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HEADQUARTERS  
1st Battalion, 7th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
c/o FPO San Francisco, California  
96602

7thMar S&C Log Nr.  
0103-68 Copy# 4087

S/EAG/eeer  
3000/15  
3 March 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division  
Via: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for the period of 010001H February to 292400H  
February 1968.

Ref: (a) HOC 5750.2a  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.3  
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) Monthly Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*W. J. Davis*  
W. J. DAVIS

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1516N/7TH MAR

CONDITION

FEB 1968

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA



1. Designation  
1st Battalion, 7th Marines

Commanding

LtCol W. J. DAVIS

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S CO

1stLt D. F. MACCORMACK

CO A

Capt J. L. BAILEY

CO B

CO C

Capt J. H. BLICHFELDT II

CO D

Capt J. H. BLICHFELDT II

2. Location

1-2: February 1968, DANANG, RVN at Hill 10, AT 924690.

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Maj M. A. SWEITZER JR.

S-1

1stLt J. F. CURRAN

S-2

1stLt S. P. CLARK

S-3

Maj E. A. GRIM

S-4

1stLt K. E. DAHLBERG

S-5

1stLt P. B. MILLICHAP

(1 Feb - 12 Feb 68)

2ndLt G. J. MUTTER

(13 Feb - 29 Feb 68)

Communications Officer

Capt G. P. HOWLE

Supply Officer

1stLt J. H. SMITH JR.

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt K. E. DAHLBERG

Battalion Liaison Officer

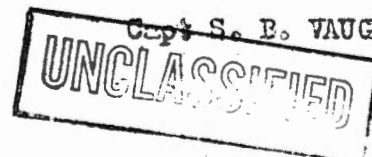
2ndLt J. E. HOKKANEN

AIR Liaison Officer

Capt J. T. WHITNEY

Forward Air Controller

Capt S. B. VAUGHN



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Battalion Surgeon

Battalion Dental Officer

Battalion Chaplain

Artillery Liaison Officer

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC

<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
34	1047

Lt J. G. HATCHETT

Lt T. L. BARTON

Lt V. H. KRULAK JR.  
(1 Feb - 4 Feb 68)

Lt G. H. MEYER  
(4 Feb - 29 Feb)

2nd Lt J. R. SMITH

USN

<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
3	52

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### NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of February 1618 small unit patrol activities were conducted. They resulted in 70 contacts, of which 33 were initiated by friendly forces and 37 by the VC. Enemy casualties are listed in Part III.
2. Intensive saturation patrol activity utilizing small-unit, long range, patrols was conducted throughout the month to deny the enemy access to the rocket belt, and rocket launching sites.
3. During the month of February more emphasis was placed on M-16 rifle training, care and cleaning, familiarization firing, battle sights, and immediate action. Other training included basic map reading, POW treatment with emphasis on the Articles of the Geneva Convention, fire discipline, Claymore mines, spot reports and med-evac requests, the M-77 Rocket Launcher, and the rules of engagement.
4. The following companies were OpCon during the month:

Unit

Co K 3-7	3 - 10 Feb
Co H 3-7	6 - 11 Feb
Co H 2-3	12 - 29 Feb
Co G 2-7	13 - 17 Feb
Co H 3-7	14 - 17 Feb
Co M 3-7	21 - 29 Feb
Co G 2-7	26 - 29 Feb

### PART III

#### 1. PMF Organization Committed to Combat.

a. Combat Mission Assigned. Occupy and defend assigned TAOR. Maintain a saturation level of patrol activity within the TAOR. On order, be prepared to conduct offensive operations outside the TAOR. Interdict and deny the use of waterways and other routes of egress or ingress to the enemy. Provide security for the road net and traffic within the TAOR. Locate, capture or destroy enemy forces attempting to move material or rockets into the rocket belt. Conduct a pacification program in support of the GVIL. Assist in the training of Popular Forces. Assist in the Revolutionary Development Program.

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Significant operations conducted. On the morning of 14 February the Battalion conducted an operation 5 1/2 clicks to the west of Hill 710. The operation lasted until the 16th with significant contact encountered. The operation consisted of two Companies and a Command Group.

The first day resulted in 33 confirmed enemy kills as a result of an artillery mission and air strike called in from the top of Hill 270. The second day resulted in contact with an unknown size unit of the enemy concealed in spider holes with interconnecting tunnels.

The Battalion returned the 16th with mission complete as well as credit for 67 kills for the 2 day operation.

c. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy.

VC KIA (Confirmed)	204
VCC	5
VCS	19

d. Casualties Sustained.

USMC KIA	36
USMC DOW	3
USN KIA	1
USN DOW	0
USMC WIA	94
USN WIA	2
USMC WIA/NE	28
USN WIA/NE	2
USMC NB	0
USN NB	0

e. New Techniques Employed. Increased enemy movement dictates the need for closer surveillance of his activities. The PPS-6 portable, ground surveillance radar was used by the Battalion for the first time in February. The unit is powered by a self-contained, rechargeable, 12 volt battery and weighs a total of 33 lbs. which lends itself to easy tactical employment. It has a 1500 meter range for personnel and can detect vehicles at 3000 meters. A well trained operator can make this radar an extremely useful early warning or intelligence gathering device.

A Counter Mortar Radar, APQ-4, was employed as a method of pinpointing the origin of incoming mortar rounds. A split radar beam when cut by a projectile, feeds an input to a computer which gives a 10 place UTM grid read-out over a 400 mill quadrant. The radar sweeps one quadrant at a time.

f. Equipment. The supply situation in general has improved from last month. Class II, Type 2 supplies are becoming more available through normal supply channels although long lead times continue to exist for jungle utilities, jungle boots and repair parts for communications equipment and motor transport repair parts. Problems are now being experienced in obtaining Class V supplies and serious shortages now exist in 81mm Mortar Illumination M30LA1 and 60mm Mortar Illumination M83A3.

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Command Relations. Normal.

h. Logistics. The overall picture of this month has been of substantial progress.

a. Division Engineers units have completed construction of two (2) tin roof (ELY) huts which will serve as quarters for messmen, built a new trash dump at Hill #41 and constructed fifty (50) mount-out boxes.

b. The motor transport situation remains unchanged with over 50% of our vehicles deadlined due to shortages of repair parts. The support from 11th Motor Transport Battalion is having similar problems resulting in frequent interruptions in supply lines.

1. Civil Action.

(1) Liaison with Hieu Duc District Headquarters has continued to be both effective and friendly.

(2) A total of 513 Vietnamese civilians were treated during the month of February by Gersons within the TACR. Additionally, the Battalion Surgeon and Battalion Dentist held weekly Med-CAP's for the more seriously ill at different locations in the TACR.

(3) Despite disruption of normal activity because of the TET offensive, school supplies and food were distributed to the orphanages in the TACR and material assistance was rendered in the reconstruction of Tuy Loan, damaged during the TET offensive.

j. Administration. No significant problem areas.

k. Personnel. The Battalion is currently at C-1 level. The total strength is 34 Marine Corps Officers, 1047 Marine Corps Enlisted, 3 Naval Officers and 52 Naval Enlisted.

1. Communications.

General.

(1) Two tents used for billeting communications personnel were destroyed as a result of an enemy rocket attack on Hill #10 on the morning of 6 February.

Radio.

(1) Two radios AN/PRC-25 were destroyed as a result of the enemy rocket attack on Hill #10 on 6 February. Replacements have been ordered through the supply system.

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Wire.

(1) Wire section is in the process of policing all loose wire on the hill.

m. Special Services.

(1) "Body and The Soul", a variety show, appeared on Hill #10 on 14 February. The performance was attended by approximately 500 people.

n. Weather.

(1) Maximum Temperature:	82°
(2) Minimum Temperature:	59°
(3) Mean Temperature:	71°
(4) Average Humidity:	78%
(5) Rainfall:	.48"

o. Intelligence.

(1) Enemy situation during the period 1-29 February 1968

a. Numerous low level agent reports indicated the continued presence of up to regimental size units operating within the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines TAOR. Operation Pursuit (14-16 Feb68) in the western portion of the TAOR established contact with what was believed to be elements of the 3rd Battalion, 31st Regiment (NVA). The 386B Artillery Regiment (NVA) base camp with the regimental headquarters and the 1st Battalion are believed located in the south-western portion of the TAOR along with the 31st Regimental headquarters. The 1st and 3rd Battalion of the 31st Regiment have been identified in the TAOR. The location of the 2nd Battalion is unknown. The 2nd Battalion of the 368B Regiment was reported both in the southern and central portion of the TAOR. It is believed they are now located in the western mountains with forward elements located in the central portion of the TAOR. Exact location of the 3rd Battalion of the 368B Regiment was not determined; however, it is believed they are located north of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines TAOR.

b. The 402nd (Sapper) Battalion (MF) is believed to be operating throughout the TAOR with their base area and headquarters located in the south-central portion of the TAOR. One company of the R-20 Battalion (LF) and the 1-16 Company (LF) are believed to be operating throughout the TAOR in support of NVA units.

c. Confirmed reports of up to battalion size units operating along the Song Yen river were received; however, due to lack of contact and/or POW's, none of these reported units were identified or confirmed with the exception of the 3rd Battalion, 31st Regiment in the early portion of the reporting period.

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(2) Significant trends noted during the subject period.

a. The enemy pursued a major "TET" offensive during the early part of the reporting period. Attacks against friendly units were numerous. Within the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines TAOR the enemy was met and defeated with heavy losses. The primary contact was believed to be with elements of the 31st Regiment (NVA).

b. During the 1st half of the reporting period, there was a sharp decrease in mine and booby trap incidents. This was attributed to the extensive enemy movement throughout the TAOR. During the latter portion of the reporting period mine and booby trap incidents increased significantly.

c. During the latter portion of the reporting period the enemy has avoided contact on any significant basis and it is believed that they are preparing for a 2nd major offensive.

(3) Enemy Weapons, Equipment, and Supplies Measured/Captured.

Weapons: 14 ChiCom/Russian AK-47's  
 1 M-54 ChiCom Pistol  
 1 US M-14 Rifle  
 1 US M-16 Rifle  
 1 ChiCom K-44 Rifle  
 2 7.62 Degtyarev Light MG's (RPD)  
 2 Russian Anti-Tank Rocket Launchers, Model RPG 2  
 7 122mm rockets  
 16 ChiCom 60mm mortar rounds  
 6 US 81mm mortar rounds  
 2 homemade bangalore torpedos  
 2 homemade shape charges  
 2 sticks of TNT  
 1 7.62 heavy MG barrel  
 2 B-40 rocket rounds  
 1 blasting cap  
 81 ChiCom grenades and 9 M-26 grenades  
 Approximately 500 rounds of S/A ammunition

Equipment: 17 cartridge belts, 2 canteens, 1 poncho,  
 1 US field telephone, 1 122mm rocket carrying case, 1 mortar sub, assorted personal gear and clothing, assorted documents and personal papers.

Supplies: Small quantity of medical supplies,  
 500 pounds of rice, assorted quantities of Vietnamese food.

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(4) Terrain. The eastern sector of the Battalion's TAOR is primarily flat, open rice paddies, interspersed with areas of forest and dense vegetation in the eastern sector. The western sector is mountainous with heavy secondary vegetation. There are two perennial rivers in and adjacent to the TAOR, the Song Yen on the east running north-south, and the Song Tuy Loan in the north running east-west. The principal terrain features in the eastern sector are Hills #10, #22, and #41. A series of high ridge lines and mountains mark the western sector.

p. Fire Support.

(1) Artillery.

a. 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines continues in direct support of the 7th Marines.

b. During the month of February approximately 10,000 rounds were fired by Golf 3-11 in support of 1/7, resulting in 55 confirmed KIA's and 17 probable KIA's.

c. All CAP units have been instructed in the call for fire and observed fire procedures.

(2) Air Support.

(a) Air Defense.

(1) 37 tactical fixed wing close air support missions were flown in support of the Battalion in February.

(2) C1-E aircraft were utilized 116 times for aerial observation and reconnaissance.

(3) Helicopter missions flown were as follows:

a. Med-evac - 59

(1) 170 Marines

(2) 23 civilians and ARVN

b. Troops and Logistics - 11

(1) Cargo - 20,000 lbs.

(2) Troops - 250

c. Unit Commander Mission - 6

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c. Psychological Operations. Psychological operations were conducted daily. Broadcasts and leaflets were delivered each day as requested. Army broadcast teams were used several different times to exploit VC atrocities. NVA Surrender is the main theme of all broadcast and leaflet drops.

r. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignations. None

s. Medical.

(1) General. The overall health of the command is excellent with no major outbreaks of illness.

(2) Evacuation. Evacuation of casualties continues to be good with no problems in this area.

(3) Supply. Medical supply is improving. There is still some difficulty in obtaining some items and forms.

(4) Other. Under prevailing conditions sanitation remains good.

t. Chaplain. During the month of February 12 Protestant services were conducted, 8 Roman Catholic services, and 6 Memorial services. Thirty hospital visits were made. Two Red Cross cases were handled.

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