

HEADQUARTERS
4th Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/JP/jdk
5750
5 Jan 1967

SECRET

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant Of The Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (-)(Rein) FMF
Commanding General, III MAF
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 December 1966

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) 4th Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

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


D. G. JONES

Copy to:
CO, 12th Mar

4/12
CMD
CHRON

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

SECRET

Enclosure (4)

Dec 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
4th Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December to 31 December 66

INDEX

- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

Enclosure (1)

I

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

4th Battalion (-)(Rein) 12th Marines LtCol D. G. JONES (1-31 Dec)
3d Marine Division

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Hq Btry Capt O. J. CREWS (1-31 Dec)
Btry K Capt J. H. BUTLER (1-27 Dec)
Btry M Capt G.G. GARWICK (28-31 Dec)
Capt J. B. WAY (1-31 Dec)

ATTACHED UNITS

1st 155mm Gun Btry (-)(Rein) Maj E. D. LITZENBERGER (18-31 Dec)
Btry B, 1st Bn 12th Mar Capt M. G. ONEILL (18-31 Dec)
Mortar Btry, 2d Bn 12th Mar Capt W. J. ODLE (18-31 Dec)
Btry E, 2d Bn 12th Mar Capt J. D. DOBAK (18-31 Dec)
Btry C, 1st Bn 13th Mar Capt J. T. BRACKMAN (21-31 Dec)

2. LOCATION

1-16 Dec: DONG HA, RVN (YD 228 587)
17-31 Dec: PHU BAI, RVN (YD 885 129)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

XO	Maj D. B. BARKER (1-16 Dec)
SgtMaj	Maj R. S. VARNEY (17-31 Dec)
S-1	SgtMaj J. W. ROBBINS (1-31 Dec)
S-2	2dLt R. D. ESMOND (1-31 Dec)
S-3	GySgt R. F. PICKETT (1-31 Dec)
S-3A	Capt J. POWERS (1-31 Dec)
S-4	2dLt R. D. HAWKINS (1-31 Dec)
SupplyO	Capt C. G. BLASI (1-31 Dec)
CommO	2dLt R. F. HORNE Jr. (1-31 Dec)
MaintO	Capt W. W. HAMMOND (1-31 Dec)
MTO	2dLt W. DOMKE (1-31 Dec)
	WO L. C. ECKSTROM (1-31 Dec)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
32	499	0	11

Enclosure (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Part II

Narrative Summary

The first of December found the 4th Battalion Headquarters heavily engaged in the improvement of the Battalion C.P. at DONG HA (YD 228 587). Work progressed slowly due to inclement weather and a shortage of construction material. Nevertheless, all working and living areas had wooden decks and electrical lights by mid December.

Battery K continued to support the ARVN search and clear Operation LAM SON 331 Southeast of QUANG TRI. On December, Battery K displaced to (YD 415 478) to enhance the fire support for this Operation. The Operation terminated at 0930 on 9 Dec and the Battery returned to its former position area.

Battery M provided direct fire support for Reconnaissance Patrols operating adjacent to Camp J.J. CARROLL. In addition, Battery M provided General Support fire and Reinforcing fires for 3d Battalion, 12th Marines.

On 12 Dec, the 4th Battalion Headquarters received orders to displace to PHU BAI and assume operational control of all artillery units in the PHU BAI TAOR.

The Battalion closed its DONG HA C.P. on 16 December and staged at 1800 for the water march to PHU BAI. The convoy departed DONG HA at 0720 17 December with the Battalion arriving at its new C.P. (YD 885 129) that afternoon at 1330.

Fourth Battalion, 12th Marines assumed Operational Control at 0900 on 19 December of all artillery in the PHU BAI TAOR. This control encompassed the following firing units:

1st 155mm Gun Btry (-)(Rein)
 Battery B, 1st Bn, 12th Mar
 Battery D, 2nd Bn, 12th Mar
 Mortar Battery, 2d Bn, 12th Mar

In addition, the Battalion was directed to form the 1st and 2d Provisional 155mm How (TD) Batteries as expeditiously as resources would permit. The Battalion continued to maintain administrative control of Battery K and Battery M.

Operation CHINOOK commenced at 0800 on 20 Dec with 3d Bn, 26th Marines conducting a search and clear operation in the COBL THIAH TAOR area, North and West of HUE. Battery C, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines provided direct artillery support; Battery C was chopped Oncon/Adcon to 4th Battalion, at 0900 on 21 Dec.

Due to heavy contact in Operation CHINOOK, 2d Bn (-)(Rein), 26th Marines was committed and its direct support Battery B/1/12, displaced from (ZD 161 012) at 1341 24 Dec for the CHINOOK AO.

Enclosure (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Mortar Battery 2d Battalion, 12th Marines manning (4) 155mm Howitzers (TD) was likewise committed to the CHAMCOCK Operation on 24 Dec to provide General Support/Reinforcing fires. Operational Control of the three Batteries was copped to Third Battalion, 12th Marines at 1425 on 25 December.

Recon Patrols in the PHU BAI AO were supported primarily by the 1st 155mm Gun Btry.

Battery B/2/12 provided artillery support for the two day ARVN sweep Northeast of PHU BAI, LAM SON 337, during the period 29-30 Dec 1966. The Battery conducted most of the H&I fires for the PHU BAI-Vital area in addition to providing Direct Support for the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

Enclosure (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. a. Combat missions assigned.

- 1 Dec 66 - K-4-12 continues D/S of ARVN Operation LAM SON 331.
- 1 Dec 66 - M-4-12 continues G/S Reinforcing 1/12 at Camp J. J. CARROLL.
- 9 Dec 66 - Operation LAM SON 331 terminated. K-4-12 returns to DONG HA Position area and resumes G/S role.
- 15 Dec 66 - Chopped OpCon Btry K & M. K-4-12 to OpCon of 1/40 FA, M-4-12 OpCon of 2/94FA. 4/12 retains AdCon.
- 19 Dec 66 - 4/12 assigned mission of arty support for PHU BAI Area. Assumed OpCon of B/1/12 (D/S 2/26 on Operation PAWNEE), E/2/12 (D/S 2/9 PHU BAI TAOR), Mortar Btry/2/12 (G/S PHU BAI TAOR) and OpCon of 1st 155 Gun Btry (-)(Rein) (G/S PHU BAI TAOR).
- 21 Dec 66 - Assumed OpCon/AdCon C/1/13 whose mission is D/S 3/26 engaged on Operation CHINOOK.
- 24 Dec 66 - Operation PAWNEE III terminated. B/1/12 and Mortars/2/12 displaced to Operation CHINOOK. B/1/12 D/S 2/26, Mortars/2/12 G/S/Reinforcing.
- 25 Dec 66 - Chopped B/1/12, C/1/13, and Mortars/2/12 to 3/12 OpCon for Operation CHINOOK. 4/12 retains AdCon.
- 29 Dec 66 - E-2-12 assigned mission of D/S 12th ARVN Regt for Operation LAM SON 337. Remains in D/S of 2/9 concurrently.
- 30 Dec 66 - Operation LAM SON 337 terminated.

b. Significant operations conducted.

1-9 Dec	K/4/12 - Operation LAM SON 331
19-24 Dec	B/1/12 - Operation PAWNEE
24 Dec -	C/1/13 - Operation CHINOOK
	B/1/12 - Operation CHINOOK
	W/2/12 - Operation CHINOOK
29-30 Dec	E/2/12 - Operation LAM SON 337

Enclosure (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy.

3 Dec - M-4-12 in support of Recon insert 1 KIA (conf).

11 Dec - M-4-12 in support of Recon insert 8 KIA (prob).

12 Dec - M-4-12 in support of 3/3 3 KIA (prob).

20 Dec - Mortar Btry/2/12 in support of Recon insert 5 KIA (prob).

22 Dec - E/2/12 on G-2 target 5 KIA, 8 WIA (conf).

29 Dec - E/2/12 in support of 12th ARVN 5 KIA (conf).

d. Casualties sustained.

18 Dec 66 - K-4-12 sustained two non-battle deaths due to a motor vehicle accident.

27 Dec 66 - Mortar/2/12 sustained one WIA (evac).

e. New techniques employed.

None.

f. Command relations.

4th Battalion, 12th Marines has decentralized technical fire direction of all firing batteries. No significant problems evident during the reporting period.

g. Equipment.

Overall maintenance is satisfactory. There are no facilities in the DONG HA area for 3d echelon maintenance of the 155mm howitzer (SP) M109. D-maintenance is being performed on the M109s by the Battalion maintenance section. Third echelon maintenance for 155 howitzer M101A1 and 155mm howitzer M114A1 is available at FLSU #2, PFC BAI. The overall deadline rate for ordnance is approximately 5%. The current deadline rate for Motor Transport is 21% due to the high deadline rate of the units recently joined. Assistance has been requested from 3d Mar Div.

Due to the severe weather, difficulty has been encountered with moisture in the panoramic telescope of the 105mm howitzer. 1st 155 Guns have been appraised by CMC that 155mm gun tube replacements will not be available for at least a year. At present all guns have new tubes but their life expectancy is less than six months under present operating conditions.

Enclosure (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

h. Logistics.

Some difficulty has been encountered in ascertaining the status on major items of equipment of the batteries recently joined due to the previous shifting of these units. An inventory is presently underway.

The overall supply situation is satisfactory with 80% of operating spares on hand. Major items of equipment on requisition for units of this command include:

- (1) Two - Generator Set PU-482M
- (2) One - Generator Set PU-348 A/G
- (3) Four - Tractor, Full Tracked TD-15
- (4) One - 107mm Howtar M98
- (5) Three - Truck, Cargo 2 1/2 Ton M35
- (6) Two - Truck, Cargo 3/4 Ton M37E1

i. Civic action.

Two 500 piaster solatium payments were made on 10 Dec for wounding of water buffalo by artillery or mortar fire from an unknown origin in the DONG HA - CAM LO area. Subsequent foreign claims were submitted on 22 Dec for 12,000 piasters and 12,500 piasters after animals had been sold for meat value. Foreign claims were submitted by CAM LO District Chief via 12th Marines S-5.

j. Administration.

This battalion currently has AdCon of B-1-12, E-2-12, Mortar Btry-2-12, K-4-12, M-4-12, and G-1-13.

k. Personnel.

Number of replacements received:	2 Officers	107 Enlisted
Number of personnel rotated:	2 Officers	12 Enlisted
Number of personnel lost through attrition other than rotation:		2 enlisted non-battle deaths
		1 enlisted WIA (evac)

Promotions: 7 to Sgt; 2 to LCpl; 3 to PFC

l. Intelligence.

From 1 to 17 Dec, daily intelligence briefings were held for Battalion staff and weekly briefings presented to the firing batteries. Liaison visits were made during the month to USMACV at QUANG TRI, 2/9 S-2 and to G-2, 3d Mar Div.

m. Communications.

During the period 18-21 Dec, the battalion communications platoon installed a complete wire, radio, and message center communications system to higher headquarters, adjacent units and five subordinate firing batteries.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Voice communication with outlying batteries was extended in excess of 26 miles utilizing the AN/PRC-25 radio with RC-292 antenna. Electrical wiring for headquarters battery was also installed by the communications platoon.

n. Weather.

The weather during December was marked by extended periods of inclement weather but all assigned missions were fulfilled.

o. Fire support.

This Battalion provided artillery fire support as follows:

K-4-12	1-9 Dec	- D/S Operation LAM SON 331 (ARVN)
	10-15 Dec	- G/S DONG HA Combat Base
M-4-12	1-15 Dec	- G/S/Reinf 1/12 D/S to Recon inserts as required
B-1-12	19-24 Dec	- D/S 2/26 on Operation PAWNEE III
	25-31 Dec	- D/S 2/26 on Operation CHINOOK
E-2-12	19-31 Dec	- D/S 2/9
	29-30 Dec	- D/S 12th ARVN Regt - Operation LAM SON 337
Mortars-		
2-12 (-)	19-31 Dec	- G/S PHU BAI AO
	24-31 Dec	- G/S/Reinf 3/12 - Operation CHINOOK
G-1-13	20-31 Dec	- D/S 3/26 Operation CHINOOK
1st 155		
Gun Btry		
(-)Reinf	19-31 Dec	- G/S PHU BAI AO D/S Recon inserts as required

p. Recapitulation of fire missions.

1. DONG HA 1-15 Dec

	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&I</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>ILLUM</u>	<u>WP</u>
K-4-12 (LAM SON 331)	14	29	95		910	31	12
K-4-12 "Rear"	5	68	37	1	565	10	0
M-4-12	31	320	109	1	1710	205	27
TOTAL	50	417	241	2	3185	246	39

Enclosure (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

2. PHU BAI 19-31 Dec

	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&I</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>ILLUM</u>	<u>WP</u>
Mortars/2/12 (-)"A"	10	2	41	228		1
E-2-12	6		209	778	64	14
Mortars/2/12 (-) "Rear"	7	9	50 16	172 18	20 27	2
1st 155G	12	11	83	171	44 2	1
8"	1	1	9	73		
TOTAL	36	23	408	1440	155	18

3. Operation CHINOOK 20-23 Dec

	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&I</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>ILLUM</u>	<u>WP</u>
C-1-13	74	60	138	2043	744	148

4. Operation PAWNEE 19-25 Dec

	<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&I</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>ILLUM</u>	<u>WP</u>
E-1-12	7	0	174	246	23	0

Enclosure (1)

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Part IV

Supporting Documents

1. The following chronological supporting entries were extracted from the 4th Battalion, 12th Marines December S-3 Journal.

- 010001H - K-4-12 continues support of ARVN Operation LAM SON 331. (CG 3d Mar Div msg 281155Z Nov).
- 031350H - M-4-12 fired on 3 VC for Recon (YD 019 659), 1 KIA (conf), 7 HE.
- 031550H - K-4-12 displaced to (YD 415 478) and continues support of ARVN.
- 090930H - ARVN Operation LAM SON 331 secured. K-4-12 returning to CP. Total rounds expended - 910 HE, 31 ILLUM, 12 WP. (12th Mar msg 091640Z).
- 091750H - Resumed OpCon of K-4-12 now in position.
- 1111452H - M-4-12 fired on VC for Recon Team HABU (YD 023 657). 8 KIA (prob), 28 HE, Q.
- 1211450H - M-4-12 fired for 3/3 FO. (YD 956 586), 3 KIA (prob), 23 HE, 2 WP.
- 121735H - Hq 4th Bn, 12th Marines was alerted to be prepared to displace to PHU BAI on order and provide Artillery Hq for PHU BAI AOR. (12th Mar msg 121735Z).
- 141410H - M-4-12 fired for Recon Team HABU. Secondary explosions resulted. (YD 035 658), 135 HE, D.
- 150900H - K-4-12 OpCon chopped to 1/40 FA USA. M-4-12 OpCon chopped to 2/94 FA USA. (12th Mar msg 150625Z).
- 161700H - Closed DONG HA CP (YD 228 587).
- 171330H - Established CP at PHU BAI (YD 988 122).
- 190800H - Assigned OpCon of all artillery in PHU BAI AO. B-1-12, E-2-12, Mortars/2/12, 1st 155 Gun Btry (-) rein. (12th Mar msg 201250Z).
- 200005H - 4/12 to provide artillery support for Operation CHINOOK. (12th Mar msg 201305Z).
- 201300H - Mortars/2/12 (PK-17) fired on 5 VC for Recon Team SURF. (YD 514 252), 5 KIA (prob), 23 HE.
- 201320H - Mortars/2/12 (PK-17) fired on 8 VC for Recon Team SURF. (YD 515 261), 3 KIA (prob), secondary explosions, 6 HE.

Enclosure (1)
UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

- 210500H - Assigned OpCon C-1-13. C-1-13 in D/S of 3/26 for Operation CHINOOK.
(12th Mar msg 211300Z).
- 211830H - E/2/12 fired on suspected VC company for 12th ARVN Regt. (YD 990151),
5 KIA, 8 WIA (conf), 72 HE.
- 230725H - B-1-12 be prepared on order to displace with 2/26 to CHINOOK Operation.
(4/12 msg 231525Z).
- 240900H - Operation ~~PANHE~~ III terminated. (3d Mar Div msg 231349Z).
- 241341H - B-1-12 closed CP and displaced to CHINOOK Area (ZD 161012) to
(YD 541 355).
- 241630H - Mortars -2-12 (-) displaced to CHINOOK Area (YD 542 358).
- 242000H - B-1-12 & Mortars-2-12 arrived CHINOOK Area & established CP (YD 542 358).
- 240030H - B-1-12 & Mortars-2-12 chopped to OpCon 3/12 for Operation CHINOOK.
(3d Mar Div msg 260333Z), (4/12 msg 240030Z & 270730Z).
- 290700H - E-2-12 additional mission D/S 12th ARVN Regt for Operation LAM SON
337. (Verbal msg from 3d Mar Div FSCC).
- 290935H - E-2-12 fired on VC company for 12th ARVN (Opn LAM SON 337) - 5 KIA
(conf), (YD 920 205), 1 WP, 96 HE.
- 301800H - Operation LAM SON 337 terminated.

Enclosure (1)
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~