

HEADQUARTERS

1st Battalion, 12th Marines
 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
 FPO San Francisco 96602

1st Bn 12th Mar S&C
 Control No. C6299-67

3/WHR/mhm
 5750

1 June 1967

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines

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

Re: (a) MCO 5750.2A
 (b) FMFPACO 5750.8
 (c) DAVO 5750.1A
 (d) RegtO 5750.1

Encls: ✓(1) 1st Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. Enclosure (1) is classified Confidential and is downgraded at 5 year intervals, declassified after 12 years; DOD Directive 5500.1D applies.

W.H. Rice
 W. H. RICE

12th MARINES
 S & C FILES
 LOCAL CONTROL
 No. 356-67

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May 1967 to 31 May 1967

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV - OPERATIONAL JOURNAL *Missing*

ENCLOSURE (1)

[REDACTED]

COMMAND CHRONOLOGYPART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDERLOCATION

1stBn, 12thMar(-)(Rein)

Lt Col W. H. RICE

ArtyPlateau/060547

SUBORDINATE (OPCON) UNITS

HqBtry, 1Bn, 12Mar(-)(Rein)	1stLt D.P. MARTIN (1-3 May)	ArtyPlateau/060547
BtryG, 3Bn, 12Mar(-)(Rein)	Capt T. KIRLAND (OpCon 1-3 May)	ArtyPlateau/060547
BtryB, 1Bn, 40Arty(USA)	Capt K.L. GARNER (OpCon 1-3 May)	ThonSonLam/933543
MortBtry, 3Bn, 12Mar(-)(Rein)	Capt B.G. SIKES (OpCon 1-3 May)	BaLong/164402
BtryM, 4Bn, 12Mar(-)(Rein)	Capt O.J. CREWS (OpCon 1-3 May)	ArtyPlateau/060547
BtryB, 1Bn, 12Mar(-)(Rein)	Capt G.B. FILE (OpCon 26-31 May)	ArtyPlateau/059544
UMR, HqBtry, SAB, 26Arty (USA) (13-31 May)	OIC WO SUTTON B.S. <u>INFORCING UNITS</u>	ArtyPlateau/060547

BtryC, 1stBn, 12thMar(-)(Rein)

ConThien/125701

BtryB, 1stBn, 13thMar

ConThien/125701

BtryC, 1stBn, 40thArty(USA)

CamLo/061545

2. STAFF OFFICERS

Battalion Executive Officer: Maj R.D. JONES

S-1: WO W.J. BILLEB

S-2: Capt H.L. RICHEY

S-3: Capt M.G. ONEILL (1-6 May)

S-4: Capt D.F. BERGEN (6-31 May)

LNO: Capt H.N. MEANS

Capt J.W. SCHWANTES

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHS (ADCON UNITS)

	USMC	USN		
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
Headquarters Battery	14	139	1	2
Battery C-1-12	9	134		3
Mortar Battery 3-12	3	83		2
Battery G-3-12	9	111		2
1stBn, 12th Marines	35	467	1	9

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Battalion began the month with operational control of Battery G 3/12, and Battery M 4/12 located at Camp Carroll; Battery B 1/40 located at ThonSonLam; and Mortar Battery 3/12 located at BaLong. On 3 May 1967, the battalion fired a TOT mission at YD 067607 on a reported 100 man force digging in. The report was furnished by the ARVN Advisor at CamLo. On 5 May 1967, Mortar Battery displaced 2 guns to the vicinity of grid YD 148404, to support a platoon sized patrol from I 3/9. On 7 May 1967, these tubes were returned to the battery area, and 2 more guns were displaced to the vicinity of grid YD 186402 to support a similiar platoon sized patrol. At 0315 on 8 May 1967, Camp Carroll came under a rocket attack, during which the battalion received approximately 24 incoming rockets of the 102mm spin stabilized type. Battery B 1/40, Battery G 3/12, and Battery M 4/12 fired counter rocket fire throughout the area to the north of the camp and the battalion received reinforcing fire from Battery K 4/12 at CamLo. On 11 May 1967 the battalion cancelled the Camp Counter-Mortar Plan. This plan, based on certain plotted concentrations within designated sectors, was replaced with counter mortar/rocket concentrations and groups in the JD and BF series. On 13 May 1967 Counter Mortar Radar was emplaced on Camp Carroll, ready to operate at 131600 May 1967. On 16 May 1967 Battery G fired a mission in the vicinity of grid YD 045621 on 4 NVA in the open, resulting in 4 KIA (Conf). On 18 May 1967, at approximately 0115 and 0330, Camp Carroll again came under rocket attacks. The camp area received both 102 and 140mm spin stabilized rockets. During the counter-rocket fire, there were several secondary explosions observed in the vicinity of grid YD 061625. At 212300 May 1967, the observation towers emplaced on Camp Carroll observed mortar fire in the direction of Dong Ha. This data was reported to 12th Marines FDC. On 23 May, the battalion observed a 24 hour cease fire. This was a bilateral agreement to allow religious practices in conjunction with Buddha's Birthday. At 1930 on the same date, Battery B 1/12 arrived at Camp Carroll, still under the operational control of SIE-B. On 24 May 1967 Battery B 1/12 fired a demonstration mission for representatives of the Columbia Broadcasting System. During the evening, Battery G 3/12, Battery B 1/12, and Battery M 4/12 fired counter-mortar/counter-rocket fire reinforcing Battery B 1/13 at ConThien. On 27 May 1967 at 1800, Battery B 1/12 and Battery G 3/12 fired 324 rounds at a reported NVA company in a tree line at Grid YD 110515, reported by the

Army Advisor to the ARVN in the D-5 area. There were numerous secondary explosions reported and a subsequent search of the area confirmed it to be an observation post. On 28 May Battery M 4/12, Battery C 1/12, and Battery B 1/12 fired a TOT mission on a reported NVA Battalion; Battery C 1/40 fired 171 rounds on a known enemy position and 152 rounds at an active rocket site. Surveillance of all missions was rounds on target, good coverage of target. Operation Hickory concluded at 292400H May 1967. At 301200H May 1967, Battery G 3/12 was chopped from 1/12 to OpCon of 3/12 and departed Camp Carroll.

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. COMBAT MISSIONS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES

	<u>Missions fired</u>	<u>Ammo expended</u>		
a. Btry G 3/12				
Observed	79	HE	3704	
Unobserved	53	III	181	
H&I	861	WP	870	
Total	993		4755	
b. Btry B 1/40				
Observed	175	HE	2751	
Unobserved	50	III	79	
H&I	936	WP	746	
Total	1161		3586	
c. Btry B 1/12				
Observed	11	HE	1306	
Unobserved	10	III	2	
H&I	276	WP	165	
Total	297		1473	
d. Btry M 4/12				
Observed	139	HE	4094	
Unobserved	66	III	124	
H&I	136	WP	334	
Total	341		4552	
e. MortBtry 3/12				
Observed	77	HE	3540	
Unobserved	6	III	138	
H&I	966	WP	78	
Total	1049		3756	
f. Total missions and ammunition fired in support of the 3d Marines and Reconnaissance units.				
Total missions	3,841	Ammo	18,122	

2. ENEMY CASUALTIES

16 KIA (CONF) 69 KIA (PROB)

3. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

KIA	WIA
0	11
	USMC
	0 USN

4. LOGISTICS

Primarily, logistic activities during May centered around the conversion to MILSTRIP. The conversion to MILSTRIP has been effected with a minimum of confusion. Ten M35A2C multifuel trucks were issued to G-3-12 this month while Battery "G" was attached to this battalion. The trucks were invoiced to 3d Battalion, 12th Marines. Mortar Battery 1/12 came back into country this month. Ice cream was provided three times this month by the Dong Ha ration issue point. Ice has been provided daily by the Dong Ha ration issue point.

5. ORDNANCE

During the period 1-31 May, the Battalion Ordnance Section completed installation of equipment to safeguard beehive ammunition. (Ref CG msg 1103412 Apr67). Improvised flares are being made by the Battalion Ordnance Section to be installed on our defensive perimeter. The flares are made of waste powder in 175 powder containers. Electric blasting caps are used to ignite the flares, and their extremely bright illumination will last for 35 to 50 seconds.

6. MEDICAL

During the period 1 May to 31 May 1967 the battalion aid station has treated 316 patients, given 471 immunizations and 19 physical examinations. Fifteen Marines have been evacuated or referred for admission from this battalion this month. Four preventive medicine and sanitation inspections have been conducted. Overall health of the Battalion is good. There have been no outbreaks of food or water borne illness.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The following is a recap of significant communications events during May. (a) Wire lines were laid to the towers

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at the water point and hill 250 from the FDC switch; (b) Three more phones (total 8) have been placed in the Headquarters Battery sector of the perimeter; (c) New lines were laid to 3/9 FSCC from 1/12 FDC; (d) a revised radio relay set-up at 3d Marines was established giving us one admin line to 12th Marines and one line from 1/12 FDC to 12th Marines FDC, three other 3d Marines to 12th Marines common users are available along with three 3d Marines to 3d Marine Division common users; (e) An emergency power lighting system was established in the FDC utilizing vehicle headlights, 24V; (f) during Operation Hickory there were seven radio nets operating within the FDC; (g) During the 18 May rocket attack, both 3d Marines FSCC lines were severed, but repaired between volleys.

8. MOTOR TRANSPORT

a. During the month of May, 1967, vehicles have traveled 17,428 miles. Twenty-six M35A2C multifuel trucks were delivered to the unit and had acceptance checks and limited technical inspections performed. Two of the M35A2C trucks were sent to FLSU for repair. Ten multifuels were on loan to the 12th Marines of which one is now awaiting an ITI due to hitting a mine.

b. A total of nine vehicles were turned in to FLSU for repair and six returned. There were ten annual and 15 quarterly preventive maintenance checks pulled and nineteen minor repair jobs handled.

c. A critical shortage exists for the following spare parts/items: trip tickets, electrolite, tire (900X20), tire (900X16), tube (900X20), and tube (900X16).

9. WEATHER

a. The weather for the month of May was dominated by the change from the northeastern to the southwestern monsoonal flow with a resultant improvement in general conditions.

b. The average wind for the first twenty days of May was from 185 at 4.8 knots. As the southwest monsoon took full effects, the average wind veered to 230 and increased to 13.3 knots for the last eleven days. Responsible for the significant increase in wind velocity was a phenomenon known as the foehn wind. This is a strong, dry movement of air originating on the high plateau of Laos, hence the alternate name, "The Winds of Laos". It is a condition unique to this area during May.

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c. The rainfall for the month totalled 1.36 inches which is low, the average being 5 inches with a minimum of 1 inch and a maximum of 10 inches. More than half of this month's total precipitation occurred in one 24 hour period. Brief afternoon thunder showers were common.

d. The high temperature recorded for the month was 101, and the low was 70. Mean high temperature was 92.2 and the mean low, 77.5.

e. The visibility was, in general, good with a decrease below 200' ceiling and one-half mile visibility occurring on only three days. The preponderance of the remaining days saw ceilings of 1500' or greater and visibility in excess of three miles.

f. The weather for the month of May, by and large, was conducive to tactical operations. Wind effect became particularly significant in determining metrological corrections during the last third of the month.

10. TRAINING

a. There were two formal schools quotas filled by the battalion as one officer attended Personal Response School and one enlisted man attended III MAF language school. The battalion assisted in conducting one FO school for personnel from 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery (USA) during the month.

b. All units of the battalion fam fired individual weapons and crew served weapons. Instruction was given on the M-16 rifle with special emphasis on care and cleaning and immediate action.

c. The batteries gave instruction in: field sanitation, first aid, personal hygiene and mines and booby traps.

d. There was a continued effort made in on-the-job informal training by the individual sections of each battery.

e. Five Marines are undergoing on-the-job counter mortar radar training with HqBtry, 8th TAB, 20th Arty (USA).

11. INTELLIGENCE

a. General. Due to a critical officer personnel shortage occasioned by the manning of the Composite Artillery Battalion, the Battalion S-2 had been unable to fulfill many of the requirements of the job in the previous few months. With the easing of the situation at the beginning of May, the S-2 was again able to devote sufficient time to the exigencies of artillery intelligence. As a result, the

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battalion's capabilities in the fields of target acquisition, counterfire and general combat intelligence have been significantly revitalized during the past month.

b. Counterfire. The beginning of the month saw the basic outlines of the battalion's Counterfire Information Section taking shape. By the time of the rocket attack of 8 May, a rudimentary system of flash ranging combined with concurrent crater analysis allowed some counterfire information to be generated. The motivation developed by that attack expedited the implementation of the formal counterfire set-up envisioned by Chapter 2 of FMFM 7-4. In accordance with that reference, a Hostile Battery Chart, Suspect Location Overlay and Shelrep Overlay were put into action in the CIS of the FDC. The system got its first test during the attack of 18 May and was found to be adequate within the limitations imposed by an embryonic organization of observation. The use of the standard Shelrep, Artillery Counterfire Information Form and Hostile Battery Card formats were found to be well-suited, without modification, to the battalion's needs. As the state of training of the personnel of the CIS is enhanced, it is anticipated that the full potential for the detection of hostile supporting arms as outlined in FMFM 7-4 will be realized.

c. Target acquisition. As the primary effort of the past month has been directed toward the enhancement of the battalion's counterfire capabilities, the establishment of a viable, productive program of target acquisition had been temporarily relegated to secondary priority. By the end of the month, however, with sufficient progress having been made with the battalion CIS, emphasis was shifted to target acquisition as the most important facet of artillery combat intelligence. A program for the revitalization of the battalion's target acquisition capabilities has been developed. Promulgated in Battalion Order 3820.1, this program is expected to reap significant benefits during the next reporting Period.

d. Combat intelligence. Throughout the month of May, the role of the various artillery agencies in the production of combat intelligence has been reaffirmed. In connection therewith, the organization of observation within the battalion zone of fire is being refined to enhance this capability. It is anticipated that the next month will see the completion of the efforts begun during May.

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12. Personnel and Administration

a. Strengths

	Losses				Gains			
	USMC	USN	USMC	USN	USMC	USN	USMC	USN
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	
Battle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Battle	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Admin.	.7	52	0	1	4	11	0	0

Net loss of 3 Off; Net loss of 52 Enl, Net loss of 1 Navy Enl.

b. Discipline, Law and Order. Battalion Office Hours were held on six individuals. Four individuals were charged with violation of Article 113, UCMJ and two were charged with violation of Articles 113 and 134, UCMJ. There were two Special Courts-Martial for violation of Article 113 and 134 UCMJ and one Special Court-Martial for violation of Article 113, UCMJ. There are four Special Courts-Martial pending; three for violation of Article 113, UCMJ and one for violation of Article 86, UCMJ.

c. Prisoners of War

	VCC	VCS
Captured	0	0
Evacuated	0	0
On Hand	0	0

d. Graves Registration. Not applicable.

e. Morale and Personnel Services

(1) The Battalion is receiving an ample supply of beer but we could still use more soda. The Battalion only received three pallets of soda during May. The Battalion now has movies being shown on a nightly basis. For a two week period this Battalion has not received any Stars and Stripes. During the month of May R&R was granted to 52 Officers, enlisted and Navy personnel to the following places.

9 - Hawaii	4 - Manila	2 - Okinawa
7 - Hong Kong	2 - Penang	6 - Tokyo
9 - Taipei	12 - Bangkok	1 - Kuala Lumpur

(2) Awards Made. During May eight Marines were recommended for the Bronze Star Medal and three Marines were recommended for the Navy Commendation Medal. Thirty-six Purple Hearts were delivered during May.

(3) Significant Activities for Personnel Services. Personnel are continuing to apply for six months extension in Vietnam with 30 days special leave, but not as many as in previous months.

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 (4) Two USMCR 1stLt's were promoted to Captain. Three Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal meritoriously and three Private First Class were meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal; additionally twenty-nine Privates First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal, fifty-four Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal, and four Privates were promoted to Private First Class.

(5) Unusual events or problems which have occurred:

(a) Currently at C-1, critical shortages of personnel by MOS are:

MOS	T/O	O/H	June losses
0239	1	0	0
0846	4	2	0
0848	14	9	0
0849	12	0	0
2591	3	1	0
2531	43	32	5
3002	1	0	0

(b) There is a shortage at times in unit diary forms, promotion certificates, unit punishment forms, records of trial for Special Court-Martial (Summarized), charge sheets, carbon paper (Legal size and 8 X 10), bond paper, and PERSTAT report forms.

f. Personnel Procedures

(1) Five requests for extension of overseas tour with 30 days special leave have been submitted and subsequently approved.

(2) One emergency leave to CONUS was granted, three emergency leaves in connection with PCS orders were granted, and four special 30 day leaves to CONUS were issued.

g. Interior Management. A staff and Officers Club was erected and an enlisted club is in the process of being completed. A large area was cleared for a softball diamond.

h. Civilian Employees. Not applicable.

15. CIVIC ACTION

a. Medcap. During the month of May, the Battalion contributed Medcap services to the hamlets of Hung Phu I and Hung Phu II on nine separate occasions. A total of 60 men, 43 women and 296 children were treated in the former

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[REDACTED]
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with 41 men, 41 women and 328 children being treated in the latter.

b. English classes. A total of five one-hour English classes were taught to twenty-five children of Hung Phu II during the month. The students are progressing quite well and have shown exceptional enthusiasm.

c. Employment. Working through the village chief, an agreement was reached whereby the villagers fill 250 sandbags in exchange for one gallon of cooking oil. The supply of this commodity has been more than adequate and has allowed the battalion to purchase 15,000 bags during the month.

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