

00264-68

## HEADQUARTERS

Second Battalion, Ninth Marines  
Third Marine Division (Rein), FME  
FPO San Francisco California, 96602

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5750  
1 July 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: Commanding General, Third Marine Division

3 of 14

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 June to 30 June 1968

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

Encl: (1) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Downgraded to unclassified when Sections I, II, III, IV, V, VII and VIII are removed from enclosure (1).

*Re Hensel*  
R. E. HENSEL  
By direction

Copy to:  
1-CG, Fourth Marines  
1-CG, Ninth Marines  
11-CG, Third Marine Division

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

DECLASSIFIED

2ND BN / 9TH MAR

CMD CHRON

JUNE 1968

UNCLASSIFIED

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Section I - Organizational Data

1. Designation/Location. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 30 June 1968  
Ca Lu and Quang Tri.

2. Period Covered by Report. 1-30 June 1968.

3. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer and Staff including T/O Billet Assignments:

Commanding Officer	LtCol F. S. KNIGHT	1-30 June
Executive Officer	Maj C. H. JOHNSON	1-30 June
S-1	1stLt R. E. HENSEL	1-30 June
S-2	1stLt J. P. C. FLOYD	1-30 June
S-3	Maj R. M. LOSEE	1-30 June
S-4	Capt M. E. RECH	1-30 June
S-5	1stLt J. L. BURGONNE	1-7 June
Comm Officer	Capt A. W. PAYNE JR	1-30 June
MT Officer	2dLt J. M. G. MITCHELL	1-7 June
Supply Officer	3dLt C. A. THOMPSON	1-30 June
Medical Officer	Lt J. H. KNIGHT	1-30 June
Chaplain	Lt C. A. TEE JR 1stLt R. C. FRANKLIN	1-11 June 12-30 June
H&S Company	1stLt R. E. HENSEL	1-30 June
Company "E"	1stLt J. H. CARSON Capt P. V. BARLA	1-6 June 6-30 June
Company "F"	1stLt A. A. PIERCE	1-30 June
Company "G"	Capt D. W. BUCKNER	1-30 June
Company "H"	Capt R. W. ELLISON	1-30 June

Section II - S-1 Chronology

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1. General. During the reporting period, the officer strength has decreased and a shortage exists primarily in occupational field 03. Two officers were joined and six were lost from this organization. The enlisted strength remained rather constant having joined 171 and dropped 116 and a shortage still exists in staff non-commissioned officer ranks, primarily in the occupational field 03. The non-effectives at the end of the reporting period totals 2 officers and 156 enlisted. Losses for the forthcoming month are expected to be 42 enlisted and 4 officers by rotation to CONUS.

a. Strength. The average strength for the period ending 30 June 1968 was as follows:

USMC	
OFF	ENL
30	1066

USN	
OFF	ENL
2	52

Note: Percentage of T/O was about 88.4%

b. Losses.

	USMC	
	OFF	ENL
Hostile	2	68
Non-Hostile	0	2
Admin	3	47
	5	116

$116 - 121 = 5$

USN	
OFF	ENL
0	3
0	1
1	7

Note: The above figures include only those personnel dropped from the rolls. For total casualties see the medical chronology.

(1) Of the battle casualties, 10 were KIA and 58 were WIA. The 58 were transferred by service record to Camp S.D. BUTLER. Of the non-hostile casualties, 1 died of drowning.

(2) Of the administrative losses, 4 officers were transferred intra-division, 26 enlisted were transferred intra-division and 23 rotated to CONUS.

c. Administrative:

(1) State of Morale. Excellent.

(2) Significant Activities of Personal Service. None.

(3) Promotions. 39 Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal, 70 Private First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal and 7 Privates were promoted to Private First Class.

(4) Discipline, Law and Order. One General Court-Martial was completed, one Summary Court-Martial was completed and 3 persons were awarded NJP by the Battalion Commander.

(5) Mail. Service has been satisfactory.

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Section III - S-2 Chronology

1. General. During the reporting period from 1 June to 30 June 1968, the Second Battalion, Ninth Marines participated in Operation LANCASTER II under OPCON of the Ninth Marine Regiment from 1 June to 19 June and 30 June. The Second Battalion, Ninth Marines also participated in Operation SCOTLAND II under OPCON of the Fourth Marine Regiment from 19 June to 29 June 1968. This organization's mission for this period included provision of security at Ca Lu Combat Base, LZ Cameo and bridges along Route #9 plus saturation patrolling throughout the surrounding area.

2. Area. The operating area for this period can generally be described as that area surrounding Ca Lu Combat Base vic (YD 0145). The major part of this area is roughly defined by the north and south ridgelines encompassing the Ba Long Valley. On the northern side of the valley, this boundary follows an arbitrary line generally southeast from Nui Ba Ho vic (YD 0150) to Dong Ngan vic (YD 0944). The 50 grid line provides a rough northern boundary, and the eastern is generally closed in by the 20 grid line. The southern boundary goes as far south as the Da Krong River and the western extends to the 92 grid line.

The terrain in this operating area characteristically falls into two distinct categories, the first of which is the generally rugged hills and mountains on either side of the Ba Long Valley and along the Da Krong River. Prominent in these areas are Dong Toan vic (YD 0944) and Dong Ngan vic (YD 0944) as well as the ridgeline of which they are a part.

As previously noted, the valley floor is primarily an agricultural plain and it is vegetated accordingly. Irregular rice paddies and cultivated fields are everywhere. Observation is hampered only by occasional treelines and hedgerows, for the most part around the villages at vic (YD 025455), vic (YD 032448) and vic (YD 040445).

Trafficability in this area is excellent. Route #9 at the northwest corner of the operating area provides the principal friendly access. Also significant is the secondary road running generally southeast from Route #9 through the valley generally parallel to the Quang Tri River; with only minor improvement, this road could easily accommodate vehicular traffic. It should also be noted that numerous trails and footpaths extend virtually in every direction out of the various villages. The complete lack of concealment is a decided drawback in this portion of the operating area. Friendly and enemy elements situated on the ridgelines on either side of the valley have complete observation of the valley floor and all activity therein.

3. Weather. The weather conditions during the reporting period typified the hot, dry summer months. Throughout the period there was a constant, variable wind and only the slightest rainfall. A list of weather statistics for the period:

Maximum Temperature	102
Minimum Temperature	76
Total Rainfall	1.82 Inches
Number of Days with Rain	6
Visibility (Average)	6 Miles
Winds (Average)	7 knots

#### 4. Enemy Situation.

A. General. There are a significant number of NVA forces harbored in the northwestern portion of the operating area believed to be elements of the 304th NVA Division. Their mission is believed to be two fold; the first being to rocket Ca Lu Combat Base and LZ Cameo. The second mission is to interdict Route #9.

Recent "Sniper" reports have shown a significant number of unidentified elements to our direct east, on the ridgeline from vic (YD 0151) to vic (YD 0446).

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Characteristic of these NVA units of the 304th Division are well supplied and equipped ground forces being supported by such weapons as 107mm rockets, heavy anti-aircraft weapons, possibly to include 37mm guns plus an abundance of indigenous 82mm mortars and ammunition for the same.

The village complexes southeast of Ca Lu Combat Base are known to harbor a local force unit of undetermined size. The mission of this unit is primarily to aid NVA units moving through the area by providing necessary food stuffs and needed medical attention. Further east in the Ba Long Valley, it is believed that there is another unit with a primarily noncombat mission of guiding transient NVA units south from the Cua Valley into the Ba Long Valley. This unit works in a similar manner to and in close conjunction with the 27th Independent Battalion.

B. Significant Enemy Activity. Enemy activity during the reporting period has generally been interdicting Route #9 with ambushes of convoys to and from Khe Sanh. The NVA utilized such weapons as Chi Com claymore, RPG's and small arms fire. A Marine company outpost on Hill #512 vic (YD 954452) was mortared several times and patrols made contact with NVA Forces entrenched in bunkers near their position. Also during the period, there were several rocket attacks on LZ Camoo utilizing the Chi Com 107mm rocket.

#### 5. NVA Casualties and Personnel Losses.

VC/NVA KIA (c)	1
VC/NVA POW	0
Detainees	23

#### 6. Enemy Equipment Destroyed and Captured.

NVA Claymore	1
SKS Rifle	1
Anti-personnel Claymore Mine	12
Anti-Vehicular Mine	8
50 cal Linked ammo	80
RPG-7 Sight	1

7. VC/NVA Initiated Incidents. During the reporting period, the enemy initiated a total of 16 incidents against the Second Battalion, Ninth Marines or subordinate units in this organizations area of operation. These incidents are broken down as follows:

Mortars	4
Artillery/Rockets	3
Contacts	4
Sniping	3
Mining/Boobytraps	2

8. Sources of Intelligence. Intelligence information during the period was gathered from the following sources: S-2 Fourth Marines, S-2 Ninth Marines, Third Force Recon Battalion, Fifth CIT, Seventh ITT, Kit Carson Scouts, Battalion S-2 Scouts and ground forces working in the area.

9. Surveillance Devices. Thirteen small Stenlight Scopes were employed extensively during the period on ambushes, IP's and perimeter defense. In addition, four PP-56 were utilized on the perimeter at Ca Lu Combat Base and at LZ Camoo plus three MCD's.

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~~SECRET~~Section IV - S-3 Chronology

1. General. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines participated in Operation LANCASTER II from 1 June until 19 June and Operation SCOTLAND II from 19 June until 29 June when they went back to Operation LANCASTER II.
2. Company "E". Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 June to 17 June E/2/9 occupied and defended bridges 17 through 26 on Route #9 west of Ca Lu. From 18 June to 22 June E/2/9 occupied and defended bridges 17 through 23. On 23 June two platoons moved to LZ Cameo and assumed defense responsibilities and defense of Hill #304 vic (XD 979480). The remaining platoon chopped to Company "F". On 26 June Company "H" chopped a platoon to Company "F" for additional LZ Cameo security. Construction of extended perimeter at LZ Cameo to include task force HOTEL commenced on 27 June.
3. Company "F". Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 June to 15 June F/2/9 occupied and defended Hill #512 vic (XD 955048) conducting aggressive patrols in the area. On 16 June F/2/9 moved to Ca Lu and took up positions in perimeter defense. F-2 platoon open to Company "H" for the period 1 June to 22 June. From 17 June to 23 June maintain defense at Ca Lu. On 23 June assumed opcon of Company "E" platoon and assumed additional responsibility of bridges 17-23 on Route #9 until the end of the month.
4. Company "G". Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 June to 17 June G/2/9 occupied perimeter defense at Ca Lu. G-3 platoon under command of Battalion Command Group "B" defended LZ Cameo. On 17 June Company "G" (-) assumed responsibility for bridges 24-27 on Route #9. On 21 June G-3 platoon joined the company and took over positions at bridge #28. This posture remained through the end of the month.
5. Company "H". Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 June to 17 June H/2/9 manned bridges 27-31 on Route #9. H-1 platoon manned Hill #304 vic (XD 979480) from 1 June to 20 June. On 18 June Company "H" (-) (Reinf) relinquished responsibility of bridge 27 to Company "G" and on 21 June also relinquished bridge 28. During the period 1 June to 22 June F-2 platoon was open to Company "H". On 23 June chopped H-2 platoon to Company "F" and relinquished responsibility for bridges 30-32 to First Battalion, Fourth Marines. On 26 June chopped one platoon to Company "E".
6. Base Company. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. Bravo Command Group operated at LZ Cameo until 201800Z when it rejoined Alpha Command Group at Ca Lu Command Operations Bunker. Performed normal services and support for the reporting period.
7. Close Combat. During the month of June 1968, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines conducted two company, 37 Platoon and 122 Squad size patrols. It also conducted 45 squad size ambushes, 39 fire team observation posts and 421 fire team size listening posts.
8. Training. Due to operational commitments very little formal training was conducted. There were 152 replacement personnel received and given training in accordance with DivO 1510.3B.
9. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination.
  - a. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines was provided direct artillery support at Ca Lu by "E" Battery, Second Battalion, 12th Marines from 2 June to 30 June. The following batteries also furnished fire support to Second Battalion, Ninth Marines while at Ca Lu: "C" Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines (1 June), "F" Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines (9 June to 13 June), "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines (21 June to 24 June) and "H" Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines (22 June to 30 June). Tactical control was provided by 1st Battalion,

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12th Marines from 1 June to 6 June and from 19 June to 30 June. From 7 June to 19 June tactical control was furnished by 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines. At Ca Lu the batteries furnished their own technical control.

b. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines employment of artillery while at Ca Lu resulted in the following round expenditure: 3677 HE, 183 WP and 8 Illumination. Nature of targets included prop fires, counter-rocket fires, bunkers, active .50 caliber machinegun positions and night defensive fires. In addition daytime suppressive fires and nighttime HEI's were fired daily.

c. The artillery support received from both 1st Battalion, 12th Marines and 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines was considered satisfactory. Barring delays due to air traffic, initial rounds were delivered quickly as were subsequent corrections.

d. 81mm mortars provided organizational support for the battalion during the month. The 81mm mortar platoon adhered to an active HEI program and also supported reconnaissance in the Second Battalion, Ninth Marines AO as well as elements of adjacent battalions. The following round expenditures resulted: 3504 HE, 40 WP and 23 Illumination rounds.

#### 10. Air Support.

a. Movevacs. A total of 98 personnel were movevaced during the month. 72 of these personnel were from Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

b. Command and Control. During the month of June four visual reconnaissance flights were performed.

c. Resupply. During the month of June 38,000 pounds of supplies were lifted to 2/9 units in the field.

d. Troop Lifts. During the month of June no troop lifts were employed.

e. Fixed Wing. During the month of June no fixed wing flights were employed by this battalion.



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~~SECRET~~Section V - S-4 Chronology

1. General. During the month of June, Second Battalion Ninth Marines occupied positions at Ca Lu, LZ Cameo and bridges 17-31 west of Ca Lu along Route #9. Logistic problems were greatly increased by the separation of battalion elements and the house keeping responsibilities required by occupying two major cantonment areas.

a. Supply. The supply situation presented no major problems in carrying out the battalion mission with the exception of the following areas of short supply.

Gas Mask Mod.	775
Gas Mask Large	80
Wrist Watches	80
Air Mattresses	600

During the latter part of the month certain items of 782 gear, notably helmet liners, bayonet scabbards and canteens with covers were in short supply. These shortages effected the outfitting of replacement personnel as well as the upkeep of the troops in the field. Also during the latter part of this period there developed a serious shortage of BA-386's. This situation was resolved satisfactorily by sending supply personnel to FLC, Da Nang with walk through requisitions.

During the reporting period several items of importance were received.

Time Patches	22 Boxes
Battery Charger PP4367	2
Generator Module for PRC-25	26
750x10 tubes f/M274A2	20

b. Ordnance.

(1) The following items are on 3d echelon deadline.

- (5) M79 Grenade Launchers
- (1) M60 Machine Gun
- (1) 60mm Mortar

(2) Items on 2d echelon deadline include:

- (1) 106mm Recoilless Rifle

(3) The class V situation has remained good during this month.

c. Comm/Elect.

a. (2) Radio Sets AN/PRC-47, (1) Radio Set AN/PRC-41, (2) Radio Sets AN/PRC-25, (1) Teletypewriter Set AN/TGC-11A, (1) Radio Set AN/MRC-37, (1) RT 524 f/MRC-109 and (1) Radio Set AN/MRC-83 are on 3d echelon deadline.

b. At present (1) Radio Set AN/PRC-25 is on 2d echelon deadline.

d. Motor Transport.

(1) Organic Motor Transport capabilities initially were outstanding. This was due to the receipt of the M151A1 during the latter part of May 1968. However it soon became apparent that the M151A1 suffered from some serious deficiencies. Notable among these were the faulty voltage regulators and carburetors. Direct exchange for these items is still possible. However, due to the rumored shortage of spare parts for these vehicles we could encounter serious problems in the near future.

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(2) The M274A2 developed into a source of major problems. Lack of starters accounted for 9 M274's deadlined as the month of June ended.

(3) Non organic transportation support was provided by 3d Motor Transport Battalion. As the month ended the battalion had 4 2½ ton trucks in support of the battalion.

## 2. Operation. See S-3 Chronology.

## 3. Logistical Lifts.

(1) Vehicular. During this period 486 men and 278,000 pounds of cargo were moved in 112 lifts. These lifts were accomplished mostly by trucks due to the fact that the battalion was spread over 6,000 meters of Route #9.

(2) Helicopter. Helicopters were used during the month to supply an OP on Signal Hill and Fox Company on hill #512 from 1 June to 21 June. A total of 184 personnel and 38,000 pounds of cargo were moved in 46 lifts with the majority of the lifts being made with H-46 helicopters from LZ Camoo.

## 5. Ammunition Expenditure for the Month of June 1968.

<u>DODAC</u>	<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>
A127	7.62 Link	28,000
A175	45 cal Ball	5,000
B632	40mm HE	618
B568	60mm HE	1,800
B630	60mm WP	216
B627	60mm Illumination	880
C256	81mm HE	2,970
C226	81mm Illumination	150
C230	81mm WP	60
C650	106mm HEAT	60
C651	106mm HEAT	750
G940	Green Hand	96
H555	Rkt 66mm HEAT	120
G940	Green Smk Grn	24
G945	Green Smk Yel	75
K143	Mine AP-M18A1	120
L314	Sig Illum Wht Para	36
L315	Sig Grn Star Clust	72
L316	Sig Wht Star Clust	160
L498	Flare, surface trip	48
M032	chg Block TNT 1b	0
A071	5.56 Ball	23,500

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~~SECRET~~Section VI - S-5 Chronology

1. General. Due to operational commitments and tactical deployment, Civic Actions were curtailed. One MEDCAP was conducted in a nearby Montognard village and over 20 natives were treated for minor ailments. Steps are being taken through the S-5, Fourth Marines to transport some villagers to Can Lo market to trade and procure foodstuffs.

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Section VII - Communications Chronology

1. General. During the period 1 June to 22 June, communications support was provided to Alpha Command Group and Bravo Command Group at LZ Cameo. From 22 June to 30 June communications platoon regrouped under the Alpha Command Group. Logistic and repair support was provided from the Battalion rear in Quang Tri. On 27 June the battalion rear commenced relocating the rear C.P.
2. Radio. The radio communications was normal for the reporting period.
3. Message Center. During the month the message center processed 770 incoming messages and 15 outgoing messages.
4. Wire. Wire communications was normal for the reporting period.
5. Technical Shop. The technical shop performed 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance on equipment in the field.
6. Training. Classes were held on Artillery and Air Radio procedure in the field.
7. Difficulties. Shortage of BA-386 occurred towards the end of the month.

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Section IX - Chaplain's Chronology

On 10 June, Lieutenant Clark TEA, CIC, USNR was relieved as Battalion Chaplain by LCDR. Robert C. Franklin, CIC, USN. During the month of June, Roman Catholic Services were provided for the Battalion by its chaplain. Protestant Services were conducted by the former chaplain and the chaplain of the Fourth Marines.

During this period the Battalion Chaplain participated in MEDCAP activities with personnel from the BAS. Services were also provided for Battalion personnel at Quang Tri, other units at LZ Cameo and Army personnel in the Ca Lu area.

A monthly Battalion newsletter has been planned; the first edition to be published in July.

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