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HEADQUARTERS
3d Shore Party Battalion (Fwd)
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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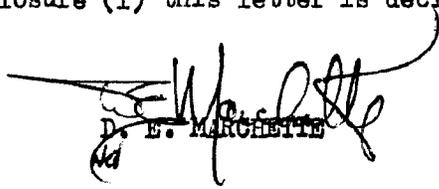
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
(2) Commanding General, III MAF
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 November 1966 to 30 November 1966 (U)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO.8

Encl: (1) 3d Shore Party Battalion Command Chronology

1. In accordance with provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. After the removal of enclosure (1) this letter is declassified.


D. E. MARCHETTE

DOWNGRADED AT THREE (3) YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER TWELVE (12) YEARS

3rd S.P. Bn

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Shore Party Battalion (Fwd)
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November 1966 to 30 November 1966

INDEX

- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV - CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER3d Shore Party Battalion
3d Marine Division (Rein)

LTCOL D. E. MARCHETTE

1 -30 November 1966

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company

Captain J. H. MESSICK

1 - 7 November 1966

Captain L. C. RAMSEY

8 -30 November 1966

Company "A"

Captain W. E. PHELPS

1 -30 November 1966

Company "B"

Captain M. E. BROWN

1 -30 November 1966

Company "C"

Captain D. L. ANDERSON

1 -30 November 1966

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. LOCATION

1 -30 November 1966: Phu Bai, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

BNXO

Major J. A. HARRINGTON

1 -16 November 1966

Major R. L. SCRUGGS

17 -30 November 1966

BN S-1

WO J. A. PIEKUTOWSKI

1 -30 November 1966

BN S-2/S-3

Major H. C. VALENTINE

1 -30 November 1966

BN S-4

1stLt E. J. KLINE

1 -30 November 1966

Communications Officer

Captain L. C. RAMSEY

1 -30 November 1966

Supply Officer

1stLt J. T. SHEA

1 -30 November 1966

HE/MT Officer

2ndLt J. W. PETERSON

1 -30 November 1966

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>OFF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENL</u>
20		380	2		25

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Since the displacement of the Division from DaNang to Phu Bai in October 1966, this Battalion has continued to operate in DaNang, Hue/Phu Bai, Dong Ha and Khe Sanh, with a forward command echelon in Hue/Phu Bai. Major second echelon repair and maintenance facilities for the Battalion remain in DaNang with the Battalion Supply Section and elements of the executive and other special staff sections, under the Executive Officer. With a reduction in tactical commitments throughout the month, the main effort of the Battalion has been directed toward logistical build-up improvement and weather proofing of cantonments, with emphasis on improvement of maintenance and supply facilities, and troop billeting for inclement weather. In this light, extensive examination has been initiated to determine the affect of internal supply/fiscal practices within this organization, particularly supply economy in individual equipment, repair parts and high usage items.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. EMF ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTED TO COMBAT AND THE SLF

a. Combat missions assigned throughout period:

(1) General support of 3d Marine Division by:

(a) Supervising, operating and maintaining Logistic Support Areas, and offloading ramps/beaches, and providing helicopter support teams.

(b) Providing limited engineer support.

b. Significant operations conducted:

(1) Company "A"

(a) Provided HST to "B" Company, 1stBn, 4thMar for search and destroy operation, 10-13 November 1966.

(b) Provided HST to 2dBn, 26th Marines for Operation Pawnee III, 1-30 November 1966.

(c) Conducted offloading operations at Hue and/or Colco causeway ramps, 1-30 November 1966. Offloaded 4,066 Tons of vehicles and supplies, and backloaded 616 Tons of vehicles and supplies.

(d) Organized and directed air, sea and land search and rescue operation for crew of sunken Swift Boat 77, DET PCF 102, vicinity Wa Thuan-An Inlet, 15 November 1966. Five (5) men rescued, two (2) bodies recovered, one (1) man missing.

(2) Company "B" Reinforced by Company "C" (-) (Throughout Period):

(a) Provided HST's to four (4) infantry Battalions in support of Operation Prairie.

(b) Operated Helicopter Resupply Point within LSA in support of Operation Prairie. Loaded 11,750 Tons of cargo via Helicopter.

(c) Operated offloading ramp on Song Hieu Gang River, Dong Ha, in support of Operation Prairie. Offloaded 8,508 Tons of cargo from LCU's during period.

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(3) Company "C"

(a) Provided one (1) Platoon for LSA operation in support of 1stBn, 3d Marines at Khe Sanh for Operation Prairie, throughout period.

(4) DET, H&SCo, 3d SPBn (Rear)

(a) Provided cargo handling equipment support to units of 3d Marine Division (Rear), and 1st Marine Division throughout DaNang TAOR as required.

c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy: None

d. Casualties sustained: None

e. New techniques employed: The nylon cargo net is found to be more advantageous than the metal basket pallet for external helicopter lifts because:

(1) Cargo capacity of net is greater and therefore, more consistent with helicopter lift capability.

(2) Durability of Net vs Basket Pallet in normal operations and when dropping is necessary.

(3) Maintenance ease.

(4) Nets can be more rapidly rigged for external lift.

(5) Nets are more readily recovered from Landing Zone in fast moving situations.

f. Command Relations. During the reporting period, 3d Shore Party Battalion remained task organized for OPCON/ADCON as follows by TAOR:

PHU BAI (OPCON/ADCON 3dMARDIV)
3d Shore Party Battalion (Fwd)
H&S Company (-)
Company "A" (Rein)

DANANG (OPCON 1st MARDIV/ADCON 3d MARDIV)
3d Shore Party Battalion (Rear)
DET, H&S Company
Company "A" (-) (Rein), 1st SPBn (OPCON 3d SPBn/ADCON 1st SPBn)

DONG HA (OPCON/ADCON 3dMARDIVFwd)
Company "B" (Rein)
Company "C" (Rein)

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g. Equipment.

(1) CMC approved two (2) 550 Moder Road Grader. CMC msg 162021Z November 1966 refers.

(2) Logistical work load reemphasized value of 6000 lb Forklift vs 3000 lb Forklift, which is exceptionally expensive in repairs and maintenance costs. 3000 lb Forklift now used exclusively for helicopter operations.

h. Logistics: Logistics Support, primarily Motor Transport and Heavy Equipment maintenance and Supply Support, was furnished elements of the Battalion located at DaNang, Hue/Phu Bai, Dong Ha, and Khe Sanh from 3d Shore Party Battalion (Rear) facilities in DaNang.

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i. Civic Action:

(1) DaNang

(a) Battalion MEDCAP Team administered 2461 treatments in assigned Hamlets and Schools.

(b) Assisted Hamlets and Schools with USAID food and school supplies.

(2) Hue/Phu Bai

(a) MEDCAP Team administered 295 treatments to local villagers.

(b) Assisted two (2) orphanages with food, school supplies and scrap building materials.

(c) Commenced assistance in construction of two (2) additional school classrooms locally.

j. Administration: Battalion Executive and Special Staff currently divided into forward and rear echelons, with the Battalion Executive Officer coordinating the rear elements. The Battalion Heavy Equipment and Motor Transport Section and the Battalion Supply Section are totally located in the rear echelon.

k. Personnel. Recommended revisions to current M-Series T/O, based on in-country operations, were submitted to higher authority for review.

l. Intelligence. None

m. Communications. Primary communications by radio with secondary communications by wire and integrated wire/radio. Communications maintained with Rear CP, all companies, platoon at Khe Sanh and Battalion Liaison Section at 3d Marine Division CP.

n. Weather. Period was characterized by intermittent heavy rains, high winds and high tides. Such periods resulted in difficult operation conditions, limiting helicopter availability, miring roads, equipment operating and maintenance areas, increasing travel time, and generally, reducing operating efficiency of the men and equipment.

o. Fire Support. Direct support mortar-fires provided forward CP Group by Mortar Section, 1stBn, 4th Marines throughout period.

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p. Air Support.

(1) Helicopter Medical Evacuation furnished by HMM 163 to forward CF Group on several occasions during hours of darkness, due to remoteness of Camp area.

(2) Helicopter assistance rendered by HMM 163 on 15 November 1966 in conduct of rescue efforts for corpsmen of sunken PCF Boat. (See Para. 1.b (1)(d))

q. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignations.

PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

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