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

3:RP:mz
5750
5 November 1966

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

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, 1st Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, with Appendices A and B

1. The command chronology of the 1st Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, for the month of October 1966, appended hereto as enclosure (1) is hereby submitted in accordance with reference (a).

C. O. Newton
C. O. NEWTON

1st Engr. Bn.

Oct 1966

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. Organizational Data.

a. First Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

b. Location.

(1) Headquarters and Service Company (-), Chu Lai

(2) Support Company (-), Chu Lai

(3) Company "A" (Rein), Da Nang

(4) Company "B" (-), Chu Lai

(5) Second Platoon, Company "B", Da Nang

(6) Company "C", Chu Lai

c. Period covered. 1 October to 31 October 1966

d. Command and Staff Officers

Commanding Officer	Maj	C. O. NEWTON
Executive Officer	Maj	J. C. FLOYD
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj	N. G. MILLS
S-1/Adjutant	2ndLt	F. H. STRIKER
S-2/S-5/Legal Officer	1stLt	A. OSBOURNE
S-3	Maj	R. PETROFF
S-4	Capt	J. J. KIRKPATRICK
H & S Company/Supply Officer	Capt	T. E. BYRNE
Support Company	Capt 1stLt	R. W. BOLSTER (1-7) W. J. GLEESON (8-31)
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt	H. E. ITCHKAWITCH
Company "B"	Capt	R. W. FALKENBACH
Company "C"	Capt	H. L. LUTTRELL

Enclosure (1)

e. Average strength

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
27	530	1	8

2. Commander's Narrative Summary.

a. The First Engineer Battalion (-) was in general support of the First Marine Division during the period 1-9 October. Subsequent to displacement of the division headquarters to Da Nang and on 10 October 1966, "A" Company became OPCON the First Marine Division, and the Battalion (-) became OPCON to the newly formed Task Force X-Ray. On 12 October, the first platoon of "B" Company joined "A" Company at Da Nang and became OPCON the First Marine Division. Units of the Battalion (-) participated in three (3) operations, TETON, LEE, and DOVER. It also conducted a nineteen (19) kilometer one (1) day sweep of Highway One to support a movement of Army 175mm self-propelled guns. The Battalion (-) swept a total of 545 kilometers of roads in the Fifth and Seventh Marine Regiments' TAORS. "A" Company swept a total of 57 kilometers of roads in the First Marine Regiment TAOR. Heavy rain during most of the month permitted only 150 meters of new road construction and required a maximum effort on existing roads, bridges, and bypasses. 3,527 meters of roads and eighty (80) meters of bridges were rehabilitated. Road rehabilitation and construction included installation of 1,274 linear feet of 36" corrugated sheet steel culvert, placement of 3,095 cubic yards of earth fill and 140 cubic yards of quarried rock and 2,500 sand bags. Bridge rehabilitation included redecking, recribbing of intermediate supports and reinforcing and/or replacing members in steel trusses. One (1) timber footbridge six (6) feet wide and 308 feet long was constructed at BS559603 as a civic action project for G-5. One (1) twenty (20) foot by fourteen (14) foot class twenty (20) timber bridge was constructed in the 3/11 CP area. A ninety (90) foot by ninety (90) foot section of the Battalion helicopter landing pad was stabilized with 8% soil cement. The construction platoon constructed two (2) twenty (20) foot by forty (40) foot standard buildings and sixteen (16) work tables for the Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolition School, and sixteen (16) hot lockers for the Division CP. "A" Company constructed a nine (9) foot by twenty (20) foot by nine (9) foot command bunker and a twelve (12) foot by twelve (12) foot by twenty (20) foot water tower platform for the First Marine Regiment and completed fifty (50) per cent of a 200 meter rifle range for the Third Engineer Battalion. Also, "A" Company personnel expended a total of 3,540 man hours as security watches in the Third Engineer Battalion area. During this period, the First Engineer Battalion (-) issued 1,284,600 gallons of potable water and 1,113,900 gallons of shower water. The Division Demolition and Land Mine Warfare School trained 316 Marines during the month of October. Also, six (6) LVTE1 projected line charges were fired in the Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment TAOR.

3. Detailed Description of Significant Events.

a. Personnel

(1) Strength. Five (5) officers and eighty-one (81) enlisted men were dropped and/or rotated to CONUS, and one (1) officer and fifty-one (51) enlisted were joined during the month.

(2) Casualties. The Battalion sustained a total of four (4) WIA's for this period.

b. Intelligence.

(1) Road and Bridge Reconnaissance. Continuous reconnaissance of all roads and bridges within and outside the 7th Marine Regiment TAOR, bounded on the north by BT542024 and on the south by BS642746.

(2) Enemy Ordnance. A total of six (6) enemy mines and/or booby traps were located and destroyed during the month. Three (3) of the six (6) were located on routine sweeps and three (3) were located during the conduct of operations.

c. Training.

(1) Newly joined, unqualified personnel became completely involved in on-the-job training.

(2) Four (4) men completed a four (4) day school on multi-fuel engines.

(3) Thirty-five (35) men attended Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolition School.

d. Special Operations.

(1) Operation TETON. One (1) squad from "A" Company was in direct support of the Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment. TETON was primarily a search and destroy type operation in the Marble Mountain area, engineer effort was almost exclusively devoted to cave and tunnel destruction.

(2) Operation LEE. The Third Platoon of Company "B" was in direct support of the First Battalion, Second Brigade, Korean Marine Corps. Engineer efforts were primarily concerned with mine and booby trap detection and clearance. See Appendix B.

(3) Operation DOVER. The Third Platoon of "B" Company minus one (1) squad was in direct support of the First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment minus one (1) company. Engineer effort was primarily concerned with mine and booby trap destruction.

(4) LVTE1 Projected Line Charge. A total of six (6) LVTE1 projected line charges were fired in the Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment

e. Water Supply. During this reporting period the Battalion (-) operated seven (7) water point/shower points and two (2) shower points in the Chu Lai area. 1,284,600 gallons of potable water and 1,113,900 gallons of shower water were produced.

f. Road and Bridge Construction. The Battalion (-) constructed 150 meters of new military road in the Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment TAOR. 3,527 meters of roads and eighty (80) meters of bridges were rehabilitated. Road rehabilitation and construction included installation of 1,274 linear feet of corrugated sheet steel culvert, placement of 3,095 cubic yards of earth fill and 140 cubic yards of quarried rock and 2,500 sand bags. Bridge rehabilitation included redecking, recribbing of intermediate support , and reinforcing and/or replacing members in steel trusses. A timber footbridge six (6) feet wide and 308 feet long was constructed at BS 559603 as a civic action project for G-5. A twenty (20) foot by fourteen (14) foot class (20) timber bridge was constructed in the 3/11 CP area, and a eighteen (18) by fourteen (14) foot class sixty (60) timber bridge was constructed on highway 1 at BS 577965, a site where the enemy had destroyed one (1) large arch-type concrete culvert. See Appendix B.

g. Civil Affairs/Civic Action. 357 people from the village of Dong Binh (1) (BT 571993) and Dong Binh (2) (BT 564002) were provided medical aid. Materials were provided for construction of a school at the village of phuoc An (BT 572015).

REFERENCE LIST

EVENT	REFERENCE
Operation LEE	Company "B" AA Rpt of 22Oct66
Operation DOVER	Company "B" AA Rpt of 2Nov66

Appendix A

"B" COMPANY
1st Engineers Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

22 Oct 1966

From: Third Platoon, Company "B", First Engineer Battalion
To: Commanding Officer First Engineer Battalion
Via: Commanding Officer, Company "B", First Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) Map of Quang Ngai, Sheet 6739 II, series L7014

1. Code Name. Operation Lee

2. Dates of Operation. 0308000ct66 to 1313000ct66.

3. Location. Quan Binh Son Province, Quang Ngai area

4. Control or Command Headquarters.
a. Second Republic of Korea Marine Brigade - General LEE, Commanding Officer
b. First Battalion, Second Republic of Korea Marine Brigade - Lieutenant ~~General~~ COLONEL VOH, Battalion Commander

5. Task Organization. Of the Engineers in support was made-up of four (4) teams and a headquarters section. The assignments were as follows;

Sweep Team	Headquarter Section
Team leader/ demolition man	One (1) Engineer Officer
Mine detector Operators two (2)	One (1) Radio Operator
Radio Operator	

6. Supporting Forces. None

7. Intelligence. Prior to commencement of the operation a briefing was given to all the supporting units by the Battalion Commander. In this briefing it was shown that the area of operation had been previously known to have an abundance of booby-traps, panji pits, and underground caves.

The weather outlook for the operation was for daily showers, characteristic of the monsoon season currently in effect.

8. Mission. To provide combat engineer support for Republic of Korea Marine Corps units for Operation Lee, with a reinforced mine detection capability.

9. Concept of Operation. The four (4) Engineer teams were to be detached in two (2) team sections to each of the (2) primary Republic of Korea Marine Corp maneuver companies.

10. Execution. The initial warning order for the Operation was received at 0214000ct66. The Engineer unit was to travel to the Republic of Korea Marine Corp Brigade Command Post for assignment by 030900H. At 030800H the unit departed the Engineer Command Post and arrived as scheduled; immediate detachment was made, and the unit proceeded to the First Battalion (Rear) position for transportation to their assigned companies and the Battalion Command Post. The Engineer assignment were complete by 031700H.

The Operation commenced at 040600H, with the movement of the First (Teams 1&3) and Third (Teams 2&4) Companies on foot in a Searching and Clearing action, and the Battalion Command Post being helolifted to its position at BS 783861.

On the first three days there was no engineer activity and the unit deployment was as follows:

DATE	POSITION		
	1st Company	3rd Company	Battalion Command Post
4 Oct 66	BS 773857	BS 766356	BS 783861
5 Oct 66	- do -	- do -	- do -
6 Oct 66	BS 772844	BS 780842	- do -
7 Oct 66	- do -	- do -	- do -

On the fourth day (7 Oct 66) the First Company's Engineer Teams (#1&3) uncovered fifteen panji traps which were newly camouflaged, and found two (2) Chicom grenade booby-traps. Those obstacles were found in a small hamlet located from BS 774850 to BS 771845. All the pits were uncovered and filled-in and the two (2) grenades were destroyed.

The Operation continued and no more obstacles were found until 11 October 1966. Movement to and including that date was as follows:

8 Oct 66	BS 767832	Bs 780833	BS 783861
9 Oct 66	- do -	- do -	- do -
10Oct 66	BS 772844	BS 780842	- do -
11Oct 66	BS 746873	BS 744874	BS 745873

On 11 October the Engineer units with the First Company (Team #1) (Teams #2&4 were detached at 100800H to escort attached tracked vehicles to their Chu Lai Command Post) discovered thirty (30) panji pits and six (6) Chicom grenade Booby-traps. All the panji pits were filled in, and all the grenades were destroyed. Also, on this date two members of Team #3 made three (3) VC KIA's.

Simultaneously with the Republic of Korea Marine Battalion movement on this day, the teams attached to the tracked vehicle movement discovered two (2) Chicom grenade booby-traps which were destroyed in place. (co-ordinates BS 662864). Additionally, another booby-trap (presumably a Chicom grenade was detonated by a tank, which inflicted a slight flesh wound to one (1) of the attached Engineer personnel.

On the last two (2) days of the Operation, there was no engineer activity, and the events occurred as follows;

12 Oct 66	BS 673873	BS 688870	BS 700873
13 Oct 66	BS [illegible]68	BS 675818	BS 630850
	to	to	to
	EngrBnCP	EngrBnCP	EngrBnCP

Throughout the Operation, communications could be classified as minimal at most. As reception was very poor and any message traffic required a great deal of time to pass (ie. one (1), two (2) page message required forty-five minutes to pass). Also a relay between Duck Bill and our station was not put into effect until two days prior to the termination of the Operation.

11. Results. No Engineer equipment was lost. Demolitions expended: 40# C-4, 18# TNT. No VC equipment was captured. One (1) Engineer was WIA (Minor Wound), and one (1) was evacuated from the area due to illness.

12. Administration.

Supply- The basic load carried consisted of eight (8) P-153 Mine detectors, five (5) PRC-25 Radios, and 40# of Demolitions. Four (4) detectors were sufficient for the Operation.

Communications- The equipment provided was just adequate for the needs. A relay between the field position and the Engineer Command post was required.

13. Speical Equipment. No special equipment was utilized.

14. Commanders Analysis. The use of the Engineer Unit by the Republic of Korea Marine Corp command was outstanding. Never was the team integrity broken throughout the Operation. Textbook recommendations on employment were followed to the letter.

15. Recommendations. That one (1) mine detector be utilized for each four (4) or five (5) men sweep team.

D. M. TOTH

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

2 Nov 1966

From: Platoon Commander, Third Platoon
To: Commanding Officer, First Battalion, Fifth Marines
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Company "B", First Engineer Battalion
(2) Commanding Officer, First Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) Map: Vietnam, 1:50,000, L7014 series Sheet number 6640 III, 6639 I, 6739 IV, 6739 I

1. Code Name and Type of Operation. Operation Dover, Battalion (-) (Rein) search and clear operation.

2. Dates of Operation. a. First phase- 18 0600H Oct 66 to 20 2000H Oct 66
b. Second & Third phase- 26 0600H Oct 66 to 29 2100H Oct 66

3. Location. Quan Tam Ky, Suoi Cau Chua and Suoi Gaina River Valleys.

4. Control or Command Headquarters.
a. Commanding Officer, First Battalion, Fifth Marines- Lieutenant Colonel WATSON
b. Commanding Officer Company "B", First Battalion, Fifth Marines- Captain SULLIVAN
c. Commanding Officer Company "D", First Battalion, Fifth Marines- Captain CARTY

5. Task Organization.
a. Platoon Headquarters consisting of one (1) officer and one (1) radio operator with First Battalion, Fifth Marines Command Post.
b. Second squad consisting of one (1) squad leader and six (6) enlisted with Company "B", First Battalion, Fifth Marines.
c. Third squad consisting of one (1) squad leader and six (6) enlisted with Company "D", First Battalion, Fifth Marines.

6. Supporting Forces. Non applicable

7. Intelligince. In the intelligince briefing given prior to the start of the operation it was estimated that there was two (2) enemy companies in the area of operation. It was also reported that there was a strong likelyhood of enemy booby traps in the area. During the operation there was little contact except occasional sniper fire. One (1) booby-trap (Chicom grenade) was found.

Tab (12) to Appendix A to Enclosure (1)
to 1st MarDiv ltr 00263-66

8. Mission. To provide combat engineer support to the First Battalion, Fifth Marines during Operation Dover.

9. Concept of Operation. Two (2) engineer squads to be attached to two (2) rifle companies in a three phase search and clear operation.

10. Execution.

a. 17 October 1966- Waring order received by Company "B", First Engineer Battalion that a search and clear operation conducted by the First Battalion, Fifth Marines would be conducted in several phases commencing 19 October 1966. One (1) engineer squad would be required for the first phase of the operation and another for any subsequent phase.

b. 19 October 1966- Commencement of phase one of operation- no significant engineer activity.

c. 20 October 1966- No significant engineer activity- completion of phase one

d. 25 October 1966- Commencement of phase two of operation. Unit helilifted to landing zone Sparrow (coordinotes BT 328113). Engineer units found and destroyed one (1) 155 mm round at coordinates BT 318125 and burned one hundred pounds of rice at coordinates BT 323122.

e. 27 October 1966- Engineer personnel destroyed one (1) dud M-79 round at coordinates BT 305114 and one (1) WP grenade at coordinates BT 304150

f. 28 October 1966- Engineer personnal destroyed one (1) dud 155 mm round and two (2) M72 LAAW's at coordinates BT 307149. One (1) booby-trapped V C Chicom stick type grenade located and disarmed at coordinates BT 305150. Phase three commenced with a helilift to original landing zone Sparrow at 28 1200H Oct 66. The unit then moved in a south east direction and engineer personnel discovered and destroyed two (2) M72 LAAW's and one (1) dud 60 mm mortar round at coordinates BT 33107, one (1) fifteen (15) foot cave at coordinates BT 328108, and three thousand (3000) pounds of rice at coordinates BT 330105.

g. 29 October 1966- Engineer activity consisted of destroying one (1) rice fanning machine at coordinates BT 361085. The operation ended with a march to the First Battalion, Fifth Marines Command Post at coordinates BT 396154, the unit arrived at the Command Post at 29 2000H Oct 1966.

11. Results. One (1) Engineer was WIA, but did not require evacuation. He received a slight sharpened wound at 29 1445H October 1966 at coordinates BT 358079.

12. Administrative Matters.

a. Supply- Supply for the operation was found to be adequate in all respects. The combat load of five (5) pounds of C 4 per engineer was found to be ideal.

b. Transportation- All transportation arrangements, both at the First Engineer Battalion and the First Battalion, Fifth Marines proved to be adequate.

c. Communications- Communication with the First Engineer Battalion proved to be difficult because of the distance between the area of operations and the Engineer Command Post.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques. No special equipment or techniques

were utilized.

14. Commanders' Anolysis. Operation Dover was a typical search and clear operation in which attached engineer personnel were effectively and afficiontly utilized.

15. Recommendations. That a communications relay point be set up for operations conducted in areas where communications with the First Engineer Battalion Command Post are expected to be difficult.

D. M. TOTH

DOCUMENTATION

Appendix B with Tabs 1 - 10