

HEADQUARTERS
11th Motor Transport Battalion, FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/LNB:ral
3500
10 January 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To : Commanding General, First Marine Division (Field Historian)
Subj: Command Chronology for period 7 December 1966 to 31 December 1966
Ref : (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2E

Encl: ✓(1) 11th Motor Transport Battalion Command Chronology

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

Lee V. Barkley
LEE V. BARKLEY

11THMTBN

CMD CHRON

HEADQUARTERS
11th Motor Transport Battalion, FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

7 December 1966 to 31 December 1966

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

A. The period covered by this report extends from 7 December 1966 to 31 December 1966.

B. Location. On 29 December 1966 the 11th Motor Transport Battalion arrived on the USNS Eltinge and the USNS Gaffey and began erecting its camp facilities at grid co-ordinates (AT948762) adjacent to 3rd Engineer Battalion and "B" Company, 1st Tank Battalion.

C. On 31 December 1966 the major components of the battalion command and staff structure were as follows:

Commanding Officer: Major Lee V. Barkley

Executive Officer : Major J. M. Shay

Sargeant Major : W. R. Orth

S-1/Adjutant : 2nd Lieutenant R. O. Blanchette

S-2/S-3 Officer : Captain K. E. Wilson

S-4/Supply Officer: First Lieutenant Dominic Dean

H&S Company : Captain R. W. Smith

A Company : Captain M. E. Loveless

B Company : Captain W. J. Kiser

C Company : Captain S. G. Pratt

Transport Company : Captain L. W. Hyatt

Average Monthly Strength (7 Dec 1966 to 31 Dec 1966)

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
22	357	1	7

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

- a. On 7 December 1966 the Battalion minus the advance party and a small contingent of men on the USNS Gaffey sailed from San Diego, California, on the USNS General LeRoy Eltinge TAP 154. On that date command of this Battalion passed from Commanding General Force Troops, FMFPac to Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. While aboard ship, the Battalion conducted limited first aid, weapons, and MOS training. The Battalion arrived in Naha, Okinawa on 24 December 1966, and rendezvoused with the advance party. After overnight liberty the Battalion sailed on 25 December 1966 for Danang, RVN. Prior to arrival in Danang immunizations were updated, gamma globulin shots were given, and anti-malarial pills were distributed after sufficient indoctrination.
- b. The advance party, consisting of Major J. M. Shay, four officers and two enlisted remained behind in Camp Pendleton to supervise turn in of garrison buildings and property. In addition Captain S.G. Pratt, Lt. G.A. Zurenda and 18 enlisted remained in Camp Pendleton for several days on legal hold in connection with the death of LCpl J.D. Rice. Captain Pratt rejoined the Battalion in Okinawa, and Lt. Zurenda was re-assigned.
- c. The advance party, moving by air from El Toro, California to Danang, RVN arrived at (171235H). During the next three days it attended a series of III MAF briefings, established liaison with 7th and 9th Motor Transport Battalions, and made reconnaissance of main supply routes, beaches, and the projected site of the Battalion Compound. At (201230H) the advance party departed by Air for Kadena Air Base Okinawa, arriving there at 201530 local time.
- d. The Battalion arrived in Danang Harbor at (290800H) and moved administratively to its compound site by night fall. Since the Battalion first occupied its compound site at AT(948762) on 29 December 1966, camp improvements have been and continue to be made. Radio and wire communications are established with the assistance of communicators from "B" Company, First Tank Battalion. Initially our wire communications were routed through the Tank Company switchboard. We are now operational on our primary assigned radio frequency. Interim, but effective local security was set up after the Battalion assumed responsibility for the security of the local sub-sector and from "B" Company, First Tank Battalion, and improvements in quantity and in quality of positions continue. Internal security positions continue to be improved.
- e. Commencing (310800H) unloading of pre-loaded vehicles from USNS Merrill off the deep water pier near Monkey Mountain began. Companies and staff sections commenced staging supplies for unpacking and distribution.

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- a. 7 December 1966: By 1300 this Battalion, under the command of Major Lee V. Barkley, was embarked aboard the USNS General LeRoy Eltinge TAP 154 for transport to RVN. (Minus the advance party and persons on legal hold in connection

ENCLOSURE (1)

with the 5 December 1966 death of LCpl J. D. Rice). Embarked on the Eltinge were 14 officers and 332 enlisted. Captain S. G. Pratt and Lt. Zurenda, and 18 enlisted personnel were on legal hold and remained at Camp Pendleton. 2nd Lt. George A. Zurenda, 093528/3502, was subsequently reassigned for legal reasons. Major J. M. Shay, 4 officers, one GySgt and one LCpl composed the advance party.

b. 8 December 1966: Buildings and property occupied in garrison were properly turned over to MCB property accounts by the advance party on 09 December 1966. CWO-4 Carter and a party of 20 enlisted personnel departed Camp Pendleton for embarkation aboard the USNS Gaffney TAP-21 with sailing time of 1300 9 December 1966. This ship carried 20 prime movers and 13 trailers loaded with equipment for use by the battalion in the early stages ashore in RVN.

c. 14 December 1966: Captain S. G. Pratt received written orders from CG 5TFMFPac releasing him from legal hold to proceed with advance party to RVN.

d. 15 December 1966: One week of limited shipboard training was scheduled on the Eltinge with emphasis on crew served weapons, Vietnamese history and culture, TM study, and self and buddy aid.

e. 17 December 1966: Major Shay and the advanced party arrived in Danang at 1235 local time.

f. 18 December 1966: The advance party attended a briefing and met the III MAF staff. Afterwards it visited the 1st Division CP and made a reconnaissance of the 3rd and 7th Motor Transport areas for potential location sites of the 11th Motor Transport Battalion. Officers in the party came under sniper fire en route.

g. 19 December 1966: Advance party established liaison with III MAF Embarkation, supply, and with Force Logistical Command. Maps were obtained and air transport to Okinawa to meet the battalion main body was arranged.

h. 20 December 1966: The advance party departed 1230 for Okinawa arriving at Kadena Air Force Base at 1530. It moved to Camp Hansen by 1730 Local.

i. 24 December 1966: The USNS Gaffney arrived at White Beach, Okinawa at 0700, 1st Lt. Joseph Parris of the advance party embarked on the Gaffney to brief those personnel aboard. The Gaffney sailed at 1700. At 1700 the Eltinge arrived in Naha at the Army Port with Battalion main body embarked. Major Barkley granted overnight liberty to embarked troops,

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j. 25 December 1966: The USNS Eltinge departed Naha at 1500 for Danang, RVN, with the Battalion and advance party embarked.

k. 27 December 1966: Gamma Globulin shots were given the troops and anti-malarial pills were taken. Major J.M. Shay briefed the officers and Staff NCO's on the situation in country near the projected Battalion Operations site.

l. 28 December 1966: A Battalion debarkation briefing was held aboard the USNS Eltinge. The USNS Gaffey arrived in Danang Harbor at 0800 and all aboard debarked.

m. 29 December 1966: USNS LeRoy Eltinge arrived in Danang Harbor at 0800. The Battalion was disembarked via LCM's across Red Beach, Danang by 1500. At this time the Battalion was placed under the operational cognizance of III MAF and administrative cognizance of the First Marine Division. The Battalion Command Post moved to grid coordinates (AT948762) adjacent to "B" Company, First Tank Battalion. Passive communications to the First Marine Division net was established through the "B" Company, First Tank Battalion switchboard by 2200. 12 Marines were supplied to "B" Company First Tank Battalion for manning the local security positions.

n. 30 December 1966: By 1500 active communications to the First Division Net was established. Local defense and house keeping improvements continued.

o. 31 December 1966: The Battalion established its own internal security net by 2100. At 2200 the Battalion assumed responsibility for defending the local TAOR relieving "B" Co., First Tank Battalion. The USNS Merrill arrived in Danang Harbor with a portion of the Battalion's equipment.