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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 2/9
3rd Marine Division(-)(Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/GDB/dra
5750
22 Jan 1970
009-70

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF ENCLOSURE (1)

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 9th Marines
(2) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division
(3) Commanding General, FMFPac

Subj: Command Chronology for period 01 December to 31 December 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacG 5750.8A

Encl: (1) December 1969 Command Chronology (S)

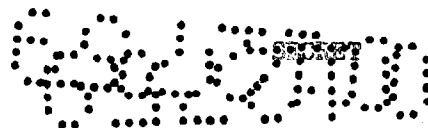
1.(U) In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

J. R. Van Den Elzen
J. R. VAN DEN ELZEN

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GROUP 1
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Dec 1969

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1.(S) Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Date</u>
Headquarters, BLT 2/9	LtCol J.R. VAN DEN ELZEN	1-31Dec

Subordinate Units

"H&S" Company	Capt D.K. SHOCKEY	1-18Dec
	1stLt T.F. SMYER	19-24Dec
	Capt H.B. WILBER	25-31Dec
Company "E"	1stLt C.F. CALDWELL	1-31Dec
Company "F"	1stLt J.M. ROARK	1-31Dec
Company "G"	Capt H.B. WILBER	1-24Dec
	1stLt S.E. McLAUGHLIN	25-31Dec
Company "H"	Capt R.C. NORRIS	1-31Dec

Attached Units

"E"Btry(Rein), 2/12	Capt L.M. SMITH	1-31Dec
2ndPlt(Rein), CoC, 3rdEngrBn	2ndLt W.S. McCUE	1-31Dec
2ndPlt(Rein), CoC, 3rdReconBn	2ndLt J.C. TOMASELLO	1-31Dec
2ndPlt(Rein), CoC, 3rdMTBn	1stLt R.W. HUNER	1-31Dec
2ndPlt(Rein), CoC, 3rdSPBn	1stLt M.A. SMITH	1-31Dec
2ndPlt(Rein), CoB, 1stAmtracBn	1stLt J.E. COON	1-31Dec
1stPlt(Rein), CoA, 3rdTKBn	2ndLt S.W. BENVENUTO	1-31Dec
2ndClrPlt(Rein), CoB, 3rdMedBn	Lt R.T. CADACZ	1-31Dec
LSU, ALFA	2ndLt H.T. CAUMARTIN JR.	1-31Dec
Det, Disbursing	WO R.A. ROQUEMORE	1-31Dec
Det, Dental	Lt R.G. ESQUIRE	1-31Dec
"W"Btry, 3/12	Capt S.E. WINEGARDNER	1-31Dec

2.(S) Location. Headquarters, Battalion Landing Team 2/9
 1-4, 12-27 December: USS Tripoli (LPH-10)
 5-11, 28-31 December: Upper SLF Camp, Subic Bay, Philippines

3.(S) Staff Officers

XO	Major R.C. MILLER	1-31Dec
S-1	2ndLt J.A. LINDSAY	1-31Dec
S-2	1stLt J.B. SWARTZENBERG	1-31Dec
S-3	Major G.D. BRENNAN II	1-31Dec
S-4	Capt G.W. SACHTLEBEN	1-31Dec
CommO	CWO-2 R.S. DOMINGUEZ	1-31Dec
SupplyO	1stLt J.O. WALLING	1-31Dec
MTO	1stLt S.G. MILLER	1-31Dec
Chaplain	Lt(JG) W.L. PATRICK	1-31Dec
Medical Officer	Lt G.W. GOSSMAN	1-31Dec

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USMC	
OFF	ENL
67	1565

USN	
OFF	ENL
5	77

OTHER	
OFF	ENL
0	0

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

- 1.(S) During the month of December, Battalion Landing Team 2/9 was deployed with SLF ALFA.
- 2.(C) Training was conducted onboard and during two training sessions ashore at Subic Bay, Philippines. The first training period was devoted to individual and small unit training, the second to platoon and company tactics. Live fire exercises were conducted by all infantry companies and most attachments.
- 3.(S) The BLT personnel and equipment status was excellent throughout the month.

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1.(C) Training

a. On 1 December 1969, Battalion Landing Team 2/9 embarked aboard ARG A shipping at White and Red Beaches, Okinawa. From 2 to 4 December, the BLT personnel became oriented to shipboard life and their respective ship's SOP and emergency drills, debarking in Subic Bay, Philippines on 4 and 5 December.

b. From 5 to 11 December, the BLT trained at the Zambales and Subic Training Areas. Maximum advantage was taken of the live fire ranges with "E" Btry, "W" Btry, 81mm Mortar Plt, 106mmRB Plt, Tanks, and the weapons platoons of each company conducting live fire exercises. The engineer platoon conducted training with live demolitions. The rifle companies conducted training in the jungle training areas, concentrating on combat skills, terrain appreciation, land navigation, day and night patrolling, and squads in the attack and defense. The Reconnaissance Platoon and S-2 Scouts attended the Jungle Environment Survival Training School.

c. On 12 December the BLT backloaded on ARG A shipping and conducted landing exercises on both the 13th and 14th of December. The BLT landing and loading plans were tested by combined heliborne and surface amphibious assaults and pronounced sound.

d. From 15 December until 27 December, the BLT was deployed to littoral Republic of Vietnam. The afloat training plan was put into effect utilizing GMS classroom instruction to maintain the military proficiency of the individual Marine. Topics included: Weapons, Supporting Arms, Tactics, Mapping, Combat Intelligence, NBC Warfare, First Aid, Engineering, Leadership, Counterinsurgency, Patrolling, Communications, Aviation, and Amphibious Operations.

e. The BLT offloaded at Subic Bay on 28 December and conducted further field training from the 29th through 31st. Companies "G" and "H" had day and night live firing exercises with M-16's and M-79's and tank/infantry coordination in Zambales Training Area. Companies "E" and "F" concentrated on platoon and company tactics in Zambales and Subic Training Areas. The Naval Gunfire detachment attended Jungle Environment Survival Training and the remaining units conducted training in and around the Lower and Upper SLF Camps.

f. Throughout the month, physical training was accomplished by conditioning hikes and daily physical training periods when ashore. At sea, daily physical training periods were conducted whenever possible.

2.(U) Education. The following is a recapitulation of the Battalion Education Program for the month of December:

USAFI	New Enrollments,	
	High School	25
	College	24
USAFI	Completions	
	High School	4
	College	3

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There were 164 persons counseled on educational opportunities. Nine people received their High School Diplomas. Currently 1205 people are taking courses. There are 1625 active courses in the BLT. Group Study MCI courses were utilized by all units to enhance training while aboard ship. Formal schools attended were Embarkation School--1.

4.(S) Equipment

b. At the end of the month BLT shortages of major items of Combat Essential Equipment were as follows:

5.(C) Logistics

a. Supply and Distribution. Third Force Service Regiment was the primary source of supply for the Battalion Landing Team. Public Works Center, Subic Bay, was the primary source of maintenance for the BLT.

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b. Transportation

(1) Ninety-three per cent of the BLT vehicles were operational as of 31 December 1969.

(2) Transportation organic to the BLT provided the primary means of transportation. Naval Base Public Works Center, Subic Bay, augmented BLT assets as required.

c. Engineer Support. 2nd Plt (Rein), Co C, 3rd Engr Bn provided direct engineer support for the BLT. One PR-153 Mine Detecting set has been placed on deadline due to corroded parts. Replacement parts are on order.

d. Service Support

(1) The BLT LSU, conducted Limited Technical Inspections on crew-served weapons resulting in a satisfactory with minor discrepancy rating.

(2) One flood light set from Shore Party has been deadlined for a broken toe hitch and bent frame. This item is undergoing third echelon maintenance at Public Works Center, Subic.

e. Supply StatusStatistical data on priority O2 requisitions

- (a) 38 priority requisitions unfilled at the end of November.
- (b) 17 priority requisitions of (a) above unfilled during December.
- (c) 19 priority requisitions submitted during December.
- (d) 8 priority requisitions completed during December.
- (e) 32 priority requisitions unfilled at the end of December.

f. Medical. The following is a list of services rendered during the month of December, 1969 by the Medical Department.

(1) Total seen at sick call:	1632
(2) Total hospitalized:	36
(3) Completed Physical Examinations:	16
(4) Spectacles ordered:	50
(5) Prescriptions filled:	600
(6) Cases of malaria treated:	15

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- (7) Total V.D. cases treated: 40
- (8) Lectures given to Marine Corps Personnel: Venereal Disease, Narcotics
- (9) Lectures given to Navy personnel: Narcotics

6.(C) Personnel and Administration

a. Personnel

(1) Enlisted MOS Shortages

MOS	RANK	SHORTAGES
0369	E-6/E-7/E-8	7
3052	E-3	2
5711	E-5	1
5931	E-5	1

(2) Rotation during the month (CONUS)

MC OFF	MC ENL	NAVY OFF	NAVY ENL
0	0	0	0

(3) Replacement received during the month: NONE

- (4) Casualties: 75 NBC
- 1 Killed in line of duty
 - 1 Died (undetermined cause as yet)

(5) Promotions:

SgtMaj	1stSgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCPL	PFC
1	1	3	4	48	6

(6) Awards: None

b. Administration

(1) Discipline

(a) Court Martials:	Completed	Pending
GCM	0	0
SPCM	0	2
SCM	0	9

(b) Battalion Commander's Office Hours: 39

(c) Company Commander's Office Hours: 72

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(2) Marine EX and Postal Affairs(a) EX. EX facilities adequate.

(b) Postal Facilities. Problems were encountered in receiving mail for the attached units of the BLT. Messages were sent to FPO San Francisco, 3rd Marine Division Postal Officer and Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler Post Office. Most of the problems were resolved, with the exception of "W" Battery, 3/12.

(3) Chaplain Services. During the month of December, Battalion Landing Team 2/9 participated in divine services on the hangar deck of the USS Tripoli and at the Chapel at the Upper SLF Camp.

(4) Special Services. The Special Services Office, containing games, writing gear, athletic gear, and books, remained open aboard ship for use by BLT personnel.

7.(C) Intelligence

a. During the month of December the BLT S-2 progressed in its efforts to correct pre-existing security discrepancies. An access system in accordance with OFNAVINST 5510.1C has been completed. Letters of access on required personnel have been promulgated based on individual's security clearance. An up-to-date access list has been published.

b. All SRB/OQR's were audited for the Entrance National Agency Checks (ENTNAC) entry. Concurrently a check was made to ensure that security clearance certificates were valid. As a result of the audit, over three hundred Naval Speed Letters were sent to the Naval Investigative Service in Arlington, Virginia. The speed letters requested the results of the ENTNAC on those Marines whose page 11 did not contain sufficient information. Thus far, over one hundred ENTNAC replies have been received and entered in the appropriate records. From this information, Confidential and Secret security clearances have been issued to several Marines whose security status did not previously meet the criteria of their billet.

c. The Order of Battle of Vietnam was obtained. A situation map of that area with particular emphasis on I Corps was made. An intelligence summary of RVN was given to the officers of the BLT on 19 Dec 1969.

d. The S-2 Scouts received instruction on a group study MCI course, "Recon Marine". All lessons in this course have been completed and the final examination has been ordered from MCI. On 6 December, 7 scouts received training in jungle survival at the Jungle Environment Survival Training School, Subic Bay, PI. Subsequently the scouts were given classes on map reading, patrol planning, six troop leading steps and sound detection devices. Practical application and testing followed each unit of instruction.

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8.(C) Communications. During the month of December, the Communications Platoon provided communications support for BLT 2/9. The message center established communications and crypto guard for the BLT, SLF ALFA, and HMM 165.

a. Radio. From the 7th to the 31st of December, radio provided communications during the float, offloading, and back loading phases and ashore during training.

b. Wire. Established a telephone system on the 6th of December at the SLF Camp. This system was maintained by both BLT 2/9 and 1/9.

c. Message Center. Established communications and crypto guard for the SLF, BLT 2/9 and HMM 165. The message center processed 431 outgoing and 2,454 incoming messages during the month of December.

d. Radio Relay. The radio relay section from 7th Communications Battalion (supplemented by the Detachment from HQ Co, 9th Marines) established a telephone link between the SLF Camp and the USS Tripoli.

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Enclosure (1)