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HEADQUARTERS
4th Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division, FMF
FPO San Francisco 96601

3/FPH/web
5750
4 November 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Via: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for October, Submission of.

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) Organizational Data
 ✓(2) Strength Report
 ✓(3) Chronological Summary of Significant Events

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), and (3) are submitted.

E. M. Rudzic
E. M. RUDZIC

4/12 (see report for 18th, 27th & 3rd)

Oct 1965

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CONFIDENTIALORGANIZATIONAL DATA, 4TH BATTALION, 12TH MARINES

1. Commanders and principal subordinates.

a. Battalion Staff

CO	LtCol E. M. RUDZIS
XO	Maj. C. A. WEBSTER (1 - 15 Oct)
	Maj. W. J. SPIESEL (15 - 31 Oct)
S-3	Maj. R. W. HEESCH
S-3A	Capt. K. G. PATTERSON
S-1	1/Lt J. R. PARKER
S-2	1/Lt J. B. THREATTE
S-4	Capt. W. J. FEIND (1 - 15 Oct)
	Capt. D. N. HARMAN (15 - 28 Oct)
	Capt. J. L. ROACH (28 - 31 Oct)
CommO	1/Lt G. M. MCGILL
SuppO	1/Lt B. E. EDWARDS
MTO	1/Lt L. D. MATTHEWS

b. Battery Commanders

HQ Btry	Capt. K. G. PATTERSON (1 - 15 Oct)
	Capt. J. L. ROACH (15 - 31 Oct)
M Btry	Capt. J. L. ROACH (1 - 15 Oct)
	Capt. W. J. FEIND (15 - 31 Oct)
I Btry	Capt. D. N. HARMAN (1 - 15 Oct)
	1/Lt W. P. SCHAEFFER (15 - 31 Oct)
107mm Howtar Btry	1/Lt R. J. KUCHINSKAS (1 - 15 Oct)
	1/Lt L. D. WALKER (15 - 23 Oct)
	Capt. B. K. CONNERS (23 - 31 Oct)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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2. Attachments & Detachments

a. Attachments

I Battery, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines
107mm Howtar Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines
Counter Mortar Radar, Headquarters Battery, 11th Marines
Shore Fire Control Party, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines
Aerial Observer

b. Detachments

K Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
L Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

3. Location of Units

I Battery, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines (YD 88891410) Az Fire 3772

M Battery, (SP), 4th Battalion, 12th Marines (YD 87601445) Az Fire 4150

107mm Howtar Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines (YD 88021479) Az Fire 6400

HQ Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines (YD 877145) Az Fire 3750

ENCLOSURE (1)

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CONFIDENTIALSTRENGTH REPORT - 31 OCTOBER 1965

	<u>HQ BTRY</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>		<u>M BTRY</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>
OFFICERS (MC)		13	15			5	4
ENLISTED (MC)		154	139			110	120
OFFICERS (N)		1	1			0	0
ENLISTED (N)		3	3			2	2

	<u>I BTRY</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>		<u>4.2 BTRY</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>
OFFICERS (MC)		9	7			4	3
ENLISTED (MC)		133	112			82	69
OFFICERS (N)		0	0			0	0
ENLISTED (N)		2	2			2	2

ENCLOSURE (2)

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CONFIDENTIALCHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

During the month, 5966 rounds were expended by the battalion on 338 observed missions, 1121 unobserved and H & I missions, 14 registrations, 1 destruction mission, and 1 preparation fire. In order to provide direct support of infantry operations in the southern and western portions of the TAOR, and fire deep suppressive fires on suspected VC installations west of the Song Ta Trach River, the firing batteries of the battalion conducted twenty five displacements to forward firing positions. M Battery displaced their M109 SP Howitzers forward eight times, the Howtar Battery conducted nine displacements of the Howtar, including two helilifts, and I Battery displaced eight times.

On 1 October the Commanding Officer and S-2 of the battalion attended an intelligence briefing at ARVN 1st Division Headquarters. Due to the fact that VC in the local area are moving between 1200 and 1500, the battalion originated a plan of firing "siesta" H & I missions during these hours.

The personnel from 3/4 in the Combined Action Company (CAC), were briefed by the FSC on fire planning and the use of on call artillery fires on 4 October.

At 050610 H, M Battery displaced to (YD 809113) in an armored column with three tanks, three ontos, a platoon of infantry, and a command group. The tanks and ontos deployed on the crest of Hill 153 (YD 7910) and fired direct fire west of the Song Ta Trach River, while Battery M fired unobserved missions on the VC training camp area in the vicinity of Hill 416 (YD 859118) to cover the withdrawal of the column. All units were back in their primary positions at 051320 H.

After a battalion two volley preparation of the landing zone, the Howtar Battery was helilifted to a forward firing position at (YD 820 082) at 070700 H, to fire on suspect VC positions along the Song Ta Trach River. 400 rounds were expended before the battery was returned to its primary position at 071730 H. On one of the missions, a secondary explosion was observed at (YD 787081).

The FO with the Redon platoon requested fire on VC in the open at (YD 800073), at 1000 H on 7 October. The target was engaged by M Battery and one of the VC was wounded.

At 120900 H, Senator Daniel B. BREWSTER (Dem - Maryland) fired the first round of a M Battery H & I mission on a suspected VC location.

At 121900 H, a US Army advisor with an ARVN training unit from DONG DA requested illumination and HE on a VC platoon at (YD 830120). The rounds were seen to land on target, but no surveillance was obtained due to darkness.

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On 15 October, Major W. J. SPIESEL arrived at the 4th Battalion to relieve Major C. A. WEBSTER as executive officer of the battalion.

At 150110 H, Battery M fired in support of the FO with the Recon platoon at (YD 788114). One VC was wounded and taken prisoner by recon.

At 152015 H, F Battery fired on an unknown number of VC at (YD 929179). The fire was requested by ARVN, who reported good effect on the target area.

On 16 October, at 1937 H, an ARVN unit under small arms attack requested illumination at (YD 759127). When the illumination arrived, the attackers dispersed.

At 171207 H, the FO with Recon fired on a four man OP at (YD 779 129). The OP was destroyed. At 2040 H, a CAC unit stationed in PHU BAI village requested and received illumination from I Battery.

Between 181920 H and 182040 H, three missions were fired for ARVN. Two were illumination at (YD 900230) and one an HE mission at (YD 908 110). No surveillance was obtained.

On 19 October, at 0700 H, I Battery displaced four guns to (YD 859 118) to support I Co, 3/4 in Operation HEADHUNTER. On the 20th, the battery fired three observed missions to cover the withdrawal of friendly forces. Battery I was back in their primary position at 201300 H.

On the night of 20 October, three illumination missions were fired for ARVN and two for CAC forces.

Capt. D. N. HARMAN was presented a Bronze Star with Combat "V" for meritorious service as Commanding Officer of I Battery on 20 October. General WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV made the award.

Two missions were fired for ARVN on the night of the 21st. Illumination was fired at (YD 840240) and HE at (YD 815125). No surveillance was obtained on either mission.

At 221715 H, the battalion AO fired on three VC in a boat at (YD 831010). The VC dispersed into the jungle, but the boat was sunk.

At 230600 H, I Battery displaced to (YD 859118) in support of Operation NAM HOA 10B, a joint operation employing elements from 3/4 and 1st ARVN Division. At 230830 H, the AO requested fire on a platoon of VC at (YD 779085). The VC dispersed before fire could be brought to bear on them.

At 240050 H, CAC requested illumination while engaged in a fire fight at (YD 911104). The area was well illuminated.

ENCLOSURE (3)

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On 25 October at 0700 H, the Howtar Battery was helilifted to (YD 898077) to fire on suspected VC positions in the southwestern part of the TAOR. An OP group established on Hill 108 (YD 872077) observed the firing. The battery was back in its primary position at 251550 H.

At 252200 H, all weapons within range (6 109's and 6 towed 155mm Howitzers) fired on two VC battalions reported by ARVN vic. (YD 7906). The fires were unobserved, but on the next day, the AO reported the area appeared to be well covered.

At 270045 H, illumination was fired for ARVN at (YD 897236).

On the 27th, Capt. D. ^N HARMAN was awarded the RVN Cross of Gallantry at the 12th ARVN Artillery Bn. Headquarters by the 1st ARVN Division Chief of Staff. At 0600 H, I and M Batteries fired a TOT on a suspected VC campsite at (YD 908092).

At 270845 H, the AO fired a destruction mission on a camouflaged boat at (YD 788092). The boat was destroyed.

On 29 October, I Battery displaced four guns to (YD 859118) in support of Operation RAWHIDE. The operation, in NGUYET BIEU village (YD 7813) did not establish contact and the guns were back in position at (YD 821122).

Following a direct and assault fire training exercise on 28 October, Battery M displaced 4 M109's to YD 821122 on 30 October. From the forward position the battery conducted direct fire and assault fire on Hill 153. The target is a frequently used VC OP and is known to be heavily infested with Booby traps and Punji stakes. Additional events of 30 October included an unobserved TOT at 0530 H on YD 807069, and an illumination mission at YD 890240 for ARVN at 2120 H.

On 31 October all batteries of the battalion engaged in small arms and crew served weapons training on the DONG DA firing ranges.

During the entire month, the Civic Action Team was busy, especially in PHU LUONG village, which houses refugee families, and the KIM LUONG Orphanage in HUE. 902 medical patients were treated during the month; and 400 lbs. of rice, 50 lbs. of salt, 3200 lbs. of Bulgar Wheat, 1400 lbs. of cornmeal, 22 gal. of cooking oil, and 7 cans of condensed milk were distributed.

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ENCLOSURE (3)

BATTERY "L"
 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
 3d Marine Division
 FPO San Francisco, 96601

DFT/dlw
 5700
 4 November 1965

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marine Regiment (Attn: S-3)
 Via: Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion

Subj: Command Chronology

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

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), the following report is submitted:

A. Organizational data, including attachments:

(1) Battery "L" 4th Battalion, 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division located at coordinates:

(a) Base Camp:	983748
(b) 1st Platoon:	964711 1-80ct65 934665 9-240ct65 968717 25-310ct65
(c) 2nd Platoon	968717
(d) 3rd Platoon	923792 1-190ct65 901820 20-310ct65

(2) Period covered from 1 October through 31 October 1965.

(3) Captain Daniel F. TRENSKI, Commanding Officer
 First Lieutenant David C. HENRY, Executive Officer
 First Lieutenant Rodney P. KEMPF, Fire Direction Officer
 First Lieutenant Phillip C. LACEY, Forward Observer/Liaison Officer
 First Sergeant Harold E. HUEY
 Gunnery Sergeant Leland D. CRAWFORD

(4) Average strength for period covered: 120 Officers and Enlisted.

Strong & 7/12

Oct 1965

B. Sequential listing of significant events, especially as they relate to:

(1) Personnel: Two (2) men were medically evacuated and thirteen (13) men enjoyed the privilege of R&R during the period covered.

(2) Administration: Inspection of this unit's administration section was conducted by the S-1 of the 12th Marine Regiment on 25 October.

(3) Intelligence: None.

(4) Training:

(a) Fire direction training on procedures, metro and velocity error computation, and high burst registrations and drill on the 6400 mil chart was conducted. (34 hours)

(b) Communications personnel were schooled on the operations of a switchboard and the receiving and transmitting of fire missions over both wire and radio. (8 hours)

(c) Howitzer sections chiefs were schooled on the use of the aiming circle and duties of the Executive Officer. (2 hours)

(d) Direct fire, FFEEX, incorporating boresighting of the direct fire sight and range estimation was conducted for two howitzer sections. (1 hour)

(e) A safety class, on the use of small arms and the handling of munitions was conducted for all battery personnel. (1 hour)

(f) Gun drill and schooling on the proper use of alternate aiming points was conducted by the Executive Officer and the Gunnery Sergeant.

(5) Special Operations: None.

(6) Nuclear, biological, chemical, and other special types of warfare: None.

(7) Command and control: Problems were experienced in this area due to the method of this unit's employment.

(8) Communications - Electronics: The amount of communications equipment on deadline is increasing do to the lack of 3d echelon spare parts.

(9) Close Combat: None.

(10) Fire support and fire support coordination: See summary of operations.

(11) Logistics: None.

(12) Air Defense: A class on the employment of the .50 caliber machine gun in the air defense role was conducted. (1 hour)

(13) Combat Air Support: None.

(14) Medical and Dental support: Routine.

(15) Chaplain support: Routine.

(16) Civil Affairs/Military Government/Community Relations: During this period 22 Vietnamese civilians were treated by this unit's Corpomen.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY

1-8 Oct 65 1st Platoon (2 Howitzers) occupied coordinates 964711

42 H&I	125 HE
2 HB	18 HE
1 FFE	12 HE

9-24 Oct 65 1st Platoon occupied coordinates 934665

274 H&I	697 HE	
2 HB	18 HE	
9 FFE	62 HE	9 WP
5 TOT	24 HE	10 WP
1 PREP	42 HE	
1 WA	4 HE	7 WP

1-24 Oct 65 2nd Platoon occupied coordinates 968717

92 H&I	241 HE
2 HB	33 HE
5 TOT	34 HE
9 FFE	81 HE

25-31 Oct 65 1st and 2nd Platoons jointly occupied coordinates 968717

12 H&I	24 HE	
2 HB	23 HE	
1 PREP	60 HE	1 WP
5 TOT	157 HE	
3 FFE	100 HE	
1 WA	4 HE	

1-19 Oct 65 3d Platoon occupied coordinates 923792

246 H&I	570 HE	
3 HB	21 HE	
1 FFE	2 HE	
8 WA	66 HE	10 WP

20-31 Oct 65 3d Platoon occupied coordinates 901820

118 H&I	354 HE	26 WP
2 HB	28 HE	
2 FFE	20 HE	
5 WA	56 HE	20 WP

D. F. Trenski
D. F. TRENSKI

1:EOS:dm
5700
5 Nov 1965

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines
To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines

1. Forwarded.

E. O. Speckart
E. O. SPECKART