

**1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION 9<sup>TH</sup> MARINES  
COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLGY**

**SEPTEMBER 1966**

**PAGES 12 OF 12**

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**NO OTHER DATA ON FILE**

HEADQUARTERS  
9th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
c/o FFO San Francisco

3/SGF/lr1  
10 November 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Subj: Command Chronology 1-30 September 1966 for 1st Battalion,  
9th Marines, late submission

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) DivO 5750.1  
(c) RegtO 5750.1

Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references ((a) through (c)), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Late submission of enclosure (1) due to deployment out of country.

*A. A. Nelson*  
A. A. NELSON  
By direction

1/9

Sup 66

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HEADQUARTERS  
1st Battalion, 9th Marines  
3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMC

3/JCW/rgs  
05750  
4 Oct 1966



From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology: 1-30 Sept 1966

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) RIVO 5750.1  
(c) RegtO 5750.1

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

*J. L. Day*  
J. L. DAY

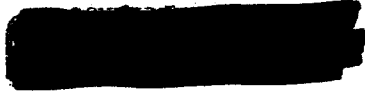
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9th Mar. Regt.  
Control No. 0814-66  
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1st BATTALION 9th MARINES  
S & C 0347-66 COPY 2 OF 6

HEADQUARTERS  
1st Battalion, 9th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/JCW/tj1  
05750  
4 Oct 1966



COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1-30 September 1966

- PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II: GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS DURING REPORTING PERIOD
- PART III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Reporting Unit. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines
2. Location of Command Post. 010001H Sept to 281100H Sept: Vicinity Hill #55, DANANG TAOR, coordinates (AT 966617). From 281100H Sept to 302400H Sept the Command Post was located aboard the USS HENRICO (APA-45).
3. Period Covered by Report: 1-30 Sept 1966
4. Commanding Officer and Staff.

Commanding Officer	1-26 Sept	LtCol JONES
	26-30 Sept	Maj DAY
Executive Officer	1-26 Sept	Maj DAY
	27-30 Sept	Maj HUBBARD
S-1	1-15 Sept	2dLt PARKER
	15-30 Sept	1stLt RICKMON
S-2		2dLt YAGGEY
S-3	1-15 Sept	Maj THATENHURST
	15-30 Sept	Capt VONHARTEN
S-4	1-15 Sept	Capt CUTCOMB
	15-30 Sept	Capt SAYERS

5. Principal Subordinate Units.

H&S Company	1-25 Sept	Capt STONE
	25-30 Sept	2dLt MCCLEOD
Company "A"	1- 2 Sept	Capt VONHARTEN
	2-30 Sept	2dLt PACE
Company "B"	1-5 Sept	Capt SPLEAN
	5-30 Sept	2dLt MITCHELL
Company "C"		1stLt CONNELL
Company "D"		Capt KEYS
Det, Hq Bn, 3dMarDiv	18-30 Sept	
Det, Disbursing Section		
Det, Postal Section		2dLt WALSH
Det, Photo Section		
Det, Comm Co (Radio Relay)		
Det, H&S Company, 9th Marines (Radio Relay)		
3d Plt (Rein), Company "B", 1st AmTrac Bn		2dLt HORVATICH
3d Plt (Rein), Company "C", 3d AT Bn		2dLt RILEY
3d Plt (Rein), Company "B", 3d Tank Bn		2dLt VOIGT
1st Plt (Rein), Company "C", 3d Eng Bn		WO JONES
Det, H&S Company, 3d Eng Bn		
Det, Eng Support Company, 3d Eng Bn		
2d Plt, Company "D", 3d Recon Bn		2dLt MURPHY
Det, 1st Clearing Plt, (-)(Rein) Company "B",		Lt OLIVER (USN)
3d Med Bn		

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Logistics Support Unit

Det, 3d FSA

Det, 3d Ser Bn

2d Plt (Rein), Company "A", 3d MT Bn

2d Plt (Rein), Company "C", 3d SF Bn

Battery "D" (-)(Rein), 2d Bn, 12th Mar

107mm Howtar Battery (Rein), 1st Bn, 12th Mar

Capt KENDIG

2dLt DAVIS

2dLt BLOKON

Capt GUNDLACH

Capt RICHEY

6. Command Structure. 1-29 September 1966, Op-Con 9th Marines with responsibility for Northern sector of the 9th Marines Zone of Action. 291000H-30 September 1966, Op-Con 07G 79 while embarked aboard the USS HENRICO (APA-45).

7. Average Strength for Month of September.

Officers USMC: 38

Officers USN: 3

Enlisted USMC: 1065

Enlisted USN: 55

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PART II: GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS  
DURING REPORTING PERIOD

During the reporting period, the Battalion was responsible for the northern portion of the 9th Marines zone of action. This responsibility included the occupation, defense, and denial of VC influence into the area; establishment and maintenance of a reconnaissance network; offensive operations within the Battalion area of responsibility, blocking and denying the use of the SONG THU BON to the VC in the 9th Marines zone of action; provided security for engineer construction units; provided security for bridge and water point on SONG AI NGHIA, ferry site, and LCM beaching point on the SONG THU BON; maintained river traffic control points on the SONG AI NGHIA; maintained traffic control points at the junction of Liberty Road and Route 14; provided support of pacification programs as directed, and provided one company as Regimental reserve. This responsibility was accomplished by means of aggressive patrol and ambush activity of platoon and squad size in an attempt to saturate the Battalion Zone of Action. The continued development and improvement of semi-permanent positions assigned within the zone of action has progressed steadily. Due to the almost continuous employment of all operational forces, the formal training effort was very limited. A Combined Action Company, consisting of 18 Marines and 32 Popular Force Soldiers from DAI LOC, was formed on 11 September 1966. This CAC unit remained Op-Con to this battalion until 9th Marine Regiment assumed Op-Con on 18 September 1966. The Combined Action Company was positioned in the village of AI DONG (AT 922566), the site of a new relocation and resettlement village for Vietnamese civilians. Two "County Fair" operations were held on 3 September 1966 and 22 September 1966, with Company "A" as cordon force and 2nd Company, 4th Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment as search element. Throughout the reporting period, one platoon of RF and one platoon of PF have operated with two forward companies. During the reporting period, preparation continued for the scheduled relief by BLT 1/26 and this Battalion's return to Okinawa. The relief was accomplished on 28 September and BLT 1/26 assumed responsibility for the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Zone of Action. The Battalion embarked aboard assigned shipping and departed Vietnam 291000H.

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PART III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel. Detailed personnel data is contained in the S-1 journal submitted as a supporting document. This Battalion had a slight decrease in strength during this period. During this period there were no officers and 11 enlisted Marines KIA and 1 officer and 43 enlisted WIA. This Battalion rotated 1 officer and 34 enlisted Marines to CONUS, and no officers and 34 enlisted Marines transferred by Service Record. Replacements of 1 officer and 6 enlisted Marines were received. No quotas were received for R&R due to this Battalions move to Okinawa.

2. Administration. Nothing significant.

3. Intelligence. During the month of September, enemy activity was again limited to harassing tactics by less than squad size guerilla forces, except for the following larger contacts:

a. On 4 September, a Company "C" patrol made contact with 25-30 VC in civilian clothes at (AT 954591). A search of the area produced negative results, although the local civilians indicated the VC fled with unknown number of casualties.

b. On 24 September, Hill#55, a Company "D" security unit at the water point and a Company "A" PPB received heavy fire from approximately 20 VC from 9 different locations in GS's (AT 9560, 9559, 9660), fire included 3-4 rounds of 57mm RR fire. VC casualties were 4 KIA (CONF) and 8 KIA (PROB).

c. Two County Fair Operations were held during the month:

(1) On 3 September County Fair conducted at CHAU SON (2) located (AT 946603) resulted in 8 VC KIA (CONF), 2 VCC and 3 weapons captured.

(2) The second County Fair was held on 22 September at CAM VAN (1) located (AT 959591) with 1 VC KIA (CONF) and 1 VCC.

d. Mines continued to be the biggest US casualty producer, with a noticeable increase in mining incidents over the month of August.

e. Psychological Warfare. The general themes were to persuade VC to rally to the Allies and explain the US part in aid to the Vietnamese Government and people. The themes were expounded by the following means:

(1) The I Corps Psy-Ops field detachment conducted broadcasts from Hill#55 and the immediate area.

(2) A U-10 aircraft broadcasted over the ZOA.

(3) The 9th Marines sound system was used to broadcast the themes using the Battalion and Regimental interpreters.

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(4) During the 2 County Fairs the village chiefs and ralliers from the hamlets spoke to the people and the chiefs began the reintroduction of GVN control to those areas.

(5) Face-to-Face Persuasion was conducted by the companies in the field.

f. Special Operations. None

g. Employment of the AN/TPS-21, SID/150, the Infrared Sighting Device, and Star Light Scope.

(1) AN/TPS-21. The Battalion has only one AN/TPS-21 and it was employed in reserve near the Battalion CP.

(2) SID/150. The Battalion had 30 SID/150's on hand during the month. Ten were employed by the companies and twenty were held in Battalion reserve. No contacts were reported.

(3) Infrared Sighting Devices. Of the fifteen scopes on hand, two were utilized this month. No contacts were reported.

(4) Star Light Scope. The one Star Light Scope in the Battalion was utilized until 16 September. A lack of battery replacements prevented its further use. Several contacts were reported with undetermined results.

4. Training. All units received periodic instructions concerning the mission and role of US Forces in the Republic of Vietnam, the rules of engagement, and the handling of prisoners. Additionally, on-the-job training was conducted for all ranks and MOS's.

5. Special Operations. Nothing significant

6. Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare. Nothing significant

7. Command and Control. Nothing significant

8. Communications and Electronics. Nothing significant

9. Close Combat. Nothing significant

10. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination.

a. Artillery was employed in 1/9 TAOR during this reporting period on targets of opportunity, on enemy mortar positions, and in the harassment and interdiction of enemy movement at night. Each permanent company location was provided with permanent night defensive fires as well as the Battalion CP. Each maneuver unit was provided with "On Call" fires and the registration of these was encouraged.

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a. Two "County Fairs" were held with R.A. Gioffre, Lt MC USNR and two enlisted hospital corpsmen holding Med-Cap at each fair. Approximately 60 patients including children were attended. Medical problems encountered were as follows:

- (1) Skin dermatological conditions, variety of
- (2) Breast Carcinoma
- (3) Hare lip
- (4) Wounds and infections
- (5) Penetrating wounds of Viet Cong personnel
- (6) Opthamalogical infections

b. On 26 September LtCol Jones, Battalion Commander, and another Marine (his driver) were given emergency treatment at the forward Battalion Aid Station. The Colonel sustained a through and through penetrating wound of the left thigh with involvement of the Sciatic nerve. LCpl Ferree sustained through and through bullet wound of both legs. Both patients were sent by emergency med-evac to C-Med accompanied by one hospital corpsman, HM-3 Heddon.

c. On 26 September, eleven Vietnamese patients were given emergency medical treatment for second degree burns suffered from napalm. They were all med-evaced.

d. On 27 September, 13 additional Vietnamese patients were treated for second degree burns and they were also med-evaced. One patient under went a traumatic amputation of the distal phalanx of her 5th finger. This patient was treated in our forward Battalion Aid Station.

e. Also during the month of September, Med-Cap was held each day and approximately 30 to 40 patients were treated. The usual Sick Call was held twice daily.

f. On September 28th the medical team of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines were given the necessary instructions in regards to the supply of CAC, Med-Cap, and location of forward Battalion Aid Station facilities.

g. All companies were given the necessary vaccines prior to embarkation for Okinawa.

15. Chaplain Support. During the month of September, Sunday divine services were held on Hill#55 for Catholics and Protestants. Weekly church services were also held in each company area. Hospital visits were made to "C" Med and NSA. The Chaplain recorded 7 counselling and 4 Red Cross cases. Roman Catholic Mass was held for the Vietnamese in the village of AN TRACH. Catholic coverage was also provided for 2/1 CP, 2/12 CP, 1/11 CP, "B" Battery, and Company "E" at HA DONG bridge.

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of interest during this reporting period was the employment of a 105mm Howitzer of Battery "D" in a direct fire mission in support of operations located within the Battalion CP complex. These direct fire missions were characterized by an intense volume of fire directed on targets with an increased degree of accuracy. The direct fire was employed within 35 meters of friendly troops with no friendly casualties reported. In four missions fired, 5 buildings were destroyed, one trenchline was caved in, and numerous treelines were rendered incapable of providing effective cover for enemy troops. The Battery was able to displace the weapon to the desired location with a great degree of efficiency and speed. All types of fuzes and shells were used with HEP-T and HE Quick being used on treelines and trenches and fuze time in open and exposed areas. Shell WP was also used to mark an area for an air strike.

c. A breakdown of the missions fired and the ammunition expended is as follows:

		<u>Ammo Expended</u>
Targets of Opportunity ....	27	105mm .... 1486
Minefield .....	0	155mm .... 697
Counter-mortar .....	1	155G ..... 20
AO .....	2	8 inch ... 19
Prep fires .....	1	Total ... 2232.
Concentration Registration.	15	
H and I .....	30	
Total .....	76	

d. An 81mm mortar section was provided each company and was credited with the following missions and ammunition expenditure.

Combat missions ...	5	Ammo for combat missions	736
H and I missions ..	30	Ammo for H and I's .....	978
Total .....	35	Total .....	1714

11. Logistics. During the reporting period, combined logistics continued to be extensive. Six tons of equipment and supplies were delivered by air and 70 tons of equipment and supplies were delivered via surface mode to field based units. During this period, the Battalion vehicles traveled a total of 25,978 miles. Total hours 1,437.

12. Air Defense. Nothing significant

13. Combat Air Support. Air support was used by this command when necessary during this reporting period. A total of 57 medevacs were flown bringing 69 US and ARVN casualties and 46 civilian casualties to immediate medical aid. Airborne observers in Ol-E's and UH-1E's were used for ground observation in support of ground units. For a period of two weeks UH-34's were used to transport troops and resupply the forward companies. On 25 September there were two fixed-wing airstrikes of four sorties dropping eleven 500 pound napalm bombs and six 250 pound bombs. On 27 September there was a preplanned airstrike of four sorties dropping sixteen 500 pound napalm bombs.

[REDACTED]

16. Civil Affairs. During the month, the Civic Action program was conducted in the Hill #55 area, BICH BAC Hamlet, and two County Fairs. Daily Med-Cap was conducted on Hill #55 by the Battalion Surgeon and BAS Corpsman, and the company corpsman in the field. Over 600 civilians were treated during this period, with a total of 35 civilians being med-evaced. Clothing, soap, rice, and toys were distributed within the ZOA.



PART IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

S-1 Journal

S-2 Journal

S-3 Journal

1st Battalion, 9th Marines Operation Order 6-66

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