Over the summer, two Rockefeller MPA students (Jeff Blauvelt and Katelyn Bracht) used the funding provided by the RCIF to read through United States Marine Corps Command Chronologies from Iraq and code key variables. This was an extension of work begun on the Know Thyself (KTS) grant funded by the Office of Naval research that was suspended in November 2009 due to budget cuts.

Command chronologies are the primary means by which USMC battalion commanders officially record and report their activities. The Iraq 2003-2007 command chronologies were gathered from Quantico during the KTS project, and reflect all of the publically available and unclassified data provided by USMC commanders in the field. While these are the official record of activity, there is no fully standardized method for the report, so a large variation in types of information and level of detail exist.

Information was coded on the battalion level on a monthly time slice basis, with approximately 40 variables being collected. Examples of these variables include:

- Forward operating base and tactical area of responsibility locations
- Counts of incoming and outgoing direct and indirect fire incidents
- USMC, Iraqi Security Forces, enemy, and civilian fatalities
- Counts of IED incidents, successful or unsuccessful
- Counts of operations such as raids, cordon and knock, and search and clear
- Details of civilian affairs projects

Based on this preliminary run before having a chance to clean the data, it appears there is about a 30% data density on our variables at the monthly level. With some data cleaning and accounting for time that was spent stateside for which data on our variables would not be present, we have no doubt that this number will rise. Although the RCIF funding is expended for coding efforts, PVC investigators plan on cleaning and analyzing this data in hopes of applying for future grants to continue this work. Future expansions could include looking at other theaters, such as Afghanistan, or other military branches, such as the Army.