

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FME
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

3/RJG/waw
5750
8 March 1968
Ser No: 0028-68

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division
Via: Commanding Officer, 27th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for period 122200W to 292400H February 1968

- Ref:
- (a) MCO 5750.2
 - (b) FMFPacO 5750.8
 - (c) DivO 5750.2B
 - (d) CG FMFPac msg 130922Z Feb68 (S)
 - (e) CG FMFPac msg 140526Z Feb68 (S)
 - (f) CG 1st MarDiv msg 231545Z Feb68 (S)
 - (g) CG 1st MarDiv msg 020510Z Mar68 (C)

Encl: ✓ (1) First Battalion, 27th Marines Command Chronology for 122200W to 292400H February 1968

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

J. E. Greenwood
J. E. GREENWOOD

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1st BN/27th MAR

COMD CHRON

12-29 FEB 1968

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 27th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), RMF
APO, San Francisco, 96602

COMLND CHRONOLOGY
122200W to 292400H February 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

PART IORGANIZATION DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
1st Battalion, 27th Marines	LtCol John E. GREENWOOD	12-29Feb68

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1stLt N. B. CENTERS	12-28Feb68
	1stLt J. A. HAND	29Feb-
Company A	Capt J. C. PANTHER	12-29Feb68
Company B	1stLt R. H. JENKINS	12-28Feb68
	Capt R. L. ALLEN	29Feb-
Company C	Capt M. T. FARMER	12-29Feb68
Company D	Capt R. J. KAHLER	12-29Feb68

2. LOCATION

12Feb - 23Feb: USS VANCOUVER
 12Feb - 27Feb: USS BEXAR
 12Feb - 28Feb: USS WASHBURN
 29Feb - Pres: Quang Nam Province - South of Danang

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj F. P. ELLER Jr.	12-29Feb68
S-1	Capt B. MELLON	12-28Feb68
	1stLt K. W. SCHENCK	29Feb-
S-2	CWO P. W. MURPHY	12-28Feb68
	Capt W. T. SWEENEY	29Feb-
S-3	Maj R. A. FREEMAN	12-28Feb68
	Capt R. J. GRUENBERG	29Feb-
S-4	1stLt R. ADAMS	12-23Feb68
	Capt M. A. HANSON	24-29Feb68
S-5	2ndLt C. J. MILUM	26-29Feb68
Communication Officer	Capt R. L. ALLEN	12-29Feb68
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt R. A. BARR	12-28Feb68
	2ndLt S. D. ANDERSON	29Feb-

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Supply Officer

Capt M. A. HANSON

12-29Feb68

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH. Upon receipt of reference (d) average monthly strength was as follows:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
40	1254	4	88

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Prior to 10 February 1968, 1st Battalion (Rein), 27th Marines was located at Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe, Oahu Hawaii. On 10 February 1968, approximately half of the command, then organized as a Battalion Landing Team, departed Hawaii aboard the USS VANCOUVER to be followed by the remaining on 12 February 1968 aboard the USS BEXAR and USS WASHBURN enroute to Okinawa. The battalion was scheduled for a four month deployment which was to have involved two periods of training on Okinawa and participation in Operation Former Champ in Taiwan and Operation Tanaraw in the Philippines. References (d) and (e) cancelled participation in the combined exercises and diverted the BLT to Vietnam for duty. The first element aboard the USS VANCOUVER arrived at Danang on 23 February 1968 consisting of H&S Company (-), Company C, and Company D. The remaining elements arrived at Danang at intervals. The USS BEXAR arrived at Danang on 27 February 1968 consisting of H&S Company (-), Company A, and Company B. The USS WASHBURN arrived 28 February 1968 with H&S Company (-) embarked. Upon arrival the BLT was deactivated in accordance with references (f) and (g) and attachments reverted to command of like type units in country.

2. Upon arrival in Vietnam the Battalion was assigned to the 27th Marines. The present command post was immediately set up in an established camp located in the vicinity of Dong Son #2, AT992677. Initially, camp facilities were jointly occupied with the 27th Marines Headquarters and the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines. Presently the camp is shared only with the 27th Marines Headquarters and a small rear echelon of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines. The bulk of that Battalion having been transferred to the Hue area.

3. With the impending threat of a second TET offensive, the Battalion immediately commenced joint operations with elements of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines. After a very short period of indoctrination patrols, the Battalion commenced patrol activity on its own. Considerable command attention has been directed towards the north east sector of the TAOR as a result of its history as an infiltration route. To counter any possible infiltration, 1st Marine Division has directed that a company be maintained in the Con Dau area.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel and Administration. BLT 1/27 had not deployed from Hawaii with Vietnam as its destination. As a result nearly 400 members of the command were non-qualified for duty there once firm deployability criteria were announced. Identifying these nondeployables, processing requests for deferred assignments, obtaining waivers, etc. were major problems encountered between receipt of reference (d) and arrival in Vietnam. Their resolution was greatly hampered by the three way split of the command and the separation of many personnel from their records due to the semi-tactical embarkation.

a. Personnel Losses and Gains for February 1968

				<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFFICERS</u>				<u>ENLISTED</u>	
<u>JOINED</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>	<u>JOINED</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>	<u>JOINED</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>
20	10	239		320	

				<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFFICERS</u>				<u>ENLISTED</u>	
<u>JOINED</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>	<u>JOINED</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>	<u>JOINED</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>
0	0	0		0	0

b. Pay and Allowances. Satisfactory

c. Postal. Satisfactory

d. Post Exchange. A small exchange is located in 27th Marines CP and will open the first week of March 1968.

e. Religious Services. Weekly Protestant services are conducted by the Battalion Chaplain in the 27th Marines CP Chapel. Catholic mass is celebrated by visiting chaplains in the same area. Arrangements have been made for Jewish personnel to attend services in DaNang.

2. Enemy, Weather and Terrain

a. Summary of Enemy Activity. No VC/NVA initiated incidents. No mining/surprise explosive devices during February. Total enemy personnel and equipment losses were:

- (1) Personnel: 0
 KIA: 0
 POW's 0
 Civil Defendants: 0
- (2) Equipment: 3 - 31 Cal rounds
 1 - Gas Mask
 1 - Eating utensil

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ENCLOSURE (1)

b. Surveillance and Reconnaissance. Surveillance and reconnaissance sources were employed with reasonable good tactical results. There were 84 hours of aerial reconnaissance flown over the TAOR.

c. Weather and Terrain. Weather for the month was generally fair. High and low temperatures were 83 and 62 degrees respectively while humidity ranged in the mid 70's. Visibility remained generally from 6 to 8 miles. Total precipitation for the month was .01 inches. The terrain remained generally good for foot and vehicular traffic, with the exception of some of the rice paddy areas.

3. Operations. Commencing the 27th through 29 February 1968, routine patrols and ambushes and perimeter defense were conducted.

4. Training. The command has conducted intensive training in familiarization, care and cleaning, and safety of the M-16 rifle. In addition, instruction given by the 1st Marine Division instructors has commenced, of subjects noted below:

- a. Land Mine Warfare
- b. Peculiar Terminology and Reports
- c. Riverine Operations
- d. LAAW
- e. Tactical Security (Offensive and Defensive)
- f. Supporting Arms and FO Procedures
- g. Personal Response (Vietnam Background)
- h. Civic Action
- i. Combat Intelligence
- j. Chemical Warfare
- k. Motor Convoy Security
- l. Rules of Engagement
- m. Enemy Tactics

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ANNEX A

1st Battalion, 27th Marines Chronology