

HEADQUARTERS  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/JP/jdk  
5750  
5 Nov 1966

**SECRET**

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for October; submission of

Ref: (a) Divo 5750.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted,

  
D.G. JONES

4/12 Marines

**SECRET**

Enclosure (5)

Oct 1966

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HEADQUARTERS  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

Command Chronology 1 Oct through 31 Oct 1966

Part I     Organizational  
Part II    Significant Events  
Part III   Chronological Summary

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1. Reporting Unit - 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

2. CP - Da Nang (AT 947 768) (1-17 Oct)  
Dong Ha (YD 228 587) (18-31 Oct)

3. Period covered - 1-31 Oct 1966

4. Date of submission - 5 Nov 1966

5. Average monthly strength

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
Officers	25	0
Enlisted	355	10

6. Commanding Officer - LtCol D.G. JONES

7. Principal Staff

XO	Maj J.L. NORMAN	(1-24 Oct)
	Maj D.B. BARKER	(25-31 Oct)
SgtMaj	SgtMaj J.W. ROBBINS	
S-1	2dLt J.C. LIVINGSTON	(1-28 Oct)
	2dLt R.D. ESMOND	(29-31 Oct)
S-2	GySgt R.F. PICKETT	
S-3	Capt J. POWERS	
S-3A	2dLt R.D. HAWKINS	
S-4	Capt C.G. BLASI	
SupplyO	2dLt R.P. HORNE Jr.	
CommO	2dLt H.H. SEIPEL Jr.	
MaintO	2dLt W. DOMKE	
MTO	WO L.C. ECKSTROM	
Survey/Metro	GySgt F.E. McEARCHERN	(1-15 Oct)

8. Subordinate Units

Hq Btry Capt O.J. CREWS

K Btry Capt J.H. BUTLER

L Btry Capt K.L. AMMONS

M Btry Capt J.B. WAY

8" Btry Capt H.N. MEANS

Mortar Btry Capt R.O. MERRITT (1-7 Oct)  
Capt W.J. ODLE (8-11 Oct)

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## 9. Attachments and Detachments

## a. Attachments:

- (1) 1st 8" How Btry (SP) (-) (Rein) (1-14 Oct)
- (2) Mortar Btry, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines (1-11 Oct)

## b. Detached:

- (1) Btry M to 3d Battalion, 12th Marines (1-27 Oct)
- (2) Btry L to 2d Battalion, 12th Marines (14-31 Oct)

## 10. Location of Units

Btry K, 4/12 (AT 92147886) Az fire 5200 (1-12 Oct)  
 Btry K, 4/12 (YD 239594) Az fire 4700 (13-26 Oct)  
 Btry K, 4/12 (YD 214597) Az fire 0 (27-31 Oct)  
 Btry M, 4/12 (YD 06065472) Az fire 5200 (28-31 Oct)  
 8" Btry, 4/12 (AT 964712) Az fire 4600 (1-12 Oct)  
 8" Btry, 4/12 (AT 92147886) Az fire 5300 (13-14 Oct)  
 Mortar Btry, 4/12 (AT 92147886) Az fire 5200 (1-11 Oct)  
 Composite Btry, 4/12 (AT 878577) (1-M55, 1-M53, 2-M109) Az fire 4900,  
 5500, 4400 respectively.  
 8" Plt ("C"), 4/12 (AT 965618) (1-M55, 1-M53) Az fire 2600, 3200  
 respectively.

## 11. Mission - General support/reinforcing

a. Da Nang

Btry K - Reinforcing 1/12  
 Btry L - Reinforcing 2/12  
 8" Btry - Reinforcing 1/12, 2/12  
 Mortar Btry - Reinforcing 1/12

b. Dong Ha

Btry K - Reinforcing Dong Ha Combat Base  
 Btry M - Reinforcing 1/12, 3/12

## 1. Personnel

## a. Number of replacements received:

USMC - Officers: 3	USN - Officers: 0
Enlisted: 9	Enlisted: 2

## b. Number of personnel rotated:

USMC - Officers: 3	USN - Officers: 0
Enlisted: 7	Enlisted: 1

## c. Number of personnel lost through attrition other than rotation:

- (1) WIA - 0
- (2) KIA - 1
- (3) EVACUATED - 1

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d. R&R Trips: 25

2. Administration

a. On hand strength of administrative personnel in this Battalion is currently at 65% of T.O.

b. Awards

(1) Number processed: 3 Bronze Stars and 2 Navy Commendation Medals

(2) Number received: None

c. Promotions: (by rank)

3 to Capt

1 to SgtMaj

62 to Cpl

76 to LCpl

d. Postal: Initially mail service was extremely poor when this unit arrived in the Dong Ha Area. Service has improved somewhat towards the end of the period. Money order service is unsatisfactory.

e. Legal: 2 Special Court Martials

3. Intelligence. Briefings for the Commanding Officer and personnel of the Battalion Staff and Headquarters Battery were conducted daily until displacement to Dong Ha Combat Base at 171200H Oct 66.

Liaison was conducted during this reporting period with S-2, 3d Tank Bn, and Hoa Vang District Headquarters.

This Section closed the S-2 Journal at 171200H Oct and opened the Journal at the Dong Ha Combat Base at 211200H Oct.

Processing of security clearances and granting of same continued during the month. Map needs were satisfied throughout the Battalion.

4. Training Highlights. Training during the month of October was limited due to operational commitments and the preparation and movement of the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines to Dong Ha.

During the month personnel of the Battalion attended the following schools:

Nuclear Weapons Assembly	- 6
MUMS	- 2
Projectionist	- 2
Ammo Technician	- 1
NCO Leadership	- 1
Infantry Weapons Repair	- 1

5. Special Operations.

a. The Battalion had an 8" How Platoon displaced to Hill 55 (AT 965 618). The unit consists of one M55 and one M53 with the mission of reinforcing the fires of 2d Battalion, 12th Marines.

b. A Composite Battery of two M109's, one M55, and one M53 was displaced to Hill 65 (AT 878 577) in support of 1st Battalion, 12th Marines.

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c. On 1 Oct a Platoon of M114's from Battery K was attached to Battery B 1st Battalion, 13th Marines for operations in the Khe Sanh Area (XD 837 424). The Platoon was Opcon 1st Battalion, 12th Marines with a mission of General Support/Reinforcing B/1/13.

6. Command and Control. 4th Battalion, 12th Marines has decentralized the technical fire direction control of all firing Batteries.

7. Communications and Electronics. Wire and radio communications encountered no significant problems during the month.

8. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination. No significant problems were encountered during the month.

9. Medical and Dental.

a. Medical Statistics

- (1) Total battle casualties - 1 (KIA)
- (2) Total non-battle casualties/illness - 56
- (3) Total immunizations given this month - 17

10. Logistics:

a. Supply - Operational spares on hand are at approximately 80% of operating level. Major items of equipment on requisition include:

- (1) Two (2) - Generator Set PU-482/M
- (2) One (1) - Generator Set PU-348 A/G
- (3) One (1) - Tractor, Full Tracked - TD-15
- (4) Two (2) - Truck, Cargo 3/4T 4x4 - M37B1
- (5) One (1) - Truck, Cargo 2 1/2T 6x6 - M35

b. Maintenance - Overall maintenance is satisfactory. There are no facilities in the Dong Ha Area for 3d Echelon maintenance for the 155mm How M109 (SP). The deadline rate for the M109 is approximately 18%.

c. Food Services - "A", "B", and "C" rations were served during the month of October.

d. Cantonment - Headquarters, "K", and "M" Batteries are living under canvas. At the present time there are no plans for strong backing any of the battery positions.

e. Motor Transport - Deadline rate for motor transport is 8%.

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f. Embarkation - During the period of 11 October to 20 October Headquarters and "K" Batteries embarked aboard LCU's and moved from Da Nang TAOH to their present positions in the Dong Ha Area.

g. Hospitalization and Evacuation - Casualties are evacuated by helicopter to the "USS Repose". This Battalion has no doctor, but the Regimental Surgeon is available for use by Headquarters and "K" Battery. "M" Battery uses the facilities of 3d Bn, 12th Marines.

11. Civil Affairs

a. The Battalion drilled a well for the hamlet of Phong Bac #3 (AT 946 768). The work was supervised by the Civil Affairs Officer.

b. All Batteries provided the Vietnamese with garbage to feed their pigs.

c. One truck load of scrap lumber was given to the Phong Bac #3 Hamlet.

d. The Battalion employed ten Vietnamese females as kitchen workers during the period 1 to 10 October.

e. Building materials for repairs, and food were provided to one Vietnamese family (Phi) whose home was struck and set afire by an aircraft flare.

CONFIDENTIALPart IIIChronological Summary of Significant Events

- 10 Oct - At 0800 this date, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines was detached from the 12th Marines and attached to the 11th Marines. Mission remained unchanged.
- 11 Oct - Mortar Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines was detached at 1700 from 4th Battalion, 12th Marines to Opcon of the Provisional Artillery Battalion at Phu Bai.
- 12 Oct - 1st 8" Howitzer Battery started to displace at 0800 this date to (AT 9214 7886). The move was administrative and completed at 2000 13 Oct.
- 12 Oct - At 1000, Battery K was detached from 4th Battalion, 12th Marines. The Battery displaced via landing craft to the Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 239 594). The Battery was assigned a mission of General Support of the Dong Ha Combat Base with Opcon to 12th Marines.
- 12 Oct - At 1530, Battery L fired an observed mission on VC in the open (AT 7877 5513); the FO reported good coverage with 2 probable KIA'S.
- 12 Oct - At 1920, Battery L fired an observed mission on 5 VC boats with supplies (AT 853 554). The boats were destroyed with an expenditure of 28 rounds of HE.
- 14 Oct - At 0815, Battery L and 1st 8" Howitzer Battery were detached from 4th Battalion, 12th Marines to Opcon of 2d Battalion, 12th Marines and 11th Marines respectively.
- 15 Oct - At 0315, Headquarters Battery sustained one KIA within its perimeter from a firefight adjacent to the Northwest corner of the Command Post.
- 17 Oct - 4th Battalion, 12th Marines was chopped by 11th Marines at 0800 this date. The advanced party departed Da Nang via KC130 at 1035 and arrived at the new Command Post at 1130. The Da Nang Command Post was closed at 1200.
- 19 Oct - The Battalion departed Da Nang at 1600 via landing craft. The delay in departure was due to inclement weather, however the main body arrived at its new Command Post (YD 228 587) at 1400 20 Oct. The tactical occupation of the Command Post was without complications and 4th Battalion, 12th Marines reverted to parental control of the 12th Marines with the mission of General Support/Reinforcing.

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- 22 Oct - The Battalion mess served its first hot meal, breakfast, this date. Work continued in the camp area. Command and staff visits were made to the firing batteries.
- 24 Oct - Battery K reverted to parental control of 4th Battalion, 12th Marines as of 0800.
- 25 Oct - At 1010, a TD-15 operating in Headquarters Battery area, detonated a device, causing a low order explosion. No casualties or damage were sustained.
- 27 Oct - Battery Kilo tactically displaced to its current Command Post (YD 2145-5971) at 0950. The Battery has six M109's laid on azimuth 0 with a mission of General Support/Reinforcing the Dong Ha Combat Base. In addition, the Battery answers direct calls for fire from 1st Battalion, 4th Marines.
- 28 Oct - At 1645 this date, Battery M reverted to parental control of 4th Battalion, 12th Marines. The Battery has 4 M109's laid on azimuth 5200 with a mission of General Support/Reinforcing 1st and 3d Battalion, 12th Marines.

Recapitulation of fire missions

<u>Observed</u>	<u>Unobserved</u>	<u>Registrations</u>	<u>H&amp;I's</u>	<u>Total</u>
15	5	5	502	527

Ammunition Expenditures

	<u>HOW</u>	<u>GUN</u>	<u>8"</u>
HE	1249	33	63
WP	15		
ILL	30		
Total	1294	33	63

Recapitulation of Battery Patrols

<u>Hq</u>	<u>"K"</u>	<u>"L"</u>	<u>"M"</u>	<u>8"</u>	<u>Total</u>
6	16	2	0	0	24

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