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RM# 7-482

735067

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 26th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), MAF
APO San Francisco 96302

Copy 1 of 10

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code 203D), Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps,
Washington, D. C.
Via: (1) Commanding General, FMF PAC
(2) Commanding General, III MAF
(3) Commanding General, Third Marine (Rein)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MFR 5720.2a
(b) FMF PacO 5750.8
(c) 3dMarDiv O 5750.1a

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for period 1-30 November, 1967 (U)

1. In compliance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. Downgraded at 3 year intervals. Declassified after 12 years in DOD Instruction 5200.10.

H. L. Alderman
H. L. ALDERMAN

DISTRIBUTION:

OL, 3dMarDiv	(7)
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3dMarDiv

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 26th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), MAF
APO San Francisco 96602

COMBAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November to 30 November 1967

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- A - Combat missions assigned and significant operations conducted
- B - Casualties
- C - Command Relations
- D - Communications - Electronics
- E - Fire Support
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- H - Personnel
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- L - Logistics
- M - Medical-Dental
- N - Training

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONSCOMMANDER

3d Battalion, 26th Marines

Lt Col H. L. ALDERMAN (1-30Nov67)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company

Capt J. J. GILMORE (1-28Nov67)

Company I

Capt A. LARDIZABAL (28-30Nov67)

Company K

Maj L. P. CAULFIELD (1-23Nov67)

Company L

Capt W. H. DABNEY (23-30Nov67)

Company M

Maj J. E. BROWN JR. (1-22Nov67)

Capt N. J. JASPER JR (22-30Nov67)

Capt R. D. CAMP JR. (1-30Nov67)

Capt A. LARDIZABAL (1-28Nov67)

Capt J. J. GILMORE (28-30Nov67)

2. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj J. A. LONGHRAN (1-30Nov67)

S-1/Adjutant

1stLt R. POST (1-30Nov67)

Personnel Officer

1stLt R. POST (1-30Nov67)

S-2

Capt C. F. KILNEY (1-30Nov67)

S-3

Maj C. E. HENDY JR. (1-23Nov67)

S-4

Maj L. P. CAULFIELD (23-30Nov67)

Comm Officer

Capt W. H. DABNEY (1-13Nov67)

Supply Officer

Capt J. J. GILMORE (13-15Nov67)

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt J. A. PRAGE (15-30Nov67)

Medical Officer

Capt T. L. EARLY (1-2Nov67)

Capt D. A. ROBERTS (2-30Nov67)

2ndLt M. K. MCKINNON (1-30Nov67)

2ndLt K. WOODS (1-30Nov67)

Lt R. W. HETCHLER, USN (1-30Nov67)

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

OFF	USMC	USN	OTHER
41	1061	2	50
			0
			0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The narrative summary contains only major events of activity for the battalion during the month of November. In that the battalion's mission was the security of Camp Evans, Hill 674, and Hill 51 until 21 November, there was little or no major significant contact with the enemy. From 21-23 November, the battalion prepared for Operation COVE, but the Third Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines part of the operation was cancelled.

From 23 to 30 November, the battalion operated in the Co Bi Thanh Tan (YD 563248) and My Chanh (YD 442396) areas with no major significant contact with the enemy. The daily summary of significant events will be contained in the After Action Report of Operation HOSHO.

From 1 to 21 November, 3dBn, 26th Marines(-), was located at Camp Evans, Phong Dien District, Quang Tri Province, with the mission of providing security for Camp Evans, Hill 674, and Hill 51. Company M was under the operational control of the 2dBn, 26th Marines until 24 November. On 23 November, Companies I & K moved to the Co Bi Thanh Tan area (YD 563248). On 24 November, Company L moved to the My Chanh area (YD 442396). Company M joined Company L on 25 November. The battalion had the mission in the Co Bi Thanh Tan and My Chanh areas of Search and Destroy.

9 November 1967

At 1430H, the Scout Sniper Team operating from Hill 51, observed 1 VC moving in front of their position (YD 581270) about 1000 meters in vic (YD 575262). The team opened fire and, through the sniper scope, observed the VC fall. 3 more VC came out of a tree line to drag off the body. The Scout Sniper Team received approximately 50 rounds of small arms fire from the tree line and they returned approximately 50 rounds of small arms fire. The team called an artillery mission and observed 2 VC on the edge of the treeline take direct hits. Result was 3 VC KIA(P).

18 November 1967

At 0740H, the Scout Sniper team attached to L-2 spotted 1 VC approximately 50 meters to their front (YD 581270). The VC, about 20 years old, was wearing a pack, carrying a rifle, and was dressed in black pajamas. The Scout Sniper Team opened fire, killing the VC. They recovered the body and took all the equipment. The equipment, 1 rifle model #53, 1 pack, 1 poncho, 1 raincoat, 25 rounds 7.62mm short, and notions, were forwarded to battalion S-2. Results, 1 VC KIA(O).

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23 November 1967

At 2359H, a Marine of the 1st Platoon, Company K vic (YD 563249), observed 3 VC moving east of his position at a distance of 100 meters. He opened fire with small arms and observed 1 VC fall. A patrol was dispatched to check out the area. The patrol heard rustling sounds from the bushes. They fired small arms under 60mm illumination and advanced through the area. The sweep found nothing significant. However, a patrol the next morning swept the area of contact and found blood stains on the ground and bushes, and observed drag marks on the ground. A bloody field expedient bandage was also found. Result was 1 VC KIA(P).

28 November 1967

The third platoon, Company K while on patrol, sighted 20-40 VC in vic (YD 540243) moving down a trail. They called for artillery. A mission was fired with excellent coverage on target. The Forward Observer with the third platoon, Company K observed direct hits on the enemy with bodies flying in the air. Resulting in 11 VC KIA(G) and 4 VC KIA(P).

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED AND SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

1. From 1-21 November, the mission of the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines was; provide security and perimeter defense for Camp Evans, Hill 51 (Regt OP'vic YD 549282) and the Radio Retransmission Site on Hill 674 (YD 516219); provide security for LCB Construction Teams, Regimental Water Point, and Rough Riders as required with two rifle companies; conduct aggressive small unit patrols and Search and Destroy Operations with the remaining available forces.

2. From 21-23 November, the battalion prepared for Operation COVE, but the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines part of the operation was cancelled.

3. From 23-30 November, the mission of the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines was to conduct multi-company Search and Destroy Operations in the Co Bi Thanh Tan (YD 563248) and My Chanh areas (YD 442396). Companies K and I moved to the Co Bi Thanh Tan area on 24 November. Company L moved to the My Chanh area on 24 November and Company M joined Company L on 25 November.

B. CASUALTIES

Friendly Casualties

KIA 2
WIA 21
TOTAL 23

Enemy Casualties

KIA(C) 13
KIA(P) 24
Detainees 12

C. COMMAND RELATIONS

1. With Higher Units. The battalion was under the operational control of the 4th Marines for the month of November.

2. With Other Marine Units.

a. Close liaison was maintained with infantry battalions operating in adjacent areas.

b. Company M was under the operational control of the 2d Battalion, 26th Marines until 24 November. On 24 November, Company M came under the operational control of the 4th Marines.

c. For the perimeter defense of Camp Evans, the battalion had the following units under its operational control:

Security Platoon, 4th Mar Hqs Co
Co C(-), 3d Tank Bn
Co B(-), 3d Engr Bn
2nd Plt(-), Btry D, 1/44th Arty
Provisional Plt, H&S Co, 1st Bn, 4th Mar

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3. With ARVN/PF/RF Units

a. By maintaining close direct liaison with local Vietnamese forces, intelligence given by them was used frequently in establishing ambush/patrol operations.

D. COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS

1. Message Center. Message traffic is picked up from and delivered to the Fourth Marines Message Center. Distribution has not changed. During the past month, 16 messages were sent out and 696 received.

2. Radio. All battalion nets and the Fourth Marines tactical net were terminated in the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines COC until 24 November. At that time, two Command Groups were sent to the field with two Companies each and one Command Group was left at Camp Evans. Each Company operated their Company tactical net in the field. Each Command Group terminated their own tactical net at their Command Post. The battalion tactical net terminated in the 3/26 COC and had both Command Groups on it. Normal supporting arms radio nets were also operated.

3. Wire. Normal intra-battalion wire facilities are installed. In addition, there are trunk lines layed to the Fourth Marines, 1stBn, 9th Marines, and Third Battalion, 12th Marines switchboards. There are also Hot Lines from 3/26 COC to 4thMar COC, 1/9 COC, and from 3/26 COC FSCC to 3/12 FDC. The battalion switchboard handled on the average of 200 calls per day.

4. General. On recent operations it was found that field expedient antennas must be well insulated and not touching wet foliage during the monsoon season to be effective. For our operations in the Camp Evans area, a tree topped RC-292 has given excellent results regardless of the weather.

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E. FIRE SUPPORT

1. Camp Evans. From 1 to 30 November, the battalion was supported by the 3d Bn, 12th Marines. The FSOC conducted normal operations. H&I's were fired based on intelligence reports from S-2 and map reconnaissance. Numerous fire missions were called against sighted VC/NVA. Until 24 November, the sightings were usually made by FO's on Hill 51 and Hill 674. After 24 November, the FO's were employed with their companies attached to Command Groups Bravo and Charlie. Numerous fire missions were called, one of which resulted in 15 VC KIA(C). Surveillances were rare, however, due primarily to distances and tough terrain. For the period covered, artillery missions resulted in 25 VC KIA(C) and 41 VC KIA(P).

F. AIR SUPPORT

1. Air Defense. No enemy aerial activity was encountered during the month of November.

2. Air Support.

a. Fixed wing - One fixed wing air support mission was flown in support of "I" Co at Nam Hoa.

b. Helicopter

- (1) A total of 26 personnel were med-evaced.
- (2) Resupply and troop lift. A total of 167,130 lbs of supplies and equipment were transported during November. 460 troops were moved for tactical reasons during the same period.
- (3) 10 command overflights were flown during the month.
- (4) AO's were used as needed.
- (5) No flareships were used in November.

G. ADMINISTRATION

1. During the entire period, this battalion continued to function under battalion administration at its present location with excellent results. Battalion level personnel accounting proved very effective and experienced no major difficulties.

H. PERSONNEL

1. During the month of November, the battalion joined 2 officers and 127 enlisted personnel, while 3 officers and 89 enlisted personnel were transferred. Of that total, 12 enlisted were re-assigned out of the country by service records as the results of medical evacuation.

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I. INTELLIGENCE

1. Summary.

a. During November the maximum temperature was 84, the minimum was 68. Average relative humidity was 80%; monthly precipitation was 22.3"; and winds averaged 7 knots from the southwest.

b. Terrain. The area is characterized by coastal lowland plains, which consist primarily of poorly drained level areas of rice cultivation. Elevation in this area rarely exceeds 35 meters; the maps of the area are very accurate. Proceeding inland, the elevation rises sharply to 500 to 700 feet, characterized by dense forests and jungles.

c. Avenues of Approach. The main avenues of approach are the Hoa My trail running through Camp Evans, the railroad tracks running to the east of Camp Evans in a northwesterly direction, the Song O Ho River valley leading generally east into the Song Bo River valley, and the trail systems throughout the Xom Phu Le - Xom Bo Dien complex (YD 5631).

2. Enemy Situation

a. The enemy continued sporadic incidents of small arms fire harrassments, mining and booby trap incidents. A heavy infiltration throughout the area exists with emphasis on rice gathering and rice transportation to the mountain areas.

3. Incidents.

a. Numerous sightings were made of the enemy, averaging groups of 3 to 8 and as large as 40. The majority of the sightings were made in the Co Bi Thanh Tan valley, lending evidence to reports that the area is a major rice transportation route.

b. Mines and booby traps. There was an increased incidence of booby traps during November. Operations in the Co Bi Thanh Tan valley at first encountered few such devices, but increased patrolling uncovered many recently emplaced booby traps. The area vic Ly Chanh (YD 4539) is heavily booby trapped with grenades and punji pits however, most of this activity is 2-4 months old.

4. Cumulative Totals

a. Enemy personnel losses

KIA(C)	13
KIA(P)	24
Detainees	12

b. Enemy equipment losses

Inf Wps	2
CS Wps	0

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J. CIVIL AFFAIRS

1. Due to operational commitments there were no Civil Affairs conducted during the month of November.

K. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

1. The mines reward program again met with considerable success and promises to continue under the incentive of immediate payment passes by word of mouth at the Water Point (YD 520349).

2. The 4th HB Team, 244th PsyOps Company, conducted a total of 26 hours of broadcasts in support of operations in vic YD 4358, centered mainly on the Chieu Hoi program.

L. LOGISTICS

1. General. Logistical support was satisfactory during November. There were no major problems obtaining supplies, transportation, or food services.

2. General Supplies. General supplies were adequate except a short supply of lightweight jungle utility trousers.

3. Transportation.

a. Transportation was provided by the Third Motor Transport Battalion, through the 4thaz Regiment S-4, and service was satisfactory.

b. Due to overall tactical commitments of the battalion, tactical runs were frequent. Administrative runs with organic vehicles were held to a minimum.

4. Resupply. Camp Evans resupply was accomplished both by truck convoy and helicopter.

5. Maintenance Support. Maintenance support was furnished by FLSG-A, Phu Bai, and service was satisfactory.

6. Ordnance. Ordnance support was provided by FLSG-A, Phu Bai.

7. Food Service. This unit operated a field mess at Camp Evans from 1-9 November. Food was very satisfactory in quality and quantity. From 9 to 13 November, this battalion subsisted in field mess operated by 1stBn, 4th Marines. Food was adequate. On 13-30 November, this unit again operated a field mess, with a very noticeable improvement of quality in the food preparation. On very short notice, the mess hall provided Thanksgiving dinner to two companies of the 1stBn, 4th Marines in the field.

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M. MEDICAL-DENTAL

1. Personnel. The battalion aid station has a total of 54 personnel. These consist of 52 Hospital Corpsmen, one Medical Officer and one Chaplain.

2. Capabilities. The battalion aid station is capable of treating all minor medical and surgical problems. Patients requiring more extensive care were evacuated to the 3rd Medical Battalion at Phu Bai. One tropical hardback was used for treatment and surgical problems. One hardback was being used for the Doctors Office. One hardback was used for administration and one for the Hospital Corpsmen quarters. One tent was used for medical supplies. The distance between the BAS and the supply tent is causing a degree of inconvenience.

3. Supply. Medical supplies were obtained from FLSU-2 at Phu Bai. There is a problem of procuring supplies in that FLSU-2 fails to ship the needed supplies.

4. Dental. There were no facilities for dental care at the BAS. Patients requiring limited care were referred to the Regimental Aid Station (4th Mar) for treatment. Patients requiring extensive dental care were evacuated to the 3rd Medical Battalion, Phu Bai.

5. Malaria Prophylaxis. Chloroquine-Primaquine tablets were to be taken once a week on Sunday, preferably with meals. This battalion had two confirmed malaria cases and three probable cases this month.

6. Sanitation. Sanitation reports were made weekly to the Battalion Commander.

7. Statistics. The following were the statistics for the period ending 30 November, from 1 November:

DIAGNOSIS	H&S	I	K	L	M	OTHERS	TOTALS
BURNS	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
INFARCTIONS	8	10	1	3	3	0	25
DIARRHEA	3	14	0	2	0	1	20
LACERATIONS	2	0	2	0	0	2	6
FUO	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
COLDS	5	0	0	1	0	0	6
DENTAL	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
RASH	2	3	1	1	0	1	8
STOMACH DISORDERS	2	8	1	4	1	1	17
HEADACHES	0	3	1	0	1	0	5
EYES	2	2	0	1	0	0	5
FOOT DISORDERS	2	19	0	5	0	0	26
OTHERS	37	45	7	12	7	2	110
TOTALS	63	96	15	30	12	8	233
KIA	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
WIA	1	3	1	5	8	0	18

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N. TRAINING

The following training was conducted during November:

1. Orientation. Personnel joined as replacements during the month received an orientation to Vietnam from their Company Commanders.
2. Familiarization and Zero Firing of Personal Weapons. All personnel joining the battalion in November, fired their M-16's for familiarization, and all personnel who had not zeroed their weapons, did so. Personnel issued .45 cal pistols were also required to fam fire their weapons.
3. Although the battalion was extremely limited in training, due to security commitments, the individual companies conducted their own training when possible. Special emphasis was placed on scouting and patrolling techniques, fire discipline, individual movement, noise and light discipline, and ambush techniques.
4. Hospital Corpsmen received on the job training under the supervision of the Medical Officer and the Chief Hospital Corpsman. Classes were held by the Medical Officer giving additional instructions on field medical techniques and diagnostic care.
5. All personnel joining the battalion in November, were given a thorough familiarization with the mines and booby traps peculiar to this area. In addition, personnel were shown the various types of warning signs which the VC use to warn of mines and booby traps in this area.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS / NFF

1. The following messages and order- governed the activity of the battalion during the month:

- a. CG, Third MarDiv 310701Z OCT 67
- b. Fourth Marines 310637Z OCT 67
- c. Fourth Marines 310635Z OCT 67
- d. Fourth Marines 310100Z OCT 67
- e. Fourth Marines 041501Z NOV 67
- f. Fourth Marines 041500Z NOV 67
- g. 2d Bn, 26th Marines 070230Z NOV 67
- h. CG, Third MarDiv 110929Z NOV 67
- i. Fourth Marines 141445Z NOV 67
- h. Fourth Marines 150710Z NOV 67
- j. Fourth Marines 160610Z NOV 67
- k. Fourth Marines 210130Z NOV 67
- l. Fourth Marines 200610Z NOV 67
- m. Fourth Marines 211036Z NOV 67
- n. Fourth Marines 251445Z NOV 67
- o. CG, Third MarDiv 260815Z NOV 67
- p. Fourth Marines Op Order 57-67
- q. Fourth Marines Op Order 55-67

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