

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

3:RF:ms
5750
2 Dec 1966

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

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 November 1966, appended hereto as enclosure (1), is hereby submitted in accordance with reference (a).

C. O. Newton
C. O. NEWTON

1st Eng Bn

Nov 1966

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1. 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 November to 30 November 1966d. Command and Staff Officers

Commanding Officer	Maj	C. O. NEWTON
Executive Officer	Maj	J. C. FLOYD
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj	N. G. MILLS (1-20)
	SgtMaj	L. T. MCQUAIDE (21-28)
	SgtMaj	F. C. TOMAN (29-30)
S-1/Adjutant	2ndLt	F. H. STRIKER
S-2	Capt	A. OSBORNE (1-28)
	1stLt	D. N. TOTH (29-30)
S-3	Maj	R. PETROFF
S-4	Capt	J. J. KIRKPATRICK
S-5	Capt	A. OSBORNE
Supply Officer	Capt	T. E. BYRNE
Legal Officer	Capt	A. OSBORNE (1-28)
	2ndLt	J. MOUTON (29-30)
H&S Company	Capt	T. E. BYRNE (1-28)
	Capt	A. OSBORNE (29-30)

Support Company	1stLt Maj	W. J. GLEESON (1-15) P. J. SHANK, Jr. (16-30)
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt	H. E. ITCHKAWITCH
Company "B"	Capt	R. W. FALKENBACH
Company "C"	Capt	H. L. LUTTRELL

e. Average Strength

USMC		USN	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
26	527	1	10

2. Commander's Narrative Summary.

a. The First Engineer Battalion minus "A" Company (Rein) and the second platoon of "B" Company were in general support of Task Force X-Ray at Chu Lai. On 28 November, the second platoon of "C" Company was placed under the operational control of the Chu Lai Defense Command. Company "A" (Rein) and two (2) squads of the second platoon of "B" Company were in general support of the First Marine Division (-) at Da Nang. The remaining squad of the second platoon of "B" Company was in support of the Second Battalion Third Marine Regiment at Da Nang. The Battalion (-) participated in one (1) major operation and eight (8) small unit operations and provided engineer support to eighteen (18) convoys during this period. The Battalion (-) swept a total of 530 kilometers of roads in the Fifth and Seventh Marine Regiments' TAORs. "A" Company swept a total of fifty-seven (57) kilometers of roads in the First Marine Regiment TAOR. Heavy rain and resultant deterioration of existing roads and bypasses delayed new road construction. This situation was compounded by limited earthmoving capability due to deadlined and short equipment. A combined total of fifteen (15) 16' x 32' strong back tents were constructed by the Battalion. Continued improvement of perimeter defenses was made by both the Battalion (-) and "A" Company. All bridges and bypasses on Highway 1 from BS568985 to BS642746 were classified and marked. Efforts of the construction platoon were almost completely devoted to small carpentry projects, e. g. bookcases, cabinets, boxes, etc. "A" Company supervised construction of twelve (12) perimeter type fighting bunkers, erected extensive protective wire, and constructed a 40' x 75' covered outdoor movie theater for the First and Second Battalions of the First Marine Regiment.

The Battalion (-) and "A" Company devoted a combined total of 6,840 man hours to area security watches.

3. Detailed Description of Significant Events.

a. Personnel

(1) Strength. Zero (0) Marine officers and forty (40) Marine enlisted men were dropped and/or rotated to CONUS. Two (2) Marine officers and fifty-two (52) Marine enlisted were joined during the month.

(2) Casualties. The Battalion sustained a total of ten (10) WIA's for this period.

b. Intelligence.

(1) Road and Bridge Reconnaissance. Continuous reconnaissance was made 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 nine (9) enemy mines were located during the month. Seven (7) of the mines were destroyed and two (2) were disarmed and salvaged for intelligence and instructional value.

(3) Tunnel Destruction. Approximately 300 meters of various size tunnels were destroyed.

c. Training.

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

(2) Twenty-four (24) men attended Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolitions School and received instruction in mine sweep procedures and techniques.

d. Special Operations.

(1) Operation RIO BLANCO. The First Platoon of "C" Company was in direct support of the First Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. Engineer efforts were primarily concerned with mine and booby trap detection and clearance. A water point was provided and engineer support was also provided to the Third Battalion 11th Marine Regiment. This support consisted of sweeping, rehabilitating, and maintaining the CP access road. See Appendix B.

e. Water Supply. During this reporting period, the Battalion(-) operated seven (7) water/shower points, one (1) water point, and two (2) shower points. 1,492,900 gallons of potable water and 1,182,000 gallons of shower water were produced.

f. Road and Bridge Construction. 8,000 meters of roads and bypasses were rehabilitated in the First and Second Battalion TAOR's of the Seventh Marine Regiment. New decking was placed on the ramps of the bridge located at BS546927 and new treadways were placed on the bridges located at BS623865 and BS609905. Road rehabilitation included installa-

tion of 392 linear feet of 36" corrugated sheet steel culvert, placement of 4,035 cubic yards of earth fill, and 955 cubic yards of quarried rock. See Appendix B.

g. Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolition School. Marines trained during the month of November are as follows:

Infantry	214
Engineer	24
Other	68

h. Civil Affairs/Civic Action.

(1) Medical Treatment. 181 people from the village of Phuc An at BT572015 were provided medical aid.

(2) Other. Efforts continued on supervision of construction of the school to accommodate 180 students at the above village. It is estimated that construction will be complete on 8 December 1966.

REFERENCE LIST

EVENT

Operation RIO BLANCO

Construction

REFERENCE

Company "C" AA Rpt of 28Nov66

Miscellaneous photographs of
construction projects

APPENDIX A

DOCUMENTATION

Appendix B with Tabs 1 - 16

APPENDIX B

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

TRV:jer
 3000
 28 Nov 1966

From: Commanding Officer, Company "C", 1st Engineer Battalion
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat After Action Report

1. Code Name. Operation RIO BLANCO
2. Dates of Operation. 200900 November 1966 to 271300 November 1966
3. Location. Nui Da Ne Area, Republic of Vietnam.
4. Control or Command Headquarters.

7th Marines (-) (Rein)
 1st Bn, 7th Marines
 1st Engr Bn
 Co "C", 1st Engr Bn
 1st Plt, Co "C", 1st Engr Bn

Col SNODDY
 LtCol LUISKA
 Maj NEWTON
 Capt LUTRELL
 2nd Lt VAN KIRK

5. Task Organization. N/A
6. Support Forces. N/A
7. Intelligence. N/A
8. Mission. To provide close combat engineer support to the 1st Bn 7th Marines (-) (Rein) and to keep roads open to the Regimental CP and to the 3rd Bn 11th Marines CP
9. Concept of Operation. A CP was established at the following coordinates 427761 20 November 1966, 453775 21 November 1966, 479795 24 November 1966, 513819 25 November 1966, 901599 26 November 1966, we provided demo teams to companies for daily patrols, located and destroyed caves, enemy ordinance. H&SCo and Support Co, 1st Engr Bn provided the following:

Personnel
 H&S Company

2 Communicators

Support Company

4 Motor Transport
 5 Heavy Equipment Operators
 4 - M51 Dump Trucks
 2 - MRS-100
 1 - TD 15
 1 - TL 16
 1 - 550 Grader
 1 - Mark 83 Radio Jeep

EQUIPMENT

10. Execution.

20 Nov 66 At 0001 an engineer assistance team accompanied 3/11 from their CP to 543738. This team with engineer equipment assisted in the removal of personnel from a damaged Ontos that struck a mine at coordinates BS 588721, then repaired the damaged portion of the road for the remainder of the convoy to pass. This team swept the road from coordinates BS 588721 to 543738 with mine detectors with negative results. ~~THE~~ Engineer platoon in support of 1/7 established a CP at coordinates BS 427761.

21 Nov 66 ~~REPAIRED~~ Engineer equipment team in support of 7th Marine Regiment CP prepared road from coordinates BS 660750 to 661756. The engineer assistance TEAM with 3/11 swept the road from coordinates BS 543738 to 588721. A mine was discovered at coordinates BS 573726. The mine was a 155mm round with an unidentified mine under the 155mm round to be detonated by pressure. The mine was destroyed in place. Fifteen loads of fill were hauled and dumped to improve the road.

A cave was destroyed by the engineer platoon with 1/7 at coordinates BS 427761 using 20 pounds of TNT. The dimensions of the cave were 20m long, 15m wide, and 15m high.

The platoon established a new CP in the afternoon at coordinates BS 453775. Destroyed two small caves at that location using 10 lbs TNT on each cave. Both caves were 10m long, 5m wide, and 1.5m high.

22 Nov 66 Equipment team in support of the 7th Marine Regimental CP continued to repair road from coordinates BS 660750 to 661756.

The engineer assistance team with 3/11 swept the road from BS 543738 to 588721 with negative results. Hauled and dumped 40 loads of fill for repair of road. Prepared gun emplacements for Ontos with 3/11.

The engineer platoon with 1/7 destroyed two 20 lb. bombs at BS 453774. At coordinates BS 453775 discovered three M-26 grenades with pin removed located in bin of ride. **DESTROYED GRENADES WITH ONE LB TNT**

23 Nov 66 Equipment team and engineer assistance team continued with work from previous day.

The engineer platoon with 1/7 searched a cave at coordinates BS 422764 with dimensions of 50m long, 30m wide, 2 m high with negative results. Cave was not destroyed due to insufficient demolitions on hand. At coordinates BS 436773 searched a portion of an extensive underground tunnel complex with negative results. Sealed one entrance with 50 lbs of explosives. Destroyed one M-16 mine rigged with trip wire in place with one pound of TNT at coordinates BS 453775.

24 Nov 66 Equipment team and engineer assistance team continued with work from previous day.

The engineer platoon with 1/7 destroyed one 75mm dud with one pound of TNT at coordinates BS 479795.

25 Nov 66 Equipment team continued to repair road to the 7th Marine Regiment CP.

The engineer assistance team with 3/11 swept the road from Coordinates BS 543738 to 588721 with negative results. Escorted 3/11 to new CP at coordinates BS 588721.

The engineer platoon with 1/7 suffered three WIA's as a result of small arms fire and enemy mortars at coordinates BS 513819. All three were med evacuated. Destroyed ten 3.5 rocket rounds, two 81mm WP rounds, five 60mm MC rounds with 10lb of C-4.

26 Nov 66 Equipment team at the 7th Marine Regimental CP continued to repair road.

27 Nov 66 All personnel returned to parent CP as operation terminated.

11. Results. All engineer missions accomplished.
12. Administrative Matters. Spot reports sent out on time and were adequate.
13. Special Equipment and Techniques. None
14. Commanders Analysis. A demolition team in support of an infantry company can't carry enough demolition to destroy large caves or significant target without being resupplied at time of need. A demolition team member carries between 5-10 lb of explosives. Any increase in demolition to be carried by a team member would hamper the movement and effectiveness of that team member.
15. Recommendations. That resupply be made available for demolition as is for med evac.

H. L. Luttrell
H. L. LUTTRELL