

HEADQUARTERS  
2d Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

134066

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology Report for Period 1-31 March 1966  
Ref: (a) 3dMarDivO 5750.1  
(b) RegtO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Extracts from S-3 Journal

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, Da Nang Sector, South Vietnam.

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

(b) Mortar Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines remains detached.

(c) Mortar Battery, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines attached  
1 March 1966.

(2) Period covered: 1-31 March 1966.

(3) Name/Rank of Commanding Officer and Staff, including T/O billet assignment:

Commanding Officer: LtCol J.J. SNYDER, 048875/0802 USMC

Executive Officer: Maj C.F. KEISTER, 055758/0802 USMC  
1-29 March 1966

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

(1)

ENCLOSURE (3)

[REDACTED]

S-2: Capt S.M. SCHACHT, 083885/0802 USMCR

S-3: Capt A.C. FRANKENBERGER JR, 075230/0802 USMC  
1-7 March 1966  
Capt D.M. PHILLIPS, 077602/0802 USMC  
8-31 March 1966

S-4: Capt A.TRENT, 070676/0802 USMC

Supply Officer: 1stLt D.L. WHITE, 088184/3002 USMC

Motor Transport Officer: 1stLt W.J. SMALLWOOD, 087288/3502 USMCR  
1-11 March 1966  
1stLt G.E. DeANGELIS, 089480/3502 USMCR  
12-31 March 1966

Communications Officer: Capt T.W. TAYLOR, 070675/2502 USMC  
1-20 March 1966

Liaison Officer: Maj E.F. WHIPPLE JR. 064693/0802 USMC  
1 March 1966  
Maj G. W. RYHANYCH, 060715/0802 USMC  
2-31 March 1966

Headquarters Commandant: Capt D.M. PHILLIPS, 077602/0802 USMC  
1-8 March 1966  
Capt D.F. TRENSKI, 076420/0802 USMC  
9-31 March 1966

(4) Average Strength for the Period: 720

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

(1) Personnel: The battalion was at 91% T/O strength at the end of the reporting period. There are no shortages of critical personnel that would seriously hinder the mission of the battalion. The battalion had four combat casualties and three marines evacuated for non-combat medical reasons. Fifty marines participated in the R&R program during March.

(2) Administration: There was no significant or unusual event to report.

(3) Intelligence: Dissemination of pertinent intelligence information was accomplished by daily briefings for staff officers and distribution of intelligence summaries to the batteries. Active patrolling by the batteries has continued. Several positive contacts have been reported and on 21 March 1966 a patrol from Battery "E" uncovered two VC in an eight foot tunnel at coordinates AT 985-667. The two VC were killed

in an attempt to capture them for interrogation. Further investigation indicated that the VC killed were tax collectors. Such patrols have further increased the security of battery perimeters and aided personnel to become familiar with their respective surroundings. Patrols have continued to uncover and destroy pre-planned mortar positions and firing markers in the proximity of their battery positions. During this reporting period, an increase in VC contact by Marine units has been noted. VC units of estimated company size strength and possibly battalion size strength have engaged Marine units in combat during hours of darkness. Such engagements have been supported by VC mortars. Because the VC have stood and fought, the opportunity to direct effective artillery fires upon known and suspected enemy locations has resulted in decisive setbacks to VC operations. On 18 March 1966, F-2-9 moved into an area of an intended VC ambush but with the support of accurate artillery fires, Company "F" was able to regain the initiative and overcome the attempted ambush. See para(5) Operations for further details.

(4) Training: Due to continued operational commitments, formal training has been curtailed. Emphasis has been placed on fire direction procedure with specific time devoted to fire direction proficiency within the battalion and battery fire direction centers. Familiarization firing with the M-14 rifle and the rifle grenade was conducted for 40 personnel during March. The battalion sent four marines to Generator Operator's School conducted by the 3d Engineers. The Chaplain's lectures on Vietnamese religions was accomplished in all batteries. Three marines were sent to the 4th Battalion FO school at Phu Bai.

(5) Operations: The battalion fired a total of 371 missions and 3,442 H&I fires in support of 9th Marines and ARVN operations, expending 711 rounds of 155mm howitzer ammunition, 6,318 rounds of 105mm howitzer ammunition, and 2,291 rounds of 107mm mortar ammunition, 10 rounds of 155mm Gun and 62 rounds of LVTH-6 ammunition. Enemy casualties for this period were 68 KIA, 40 KIA poss, and 90 WIA. The significant periods of this battalion's firing are as indicated:

(a) 162315H fire mission in support of ARVN troops resulted in a surveillance of 21 KIA and 90 WIA. Encl. (1) line 30, 31, and late entry 171725H.

(b) 181845H to 190147H fire missions conducted during this period were in support of F-2-9. This company was under heavy small arms and mortar fire, Encl(1)lines 37-49. On 19 March 1966 at 0024, 0100 and 0147 countermortar fires were directed toward VC mortar positions with a surveillance of secondary explosions noted at 190100H, Encl(1)lines 5,7, and 8. On 19 March 1966 at 1300, FO E-2A, 1stLt COX, with F-2-9 reported that the local villagers indicated that approximately 100 VC had occupied the area where artillery fires had been directed at 0024, 0100, and 0147, entry of Encl(1). Villagers stated that the VC carried away at least twenty bodies from the area, Encl(1)line 35. Further reports from K-3-9, sweeping the area where secondary explosions were reported, stated that the area had discarded and damaged ammo cannisters, and what was believed to be pieces of mortar tubes. The company commander of Co. "K" reported that he had also observed artillery rounds bursting on mortar flashes in the area.

(3)

(c) 250138H to 250500H fire missions conducted during this period resulted in 43 KIA, 40 KIA poss, Encl(1)lines 3 through 26. Body count confirmed through 9th Marines FSOC. It was further reported that a patrol from E-2-9 found mortar positions with base plate imprints at coordinates AT 961-597. Patrol discovered two additional mortar positions and 17 ammunition cannisters in the area at coordinates 961-597. Artillery craters were predominant throughout the area.

(d) With the attachment of Mortar Battery, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines, the battery emplaced on Hill #55 on 7 March 1966 to provide available fires to marine units actively engaged in search and destroy operations.

(e) During Operation "KINGS", Btry "E" displaced four 105mm howitzers to Hill #55 at coordinates AT975-625, 25 March 1966 and Btry "L" displaced two 155mm howitzers (SP) to Btry "E" position at coordinates AT 988-672. This movement was accomplished to provide adequate artillery support for the operation.

(f) With the extension of the 9th Marines TAOR, the following batteries were positioned to afford adequate artillery support for respective supported units:

(1) Btry "E" moved to coordinates AT986-644, 31 March 66.

(2) Btry "F" moved to Hill #41 coordinates AT933-666  
26 March 1966.

(6) Command and Control: The command post location and mission of the 2d Battalion remains the same.

(7) Communications/Electronics: The battalion received radio equipment AN/GRC 125's and AN/PRC-25's bringing the total issue to nine AN/GRC 125's and eight AN/PRC-25's. Distribution of this equipment was accomplished from 2-4 March to the following batteries:

<u>BATTERY</u>	<u>AN/GRC 125</u>	<u>AN/PRC 25</u>
Hq Btry	4	-
Btry "D"	1	3
Btry "E"	1	3
Btry "F"	2	2
Mortar Btry	1	-

On 19 March 1966 an FSR instruction team from Okinawa instructed communication personnel of the battalion on the operation and maintenance procedures for the AN/GRC 125's, AN/PRC 25's, switchboard and teletype equipment. The instruction given by the team provided valuable background for proper use of this equipment.

[REDACTED]

(8) Logistics: The logistical posture of this command remains in a satisfactory status. The motor transport deadline rate has been lowered significantly since the last report and is currently rated at 7.1%. The lack of refrigeration is rapidly becoming a problem for the firing batteries. The occurrence of food spoilage has increased and the need for corrective action is paramount.

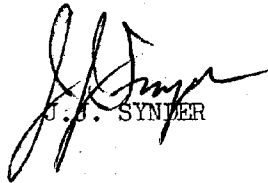
(9) Air Defense: Our Air Defense capabilities remain the same.

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

(a) Civic Action: Medical personnel treated 232 Vietnamese for various ailments and 146 bars of soap were distributed.

(b) Military Government: Nothing to report.

(c) Community Relations: Headquarters Battery personnel visited a local ~~grammar~~ school and donated approximately 80 pounds of sports equipment to the school.

  
J. J. SYNER

(5) [REDACTED]

S-3 (Rein) Da Nang Viet Nam

Extract S-3 Journal for 0001 16 March 1966, 2400 16 March 1966

2130 29 FM frm , ARVN Adv at Din Ba, VC in paddies,  
FFE 2 vols HE-VT BD 175, no surv.CNO fire ceased.  
Rds on tgt. 12 HE

2315 30 FM for ARVN troops, VC in pos (944574) and (942578)  
FFE 2 vols Btry L and Btry E firing 18 HE and 20 HE  
respectively, conc. BX105 and BE296.

2340 31 Ill at coord. 944584 and 930584; VC attacking ARVN outpost.  
1st Gun Btry (SP) and Mortar Btry 3/12 firing

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Extract S-3 Journal for 0001 17 March 1966, 2400 17 March 1966

1725 31 12th Mar S-3 call surv(934526) 57 WIA 17 KIA (968544)  
Late entry 23 WIA 4 KIA. Coord were areas of freshly dug graves  
containing bodies of VC killed in action against ARVN  
troops at (944574)and(942578). Casualties were confirmed  
from the result of interrogation of local villagers  
in the area of the graves

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Extract S-3 Journal for 0001 18 March 1966, 2400 18 March 1966

1845 37 FM E-2 (009605) Az 3200, hvy sniper fire 18 HE-Q gd  
eff on tgt. Comp 1852, BE298

1848 38 FM E-2 (002607) Az 3200 Hvy sniper fire, 15 HE-Q. gd  
eff on tgt. Mort Btry 3/12 BW18 comp: 1852

1905 39 FM E-2 Btry E (005606) hvy sniper fire 67 HE-VT, rds  
on tgt conc. BE299 comp: 1923

1907 40 FM E-2 Mort Btry 3/12 (005606) Az 3200 VC mortars Btry 4  
vols Sh mx Fz mx rds on tgt BW19, 20HE-VT 17 WP-Q

1915 41 FM E-2, Mort Btry 3/12 (995615) to (995610) Az 4800, AW  
and mortar fire, 4 vols Sh mx Fz mx 20WP 20HE rds on tgt  
conc. BW20

1923 42 FM E-2 Btry E (001607) to (007607) Az 4800, Mortar pos  
60HE 57WP excell eff on tgt. BE300 Btry L 17 HE-Q BE300

1935 43 Btry D 18 HE-Q conc. BE300

1940 44 FM E-2 Mort Btry 3/12 (992606) Az 3800 many VC snipers  
4 vols Fz VT&Q 20HE tgt well cover. conc. BW21

1955 45 D-3 from: BD738 will now be on call

2000 46 Capt Dobak W/O

2108 47 Cease fire H&I's

2122 48 OP Marksman rpts hvy SA fire app. (019629) overlay indic  
near area of plt base

2124 49 FM E-2 (996604)to(005603) hvy mortar fire 130HE 24 VT  
mortar fire sporadic gd. cover mor. fire silence. BE301

2205 50 The following new H&I's were recvd at coord.(992607) to  
(991590) to (996607). Area sub-divided into 16 H&I's  
BX designation

Enclosure (1)

## S-3 (Rein) Da Nang Viet Nam

Extract S-3 Journal for 0001 19 March 1966, 2400 19 March 1966

0001 1 Lt Krolak W/O  
 0010 2 Resume fire Air Corridor  
 0022 3 Cease fire Med Evac  
 0023 4 Resume fire in 3/9 TAOR  
 0024 5 FM E-2 via Mort. Btry 3/12, mortar & SA fire, 18HE-VT  
 20 HE-Q gd cover BE303 coord. (011614)  
 0051 6 FM E-2 (007607) BE304 2 HE-Q EOM  
 0100 7 FM E-2 (003605) BE305 mortar pos. 54 HE-Q gd eff, mortars  
 ceased, secondary explosions  
 0147 8 FM E-2 frm BE305 R200 RR mortar pos 22 HE-Q rds on tgt  
 replot (00216053) BE306

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1330 35 E-2 rpts villagers rptd that app 100 VC are in his area.  
 Villagers rptd that VC carried at least 20 bodies from  
 area. They are presumed still in the area.

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Extract S-3 Journal for 0001 25 March 1966, 2400 25 March 1966

0135 1 FM frm E-1, mortar firing, Mort Btry 3/12 57 HE BW22  
 (945585) EOM 0146  
 0136 2 Mort Btry 3/12 and I Co. rcvng mortar fire  
 0138 3 E-1 FM VC troops moving "E" 36HE BE318 (943588) EOM 0200  
 0140 4 E-1 FM VC troops Mort 3/12 15HE BW33 (950590) EOM 0147  
 0142 5 D-3 FM troops "E" 38HE BE319 (97635926) EOM 0305  
 0144 6 E-1 FM troops "E" 18HE BE320 (954590) EOM 0240  
 0155 7 E-1 FM troops and mortars Mort 3/12 100 I11 BW25 (954591)  
 0200 8 E-1 FM troops, Mort 3/12 54HE BW34 (954591) EOM 0315  
 0205 9 E-1 FM troops/mortars "L" fwd 21HE BX109 (953600) EOM 0230  
 0210 10 E-1 FM troops "E" 18HE--VT BE321 (953578) EOM 0230  
 0225 11 D-3 FM troops "E" 36HE BE322 (960584) EOM 0240  
 0228 12 E-1 FM troops Mort 3/12 18HE BW36 (950584) EOM 0241  
 0231 13 E-1 FM mort pos. "L" rear 78HE BX110 (95905970)  
 0240 14 D-3 FM mort pos. "E" 54HE BE323 (943585)  
 0245 15 FM, withdrawal "E" 10HE BE324 (953578)  
 0246 16 FM troops Mort 3/12 21HE BW37 (960584)  
 0250 17 FM, withdrawal, "L" fwd 8HE BX111 (932575)  
 0253 18 FM, withdrawal, "L" fwd 8HE BX112 (968574)  
 0254 19 FM, withdrawal, Mort 3/12 12HE BW38 (930584)  
 0305 20 FM, withdrawal, "L" fwd 8HE BX114 (939591)  
 0345 21 FM E-1 troops firing, "L" rear 14WP 9HE BX117  
 0400 22 FM E-1 troops Mort 3/12 12HE BW39 (963580)  
 0430 23 FM E-1 mortar pos. Mort. 3/12 57HE-Q BW34 (954591)  
 0435 24 Hill #55 complex rcvd 1 mortar rd size unk. no damage,  
 no penetration, no casualties, river block did receive  
 SA. 12th Mar S-3 notified.  
 0445 25 FM E-1 VC in trees "L" rear 3HE-Q 24WP BX117 (96005960)  
 0500 26 FM, rcvd frm 9thMar PSOC, Mort 3/12 11 conc. 97HE-Q  
 "L" fwd 2 conc. 12 HE-Q

Enclosure (1)