

SECRET

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

3/JMG/jrp
24 Feb 1966
0037-66

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment
Subj: Command Chronology Report for period 17 December 1965 to
22 February 1966

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2
(b) DivBul 5750 of 4 December 1965
(c) CG 1st MarDiv (Rein)(Rear) 172006Z December 1965
(d) CG 1st MarDiv (Rein) (Rear) 302357Z December 1965
(e) Embarkation Team Commander USS BEXAR (APA-237)
111900Z
(f) Embarkation Team Commander ALFA 110700Z January 1966
(g) USS BELLE GROVE 1480358Z January 1966
(h) CINCPACFL 180547Z (NOTAL)
(i) COMPHIBPAC 182117Z (NOTAL)
(j) CGFMFPAC 212011Z December 1965
(k) CGFMFPAC 190257Z January 1966

2/5

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) enclosure (1) is forwarded.
2. The last chronological report submitted covered the period through 31 December 1965. However, in view of the deployment of this Battalion during this period, the command chronology report will cover the operations of this organization from 17 December 1965 to 22 February 1966.

5TH MAR S&C FILES

0028-66
COPY NO. 1 OF 3

Robert H. Uskurait
ROBERT H. USKURAIT

SECRET

2nd BN 5th MAR
SLG # 0037-66
COPY 1 OF 5

17 Dec 65 - 22 Feb 66

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

ORGANIZATIONAL DATAI. LOCATION

1. Camp Margarita, MCB, Camp Pendleton, California, 17 December 1965 through 8 January 1966.
2. Aboard USS BEXAR (APA-237), USS MATHEWS (AKA-96), and USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2) 9 January 1966 through 2 February 1966.
3. Camp Schwab, Okinawa, 2 February 1966 through 22 February 1966.

II. PERIOD COVERED BY SPECIAL REPORT

17 December 1965 to 22 February 1966.

III. BATTALION ASSIGNMENTS AS OF 22 FEBRUARY 1966.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. CO | Lieutenant Colonel R.H. USKURAIT |
| 2. XO | Major L.W.T. WALLER II |
| 3. S-1 | 1stLt D.R. WEST |
| 4. S-2 | Capt R.L. HEMENEZ |
| 5. S-3 | Major R.A. PAPE |
| 6. S-4 | Capt H.T. WINSTON |
| 7. CO, Company "H&S" | Capt R.D. HUGHES |
| 8. CO, Company "E" | 1stLt D.R. MARCUM |
| 9. CO, Company "F" | Capt R.A. HICKETHIER |
| 10. CO, Company "G" | Capt J.F. O'ROURKE |
| 11. CO, Company "H" | 1stLt J.J. DOHERTY |

ASSIGNMENTS OF ATTACHMENTS FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY 1966 TO 2 FEBRUARY 1966.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Btry "E", 2/11 | Capt F. BUBENHOFFER, JR. |
| 2. 2nd Plt, Company "B", 1st AT Bn | 2ndLt W.D. WEBSTER |
| 1 | ENCLOSURE (1) |

3. 2nd Plt, Company "B", 1st Recon Bn 2ndLt G.W. JONES
4. 2nd Plt, Company "B", 1st Engineer 1stLt A.J. LECRONE
Bn
5. 2nd Landing Support Plt, Company "B", 2ndLt F. ROSENBERG
1st SP Bn
6. 2nd Plt, Company "B", 7th MT Bn 1stLt A.J. BOCCUTI
7. 2nd COLL & CL SEC (REIN), Company "B",
1st MED Bn
8. DET, 1st FSR

COMMANDERS NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The Second Battalion, Fifth Marines was reactivated on 8 August 1965 at Camp Pendleton, California, after a WESTPAC deployment which included duty in Viet Nam as Third Battalion, Ninth Marines. On 17 December 1965 reference (c), designated 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines a BATTALION LANDING TEAM for planning purposes. Preparation for deployment by the Battalion and attachments commenced prior to this date. Reference (d), activated the BATTALION LANDING TEAM on 1 January 1966.

2. The following are the major problem areas encountered from 17 December 1965 until embarkation on 9 January 1966.

A. S-1. The organization was below fifty percent deployable strength on 17 December 1965. During the period of 20 December 1965 to 8 January 1966, the Battalion joined 534 enlisted Marines and percentage wise, our attachments had done similarly. When BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 embarked on 9 January 1966, the manning level and on-board strength was as follows:

UNIT	MANNING LEVEL	ON BOARD
2nd Bn (Rein) 5th Marines	1119	1134
Battery "E" (Rein), 2nd Bn	124	124
11 Marines		
2nd Plt (Rein), Company "B",	20	20
1st AT Bn		
2nd Plt (Rein), Company "B",	23	23
1st Recon Bn		
2nd Plt (Rein), Company "B",	46	45
1st Engineer Bn		
2nd Landing Support Plt (Rein)	50	42
Company "B", 1st SP Bn		
2nd Plt (Rein) Company "B"	34	34
7th MT Bn		
2nd COLL & CL SEC (Rein)	8	8
Company "B", 1st MED Bn		
DET, 1st FSR	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>
TOTALS	1440	1446

Upon debarkation and in accordance with reference (d), BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 was deactivated and the attached units were detached to parent units on Okinawa.

B. S-2. Our present S-2 Officer and S-2 Chief were not assigned until 3 January 1966 and 5 January 1966 respectively.

C. S-3. From 19 December 1965 until embarkation on 10 January 1966, training had been limited to MOS training, marksmanship requalification and some field work. Of necessity, on occasion, training took a back seat to materiel and equipment readiness and embarkation.

Training aboard ship was limited to formal instruction and physical training. Formal instruction was accomplished on general military type subjects, Viet Nam orientation, and Landmine Warfare. Training began upon arrival on Okinawa on 2 February 1966, all units are accomplishing field training and field firing. Crew served weapons personnel have completed a one week organizational level school, and the majority of personnel have fired their T/O weapon for battle sights. The first rifle company is undergoing Counterguerrilla Warfare School in the northern training area which is scheduled for all units.

C. S-4. (SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, AND EMBARKATION)

Several items of supplies and individual equipment that were left in WESTPAC by this organization in July 1965 were missing when the Battalion received the warning order. Priorities on requisitions were upgraded by messages since they had been on order since August 1965. Priorities generated by the warning order released many of these items, but this organization was still short some items of 782 gear upon embarkation. The BATTALION LANDING TEAM had 93% of its operating stocks and 98% of its mount out. All shortages were non-essential combat equipment items. They were: Sniperscope Batteries, Suspender Straps, Tent Pins, Bayonet Scabbards, and Mess Pans. A PU-348 generator previously invoiced to REGIMENTAL LANDING TEAM-1 was replaced with a PU-239. Nineteen new M-416-B-1 trailers were received by this organization. However, due to the fact that no spare parts were available for the new trailers, both the M-416-B-1 and M-100 trailers were embarked. An additional 30 days operating stock was ordered. Eighty percent of these requisitions were filled prior to embarkation.

The following mount-out blocks were ordered, embarked, and in some cases packed, which were not previously held by this organization. These were:

- (1). 30 day class I
- (2). 30 day 1st through 3rd echelon class II spares
- (3). 30 day dry cells
- (4). 4 day class III
- (5). 30 day class IV
- (6). 30 day class V

At the time the Battalion received the warning order, the embarkation Officer was on leave. Several minor difficulties were encountered during the embarkation planning due to lack of experience of the embarkation team and the relatively short notice given. As directed by the warning order, the ships were combat loaded. This presented numerous embarkation problems, as the exact cargo load was not known early in the planning stages, and was changed several times after loading plans were completed. These changes were due to the fact that supplies back ordered for this organization were still arriving at Camp Pendleton as late as 7 January 1966. Cargo ordered for other 1st Marine Division units was ordered loaded on a space available basis, thereby complicating embarkation procedures.

The BATTALION LANDING TEAM S-4 Officer and S-4 chief were left behind to secure the camp and upon completion, flew to Okinawa to make arrangements for our debarkation there. References (e), (f), and (g) were sailing reports from the USS BEXAR (APA-237, USS MATHEWS (AKA-96) and USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2) respectively. These

messages indicate the distribution of material, vehicles, and personnel throughout the ships. It should be noted that Company "H&S", 3rd Amtrac Battalion was not attached to the BATTALION LANDING TEAM but was embarked aboard the LSD for transportation purposes only.

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

17 December 1965 - Reference (c) activated BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 for planning purposes.

18 December 1965 - Reference (h) directed the deployment of BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 from CONUS to WESTPAC in shipping designated by COMPHIBPAC.

18 December 1965 - Reference (i) designated the shipping required for execution of movement of BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 from CONUS to WESTPAC. The ships designated were the USS BEXAR (APA-237), USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2), and USS MATHEWS (AKA-96).

20 December 1965 - LTCOL R.H. USKURAIT relieved Major L.W.T. WALLER II as Commanding Officer of Second Battalion, Fifth Marines. Major WALLER assumed the duties as Battalion Executive Officer replacing Major R.A. PAPE who assumed the duties of S-3 Officer.

21 December 1965 - Reference (j) issued the deployment orders for BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 from CONUS to WESTPAC.

30 December 1965 - Reference (k) directed BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 to be activated as of ~~010001U~~ 010001U January 1966.

6 January 1966 - The REGIMENTAL LANDING TEAM-5 advance party departed CONUS via air transportation for WESTPAC.

BATTALION LANDING TEAM members on this party were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Major R.A. PAPE | Battalion S-3 Officer |
| 2. 1stLt W.E. SMITH | Battalion Motor Transport Officer |
| 3. SSgt J.D. WYZSMIRSKI | Property NCO |
| 4. Corporal H.K. NOE | S-1 Clerk |

7 January 1966 - BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 commenced loading of cargo at Long Beach California, for movement to WESTPAC.

8 January 1966 - Loading of cargo completed

9 January 1966 - Troops of BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 embarked on ships.

10 January 1966 - Ships sailed from pier "E" at Long Beach, California bound for Okinawa via Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 came under operational control of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

18 January 1966 - BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

20 January 1966 - BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, bound for Okinawa.

2 February 1966 - BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/5 arrived in Okinawa.

Attached units aboard the USS BEXAR were detached to parent units at Okinawa. Second Battalion Fifth Marines came under operational and administrative control of First Marine Division (Rein).

4 February 1966 - USS MATHEWS (AKA-96) and USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2) arrived in Okinawa. Attached units aboard these ships were detached to parent units.

5 February 1966 - Second Battalion Fifth Marines came under operational and administrative control of Fifth Marines.