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P. B. V. [Signature] 3/10/77
Signature/Date

*1st Marine Div
Command Chronology*

*1st Marine Div
1966*

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

HEADQUARTERS
1st Engineer Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California, 96602

3:DWH:wet
5700
Ser: 018-66
28 Feb 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2

Encl: (1) Command Chronology Report

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. This letter is unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

J. R. Aichele
J. R. AICHELE

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ENCLOSURE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*1st
Change
File "A" Chronology
Sub 1, 1966*

Item - 28000-1966

CONFIDENTIAL
 1st Engineer Battalion (-)
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 c/o FPO San Francisco, California, 96602

Headquarters & Service Company (-)

Support Company (-)

"B" Company (-) ("B" Company HQ's plus 2nd Plt.)

Camp Hansen, Okinawa

DISPOSITION OF DETACHED UNITS:

"A" Company. to 1st Marines

1st Plt. "B" Company to 1/5

3rd Plt. "B" Company to 3/5

"C" Company to RLT 7

PERIOD COVERED: 1 Jan 1966 to 28 Feb 1966 inclusive

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| Commanding Officer | LtCol | J. R. AICHELE |
| Executive Officer | Maj | F. P. KUNKLE |
| Sergeant Major (Acting) | MSgt | M. L. MORGAN |
| Adjutant | 2ndLt | F. H. STRIKER |
| s-2/Legal | Capt | T. P. KILDAY |
| *S-3 | Maj | C. R. GIBSON |
| | Capt | J. T. KOMAR |
| S-4 | Maj | F. P. KUNKLE |
| H&S Co. | 1stLt | R. W. BOLSTER |
| "A" Co. | Capt | D. R. HINES |
| "B" Co. | Capt | J. J. KIRKPATRICK |
| "C" Co. | Capt | W. A. RENNER |
| Spt Co. | Capt | UNCLASSIFIED G. R. MEIBAUM |

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

An Operational Suitability Test TADM 04 was conducted by the Division for this organization on 5 January. Company "A", in support of RLT-1, commenced staging on 8 January for deployment to Vietnam and departed Okinawa 12-13 January. During the entire month of January approximately 1100 students from various Division units attended the Division Demo and Landmine Warfare School conducted by this Battalion. Work on the pre-fabrication and pre-cutting of lumber for Division Command Post structures continued on from December 1965 into the early part of January, and was completed in time to be transported to Vietnam in February. The advance CP construction party from First Engineers departed Okinawa on 26 January enroute to Vietnam via air. The 2nd Platoon "B" Company, 1st Engineers, attached to 2/5 arrived Okinawa from CONUS on 3 February, followed two (2) days later by the "B" Company Headquarters group on 5 February. Simultaneously with the arrival of "B" Company, the Division CP construction party, composed of 1st Engineer personnel and a detachment from 1st Shore Party Battalion, commenced loading at White Beach, and were enroute to Chu Lai on 6 February. Additional engineer personnel, together with cargo totaling approximately 1109 Tons, commenced loading at Naha, Okinawa, on 15 February and departed for Vietnam on 17 February.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

Operational Suitability Test (OST) Task TADM-04:

An Operational Suitability Test (OST) was conducted at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, on 5 January 1966. Headquarters, 1st Engineer Battalion was responsible for emplacement and detonation of the munition as well as security of the area. The Demolition Fire Order was issued to this organization at 041400I January 1966. Instructions received required movement of OST Task TADM-04 in a manner which would parallel that of an amphibious landing and subsequent movement to the emplacement and command sites. At 051401I Jan 1966, OST Task TADM-04 detonated after activation of the radio fire option. As a result of the test, it was determined that the 1st Engineer Battalion is capable of performing its mission in regard to employment of the Tactical Atomic Demolition Munition (TADM). A detailed report on the test was submitted by the Commanding General, First Marine Division, to Commander, First Fleet (See Appendix A).

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Departure of "A" Company, 1st Engineers

On 8 January "A" Company Headquarters, attached to RLT-1, and 3rd Platoon "A" Company, attached to 3/1, commenced staging at White Beach and Naha for eventual deployment to Vietnam. The ships departed Okinawa on 12-13 January (See Appendix A).

Technical Assistance Provided by Demolition and Landmine Warfare School:

During the month of January, the Division Demolition and Landmine Warfare School, conducted by the 1st Engineer Battalion, was heavily committed as evidenced by the fact that approximately 1100 students attended the two (2) day course of instruction. A breakdown of students per unit is as follows:

| <u>Unit</u> | <u>No. of Students</u> |
|---------------------------|--|
| Basic Training Unit (BTU) | 235 |
| HQ's Group 3/1 | 200 |
| I Co. 3/4 | 150 |
| Basic 1300's EngrSptCo. | 10 |
| K Co. 3/4 | 130 |
| EngrPlt 3/4 | 30 |
| Recon Bn | 25 |
| CMC Inspection Team | 15 (2hr. briefing and jungle lane) |
| L Co. 3/4 | 130 |
| M Co. 3/4 | 130 |
| B Co. 3rd Recon Bn | 25 |
| 1stAmtracBn | 40 |
| 1stTankBn | 50 (2hr. class - Field Fortifications) |

Division CP Construction:

The pre-fabrication of the IMHOFF Tank, and the pre-cutting of lumber for the Division CP contonement structures for use in Vietnam, were completed in middle January. An estimated 54,000 board feet of lumber was pre-cut by the construction platoon, 1st Engineers. All the lumber, including the IMHOFF Tank, was banded and then marked for shipment.

Advance Party of Division CP Construction Party Departs:

An advance party consisting of construction personnel,

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draftsmen, and surveyors, from the 1st Engineer Battalion departed by air for Vietnam on 26 January. The advance party was headed by Major C. R. GIBSON, S-3 1st Engineers, who assumed the additional duty of Resident Officer In Charge of Construction (ROINC).

"B" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion arrival from CONUS:

The 2nd Platoon, "B" Company, 1st Engineers arrived with other supporting elements of 2/5 at White Beach on 3 February from CONUS. On 5 February, "B" Company Headquarters, 1st Engineers, arrived from CONUS with RLT-5 Headquarters Group, and was subsequently attached to this organization; however, logistical support of "B" Company remained the responsibility of the 5th Marine Regiment.

Division CP Construction Party Departs:

On 6 February, the Division CP construction party consisting of sixty-eight (68) people from 1st Engineers, and augmented by a detachment of thirty-one (31) people from 1st Shore Party Battalion, departed Okinawa for Chu Lai on the LSD-2 BELLGROVE. Approximately 54,000 board feet of pre-cut lumber was loaded aboard the BELLGROVE also. The party arrived and offloaded at Chu Lai on 11 February.

Additional Engineers Depart for Vietnam:

The loading of approximately 1109 Tons of cargo and equipment, and 227,000 board feet of lumber commenced 15 February at the Naha Port. Four (4) Officers and ninety-five (95) Enlisted boarded the LST's USS HENRY COUNTY 824 and USS ST. CLAIR 1096 bound for Chu Lai to join up with the 1st Engineers presently there. They departed Okinawa on 17 February.

Third Increment of Engineers Departs:

A third increment of 1st Engineers totaling 45 people began staging at Naha on 24 February for movement to Vietnam aboard the USS TERRELL COUNTY, and departed Okinawa for Chu Lai on 28 February 1966.

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REFERENCE LIST

EVENT

Operational Suitability Test TADM-04

Company "A" Departure
CP Construction Party Departure
(Advance Party)

CP Construction Party Departure
(Main Body)
2nd Increment of Engineers Departure
3rd Increment of Engineers Departure

REFERENCE

1stMarDiv Ltr Ser 008-66
dtd 13Jan66
1stMarDiv MSG 060745Z Dec65

1stMarDiv LtrOrd 7/TAD/reo
over 1320 dtd 22Jan66

1stMarDiv MSG 220025Z Jan66
1stMarDiv MSG 200008Z Jan66
1stMarDiv LtrOrd 7/OFF/wwg
over 1320 dtd 26Feb66

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

TAB A. Pre-fabrication and pre-cutting of lumber for CP
Contonement structures - Photos

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5-3

SECTION XII - Company "A", 1st Engr Bn

1. Significant Events.

a. Headquarters of Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion came under OPCON/ADCON of RLT-1 on 3Jan66. It embarked aboard the USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170) at Naha, Okinawa on 12Jan66, and debarked at Chu Lai RVN on 17 and 23Jan66. The 1st and 2nd platoons of "B" Co, 3d Engr Bn were joined on 19Jan66, and Co "A" came under ADCON of 3d Engr Bn on 20Jan66. The 1st platoon moved to the 1st Marine C.P. on 24Jan66 while the 2nd platoon remained physically with "B" Co to take part in Operation Double Eagle.

b. The utilities section machinery operated 274 hours producing 157,320 gallons of potable water and 106,300 gallons of raw water. Entrance roads were built into the C.P.'s of 2/4 and 1st Marines. Heavy equipment was operated 12 hours in support of the 1st Marines.

2. Problems encountered.

a. The platoons from 3d Engr Bn have many outstanding priority 12 requisitions dating back to 26May65. These requisitions are primarily for hand tools necessary to accomplish our assigned missions.

b. This Company has one TD-15 and one TD-18 deadlined leaving no heavy equipment available for support.

c. There is an acute shortage of personnel which will get worse due to a number of personnel rotating in February and March.

Co "A", 1st Engr Bn

Jan 1966

COMPANY "A" (-) (Rein)
 1st Engineer Battalion
 3d Engineer Battalion, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMM
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

DRH:lws
 5213/4
 5Mar66

Command Chronology

1. Organizational Data including attachments:

- a. Designation/Location. At the beginning of the reporting period "A" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion was located at Chu Lai, Vietnam. The Company was composed of the Headquarters and two Engineer Platoons from "B" Company, 3d Engineer Battalion.
- b. Period covered. 1 February to 28 February 1966
- c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and principal subordinates, T/O billet assignments.

CO Capt HINES
 1stPltCmdr 1stLt FELSKE
 2ndPltCmdr 1stLt NICHOLS

- d. Average monthly strength during period.

| | USMC | USN |
|----------|------|-----|
| Officers | 3 | 0 |
| Enlisted | 78 | 1 |

2. Sequential listing of significant events as they relate to:

- a. Personnel. Three enlisted personnel were joined and four were rotated during February.
- b. Administration. Nothing significant.
- c. Intelligence. Nothing significant
- d. Operations and Training. Following is a compilation of principal jobs performed during February:
- (1) Produced 381,500 gallons of potable and 278,000 gallons of raw water with 451 machinery hours.
 - (2) Dug 2 wells.
 - (3) Fabricated 79 pieces of furniture.
 - (4) Replaced one bridge blown by Viet Cong.
 - (5) Installed 4 culverts on Hill 69.
 - (6) Constructed 26 strongbacks and moved 7.

(7) Heavy equipment operated for 75 hours.

(8) Instructed 104 students at Mine School

Enclosure:

(1) Detailed Chronology

D. R. HINES

Detailed Chronology.

17 February - Second platoon returned from Operation Double Eagle. Third platoon arrived in CP, but still joined to H&S Company, 3/1.

18 February - Two squads of third platoon left on Operation Double Eagle phase II.

28 February - Two squads returned from Operation Double Eagle phase II.

ENCLOSURE (1)