

HEADQUARTERS  
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) MAF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

**UNCLASSIFIED**

3/JDS/jds  
5750  
2 July 1968  
SEE 027

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 June 1968 to 30 June 1968

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology

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

*E. C. CHEATHAM JR.*  
E. C. CHEATHAM JR.

2nd BN 5th MAR  
SEC # 0496-6F  
COPY 2 OF 7

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DOD DIR 5200.10

2 NB8N/5TH MAR  
CMD CHRON

5TH MAR S&C FILES

0422-68  
COPY NO 2 OF 7

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JUNE 1968

HEADQUARTERS  
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 June 1968 to 30 June 1968

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COMBAND CHRONOLOGY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, JUNE 1968I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA.

A. Location: 1-30 June 1968, Phu Gia, RVN

B. Commanding Officer, Staff Officers and Company Commanders.

Commanding Officer	LtCol. E. C. CHEATHAM JR.	1-30 Jun68
Executive Officer	Maj. O. R. SPANGLER	1-30 Jun68
Adjutant	Capt R. E. STONER	1-30 Jun68
S-1	1stLt W. I. SHICK	1-30 Jun68
S-1A	1stLt R. NAGAI	22-30 Jun68
S-2	1stLt T. T. ALTON	1-30 Jun68
S-3	Maj E. G. DYER	1-30 Jun68
S-3A	1stLt T. A. KEENE	1-11 Jun68
	1stLt S. R. BROWN	11-25 Jun68
	1stLt T. A. KEENE	26-30 Jun68
S-3B	1stLt S. R. BROWN	1-11 Jun68
	1stLt S. R. BROWN	26-30 Jun68
S-4	1stLt G. R. HOFFMANN JR.	1-3 Jun68
	1stLt R. L. HORNBERGER	4-30 Jun68
ComMO	Capt D. J. POWERS	1-30 Jun68
SupplyO	2ndLt D. T. WELSH	1-30 Jun68
WFO	1stLt G. A. ZURENDA	1-30 Jun68
ALO	Capt H. F. PYLE JR.	1-23 Jun68
	Capt R. L. THACKER	24-30 Jun68
FAC	Capt R. L. THACKER	1-23 Jun68
	1stLt J. O. SANDERS	24-30 Jun68
CO H&S Co	1stLt T. D. MARTIN	1-30 Jun68
CO Co E	Capt J. J. NORTON	1-26 Jun68
	Capt H. R. HEINZ	27-30 Jun68
CO Co F	1stLt C. W. FULFORD	1-30 Jun68
CO Co G	1stLt D. A. DAVIS	1-30 Jun68
CO Co H	Capt G. D. HENDRICKSON	1-11 Jun68
	1stLt F. A. KEENE	12-25 Jun68
	Capt G. D. HENDRICKSON	26-30 Jun68

C. Average Monthly Strength.

	USMC	USN
OFF	ENL	OFF ENL
29	1007	3 54

II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY.

During the month, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines continued its mission of defending the Division M&R. The Battalion accomplished its mission by employing company and platoon size patrols into known or suspected enemy assembly areas, and conducting squad and smaller size ambushes along enemy routes of approach.

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to the AR. Enemy activity for the month was limited to the interdiction of the Main Supply Route by mines and the use of demolitions charges to destroy culverts in the Hai Van Pass area.

### III. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

#### A. Personnel and Administration.

1. The strength of this Battalion at the beginning of the month was 72% officers and 90% enlisted of the required manning level. The end of the month strength percentage of manning level is 74% officer and 87% enlisted. Casualties suffered during the month were:

<u>BATTLE</u>		<u>NON-BATTLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>		
5	37	18	60

During the month, the Battalion joined 4 Marine Officers, 42 Marine enlisted and one Navy enlisted. During the same period, 3 Marine Officers, 91 Marine enlisted and one Navy enlisted were transferred.

2. Discipline, Law and Order. Two Special Courts-Martial were convened during the month and two cases have been referred to a Summary Courts-Martial for trial. Nine cases of disciplinary action were administered through Non-Judicial Punishment; four at the Battalion level and five by subordinate Company Commanders. Four Marines are currently serving sentences at the III MAF Brig Facility, DaNang.

4. Morale. Morale is considered good throughout the Battalion. Hot meals are served to all troops in the field at least once each day. Post exchange items are provided through both supplementary racks, and by facilities located at Phu Bai. The Battalion has taken maximum advantage of available quotas to send troops to the Rest Center, China Beach, DaNang for three day periods of rest and relaxation. Sufficient quotas are allocated to permit unit commanders the opportunity to send an entire squad, thereby enhancing greater unit integrity.

5. Postal. Incoming mail is processed expeditiously and distributed daily by both surface and helicopter means. During the beginning of the month, a postal money order team from the Postal Section of Task Force X-Ray spent two days traveling through the AO selling money orders and providing other postal services. Purchases in excess of \$4,000.00 were made.

6. Awards. There were two Silver Star medals, one Bronze Star medal, and five Purple Heart medals presented to members of this Command. Numerous recommendations for heroism and meritorious service were processed during the month.

7. Chaplain's Activities. General worship services were conducted this month, however, many difficulties were encountered in obtaining Protestant

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coverage for every unit on a scheduled basis. A Protestant Chaplain has been conducting four services a week. The dispersion of the Battalion, however, makes this quite inadequate. Thus far, the general services have been received with the Marines as well as other Protestant Chaplains. There were 12 such services this month at which 320 Marines took part. There were 34 Masses held which were participated in by 748 Marines. Protestant services were held 13 times at which 286 Marines took part. There were three Memorial Services at the company areas at which all of the company took part in formation. There were also five Lay Leader Services at which 125 Marines took part. There were four referrals to the Red Cross on health and welfare reports. Thirty-three men came to the Chaplain for counselling. Hospital visits were made weekly and on one occasion, the Chaplain visited 2nd Battalion Marines on the U.S.S. Sanctuary. A total of 25 men were visited. During the month the Chaplain offered three Masses in civilian Churches at the request of the local priest who was unable to cover at these particular times. Surplus foods and captured rice were delivered to a school, an orphanage and two Churches in the area.

### B. Intelligence.

1. Sources. All normal intelligence sources available to an infantry Battalion have been utilized during June. In addition to these agencies, the CAP units, 35th Engineers, U. S. Army, and the civilian populace of Phu Loc District also provided information of intelligence value.

2. General situation. The enemy activity in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines area of responsibility has generally been limited to the interdiction of the Main supply route by mines, sabotage of culverts and the ambushing of patrols and convoys by command detonated mines. The most significant incident of these tactics was the ambush of 10 June 1968 at AT843997 resulting in eleven vehicles disabled and five friendly wounded in action. It would appear that the enemy avoided contact for the greater part of the month in order to refurbish and maneuver his units. Enemy reconnaissance efforts have been reported by ARVN agents, and have also been identified during meeting-engagements with Marine patrols.

3. The enemy attempted to exploit the abundant rice harvest during the first two weeks in June. The termination of the harvest resulted in a sharp decline in the enemy's attempt to transport rice. The southeasterly monsoons have nearly ended, resulting in day time temperatures in excess of 100 degrees and nights below 80 degrees.

### 5. Statistics of Casualties and Equipment:

NVA/VC KIA (CONF)	9
Detainees	9
Returnees	1

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AK-47	5 CAPTURED
M-54 Pistol	1 CAPTURED
ChiCom Grenades	7 CAPTURED
M-26 Grenades	10 CAPTURED
ChiCom Claymore Mines	4 CAPTURED
Mine (M-16)	1 CAPTURED
AK-47 Magazines	8 CAPTURED
7.62 Ammunition	57 rounds CAPTURED
Uniforms	7 sets CAPTURED
NVA Belt	2 CAPTURED
Grenade Pouches	3 CAPTURED
Black Pajamas	4 pair CAPTURED
NVA Canteen	2 CAPTURED
Magazine Pouches	4 CAPTURED
Bayonet	1 CAPTURED
E-Tool	1 CAPTURED
Binoculars	1 pair CAPTURED
Compass	1 CAPTURED
Plastic Bags	500 CAPTURED
Beat Paddles	8 CAPTURED
Penche	1 CAPTURED
Poncho Liner	1 CAPTURED
Hammock	1 CAPTURED
Fishing Net	1 CAPTURED
Helmet Liner	1 CAPTURED

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Utility Jacket	1 CAPTURED
Rice	2,275 pounds CAPTURED
Assorted Civilian Clothing	CAPTURED
Assorted Documents	CAPTURED

C. Training.

1. Thirty-seven Marines completed the Battalion/Regimental Indoctrination Course.

2. Division and higher level formal schools training was as follows:

a. Division Leadership Schools	14
b. Vietnamese Language School (Okinawa)	2
c. Division Embarkation School	1
d. Embarkation School (Okinawa)	2
e. Basic Organic Supply School	2
f. Land Mine Warfare and Demolitions	3
g. Vector Control School	1

D. Special Operations.

1. From 6-8 June 1968, Company F conducted a search and clear operation in the vicinity of 4C121985.

2. First Battalion, Fifth Marines assumed operational control of Company F for participation in ground operations against the enemy from 8-10 June 1968.

3. Company G conducted a search and clear mission from 12-14 June 1968. See Part IV (#2).

4. Company G conducted ground operations against enemy forces in accordance with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 20-68 from 20-21 June 1968. See Part IV (#2).

E. Close Combat.

1. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines continued its participation in Operation HOUSTON with the primary mission of providing security for the Division MSR. The majority of the contact was by platoon to fire team ambushes engaging enemy units attempting to interdict highway route #1.

F. Fire Support.

1. Due to the unusually large Battalion AO, two batteries were required to cover the entire area.

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2. Direct support for the Battalion was provided by Battery B, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines located at coordinates 41368997.

3. Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, at coordinates 40056017, was in general support, furnishing close and continuous fire support for the western sector of the Battalion's AO.

4. The Battalion received additional fire support from the U.S.S. Blue and the U.S.C.G.S. Campbell.

5. For the month of June, Battery B fired 95 missions expending 1,209 rounds of M4, 193 rounds of M7 and 23 rounds of illumination.

6. Battery A fired 18 missions consisting of 65 rounds of M4 and 13 rounds of M7.

7. Significant Fire Support Events:

a. Twice during the month a limit was placed on both Battery B and Battery A, fixing the total number that could be expended over a twenty-four period. These restrictions were exclusive of high priority intelligence and contact missions.

G. Air Support:

1. Tactical Air Support. A total of 147 tactical air support missions were flown in support of the Battalion consisting of 274 sorties.

a. Close Air Support. The Battalion requested and controlled 12 missions consisting of 24 sorties. Of these, 4 missions (8 sorties) were provided by armed helicopters and 8 missions (16 sorties) by fixed wing. Of these missions 8 were controlled by TaCA/FAO (airborne).

b. Assault Helicopter Operations. The Battalion requested and executed 1 helicopter assault which consisted of 8 sorties.

c. Aerial Observation and Visual Reconnaissance. The Battalion utilized 20 aerial observation missions consisting of 20 sorties and 4 visual reconnaissance missions. Both were provided by Regimental Command and Control aircraft.

2. Administrative and Logistics Support. One hundred and four administrative and logistics support missions were flown in support of the Battalion consisting of 216 sorties.

a. Administrative Troop Lifts. The Battalion utilized 4 administrative troop lifts consisting of 24 sorties.

b. Medical Evacuations. The Battalion requested and received 34 missions (86 sorties) of which 10 missions (30 sorties) were provided by Regimental Command and Control aircraft. There were 43 emergency, 40 priority and 24 routine medical evacuations.

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CONFIDENTIALH. Logistics.

1. Considerable improvements have been made in the logistical support of the Battalion during the past month. An additional Helicopter Support Team was sent to the field to provide each company in the Battalion with a team. All resupply requests and ammunition counts are now sent over the Helicopter Support Team net to the Battalion team located at the S-4 office at the Battalion Command Post. The Battalion team coordinates each resupply request with the LBA located at Cao Doi which enables supplies to be staged well in advance of pick up time.

2. The Battalion supply located at the forward Battalion Command Post has increased its stockage levels in all classes of supply in order to more efficiently augment resupply from that location. Two armorers are now permanently assigned to the forward Command Post and have the capability to perform limited field maintenance and repair of all weapons organic to the Battalion.

3. The Battalion forward mess halls continue to expand in order to improve their capability of providing more hot meals for the troops in the field. The wide selection of fresh meat and produce available from FLC, DaNang, greatly assists this effort. A daily average of four hundred morning meals and eight hundred and seventy-five evening meals of the "A" ration variety are now being provided by both mess halls.

4. The Battalion has received engineering support in various locations within the Battalion AO. Considerable ground clearing was done at the Lang Co Bridge in preparation for the new defensive positions being built there. A water point was constructed at the Thua Luu Bridge, and is operated by two of the engineers attached to the Battalion. At the forward Battalion Command Post many improvements were accomplished. Additional cuts were made in the hillside at both the first and second levels, and the usable ground space was almost doubled. A road was cut to the LZ enabling vehicles to be driven directly to the LZ for medical evacuations and resupply missions. A water system was installed to provide the mess hall and Battalion Aid Station with running water. A shower unit is in operation which provides hot showers in the late afternoon daily.

5. FLSG-A has established a laundry unit at the Thua Luu Bridge which became operational on 18 June. This unit provides laundry services to all units operating in this area.

a. Supply.

(1) In order to maintain a more strict accountability of individual weapons, a battalion-wide inventory was conducted this month in conjunction with pay call. Continuing with this program each month will allow the Battalion Supply to keep up to date with the exchange of weapons caused by the frequent turnover in billet assignments.

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(2) A contact team from the Battalion armory visited the forward elements early in this reporting period and inspected all crew-served weapons, M-79 Grenade Launchers, 3.5 Rocket Launchers and Starlight scopes. Overall findings were satisfactory.

(3) In accordance with the recently announced Division policy, Battalion Supply is now authorized to stock "stateside" utilities in order to insure that all personnel rotating will turn in their jungle utilities for re-issue.

(4) All priority O2 walk-thru requisitions at FLC, DaNang and FLSG-A, Phu Bai have been limited to combat essential, emergency type items only. The result has been an increase in the receipt of back ordered supplies by this section.

b. Motor Transport.

(1) The Motor Transport section maintains a maintenance section at the Battalion's Forward Command Post consisting of three mechanics. This maintenance section supervises the performance of 1st Echelon maintenance on all of the Battalion's vehicles, as well as performing 2nd Echelon maintenance within their capabilities.

(2) On 15 June, the Motor Transport section conducted a driver school for the M151A1 vehicle. Seven personnel attended the school and became qualified to operate that vehicle. Driver's schools were also held for the M274A2 (Mule) on 18 and 20 June, qualifying 18 persons as operators.

c. Medical.

(1) From 1 June to 24 June 1968, the Battalion had six cases of Falciparum Malaria diagnosed. It is believed that all six cases were contracted during a Battalion operation conducted in the jungle covered mountains south east of Hai Van Pass. With greater emphasis on the use of mosquito netting and enforcing malaria pill therapy, no further cases of malaria have been contracted.

(2) A slight increase in the number of cases of gonorrhoea was noted with most of the cases being acquired on Road. One case of syphilis was contracted in the village of Hai Van and the prostitutes were evicted from the village before this case became symptomatic; consequently, the source could not be found later during investigation.

(3) Three Marines were treated with anti-Rabies vaccine following bites by two dogs and one rat.

(4) A combination of summer weather and operations involving sweeps through rice paddies resulted in a predictable increase in the number of cases of skin disorders and heat casualties. This follows the general trend

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of previous years, and was kept to a minimum by education and prompt medical attention.

(5) The Battalion maintained an effective strength of two Medical Officers, one Chief Hospital Corpsman, and fifty-three Hospital Corpsmen; this gave each line company eight hospital corpsmen and the 61mm mortar platoon one corpsman. Two hospital corpsmen were evacuated as battle casualties.

(6) Civic Action. Six Med-Caps were held during the month of June in the villages of Lang Co, Loan Ly, Ahn Ki, Lap An, Thuy Tu, and Phuoc Hung. For the Med-Cap at Lang Co, one of the medical officers accompanied the hospital corpsmen; however, the other Med-Caps were conducted by the corpsmen. A total of 874 Vietnamese patients were treated in the 6 villages.

(7) Statistics.

a. Average number of patients seen daily.....18  
 Number of military patients seen this month.....550  
 Number of referrals to outpatient clinic.....12

b. Routine Medical Complaints:

Diarrhea.....20  
 URI.....16  
 Stomach Disorders.....112  
 Visual Disorders.....6  
 Ear Infections.....8  
 FUO.....12  
 Malaria.....6  
 VD.....10

c. Although dermatology complaints lead the list of sick visits, the noticeable increase of malaria and venereal disease are the most significant.

I. Communications.

1. Due to the fact that the Battalion operated in a relatively static environment this month, first, second and third echelon maintenance of communications equipment has been brought up to date. The level of operator training status has risen because of the time devoted to informal instruction and more supervised practical application.

2. Key personnel in the communications platoon were given an orientation lecture on the KY-38. Personnel schooled included its Battalion Communications Officer, Communications Chief, and several radio operators and technicians. This radio will be distributed to the Battalion shortly as part of a pilot program being conducted by III MAF to determine the effectiveness of the equipment on the battalion level.

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3. The RLD BALL Work order has been instituted by Task Force X-Ray. In order to nominate an item for this level of attention, the Battalion Communications Officer, the X-Ray CMO and the X-Ray G-4 must concur on its nomination and must endorse the Tactical Equipment Repair Order (TEROs) to that effect.

I. Civic Action. During this reporting period, the B-5 has centered its efforts on arranging Med-Caps for the villages located within the Battalion's AO and in initiating projects of self-help and public improvements.

1. Med-Caps were held in the hamlets of Lang Co, Loan My, Thuy Tu and Phuoc Hung, bringing medical care to over 900 Vietnamese. Medical and dental treatment has been provided by the medical personnel of this Battalion and the dental officers and technicians attached to 5th Marines.

	<u>Medical</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Total</u>
Men	102	36	138
Women	316	48	364
Children	436	23	459
Total	874	107	1061

2. Personal assistance. This particular Civic Action Program has resulted in the resettlement of 115 families who have relocated themselves in Lang Co Hamlet. Approximately 9,000 board feet of scrap lumber has been donated to the hamlet and village chiefs for use by the refugees and the needy. In addition, 50 bags of cement, and 3000 pounds of food, 1010 bars of soap and 25 pounds of children's clothing have been distributed throughout the AO.

3. Evacuation assistance. Three adults and nine children were evacuated and received treatment through either 1st Medical Battalion at Phu Bai, or 1st Hospital Company located at DaNang. This medical attention was primarily surgical in nature.

4. Construction Projects. To date, one school is under repair in the hamlet of Phuoc Hung. Plans have been submitted to higher headquarters requesting materials for the construction of two schools to be located at Truy Lu and An Hao. There are also five wells presently under construction, 3 in An Tu Tay and 2 in Ho Dua.

5. On 1 June 1968, LtCol CHEATHAM JR, Lt DEMERS, CC, USN and Sergeant Major BRAUNER were officially received as the guests of honor at a home defense force demonstration in the village of Loc Hai, hamlet of Lang Co.

6. Since the medical civil action program is the best means of gaining an early rapport with the people, a concentrated effort is being made to establish this program on a continuing basis. Several hamlets in the immediate vicinity of the Battalion CP have already started to receive regularly scheduled Med-Caps.

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J. Psychological Operations. During this reporting period the Psychological Operations section has made maximum use of leaflet drops within the AO. Chief targets have been the NVA/VC and the local populace. A US Army H.E. Team was employed in the more densely populated areas along Route #1 to emphasize the advantages of living under the protection of the GVN. Hand leaflets and reward posters were also distributed throughout the AO.

TARGET AUDIENCETHREAT

NVA/VC  
NVA/VC

Chiou Hoi  
Peace Talks

Local Populace  
Local Populace

Peace Talks  
VC steal your rice

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