

1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
PFO San Francisco, California 96602

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5750
13 Feb 1970

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF (Field Historian)

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 January 1970

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2_
(b) FMFPac 5750.2_
(c) DivO 5750.2_

Encl: ✓(1) 1st Shore Party Battalion Command Chronology

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

R. F. Armstrong
R. F. ARMSTRONG

SPLC 17-70

*Div Col
25-70*

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Shore Party Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 January 1970

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>DATE OCCUPIED BILLET</u>
1st Shore Party Battalion	LtCol R. F. ARMSTRONG	1-31 January 1970

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1st Lt P. E. VANNOY	1-31 January 1970
Company A	1st Lt W. H. SMATHERS	1-31 January 1970
Company B	Capt R. W. EBERT	1-31 January 1970
Company C	Capt J. R. HARRIS	1-31 January 1970
Company A/5	1st Lt R. H. MONNAVILLE Jr.	1-31 January 1970

2. LOCATION

1-31 January 1970 Da Nang RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj D. L. HUMPHREY	1-9 January 1970
S/1 Adjutant	Maj D. B. CONE	10-31 January 1970
S/2-S/3	Capt J. D. DILLION	1-31 January 1970
S/4	Maj D. B. CONE	1-31 January 1970
	Capt D. G. FICHTHORN	1-31 January 1970

AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
28	530	0	18	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During this reporting period the Battalion conducted school from 1 to 3 January 1970 on the 2N Crawler Crane. In addition two HST schools were conducted during the period 5 to 9 January and 19 to 23 January consisting of sixty-nine students from various units within the 1st Marine Division. On 23 January 1970 LtCol J.J. UNTERKOFER, Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines presented certificates of graduation to 24 members of his Battalion that attended HST school from 19 to 23 January 1970.

The Battalion was visited by the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, Major General E.B. WHEELER as well as the Assistant Commanding General, Brigadier General W.F. DOEHLER during this reporting period.

On 12 January 1970, Staff Sergeant Coy C. CARTER was awarded a combat promotion to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant in ceremonies conducted by LtCol R. F. ARMSTRONG before a Battalion Formation at 1st Shore Party Battalion cantonment.

A Command Material Management Inspection (CMMI) was conducted on 19 January 1970. Results of the CMMI were satisfactory with minor discrepancies and noteworthy comments.

Company "A" continued to furnish helicopter resupply support for the 1st Marine Regiment. This Company operated LZ 413 in support of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment until 27 January 1970. On that date, the Battalion moved to the former 3rd Amphibious Tractor Battalion cantonment, LZ 425. The 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment was helilifted on this same day from their previous position at LZ Baldy, to the cantonment at LZ 413. Effective 28 January, Company "A" furnished helicopter resupply support to both Battalions, using LZ 425 as a Logistic Support Area.

Daily resupply missions for the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 1st Marine Regiment were accomplished through the LSA at Hill 55. In addition, the daily resupply for the 9th Engineer Battalion, Land Clearing Operation, being conducted in the 1st Marine Regiment TAOR, was also accomplished through the LSA at Hill 55.

Helicopter Support Teams were attached to various Infantry Companies during small scale sweep operations in the Dodge City, Goi Noi Island and Arizona Territory areas as well as areas surrounding Hill 55. The 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines occupying Crowsnest, Ostrich, Roadrunner, and Chin Strap received their supplies directly from LZ 413. Company "A" furnished Mine Sweep Teams for the 3rd Amphibious Tractor Battalion until the Battalion was redeployed on 27 January 1970. The mine sweep team continued to provide this support to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines. During this reporting period, Company "A" additionally furnished technical assistance to the Force Logistic Command to facilitate the operation of the causeway located at Red Beach. This was a special task to ensure safety and to train FLC personnel in the techniques employed while off loading sensitive cargo during causeway operations.

During the month of January Company "B" continued to provide helicopter logistical support to the 5th Marine Regiment. Company "B" provided Helicopter Support Teams to each Battalion and Helicopter Support Sections to each Company in the 5th Marine Regiment as well as operating the An Hoa LSA.

The three Shore Party Battalion forklifts located at the An Hoa LSA continued to provide the majority of the material handling support required for offloading convoys at An Hoa, in addition to supporting the 5th Marines S-4 and FLC. During January the 5th Marines did not participate in any named operations. Activities were limited to Battalion and Company size search and clear operations, ambushes and rice denial operations throughout the 5th Marine TAOR.

During the month of January 1970, Company "C" continued to provide helicopter logistic support to the 7th Marines in their operations from Fire Support Base Ross, and Combat Base Baldy. At ceremonies conducted on the Landing Zone Baldy, five aircraft helmets were presented to Company "C" by the Assistant Wing Commander Brigadier General R.M. SPANJER. The helmets are to be field tested by HST personnel during resupply operations. Thus far, the helmets have proven to be good head protectors with excellent noise suppression. The eye protecting shields built into the helmets have added greatly to the protection from flying debris, dust and dirt particles. Further evaluations are being conducted on the feasibility and possible adoption of aircraft helmets for use by all HST personnel. On 26 January 1970, Company "C" Command Headquarters relocated from Combat Base Baldy to the 1st Shore Party Battalion cantonment.

Company "A", 5th Shore Party Battalion continued to provide helicopter logistical support to the 26th Marines from LZ 467. Daily resupply missions were flown to five Regimental positions, Eagle Eye, Reno, and Bunkers 1, 2, and 4, along with heavy daily troop movements, and small cargo from LZ 467 to the 5th Marines at An Hoa Combat Base and the 7th Marines at LZ Baldy. LZ 460 supported the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines with resupplies to OPs 1, 2, 4 and Hill 124. The resupply of the different OPs of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion were supported by LZ 401. In addition, LZ 401 aided in the movement of Division personnel to various points throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR. LZ 495, at Hill 10, continued to support the operation of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines Regiment. A two man HSS continued to operate LZ 270, supporting Company sweeps of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines. On 17 January, Company "A" commenced a reconstruction project of LZ 467. Helicopter traffic and resupply missions were diverted to LZ 495 during the period of reconstruction. This project was completed on 25 January and the LZ reopened for normal operations.

During this period three Med Caps were conducted in the Hamlet of THAI LAI. Med Cap personnel treated 85 Vietnamese civilians for non-hostile wounds, ailments, and illnesses during these visits.

Runway matting retrieved from LZ 467 during reconstruction of the LZ was donated to the Hamlet of THAI LAI to be utilized by the villagers for the construction of a bridge. On 31 January, a 6,000 pound rough terrain fork lift was provided to the hamlet to assist in moving the runway matting to the bridge job site.

[REDACTED]

On 29 January one officer and 22 enlisted personnel embarked aboard ship at Da Nang for redeployment in conjunction with Embarkation Unit #1 of Keystone Blue Jay.

On 30 January an orientation lecture, followed by familiarization firing was conducted for newly joined members of this Battalion.

During this reporting period the Battalion helilifted 9,607 passengers and 2,858,479 pounds in a total of 1,530 lifts.

The Battalion sustained one WIA during this reporting period.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSCOMPANY A

1-31 January Helicopter resupply for the 1st Marine Regiment
 1-31 January Operations of LSA at Hill 55
 1-31 January Mine Sweep operations for 3rd Amphibious Tractor Battalion
 and the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment

COMPANY B

1-31 January Operations of LSA at An Hoa in support of the 5th Marine
 Regiment

COMPANY C

1-31 January Operations of LSA Baldy and LZ Ross in support of the 7th
 Marine Regiment
 Aircraft helmet presentation ceremonies by Assistant Wing
 Commander

COMPANY A/5th SHORE PARTY BATTALION

1-31 January Operations of LZ 401
 1-31 January HST in support of 26th Marines
 17-25 January Reconstruction of LZ 467