

C-0206-187

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

30067

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1 January 1967

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code (A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein).
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, FMF Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 December 1966.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPACG 5750.8
(c) 3rd MarDivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 26th Marines Command Chronology, 1-31 December 1966

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

D. E. Newton
D. E. NEWTON

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1 of 15

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1-31 December 1966

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PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Reporting Unit. 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.
2. Location of Command Post. 010001H December 1966 to 312400H December 1966: Vicinity Hill 55, DANANG TAOR, Coordinates (AT 966617).

3. Period Covered by Report. 1 December 1966 - 31 December 1966

4. Commanding Officer and Staff

Commanding Officer		LtCol NEWTON
Executive Officer		Maj DONNELLY
S-1		2ndLt KELLER
S-2	1-8Dec66 9-31Dec66	Capt JOHNSON 1stLt CLICKENER
S-3		Maj VAIL
S-4		Capt BEST
S-5		1stLt MOONEY

5. Principal Subordinate Units

H&S Company		2ndLt CLEELAND
Company "A"		Capt VELASQUEZ
Company "B"		Capt SIMPSON
Company "C"		Capt CARLISLE
Company "D"	1-8Dec66 9-31Dec66	Capt WEIDNER Capt JOHNSON

6. Command Structure. 1 - 31 December 1966, OPCON 1st Marine Division, with responsibility for Eastern sector of the 9th Marines TAOR.

7. Average Strength for Month of December

Officers USMC: 30

Officers USN: 3

Enlisted USMC: 1066

ed USN: 60

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

During the reporting period, the Battalion was responsible for the eastern 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 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. The predominately successful tactic used for operations during December was the company sized operation during which a small area was sealed off by closely tied in blocking positions. The trace of the positions approximated a cordon, the cordon being emplaced during hours of darkness. The area of operation covered an area no greater than four grid squares so as to better control the operation. The duration of operations was about eight hours. The one County Fair initiated on 28 December was a cordon type operation requiring a six hour sweep. These operations were executed as a result of current intelligence and availability of friendly forces. Adjacent units, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines and 2nd Bn, 1st Marines assisted with the blocking positions when any of the cordon boundaries were contiguous to boundaries of these units. Results of these one day operations plus the County Fair are 12 VC KIA Confirmed, 1 VC KIA Probable, 2 VCC and 9 weapons destroyed or captured; 1 USMC WIA. Day and night patrols and ambush activities of squad size were conducted throughout the month by all companies.

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PART III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING
OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel. During the period the Battalion had a drop in officer strength but did have a gain in enlisted strength. Losses are as follows: 6 Marine Officers transferred for duty and 2 transferred by service records by reasons of med evac; 79 Marine enlisted transferred for duty and 25 transferred by service records by reason of med evac; 4 Navy enlisted transferred for duty and 8 transferred by service records by reason of med evac. Gains are as follows: 3 Marine Officers, and 276 Marine enlisted joined for duty. Casualties for the period: 4 Marine enlisted KIA, 2 Marine enlisted LOM and 1 Marine enlisted died as result of accidental discharge; 2 Marine Officers and 51 Marine enlisted WIA.

2. Administration. Nothing significant.

3. Intelligence

a. No major contacts occurred during the month of December. VC activity consisted of small groups delivering harassing fire at patrols, an increase in mine/booby trap employment, and distribution of propagand leaflets. Two significant incidents were the firing of five RIG-2 Anti-Tank grenades at two Ontcs on 15 December and the firing of three rounds of M-72 LAW at the artillery position, Hill 55, on 19 December.

b. Surveillance devices were employed extensively. Continuous surveillance was maintained over the approaches to the bridge at (LT 967605) and Liberty Road North with an AN/TLS-21. Thirteen AN/TLS-1 units were employed on the perimeters of fixed positions. The SPARLIGHT SCOPE was employed, but continual maintenance problems limited usage. Infrared sighting devices were employed in a passive role, attempting to locate a reported VC infrared device. The Scout/Snipers employed M-49 20X spotting telescopes with great success. Movement of VC with weapons was detected in excess of 1600 meters. Targets were engaged with rifle fire or supporting arms, as appropriate, resulting in four VC KIA (CONF) and ten VC KIA (PROB). There were numerous other sightings of VC carrying weapons, but range limitations of the M-1D and presence of civilians precluded engagement.

c. There were no new VC units identified within the Battalion TAOR. Several reports of VC movement were received, but no contacts were made. Reports of VC intentions to attack Hill 55 and interdict the MSR were received. An increase in mine incidents along the MSR was noted.

d. With regard to weather, the Northeast Monsoon continued to dominate the weather during the month of December. The major period of rainfall and reduced visibility occurred during the period 23 to 31 December. Trafficability of the MSR, particularly Route 14, deteriorated markedly. Route 14, between Liberty Road North and Liberty Road South, was impassible to wheeled vehicles for the greater part of the month. Cross-country movement by foot troops was impaired by swollen streams and flooded rice paddies. A complete synopsis of the weather for the month is as follows:

Maximum Temperature - - - - - 87

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Minimum Temperature ----- 67
 Number of days w/less than 5 miles visibility -- 4
 Average Visibility ----- 6 miles
 Average Wind Speed ----- 7 knots
 Average Humidity ----- 85
 Number of days w/measurable rainfall ----- 15
 Total Precipitation ----- 22.62"

e. VC losses are as follows:

(1) Personnel

VC KIA (CONF)	51
VC KIA (PROB)	93
VCC	8
VCS	27

(2) Equipment

Weapons Captured 12

4. Training. On the job training was conducted for all MOS's, and the five day indoctrination period for newly arrived personnel continued. The training officer attended a one day conference at Division Headquarters on 19 December. Fourteen Marines from this command attended a 7 day sniper school from 17-23 December, conducted by 9th Marines. A contact team visited this command and held a two day school on the Man Pack Personnel Detector, on 28 and 29 December. Eleven Marines from this command including the Training NCO, participated.

5. Special Operations. County Fair 9-35 was held in LE SON (3) (AT 977647) on 28-29 December. Three one-day Company (Rein) sized Rabbit Hunt operations were conducted in the areas of LE SON (4) and (5) vic (AT 957640); CHAU SON vic (AT 950600), and CAM VAN (1) and (2) vic (AT 960598). In each case the area was virtually cordoned off by putting blocking forces of adjoining units, both from this battalion and from neighboring battalions along natural and man made terrain features. Each operation yielded excellent results. The rest of the activity for this reporting period consisted of routine Daylight Search and Destroy operations and night patrols and ambushes.

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

7. Command and Control. The Battalion was commanded by LtCol D. E. MATON throughout the reporting period and remained intact except for C10001H to 081200H when Co B was OPCON to 2nd Bn, 5th Marines, from 201045H to 211200H when Co D was OPCON to 2nd Bn, 1st Marines, and from 080100H to

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111600H when 3rd Platoon, Co C was OPCON to 1st Bn, 1st Marines. 1st Battalion, 26th Marines remains ADCON, 3rd Marine Division and OPCON, 1st Marine Division.

8. Communications and Electronics. Nothing Significant.

9. Close Combat. Nothing Significant.

10. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination. During December artillery fired on targets of opportunity, fired zones fires on suspected enemy positions, fired harassment and interdiction fires, and also fired registration missions. Both offensive and defensive on-call fires were utilized during the reporting period.

a. Artillery fired 78 missions against a known enemy during December. Casualties resulting from artillery fire were reported to be 8 KIA confirmed and 34 KIA probable. Confirmed figures might have been higher but conditions in many cases precluded an immediate search of the target area. Surveillance by FO's indicated that artillery was both effective and accurate.

b. Three 81mm mortar sections were attached to outlying rifle companies while the fourth was kept on Hill 55 in a general support role. No mortar H&I's were fired during the month of December.

c. Artillery and mortar missions and ammunition expenditure figures for the reporting period are as follows:

Artillery observed fire missions -- 78

Artillery ammunition expenditure -

105mm Howitzer -- 1057

155mm Howitzer -- 572

H&I's (105 and 155) 896

TOTAL 2525

81mm mortar concentrations fired -- 25

81mm mortar ammunition expenditure -- 409

11. Logistics. During this reporting period, the companies were supplied a total of 226,000 lbs of supplies. These supplies were transported 4,506 miles by M54 trucks and 160 miles by LVTP-5s. In addition to these supplies each of the forward companies were supplied at least one hot meal each day.

Battalion vehicles traveled 25,268 miles in support of the battalion.

Developments in the cantonment program include a 100 man chapel, two tropical huts, three heads, and two tent decks completed during the month.

The most significant problem area has been lack of 782 gear to issue to replacements. During the past reporting period, the battalion has received 276 replacements requiring from partial to complete issue of 782 gear. Another problem has been the lack of repair parts for the M422 and M274A2. Currently the Battalion has 7 M422s and 8 M274A2s deadlined due to the lack of repair parts.

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12. Air Defense. Nothing Significant.

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13. Combat Air Support. Air Support was used by this command during the reporting period in support of ground units. A total of 40 medevacs were flown bringing 48 U.S. casualties and 16 civilians to immediate medical aid. Of the 40 medevac missions, 14 were of an emergency nature. One fixed-wing mission was flown in support of this battalion during the reporting period. UH-1E gunships were used as medevac escort and on occasion as strike aircraft.

14. Medical and Dental. A total of 53 Marine WIA's were handled by Medical Platoon personnel. Battalion Aid Station activities consisted of 819 sick call visits, 575 immunizations and an average daily inpatient count of 12.

19 Vietnamese civilians were treated at the Battalion Aid Station, and 742 children and 409 adults were treated through MEDCAP facilities.

The Dental facility logged 300 treatments of Marines and 30 treatments of Vietnamese civilians.

15. Chaplain and Moral Welfare. Protestant coverage was given by the Battalion Chaplain. Services were held on Sunday mornings and evenings and on Wednesday evenings in the Batt Lion CP, on Sunday afternoons in the Co D CP, and on weekdays when possible in the other line company CP's. A total of 17 services were held, attended by 513 Marines. Bible classes were attended by a total of 81 Marines. A three day Christmas Bible Conference using the China Beach R&R facilities was attended by 48 Marines.

Catholic coverage was given by the Regimental Chaplain, 9th Marines. Mass was said in the Battalion CP on Sunday mornings and in the line company CP's on weekdays when possible.

A new chapel was constructed on Hill 55 and was operable for Christmas services.

16. Civil Affairs. In accordance with the Revolutionary Development program, an agricultural expert from Province Headquarters assisted the farmers in Bich Bac. On 15 December 1966 along with two assistants he distributed among 40 farmers of Bich Bac, 160 small fruit trees and 40 eighty-pound bags of fertilizer to improve the rice harvest.

On 8, 9, 10, 11, 27 and 30 December a detachment from 244th Psychological Warfare Company broadcasted propaganda from Hill 55 to the surrounding hamlets. Such topics as curfew restrictions, inevitability of the VC defeat, hopelessness of the VC cause, and the Chieu Hoi appeal were covered.

In keeping with the Holiday spirit a Christmas party was given for the villagers of Bich Bac on Christmas Day. Catholic Mass was celebrated by the Regimental Chaplain, and approximately 25 villagers attended. After Mass approximately 150 toys and several boxes of candy were passed out among the children.

County Fair Le Son (3) (AT 977647) commenced on 28 December. A census was taken which registered 140 civilians in the hamlet. An additional 20 civilians from nearby hamlets also were present. One hundred-fifteen villagers were treated at MEDCAP and 30 villagers received dental treatment. Psychological Warfare activities consisted of lectures by the village chiefs and a speaker from the Vietnamese Information Service. Between speakers Vietnamese music was played. At night for two hours, films were shown. These were an assorted group of propaganda movies and Walt Disney cartoons. Since the people did not bring food, 5 cases of C-Rations, several gallons of chicken noodle soup, and 300 pounds of rice were distributed among them.

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Before the conclusion of the Fair, the S-5 Officer met with the village elders and discussed matters of common interest, such as security of the hamlet and improved relations between the people and Free World Forces. The County Fair concluded 291630H.

. During the month, 1160 civilian patients were treated at the Medical Civic Action Programs throughout the Battalion.

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PART IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

S-1 Journal

S-2 Journal

S-3 Journal

Operation Plan 2-66 (County Fair), Frag Order 91-66(A).

County Fair Wrap-Up Report for LE SON (3) (AT 977647) 28-29 December 1966.

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