial pending. There were no Article 32 UCMJ Investigations conducted during this reporting period.

f. Mail. Mail arrived on normal schedule except for the short period during the Airline Strikes, when several complaints were voiced.

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S-2 CHRONOLOGY1. General.

a. During the period 1-31 July the majority of contacts with VC forces were made during platoon and company size search and destroy missions in which light to heavy S/A fire and 60mm mortars were received from VC occupying positions in treelines, and village areas. Numerous contact was made by members of squad size ambushes. The VC continue to have excellent pre-planned routes of escape and remain proficient in the art of camouflage. VC police of the battle field remains good, however aggressive Marine troop movement has been successful in reducing his ability to recover bodies and equipment.

b. The VC continue to place mines and trip wired explosive devices throughout the 2d Battalions TAOR. The type of mines most prevalent are the M16-A1, artillery and mortar duds, M-26 and Chinese Communist grenades.

c. During the period 20-31 July a Dien Bon village cadre team operated with Company "H" resulting in a total of 3 VC KIA (conf), 1 VCC and 1 VCS captured and 1 weapon recovered. The cadre team also pointed out numerous Vietnamese people in the area who were not considered members of the local populace and also located possible rendezvous points for VC forces.

2. Fortifications Destroyed

Fighting Holes	192
Caves	10
Tunnels	655 Meters
Treelines	750 Meters
Bunkers (Average size 4x3x3)	1228
Gates	9
Man Traps	9
VC Observation Towers	2
Family Shelters	94
Trench Line	1972 Meters
Bridges	3

3. Weapons Captured.

MAS-36	1
Springfield	1

4. VC Casualties Inflicted.

VC KBGF	41
VC KBAM	9
VC KIA (Conf)	50
VC WIA (Conf)	5
VC KIA (Prob)	13
VC WIA (Prob)	23
VCC	3
VCS	14

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5. AP Mines and Booby Traps Destroyed 55
6. Total Number of Enemy Contacts. 106

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S-3 CHRONOLOGY

1. General. During the period 1-31 July, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines continued to defend the eastern sector of the 9th Marines TAOR. Operating with two companies forward, one in the center of the TAOR and one in reserve, normal search and destroy and search and clearing operations were conducted. The two forward companies established semi-permanent positions while the one company in the center of the TAOR remained mobile. Major operations in which 2d Battalion, 9th Marines participated in during this month were Macon and Hastings.

During the past month, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines received several distinguished and liaison visitors. Visits were made by LtCol RAPHEAL, CO 3d Tank Bn, on 3 July, LtCol SPALDING, CO 2/1, on 6 July, Col BARRETT, CO 9th Marines, on 8 July, the Commanding General IIMAF on 15 July, Col MARTIN, Division Inspector, on 16 July, and General ENGLISH, TFD Commander, on 27, 28, and 29 July.

During the last part of July, planning was commenced for the Battalion's move to the Phu Bai area. This move will bring the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines into the DaNang area to take over 2/9's TAOR.

2. Operation Macon. On 4 July, Company M, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, OPCON this battalion since 9 June, returned to OPCON 3d Battalion, 9th Marines in order to meet commitments for Operation Macon. Participating in Operation Macon, Companies G and H established continuous river block positions along the northern bank of the Song Ky Lam River from 5 July to 15 July and accounted for 14 VC KIA (Conf) and 3 VC KIA (Prob).

3. Operation Hastings. On 20 July, Companies E and G with Battalion Command Group Alpha departed the DaNang area to take part in Operation Hastings. Upon arrival at Dong Ha, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (-) assumed the mission of Task Force Delta Reserve and provided the night defense for the Dong Ha Airfield. In addition to establishing a perimeter 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (-) conducted extensive day and night security patrols. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (-) remained at Dong Ha as Task Force Delta Reserve from 22 July until 26 July at which time they effected the relief of 2d Battalion, 4th Marines. Upon relieving 2/4, a night defensive position was established in the vicinity east of Hill 208. In a coordinated advance with the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, the battalion moved southeast to Hill 162, secured this objective and established night defense atop Hill 162. From Hill 162 the battalion pushed southeast and secured Hill 124, at which time it continued moving towards Cam Lo. Upon arrival at Cam Lo, the battalion was moved to Dong Ha by motor convoy. On 30 July, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (-) returned to DaNang, OPCON 9th Marines. Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, which had been OPCON this battalion since 20 July returned to OPCON 1st Battalion, 9th Marines on 30 July.

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4. Joint ARVN/USMC Operations. On 11 July, a Commando Platoon from the Headquarter's Company of the 51st Regiment (ARVN) returned OPCON to the 51st Regiment (ARVN). Since 9 June this platoon had been OPCON 2d Battalion, 9th Marines and had accompanied numerous company and platoon size USMC operation in the Battalion's TAOR. 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.

Also during the first two weeks of July a Combined Action Squad was employed and maintained on the Song Vinh Dien Bridge at 056587. The squad was replaced on the 14 July by a squad from 1/1.

On 22 July, Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (OPCON 2/9) conducted a two day County Fair operation in close coordination with the 51st Regiment (ARVN) in the hamlets of Quang Dong (998627) and Bich Nam (995635). These operations resulted in 5 VC KIA and two VC captured.

From 20 July until 31 July a detachment of District Village cadre was attached to Company H, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines. This cadre was composed of indigenous personnel from the area in which Company H was operating. This cadre accompanied several platoon patrols into the surrounding hamlets and was directly responsible for 3 VC KIA, 1 VC captured and one weapon. The cadre was also helpful in pointing out to the Marines likely VC rendezvous points and assembly areas. Intelligence from the cadre also indicated the availability of VC ralliers (Chieu Hoi) who are from areas within the Battalion's TAOR.

Increased use of these cadre personnel and the possible use of VC ralliers in conjunction with company and platoon size operations within 2d Battalion, 9th Marines area is as of 31 July projected for the month of August.

5. Fire Support and Fire Coordination (FSCC).

a. Echo Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines provided direct artillery support to 2d Battalion, 9th Marines. Echo Battery was reinforced by Delta Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines; Lima Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines provided general support. Echo Battery provided H&I fires for 2/9 and fired numerous missions on both known and suspected enemy positions. A total of 1,917 artillery rounds were fired in support of 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

For the period of 20 July to 30 July, while on Operation Hastings 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (-) was supported by Lima, Mike, Golf and by Bravo Battery of the 11th Marines. These batteries provided prep fires for positions of possible ambush along 2/9's route of march and saturation fires on suspected enemy assembly points as well as H&I fires.

b. A total of 10,858 81mm rounds were fired in support of 2d Battalion, 9th Marines during the period from 1-31 July 1966.

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6. Air Support.

a. Close air support missions during the reporting period were limited to (3) three armed helicopter strikes. All three were fire suppression missions conducted while escorting medevac helicopters engaged in evacuating wounded 2/9 personnel from battle areas. Aircraft utilized were the UH-1E type. Ordnance expended: 650 rds 7.62mm. No Viet Cong casualties were confirmed as a direct result of these strikes.

b. Medical evacuations numbered forty-seven (47) missions during the reporting period. A total of (70) seventy personnel were evacuated. Aircraft utilized included thirty-six (36) UH-1E and fifty-six (56) UH-34 type aircraft. Among all personnel evacuated during the period, nine (9) were Vietnamese civilians regarded by the battalion medical staff as needing hospital treatment.

c. Troop lift missions during the reporting period numbered five (5). The first mission, on 4 July, was the extraction of "M" Co, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines from the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines TAOR to An Hoa in support of Operation Macon. 10 CH-46 type aircraft were used.

The second mission was the movement of one squad from "F" Co, at the time in a mobile status, to the Battalion CP. Two (2) UH-34 aircraft were used.

The remaining three troop lifts during the reporting period were in connection with Operation Hastings. The first on 20 July transporting 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (-) from the DaNang Airbase to the Dong Ha Airbase. Five (5) KC-130's were used and 377 personnel lifted.

The second, on 26 July was a helicopter lift of the battalion from the Dong Ha Airbase to the vicinity of YD 054651, relieving 2d Battalion, 4th Marines who were extracted to Dong Ha on the same mission. Twenty UH-34 type aircraft were used. Each aircraft averaged (3) three trips from Dong Ha to YD 054651 and return. 372 personnel were lifted. The remaining troop lift was the return of 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (-) from Dong Ha Airbase to the DaNang Airbase on 29 July. Five (5) KC-130's were utilized, averaging two (2) trips per aircraft. 377 personnel were lifted.

d. Logistical missions totaled seventy-five (75) resupply lifts to forward units. The majority of these lifts supported forward and mobile companies on a daily basis in the DaNang TAOR, however three resupply missions supported 2/9 on Operation Hastings using twenty (20) separate lifts utilizing 10 aircraft. All logistics missions for the period used UH-34 type aircraft.

e. Observation/reconnaissance aircraft were used regularly by field commanders both in the DaNang TAOR and on Operation Hastings. Precise number of missions for the period in the DaNang TAOR is unavailable. On Operation Hastings two (2) Commanding Officer's reconnaissance missions were recorded. Aircraft utilized: two UH-34, one UH-1E and two O-1 type aircraft.

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7. Training. During the reporting period, all personnel of the Battalion received refresher instruction on the Rules of Engagement and safety of individual weapons and grenades. Rifle companies conducted varied numbers of hours of instructions emphasizing gun drill, scouting and patrolling, ambushes, small unit tactics, first aid, FO procedures and demolitions.

All replacement personnel received 4 days of training prior to assignment to their billet. (See Appendix 5).

H&S Company conducted varied numbers of hours of instruction on the flame thrower and 106RR. Emphasis was placed on employment and care and cleaning of the weapons. There were 80 hours live firing of the flame thrower.

The 81mm Mortar Platoon conducted 100 hours of training on the basic functioning and utilization of the 81mm mortar. Approximately 60 hours were utilized in preventive maintenance. A total of 10,858 rounds were fired in support of the Battalion.

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S-4 CHRONOLOGY

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1. General. The logistical situation of this Battalion is considered good. In supply, some problems were encountered in obtaining certain items of 782 gear such as bayonets, camouflage covers, air mattresses, head bands, and cots. The Battalion finally received adequate stock of items such as grenade pouches, tropical boots and tropical utilities. These items were difficult to obtain until about 20 July 1966. One constant problem was attempting to requisition batteries such as BA-30's, and BA-270's for the radios AN/PRC-6's and BA-279's for the radios AN/PRC-10. These batteries were always in short stockage at FLSG. Just recently the Battalion was issued sixty-two radio's AN/PRC-25. Use of the radios AN/PRC-6 and AN/PRC-10 will be eliminated. Problems may arise in attempting to keep an adequate stock of batteries BA-386 on hand for the operation of the radio AN/PRC-25.

2. Camp Development. One significant item was the development of a water point within the Command Post. This water point provides adequate quantities of water for both showers and drinking. A shower building was also established with adequate showering facilities to support the Battalion.

3. Operations. The S-4 played a significant part in supporting the Battalion on Operation Hastings. Few difficulties were encountered. The Logistics Support Activity at Dong Ha had adequate amounts of Class I, II, III, and V supplies on hand to support the Battalion. At present the S-4 is predominately concerned with planning for the move of the Battalion to Hue Phu Bai. Plans are being made specifically concerning the requirements of trucks which will be needed for the displacement of the Battalion.

4. Troop Movements

a. Movement to Dong Ha for Operation Hastings 20-29 July 1966

(1) Golf Co was retracted from its forward position. 20 July 1966

- (a) No. trucks - 10
- (b) No. troops - 180

(2) Movement of two companies and Command Group to DaNang Airbase.

- (a) No. trucks - 18
- (b) No. troops - 377

(3) Airlift to Dong Ha. 20 July 1966

- (a) No. aircraft - KC-130's - 5
- (b) No. troops - 377

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(4) Return from Dong Ha to DaNang. 29 July 1966

- (a) No. aircraft - 10
- (b) No. troops - 377

(5) Return from Da Nang airbase to 2/9 CP. 29 July 1966

- (a) No. trucks - 20
- (b) No. troops - 377

5. Logistical Lifts

a. Movement for Operation Hastings

- (1) One (1) lift involving 2 trucks (9,000 lbs) from 2/9 CP to Da Nang airbase.

6. Helicopter Lifts

a. Troop Movements

- (1) Mike Co, 3/9 lifted 140 troops from 2/9 CP to An Hoa, 4 July, utilizing 10 H-46's.
- (2) Operation Hastings

Date 20-29 July 1966

372 troops lifted from Dong Ha to relieve Golf 2/4.
62 helicopter lifts

b. Logistical lifts

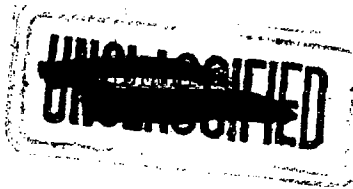
- (1) Operations Hastings

- (a) 9 helicopters - initial supply - 9,000 lbs.
- (b) 11 helicopters - resupply - 11,000 lbs (2 missions).

- (2) Helicopter resupply

- (a) 72 resupply lifts to forward companies using approx 144 helicopters.

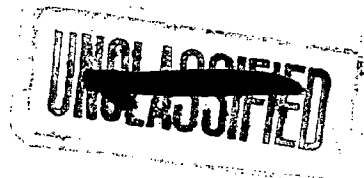
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COMMUNICATION CHRONOLOGY

1. General. The Communication Platoon furnished radio, wire, message center and maintenance support to the battalion during the month of July 1966. A radio relay link was established and maintained as a back up for wire communications to the 9th Marine Regiment. Rifle companies were given continual support for normal operations and added support for Operations Macon and Hastings.
2. Poles. A telescopic telephone pole line was constructed with a ten pair cable to the 9th Marines Regiment. This requirement came about due to continual loss of wire communications while ground laid.
3. Operations Hastings. Supported a command group and two (2) rifle companies with radio, wire and message center communications.
4. Training. Established a two (2) day radio school for company radio operators. While on Operation Hastings, key personnel of the rifle companies were given instruction on radio equipment and procedures.
5. VIP Communications. On two occasions, VIP communications was established for visiting dignitaries.
6. Losses or Shortages. The communication platoon is short one item of equipment, a generator PU-482 which has been at FLSG since 18 May 1966. The platoon is also short the following personnel, one (1) generator man, MOS 1341, eleven (11) radio operators, MOS 2531/2533, and one (1) telephone repairman, MOS 2811.
7. Difficulties. The communication platoon had difficulties with radio communications with the AN/PRC-6's and AN/PRC-10's during the month of July 1966, due to maintenance support for third echelon, and supply support for first and second echelon maintenance repair parts.

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MEDICAL CHRONOLOGY

1. General. During the reporting period the Battalion Aid Station, treated 2,110 Vietnamese civilians. During this period 1,140 Marines were treated and 225 immunization shots were given.
2. BAS. During the period an average of 2 Marines were hospitalized daily at the BAS.
3. Sanitation. The sanitation team continued to improve on field sanitation. The Battalion area was sprayed for rats, fleas and lice.
4. Training. VD lectures were given to all newly arrived replacement Marines.

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CHAPLAIN CHRONOLOGY

1. General. Weekly Catholic and Protestant Services, for all companies were held at the convenience of each unit. Both Catholic and Protestant memorial services were held in each company for men killed during the month. Catholic services were held weekly in An Trach (AT 9666) for the Vietnamese.
2. Training. All newly arrived replacement Marines received lecture on the religions of Vietnam.
3. Visits. Numerous visits were made to the Battalion BAS, "C" Med and NSA to check on the Battalions sick and wounded.

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CIVIL AFFAIRS CHRONOLOGY

1. General. During the month of July, a total of 2,110 Vietnamese civilians received medical treatment. In support of the civic action program the following supplies were distributed:

Rice	1,000 lbs
Soap	1,911 bars
Bubble Bath	3 boxes
Candy	313 bags
Magazines	2,000
Pencils	3 boxes
Wheat	200 lbs
Can Food	36 cans
Sewing Kits	2
School Kits	4

2. County Fairs. Our Med Cap team supported two County Fairs. Rice, canned food and medical supplies were distributed to the villagers.

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