From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division (Rein), FMF, FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 December 1967 through 31 December 1967; submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2 series
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8 series
(c) DivO 5750.2 series

Encl: (1) First Medical Battalion Command Chronology

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

C. H. LOWERY
HEADQUARTERS
1st Medical Battalion (Rein)
1st Marine Division (Rein) P
t
PO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 December 1967 through 31 December 1967

INDEX

PART I - Organizational Data
PART II - Narrative Summary
PART III - Sequential Listing of Significant Events
ENCLOSURE (1) Cumulative Totals of First Medical Battalion
ENCLOSURE (2) Mission of First Medical Battalion
ENCLOSURE (3) Sequential Listing of Significant Events
(March 1966 - November 1967)
PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

1st Medical Battalion (Rein)  

COMMANDEER  

LCDR C.H. LOWERY, MC, USN  

1-31 December 1967

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company  

LCDR G.R. FORD, MSC, USN  

1-31 December 1967

"A" Company  

LCDR S.A. NEILL, MC, USN  

1-31 December 1967

"B" Company  

LCDR B.C. HAMILTON, MC, USNR  

1-31 December 1967

"C" Company  

LCDR C.A. VAN der WYNGAERDE, MC, USN  

1-31 December 1967

"D" Company  

LCDR D.H. RANDELS, MC, USN  

1-31 December 1967

2. LOCATION

1st Medical Battalion (Rein)  

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

H&S Company  

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"A" Company  

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"B" Company, 1st PLT  

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"B" Company, 2nd PLT  

1-31 December 1967 Quang Tri, RVN

"C" Company, 1st PLT  

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"C" Company, 2nd PLT  

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"D" Company, 1st PLT  

1-31 December 1967 Danang, RVN

"D" Company, 2nd PLT  

1-31 December 1967 Chu Lai, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS FIRST MEDICAL BATTALION DANANG

Director of Professional Services  

LCDR W.J. MULLINS, MC, USN  

1-31 December 1967

Executive Officer  

LCDR G.R. FORD, MSC, USN  

1-31 December 1967

S-1 Officer  

LT J.M. ROBERTSON, MSC, USN  

1-31 December 1967

S-2/S-3  

1STLT D. RITUCCI, USMC  

1-31 December 1967

Preventive Medicine Section;  

Officer in Charge  

CDR E.H. GLEASON

Motor Transport Officer  

2NDLT R.J. REDDING, USMC  

1-31 December 1967

ENCLOSURE (1)
3-4 Officer

3-5 Officer

4. **Average Strength for the First Medical Battalion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Enlisted</th>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Enlisted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USN</td>
<td></td>
<td>USMC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hospital Statistics**

**Admissions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Danang</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battle Casualties</td>
<td>164</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Battle</td>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outpatient Visits**

Danang 1499

**Part II**

**Narrative Summary**

1. During the period covered by this report, the command has been employed in support of U.S. forces in the Danang, Chu Lai, and Quang Tri T.D.R's.

On 1 December 1967 2nd platoon "C" Company was detached from the Battalion and attached to the 3rd Battalion, First Marines as an attached unit of Battalion Landing Team 3/1 of the Special Landing Force of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade.

On 18 December 1967 Mr. Earl Wilson and Barbara McNair, members of the Bob Hope Show, visited the patients at First Medical Battalion.

On 23 December 1967 RADM Kelley, Chief of the Naval Chaplain Corps, visited the facility at First Medical Battalion.

On 28 December 1967 the clearing platoon (-) of the First Medical Battalion was detached to the Command Post of the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines as a supporting unit of Operation AUBURN.

**Part III**

**Sequential Listing of Significant Events**

1. December 1967 - 2nd platoon "C" Company attached to BLT 3/1, 9th MAB.

18 December 1967 - Visit to First Medical Battalion by members of the Bob Hope Show.

23 December 1967 - RADM Kelley, Chief of Naval Chaplains, visited First Medical Battalion.

28 December 1967 - Clearing platoon (-) attached to 3/5 in support of Operation AUBURN.

ENCLOSURE (1)
CUMULATIVE TOTALS OF FIRST MEDICAL BATTALION

1st Medical Battalion and subordinate units since its arrival in the Republic of Viet Nam, April 1966-01 January 1968

Total Admissions 18,621
Battle Casualties 7,121
Non-battle Casualties 2,281
Diseases 8,799
Out-patients 49,999

1st Medical Battalion and subordinate units since 01 January 1967 - 01 January 1968

Total Admissions 12,767
Battle Casualties 5,727
Non-battle Casualties 1,587
Diseases 5,193
Out-patients 31,421

1st Medical Battalion in Da Nang since 01 January 1967 - 01 January 1968

Total Admissions 8,426
Battle Casualties 3,957
Non-battle Casualties 3,933
Diseases 3,632
Out-patients 20,650
CR Procedures 4,940

Participated in 12 operations with clearing platoon (-) in combat zone since 01 January 1967

Clearing platoon (-) - Operation Supported

HOT SPRINGS April 66
HONESTO May 66
HELIX June 66
CALIFANO August 66
SIO BLANCO November 66
SERRA December 66
INDEPENDENCE January 67
DE SOTO January 67
UNION I April 67
UNION II May 67
ADELA June 67
CALHOUN June 67
CINCINNATI August 67
SWIFT September 67
KNOX October 67
KESSEY November 67
FLEMING November 67
AUBURN December 67

ENCLOSURE (1)
The First Medical Battalion, First Marine Division

The mission of the First Medical Battalion is to provide for the collection, emergency definitive treatment, temporary hospitalization and evacuation of casualties. It is also to plan, supervise and perform timely protective measures for the control of disease common to field operations.

In addition to this classical amphibious warfare mission, the First Medical Battalion, in Vietnam, has acquired the mission of providing general clinical and hospital services to the men of the First Division and surrounding Marine Corps elements. This mission includes the care and treatment of sick and injured personnel with the objectives of their expeditious return to duty and the prompt disposition of those patients who require more specialized treatment not readily available or who are found physically unfit for duty in Vietnam.

As an additional mission, the First Medical Battalion provides small medical units deployed into combat zones to act as primary triage centers in support of battalions or regimental sized operations.

At the present time the First Medical Battalion, in support of the Danang TDOR, is composed of H&S Company, Collecting and Clearing Companies Alfa and Charlie, and reinforced clearing platoons from Bravo and Delta Companies. One clearing platoon, reinforced of Bravo Company, is situated in Quang Tri in direct support of the First Marine Regiment. One clearing platoon of Delta Company is attached to the First Hospital Company in Chu Lai. At its Danang cantonment the First Medical Battalion is supported by a tenant unit of the First Dental Company, two chaplains and a Graves Registration Section from the Force Logistics Command.

Personnel strength is as follows:

34 Medical Corps Officers
9 Medical Service Corps Officers
3 Marine Corps Officers
310 Hospital Corpsman
128 Marines

Of the medical officers the following specialties are represented: 9 orthopedic surgeons, 8 general surgeons, 6 anesthesiologists, 1 internist, 2 psychiatrists, and 8 general medical officers.

The hospital facility in Danang is composed of a triage area adjacent to a helicopter pad. The casualty treatment area is constructed in such a way as to provide a continuous patient flow from the triage area through the X-Ray department, to either the shock and decontamination area for minor surgery or the operating rooms for major surgery. Six operating rooms are available in air conditioned Quonset huts. There is also a 25 bed intensive care unit and recovery rooms. This unit is also in a double air conditioned Quonset hut.

The prescribed holding time for this 160 bed facility is 14 days. However, in order to stay within the recommended occupancy rate of 60% the average patient stay is three to four days.

Since its arrival in Vietnam in March of 1966, the First Medical Battalion and its subordinate units have admitted 18,931 patients. Of these, 7,121 were battle casualties, 2,731 were non-battle casualties, and 8,979 were diseases patients. 49,399 outpatients have been seen and treated. In the Danang facility alone, approximately 5000 operative procedures have been performed in the past year.

In addition to maintaining a hospital facility, the First Medical Battalion has deployed clearing platoons (minus) into combat zones in direct support of eighteen different battalion or regimental sized operations. These forward medical units have greatly facilitated the proper sorting and evacuation of the battle injured from the area of combat back to the fixed hospital facilities.

ENVELOPE 2
PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS


20 Mar 1966 - Arrived and disembarked at Chu Lai, RVN.

21 Mar 1966 - Joined with "B" Co, 3rd Medical Battalion in support of Operation TEXAS. Received over 100 casualties from Operation TEXAS.

27 Mar 1966 - "D" Co, 1st Medical Battalion embarked aboard USS NORRIS COUNTY (LST-836) for movement to Danang. Upon arrival, this company was redesignated "B" Co, 3rd Medical Battalion. "B" Co, 3rd Medical Battalion at Chu Lai was simultaneously redesignated "D" Co, 1st Medical Battalion.

28 Mar 1966 - In support of Operation INDIANA.

29 Mar 1966 - Op con changed to 1st Marine Division.

30 Mar 1966 - All personnel of the 1st Medical Battalion transferred to H&S Co for ease of administration.

21 Apr 1966 - First Clearing Platoon (-) deployed in support of Operation

23 Apr 1966 - "HOT SPRINGS".

9 May 1966 - Deployed Clearing Platoon in support of Operation MONTGOMERY.

14 May 1966

22 May 1966 - "B" Co embarked on board USS RENVILLE and USS WINSTON and sailed from White Beach, Okinawa.

27 May 1966 - "B" Co arrived and disembarked at Chu Lai, RVN. 1st Medical Battalion was in full strength at this time.

17 Jun 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky in support of Operation KINGS.

18 Jun 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky in support of Operation KINGS.

6 Aug 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky in support of Operation COLORADO.

20 Aug 1966 - Received 533 patients.

17 Oct 1966 - "A" Co deployed to Danang to support 3rd Medical Battalion.

20 Nov 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Quang Ngai to support Operation "RIO BLANCO".

27 Nov 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed in support of Operation SIERRA.

12 Dec 1966 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed in support of Operation SIERRA.

31 Dec 1966

24 Dec 1966 - 1st Medical Battalion Command Post moved to Danang to assume the operation of the medical facility formerly operated by 3rd Medical Battalion. A detachment of H&S Co and "A" Co (-) moved with the CI. Companies "B(-)", "C", and "D" (Rein) remained at Chu Lai.

ENCLOSURE (3)
8 Jan 1967 - Rost of H&S Co arrived in Danang, RVN.

31 Jan 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to An Hoa in support of Operation INDEPENDENCE.

9 Feb 1967 - "B" Co. (-) deployed to Duc Pho in support of Operation DESOTO.

31 Jan 1967 - "B" Co. (-) deployed to Duc Pho in support of Operation DESOTO.

1 Feb 1967 - CDR J.C. ROBINS relieved CDR R.H. MITCHELL as Commander of 1st Medical Battalion.

4 Apr 1967 - 1st Hospital Co, Chu Lai, RVN became Op Con and Ad Con to 1st Medical Battalion.

6 Apr 1967 - "B" Co (-) secured from Operation DESOTO at Duc Pho, RVN and returned to Chu Lai, RVN.

6 Apr 1967 - "C" Co, 3rd Medical Battalion detached from 1st Medical Battalion and departed for Phu Bai, RVN.

9 Apr 1967 - "C" Co, "D" Co, departed Chu Lai for Danang by LST.

9 Apr 1967 - "B" Co attached to 1st Hospital Co at its new cantonment in Chu Lai to establish a 120 bed hospital with a holding capacity of 30 days.

13 Apr 1967 - CDR P.P. COOPER assumed command of 1st Medical Battalion.

19 Apr 1967 - Final elements of "D" Co arrive at 1st Medical Battalion, Danang, RVN.

24 Apr 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky in support of 5th Marines during Operation UNION I.

26 May 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Tam Ky to support 5th Marines during Operation UNION II.

30 May 1967 - MUS'T #1 (Medical Unit Self Contained Transportable) was attached to the 1st Hospital Co for evaluation of its capabilities to act as a Collecting and Clearing Co in the field.

15 Jun 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) from "B" Co, Chu Lai, deployed to Tam Ky to support Operations CALLA and CALHOUN. Elements of MUS'T #1 were used for the first time by the Marine Corps in direct support of a combat mission.

26 Jun 1967 - 1st Hospital Co became a 160 bed hospital facility.

9 Aug 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Hill 63 in support of Operation COCHISE.

1 Sep 1967 - CDR C.H. LOWERY assumed command at 1st Medical Battalion.

3 Sep 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to Hill 63 in support of Operation SWIFT.
14 Sep 1967 - 1st Hospital Co detached from 1st Medical Battalion and placed under Op Con of 1st Marine Division. "B" Co, 1st Medical Battalion remained attached to 1st Hospital Co.

4 Oct 1967 - "B" Co detached from 1st Hospital Co and departed Chu Lai by LST.

5 Oct 1967 - "B" Co arrived Danang.

10 Oct 1967 - 2nd Platoon "D" Co departed Danang for 1st Hospital Co at Chu Lai.

15 Oct 1967 - 2nd Platoon "B" Co departed Danang by Rough Rider for Quang Tri to support the First Marine Regiment.

22 Oct 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed in support of Operation KNOX.

30 Oct 1967

5 Nov 1967 - Clearing Platoon (-) deployed to An Hoa to support battalions

28 Nov 1967 - 2/5 and 2/3 for Operations ESSEX and POSTER.