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3D MARINE DIVISION

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FMF (-) (REIN)



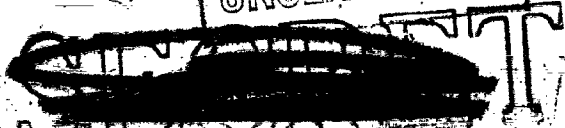
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COMMAND DIARY for the month of

AUGUST 1965

MARINE CORPS
HISTORICAL
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August 1965
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HEADQUARTERS
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96601

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3:GEL:af
12 Oct 1965
Ser. No. 00111-65

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From: Commanding General
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Diary of the 3d Marine Division (-)(Rein) for the month of August, 1965

Ref: (a) III MAFO 3121.1A
(b) MCO 3480.1
(c) MCO 5750.2
(d) CG FMFPAC msg 251942 Aug 65

Encl: (1) 3d MarDiv (-)(Rein) Command Diary for the period 1-31 August 1965

1. Reference (a) required submission of Command Diaries monthly by Marine Corps Commands deployed to the Republic of VIETNAM. The format for such submission was prescribed in reference (b). Reference (c), received during August 1965, cancelled reference (b) and initially established a requirement for submission for a Command Chronology semi-annually, with the first report to cover the period 1 July to 31 December 1965.
2. Reference (d), received on 5 September 1965, transmitted the substance of a Commandant of the Marine Corps letter modifying the new semi-annual requirement and directing monthly submission by deployed units, using a new format.
3. In view of the foregoing, enclosure (1) is submitted in the Command Diary format. The Command Chronology for the month of September will be submitted in the new prescribed format.
4. This letter is unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

D. W. Sherman
D. W. SHERMAN
Chief of Staff

GROUP-4
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA SHEET

THIRD MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED), FLEET MARINE FORCE
COMMAND DIARY FOR THE PERIOD 1 AUGUST, 1965 TO 31 AUGUST, 1965

SUBMITTED SEPTEMBER, 1965

FROM THE DIVISION COMMAND POST

IN THE

MARINE COMPOUND, DA NANG AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

COMMANDING GENERAL

MAJOR GENERAL LEWIS W. WALT, U. S. MARINE CORPS

ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDERS

BRIGADIER GENERAL FREDERICK J. KARCH, USMC, TO 5 AUGUST, 1965

BRIGADIER GENERAL MELVIN D. HENDERSON, USMC

ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDER GROUP, CHU LAI, RVN

BRIGADIER GENERAL FREDERICK J. KARCH, USMC, FROM 5 AUGUST, 1965

CHIEFS OF STAFF

COLONEL ANDREW I. LYMAN, USMC, TO 14 AUGUST, 1965

COLONEL DONALD W. SHERMAN, USMC

GENERAL STAFF

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1

COLONEL ROBERT W. PORT, USMCR

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2

MAJOR CHARLES T. WILLIAMSON,
USMC, TO 25 AUGUST, 1965

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD
J. SCHRIVER, USMC

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-4

COLONEL ROYAL E. NORTH, USMC,
TO 25 AUGUST, 1965

COLONEL DON P. WYCKOFF, USMC

COLONEL FRANK R. WILKINSON,
JR., USMC

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, COMPTROLLER

COLONEL BERNARD M. BORESS, USMC

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Battalion (Rein)
3d Marine Regiment (-)(Rein)

4th Marine Regiment (-)(Rein)
7th Marine Regiment (-)(Rein)
9th Marine Regiment (-)(Rein)

12th Marine Regiment (Rein)
Battalion Landing Team 2/7
3d Anti-Tank Battalion
3d Engineer Battalion (Rein)

3d Medical Battalion
3d Motor Transport Battalion (Rein)
3d Reconnaissance Battalion

1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion, FMF

3d Tank Battalion, FMF

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Major John E. WATSON, USMC

Colonel Edwin B. WHEELER,
USMC, to 16 August, 1965

Colonel Norman R. NICKERSON, USMC

Colonel James F. McCLANAHAN, USMC

Colonel Oscar F. PEATROSS, USMC

Colonel Frank E. GARRETSON, USMC,
to 15 August, 1965

Colonel John E. GORMAN, USMC

Colonel James M. CALLENDER, USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Leon N. UTTER, USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Bruce A. HEFLIN, USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas J. DENNIS,
USMC

Commander Almon C. WILSON, (MC), USN

Colonel Edward COCK, USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Don H. BLANCHARD,
USMC

Lieutenant Colonel William C. POMERROY,
USMC

Lieutenant Colonel States R. JONES, Jr.,
USMC

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Background and Mission Assigneda. Background

1. During August, 1965, the Headquarters, 3d Marine Division (Reinforced) remained in the Marine Compound, DANANG Air Base, Republic of VIETNAM, in close proximity to the Headquarters, III Marine Amphibious Force and the Headquarters, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Advance). At the beginning of the month the Division's Zone of Operations was separated into four Tactical Areas of Responsibility, with one at HUE-PHU BAI, 35 miles north of the City of DANANG; another at DANANG itself; a third at CHU LAI, 65 miles south of DANANG, and a fourth at QUI NHON, 146 miles south of DANANG. 3d Battalion, 4th Marines under the operational control of 3d Marines, continued to occupy and defend the HUE-PHU BAI TAOR. At DANANG, 3d Marines, with its First and Second Battalions, and 9th Marines with its Second and Third Battalion occupied tactical positions on the perimeter at the beginning of the month. The Provisional Airfield Defense Battalion provided security for the airfield proper until relieved by 1st Battalion, 9th Marines.

2. 4th Marines, with 1/4, 2/4, 3/3 and 3/12 plus attachments occupied the CHU LAI TAOR until a portion of the TAOR was taken over by 7th Marines and 1/7. BLT 2/7 continued to occupy and defend the fourth TAOR at QUI NHON. By the fifth of the month, however, the number of enclaves under Division control had been reduced to three when BLT 2/7 was redesignated 2d Battalion, 7th Marines (Reinforced) and passed to the operational control of the newly-created Task Force ALPHA (U. S. Army). 2/7 continued to operate from its positions at QUI NHON for the remainder of the month. A detailed Division Task Organization and Troop List is appended hereto as an enclosure.

3. The Provisional Air Base Defense Battalion which had been activated during July, formed from in-country personnel assets, and its personnel returned to parent organizations when it became apparent that an additional infantry battalion would be landing in VIETNAM and available for assignment of the mission of Airfield Defense.

2. Resume of Activities, Movements and Results.

During the month of August the Third Marine Division (-), (Rein) in Viet Nam increased in strength from 21,792 officers and men to 25,644 officers and men. New unit arrivals included the 7th Marines minus 2/7, elements of the 11th Marines, the 1st Tank Battalion, FMF, the 1st Engineer Battalion, the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and the 3d Amphibious Battalion, FMF.

Throughout the month the Third Marine Division retained the initiative over the Viet Cong highlighted by the highly successful "Operation STARLITE." "STARLITE" is documented in detail in supporting documents to this diary.

No less significant than "STARLITE", however, have been the constant aggressive small unit actions throughout the TAOR's. Day and night patrolling actions have convinced the Viet Cong that the hours of darkness will not allow freedom of movement.

At 130002H August Company F and Company H (-) of the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines conducted the first night helicopter assault of the war. The action took place in the NAM YEM/PHO NAN area and resulted in one Viet Cong KIA and twenty-nine Viet Cong suspects captured. There were no friendly casualties.

Reconnaissance units have introduced elements in all areas forward of the MLR's and are constantly observing the most distant points of the Division's TAOR's.

Effective 050001H August BLT 2/7, redesignated 2d Battalion, 7th Marines (Rein) and changed to OPCON, CG Task Force ALPHA (U. S. Army).

The 3d 155 Gun Battery (SP), FMF attached to 3d Battalion, 12th Marines on 7 August.

Correlated to the militarily successful month has been the impetus of civic action throughout the tactical areas of responsibility of the Third Marine Division. Thousands of civilians have received treatment for ailments in the villages throughout the area. Assistance to the population has been rendered in the form of school building, home building, protection during the rice harvesting and flood control.

The engineering effort throughout the month has resulted in significant improvements in bunkers, roads, airfields and water points.

Itineraries of distinguished civilians and military officers are described in an enclosure to this diary.

Third Marine Division actions during August resulted in 675 Viet Cong KIA, 72 Viet Cong WIA, 20 Viet Cong captured and 166 Viet Cong suspects captured. USMC casualties were 52 KIA, 10 DOW and 382 WIA.

AUGUST COMMAND DIARY INPUTCivic Action

(1) Objectives: The basic objectives of the Division's Civic Action Program remain the same, although during the month of August it became apparent that a third objective should be set forth as the coordination of the rural reconstruction programs of all U. S. agencies operating in the I Corps area. This includes the programs not only of the USMC, but also of the UNITED STATES OVERSEAS MISSION, VIETNAM; the Joint U. S. Public Affairs Office; the MACV Advisors and the various private charitable and religious organizations in-country. To this end, all III MAF Civil Affairs officers were to a 5-day Orientation Course in Saigon sponsored jointly by MACV and USOM. Following this, plans were made for the holding of a 3-day seminar in DANANG to be sponsored jointly by the USMC, MACV, USOM and JUSPAO. All Marine Civil Affairs Officers, all MACV Advisors in USMC TAOR's, and all USOM and JUSPAO field representatives in Division TAOR's attended. The seminar convened on 31 August.

(2) Coordinating Committee: A committee was created for the purpose of coordinating the programs of all U. S. agencies in the I Corps area. This committee is comprised of senior, Marine Corps representatives, MACV Advisors, and representative from USOM, and JUSPAO. Ultimately, it is planned to have senior GVN and RVNAF representatives on the committee. The Committee met for the first time on 30 August and appointed committee in the fields of logistics (primarily transportation problems), finance (primarily claims), public health, agriculture, public works, education, and security (primarily Popular Forces and People's Action Teams). Each committee is to canvass completely the problems in its respective field; determine the assets, capabilities and limitations of each agency working in said field, and recommend a coordinated plan of operations to the senior committee for approval and execution.

(3) Medical Assistance: The Navy medical teams from Division units continued to function, treating approximately 35,000 persons. In addition, the joint study committee on public health met for the first time. It consist of representatives from all U. S. agencies operating in the I Corps area. Its mission is to compile a complete list of medical and public health problems in the corps area, as well as a complete list of the capabilities, resources and limitations of all agencies in these fields, from which the senior committee for approval. This committee will continue to meet the senior committee for approval. This committee will continue to meet weekly until its primary mission has been accomplished.

(4) Soap Program: A great deal of interest has been shown in CONUS in response to Marine Corps efforts to start a soap drive for VIETNAM. Much correspondence was received and some small contributions of soap started arriving during the month. The first large contributions of soap should begin in VIETNAM early in September.

(5) Clothing Program: Arrangements were made with Catholic Relief Services whereby large amounts of used clothing are to be made available to the Division by that organization. Pending arrival of these larger quantities, limited amounts of clothing were distributed in 3 hamlets.

(6) Meetings with local Officials: The program of continuous meetings with local officials continued. A community Relations Committee met in the City of DANANG. This committee is headed by the Mayor of DANANG and has representatives of all GVN Departments and all military units serving in the immediate area of DANANG. Its purpose is to discuss and resolve common problems.

(7) Orphanages: The work with orphanages continued throughout the Division's TAORs. Plans are now being made to have all orphanages in TAOR's listed, together with major problems at each orphanage so that the Division's effort will be spread more evenly throughout all of its TAOR's.

(8) Claims: Third Marine Division Staff Legal Officer was assigned the responsibility of clearing up the confusion about how claims are to be processed and paid. He has held various meetings with MACV officers and it is expected that final clarifying instructions will be received from higher headquarters early next month.

(9) Food Program: Liaison has been made with Catholic Relief Services whereby that organization is going to make available to the Division large quantities of farm surplus commodities for use in its civic action programs. These will include bulgar wheat, corn meal, soy bean oil, beans, and some powdered milk. It is expected that the first large shipment of these commodities will be received in DANANG during September. In the meantime, 15 tons of this food were flown into the CHU LAI area for distribution to villagers in the area where Operation STARLIGHT was conducted. Other limited amounts of food were distributed in 4 other hamlets during the month.

(10) Use of Musicians: An 8-man combo was used in a program for an outlying village with very good results.

(11) Care: The American Legion has volunteered to support a program whereby that organization will donate money to CARE, and CARE will make its packages available to the Division via III Marine Amphibious Force for distribution throughout its TAORS. An appropriate order was promulgated to component units providing the guidelines for the operation of this program and it is anticipated that the first CARE packages will be received in September. Those packages will consist of tools, sewing materials, resettlers kits, masonry kits, and other items of a self-help nature.

(12) Operation Handclasp: Materials donated under the President's Operation HANDCLASP have commended to pile up on the West Coast awaiting transportation to VIETNAM. It is anticipated that the first large volume of these materials will arrive in VIETNAM early in September.

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 150061H August 1965

Annex A (Task Organization to Operation Order 327-65)

Time Zone: Hotel

(All attachments effective 150001Z Aug 1965)

4th Marines (-) (Rein)

Col MCCLANAHAN

HqCo (-) (Rein)

Det, HqBn

Det, 3d CIT

1stBn

LtCol FERRICH

2dBn

LtCol FISHER

3dBn, 3dMarines

LtCol MUIR

Provisional Airbase Defense Bn

Co B (-) (Rein), 3rd At Bn

1stLt ROSKI

CoHq (-)

1st Plt

2nd Plt

3rd Plt, Co A

Det, Support Co

Co B, 3rd Recon Bn

Capt COMPTON

Co A, 1st AmTrac Bn, FMF

Maj HELSHER

Co C, (-) (Rein), 3rd TK Bn, FMF

Capt SANDERS

CoHq

Det, H&S Co

1st Plt

2nd Plt

3rd Plt, Co A

7th Marines (-) (Rein)

Col PEATROSS

HqCo (-) (Rein)

Capt THOMAS

Det, HqBn

1stBn

LtCol KELLY

CoC (-) (Rein), 1st AT Bn

Lt SNYDER

CoHq (-)

1st Plt

Co A (-) (Rein), 3rd AmTrac Bn, FMF

Capt BAIR

Co Hq (-)

1st Plt

Artillery Bn Group

LtCol PAGE

3rd Bn, 12th Marines

LtCol PAGE

Hq Btry

Det, CMR, HqBtry, 12th Marines

Btry G

Btry H

107mm Mortar Btry

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Btry C, 1st Bn, 12th Marines
3dBn, 11th Marines

LtCol PECK

HqBtry
Btry G

Capt ROUNDTREE

Btry K, 4th Bn, 12th Marines

Capt BLACK

Btry M, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines

Maj CUNLIFTE

3rd 155mm Gun Btry (SP)

Capt WOLFENDER

1st AT, 1st 8" How Btry (SP)

Lt MCGUIRK, USN

Det, NBC-1

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WALT:

D. W. Sherman

D. W. SHERMAN

Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: Annex C (Distribution) to
Operation Order 327-65

OFFICAL:

D. P. Wyckoff
D. P. WYCKOFF
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
G-3

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DA NANG, RVN
August 1965
0069-65

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Annex A (Task Organization to Operation Order 330-65)

Time Zone: Hotel

(All attachments effective upon order)

RLT-7

COL PEATROSS

HqCo (-), 7th Marines
Det, HqBn
Det, IIT
Co B (-) (Rein), 1st Tank Bn
Co A (-) (Rein), 3d AmTrac Bn
Co C (-) (Rein), 1st AT Bn
Co C (-) (Rein), 1st Engr Bn
Co C (Rein), 1st SP Bn
Det, FLSU #1, EOD Team
Plt, Co C (-) (Rein), 1st MF Bn
LuTG-1

CAPT THOMAS

BLT 1/7

LTCOL KELLY

1st Bn, 7th Marines
Det, HqCo, 7th Marines
Det, Btry G, 3d Bn, 11th Marines
Plt, Co C, 1st AT Bn
Plt, Co B, 1st Tank Bn
Plt, Co A, 3d AmTrac Bn
Plt, Co C, 1st Engr Bn
Det, Collection Plt, Co C, 1st Med Bn
Shore Fire Control Party, 3d Bn, 12th Marines (from PHU BAI)
Helicopter Support Team (HST)

BLT 1/4

LTCOL PEPPICH

1st Bn, 4th Marines
Plt, Co B, 3d Tank Bn
Plt, Co B, 3d AT Bn
Plt, Co B, 3d Engr Bn
Plt, Co A, 1st AmTrac Bn
Det, Collection Plt, Co B, 3d Med Bn
NGF Spot Team
Helicopter Support Team (HST)
Composite Shore Fire Control Party (from DANANG)

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BLT 3/7

LTCOL BODLEY

- Det, HcCo, RLT-7
- ~~Btry I (Rein), 3d Bn, 11th Marines~~
- ~~Plt (Rein), Co C, 1st AT Bn~~
- ~~Plt (Rein), Co C, 1st Engr Bn~~
- ~~Plt (Rein), Co C, 1st Recon Bn~~
- ~~Plt (Rein), Co A, 7th MT Bn~~
- ~~Plt, Co B, 1st Tank Bn~~
- ~~Plt (Rein), Co A, 3d AmTrac Bn~~
- ~~Plt, 1st Force Recon~~
- Det, Collection Plt, Co C, 1st Med Bn
- ~~Det, FSR~~
- Det, 1st SP Bn
- ~~Det, BMU, NLC~~

- 3d Bn (-) (Rein), 11th Marines
- HqBtry, 3d Bn, 11th Marines
- ~~Btry G, 3d Bn, 11th Marines~~
- 107mm Mortar Btry, 3d Bn, 11th Marines
- 107mm Mortar Btry, 3d Bn, 12th Marines

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WALT

D. W. SHERMAN
 Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
 Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: Annex F (Distribution) to
 Operation Order 330-65

OFFICIAL:

D.P. Wyckoff

D. P. WYCKOFF
 Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
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