

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/JCF/ldo
5750
9 Mar 1968

[REDACTED] (UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF ENCLOSURE)

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, FPO San Francisco, 96602
Via: Commanding Officer, 27th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, FPO San Francisco, 96602

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 010001H to 292400H FEB 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines Command Chronology

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

Tullis G. Woodham Jr.
TULLIS G. WOODHAM Jr.

GP-4
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

5750
9 Mar 1968

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96002

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

010001H TO 292400H FEB 1968

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

3rd Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

LtCol T. J. WOODHAM Jr.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	1-15 Feb 68	Capt R. E. BUTLER
	16-29 Feb 68	Lt J. M. ZALIPSKI
Co I	1-15 Feb 68	Capt T. M. SNYDER
	16-29 Feb 68	Capt J. E. PINNICK
Co K	1-14 Feb 68	Capt T. M. CARPENTER
	15-29 Feb 68	Capt J. D. PARKS JR.
Co L	1-13 Feb 68	Capt T. F. JANIDLO
	14-29 Feb 68	Capt J. F. ERNEST
Co M	1-15 Feb 68	Capt T. J. SLOAT
	16-29 Feb 68	Capt E. M. KEEFE JR.

2. LOCATION

1-17 Feb 68: Camp Margarita (33 Area), Camp Pendleton, California
18-29 Feb 68: DANANG, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

EO		Maj W. J. KALITA
S-1/Adj		1stLt J. W. PARRISH
S-2	1-14 Feb 68	Capt C. W. SOOTER
	15-29 Feb 68	1stLt P. E. MEEK
S-3		Maj E. T. FITZGERALD
S-4		Capt T. H. RALPH JR.
CommO		Capt R. R. ANDERSON
SuppO	1-15 Feb 68	1stLt M. P. FORTSON
	16-29 Feb 68	1stLt W. B. ROOT

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MTO	1-15 Feb 68	1stLt J. W. STANLEY
	16-29 Feb 68	WO R. E. BAZZINI
BnSurgeon		Lt (USNR) J. A. GOFF (Medical Corps)
BnChaplin		Lt (USNR) M. P. O'NEILL (Chaplin Corps)
BnSgtMaj	1-15 Feb 68	SgtMaj A. AURIN
	15-29 Feb 68	SgtMaj R. F. SNYDER

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>OFF</u>	USMC	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	USN	<u>ENL</u>
45		1134	3		50

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The month of February was highlighted by the transition of the battalion from normal CONUS operations to a fully operational combat battalion in the Republic of Vietnam.

The first 13 days of February were devoted almost entirely to FIREX's and small unit training with the emphasis oriented towards combat operations in Vietnam.

On the 13th of February the battalion was notified by form of message to prepare to be air lifted as part of RLTF - 27 to the Republic of Vietnam. During the next 96 hours all personnel and essential equipment were prepared to be air lifted. The short notification did cause some considerable problems. Of the greatest magnitude was the transfer of 600 non-deployable and the joining of 950 deployable men. During this period all companies conducted extensive FIREX's, refamiliarizing both new and old personnel with all weapons organic to the battalion.

The first elements including the command group departed El Toro MCAS, on the afternoon of the 17th. Within eighty hours after departure of the first element all personnel of this battalion had departed CONUS. Upon arrival in Vietnam, the 18th of February, the battalion was placed under the OpCon of the 1st Marine Division and integrated with elements

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of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines. Forty-eight hours after arriving, integrated elements were conducting operations in the field. On February the 27th, the 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines assumed responsibility for the TAOR vacated by the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel and Administration. Of the personnel losses and gains shown below approximately 1700 were transferred in or out of the battalion in a four day period.

a. Personnel Losses and Gains for February 1968

	USMC		USN	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Joined	34	954	0	25
Dropped	03	793	0	4

b. Casualties for February 1968

	USMC		USN	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
WIA	0	0	0	0
MIA	3	12	0	1
DCW	0	1	0	0
WIA	0	0	0	0

c. Promotions. The following promotions were made:

(1) Officers. One promotion to Major.

(2) Enlisted. One to Sergeant, eight to Lance Corporal, twelve to Private First Class.

2. Enemy, Weather and Terrain

a. Period covering 27 February (assumed responsibility of TAOR) till 29 February 1968, contact with the enemy was light and sporadic. All WIA's were the direct result of surprise firing devices.

b. Weather and terrain presented no obstacles to the operations conducted by the battalion.

3. Operations

Battalion operations in the Republic of Vietnam during late February

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were designed to familiarize the units with the TAOR. All day time activities were search and destroy type operations, on the company and platoon level. Night time activities consisted of patrols and ambushes conducted by squad size units, with saturation patrolling in the Rocket Belt.

4. Significant Events

13 February 1968	Movement Order For RLT - 27 Ref: CG, FMFPac Msg 130921Z FEB 68 (SECRET)
14-17 February 1968	Company FIREX's employing all organic weapons
17 February 1968	1st echelon containing command group departed CONUS
18 February 1968	1st echelon arrived DANANG RVN
27 February 1968	Assumed responsibility for TAOR vacated by 2/3

5. Training

a. During the first part of February small unit tactical training was conducted with emphasis on lessons learned from Vietnam. Prior to our deployment to Vietnam, because of the large turnover of personnel, intensive FIREX's were conducted by the companies employing all weapons organic to the battalion. Also, due to the large turnover of weapons themselves prior to deployment, all new and old weapons were test fired. Because of the scope of this operation the ranges made available to the battalion on a priority basis were in continual use even after the first air lifts began.

6. Logistics

a. With very little advance warning the battalion was prepared and did move to the Republic of Vietnam on time. While in some instances planning and actual embarkation were inevitably concurrent, essentially the movement was accomplished by employing current embarkation plans.

b. Personnel and essential equipment were moved by the U. S. Air Force while the remaining supplies were readied for movement by sea.

c. Supply. The embarkation of supplies and equipment to the Republic of Vietnam was the significant occurrence during the month of February.

(1) Mount-out repair parts, essential T/E items and encampment - garrison items, were air lifted while the remainder of the mount-out block and those T/E items considered non-essential (lower body armor, NBC equipment) was sea lifted.

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(2) An initial issue of jungle boots, under clothing and towels were issued to all personnel prior to deployment. Jungle utilities and the remaining issue of under clothing and boots were issued upon arrival in Vietnam.

(3) Control of all 782 gear and individual weapons has been assumed by Battalion Supply to improve the mobility of the battalion's rifle companies.

d. Motor Transport

(1) This battalion's vehicles were moved by aircraft from CONUS to the Republic of Vietnam.

(2) The increased need for vehicles has caused 1st echelon maintenance to be scheduled daily and greatly increased the requirement for 2nd echelon maintenance.

(3) All M42's were modified by either sand bags or planking to protect against mines.

(4) The vehicles of this battalion traveled more than 16,000 miles during the month of February.

e. Ordnance. Prior to our deployment an accelerated program of familiarization firing of individual and crew served weapons increased the need for second echelon maintenance.

(1) 5th Service Battalion provided contact teams to perform LTI's on all weapons. After arrival in the Republic of Vietnam, a battalion armory was set up and an additional LTI was held on all weapons.

7. Artillery Support

a. During the period 27-29 February 1968 Battery F, 13th Marines, supported the battalion with five (5) called fire missions. Also, a heavy H&I program was initiated.

b. During this three day period approximately 450 rounds of assorted artillery were expended.

8. Air Support

a. During the period 27-29 February 1968 a total of nine (9) helicopter missions were flown.

Helicopter Missions

Number of Missions

Medevac

5

Resupply

1

Visual Reconnaissance

3

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b. One tactical/fixed wing air strike was flown during the period 27-29 February 1968.

9. Medical

a. Personnel. Personnel was increased to 3 officers and 51 enlisted at time of deployment. One (1) corpsman has been wounded and evacuated. No replacement has arrived.

b. Deployment. Orders for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam were received on 13 February 1968. Mount-out preparations were completed by 17 February 1968. Difficulty was encountered in separating deployable health records from non-deployable health records due to non-availability of company rosters at that time.

c. MEDCAP. MEDCAP program was revised to include dental assistance and the utilization of different treatment sites, other than the main gate location. Minor surgical procedures, both dental and medical, have been performed. Through the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, many infectious diseases common to RVN, have been treated and allayed.

d. Sanitation. A sanitation team from the Division Surgeon's office has inspected 3/27 facilities. Sanitation does not meet the minimum requirements but is adequate in effect and we are being supplied with new waste disposal facilities. Water is controlled by the Marine Corps Engineers, is adequate, and bacteriologic inspections are periodically made by them.

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ANNEX C

3rd Battalion, 27th Marines Chronology