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Mar Div

Copy # 1

HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco 96601

1:EOS:dyb
5 Jan 1966
Ser: 04-66
Copy 1 of 8 copies

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines (ATTN: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology Report for the Period 1-31 December 1965
Ref: (a) 3dMarDivO 5750.1
(b) RegtO 5750.1

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the following report is submitted:

a. Organizational data including attachments

(1) Designation/Location: 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines,
3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF, Danang Sector, South Viet Nam.

(a) "L" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines remains attached.

(b) Mortar Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines remains detached, being attached to BLT 3/4.

(2) Period Covered: 1-31 December 1965.

(3) Name/Rank Commanding Officer and Staff, including T/O Billet Assignment:

Commanding Officer:	LtCol E. O. SPECKART 050159/0802 USMC
Executive Officer	Maj J. C. LOVE 055339/0802 USMC
Adjutant/S-1:	1stLt T. R. PRESTON 079337/0130 USMC
S-2:	1stLt A. G. GERWIG 088312/0802 USMC
S-3:	Maj C. F. KEISTER 055785/0802 USMC
S-4:	Capt A. TRENT 070676/0802 USMC

ENCLOSURE (3)

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Supply Officer: 1stLt D. L. WHITE 088184/3002 USMCR
Motor Transportation Officer: 1stLt W. J. SMALLWOOD 087288/3502 USMCR
Communication Officer: Capt T. W. TAYLOR 070675/2502 USMC
Liaison Officer: Maj E. F. WHIPPLE, Jr. 064693/0802 USMC
Headquarters Commandant: Capt D. M. PHILLIPS 077602/0802 USMC

(4) Average Strength for the period: 635

b. Sequential Listing of Significant Events, Especially as they relate to:

(1) Personnel: During this month the battalion was at approximately 90% of T/O strength. There were no serious shortages of critical personnel with the exception of lieutenant and scout sergeant forward observers. However scout sergeants are being trained to fulfill the lieutenant billets now vacant. During this month, there were seven enlisted personnel evacuated as non-battle casualties and one battle casualty evacuated. Three Purple Heart Medal Awards were made.

(2) Administration: There were no unusual or significant events to report.

(3) Intelligence: During this reporting period intelligence collection and reporting remained much the same. No new trends or significant events occurred. Elements of this command participated in operation "Harvest Moon", about 20 miles south of the Danang enclave. The 1st Viet Cong Regiment was reportedly utilizing this area freely. During the operation large Viet Cong units were observed fleeing from Marine units rather than fighting. This indicates the Viet Cong do not desire to engage large USMC units.

(4) Training: This command provided 7 instructors for a .50 cal. AA firing school conducted by the division near Marble Mountain. A total of 33 men participated in live firing at drones. "F" Battery was unable to participate due to their support of operation "Harvest Moon". There was no other formal training conducted although on the job training, gun drill, FDC drill, NBC Defense, Vietnam orientation classes and Perimeter drills were held.

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(5) Operations: The battalion fired a total of 2233 missions in support of the 9th Marines expending 5527 105 How rounds and 1248 155 How rounds. Enemy casualties for the period were 41 KIA with numerous possible casualties. Battery "F" supported operation "Harvest Moon" from 8-19 December firing 44 missions, expending 2062 rounds. Battery "L" supported operation "Harvest Moon" from 11-20 December firing 47 missions and expending 624 rounds. Both batteries operated their own fire direction centers. There was no total report of enemy casualties attributed directly to artillery.

During operation "Harvest Moon" Battery "F" was lifted into combat by helicopter. This was the first time this has been accomplished by a Marine 105 Howitzer battery under combat conditions.

The battalion also supported operation "Golden Spike" and several other search and destroy operations within the 9th Marines TACR.

All battery's continued to send out patrols in the vicinity of their positions and to set up periodic ambushes on likely avenues of approach into their areas.

(6) Command and Control: 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines continued to fulfill its mission of direct support for the 9th Marine Regiment. Command past locations remain as follows: (Map, Indochina, 1:50,000 Series L701, sheets 6658 I & IV; 6659 I, II and III)

- (a) Headquarters Battery: Coordinates 996721
- (b) Battery "D": Coordinates 064680
- (c) Battery "E": Coordinates 988672
- (d) Battery "F": Coordinates 966712
- (e) Battery "L": Coordinates 965717

(7) Communications-Electronics: During operation "Harvest Moon", this battalion provided five radio operators and two wireman for the command group. One radio was lost during the operation. The operators received a "very well done" for their exceptional performance of duty.

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Generators continued to be a problem for radio relay. Only one of three remains serviceable at Battery "D". In an effort to overcome this problem an eleven mile "hot line" was installed from the Battalion C.P. to the Battery "D" position area. To date this line has functioned satisfactorily and it is anticipated that additional tactical and administrative lines will be installed as wire becomes available.

The communication equipment which had been on loan to the Division Naval Gunfire Officer was recovered. However, no serviceable batteries, BB 451, were recovered and as a result all radios, AN/PRC 41 and AN/PRC 47, that are not vehicular mounted are inoperable. In emergencies, the loan of batteries, BB 451, from Headquarters, 12th Marines, has permitted the Battalion Naval Gunfire Liaison and Spot Teams to establish necessary communications.

(8) Logistics: The logistical posture of this command is satisfactory except in the area of Motor Transport. Operating stocks have not improved significantly since last months summary, although Motor Transport spare parts are becoming more and more available. The requisition fill rate has improved slightly. Tires for the M-422 and M-37 are in short supply and a critical shortage of these items will develop unless new supplies are soon received.

This command has experienced a continuing problem of vehicles being deadlined for brakes. This has been brought about by their required operation in mud, sand and water which has resulted in a short operating life of the linings. Linings are available but much time and shop space is required to replace these linings.

Construction of strong backs for all batteries, except Lima, has been completed except for screening, cross frame supports, internal and external wiring. The head and shower facilities have not been constructed. Battery "L" still requires the construction of five additional strongbacks.

(9) Air Defense: Headquarters Battery has 3 .50 cal machine guns out of action due to no replacement barrels. These barrels were burned up during the Division AA firing. The other batteries have their guns mounted and ready for use if necessary.

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5 Jan 1966(10) Civic Action/Military Government/Community Relations:

(a) Civic Action: Battalion medical personnel treated a total of 358 Vietnamese civilians for various ailments. Additionally, 324 bars of soap and 220 pounds of clothing were distributed.

(b) Military Government: Nothing to report.

(c) Community Relations: Two visits were made to a local orphanage and a donation of clothing, canned fruit and candy was made for the children. Delta Battery held a Christmas party for children and had Santa Claus distribute clothing and candy.


E. C. SPECKART

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