

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

5700  
3/JTK/dwh  
2 Apr 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2

Encl: (1) Command Chronology Report

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

*J R Aichele*  
J. R. AICHELE

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Marine Corps History and Museums  
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of GPO ltr Ser 009D323/232095 of  
21 Feb 1979

Signature Date 7/18/92

ENCLOSURE (8)

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

Headquarters & Service Company (-)

Support Company (-)

"A" Company (-) (Rein)

"C" Company (Rein)

Chu-Lai, Viet-Nam

1st Plt "A" Company (-)

Phu Bai, Viet-Nam

DISPOSITION OF DETACHED UNITS

"B" Company (-) (Rein) to 5th RLT

1st Plt (Rein) to 1/5

3rd Plt (Rein) to 3/5

PERIOD COVERED: 1 March 1966 to 31 Mar 1966 inclusive

Commanding Officer	LtCol	J. R. AICHELE
Executive Officer	Maj	F. P. KUNKLE
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj	F. C. HALL
Adjutant/S-1	2ndLt	F. H. STRIKER
S-2/Legal	Capt	T.P. KILDAY
S-3	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	G.R. MEIBAUM
	1	Enclosure (1)

Resident Officer in Charge  
of Construction (Division CP)

Maj

C. R. GIBSON

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The 1st Engineer Battalion (-) embarked aboard the USS COLONIAL LSD-18 for deployment to CHU-LAI, VIET-NAM on 19 Mar 1966. The organization arrived in-country on 23 March and established the 1st Engineer Command Post at coordinates 548012. Actual construction of the Command Post commenced 24 March during continuous unloading of organizational supplies and equipment. On 27 March (0800) a 125 Air Compressor was dispatched to the proximity of the Song An Tan Ferry Crossing near the village of An Tan to inflate rubber rafts for a detachment of 1st Bridge Company. At 1530 on 29 March, Companies "A" & "C" were detached from 1st and 7th Marines respectively and returned to Battalion control. In answer to a commitment received from Division Headquarters at 1130 on 30 March, a detachment from "A" Company, 1st Engineers was deployed to the vicinity north of An Tan Village on Highway #1 to conduct a reconnaissance of road damage inflicted by the VC's. On 31 March at approximately 0900, a detachment from "C" Company, 1st Engineers was dispatched in support of a convoy of aviation tankers headed south to Quang Ngai. Elements of the battalion consisting of Utilities Platoon, Support Company and Construction Platoon, Support Company continued work on erection of the 1st Marine Division Command Post contentionment structures.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

Deployment of 1st Engineer Battalion to Viet-Nam:

This organization commenced loading aboard the USS Colonial (LSD-18) at White Beach, Okinawa, for deployment of the remainder of the battalion to Chu-Lai, Viet-Nam, on 17 Mar 1966. The Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion, was designated as Embarkation Group Commander for the three ships USS Talledega, USS Seminole, and USS Colonial. Loading was completed on 19 Mar 1966, whereupon the element departed Okinawa.

Arrival of Battalion IN-Country:

The battalion (-) arrived at Chu-Lai, Viet-Nam at approximately 1230 hours on 23 Mar and commenced unloading. A Command Post was established at coordinates 548012, which is immediately adjacent to the 7th Mar Regt. Unloading was completed on 25 Mar.

Support of Detachment, 1st Bridge Company:

No significant details. See Narrative Summary.

Reversion to 1st Engineer Battalion Control:

At 1530 on 29 Mar the 1st Engineer letter companies ("A" & "C") were detached from the 1st & 7th Marines respectively, to remain in direct support of the Infantry Regiments.

**An Tan Commitment:**

The Battalion Commander and Company Commander, "A" Company, conducted a reconnaissance along Highway #1 north of An Tan from Coord. 410130 to 388165 to determine requirements for repair of damage done to the highway by VC's, the damage consisted of 17 cuts which were mined. The recon was completed and details given to the Division Engineer G-2 and G-4.

**Quang Ngai Convoy Commitment:**

At approximately 0900 on 31 Mar a detachment consisting of six (6) people from "C" Company with appropriate equipment, was dispatched immediately as a supporting element for a convoy of aviation tankers which were enroute south to Quang Ngai. Due to the immediate nature of the commitment when received, further details are unavailable as of this writing, except to say that security was provided by 2/7.

**Division CP Construction:**

Work on the Division Command Post continued in full swing. Upon receiving word on the date of arrival of Division Headquarters elements, approximately 75 contonements were constructed in 12 days by engineer personnel and were completed in time for their arrival.

**Utilities:**

The Battalion is operating the following water points:

Coord. 545017  
588014  
502036  
539023  
537075 (Shower Only)  
534079  
528086 (Shower Only)  
463072  
565044 (Under Construction)  
519044 (Proposed)

~~SECRET~~REFERENCE LISTEVENT

Battalion Deployment to Viet-Nam  
Reversion to 1st MarDiv Control  
An Tan Commitment  
Quang Ngai Commitment

REFERENCE

260317Z Feb 66  
Msg 290600Z Mar 66  
None  
None

Appendix A

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

DRH:1ws  
 5213/4  
 5Apr66

# Command Chronology

## 1. Organizational Data including attachments:

- a. Designation/Location. During the period covered "A" Company 1st Engineer Battalion was located at Chu Lai, Vietnam. The Company was composed of Headquarters and one platoon of "A" Company and two platoons from "B" Company, 3rd Engineer Battalion.
- b. Period covered. 1 March to 29 March 1966
- c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and principal subordinates T/O billet assignments.

CO	Capt HINES
1stPltCmdr	1stLt FELSKÉ
2ndPltCmdr	1stLt NICHOLS
3rdPltCmdr	1stLt HILL

- d. Average monthly strength during period.

	USMC	USN
Officers	4	0
Enlisted	113	1

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

### a. Personnel.

- (1) 3rd Platoon returned to control of "A" Company 2 Mar66
- (2) Gained 1 Officer and 51 Enlisted and rotated 1 Officer and 7 Enlisted during March
- (3) Four men were wounded in action.

### b. Administration. Nothing significant.

### c. Intelligence. Nothing Significant.

### d. Operations and Training. Following is a compilation of principal jobs performed during March:

- (1) Produced 921,000 gallons of potable water and 618,000 gallons of raw water with 965 machinery hours.
- (2) Erected 36 strongbacks and moved 10.
- (3) Fabricated 57 pieces of furniture.
- (4) Erected 12 bunkers

Co "A", 1st Eng Bn

1-29 Mar 1966

- (5) Dug 2 wells (Incomplete)
- (6) Operated heavy equipment for 148 hours and 216 man hours.
- (7) Three times repaired road blown by VC.
- (8) Constructed one bridge.
- (9) Instructed 162 students in Mine School

Enclosure:

- ✓(1) Detailed Chronology

D. R. HINES

DETAILED CHRONOLOGY

- 2 March - Third Platoon returned ADCON of "A" Company
- 4 March - Two squads of 3rd platoon mounted out on short notice with 3/1 for Operation Utah.
- 5 March - Advised that "A" Company would supply 1 Officer and 15 men for 1st Marines' provisional company.
- 7 March - All personnel returned from Operation Utah.
- 10 March - First Platoon reported to Air Freight with 1/4 for deployment. Did not deploy, and returned to C.P.
- 13 March - Two squads of 1st platoon deployed to Phu Bai with elements of 1/4
- 17 March - Two squads of 2nd platoon deployed in support of 2/4
- 18 March - Second platoon squad returned to C.P.
- 20 March - Four squads deployed on Operation Texas in support of 2/4 and 3/1
- 21 March - Additional squad deployed on Operation Texas in support of 1/4
- 24 March - All personnel returned from Operation Texas
- 28 March - Third Platoon deployed in support of elements of 3/1
- 29 March - Third Platoon returned to C.P.  
Came under OPCON of 1st Engr Bn, 1st Mar Div

ENCLOSURE (1)



"B" COMPANY  
1st Engineer Battalion  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
Fleet Marine Force,  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

JJK:rlg  
5750  
27 May 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) DivO 5750.2  
(c) CO, RLIT-5, msg 132250Z May 1966

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion,  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (ADCON, 5th Marines)

1. In accordance with reference (a) through (c), Command Chronology of Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (ADCON, 5th Marines) for the period 1 March - 27 May is hereby submitted.

2. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to the date and/or time and event occurred are expressed in the local time effective in the time zone in which this organization was then located.

  
J. J. KIRKPATRICK

Co "B", 1st Eng Bn

17-26-27  
17 May 66

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, COMPANY B, 1ST ENGINEER BATTALION1. Organizational Data

a. Designation and Location. Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

b. Period Covered. 1 March 1966 through 27 May 1966.

c. Command and Staff Officers.

(1) CO Captain J. J. KIRKPATRICK

(2) XO 2nd Lieutenant T. M. SHEA

d. Average Monthly Strength. USMC and USN personnel both included in average.

(1) March. 3 Officers/78 enlisted

(2) April. 3 Officers/61 enlisted

(3) May. 2 Officers/37 enlisted

2. Commanders Narrative Summary

a. Organization. On 1 March 1966, Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion consisted of the Company Headquarters and the 2nd platoon. At that time the 1st Platoon was attached to BLT 1/5 and the 3rd platoon to BLT 3/5. The 2nd platoon, commanded by 2nd Lieutenant A. J. LECRONE, was detached to BLT 2/5 on 25 March. The 3rd platoon commanded by 2nd Lieutenant D. M. TOTH, was attached from BLT 3/5 on 27 March and was later detached to BLT 3/5 on 26 April.

b. Personnel and Administration. The 3rd platoon arrived on Okinawa with a shortage of fourteen personnel MOS 1371, Combat Engineer. These shortages were filled from the resources within the Company Headquarters and by twelve (12) personnel provided through the 9th MAB. Both platoons deployed during this period were deployed at full strength including authorized attachments.

c. Intelligence. During the period covered by this report, the Commanding Officer attended intelligence briefings held by the S-2 Officer, 5th Marines. In addition, intelligence summaries and other sources of information concerning Southeast Asia were studied by members of this command in order to provide up-to-date material for use in the Mine Warfare School conducted by this Command as outlined in paragraph 2d.

d. Operations and Training. Major emphasis has been placed on those subjects having a direct application to the present situation in South-east Asia.

(1) Schools. An invaluable source of training during this period has been provided by local schools. All members of this Command have attended the Counterguerrilla Warfare School located in the Northern Training Area; the Landmine Warfare, Demolitions and Booby Trap School conducted by this Command; and the Jungle Land Firex conducted at Camps Hansen and Schwab. Other schools attended by members of this Command were Vietnamese Language School and NCO Leadership School.

(2) Mine Warfare Training. On 10 March, this command assumed responsibility for mine warfare training of all Marines on Okinawa. GySgt PENMAN was designated NCOIC and selected four (4) members of this command to assist him in this training. The facilities formerly occupied by a similar school conducted by the 1st Engineer Battalion were used for the school. During the period 10 March to 11 May approximately 2500 students were administered this training which consisted of the following general subjects:

- (a) U. S. Standard Mines and Fuses
- (b) Foreign Mines and Fuses
- (c) M18A1 Claymore Employment
- (d) Viet Cong Booby Trap Methods of Employment
- (e) U. S. Demolitions Employment

(3) P-153 Mine Detectors. During this period, the 2nd and 3rd platoons were trained and outfitted with the P-153 Mine Detector. All hands considered this a significant improvement over the AN/PRS-3 Mine Detector, in ease of maintenance and operation.

(4) Strongback Tents. During the first three weeks in March, the 2nd platoon precut 396 strongbacks for use in the Republic of Vietnam. This operation required over 6000 man-hours from that fourth man platoon.

(5) GMST and MOS Training. In addition to that training outlined above, general military subject training and technical MOS training were conducted to the maximum extent possible with current commitments.

(6) Shipboard Training. Shipboard training for personnel of the Company Headquarters enroute from Okinawa to Vietnam consisted of the following subjects: Physical Training ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr daily); Security of Military Information (1 hr); M-60 Machinegun (1 hr); Area Orientation of RVN consisting of VD, Monetary Regulations, Uniform Regulations, Leave and Liberty, Religious Beliefs, Relations with Civilians (2 hrs); Map Reading (2 hrs); Tactical Training of the Individual (3 hrs); .45 Caliber Pistol (1 hr); Mine Warfare (2 hrs); First Aid (1 hr); and Communication and Fire Control Procedures (1 hr).

(7) Exercises. The Company Headquarters participated in an RLIT-5 CPX/FEX conducted 22-25 March. The 2nd and 3rd platoons participated in predeployment exercises conducted by their respective BLT.

e. Special Operations. None

f. NBC or other special types of warfare. None

g. Command and Control. This Company came under the administrative and operational control of the 5th Marines on 1 March.

h. Close Combat. None

i. Fire Support. None

j. Logistics. Supply support during this period has been received from Headquarters Company, 5th Marines. The primary emphasis has been placed on preparation for deployment to RVN.

k. Air Defense. None

l. Combat Air Support. None

m. Medical and Dental. None

### 3. Chronology of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1 March 1966	Company B (-)(Rein), 1st Engineer Battalion came under the administrative and operational control of the 5th Marines. This control had been exercised by the 1st Engineer Battalion since 5 February 1966 although supply support had continuously been received from Headquarters Company, 5th Marines. This Company then consisted of the Company Headquarters and the 2nd Platoon.
	Co B (-)(Rein), 1st EngrBn
	Co B (-)
	Det H&S Co
	Det Support Co
10 March 1966	Assumed responsibility for conduct of land mine

warfare, demolitions and booby trap training of on-island units.

25 March 1966	2nd platoon detached to BLT 2/5. Platoon Commander 2nd Lt A. J. LECRONE.
27 March 1966	3rd Platoon attached from BLT 3/5. Platoon Leader 2nd Lt D. M. TOTH
26 April 1966	3rd Platoon detached to BLT 3/5.
23 May 1966	Company B, 1st Engr Bn sailed from Tengan Pier, Okinawa aboard the USS Winston, AKA-94
27 May 1966	Company B, 1st Engr Bn arrived and disembarked at Chu Lai, RVN.