

HEADQUARTERS
 3d Motor Transport Battalion
 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, FMF
 (2) Commanding General, III MAF
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 Mar 1967 (U)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
 (b) FMFPACO 5750.8

Encl: (1) Part I, Organizational Data
 (2) Part II, Narrative Summary
 (3) Part III, Sequential Listing of Significant Events

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosures (1), (2) and (3), this letter is unclassified.

R. F. Armstrong
 R. F. ARMSTRONG

3RD MT BN

COMD CHRON

GROUP-4
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MAR 1967

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Units and Locationsa. Phu-Bai Enclave (3dMFBn Hq)

H&SCo, 3dMFBn
 Co "A", 3dMFBn
 Co "B" (-) (Rein)
 2d Plt, Co "B", 9thMFBn (OPCON)
 Co "C"

b. Phong Dien (Operation CHINOOK II)

1st Plt (-), Co "B" (OPCON 4th Marines)
 Det, H&SCo (7 Otters) (OPCON 4th Marines)

c. Camp J. J. Carroll

Det, H&SCo (6 Otters) (OPCON 3d Marines)

d. Dong Ha Enclave

2d Plt, Co "A" (OPCON to BLT 3/4 on 31 Mar 1967)

2. Commanding Officer and Staff

Major R. F. ARMSTRONG	Commanding Officer
Capt. J. J. McDERMOTT (detached on 22 Mar 67)	Executive Officer
2dLt. V. I. HEAP	S-1/Adjutant
2dLt. R. M. THACHER	S-3
1stLt. J. T. KEEL	S-4/Supply O
2dLt. V. I. HEAP	Co Cmdr, H&SCo
Capt. R. L. MITCHELL (detached on 14 Mar 67)	Co Cmdr, Co "A"
1stLt. B. P. HANNAH (effective 14 Mar 67)	Co Cmdr, Co "A"
1stLt. W. E. THOMPSON	Co Cmdr, Co "B"
Capt. P. H. WEBERLING	Co Cmdr, Co "C"
SgtMaj. H. C. MURRAY	En SgtMaj.

3. Average Monthly Strength

- a. 15 Officers, 318 enlisted, 5 USN enlisted.
- b. 20 Enlisted OPCON from 2d Plt, Co "B", 9thMFBn.

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PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY1. Administration

a. During the month the Mobile Construction Battalion 62 converted 50 strong-back squad tents into metal-walled, screen and board sided buildings, thus providing excellent living accommodations for all members of the Battalion. Additionally, MCB-62 prepared a site for a 250 man messhall that will be erected in the near future.

b. In keeping with the 3d Marine Division policy of employing indigenous personnel, 5 males and 10 females have been hired as carpenters, general laborers, mess-girls, etc. The use of these employees in the messhall has permitted a cutback from 14 to 6 messmen, a particularly beneficial reduction in view of the increased personnel requirements to man the Battalion's sector of the Phu-Bai defense perimeter.

c. With the displacement of C Co, 11th Engineer Battalion, it has become necessary for the Battalion to provide all personnel required to man the assigned sector of the defense perimeter. 24 men are required for the 12 positions, with a 12 man reserve force immediately available. Including the aforementioned, communications, supervisory personnel and a cook, a total of 41 men are used during each 24 hour period. An additional 13 Marines are required for internal security, producing an overall need for 54 men.

2. Operations.

a. Principal activity centered around the conduct of 26 Rough Rider and 60 Road Runner convoys.

b. 3 incidents involving enemy action occurred: One was a mine detonation; one was a group of 3 Otters coming under fire from a VC force of approximately 12 men; the other was a mortar incident. Hostile action injuries were sustained by 7 members of the Battalion (see part III for details).

c. Daily commitments for the month averaged 72 percent of on hand task vehicles (includes deadlined equipment).

(1) 100,227 miles were driven, including 79,063 tactical miles.

(2) 5,299 tons of cargo were transported.

(3) 29,409 personnel were transported.

d. The following entry from the 4 Marine Regimental S-4's journal is characteristic of the excellent support the M-76 Otter is rendering to 3d Marine Division units.

"15 Feb - 28 Mar 1967

During the initial portion of Phase II of Operation SHIMMOCK II, a platoon of Otters resupplied approximately 50,000 lb. (of supplies). Due to inclement weather helicopters were able to lift only 30,000 lbs. Without Otter support, proper logistic support (of forward units) would not have been possible."

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e. The following is an excerpt taken from a letter of commendation issued by the Commanding Officer, Detachment A-401, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Lang Vei.

"I would like to take this opportunity to commend LCpl Shoemaker for the outstanding manner in which he performed his duties as a truck driver. Though burdened with the problems of maintenance of his vehicle in a remote area, he maintained his vehicle and provided 24 hour support for the camp and the village of Lang Vei.

His actions reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Marine Corps."

3. Maintenance

a. The average daily availability of task vehicles for the month was 86.9 percent of on hand vehicles (a deadline rate of 13.1 percent.) This represents a decreased availability from the previous month's figure of 88.3 percent.

b. The six task vehicles in field maintenance as of the end of March have been in an average of 18 days each. This figure is unchanged from the previous month; however, it does not reflect the fact that 3 trucks were removed from field maintenance and sent to Okinawa for repairs as part of the Rotating BLT program.

c. Five vehicles were repaired by field maintenance during the month. Average turn-around-time was 30 days each.

d. A shortage of 9.00X20 tires (standard tire for the 2 1/2 ton 6X6 cargo truck) has become quite acute. As a last resort, good tires from 1 1/2 ton cargo trailers have been removed and placed on trucks.

e. Track and tire tubes for the M-76 Otter have become critically short. 6 of the Battalion's Otters are presently deadlined for want of these items. 16 inch tubes from other types of vehicles are being used in lieu of the heavier Otter tube; however, there is no substitute for the track.

4. Training

a. Battalion Order 1500.3 (Technical Training Program) was promulgated on 27 March. The Order establishes instructions for a technical training program for the major military occupational specialties assigned to the Battalion. The program is oriented to operations in RVN; will increase each individual's MOS proficiency, thus increasing the Organization's mission performing capability, and qualify each Marine for performance of duty at the next higher grade, thus increasing his promotion potential.

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PART III--SEQUENTIAL LISTING

- 1 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 17-66 was conducted from Dong Ha to Phong Dien. The original mission of the 48 vehicles was to transport elements of 3/26 from Dong Ha to Phu-Bai; however, in response to an urgent requirement to shift elements of 1/9, the vehicles (which were loaded with 3/26 cargo) were unloaded and diverted to this assignment. The convoy was commanded by Capt. R. L. MITCHELL.
- 1 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 19-66 was conducted between Phong Dien and Dong Ha. 700 personnel from 1/9 were transported in a convoy consisting of 55 vehicles. Capt. R. L. MITCHELL was convoy commander.
- 2 Mar- A five man detail of mechanics and drivers reported to Supply Battalion, 1st FSR, DaNang, to receive and prepare the 3dMarDiv's M-35A2C vehicles for issue.
- 2 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 20-67 was conducted between Dong Ha and Phu-Bai to move elements of 3/26. 115 tons of cargo and 231 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 49 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. R. L. MITCHELL.
- 3 Mar- While accompanying a convoy and in the vicinity of the Cau Truoi River, a M-40 wrecker sustained a broken windshield from a mortar round that exploded approximately 50 meters in front of the truck. There were no injuries.
- 6 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 21-67 was conducted between Phu-Bai and Phong Dien to transport cargo and elements of 2/9. 5 tons of cargo and 121 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 19 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 6 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 22-67 was conducted from Phong Dien to Phu-Bai to transport cargo and elements of 2/9 and 3/26. 16 tons of cargo and 61 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 19 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 7 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 23-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Phong Dien to transport cargo and elements of 2/9 and 3/26. 20 tons of cargo and 282 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 31 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 7 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 24-67 was conducted from Phong Dien to Phu-Bai to transport cargo and elements of 3/26. 24 tons of cargo and 285 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 36 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 8 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 25-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Phong Dien to transport cargo and elements of 2/9. 75 tons of cargo and 255 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 36 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.

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- 8 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 26-67 was conducted from Phong Dien to Phu-Bai to transport cargo and elements of 3/26. 15 tons of cargo and 265 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 37 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 9 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 27-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Phong Dien to transport cargo and elements of 2/9. 15 tons of cargo and 240 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 39 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 9 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 28-67 was conducted from Phong Dien to Phu-Bai to transport cargo and elements of 3/26. 10 tons of cargo and 240 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 39 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 10 Mar- 2d Lt R. E. SHEA and a Team of 7 inspectors (Motor Transport Maintenance Company, 3d FSR) arrived to conduct a limited technical inspection of the equipment assigned to the 2d Platoon, A Co, preparatory to the Platoon's embarkation with BLT 3/4. The purpose of the inspection is to determine field maintenance repair parts requirements for repairs that will be performed at Okinawa.
- 10 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 29-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Phong Dien to transport cargo and elements of 2/9. 10 tons of cargo and 240 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 34 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 10 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 30-67 was conducted from Phong Dien to Phu-Bai to transport cargo and elements of 3/26. 5 tons of cargo and 240 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 35 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 12 Mar- 8 M-35 cargo trucks were recalled from housekeeping commitments in response to an urgent requirement to move elements of 3/26 to an ambush site. GySgt J. F. MILONI was convoy commander.
- 13 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 31-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Dong Ha to transport cargo for FLSG-A and 1/9. 84 tons of cargo and 307 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 51 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 14 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 32-67 was conducted from Dong Ha to Phu-Bai to transport cargo and personnel for 3/26 and 3/12. 125 tons of cargo and 536 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 68 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 15 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 33-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to DaNang to transport FLSG-A cargo. 97 tons of cargo and 118 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 59 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 16 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 34-67 was conducted from DaNang to Phu-Bai to move 3dATBn. 205 tons of cargo and 234 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 97 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.

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- 18 Mar- While 3 Otters were traveling in the CHINOOK II Operating Area transporting an engineer demolition team to destroy enemy bunkers that were presumed to be unoccupied, they received small arms fire from a force of 12 VC. The Otters deployed and, with their 50 caliber machine guns, provided a base of fire for infantry personnel who cleared the area. 2 VC KIA's were recorded. Two Otter drivers, Sgt. B. W. SUTTON and Cpl D. K. BRIDGES, sustained minor wounds.
- 20 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 35-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to DaNang to move 3d Tank Bn to Phu-Bai. 202 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 65 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 21 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 36-67 was conducted from DaNang to Phu-Bai as the first phase of 3d Tank Battalion's displacement to Phu-Bai. 266 tons of cargo and 298 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 100 vehicles, including 27 trucks from the U.S. Army, and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 22 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 37-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to DaNang to move 3d Tank Bn to Phu-Bai. 287 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 112 vehicles, including 27 from the U.S. Army, and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 24 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 38-67 was conducted from DaNang to Phu-Bai as the second phase of 3d Tank Battalion's displacement to Phu-Bai. 204 tons of cargo and 339 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 98 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.
- 25 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 39-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to Dong Ha to transport cargo for FLSG-A, 229, Division Communications and Recon Bn. 97 tons of cargo and 197 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 72 vehicles and was commanded by 2dLt. STOCKSTILL.
- 26 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 40-67 was conducted from Dong Ha to Phu-Bai to move 3d Eng Bn. 56 tons of cargo and 168 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 47 vehicles and was commanded by 2dLt. STOCKSTILL.
- 29 Mar- The mine clearance vehicle for the daily Road Runner (resupply convoy for operation CHINOOK II) was damaged beyond repair when it detonated a mine in the vicinity of Phong Dien. Lt. S. C. FLORES, the Convoy Commander, and LCpl D. B. MYERS received wounds and were immediately medically evacuated by helicopter. Three other Marines sustained minor injuries.
- 30 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 41-67 was conducted from Phu-Bai to DaNang as the third and final phase of 3d Tank Bn's displacement to Phu-Bai. 15 tons of cargo was transported for FLSG-A, and 190 personnel for other organizations. The convoy consisted of 68 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. H. WEBERLING.

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31 Mar- "Rough Rider" No. 42-67 was conducted from Daikang to Phu-Bai to complete the third and final phase of 3d Tank Bn's displacement to Phu-Bai. 165 tons of cargo and 202 personnel were transported. The convoy consisted of 70 vehicles and was commanded by Capt. P. B. WHEELER.

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