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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 26th Marines
9th Marines
3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3/JJB/ees
5750
1 November 1966

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[REDACTED]

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology: 27 September-31 October 1966

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) DivO 5750.1
(c) RegtO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology: 27 September-31 October 1966

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

D. E. Newton
D. E. NEWTON

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

27 SEPTEMBER-31 OCTOBER 1966

- PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II: GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS DURING REPORTING PERIOD
- PART III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Reporting Unit. 1st Battalion, 26th Marines
2. Location of Command Post. 271600H September 1966 to 312400H October 1966: Vicinity Hill 55, DANANG TAOR, Coordinates (AT 968617).
3. Period Covered by Report. 27 September 1966-31 October 1966.
4. Commanding Officer and Staff

Commanding Officer	27Sep66-24Oct66 24-31Oct66	LtCol MONTI LtCol NEWTON
Executive Officer		Maj DONNELLY
S-1		2ndLt BOLEN
S-2	27Sep66-22Oct66 23-31Oct66	Capt VOGT Capt JOHNSON
S-3		Maj RATCLIFF
S-4		Maj DREBUSHENKO
S-5		1stLt MOONEY
5. Principal Subordinate Units

H&S Company	Capt CARLISLE
Company "A"	Capt VELASQUEZ
Company "B"	Capt SIMPSON
Company "C"	Capt KAPPELMAN
Company "D"	Capt WEIDNER
6. Command Structure. 27 September-31 October 1966, OpCon 9th Marines with responsibility for Northern sector of the 9th Marines TAOR.
7. Average Strength for Month of October

Officers USMC:	35
Officers USN:	3
Enlisted USMC:	935
Enlisted USN:	56

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~~DECLASSIFIED~~PART II: GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS
DURING REPORTING PERIOD

During the reporting period, the Battalion was responsible for the northern sector of the 9th Marines TAOR. This responsibility included the occupation and defense of the assigned sector from enemy attack; execution of offensive operations in the assigned sector; maintaining the Main Supply Route secure and open to traffic; establishment and maintenance of a reconnaissance network in the assigned sector; preparation to execute offensive operations beyond the assigned sector; and the support of pacification programs as directed. At 271600H September this Battalion relieved 1st Battalion, 9th Marines in this TAOR. The first two weeks were spent largely in patrolling for familiarization of the area. On 11-12 October a COUNTY FAIR was held in LE SON (5) (AT 955637), and on 21-22 October a GOLDEN FLEECE operation was held in the A and B Companies areas of responsibility. From 21-25 October Co A was OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines. From 21-24 October heavy rains resulted in flooding of the entire area. Although Hill 55 remained above water, the surrounding area, including the three forward company CP's was almost completely inundated, and Co B's CP (AT 920547) had to be evacuated although a platoon remained as security. The floods all but suspended operations for three days, and rebuilding had to be done in the Company CP's south of Hill 55. The bridge over the SONG AI NGHIA (AT 968606) was washed out and was replaced by a ferry. This ferry and the ferry across the SONG THU BON (AT 925534) were inoperable during the flood. On 240400Z October 1966 LtCol A.A. MONTI passed command of the Battalion to LtCol D.E. NEWTON. Enemy activity has consisted almost exclusively of sniper action in squad sized elements or less. Friendly activity other than stated above consisted of daylight saturation patrols, road security patrols and night ambushes throughout the reporting period.

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PART III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING
OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel. During the period the Battalion had a slight decrease in chargeable strength but did gain in effective strength. Losses are as follows: 6 Marine officers, 101 Marine and 2 Navy enlisted transferred for duty. 88 Marine enlisted transferred by service records while hospitalized. 8 Marine enlisted KIA, 2 Marine enlisted DOW, 59 Marine and 7 Navy enlisted WIA, and 1 Marine enlisted died of drowning. Gains are as follows: 3 Marine officers, 145 Marine and 13 Navy enlisted joined for duty.

a. The Command had a change in Battalion Commanders effected on 24 October 1966.

2. Administration. Sub-unit number 1, Headquarters and Service Company was reactivated 6 October 1966 upon joining 17 Marine and 1 Navy enlisted detachment of the Combined Action Company.

3. Intelligence. During the reporting period the S-2 lost all but three of its Scout Section. Of the remaining three, one was assigned to assist the S-5 and another was placed on a lengthy period of no duty. As a result of the loss of the Scout Section, the Battalion's two TPS/21's were not used. As of this date, the Scout Section has been reestablished and training commenced on 28 October. Of the Battalion's twenty infra-red scopes, fourteen are operational and are distributed throughout the companies who use them on ambushes and listening posts. The six inoperable infra-red scopes have low batteries which are currently being charged. In addition, the Battalion has one Starlight scope which has been inoperable during the entire reporting period due to a lack of batteries. There have been no contacts as a result of clandestine devices. Significant events during the reporting period are as follows:

a. Enemy Contact

(1) During the reporting period enemy activity in the TAOR was limited to harrasing tactics by squad sized guerrilla forces. A detailed chronology of events is shown in the 9th Marines INSUMS for the reporting period.

b. Mines and Booby Traps

(1) There were four incidents of road mining. All four of these incidents were located on Liberty Road North, two in the vicinity of GC 969602 and two in the vicinity of coordinates 923537. In each case homemade pressure type box mines were used with from 10 to 20 pounds of explosive.

(2) There were ten incidents of booby trapping of trails and buildings throughout the TAOR. They included homemade C-Ration mines, pressure detonated 60mm and 81mm mortar rounds, fragmentation grenades, one 105mm round and one Claymore mine.

(3) On 17 October 1966 while clearing the right of way for

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Liberty Road North in the vicinity of coordinates 965595, Seabee and Engineer personnel discovered one Russian 10 lb shaped charge and one 60mm mortar round in what appeared to be a storage area.

c. Information Received

(1) On 22 October 1966, a VN woman, Truong Thi-Nganh, 26 years old, from XUAN DIEM (1) hamlet who was picked up by a Company D squad sized patrol revealed that two snipers who had fired at the patrol had run past her house and moved to the river east of the hamlet. She further revealed that 30 hard corps VC had passed through her hamlet 6 days before, that they wore grey uniforms, spoke a NVN dialect and carried 3 mortars. The VC took rice from the villagers prior to their departure. The woman went on to reveal that 15 guerrillas operated in XUAN DIEM (1) and (2) during the day and at night moved north along the river to LE SON (4).

(2) On 28 October a Company D platoon sized patrol passing through the hamlet of BICH BAC learned that the villagers of BICH BAC were moving out of their village because of a planned VC attack on U.S. Marine Corps personnel in that vicinity. The date and time of the attack were unknown but it was indicated that the attack would come from the east to the west across the river at coordinates 987635.

4. Training. All units received instruction relating to the mission and role of U.S. Forces in the Republic of Viet Nam, the rules of engagement and communications. On-the-job training was conducted for all organic MOS's. A four (4) hour mine and booby-trap school was conducted for all units. In addition, all newly arrived personnel reporting into the Battalion, underwent a two day indoctrination period on Hill 55 during which they received briefings by all staff sections and the Sergeant Major, and also manned defensive positions at night. Following this, they were sent to the individual rifle companies and received another three days of orientation and indoctrination before leaving the Company CP on patrol.

5. Special Operations. A COUNTY FAIR was held 11-12 October in the Village of LE SON (5) GC 955638. Another COUNTY FAIR was planned for 24-27 October in the Village of BICH BAC GC 986635, but was cancelled. Details are reported in "Civil affairs" section. Operation GOLDEN FLEECE was held 21-22 October in Companies A and B TAOR.

6. Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare. Nothing significant.

7. Command and Control. LtCol A.A. MONTE commanded 1st Battalion, 26th Marines from 27 September-24 October 1966. On 240400Z October 1966, he was relieved by LtCol D.E. NEWTON. The Battalion remained intact under the control of the 9th Marine Regiment throughout the period with the exception of Company "A" which was OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines from 21-25 October. Although the Battalion remains ADCON to the 3rd Marine Division, it chopped OPCON to the 1st Marine Division on 101400H October 1966.

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8. Communications-Electronics. The only significant occurrence during this period was the destruction of two AN/PRC-25 radios in a fire at the Company "C" CP.

9. Close Combat. Nothing Significant.

10. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination. Artillery was employed on targets of opportunity and also to restrict the enemy's night movement through harrasing and interdiction fires. On-call fires of an offensive and defensive nature were provided each company. Registration of defensive fires was stressed.

a. Artillery fired 30 fire missions against the enemy during this reporting period. No confirmations of enemy casualties were obtained due to the inability of units to make detailed searches of target areas. Surveillances submitted indicated target areas were well covered by artillery when called for.

b. A breakdown of the number of missions fired follows:

(1) Actual fire missions

105mm Howitzer - 22 missions
155mm Howitzer - 8 missions

(2) H&I missions. H&I fires were conducted each night. Target selection was based on intelligence information and recommendations from the rifle companies.

Total number artillery H&I missions - 587.

(3) Defensive fire concentrations. Discounting the defensive concentrations for Hill 55, 19 night defensive concentrations of a permanent nature were planned in the TACR. One hundred, forty-four defensive concentrations in support of moving elements were planned during the reporting period.

c. Three 81mm mortar sections were attached to the outlying rifle companies while the fourth was kept on Hill 55 in a general support role. 81mm mortars were used extensively against the enemy during this period. Four hundred, twenty-eight concentrations were fired for H&I fires by 81mm mortars during the reporting period.

11. Logistics. During this reporting period, the Battalion landed at DaNang with 263,093 cubic feet and 4,684,074 pounds of cargo and vehicles. The Battalion has moved 654,500 pounds of supplies a total of 816 miles in resupplying the companies. Hampering resupply has been the continuing problem of the lack of M-35 trucks and the constant high deadline rate of the LVT's and M-76. During 22-23 October 1966 two companies and their supplies had to be evacuated from their area because of flood waters.

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12. Air Defense. Nothing significant.

13. Combat Air Support. Air support was used by this command during the reporting period in support of ground units. A total of 62 Medevacs were flown bringing 58 casualties and 20 civilians to immediate medical aid. UH-1H gunships were used on occasion as strike and cover aircraft. Resupply of the individual companies was provided by UH-34's on a very limited basis. No fixed-wing sorties were flown during this period.

14. Medical and Dental Support. Activity for the period is reflected in the following figures:

Military Sick Call	1087
Military Casualties	65
MedCap	1118
Civilian Sick Call and casualties	71
Daily in-patient census 13, maximum	22

A 30 bed in-patient ward, including shower, toilet and head facilities, and berthing spaces for organic and transient personnel was constructed. Construction was also begun on a medical supply and record storage depot. A supply depot for the replenishment of line corpsmen was established. One hundred, twenty-five VN civilians were treated during the COUNTY FAIR, mentioned above.

15. Chaplain Support. Protestant coverage was given by the Battalion Chaplain. Protestant services were held in 1/26 CP Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday evenings; in Company D CP Sunday afternoons; in forward line companies weekdays. Total Protestant services held was 24, attended by 481 Marines. Six Bible Classes attended by 28 Marines. The Battalion Chaplain participated in the orientation given to all replacement troops. He counseled 84 Marines, visited patients in Battalion BAS daily, visited 60 patients on weekly visits to "C" Med and NSA hospitals, wrote 40 pastoral letters to NOK of deceased Marines, handled 23 cases for American Red Cross, and distributed over 800 New Testaments and religious booklets. Roman Catholic coverage given by Regimental Chaplain, 9th Marines, with Mass in 1/26 CP Sunday mornings and in forward line companies on weekdays approximately every other week.

16. Civil Affairs. On 2 October 1966, Delta Company patrol picked up a Vietnamese man requesting medical treatment for his two year old daughter. The two were transported to Battalion Aid Station for treatment. After the treatment they were returned to their hamlet. The man revealed the names of 11 VC who were operating out of his village. On 11 October 1966, COUNTY FAIR in IE SON (5) commenced. A detachment of the 244th Psychological Warfare Company was present and supported the operation with propaganda leaflets, propaganda tapes and political speakers. 102 villagers were treated for minor injuries and cuts by our MEDCAP team. The villagers were allowed to return to their village at 121200H October 1966. On 21 October 1966, a team of the 244th Psychological Warfare Company

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broadcasted propaganda tapes to the villages of CHAU SON to aid those families in their village whose homes were destroyed by the floods. We did so by supplying 150 lbs of rice and 2 cartons of clothes. The Medical Civic Action Program treated a total of 1118 Vietnamese villagers for minor injuries and cuts during the reporting period.

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PART IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

S-1 Journal

S-2 Journal

S-3 Journal

1st Bn, 26th Marines (9th Marines) OpOrder 117A-66

1st Bn, 26th Marines OpOrder 3-66

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