

RM# 4787

HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 4th Marines (-) (Rein)  
3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

210767

3/WNV/abg  
5750  
27 April 1967  
Ser No: 0025-67

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3)  
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, 1-5 April 1967

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*W. N. Vest*  
W. N. VEST

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HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Rein)  
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3d Bn / 4th MAR

COMD CHRON

1-5 APR 1967

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Enclosure ( 1 )

SECTION I

## A. Organization Data:

3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment (-) (Rein)  
3d Marine Division, FMF

## 1. Command Post Locations:

1 April -- YD 166636  
2-5 April -- YD 242598

Map: Vietnam: Series L7014: 1:50,000 CON THIEN, DONG HA AND QUANG TRI, Sheet numbers 6342 I, 6344 II, 6442 IV, and 6442 III.

## 2. Period Covered: 1-5 April 1967

## 3. Command and Staff:

a. Commanding Officer	-	LtCol W. N. VIEST
Executive Officer	-	Major H. J. FIELD, Jr.
S-1	-	Capt J. H. FLATHMAN
S-2	-	MSgt J. CHAPMAN
S-3	-	Major E. J. FAIRBANKS
S-4	-	1stLt D. A. RICHWINE
Comm Officer	-	Capt F. J. BASSO, Jr.
H&S Company	-	2ndLt J. H. HATCHELL
"I" Company	-	Capt J. D. HARRILL
"K" Company	-	Capt J. M. MAHONEY
"L" Company	-	Capt D. J. RYAN
"M" Company	-	Capt R. D. JACKSON

4. Average strength for reporting period: USMC USN

a. Officers	36	3
b. Enlisted	1016	53

SECTION IIPERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION1. Personnel:

- a. Number of replacements received: None
- b. Number of personnel rotated: None
- c. Breakdown of personnel lost other than rotation:

## (1) Transferred by Service Records:

USMC Officers - 0  
USMC Enlisted - 3  
USN - 0

(2) Death Non-battle: 0

(3) WIA: 0 KIA: 0 DCW: 0

(4) Humanitarian transfer: 0

(5) Non-battle injuries: 0

(6) Intra Div/Regt transfer: 3 USMC Enlisted

d. R&amp;R trips: 0

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Enclosure ( 1 )

SECTION IIIINTELLIGENCE1. Enemy Situation at the Beginning of the Period:

During this reporting period of Operation PRAIRIE III, the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, areas of operation were the Cam Lo area, the Delta area of the Cua Viet River and Dong Ha Combat Base.

a. Cam Lo Area:

From the area surrounding Cam Lo, north to the DMZ, there was a constant increase in enemy contacts and movement. During this period enemy units, of estimated battalion size, were heavily armed with automatic weapons, mortars and possibly 140mm rockets.

b. Delta of the Cua Viet River:

There was an increase in enemy movement along the coastal regions and the area around the mouth of the Cua Viet River. NVA units were estimated to be of company size. Local guerrillas working in platoon size units were also active in this area.

c. Dong Ha Combat Base:

No enemy harassment encountered.

2. Enemy incidents during period:

See section IV.

3. Total Enemy Losses for Period.

a. Casualties: 1 Detainee

b. Individual Weapons: None

c. Equipment: None

4. Significant Trends During Period: No Change5. Enemy Situation at the End of the Period:

a. Situation remains the same as at the beginning of the period.

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SECTION IVOPERATIONS AND TRAINING

1. During the period 1 April to 5 April 1967, the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines conducted one Battalion (-) size search and destroy operation.
2. During this period there was negative training conducted. All units were deployed or engaged in Patrols and Rough Riders.
3. Command and Control.
  - a. On 2 April 3/4(-) CHOP to 3d Marine Division Forward.
  - b. On 3 April, 1st Platoon, Company D, 1/4, CHOP to 3/4.
  - c. On 4 April, 3d Platoon, Company D, 1/4, CHOP to 3/4. 2nd and 3d Platoons, Company D, 1/4 and M/3/4, Co I, 3/4 CHOP to 3/4.
  - d. On 5 April M/3/4 CHOP 3/4. BLT 3/4 CHOP to CTF 79 and Command less OPCON to 9th MAB.
4. Close Combat:
  - a. At 0800H as Company M was departing CP for daylight patrol, spotted (3) VCS fleeing into treeline. Company M pursued and apprehended (3) VCS.

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SECTION VLOGISTICSI. GENERAL:

a. There were no major logistical problems encountered during this reporting period. One battalion (-) size operation was conducted and the units in the field were resupplied via helicopters through LSA.

b. The Company at the mouth of the Cua Viet continued to be resupplied by ICU boats. The reinforced platoon at the Cam Lo Bridge was resupplied by motor convoy.

c. Some trouble was encountered in staging the battalion's gear for the move to Okinawa. The big problem was a lack of forklifts, as many of those available were inoperative. However, excellent support from "A" Company, 3d Shore Party Battalion enabled this unit to load efficiently.

II. Supply:

a. Supply support continued to be satisfactory during this period. No major problems were encountered. BA 386's were the only critically short items which affected the battalion's combat readiness.

III. Transportation:

a. Part shortage for the M274A1 (mule) and M422A1 (mite) have hampered the readiness of this unit's organic motor transport. Vehicles sent for 3d Echelon Maintenance have been lost to this unit for upwards of 3 months.

b. Motor transport support from 9th Motors for tactical and "housekeeping" requirements continued to be sufficient.

IV. Miscellaneous:

a. None

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SECTION VICOMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS1. Radio:

- a. The Battalion continued operating the following radio nets:

Area Defense - (FM)  
 Div (FWD) Command (Covered circuit on request only) - (FM)  
 Battalion TAC # 2 - (FM)

- b. Supporting Arms:

- (1) TACP maintained (1) FM and (1) UHF net to fulfill their requirements.
- (2) HST provided their own FM net while supporting the battalion (-) operations.
- (3) Artillery attachments provided two FM nets to satisfy their requirements.
- (4) CAC # 2 operating under our operational control was supplied by the battalion with (1) AN/PRC-25 radio w/accessories, and entered the battalion TAC # 2.

- c. In addition, a logistics net was established between the battalion S-4 Dong Ha Ramp and the USS Princeton, to facilitate embarkation.

2. Wire:

- a. 27 Field Telephones were invoiced to 1st Battalion, 4th Marines to help satisfy their requirements which occurred upon our relief.

3. Radio Relay:

- a. No requirement existed for the employment of radio relay equipment during the first days of April. However, 4th Marine Regiment has provided this Battalion with (2) AN/PRC - 27 and three radio relay personnel for our use during our deployment.

4. Power:

- a. The 3d Engineer Battalion continued to provide this Headquarters with 24 hour power during the First part of April.

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Enclosure ( 1 )

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SECTION VIIFIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION1. Significant Events:

a. From 1 April to 2 April, the operation north of Cam Lo was continued and terminated.

b. From 1 to 3 April, India Battery, 3/12 and Mortar Battery, 1/12 arrived in Dong Ha from Khe Sanh and Ba Long for embarkation with BLT 3/4.

2. Artillery Batteries in Support:

Alpha	LVTM - 6	105mm	Direct Support
Bravo	1/40	105mm	General Support
Alpha	2/94	175mm	General Support, Reinforcing
Bravo	2/94	175mm	General Support, Reinforcing
Kilo	4/12	155mm	General Support
Foxtrot	1/12	105mm	General Support

3. Naval Gunfire Ships:

None

4. Missions Fired and Rounds Expended:

## a. Missions Fired:

1. Observed: None
2. Unobserved: None

## b. H&amp;I Rounds Fired: 40

## c. Type and number of Rounds Fired:

HE - 40  
WP, Ill, Other - 0

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Enclosure ( 1 )

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SECTION VIIIAIR SUPPORT DEFENSE

1. Helicopters conducted resupply and med-evac missions for the Battalion on 1 and 2 April. The aerial observer aircraft were used for recon/navigation and convey recon. Ground FAC monitored Fixed Wing air strikes which were controlled by the Aerial Observer. Fixed wing were on station for the convey.

2. Statistics:

- a. Troop Lifts: 0
- b. Resupply: 6 Sorties
- c. Med-Evac: 1 Sortie
- d. Fixed Wing: 14 Sorties
- e. Aerial Observer Flights: 7 Sorties

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Enclosure ( 1 )

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SECTION XI

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND LESSONS LEARNED

NONE

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Enclosure ( 1 )

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SECTION 12

CIVIL AFFAIRS

1. None

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Enclosure ( 1 )

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SECTION IXMEDICAL AFFAIRS

1. There were no major problems encountered during this reporting period.
2. Members of BAS were in the field as part of the CP group which returned on 2 April.
3. Casualties were minimal and there were no major problems in medical resupply.
4. Personnel on the sicklist being treated at the BAS Ward were either discharged to full duty or transferred to permanent medical facilities.
5. 3d Battalion, 4th Marines BAS at Dong Ha was secured and Medical personnel embarked on 5 April 1967.

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Enclosure ( 1 )

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HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 4th Marines (-) (Rein)  
3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/JML/abg  
5750  
026-67  
9 May 1967

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Regimental Landing Team - 26  
Subj: Command Chronology for Period 5 April to 30 April 1967  
Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(b) BrigO 5750.1B  
(c) RegtO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) Third Battalion, Fourth Marines Command Chronology

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

*W. N. Vest*  
W. N. VEST

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Downgraded at 3 year intervals.  
Declassified after 12 years. DoD Dir 5200.10 Applies

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PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
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PART IV	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ENCLOSURE ( 1 )

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PART IORGANIZATION DATA1. Designation:

3d Battalion, 4th Marines

Commander

LtCol W. N. VEST

STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	5-12 April 1967	Maj H. J. FIELD, Jr.
	13-30 April 1967	Maj E. J. FAIRBANKS
S-1	5-30 April 1967	2ndLt R. L. THOMPSON
S-2	5-18 April 1967	MSGT J. CHAPMAN
	19-30 April 1967	Capt C. G. HOILMAN
S-3	5-12 April 1967	Maj E. J. FAIRBANKS
	13-16 April 1967	Capt E. J. CROWELL
	17-23 April 1967	Capt J. M. MAHONEY
	24-30 April 1967	Maj J. M. LILLA
S-4	5-11 April 1967	1stLt D. A. RICHWINE
	12-30 April 1967	Capt E. O. IEROY
Coma Officer	5-30 April 1967	Capt F. J. BASSO, Jr.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	5-11 April 1967	2ndLt J. H. MITCHELL
	12-30 April 1967	Capt R. K. YOUNG
"I" Co	5-11 April 1967	Capt D. J. HARRILL
	12-30 April 1967	Capt H. H. HAWKINS
"K" Co	5-16 April 1967	Capt J. M. MAHONEY
	17-30 April 1967	Capt J. H. FLATHMAN
"L" Co	5-30 April 1967	Capt D. J. RYAN
"M" Co	5-30 April 1967	Capt R. D. JACKSON

2. Location:

- 5-11 April 1967 enroute from RVN to Okinawa.
- 11-30 April 1967 Camp Schwab, Okinawa.

3. Average Monthly Strength:

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
a. Officers:	42	2
b. Enlisted:	1125	47

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ENCLOSURE ( 1 )

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 5-11 April 1967, the Battalion was enroute from RVN to Okinawa. The period 11-30 April 1967 the Battalion conducted rehabilitation and training on Okinawa.

1. Training:

The Battalion conducted training at each unit level within the Battalion with emphasis placed on unit tactics and field work. Each Company within the Battalion attended Counter Guerrilla Warfare School, Demolition/Landmine Warfare School, Jungle Lane Trapline and one (1) Company received Submarine Raid training. In addition, 109 NCO's attended NCO School, 1 NCO Basic Ammo Tech School, 5 Officers and 5 Enlisted attended Embarkation School, 4 Basic Infantry Weapons Repair School, 14 Vietnamese Language School, 56 Field Wire School and 38 Field Radio School.

The Battalion continued rehabilitation of equipment.

2. Personnel:

- a. Number of replacements received: 14 Officers - 282 Enlisted - 1 Enlisted USN.
- b. Number of personnel rotated. 0 Officers - 0 Enlisted.
- c. Personnel accounting continues to remain satisfactory.
- d. Promotions: 1 Corporal - 6 Lance Corporals.
- e. Postal: Postal Service continues to remain satisfactory.

3. Command Relations:

- a. 3d Battalion, 4th Marines opcon to CTG 79.2. Command less opcon RLI-26.

4. Logistics:a. General:

(1) No major logistical problems were encountered during this reporting period. The move of the Battalion from the Republic of Vietnam to Okinawa was effected smoothly, largely due to the tremendous support received from "A" Company, Third Shore Party Battalion and 9th Motor Transport Battalion in transporting and staging equipment and supplies.

(2) Movement was made from the Dong Ha loading ramp to allotted shipping via LCM and LCU boats.

(3) On Okinawa the movement of troops and supplies from White Beach to Camp Schwab was effected smoothly.

b. Supply.

(1) Overall supply support on Okinawa has been excellent. Third and Fourth Echelon maintenance support has been particularly praise worthy. Critical items at the present time are limited to 782 gear and handsets for the AN/PRC-25 radio. Current shortages of combat essential equipment include 1 mite, 2 mules, 2 106 recoilless rifles, and 5 M60 machine guns.

c. Transportation:

(1) Upon arrival on Okinawa motor transport support was outstanding. The Battalion encountered some trouble in cleaning the organic motor transport vehicles before sending them to 3rd FSR because of inadequate steam cleaning equipment.

(2) Maintenance support on the 3rd and 4th echelon level has been satisfactory. However, a lack of parts still hampers second echelon maintenance efforts on the Battalion's organic motor vehicles.

(3) One problem encountered has been a lack of small vehicles needed to meet training requirements and to make necessary visitation trips to the brig and to the hospital. Truck support for hauling cargo and supplies has been sufficient.

5. Intelligence:

a. The Battalion intelligence Officer received frequent and timely briefings on the enemy situation in RVN from G-2, 9th MAB.

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ENCLOSURE ( 1 )

INITIAL

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Sequence of Events:

- a. On 5 April 1967, BLT 3/4 boarded ships for movement to Okinawa. Chop from Third Marine Division to CTF 79 and Command less opcon to 9th MAB.
- b. On 11 April 1967, BLT 3/4 arrived White Beach, Okinawa and debarked for Camp Schwab, Okinawa. BLT 3/4 dissolved. Chop to CTG 79.2 Command less opcon to RLT-26.
- c. On 20 and 21 April 1967, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade conducted an Administration and Material Inspection of the Battalion.
- d. On 24 and 25 April 1967, the Battalion was issued the M-16 Rifle.

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ENCLOSURE ( 1 )

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE

IV-1

ENCLOSURE ( 1 )

DECLASSIFIED