

HEADQUARTERS
1st Radio Battalion (-) FMF
III Marine Amphibious Force
FPO San Francisco 96602

A3:DCL:dcl
5750
Ser 00154-69
19 Nov 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology, 1st Radio Battalion (-) FMF

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1A
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8A

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, 1st Radio Battalion (-) FMF

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

D.M. Hopkins
D. M. HOPKINS

ENCLOSURE
1
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Ser:

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[Redacted] (Unclassified upon removal from the basic letter)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, 1st RadioBn ltr A3:DCL:dcl over
5750 Ser 00154-69 of 19Nov69

From: Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology, 1st Radio Battalion (-) FMP,
period 1-31 October 1969

1. Forwarded.

R. L. Reed

R. L. REED
BY DIRECTION

Copy to:
CO, 1st RadioBn

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28/srm
5750
002855
DEC 12 1969

(Unclassified upon removal from the basic letter)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on C.O., 1st RadioBn ltr A3:DCL:dcl over
5750 Ser: 00154-69 of 19Nov69

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)

Subj: Command Chronology, 1st RadioBn (-) FMF, period
1-31 October 1969

1. The subject chronology has been reviewed for completeness
and is forwarded herewith.

R.D. WHITE
By direction

Copy to:
C.O. 1st RadioBn

PERMANENT RETENTION
Report Destruction to HQ Classified Files Sect. (Code ABQ)

HIST

5818858

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1st Radio Bn

Oct 1969

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Radio Battalion (-) FMF
III Marine Amphibious Force
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

1st Radio Battalion (-) FMF

Commander

LtCol D. M. HOPKINS
(1-31 October 1969)

Subordinate Units

Headquarters and Service Company

Capt B. R. SEPULVEDA
(1-31 October 1969)

Operations Company

Maj E. C. BRINKLEY Jr.
(1-31 October 1969)

2. Location

1-31 October 1969 - Headquarters, Camp Horn, Da Nang, RVN

1-31 October 1969 - Headquarters and Service Company, Camp Hoa Long, East Da Nang, RVN

1-31 October 1969 - Operations Company, Dong Ha Combat Base, RVN

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Maj D. J. HATCH
(1-31 October 1969)

S-1 Officer

1stLt R. J. ANDERSON
(1-31 October 1969)

S-2 Officer

1stLt R. F. GINGRAS
(1-31 October 1969)

S-3 Officer

Maj R. L. O'BRIEN
(1-31 October 1969)

S-4 Officer

Capt B. R. SEPULVEDA
(1-31 October 1969)

4. Average Monthly Strength

	USMC	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
	26	350

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. (S) October was marked by the withdrawal, stand down and redeployment of the major tactical elements of the 3rd Marine Division. Corresponding readjustments were necessitated in Operations Company. In the beginning of the period, the test of the Balloon-borne Low to Medium HF and VHF System was conducted. The results of this test were favorable in most respects, the VHF portion being considered the most noteworthy. Certain system limitations evidenced themselves, most notably in the HF component, after attempting several field expedients with varying degrees of success, recommendations were submitted for the improvement of the HF Antenna. Germane associated system limitations bear further investigation and are presently under consideration; among these were balloon night navigational hazard markings and tether illumination. Six days after the conclusion of the test, loss of the balloon occurred due to the parting of the tether, when it rapidly ascended to approximately five thousand feet. Due to the increase in pressure density and the resultant over-pressurization, the balloon burst. In the ensuing recovery operation, all of the antennae and pre-amplifier equipments were recovered. Throughout the month, there were many periods when atmospheric adversely affected radio communications for varying lengths of time; however, they were not as severe, intense or prolonged as those which occurred in September. Early in October, the First Platoon worked on a new operations bunker which was completed and preparations have been made for the move next month. The new bunker is situated adjacently to the S-2 in the 5th Marines Command Post and will facilitate the passing of timely special intelligence in support of the Regimental Commander. Due to the redeployment of the 3rd Marine Division, the 1st Radio Battalion foresaw the movement of U. S. Army Units northward in Northern I Corps. In an attempt to assist Army Direct Support SIGINT units in becoming familiar with the role of SIGINT in that Zone of Action, III MAF proposed the forming of a Joint Tactical Processing Center (JTPC) at Dong Ha. The Army units welcomed the opportunity and by the end of the month, Army Direct Support Units had phased 9 personnel in with the Operations Company at Dong Ha. In the event of further Marine Corps redeployments the Army Units would have trained personnel that are familiar with the SIGINT problems for utilization in Northern I Corps. The JTPC is under the direct control of Operations Company, 1st Radio Battalion. The Center is located in the 3rd Platoon Operations Bunker and is the second of its type under Marine Command. The JTPC was established to provide initially, semi-processed SIGINT Support to a resident Army Representative, who in turn passed this information to attached Army DSUs with elements of the 101st Airborne Division. The 101st was conducting a screening operation in support of the 3rd Marine Division's withdrawal. SIGINT support assumed a major role in keeping Tactical Commanders apprised of enemy locations and disposition of forces during this most vulnerable period. During the middle of the reporting period both Army analytic and collection personnel were infused into the JTPC and at outlying sites. Due to the redefined boundaries and perimeter of Dong Ha Combat Base, Operations Company closed their command post and quarters area and relocated to the 3rd Platoon Area.

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This collocation required dismantling, removal and rebuilding of several structures to accommodate the additional personnel in the 3rd Platoon Area. Throughout this reporting period, considerable progress was made in the improvement of existing structures and facilities along with minor construction accomplished in three of the Battalion's areas. With the cessation of major friendly offensive operations and the level of combat reduced throughout I Corps Tactical Zone, all platoons continued in-place general support of III Marine Amphibious Force. The 1st Platoon provided direct SIGINT support to the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines. A detachment of the Sixth Platoon provided support to the Commanding Officer, 7th Marines. The Sixth Platoon itself, provided direct SIGINT support to the Commanding Officer, 1st Marines.

2. (C) A significant decrease in the total hours of Transmission Security Monitoring is reported for this reporting period. The total is 54 percent of last month's total which is attributal to the closing of 4th Platoon and the resultant loss of its two Transec Posits and the relocation of 2nd Platoon's Transec Posit to 6th Platoon. The move was necessitated because of other operational commitments. The total number of hours monitored for the period was 579.5 Hours. The total number of violations was 27 percent of last month's total, the overall number was 98 violations. Spot Reports increased by 50 percent with a total of 41 reports issued. Aggregate losses in total reported statistics can be anticipated to remain approximately half of the previously reported totals due to the redeployment of the 3rd Marine Division. One Transec Orientation Lecture was conducted for the Officers and SNGOs of Headquarters, 26th Marines.

3. (S) A decrease in enemy activity was reflected in the number of direction finding fixes over last month's total. Total Direction Finding Fixes for the month of October were: 3058 and further broken down as follows: Airborne Direction Finding, 2873 and Short Range Direction Finding, 185. Of these totals, 597 of the fixes were identified to entity. A total of ten fixes were taken under fire by artillery and results are unknown on all except one. This fix resulted in 15 rounds of 155mm being placed on the target and a subsequent search of the area revealed 3 bunkers destroyed and blood trails from the area. A reduction in the number of fixes acted upon is attributed to reduced enemy activity and the withdrawal of 3rd Marine Division Artillery Resources.

4. (U) During the reporting period, the Communication Section relocated and operated 14 circuits from 2 AN/TGC-37 Vans, a temporary shelter AN/TSQ-5 and the existing communication center. The relocation was a result of renovation in the spaces to accommodate the new equipments and the installation of same. Ten circuits were terminated in the AN/TGC-37 Vans, three in the communication center and one in the operations space. A message was initiated to the Director, Naval Security Group, Pacific, requesting continuation and substantiating the requirement for the Navy Communication Operator Augmentation Program.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. (C) Operations supported by 1st Radio Battalion during the period of 1-31 October 1969 were:

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Supported Unit</u>	<u>Supporting Unit</u>
NICTZ Screening Operation(Un-named)	1 - 31 Oct	3d Marine Division 101st Airborne	3d, 4th, 5th Plts

2. (C) Physical locations of Radio Battalion Platoons:

1st Platoon	AT 873 476	An Hoa	Task Organized
2nd Platoon	AT 971 738	Hill 327	
3rd Platoon	YD 229 597	Dong Ha Combat Base	
Site	YD 171 588	Vinh Dai	Deactivated 31 Oct
Site	YD 211 673	C-1	
Site	YD 132 645	C-2	
Site	YD 116 701	Con Thien	
Site	YD 019 593	Dong Ha Mountain	
4th Platoon	YD 019 593	Dong Ha Mountain	
5th Platoon	YD 116 701	Con Thien	
6th Platoon	AT 970 619	Camp Muir Hill 55	
Det A	BT 136 452	LZ Baldy	Task Organized
Site	BT 097 582	Hoi An	
Site	AT 917 581	Hill 37	

3. (S) Chronological listing of events: Input Code Source P-Plt, O-Ops Co, H-H&S Co, 1-S-1, 2-S-2, 3-S-3, 4-S-4, 6-Cmd, C-Comm

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1 Oct	Received 2nd Quarter Budget Grant of \$60,000. Req was for \$66,000 (4)
2 Oct	Project ABOVEBOARD Test commenced (O) 6th Platoon Communication Circuit changed to 100 wpm vice 60 wpm (C)
4 Oct	Cement Decking in 1st Platoon Bunker Project poured (P) Atmospherics adversely affecting communications (P) Six additional Dancer (ARVN) Linguists reported in for duty (3)
6 Oct	Tape of Atmospherics submitted and determined to be in fact, natural phenomena (3/P)
7 Oct	Heavy rains in Da Nang area caused minor flooding in the Battalion Service area at Camp Hoa Long which necessitated moving several vans (H)
9 Oct	1st Radio Battalion Mission Brief presented to Officers and Staff NCOs of 1st Marines and 1st Bn 11th Marines (P)

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- 10 Oct Received and shipped a Balloon to Army at Pleiku (4)
Installation of new Mod 28 Teletype Equipment
commenced (C)
- 11 Oct Project ABOVEBOARD Test terminated (0)
1st Platoon Communication Circuit changed to 100 wpm
vice 60 wpm (C)
- 16 Oct Received AIK fund authorization of 150,000 Piasters
for the purchase of crushed rock for Motor Transport
hardstand (4)
- 17 Oct ABOVEBOARD Balloon lost (0)
Nine Army Personnel joined Ops Co for JTPC Opera-
tion (0)
60 wpm Circuit established between Det A, 6th Platoon
and 6th Platoon (C)
- 19 Oct VAdm GAYLER (DIRNSA) visited 1st Radio Battalion (6)
100 wpm Communication Circuit from Army SIGINT Support
unit to 3rd Platoon established (P/C)
Area for Motor Transport hardstand leveled (4)
- 20 Oct Joint Tactical Processing Center was opened (0)
Operations Company commenced move to 3rd Platoon area (0)
Quonset Hut turned over to Supply from 5th Comm Bn
for additional storage space (4)
3rd Marine Division Communication Circuit secured. Re-
terminated this circuit with 3rd Platoon now providing
them with two 100 wpm full duplex circuits (C/3)
- 21 Oct Air conditioning installation commenced at Ops Bldg at
Camp Horn (4)
Expansion project for the Communication Center com-
menced (4)
- 25 Oct Force Logistics Command Fiscal Officer conducted an
informal inspection. Inspection results favorable
in all respects citing records, planning and manage-
ment (4)
- 26 Oct Repair parts for AN/CRA-94 received from CMC (4)
- 27 Oct Communication Security Lecture presented to Officers
and Staff NCOs of Headquarters, 26th Marines (3)
Received \$6,000 increase in budget for Project ABOVE-
BOARD (4)
- 28 Oct Logistics requirements for Operations Company were
submitted to Force Logistics Support Group-Bravo (4)
Received first load of crushed rock for Motor Transport
hardstand (4)
- 31 Oct Outlying site at Vinh Dai secured (0)

4. (C) Command Relations:

- a. Mr THOMAS (GS-13) and Mr JACOBSON (GS-13) from DODSpecRep visited
for orientation and analytical discussions 30 Sep - 1 Oct
- b. Mr HIGHBARGER (GS-16) and Mr SMITH (GS-15) from DIRNSA visited for
analytical discussions 2 Oct
- c. Col DRESSIN, ACofS G-6, was given an ops presentation 2 Oct

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- d. Maj O'BRIEN visited Ops Co in connection with Project ABOVEBOARD
2 - 3 Oct
- e. LtCol HOUSTON SIO III MAF given an orientation and ops briefing
3 Oct
- f. Mr WEIMER (GS-12) and SP4 STOVER from Pleiku visited for orientation and analytical discussion 9 Oct
- g. CWO HENRY and CTC MIX from NAVFAC Da Nang visited for orientation and analytical discussion on TransSec 9 Oct
- h. LtCol FOX, Asst G-2 XXIV Corps and LtCol BROWN, G-2 (Plans) visited for general orientation and ops briefing 10 Oct
- i. Col HIGGINS, CO, 509th RR Grp and LtCol BROWN, CO, 224th Avn visited to discuss WATERBOY and Joint Tactical SIGINT Plan for NICTZ 14 Oct
- j. Capt QUISENBERRY, (USN) N-2, CINGPACFLT and Cdr JACKSON, CO NAVFAC Da Nang visited for general orientation on 15 Oct
- k. VAdm GAYLER, Director, National Security Agency; MajGen MORRISON, (USAF), Assistant Director for Production, National Security Agency and Capt PIERUCKI, (USN) MRV (C), received a comprehensive briefing by LtCol HOPKINS and a tour of the Headquarters and Hill 327 19 Oct
- l. Maj HATCH and Capt SEPULVEDA attended WATERBOY Conference at DODSpecRep Saigon on 18 Oct
- m. Maj O'BRIEN attended the ARDF Conference at the 509th RR Grp in Saigon 23 - 24 Oct
- n. LtCol HOPKINS visited 1st Platoon at An Hoa and the Detachment of 6th Platoon at LZ Baldy on 24 Oct
- o. LtCol HOPKINS visited 6th Platoon at Hill 55 on 26 Oct
- p. Maj HATCH, Maj O'BRIEN and Capt SEPULVEDA visited LZ Baldy to determine logistic requirements of the Detachment from 6th Platoon on 31 Oct

5. (U) Personnel and Equipment Casualties. None.

6. (U) Equipment and Logistics.

a. The Battalion continues in a G-2 readiness status, with 73.5 per cent of equipment in service and a total of 37 pieces of Combat Essential equipment in a deadline status. Totally, 16 of the above are in a NORS status and 21 are in a NORM status.

b. As of 30 Oct 1969, a total of 79 GA Cards have been submitted with 12 completed and two cancelled documents.

7. (U) New Equipment.

- a. During the reporting period one new M35A2C was received.
- b. Twelve Fedders Air Conditioners were received.
- c. Two PU-669 Generator Sets (Components of AN/TSQ-88) were received.
- d. One PU-482 Generator Set (Rebuild from YOKOSUKA) was received.

8. (U) Other Equipment Received. The following equipment was received from Sub Unit 2:

- a. Two Generator Sets PU-661

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- b. One Signal Generator TS-382A/C
- c. One Battery Starter XM-20-1
- d. One Battery Charger 14BS6-1

9. (U) Maintenance and Service.

a. Projects in progress:

- (1) Installation of overhead fans in Barracks at Camp Hoa Long
- (2) Motor Transport Hardstand
- (3) Bunker reconstruction on Hill 327

b. Projects completed

- (1) 150 KW Generator for Operations Company

c. Electronic Maintenance

- (1) A total of 63 Tactical Equipment Repair Orders were received.
- (2) A total of 45 Tactical Equipment Repair Orders were completed and returned. No equipment was evacuated during the period.
- (3) One S/Sgt returned from a 5 day TAD Orientation Course on AN/TSQ-88 Equipment.
- (4) Lack of qualified technicians continues to hamper the maintenance effort. The transfer of a MSgt 5931 without replacement leaves the Battalion without a qualified technician to maintain TSQ-46 and TLQ-19 Equipments.

d. Motor Transport

(1) The following is a recap of Tactical Equipment Repair Orders processed by the Motor Transport Section. Total 46.

- (a) Quarterly Preventive Maintenance - 18
- (b) Annual Preventive Maintenance - 13
- (c) General Repair - 15
- (d) Total completed - 43
- (e) Evacuated to 3rd/4th Echelon - 4
- (f) Returned from 3rd/4th Echelon - 4
- (g) Vehicle turned in Code H (1 M151 Nr 334548)

(2) One new M151 was received as a replacement from the Maintenance Float as a replacement for the vehicle referred to in para 9 d(1)(g) above.

(3) The following monthly statistics are reported:

- (a) Monthly mileage - 36,007 M
- (b) Tonnage hauled - 176.6 T
- (c) Personnel transported - 6,593

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(4) During the period 4 new M35A2C vehicles were issued.

(5) One motor vehicle was involved in a traffic accident this month resulting in a survey of the vehicle.

e. Engineer Maintenance.

(1) A total of 32 Tactical Equipment Repair Orders were received and 24 were completed during the period.

(2) The following equipment has been Code H designated:

- (a) One PU-348 at 3rd FSR Okinawa
- (b) One PU-239 at FleActs Yokosuka

f. Supply.

(1) Requisition status for the reporting period is as follows:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Follow-ups</u>
02	165	21	60
05	147	42	75
12	280	50	160
17	24	7	5

(2) No equipment was classified as a combat loss during this period.

10. (U) Intelligence and Security.

a. Courier Missions numbered 108 for the reporting period.

b. Security Clearance Administration:

- (1) Updates - 5
- (2) Admin Process - 12 Incoming, 15 Outgoing

c. Registered Publications Custodian effected 10 draws from the Registered Publications Sub Issuing Office. 40 separate inter-Battalion transactions were processed.

d. No losses of classified material, compromises or practices dangerous to security occurred during the reporting period.

11. (C) Communications: During the reporting period, a total of 59,585 messages consisting of approximately 17,485,675 groups were processed by the Da Nang Criticomm Relay Station.

- a. Nine circuits were operated half-duplex.
- b. Five circuits were operated full-duplex.

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c. Eight covered voice circuits were operated in ICTZ by 1st Radio Battalion using organic assets of KY-8 and KY-38 Equipment.

12. Personnel.

- a. Joined: 1 Officer and 18 Enlisted
- b. Detached: 1 Officer and 24 Enlisted
- c. Overseas Extensions:
 - (1) 6 Months - 1
 - (2) 3 Months - 0
- d. Reenlistments: 1 Career and 2 First Term
- e. Off-duty Education:
 - (1) MCI - 1
 - (2) USAFI - 1
 - (3) University of Maryland (tuition) - 0
- f. Savings Bond and Savings Deposit Programs: Approximately 67 per cent of the command participated in the Savings Bond Program and 59 per cent participated in the Savings Deposit Program.
- g. Leaves and R&R
 - (1) Emergency Leave - 3
 - (2) Annual Leave - 0
 - (3) Special Leave - 11
 - (4) R&R - 10
- h. Hospitalization: 0 Combat and 3 Non-combat.
- i. Personal Awards Nominations:
 - (1) Navy Achievement Medal - 7
 - (2) Navy Commendation Medal - 4
 - (3) Bronze Star Medal - 3
- j. Promotions: 4 enlisted personnel were promoted during this month.
- k. Postal: Postal services are provided by 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and 1st Marine Division. Average mail delivery time is 5 days.
- l. Legal:
 - (1) Special Courts-Martial - 0

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- (2) Summary Courts-Martial - 1
- (3) Non-judicial Punishment (BnCO) - 3

m. Morale: Morale is Good.

PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. (U) Chronology of subordinate units is not required.
2. (U) Supporting documents are of a higher classification, require special access and are transmitted separately as part of 1st Radio Battalion Historical File.

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