

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

A3:DCL:dcl  
 5750  
 Ser 0063-70  
 14 Jan 70

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From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
 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) FMFPAGO 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

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21 JAN 1970

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, 1stRadBn ltr A3:DCL:dcl over 5750  
Ser 0063-70 of 14Jan70

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 (-) FMF,  
December 1969

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



L.E. POGGEMEYER  
BY DIRECTION

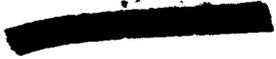
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CO, 1stRadBn

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SECOND ENDORSEMENT on CO, 1stRadBn ltr A3:DCL:dcl over 5750  
Ser 0063-70 dtd 14Jan70

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

Subj: Command Chronology, 1st Radio Battalion (-) FMF,  
December 1969

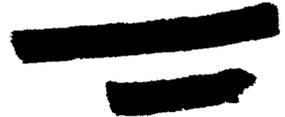
1. The subject chronology has been reviewed for completeness  
and is forwarded herewith.

  
R. D. WHITE  
By direction

Copy to:  
CO, 1stRadBn  
CO, III MAF

REPORT INFORMATION TO BE CLASSIFIED AT THE TIME OF DECLASSIFICATION (Code ABQ)

*Handwritten notes and scribbles*



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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
- PART II - Narrative Summary
- PART III - Sequential Listing of Significant Events
- PART IV - Chronology of Subordinate  
Commands and Supporting Documents

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

1st Radio Battalion (-) FMF

CommanderLtCol D. M. HOPKINS  
(1-31 December 1969)Subordinate Units

Headquarters and Service Company

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

Operations Company

Maj E. C. BRINKLEY Jr.  
(1-31 December 1969)2. Location

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

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

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

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

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

S-1 Officer

1st Lt R. J. ANDERSON  
(1-31 December 1969)

S-2 Officer

Capt R. E. SCHLAPFER  
(1-31 December 1969)

S-3 Officer

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

S-4 Officer

Capt B. R. SEPULVEDA  
(1-31 December 1969)4. Average Monthly Strength

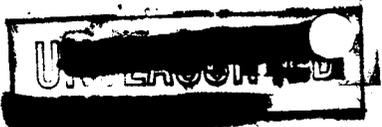
USMC		USMC(Attached)		USN(Attached)	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
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## PART II

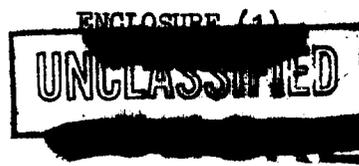
## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. (S) The month of December was characterized by low levels of enemy activity at the beginning of the month and accelerating to a point where significant encounters were noted toward the middle and end of the month. In the North, the tactical situation remained fairly static with the Joint Tactical Processing Center, Operations Company and the subordinate platoons providing Signal Intelligence which was acted upon, primarily by artillery fire missions. Throughout the month, The Joint Tactical Processing Center issued sixty three Tactical Reports. With the further dispersal of tactical forces in Northern I Corps, continuing improvements to the defenses of the First Radio Battalion Installations progressed and were paramount next to the performance of the primary mission. Among the improvements recently added was the installation of sonic intrusion devices with the sensing pickups concealed in the ground beyond the perimeter wire. The other major improvement consisted of installation of 500/1000 Watt Floodlights to intermittently illuminate the perimeter wire. The roving sentry, at random intervals energizes the lights, observes and then switches them off. In addition to being highly effective, it will greatly reduce the number of parachute flares consumed during the course of a month. As previously reported, a Night Observation Device completes the surveillance measures. A program of Harassing and Interdiction Fire using the M-79 Grenade Launcher was also implemented during the month. Additional Grenade Launchers were requested and received.

Due to the changing disposition of forces and tactical areas of responsibility, a determination was made to close the Short Range Direction Finding Site at Charlie 1. In an effort to provide better siting for the Control Station at Dong Ha, the physical location of the DF Set was changed. This move also located the set away from possible sources of reactance. A system of shooting check bearings on a known located transmitter was instituted this month in an effort to improve SRDF Fix Accuracy. This will insure that all variances in the individual stations of the Northern Net are within the prescribed tolerances. On the basis of information passed from the JTPC and the SRDF Network, one of the fire missions ordered resulted in a large secondary explosion.

In the South, the effects of the rice denial operations began to outwardly evidence themselves. This was readily apparent from the enemy's communication pattern and from prisoners of war captured out of their normal foraging areas. Because of shortages in his life staple, he had to move out of his base camps to search for food. On the basis of intelligence provided by elements of First Radio Battalion, the enemy was successfully interdicted in several of his attempts to refurbish his dwindling supply of rice. There were indications that the enemy would become active along Route 540. In the ensuing ambushes set up on the basis of this information, 42 NVA were killed, 3 POWs taken and no U.S. casualties were sustained. The information was provided to the 1st Marines by 6th Platoon. In another action, on the basis of information

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and additional intelligence provided by First Radio Battalion, a series of air strikes was called into an area on two successive days. Later, 80 enemy were observed fleeing from the area of the air strikes and were further interdicted by artillery fire. In another situation based on special intelligence information, it was correctly predicted that Mike Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines would be attacked. The Company was subsequently attacked, but because they had been forewarned and were ready, they sustained no casualties. Three NVA KIA's and numerous blood trails were found in the area of a mortar barrage called in by Mike Company. Tactical activity increased and remained significant for the remainder of the month except for the Christmas and New Years Cease Fires. During the latter part of the month, a system of feedback messages from tactical commanders covering use, plans based upon and success of operations resulting from communication intelligence was initiated. Concurrently forthcoming operations or movements are made known to the cognizant Platoon(s) in order to assist in appropriate areas of emphasis and communication security tasking.

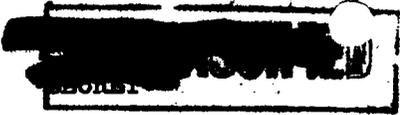
One Short Range Direction Finding Site was installed at the Command Post of 1st Battalion, 1st Marines and plans were made to activate another site early in the next reporting period. The permanent detachment at Fire Support Base Baldy continues to function well and was further increased in personnel with the assignment of an additional ARVN (Dancer) Linguist.

During the reporting period, serialized product reports were authorized for the Battalion by the Director, National Security Agency. By this authority, First Radio Battalion is now a recognized regular contributor in the Signal Intelligence Community to commands and intelligence units out of country.

Renovations in the various First Radio Battalion Unit Areas continued throughout the reporting period with primary attention given to those projects concerning security and defense in anticipation of increased enemy activity in the coming months. The Maintenance Contact Team concluded its circuit of the Battalion after completing and returning from Operations Company and subordinate platoons. The team visit/inspection of each area was most productive and the results most useful in establishing areas which require additional maintenance attention. The budget estimates for FY 70 and 71 were submitted. Plans for the Maintenance Facility were completed and will be retained at the China Beach Public Works Facility. The Maintenance Facility and the Motor Transport Hardstand have been cancelled. The Force Allowance Modification Report was updated to reflect the entire Battalion returning to Hawaii. The new Motor Transport Facilities were occupied during the month and thus far, have been far superior to those formerly used.

First Radio Battalion closed out 1969 as a most successful year with many lessons learned and experience gained in all corners of

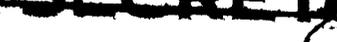
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I Corps Tactical Zone. We face the new year with much resolve as there is yet, much to be done. In terms of accomplishments and the faith special intelligence has earned, it was a most successful year.

2. (C) During the month of December, an increase was realized in the total number of hours monitored by the Communication Security Section. This increase was 47.7 Hours over the previous month's total and was computed at 417.1 Hours for December. The total number of transmissions monitored and analyzed was 32,645, an increase of 6,994 from November's Total. Violations warranting issuance of a spot report numbered 89 for the month. Two Transmission Security Presentations were given during the month of December. The first was presented to MASS-3 and the other, to the Regimental Staff, 1st Marines.

3. (S) The relative increase in enemy activity was reflected in an increase in the number of Direction Finding Fixes obtained during the month of December. The total number was 3,825 or 809 more than last month. This total is broken down to indicate that 3,604 were derived from Airborne Radio Direction Finding and 221 Short Range Direction Finding Fixes. The total number of combined fixes used as the basis of fire missions were 242. Battle Damage Assessments were unavailable except that two of the fire missions resulted in large secondary explosions. The total number of fixes identified to area or entity numbered 1,035.

4. (U) The building expansion project in the Communication Center was completed on 12 December and was occupied on that date. The Tempest Hazard Inspection Team arrived on the 13th and completed their inspection of the Communication Equipment Installation on the 17th of December. There were no discrepancies noted in the Tempest Inspection therefore, the communication center and new equipments were accepted from the contractors on that date. The first message was transmitted at 161128H. The remaining circuits were established by 172200H. The Navy Communication Operator Augmentation Program continues in effect.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. (C) There were no major named offensive operations conducted in I Corps Tactical Zone during the reporting period. Elements of the First Radio Battalion continued in direct support of tactical commanders in the South in addition to the general support provided III Marine Amphibious Force. First Radio Battalion Resources remained in general and joint support of III Marine Amphibious Force and subordinate tactical commanders in Northern I Corps Tactical Zone.

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

1st Platoon	AT 873 476	An Hoa
2nd Platoon	AT 971 738	Hill 327
Site	BT 015 626	1st Bn, 1st Mar (CP)
3rd Platoon	YD 229 597	Dong Ha Combat Base
Site	YD 211 673	C-1 (Deactivated 23 Dec)
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 Alfa	BT 156 452	FSB Baldy
Site	BT 097 582	Hoi An
Site	AT 917 581	Hill 37

3. (S) Chronological listing of events: Input source code; 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:

Date	Event
2 Dec	End Product Serialization Authority received from DIRNSA.(3) Maintenance Facility and Hardstand for Motor Transport cancelled.(6) Electronic Equipment vans relocated to area around the Butler Building, Camp Hoa Long.(4) Returned one low voltage and two high voltage power supplies for AN/GRA-94 to CMC and requested appropriate replacements.(4)
4 Dec	Submitted Budget Estimate for Fiscal Years 1970 and 1971 totaling \$318,300 and \$319,700 respectively.(4) Ground Alert Drill held at Camp Hoa Long.(H)
5 Dec	Condemned Bunker at 2nd Platoon destroyed. (P) Battalion-wide embarkation preparations commenced with the construction of Mount Out Boxes and readiness for embark drill scheduled for next month.(4)

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- A chain link fence was constructed around the JTPC Operations Bunker.(O)
- 6 Dec A new Operations Building (SEA Hut) was completed at Det Alfa, 6th Plt.(P)  
A fourth fighting position was constructed at Camp Hoa Long. Communication lines were installed between H&S Company and the Command Bunker, 5th Comm Battalion. Lines were also put in between the fighting holes in the H&S Company Defense Sector. A second ground alert drill was held.(H)
- 7 Dec Sonic Intrusion Devices (PSR-1) installed in defenses at Operations Company/3rd Platoon.(O)  
Col HACKWOOD, Chief, U. S. Army Security Agency, Pacific was presented an operational briefing and tour of the facilities at Battalion Headquarters.(6)
- 8 Dec Col HACKWOOD visited Operations Company and was given a comprehensive briefing on the Joint Tactical Processing Center. The party also visited 5th Platoon this date.(O)  
A new North/South Antenna was erected at the Det Alfa Site (P)
- 9 Dec Submitted Garrison Property Budget for FY 70 and 71.(4)  
1st Plt completed construction of a generator shed in the vicinity of the Operations Bunker.(P)  
S-4 Officer, Supply Officer and S-4 Chief attended a presentation on GA/GB Cards by a representative from Headquarters Marine Corps.(4)
- 10 Dec Communication Security Position O3 relocated from 6th Plt to Team at FSB Ryder.(P)
- 11 Dec 6th Plt received a 'well done' from the 1st Marines during their quarterly quarters and grounds inspection.(P)  
Ground Alert in 2nd Platoon area declared from 0100H to 0700H. An emergency reaction drill was held in conjunction with MASS-3 on Hill 327.(P)
- 12 Dec 5th Plt replaced 9 power line poles.(P)  
Communication Center Expansion Project completed.(C)  
Requested special allowance of 10 Grenade Launcher M-79(4)  
Resubmitted GB Cards on deadlined equipment in order to update readout.(4)  
Floodlights installed as part of Ops Company defenses.(O)
- 13 Dec LtGen BENNET, Director DIA and RAdm SHOWERS, CofS, DIA visited 1st Radio Battalion and were given an operational briefing and tour of the spaces.(6)  
Information passed from JTPC to FSCC, 108th Arty Group resulted in large secondary explosion when fired upon(O)  
Waterproof material and a reinforcing layer of sandbags were placed on the bunker at 5th Plt.(P)
- 14 Dec Col DZIALO, ACofS G-2, III MAF visited Ops Co.(O)
- 16 Dec Motor Transport Section moved to new Motor Pool Area(4)  
Rehabilitation of Communication Center completed.(C)  
Secret level Rad Bn Mission Brief held for Officers and SNCOs of Mass-3. A CommSec lecture was presented to the Operations personnel.(P)

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- 2nd Plt commenced a series of discussions and assisted in formulating an emergency evacuation plan for Hill 327.(P)  
Check Bearing System initiated in Northern I Corps.(O)
- 18 Dec Maj KELLER, USA Prospective CO, 138th Aviation Co was given an operational briefing and tour of the 2nd Platoon area.(P)
- 19 Dec As requested by Force Logistics Command, submitted letter listing unfunded deficiencies for FY 70 and 71.(4)  
The Tempest Hazard Inspection Team departed after submitting finalized Inspection Report.(C)  
Electronic Maintenance Officer, Motor Transport Officer, Engineering Equipment Maintenance Officer and Supply Chief returned from Dong Ha Area Contact Team Inspection.(4)
- 20 Dec The Commanding Officer and Operations Officer, 8th Radio Research Field Station visited the Joint Tactical Processing Center.(O)  
Blast Wall completed around Operations Hut, Det Alfa.(P)
- 21 Dec 1st Plt provided additional information on Rice Storage Areas and Routes to the 5th Marines. This information was intermittently passed until the 28th.(P)  
New fighting position completed at the 2nd Platoon.(P)  
Ground leveled for new generator site at 6th Platoon.(P)
- 22 Dec Secret Level Operational Briefing on the Mission of 1st Rad Bn presented to members of the Staff, 1st Marines.(P)
- 23 Dec Electronic Maintenance Section conducted operational training and maintenance instructions on the portable Telefunken Direction Finding Equipment.(4)  
Two R-1414 Receivers returned to the National Security Agency from temporary loan.(4)  
The Short Range Direction Finding Site at C-1 was secured.(P)
- 24 Dec Information provided to the 1st Marines by 6th Plt indicated enemy to be active along Route 540..Actions resulted in 42 NVA KIA and 3 POWs.(3)  
Submitted Assistance-in-Kind Budget for Local National Civilian Wages and the purchase of ~~crushed~~rock.(4)
- 26 Dec Force Modification Allowance Report updated to reflect all elements of the Battalion returning to Hawaii.(6)
- 27 Dec Staff Meeting held to determine which equipments will be returned to Hawaii.(6)  
Dong Ha Combat Base took 4 140mm Rocket Rounds, no casualties or damage in 1st Rad Bn Areas.
- 28 Dec Received 2 AN/TSQ-88 Light Intercept Vans.(4)  
6th Plt provided information on which two successive days of air strikes were run in a particular area. On the second day 80 enemy were observed fleeing the area. They were further interdicted by artillery fire.
- 30 Dec Short Range Direction Finding Site established at 1st Bn, 1st Mar CP  
Received requested special allowance of 10 M-79 Grenade Launchers.(4)

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4. (C) Command Relations.

a. LtCol O'MARA, EEO, 1st Mar Div visited 1st Rad Bn on 4 Dec and was given an operational orientation and briefing.

b. Capt STERRITT, USN, NAVSEEAPAC Visited 1st Rad Bn on 5 Dec to ascertain the progress being made on the Communication Center Installation.

c. Maj GOLDFARB, USAF and Mr ZELENKAS (GS-11) from DODSPECREP, Saigon, visited 1st Rad Bn to discuss research/development and production of wiretap equipments. The also introduced some new equipments. 7 Dec 69.

d. LtCol HOPKINS visited 8th Radio Research Field Station at Phu Bai to discuss joint operations in Northern I Corps. 7 Dec 69.

e. Col HACKWOOD, USA, Chief, U.S. Army Security Agency visited 1st Rad Bn from 6 through 8 December and was given operational presentations and tours of various Battalion Facilities.

f. Mr PORRINO, Dep Chief B-62, National Security Agency, Maj HOYT, USAF and CWO IVESTER, USA, DODSPECREP, Saigon visited 1st Rad Bn 9 - 11 December

g. LtCol HOPKINS Visited DODSPECREP, Saigon and 509th Radio Research Group for operational briefing and orientation.

h. CWO LANSON attended III MAF Operational Security Panel Meeting 11 Dec 69.

i. CWO RITTER, USA, visited the Communication Center to discuss general Criticomm maintenance and operational problems. 12-13 Dec 69.

j. LtGen BENNETT, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency and RAdm SHOWERS, Asst Director, DIA visited 1st Rad Bn for general briefing and orientation. 12 Dec 69.

k. Col DZIALO, Assistant Chief of Staff G-2, III MAF received an operational briefing and orientation

l. Maj KELLER, USA Prospective CO, 138th Aviation Company was presented an operational briefing and orientation. 17 Dec 69.

m. Cdr JACKSON, USN, CO NavFac Da Nang and LtCdr KENNEDY, USN, Nav Sec Gru Adviser to ComNavForV visited 1st Rad Bn on 22 Dec for general briefing and orientation.



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- (6) 10 Launcher, Grenade, 40 MM, M-79
- (7) 9 Radio Set, AN/PRC-77
- (8) 1 Truck, Utility, M-151A1

b. No equipment was turned in as excess.

9. (U) Maintenance and Service.

a. Projects completed.

- (1) Communication Center Rehabilitation
- (2) Relocation of Motor Transport Facilities

b. Projects Pending.

- (1) Two Stall Motor Transport Maintenance Facility.

10. (U) Electronic Maintenance.

- a. A total of 48 Tactical Equipment Repair Orders were received.
- b. A Total of 39 Tactical Equipment Repair Orders were completed.
- c. Twelve pieces of test equipment were evacuated for calibration.
- d. The maintenace effort was greatly assisted with the arrival of two Radar Technicians. Shortages of technicians exist for the maintenance for the below listed equipments and their ancillary components:

AN/TRD-21      AN/GRA-94      AN/MSG-43      AN/MRC-83

11. (U) Motor Transport.

a. The following is a recap of the Tactical Equipment Repair Orders for the month of December: Total 91, broken down as follows:

- (1) Quarterly Preventive Maintenance-36
- (2) Annual Preventive Maintenance - 29
- (3) General Repairs - 29
- (4) Tactical Equipment Repair Orders Completed - 95
- (5) Evacuated to 3rd/4th Echelon - 4
- (6) Returned from 3rd/4th Echelon - 4

b. The following monthly statistical information is provided:

- (1) Monthly mileage - 31,939M
- (2) Tonnage hauled - 157.3 T
- (3) Personnel transported - 7,493

c. The Motor Transport Section is currently operating at 36 percent of its manning level. This is further broken down to reflect only 36 percent of mechanics and 53 percent of the drivers aboard.

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d. There were two minor accidents during this reporting period with no injuries to personnel, nor did either require investigation.

e. The Motor Transport Section of Operations Company including vehicular assets on charge to 5th Platoon were inspected during this period.

12. (U) Engineer Equipment.

a. A total of 27 Tactical Equipment Repair Orders were initiated.

b. A total of 18 Tactical Equipment Repair Orders were completed.

c. A total of 8 Tactical Equipment Repair Orders remain outstanding.

d. One piece of equipment was evacuated to a higher echelon.

13. (U) Supply.

a. No equipment was classified as a combat loss during this reporting period.

b. Requisition status for the reporting period is as follows:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Follow-ups</u>
02	87	22	26
05	124	10	19
12	232	78	75
17	4	0	0

14. (C) Intelligence and Security.

a. Courier Missions numbered 64 for the reporting period.

b. Security Clearance Administration:

(1) Updates 5

(2) Admin process - 13 Incoming and 20 Outgoing

c. Registered Publications effected 4 draws during the month with 50 Inter-Battalion transfers completed.

d. There were no losses of classified material or compromises during the month.

15. (C) Communications: During the reporting period a total of 104,669 messages consisting of 29,306,208 groups were processed by the Da Nang Criticomm Relay Station.

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- a. Eleven circuits were operated half duplex.
  - b. Six circuits were operated full duplex.
  - c. Ten covered voice circuits were operated in ICTZ by 1st Radio Battalion using organic assets of KY-8 and KY-38 Equipments.
16. (U) Personnel and Administration.
- a. Joined 0 officers and 22 enlisted.
  - b. Detached 1 officer and 20 enlisted.
  - c. Overseas Extensions:
    - (1) 6 months - 2
    - (2) 3 months - 1
  - d. Reenlistments. 2 Career.
  - e. Off-duty education:
    - (1) MCI - 2
    - (2) USAFI - 1
  - f. Savings Bond and Savings Deposit Programs. Approximately 65 percent of the command participated in the Savings Bond Program and 48 percent in the Savings Deposit Program.
  - g. Leave and R&R.
    - (1) Emergency Leave 1
    - (2) Annual Leave 1
    - (3) Special Leave 16
    - (4) R&R 30
  - h. Hospitalization. No Combat and 3 Non-Combat.
  - i. Personal Awards Nominations
    - (1) Navy Achievement Medal 3
    - (2) Navy Commendation Medal 4
  - j. Promotions. 33 enlisted personnel were promoted during December.
  - k. Postal services are provided by the 1st Marine Air Wing, 1st Marine Division and the Army Post Office at Quang Tri. Average mail delivery time was 6-7 days for December.
  - l. There were 8 Non-judicial Punishments administered in November.

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m. Disbursing services are provided by the III Marine Amphibious Force Disbursing Office.

n. Morale is good.

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## PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. (U) Chronology of subordinate units is not required.
2. (C) Supporting documentation is of a higher classification and requires special access. It is provided on a weekly basis and in a biannual historical update.

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