

DECLASSIFIED

## HEADQUARTERS

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

1:EOS:wfe  
5 Feb 1966  
Ser: 11-66  
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 January 1966  
Ref: (a) 3dMarDivO 5750.1  
      (b) RegtO 5750.1  
Encl: (1) Daily Journal of Battery "F" during "Operation Mallard"

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

a. Organizational data including attachments:

(1) Designation/Location: 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF, Danang Sector, South Vietnam.

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

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

(2) Period Covered: 1 - 31 January 1966.

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

Commanding Officer: LtCol E. G. SPECKART 050159/0802 USMC

Executive Officer: Maj J. C. LOVE 055339/0802 USMC  
1 - 5 January 1966

Maj C. F. KEISTER 055758/0802 USMC  
6 - 31 January 1966

Adjutant/S-1: 1stLt T. R. PRESTON 079337/0130 USMC

S-2: 1stLt A. G. GERWIG 088312/0802 USMCR  
1 - 8 January 1966

Enclosure (3)

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1stLt S. M. SCHACHT 083885/0802 USMCR  
9 - 31 January 1966

S-3:

Maj C. F. KEISTER 055758/0802 USMC  
1 - 5 January 1966

Capt A. C. FRANKENBERGER 075230/0802 USMC  
6 - 31 January 1966

S-4:

Capt A. TRENT 070676/0802 USMC

Supply Officer:

1stLt D. L. WHITE 088184/3002 USMCR

Motor Transport 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: 643

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

(1) Personnel: At the end of the reporting period, the battalion was at 90% of T/O strength. There were no shortages of personnel serious enough to impair the ability of the battalion to perform its mission. One combat casualty was sustained and one officer and one enlisted Marine were evacuated for non-combat medical reasons. Fifty seven members of this battalion participated in the R&R program.

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

(3) Intelligence: The S-2 section continued to accumulate, evaluate and disseminate intelligence information. Daily briefings were conducted for officers and staff noncommissioned officers to keep them abreast of the immediate and overall situation. Valuable information from both higher and lower echelons was received and passed along accordingly. Active patrolling on the battery level provided interesting and useful information (prepared firing positions, position markers pointing to battery command post and FDC, and booby trapped grenades and shells) in addition to increasing the knowledge and security of the areas surrounding their respective positions.

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Aerial photographs (scale 1/5,000) of the entire TAOR and areas of potential operations near the Danang enclave were received. Detailed photos in larger scale of each battery position area and possible future locations were requested.

(4) Training: Formal training continued to be curtailed by operational commitments, however, on-the-job training, integrated FDC and gun drill, FDC and computation drill, orientation classes and perimeter defense drills were conducted. The motor transport section conducted a one week school for driver training and driver maintenance. The supply section is holding a four week orientation course for the battery supply personnel. The 3d Engineer Battalion held a two day school for the TD-15 operators, covering operation and maintenance. One officer from Battery "E" completed the Embarkation Course on Okinawa. Three enlisted from Battery "L" attended the Nuclear Weapons Handling Course on Okinawa. One enlisted from Headquarters Battery and one enlisted from Battery "L" were sent to the Forward Observer School conducted by the 12th Marines at Phu Bai.

(5) Operations: The battalion fired a total of 4,363 missions in support of the 9th Marines, expending 6,319 105mm howitzer rounds and 1,104 155mm howitzer rounds. Enemy casualties for the period were 22 KIA and 1 WIA with many more possible casualties.

Battery "L" displaced to coordinates 06326830 to support "Operation War Bonnet" on 4 - 5 January 1966.

Battery "F" displaced to coordinates 87404730 to support "Operation Mallard" from 10 - 17 January 1966. See enclosure (1).

Battery "L" displaced to coordinates 98636744 to support "Operation Mallard" from 10 - 15 January 1966 and "Operation Big Lodge" from 15 - 18 January 1966.

On 27 January 1966 a command and operations section plus one platoon from Battery "L" was attached to Task Force Delta for "Operation Double Eagle" - the largest amphibious operation since the Inchon landing.

On 29 January 1966 Battery "L" (Rear) displaced a platoon to coordinates 06326830 to support "Operation War Bonnet II" - a one day search and destroy operation.

The battalion supported numerous search and destroy operations within the 9th Marines TAOR.

Observation Post #3 coordinates 97277366, has been reactivated. The battalion now mans three observations posts.

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(6) Command and Control: There has been no change in the Command Post locations or the mission of the 2d Battalion, 12th Marines.

(7) Communications/Electronics: On 18 January 1966, Radio-Relay was secured from operation and returned to the 12th Marines. The 1.3 mile wire lines to Battery "D" were then placed in full operation. Radio-Relay was operational 87% of the time during January. From 1 November 1965 - 18 January 1966, Radio-Relay was available only 52% of the time, 34% down time was due to generator failure.

Five radio sets, AN/PRC-25, were drawn on 27 January 1966. There were no batteries for these sets but they were used in "Operation War Bonnet II" by borrowing the required batteries. These radios performed exceptionally well during this operation.

(8) Logistics: The logistical posture of this command has not changed significantly during this reporting period.

(9) Air Defense: Headquarters Battery now has two .50 caliber machine guns out of action. One has been Code X'd and the other is in Force Logistic Support Group for repairs. There was no change in the remainder of the battalions air defense capabilities.

(10) Civic Action/Military Government/Community Relations:

(a) Civic Action: Medical personnel treated 180 Vietnamese civilians for various ailments. Distribution of 241 bars of soap, 90 pounds of food and 390 pounds of clothes was made to families near the battery areas. Additionally Headquarters Battery personnel distributed 60 pounds of clothes and 30 pounds of soap to a Catholic Orphanage and 100 pounds of clothes and 30 pounds of toys to the families of the 34th ARVN Artillery Battalion at Danang.

(b) Military Government: Nothing to report.

(c) Community Relations: A delegation of village elders and their families from the villages of Yen Ne (1) and Yen Ne (2) presented traditional "TET" gifts to members of Battery "E". The battery responded with gifts of food and clothes. Battery "E" also gave gifts to 160 children of the Popular Force Detachment at Hoa Vang District Headquarters and also distributed gifts to 70 families of the 34th ARVN Artillery Battalion.

*E. O. Speckart*  
E. O. SPECKART

## Daily Journal of Battery "F" During "Operation Mallard"

January 10

Arrived at Da Nang Air Base at 1000 prepared to depart for objective area. At 1215 we began to load the air craft and at 1330 the first plane left, arriving at the objective area at 1345, closely followed by the second plane bringing the first howitzer.

The base piece was in and the battery ready to register at 1415. Plane loads continued to come in, the last howitzer arriving at 1500. The battery was laid and ready to fire at 1545.

Papapets and ammo bunkers were begun for the howitzers, and an FDC bunker was dug. Mortar holes were dug for each man, and three out posts were set up for local security.

January 11

Continued to improve positions. Howitzer positions and ammo bunkers were completed, a sandbagged exec pit was built, and the FDC bunker was completed.

Prepared on call fires for ARVN at 0200. Fired mission for ARVN at sniper fire. The first round was on target and a FFE of six rounds silenced the snipers. Fired in concentration and barrage registration for ARVN. At 1430 fired mission at platoon of VC in tree line. Fired 22 rounds HE-Q, burning two houses and destroying others. No casualties were observed. Fired 12 rounds H&I fires for the ARVN and prepared on call fires for Golf Co. 2/9.

January 12

At 1415 fired two missions and 20 rounds HE, 4 WP; at possible VC escape route. At 1600 fired daytime H&I fires at area of suspected VC. At 2055, fired 3 rounds illumination at enemy movement. At 2150 fired 42 rounds of illumination while marines recovered three bodies and weapons.

January 13

Fired illumination mission at 0400 while one body was recovered. Fired five missions on possible VC escape routes with excellent effect on target. Fired two missions on VC who had fired on helicopters. Surveillance gave excellent effect on target and firing ceased. Fired mission on four sampans moving down a river, destroying two. Fired 21 H&I rounds on seven concentrations.

January 14

At 0145 fired 70 rounds illumination. At 0250 fired two rounds illumination. At 1635 fired in concentrations for 3rd Bn., 7th Marines. At 1930 fired two adjusting rounds at possible enemy mortar positions. Fired 16 rounds at four concentrations during the night as H&I fires, and prepared 22 on call night defensive fires.

ENCLOSURE (1)

January 15

At 1830 fired 90 rounds of HE-VT at heavy sniper fire from trench line and possible mortar positions. Darkness prevented a surveillance, but FO reported excellent effect on target. At 2032 fired 14 rounds of HE-Q and VT at possible enemy mortar position. At 2155 fired 8 rounds HE and 4 WP at VC battalion. The mission was unobserved. Fired four rounds during night as H&I fires.

January 16

At 0050 fired two illumination and 16 HE at suspected VC movement. At 0007 and 0015 fired 5 and 3 rounds illumination at pre-planned concentration. At 0245 fired three rounds illumination and four more at 0540, both at suspected VC movement.

January 17

Received word to prepare to depart from objective area. At 1110 received four targets of enemy mortars firing and fired one gun continuous fire at each target, a total of 70 rounds HE-Q. Received compliments from Bn. Commander for excellent shooting, but no surveillance.

Received word to CSMO at 1230 and were heliolifted back to Da Nang, the last howitzer and personnel arriving at 1700.

The battery fired 35 missions expending 586 rounds of 105 Howitzer ammo.

MORTAR BATTERY  
2d Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

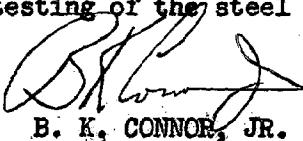
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5700  
28 Feb 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division  
Subj: Command Chronology Report  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
Encl: (1) Sequential Listing of Significant Events

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report on the Command Chronology of this unit is hereby submitted.

2. This Battery returned to Okinawa from the Republic of South Vietnam to be reequipped and resupplied. The month of January was devoted to maintenance and requisitioning. Maintenance has been delayed due to lack of spare parts. This unit has equipment waiting 3d echelon maintenance since 10 January 1966 due to lack of parts. This units requisitions have been delayed due to changing the RUC on the slit documents, as this unit has come under several different units for logistical support. It is recommended that units under logistical support of any but their parent unit be allowed to use their own RUC on slit documents.

3. While on Okinawa this unit has constructed a steel left wheel device for the Howtar which eliminates the recoil pit, eliminates almost all bounce at high charges, cuts down on aiming post displacement in 6400 mil gunnery, simplifies and speeds up 6400 mil gunnery, and cuts down on emplacement time. A complete report of this device will be made upon completion of the construction and testing of the steel right wheel device.

  
B. K. CONNOR, JR.

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. Mortar Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division
  - (a) Location - Camp Hansen Okinawa
  - (b) Period Covered by Report - 1 January-28 February 1966
  - (c) Name, Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and Chief Subordinates

CONNOR, B. K. JR.	CAPT.	Commanding Officer
WALKER, L. D.	1STLT	Executive Officer
WELD, S. A.	1STLT	Fire Direction Officer

2. Detailed description of Significant Events.

- (a) Personnel - At Present T.O.
- (b) Training:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
Bore Sighting	2
AN/MRC-37	2
Chart Operations	10
Ammunition 4.2	4
AN/PRC-9	4
High Angle Registration	4
Administration	3
M-60 Machine Gun	4
Artillery Support of Infantry	2
M-2 Compass	2
50 Cal. Machine Gun	3
Buddy Aid	1
RSOP	8
FFEX	10
Current World Affairs	2
Aiming Circle	4
Maintenance	64
Hand and Rifle Grenades	1
Fam Fire M-60 & 50 Cal. Machine Gun	4
Section Drill	12
Close Order Drill	5
Techniques of Camouflage	3
Hand to Hand Combat	4
Comm Trouble Shooting	2
M-14 Rifle	1
Pistol Cal. 45	1
Erection of 292	1
Special Corrections	1

ENCLOSURE (1)

5700  
28Feb66

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
Wire Laying	1
Civil Affairs	1
Deep Water Fording	2
Personal Hygiene	1
Code of Conduct	1
V. C. Mine and Booby Traps	2
Covert Ambushes & Immediate Action	2

## (c) Logistics

(1) Since 1 January 1966 to 28 February 1966 logistical support of this unit has been negligible. Limited Technical Inspections were conducted during the first week of January 1966. Communications-Electronics have met with success from those inspections. Motor Transport and Ordnance are not much further advanced than they were at the time of inspection.

(2) As of this date, of the twelve vehicles scheduled for third echelon repair, only three have been completed. Motor Transport is still 80 percent deadlined. Ordnance is approximately 75 percent deadlined.

(3) This units inspection of its Motor transport vehicles revealed the fact that the Limited Technical Inspections did not reflect the actual condition of the motor transport vehicles. Therefore, it was necessary to submit some 360 requisitions on priority 2 and 5. Of this number of requisitions, approximately 50 have been filled to date. These requisitions are first and second echelon repair parts.

(4) Of the 700 requisitions submitted by this unit, approximately 15 percent have been received. These requisitions have been submitted on valid priority 2 and 5. Tracer action has been initiated where required. These requisitions are composed of tools, repair parts, T/E shortages, operational stocks, and consumable supplies.

(5) An important reason for this units failure to receive these items is continual changing of the RUC. Since 1 January this unit has requisitioned items under three different RUC'S. One unit (under which the bulk of the requisitions were submitted) has departed for Vietnam; RUC 11303. The second unit under which requisitions were submitted will depart shortly; RUC 13180. This unit is presently requisitioning items under the third RUC 11150.

(6) With the units requisitions submitted under units departed or departing, it is very doubtful that requisitioned items will be received.

(7) A solution to this problem would be to let this unit use its RUC in requisitioning items needed.

(8) Because our requisitions have not been filled, this units Combat-Essential deadline continues at approximately 80 percent. It would be almost impossible for this unit to maintain itself on continuous field operations or deployment.

ENCLOSURE (1)