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

3:TDW:dwt
7 January 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (code A03D)
VIA: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December to 31 December 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMF PacO 5750.8

Encl: (1) 2d Battalion, 9th 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, VI, VII, and VIII are removed from enclosure (1).

[Signature]
S. J. RABBIT
By direction

Copy to:

- 1-Commanding Officer, 9th Marines
- 13-Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
- 2-File

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1 December 1968 to 31 December 1968INDEX

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SECTION I - Organizational Data

1. Designation/Location. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 31 December 1968, Gua Viet and Quang Tri.

2. Period Covered by Report. 1-31 December 1968.

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

Commanding Officer	Maj F. E. SISLEY	1-9 December
	Maj P. G. COLLINS	10-28 December
	LtCol G. C. FOX	29-31 December
Executive Officer	Maj P. G. COLLINS	1-9 December
		29-31 December
S-1	1stLt R. E. HENSEL	1-31 December
S-2	1stLt W. M. KERR	1-17 December
S-3	Maj T. D. WILSON	1-31 December
S-4	Capt D. N. BUCKNER	1-31 December
Comm Officer	1stLt W. O. WELDON, Jr.	1-31 December
MT Officer	1stLt J. M. G. MITCHELL	1-31 December
Supply Officer	2dLt L. S. DRIEVER, Jr.	1-31 December
Medical Officer	Lt T. S. POWERS	1-31 December
Chaplain	LCDR W. L. CHILDERS	1-31 December
"H&S" Company	1stLt A. A. PIERCE	1-13 December
	1stLt R. E. HENSEL	14-31 December
Company "EF"	Capt J. D. WARD	1-31 December
Company "F"	Capt R. H. SUTTON	1-31 December
Company "G"	Capt D. A. HITZELBERGER	1-31 December
Company "H"	Capt D. F. WINECOFF	1-31 December

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SECTION II - S-1 Chronology

1. General. During the reporting period, the officer strength has increased. 10 officers were joined and 6 officers were lost to this organization. The enlisted strength decreased slightly having joined 167 and dropping 204. The non-effectives at the end of the reporting period totals 2 officers and 144 enlisted. Losses for the month of January 1969 are expected to be 60 enlisted who will rotate to CONUS.

a. Strength. The average monthly strength for the period ending 31 December 1968 was as follows:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
37	1092	2	51

Note: Percentage of T/O was about 94%.

b. Losses

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Hostile	0	8	0	0
Non-Hostile	1	15	0	0
Admin	5	181	0	9

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

(1) Of the battle casualties, 1 was KIA, 1 DOW and 6 were WIA. The 6 WIAs were transferred by service records to Camp S. D. BUTLER.

(2) Of the administrative losses, 3 officers rotated to CONUS and 2 were transferred inter-division. 160 enlisted rotated to CONUS, 14 were transferred to other WestPac commands and 7 were transferred inter-division.

c. Administrative

(1) State of Morale. Excellent.

(2) Significant Activities of Personal Service. None.

(3) Promotions. 3 Corporals were promoted to Sergeant meritoriously, 38 Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal, 37 Private First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal and 20 Privates were promoted to Private First Class.

(4) Discipline, Law and Order. 1 General Court-Martial, 3 Special Court-Martials were completed and 5 persons were awarded NJP by the Battalion Commander.

(5) Mail. Service has been satisfactory.

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6. ENEMY FORTIFICATIONS DESTROYED/CAPTURED: The following fortifications were destroyed during Operation Scotland II-Afton/Dawson River, Afton.

FIGHTING HOLES
HOOTCHES

6
6
12 structures

7. ENEMY EQUIPMENT DESTROYED/CAPTURED. The following equipment was taken during Operation Scotland II-Afton/Dawson River, Afton.

IWC

Thompson Sub Machine Gun 2 total

Ordnance

7.92mm rds 84,000
7.62mm rds 26,000
.45cal rds 22,275
.30cal rds 8,000
.50cal rds 12,000
TNT 175 Lb
BOOBY TRAP 1

Equipment

Axe heads 14
Kerosene lamp 1

Food Stuffs

Rice 9,320 Lb

8. ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS. On 23 December, while on Operation Scotland II-Afton/Dawson River, Afton, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines Rear at Vandegriff Combat Base recieved approximately fifteen rounds of 140mm Rocket fire. This was the only enemy initiated incident during the reporting period.

9. SOURCES OF INTELLIGENCE. During this month, the Battalion utilized the usual sources of intelligence. These sources include reports and briefs from higher echelons such as TASK FORCE HOTEL, 9th Marine Regiment, and 3rd Marine Division. Information of intelligence value was gained from ground troops, recon units, and ITT personnel.

10. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS. There were no PsyWar operations employed during this month.

11. ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE INTEREST. N/A

12. COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS. N/A

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SECTION III - S-2 CHRONOLOGY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION. During this reporting period, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines participated in one operation. From 1 December to 25 December 1968 the battalion participated in Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON/DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. From 25 December to 31 December 1968, the battalion prepared for Operation DAWSON RIVER, WEST. The battalion was OPCON to 9th Marines during this time.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATING AREA. At the end of Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON/DAWSON RIVER, AFTON and the beginning preparation for Operation DAWSON RIVER, WEST, the battalion's operating area was Vandergrift Combat Base vic (YD 0049). Elements of the battalion occupied certain areas around the base. The terrain in this area falls into the category of rugged hills and mountains. Prominent terrain features in this area include DONG TOAN vic (YD 028479), NUI BA HO vic (YD 015500), and HILL 504 vic (XB 966468). These land masses offer excellent observation over much of the operating area.

Trafficability is extremely poor away from the roads and trails due to the vegetation and the steep gradient of the land masses. However, several of the land masses offer good movement since they are heavily covered with elephant grass less than three feet high. Other hills in the area are covered with dense brush, elephant grass and vines making movement slow and often impossible. The valley floor surrounding the base is covered with elephant grass and sections of thick scrub brush.

Friendly avenues of approach would include all the helicopter landing zones in the area and Route #9 running south into the north end of the base. Enemy avenues of approach would include all trails in the area, the old French road running west from the Ba Long Valley vic (YD 0544) into Ca Lu vic (YD 0146), and Route #9 running east from the Laotian border to Ca Lu. The Quant Tri River, the main waterway in the area, could be utilized as an avenue of approach by either friendly or enemy forces.

Route #9 is considered an all-weather road capable of handling all types of vehicular traffic. In reality, this isn't quite so. Heavy rains work quite adversely on the road. Constant work by the Sea Bees enable the road to remain operational 80% of the time. Route #558, which enters the Ba Long Valley vic (YD 1042) from the Cua Valley will handle small scale vehicular traffic. The trails in the area are capable of handling foot troops only.

The numerous and varied HSZ's at Vandergrift Combat Base are capable of handling any and all types of helicopters in large quantities.

3. WEATHER. During the reporting period, 1 December to 31 December 1968, the average temperature was 80 degrees. Average humidity was approximately 70 %. Precipitation for the month was 6 inches. Heavy ground fog was present each morning until just before noon when the sun would burn it away.

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4. ENEMY SITUATION. During the month of December, there was no significant enemy activity in the area surrounding Vandergrift Combat Base. Isolated sightings by recon units and a rocket attack on the base were the only reminder that the NVA still pose a substantial threat in this area.

5. NVA CASUALTIES. During this reporting period, there were no enemy casualties or POW's. There were, however, one hundred and thirteen detainees (Montagnards) who were eventually classified as innocent civilians and taken to the refugee village at Cam Lo vic (YD 125590).

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Section IV S-3 Chronology

1. General. The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines participated in the following operations during the month of December 1968.

Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON/DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. 1 December to 25 December.

Operation DAWSON RIVER. 25 December to 31 December

Map Sheets 6341 I, 6342 II, and 6342 III, covered the area in which these operations were conducted.

2. Company "E", 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON/DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. E/2/9 participated in this operation from 1 December to 25 December 1968. E/2/9 remained under opcon of 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, until the 2d of December when they chopped back to 2d Battalion, 9th Marines and moved to TSL to assume its defense and remained there until 8 December 1968. At this time E/2/9 was relieved of the defense and moved by truck Vandegrift Combat Base. On 9 December E/2/9 commenced motorized move to Camp Carroll and was chopped to 4th Marines until 18 December when they chopped back to 2d Battalion, 9th Marines and returned to Vandegrift Combat Base. E(-)/2/9 remained at Vandegrift Combat Base and maintained its defense while E-2 moved to Hill #950, and E-3 moved to Signal Hill on 19 December. On 29 December E-2 and E-3 rejoined E(-) at Vandegrift Combat Base and made preparations for their R&R trip to Cua Viet.

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER. During the period 25 December to 31 December 1968 E/2/9 made preparations for Operation DAWSON RIVER, WEST.

3. Company "F", 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON/DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. On 30 November, F/2/9 moved to Vandegrift Combat Base and assumed its defense. On 2 December F-2 assumed the defense of Signal Hill. On 8 December F-2 assumed the defense of Hill #950. On 19 December F-2 and F-3 rejoined F(-) at Vandegrift Combat Base and remained there until 29 December. On 29 December F/2/9 moved to Calu and returned to Vandegrift Combat Base on 30 December to make preparations for their R&R trip to Cua Viet.

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER. During the period 25 December to 31 December 1968, F/2/9 made preparations for Operation DAWSON RIVER, WEST.

4. Company "G", 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON/DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. G/2/9 participated in this operation from 1 December to 25 December 1968. On 2 December G/2/9 relieved C/1/9 at TSL and remained standing perimeter watch until 7 December 1968. At this time G/2/9 moved to Calu and assumed its defense until 26 December when they moved to TSL and assumed its defense and made preparations for their R&R trip to Cua Viet on 31 December 1968.

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER. During the period 25 December to 31 December 1968 G/2/9 made preparations for Operation DAWSON RIVER, WEST.

5. Company "H", 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON/DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. H/2/9 participated in this operation from 1 December to 25 December 1968. On 2 December H/2/9 chopped to 1st of the 5th Mechanized Infantry and was helilifted to LZ Anne. On 4 December H/2/9 chopped back to 2d Battalion, 9th Marines at Vandegrift Combat Base. On 7 December 1968 H(-) moved to

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FSD Cates, while H-1 moved to Hill #691 and remained there until 29 December when they joined H(-) at Vandegrift Combat Base and made preparations for their R&R trip to Cua Viet.

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER. During the period 25 December to 31 December H/2/9 made preparations for Operation DAWSON RIVER, WEST.

6. H&S Company, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON/DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. H&S Company participated in this operation from 1 December to 25 December 1968. H&S Company furnished the necessary men and equipment to provide the effective control of the Battalion units during the operation. The Battalion Command Group began the month at Vandegrift Combat Base and remained there until their R&R trip to Cua Viet on 31 December 1968.

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER. During the period 25 December to 31 December 1968 H&S/2/9 made preparations for Operation DAWSON RIVER, WEST.

7. Close Combat. During the month of December 2d Battalion, 9th Marines conducted 4 Company, 20 platoon, and 119 squad size patrols. There were also 1 Company, 10 platoon, and 11 squad size ambushes conducted.

8. Training. Due to operational commitments, very little formal training was conducted. There were 150 replacement personnel who received training in accordance with Division Order 1510.3B.

9. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination.

a. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines was provided with direct fire support for the month of December by 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, batteries "D", "E", "F", and "W". General support was provided by 3d Battalion, 12th Marines, battery "P". Tactical and Technical control was provided by 2d Battalion, 12th Marines.

b. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines employment of artillery for the month of December resulted in the following round expenditures; 489 81 WP, 0 ILL, and 7 Firecracker rounds. Nature of targets included suspected enemy and mortar positions, TOT's, and prep fires.

c. The artillery fire support for the month of December was considered satisfactory.

10. Air Support.

a. Medevacs. A total of 62 personnel were medevaced during the month of December.

b. Command And Control. During the month of December 2 visual reconnaissance flights were performed.

c. Resupply. During the month of December 412,653 pounds of supplies were delivered to units in the field.

d. Troop Lifts. During the month of December 10 troop lifts were employed.

e. Fixed Wing. 6 fixed wing flights were controlled by 2d Battalion, 9th Marines during the month of December.

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Section V 3.4 Chronology

1. General. Resupply during December was generally excellent except for brief period of inclement weather. No major shortages of clothing or equipment were experienced. The Battalion's weapons density has improved greatly since November. Support from supply in Quang Tri has been excellent. Some items have not been in stock but this has not effected the combat readiness or efficiency of the Battalion. Motor Transport is in excellent shape and with the delivery of mule starters will have nearly 100% of the vehicles operational.

2. Supply

a. The supply situation presented no major problem in carrying out the Battalion's mission. However the below listed items, were in short supply during this period:

Manifold Paper	AA Forms
Ponchos	Black Ink Pens
Flak Jackets	Trip Tickets
9R Boots	

b. During this period BA 386's were in a critical status.

c. Items of significant importance that were received during this period, are as follows:

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>QTY</u>
M-60 Machine Gun	1
M-416B1 Trlr	1
Test Coil Condenser	1
Night Vision Sight	5
Telescope Observer (M-49)	4
Drafting Equipment	1

3. Ordnance.

a. The Ordnance situation was considered satisfactory.

b. The following items of Ordnance Type Combat Essential Equipment are on 3rd Echelon Maintenance:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
*Compressor f/Flame	2

*The above compressor has been in FLSC-B since 5 September 68. FLSC-B would not accept the other compressor at first due to the lack of missing parts, but now has finally accepted it. With both compressors down, this Battalion has a flame section which is in a not ready status.

c. At present the Battalion has no Ordnance Type Combat Essential Equipment on 2nd Echelon Maintenance.

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d. The following Ordnance Type Combat Essential Equipment are on order:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
106 RP	2
Pistol Cal .45	19
Pistol Cal .45	2
Pistol Cal .45	4
Pistol Cal .45	2
Tank Flame Portable	2

4. Comm/Elect

a. The situation in Communications section during this period was barely satisfactory due to the maintenance of equipment in 3rd Echelon Maintenance, and the non-availability of spare parts.

b. The following items of Comm/Elect Combat Essential Equipment are on 2nd Echelon Maintenance:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
AN/GRC-125	5
KY-8	1

c. The following items of Comm/Elect Combat Essential Equipment are on 3rd Echelon Maintenance:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
PRC-41	1
PRC-47	1
PRC-25	4
KY-8	1

d. The following items of Comm/Elect Combat Essential Equipment are on order:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DOC #</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Battery Cell f/PRC-47	8169-2154	80
PRC-47	8179-2275	1
PRC-47	8224-0522	1
PRC-87	8232-0679	1
X-Mod Cable f/KY-8	8162-2048	4
URR-23	8318-1941	1

5. Motor Transport

a. The maintenance situation was considered satisfactory.

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b. The below listed items of Organic Motor Transport Combat Essential Equipment are on 3rd Echelon Maintenance:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
M-274A2	1

c. The below listed items of Organic Motor Transport Combat Essential Equipment are on 2nd Echelon Maintenance:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
M-274A2	2

d. The below listed items of Organic Motor Transport Combat Essential Equipment are on order:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DOC #</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Starter f/M274A2	8079-0969	1
Starter f/M274A2	8086-1076	1
Starter f/M274A2	8128-1681	6
Starter f/M274A2	8206-0309	5
Regulator f/M151A1	8023-0220	1
Regulator f/M151A1	8171-2165	5
Regulator f/M151A1	8179-2287	5

e. Non-Organic Transportation was considered satisfactory during this period. Support from 3rd and 9th Motors has been good. Some difficulty has been experienced procuring a vehicle to make the Quang Tri to Vandergrift Combat Base supply run but this has been unavoidable due to the other units higher priority.

6. Other Logistical Support: N/A

7. Operations: See S-3 Chronology

8. Logistical Lifts:

a. Primary means of resupply was by CH-46 and CH-53 helicopters.

<u>LIFTS</u>	<u>CARGO</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
74	168,828	132

b. Vehicular Support:

<u>LIFTS</u>	<u>CARGO</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
29	118,794	225

9. Ammunition expenditures for the month are as follows:

<u>DODAC</u>	<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>QTY</u>
A127	7.62 Linked	5,600 Rds

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<u>DODAC</u>	<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>QTY</u>
A071	5.56	11,760 Rds
D568	60MM HE	1,390 Rds
0945	Gren Smk Yellow	18 Rds
K143	Claymores	42 Rds
M756	C-4 Demo Kit	30 Kits
B630	60MM WP	18 Rds
0940	Gren Smk Green	64 Rds
M670	Time Fuse	500 Ft
A475	45 Cal. Ball	2,100 Rds
L498	Surface Flare Trip	32
C230	81MM WP	378 Rds
M420	Shape Charge	36 Cases
M456	Det Cord	500 Ft.
M55	Rkt 60MM (law)	25 Rds
C256	81MM HE	708 Rds
M131	Blasting Caps	550 Caps
C940	Grenade Hand	8 Cases
B632	40MM HE	360 Rds
L314	Sig Illum	128
----	Gren Smk Red	10 Rds

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1. General. Due to operational commitments and tactical employment, Civic Actions were curtailed. No medops were conducted but steps are being taken through S-5 to begin projects as soon as operational commitments allow.

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1. General. The Communications platoon was divided into three sections during the month of December. The rear section consisted of approximately 20 men provided radio, wire messages center, and repair support at Quang Tri. The S-4 at Vandegrift Combat Base was supported by 8-10 men of this section. The remainder of the platoon provided normal communications support to the Battalion in the field on the following operations.

2. Wire. Normal wire was used at Quang Tri and Vandegrift Combat Base.

3. Radio. Normal radio communications was established at all Battalion locations.

4. Message Center. The message center processed 556 incoming and 11 outgoing messages. Normal shackles and brevity code deliveries were made to the field. Approximately 1105 radio messages were processed by the battalion message center at Quang Tri on the battalion admin radio net.

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Section VIII-Medical Chronology

1. General. During the month of December, the BAS held sick call for 775 Navy and Marine Corps personnel. No medical civic action program was held.

2. Sanitation. Routine daily inspections were made of the battalion area. At Vandegrift Combat Base screened enclosures were provided for dishwashing, fresh vegetables, and garbage areas. Improved supervision of head maintenance was provided.

3. Disease, Injuries and Treatment in General. The malaria rate for the battalion remains higher than any in the Division. Each company Commander was urged to promote Staff supervision of pill distribution in addition to Corpsmen supervision. Head Corpsmen held malaria prevention lectures weekly, efforts were taken to promote halazone and malaria pill supply and usage in future operations. Influenza became prominent this month, with the majority of the cases not requiring evacuation.

4. Casualties and Hospitalization. There were 2 KIA's, 13 WIA's, 20 WIANE'S, and 1 killed nonhostile action. There were 68 NBC's, outpatient treatment consisted of: 1 sharpnel wound, 46 FUO, 145 dermatology conditions, 27 G.U. infections, 17 BENT, 4 N.P., 22 diarrhea conditions, 15 URI, 15 miscellaneous injuries, 24 miscellaneous diseases, 1 rabies injection and 20 Orthopedic conditions.

5. Training. Orientation lectures were given to new personnel. The subject matter included personal hygiene, self and buddy aid, along with the preventive measures of, venereal diseases, care of the foot and the snake problem in Vietnam. On the job training and lectures were given periodically for the corpsmen.

6. Complement of BAS. At the close of the month, BAS had a complement of 1 Medical Officer and 49 Hospital Corpsmen. There are 1 attached, 5 personnel joined, 9 transferred and 1 non-effective in the battalion.

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Section IX Chaplain's Chronology

1. General. During the month of December Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish services were provided for the men of the Battalion.
2. Protestant. Protestant services were conducted by the Battalion Chaplain. The wide spread unit dispersion necessitated that the services be conducted for each individual company.
3. Catholic. Catholic services were provided by various Catholic Chaplains in the neighborhood of the Battalion units; in the absence of the Chaplain, services were conducted by unit layleaders.
4. Jewish. Jewish services were conducted whenever a Chaplain of the Jewish faith was available.
5. Personal Services. The Battalion Chaplain conducted such interviews and counselling services as required by individuals of the Battalion.

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