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

19568

3/HWC/jm  
05750  
1 Jan 1968

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Reinf), FMF  
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December to 31 December 1967

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

Encl: (1) Command Chronology 1-31 December 1967  
(2) S-2 Journal  
(3) S-3 Journal

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

2. Downgraded at 3 year intervals, declassified after 12 years, DOD Dm 5200.10.

G. C. COOK

3D BATTALION 9TH MARINES  
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HEADQUARTERS  
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Command Chronology  
1 December to 31 December 1967

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Enclosure (1)

PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION.

3d Battalion, 9th Marines

Lieutenant Colonel G. C. COOK  
1-31 December 1967SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&amp;S Company

1stLt J. A. POPE  
1-21 December 1967Captain J. S. GRABILL  
22-31 December 1967

Company I

Captain W. A. CONGER  
1-31 December 1967

Company K

Captain A. K. WARD  
1-31 December 1967

Company L

Captain J. S. ADAMS  
1-31 December 1967

Company M

Captain R. A. O'NEILL  
1-31 December 1967

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2. LOCATION.

1-31 December 1967 - THON SON L M, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

Executive Officer

Major R. L. JAMES  
1-7 December 1967

Major J. P. OLIVER,

S-1

1stLt R. E. POSTALAIT  
1-15 December 19671stLt H. DUGAS  
15-31 December 1967

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1stLt B. E. BRYAN  
1-31 December 1967

S-3

Major B. W. GARDNER  
1-31 December 1967

S-4

Major R. W. AUSTIN  
1-4 December 1967Captain J. L. TRUDEAU  
5-31 December 1967

S-5

1stLt J. L. PETLAND, JR.  
1-31 December 19674. AVERAGE STRENGTH.

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
2	1105	2	53

PART IIPERIODIC SUMMARY

During the period 1-31 December 1967, this battalion continued in the defense and occupation of THON SON L M (XD 982545) to include the mission of denying the enemy access through the "ROCKPILE" area, conducting security operations on Route #9 in assigned AO, conducting operations to interdict enemy locations and destroy enemy forces in AO, conducting convoys from THON SON L M to CA LU, and maintaining a patrol base at CA LU (YD 012455) to deny access through CA LU and B' LONG Valley.

In addition to the battalion's normal mission, the task of designing, and providing security for, the construction of the Combat Operating Base at CA LU was added to our mission.

On 191242H December 1967, while resupplying the CA LU Combat Operating Base, a resupply convoy was ambushed enroute on Route #9 at XD 980503. The ambush was immediately suppressed and the convoy completed the resupply.

On 251330H December 1967, Company K returned from Camp CARROLL where they had been since 28 November 1967. Company K displaced to CA LU Combat Operating Base on 26 December 1967. On 28 December

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1967 Company I returned from the KL/ GHM/ Bridge (YD 027563) and D-9 Area (YD 095515) where they had been since 26 November 1967. Company K and I had relieved forces for participation in Operation KENTUCKY. The Bravo Command Group began coordinating all functions and activities in the CL LU area on 27 December 1967.

In addition, during the period 1-31 December 1967, the battalion conducted extensive small unit patrols, ambushes, and LP's.

PART III

1. FMT organization committed to combat.

a. Combat missions assigned.

- (1) Deny enemy access through "ROCKPIL" / TION SON LAM area.
- (2) Conduct operations to maintain security of MSR Route #9 in AO.
- (3) Conduct operations to interdict enemy LOC's and destroy enemy forces in assigned AO.
- (4) Conduct convoys from TION SON LAM to CL LU.
- (5) Provide security for the building of the CL LU Combat Operating Base.

b. Significant operations conducted. None.

c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy

- (1) KIA Confirmed ----- 0
- (2) KIA Probable ----- 0

d. Casualties sustained.

- (1) KI ----- 0
- (2) KI (NBC) ----- 0
- (3) DOD ----- 2
- (4) VI ----- 7
- (5) TI (NBC) ----- 8

e. New techniques employed. None.

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f. Command relations. Command relations with all supporting units continued to be excellent. Coordination and assistance received on all levels of command functions has been excellent. During the period 1-31 December 1967 this battalion remained under the OPCON of the 3d Marine Regiment.

g. Equipment. During this period there were no serious problems with equipment and normal Marine Corps issue was sufficient in all respects.

#### h. Logistics.

##### (1) Supply and Redistribution.

(a) The month of December was another busy period for the Supply Section. The Supply Assistance Team from III MAF spent 2 1/2 days with the unit. The team pointed out problem areas, and gave helpful information on how to correct those areas.

(b) The transportation problem which existed has now been resolved. The Supply Section now has its own vehicle and trailer. This enables a daily check to be made of the different maintenance sections and the flight lines for items turned in for repair and new supplies coming in.

(c) Supplies have been coming in very well this month but there has also been a large influx of new personnel. We have experienced difficulty in procuring sufficient individual weapons and equipment. This has often caused some delay in sending replacement personnel to the field. This situation is expected to improve next month when other personnel are to rotate.

##### (2) Transportation.

(a) During the month of December most of our organic transportation has been off deadline.

(b) Vehicles are being washed daily to compensate for the muddy road conditions brought by the monsoon season.

(c) The vehicles are being washed daily to compensate for the muddy road conditions brought by the monsoon season.

(d) 9th Motor Transport Battalion recently assigned one truck for daily household use at Camp ROCKPILE.

##### (3) Miscellaneous.

(a) Receipt of 1000 lbs of food by convoy has caused considerable

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difficulty on several occasions because of extremely muddy roads within the C' LU Combat Operating Base. These resupply convoys have often returned to DONG H' just prior to dusk. On one occasion a convoy had to remain at Camp ROCKPILE overnight and could not return to DONG H' until approximately 1100 the following day. Helicopter resupply of C' LU has proven to be most effective when this support is available.

(b) The non-availability of fork lifts at DONG H' continues to cause delays in the loading of resupply vehicles.

(c) This month the Logistics Section moved from DONG H' to Camp ROCKPILE. This enables the section to maintain closer contact with the units being supported and with the Logistics Section of the 3d Marines.

#### 1. Civic Action.

(1) The Bravo Command Group assumed control of MEDCAP activity at C' LU.

(2) The food shortage in CH' N RO Montagnard Hamlet has been alleviated considerably by the acquisition of approximately 5,000 pounds of wheat and oats for distribution to the villagers.

(3) An S-5 Representative is presently located at C' LU to effect the distribution of the above food stuffs and to report on the progress of activities at that location.

(4) In meetings with US ID representatives and CAM LO District Officials it was decided to consolidate CH' N RO Hamlet with L' NG KH' T Hamlet at the latter's location. It was also decided to relocate the population of B' TH' TH Vietnamese Hamlet in the C' M LO Refugee Village. The consolidation of the two Montagnard Hamlets is being effected at present and the Vietnamese move will follow as soon as direction is received from Province. Indications show B' TH' TH to have strong VC/VVA affiliation which would be severed by moving the people to C' M LO. Such a move would additionally provide more rice land to the Montagnards who are cooperative and lack sufficient sources of food. The remaining village, once consolidated, would have the advantage of increased security since the C' LU unit will be required to operate around only one village rather than three as has been the case.

(5) The Division Personal Response Contact Team has been requested to make a presentation to this battalion.

2. Administration. There were no administrative difficulties encountered during this period.

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60-5121-1  
b. Personnel. Replacement personnel have been available in sufficient quantities to replace losses due to combat and rotation to COMUS.

1. Intelligence.

(1) Weather.

(a) Temperature - the average high for the month was 80 degrees fahrenheit. The mean minimum temperature ranged between 67 - 72 degrees fahrenheit.

(b) Winds - during the month of December the winds were mostly from the north or northeast at an average of 8 to 9 knots per hour.

(c) Precipitation - the precipitation was greatest during the first half of the month. The accumulated amount of rainfall during the month was 12.15 inches.

(d) Humidity - the relative humidity averaged 80%.

(e) Clouds - cloudiness decreased after the tenth of the month. Clouds were broken to scattered at 2,000 feet. The sun shown through 8 out of 10 days. Ground fog occurred between 2400 - 0200 hours

(f) Visibility - visibility averaged 7 - 10 miles during the month.

(2) Terrain.

(a) USMC observation post, ROCK ILT (XD979558) is the most dominant terrain feature in the area and provides the best observation of the AO. The other dominant terrain features in the AO include the Razor Back (XD 964573) and Hill 504 (XD 966457).

(b) The terrain in the AO is heavy brush and undergrowth, some of which is secondary jungles. In the low valley areas, elephant grass is predominant from knee high to head high.

(c) The mountains and hills in the AO range from gradual sloping hills to sheer cliffs. The mountains are not so steep that troops can not move up them fully combat loaded.

(d) The dominant streams and rivers in the AO include the SONG CH LO, SONG TRIM FIM, and the RIVIERE DE OU NG TRI. There are numerous small seasonal streams in the AO which run fast and clear.

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(e) Roads - the north-south road (XD 99956A) to (XD 980836) is an all weather road and accurately marked on the map. (140N DOC KIMH, Sheets 63421 and 63422)

(f) Villages - all villages except those around C LU (YD 013543) are destroyed but can be recognized as such. The villages around C LU are presently occupied

(g) Observations and Fields of Fire - the thick brush and vines which cover the mountains severely hamper observation and fields of fire. The low grassy areas offer excellent observation and fields of fire. The lowlands are either covered with thick brush which limits observation severely or is marshland or old rice paddies covered with knee high to waist high grass and permits excellent observation and fields of fire.

(h) Cover and Concealment - concealment, except in the areas of low grass, is excellent to outstanding. There is excellent cover in the area.

(i) Obstacles - the major obstacles for foot troops is thick brush, parts of which are almost impenetrable. The streams and rivers during and after rains become obstacles. Wheel and track vehicles are restricted to road travel because of wet marshy lowlands and steep hills

(j) Landing Zones - LZ's are limited to low grassy areas, rice paddies, gentle sloping hills, or hill tops which are covered in grass

(3) Enemy Situation - from reports received, it is believed that elements of the 101st Regiment is located at XD 920500. Elements of the 18th Regiment at XD 870570, and fortified positions along the valley extending from XD 870620 to XD 870617.

(4) Enemy Activity - enemy activity in the area of the "ROCKPILE" and C LU has been considerably light. However, a resupply convoy was ambushed at XD 982508 on 19 December. Also, C LU received 6 rounds of 60mm mortar fire outside the perimeter. A total of five sightings occurred during the month. Numerous fighting holes have been found in the FO. In one instance a new trail was found with bamboo and rock trail markers, trees with white painted rings and fresh NV boot prints. A patrol received small arms fire. At the sight of the convoy ambush, 20 fighting holes were found along with one TNT block, 4 blasting caps, tail section of a RPG round, one RPG booster, and numerous bloody bandages.

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1. Communications. The Communications Platoon continued to provide normal support for the battalion. The platoon provided support was provided:

(1) Radio Section furnished supplementary radio equipment for Company I to operate on the Regimental Tactical Net at the KHE GHI Bridge Position. During the period 1 thru 10 December, the section provided the Commanding Officer with a KY-8 capability at the C. LU Combat Operating Base. It also provided personnel, three (3) PL/PRC-25's and two (2) PL 292's for the Bravo Command Group established to coordinate activities at the C. LU Combat Operating Base. An additional frequency was obtained from the 3d Marine and was allotted to the Bravo Command for its own Bravo Tactical Net.

(2) Messager Center Section - assured the duties of processing, distributing, and filing of radio messages. This has resulted in a more centralized and efficient control of all communications resources.

(3) Communications Supply - moved from DOUG H to Camp ROCKPILE. New communications supply instructions were published to centralize the turn-in, pick up, evacuation, repair, and accountability of all communications equipment.

(4) The operation of two (2) Combat Operating Bases has required equipment augmentation. The following augmentation equipment has been requested:

- (a) Ten (10) - PL/PRC-25's
- (b) Five (5) each - PL-1/PT T 312/PT, and PL 8
- (c) One (1) - PL/PRC-27
- (d) One (1) PL 524
- (e) Two (2) - KY-6 for KY-8 operations

#### 2. Fire Support.

(1) Units in direct support of this battalion during the month of December were:

- (a) 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (b) A Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery, US
- (c) B Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery, US

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(2) During the month of December, there were a total of 433 missions fired in support of this effort. There were 150 unobserved missions, 275 observed missions, and 81 junction missions fired.

(3) The total artillery rounds fired during this period were 10,729 rounds.

c. Air Support. Detailed breakdown by type of aircraft is listed below:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
MEDEVAC - Routine	2	2
Priority	8	8
Emergency	7	7
Helo Resupply - Routine	2	2
Priority	0	0
Emergency	0	0
Helo Gunship	0	0
Admin Lift	10	9
TOW (0)	9	7
Helo Recon	0	0
Fixed Wing - DCS	0	0
CS	0	0
TPQ	310	UNK

p. Civilian.

(1) Divine Services - Protestant.

(a) Number of Services: 15.

(b) Total attendance: 531.

(c) Number receiving Holy Communion: 98.

(d) Choir rehearsals: 2.

(e) Lay leader services: 3.

(2) Divine Services - Catholic.

(a) Number of Services: 5.

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(b) Total Attendance: 260.

(c) Lay leader services 4.

(3) Significant Events.

(a) Dispensary visits daily: 1.

(b) Last Rites 1.

(c) Letters written for troops 17.

(d) Thank you letters for gifts 28.

(e) Private Communion 2.

(f) Christmas boxes received and distributed 238.

(g) Narcotic inventory was taken for month of December.

(h) Christmas decorations were solicited and distributed at C/ LU and RCPIL.

4. Medical.

(1) The medical status of this battalion is presently satisfactory.

(2) There were 507 visits to sick call this month, 488 Marines, 7 Navy, and 12 Army.

(3) There were 11 clinical laboratory procedures performed this month.

(4) The present strength of the medical department is one (1) doctor and 53 Hospital Corpsmen.

(5) Medical supply is satisfactory.

(6) There were 321 Vietnamese civilians treated this past month.

(7) Sanitation conditions are satisfactory.

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DAY 01 - 31 MONTH DECEMBER YEAR 1967

TIME ENTERED	DATE/TIME GROUP	JOURNAL	ACTION
021945H	021915H	Recon observed lights at XD 969564 and XD 974562 - Arty and 81mm mission called - lights extinguished.	
051300H	051230H	L-1 patrol found one 82mm mortar pit at XD 995468.	
071950H	071920H	OP Wyn observed lights at XD 974537 81mm mission called - lights out.	
081415H	081400H	M Co patrol found fresh NVA boot print headed east to west at XD 962543.	
081520H	081500H	M Co patrol found fresh mortar pits and trail w/stone markers on trail at XD 968537.	
082400H	082345H	Twin 40mm observed secondary explosion while firing H&I's - mission repeated in area - XD 987566.	
111050H	111030H	M Co patrol found 20 one man fighting holes at XD <del>987</del> xx 971520 - estimate 60 days old.	
131100H	131045H	L Co patrol found 7 fighting holes at XD 995470 - estimate 2 weeks old.	
122300H	122200H	Reliable source states that a base camp; troops and command element w/extensive bunker & cave complex is located at XD 863533.	
132030H	132000H	M Co observed 3 figures open gate at XD 982532 - fired small arms - checked area w/negative results.	
141245H	141200H	Recon observed VC/NVA at YD 023503 Arty mission called - 10 Enemy KIA (F)	
141330H	141300H	H&S Co patrol found bamboo trail markers, trees w/white painted rings beside trail at XD 993541.	
141450H	141400H	H&S Co patrol found aiming stakes at XD 984549.	

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DAY

MONTH

YEAR

TIME ENTERED	DATE/TIME GROUP	JOURNAL	ACTION
142215H	142145H	L Co, using Starlight Scope, spotted lights - believed to be from infrared scope at YD 006446.	
162000H	162000H	3rd Marines reported magic dot from XD 8752 to XD 9252.	
170145H	170130H	L Co ambush at YD 002453 observed 2 enemy - threw frag - received SAR checked area with negative results.	
170745H	170730H	L Co patrol checking area of previous night's ambush received 3 rounds sniper fire. Checked area with negative results.	
151555H	171545H	Recon saw 8 VC/NVA (3 in boat) at XD 988569 - arty mission called - 1 VC/NVA KIA (C), 4 VC/NVA KIA (P)	
181900H	181900H	3rd Marines reported magic dot at XD 943561.	
182310H	182245H	M Co observed one trip flare set off at XD 986544 - seen one person - fired small arms - checked area with negative results.	
182150H	182120H	M Co OP using Starlight Scope observed 3-4 persons on road at XD 979524. 81mm mission called.	
191245H	191245H	Resupply convoy going to Ca Lu was ambushed at XD 982508.	
192150H	192130H	OP Sue observed lights at XD 989528 81mm mission called - lights out.	
202245H	202215H	Recon observed rocket launched from XD 968589 - arty mission fired - secondary explosion.	
220050H	220030H	M Co patrol observed 6-8 people 40-45 meters from ambush site - checked area with negative results.	
231400H	231345H	L Co received 6 rounds 60mm mortar outside perimeter at XD 987453.	

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DAY

MONTH

YEAR

TIME ENTERED	DATE/TIME GROUP	JOURNAL	ACTION
241040H	241030H	M Co patrol found 20 fighting holes XD 981521. Also found 2 - 60mm mortars and 2 grenades.	
252015H	251955H	OP Texas spotted lights at XD 995450 81mm mission fired - lights out.	
270650H	270645H	Recon spotted lights near XD 985567 arty mission fired - lights out.	
282245H	282215H	L Co observed moving lights at YD 002447 - 81mm mission fired - searched area with negative results.	

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ENCLOSURE 12