

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

3/LTN/crl  
5750  
Ser.No. 098-68  
20 November 1968

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
Subj: Command Chronology for the period of 1 October 1968 to 31 October 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPac 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) 1st Engineer Battalion Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

Classified by the Director of  
Marine Corps History and Museums  
in accordance with the provisions  
of GNO ltr Ser 009D323/232096 of  
21 Feb 1979

*D. H. Hildebrand*  
D. H. HILDEBRAND

1ST ENGR BN

CMCC NR

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Signature

Date

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1ST ENGINEER BATTALION  
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

## COMMANDER

LtCol. D. H. HILDEBRAND 31Jul - Present

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	1stLt. C. D. VENUTO	13Sep68 - Present
Support Company	Capt. M. E. McPHERSON	1Aug68 - 28Oct68
	Maj. W. C. WESSEL	29Oct68 - Present
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt. L. J. BUCHSTEINER	30Apr68 - Present
Company "B" (Rein)	1stLt. J. W. FORMAN	4Jul68 - Present
Company "C" (Rein)	1stLt. J. T. MATTHEWS	1Jun68 - 5Oct68
	1stLt. C. S. JOLLY	6Oct68 - Present

2. LOCATION

1st Engineer Battalion minus Company "B" (Rein)	21Apr67 - Present	Danang, RVN
Support Company (-)(Rein)	21Apr67 - Present	Danang, RVN
Company "A"	23Aug68 - Present	Danang, RVN
Company "B" (Rein)	6Aug68 - Present	An Hoa, RVN
Company "C" (Rein)	21Apr67 - Present	Danang, RVN
1st Platoon, Company "A"		
3d Engineer Battalion	18Sep68 - Present	Danang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj. J. C. CHAMBLISS	30Apr68 - 10Oct68
	Maj. W. C. WESSEL	20Oct68 - 27Oct68
	Maj. J. G. CELLI	28Oct68 - Present
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj. A. J. RICCIARDI	8Jun68 - Present
S-1/Adjutant	1stLt. R. J. FORBELL	1Dec67 - Present

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S-2	1stLt. S. B. THOMPSON	20Aug68 - Present
S-3	Capt. L. R. CORNWELL	1Jun68 - 23Oct68
	Maj. L. T. NAPPI	24Oct68 - Present
S-4	Capt. G. M. VAN ORDEN	29Aug68 - Present
S-5	1stLt. P. D. BUCY	11Jul68 - Present
Supply Officer	1stLt. G. S. MOORE	1Sep68 - Present
Communications Officer	1stLt. P. D. BUCY	8Jul68 - Present
Medical Officer	Lt. W. KWASS	6Aug68 - Present
M. T. Officer	1stLt. B. M. HALLIMAN	24Apr68 - Present
M. T. Maintenance Officer	CWO-4 C. C. BUCKE	10Apr68 - 10Oct68
	1stLt. W. J. LAWSON	20Oct68 - Present
Engineer Equipment Officer	1stLt. L. E. RICE	2Aug68 - Present
Utilities Officer	1stLt. G. T. MILLER	9Sep68 - Present
Construction Officer	WO-1 K. E. DOUGAN	29May68 - Present

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>OFF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENL</u>
34		779	2		13

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 6 October 1968, the 1st Engineer Battalion displaced from Camp PURDUE (coordinates AT948755) to Camp FAULKNER (coordinates BT066727).

During the month of October 1968, the 1st Engineer Battalion remained committed to combat engineer support missions while simultaneously completing 66 Division and Battalion Work Orders and other engineer projects, maintaining assigned mine detection and clearing sweeps, and being committed to land clearing operations.

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Combat engineer companies, reinforced by elements of Headquarters and Service Company and Engineer Support Company provided close combat engineer support to operations: MAMELUKE THRUST, MAUI PEAK, LUCKY LARK, MINA PIKE and HENDERSON HILL. In addition, close combat engineer support was provided for seven unnamed operations.

During the reporting period, 1,265,230 meters of road in the 1st Marine Division TAOR were swept for mines resulting in 35 mines/boobytraps being located and destroyed. In addition to daily mine detection and clearing sweeps, 10 rough rider convoys were supported by combat engineers of this battalion during the reporting period. During the month of October 1968, a special five man team was flown to Hill 190 for support of the 26th Marines on an operation in that area.

Company "A" provided combat engineer support to the 1st Marine Regiment during the month of October 1968 and maintained six daily mine detection and clearing sweeps in the 1st Marine Division TAOR. Company "A" was also committed to cantonment repairs specified by Division Work Orders.

Company "B" continued to provide combat engineer support to the 5th Marines on Operations: MAMELUKE THRUST, MAUI PEAK and HENDERSON HILL. Company "B" also continued to improve the 5th Marines combat base with construction of bunkers, destruction of enemy and dud ordnance, cantonment drainage and construction of tent decks. Company "B" provided mine detection and clearing sweeps to accompany rough rider convoys to An Hoa.

Company "C" provided combat engineer support to the 7th and 26th Marine Regiments during the month of October 1968. They also remained committed to daily mine detection and clearing sweeps in the 1st Marine Division TAOR, in addition to other combat engineer tasks. Company "C" continued to provide general support to the 26th Marines with installation of field fortifications, cantonment repairs, helicopter pad construction and bunker construction.

On 21 October 1968, the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division visited the 1st Engineer Battalion and on 22 October 1968, the Commanding General, FMFPac, the Commanding General, III MAF and the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division visited the 1st Engineer Battalion and were given a guided tour of the new cantonment and a briefing by the 1st Engineer Battalion Commanding Officer. On 31 October 1968, the Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division, visited the 1st Engineer Battalion and was briefed by the Battalion Commander.

During the reporting period, Project WOODPECKER was temporarily secured due to heavy monsoon rains and extreme flooding. All equipment and personnel were withdrawn to the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines C.P. where equipment maintenance was performed. Prior to the temporary halt of Project WOODPECKER, the efforts of the engineer personnel resulted in 3,545,000 square meters of land cleared.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

a. Gains and losses:	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Dropped:	4	93	0	1
Joined:	5	38	2	2

b. <u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
1	16

2. Intelligencea. Road and Bridge Reconnaissance

During the month of October 1968, procedures whereby mine sweep teams submit daily reports of road, bridge, and culvert conditions for routes being swept were continued.

b. Weather

During the first part of October 1968, the weather was characterized by extremely heavy rains and extreme flooding. This was caused primarily by the transition from the southeast monsoon season to the northeast monsoon season. The transition was completed during the latter part of the month of October resulting in milder temperatures and light rain showers particularly in the early morning hours.

c. Mine Warfare

During the month of October 1968, one reward of 6200 \$VN was paid to five Vietnamese Nationals for one 81mm and two 60mm mortar rounds.

d. Total ordnance destroyed

(1) The following ordnance was located and destroyed during the month of October 1968 by engineers of Project WOODPECKER: four chicom grenades, seven 105mm rounds and four "butterfly" mines.

(2) Two 40 pound box mines, one anti-tank mine, one 30 pound box mine, two 20 pound box mines, one 15 pound box mine, one 105mm round, one 8" round, one 81mm round, 13 60mm rounds, one 3.5 inch rocket round, one satchel charge, one chicom grenade and nine M26 grenades were located and destroyed on routine road sweeps in the 1st Marine Division TAOR.

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## (3) Total enemy ordnance destroyed:

<u>40 lb box mine</u>	<u>30 lb box mine</u>	<u>20 lb box mine</u>	<u>15 lb box mine</u>	
2	1	1	1	
<u>B40 rockets</u>	<u>82mm rounds</u>	<u>61mm rounds</u>	<u>57mm rounds</u>	<u>RPG rounds</u>
322	1,035	20	3	204
<u>anti-tank mine</u>	<u>chicom grenades</u>	<u>satchel charge</u>		
1	98	1		

## (4) Total U.S. ordnance destroyed:

<u>250 lb bombs</u>	<u>100 lb bomb</u>	<u>8" round</u>	<u>155mm rounds</u>	<u>105mm rounds</u>	
3	1	1	143	14	
<u>90mm rounds</u>	<u>81mm rounds</u>	<u>75mm rounds</u>	<u>60mm rounds</u>	<u>LAAW's</u>	<u>M79 rounds</u>
7	62	30	213	15	61
<u>M26 grenades</u>	<u>3.5" rounds</u>	<u>"butterfly" mines</u>	<u>claymore mines</u>		
40	56	4	30		
<u>small arms ammunition</u>	<u>15 lb shape charge</u>				
36,490 (rds)	4				

## 3. Training

a. Demolitions, Land Mine Warfare and Viet Cong Boobytrap School was attended by 20 engineers, three personnel from 2d CAG, III MAF, six personnel from the 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion, six personnel from 1st Shore Party Battalion and 190 infantry personnel.

b. During the month of October 1968, special one day classes were held for 2d CAG, III MAF, 7th Marines, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division NCO Leadership School, and the 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion with a total attendance of 415 personnel.

c. During the month of October 1968, contact teams from the 1st Engineer Battalion Land Mine Warfare School held classes for 785 personnel of the 2d Battalion, 26th Marines.

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d. Four classes were held for the Officers and Staff NCO's of the 1st Engineer Battalion during the month of October 1968 covering the following subjects:

- (1) Logistics Planning for Small Operations
- (2) First Aid and Sanitation during the Monsoons
- (3) Fitness Reports
- (4) 1st Reconnaissance Battalion Operations

#### 4. Operations

- a. Operation HENDERSON HILL      Company "B" is providing 35 engineers for close combat engineer support to the 5th Marines on Operation HENDERSON HILL which commenced on 23 October 1968 and is still in progress.
- 23 October 1968 -  
Still in Progress
- b. Operation MINA PIKE      Company "A" provided two engineers for close combat engineer support to the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines on Operation MINA PIKE which commenced on 6 October 1968 and terminated on 19 October 1968.
- 6 October 1968 -  
19 October 1968
- Ref: CO, "A" Co AA Rpt LJB/rlc over 3480 of 24 October 1968
- c. Operation LUCKY LARK      Company "A" provided two engineers for close combat engineer support to the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines on Operation LUCKY LARK which commenced on 5 October 1968 and terminated on 24 October 1968. In addition, two engineers of Company "A" were provided to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion during this operation.
- 5 October 1968 -  
24 October 1968
- Ref: CO, "A" Co AA Rpt LJB/rlc over 3480 of 28 October 1968  
Ref: CO, "A" Co AA Rpt LJB/rlc over 3480 of 28 October 1968
- d. Operation MAMELUKE THRUST      Companies "B" and "C" provided close combat engineer support to the 5th and 7th Marines on Operation MAMELUKE THRUST which commenced on 19 May 1968 and terminated on 24 October 1968. Two engineer KIA's and four WIA's were sustained on this operation.
- 19 May 1968 -  
24 October 1968
- Ref: CO, "C" Co AA Rpt PFF/mrg over 3480 of 30 June 1968  
Ref: CO, "C" Co AA Rpt PFF/dep over 3480 of 25 July 1968  
Ref: CO, "B" Co AA Rpt JWF/rdz over 3000.1 of 15 August 1968

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## e. Operation MAUI PEAK

6 October 1968 -  
19 October 1968

Company "B" provided 18 engineers for close combat engineer support to the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines on Operation MAUI PEAK which commenced on 6 October 1968 and terminated on 19 October 1968.

Ref: CO, "B" Co AA Rpt LAA/rdz over 3000 of 5 November 1968

5. Water Supply. During the month of October 1968, the 1st Engineer Battalion operated 11 water points which produced 3,136,000 gallons of potable water and 1,442,500 gallons of shower water for units throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR.

6. Construction

a. The following 46 Division originated Work Orders were completed during the month of October 1968.

(1) Designed spring loaded pop up target devices for 1st Marine Division Schools. 22 manhours, 320 BF of lumber and 10 pounds of nails were required to complete the work order.

(2) Provided mastic for the 7th Marines Disbursing Office. One pail of roofing cement was required to complete the work order.

(3) Relocated two SEA Huts to the Northern Artillery Cantonment. 413 manhours, and 65 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(4) Constructed false roof over 5th Marines COC bunker at An Hoa. 96 manhours and 3,174 BF of lumber were required to complete the work order.

(5) Provided 500 cubic meters of crushed rock to 1st Shore Party Battalion. 500 meters of crushed rock were required to complete the work order.

(6) Provided team to inspect 15 bunkers and five SEA Huts for 1st Tank Battalion. Three manhours were required to complete the work order.

(7) Constructed a 24' x 56' COC bunker for 26th Marines. 2,720 manhours, 104 equipment hours, 82 pieces of culvert, 22,812 BF of lumber and 450 pounds of nails were required to complete the work order.

(8) Installed nine telephone poles at 26th Marines COC bunker. 32 manhours and 16 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(9) Upgraded access road for 1st Tank Battalion and installed culvert as required. 1,116 manhours, 39 equipment hours and 30 pieces of culvert were required to complete the work order.

(10) Provided dozer and operator to bury trash at 1st Marines CP. Nine manhours and nine equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

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(11) Provided TD-15 Tractor and operator to 1/1 to cover old trash pit and dig new one. Nine manhours and nine equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(12) Accomplished dozer work for 1st M.P. Battalion. 40 manhours and 26 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(13) Relocated one SEA Hut for 1st M.P. Battalion and one for 26th Marines. 96 manhours were required to complete the work order.

(14) Dug 465 lineal feet of trench for 1st Tank Battalion. 17 manhours and 15 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(15) Delivered two loads of sand to Headquarters Battalion. Six manhours and six equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(16) Delivered one load of sand to 1st Marine Division IRO. Three manhours and three equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(17) Provided a TD-15 Tractor to 7th Marines to cover trash pit. Three manhours and three equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(18) Enlarged the AC of S's Office, G-4, 1st Marine Division. 96 manhours, 880 BF of lumber, seven sheets of plywood,  $\frac{1}{2}$  roll of screen, and one flourescent light fixture were required to complete the work order.

(19) Constructed two Gun Racks for the 1st Marine Division Commanding General's souvenir weapons. 20 manhours, two sheets of plywood and 30 BF of lumber were required to complete the work order.

(20) Evaluated and repaired the electrical distribution system at Ngao Bridge and Esso Plant. 597 manhours, 69 equipment hours, 9,270 feet of wire, 752 LF of lumber, six pounds of nails, 133 lampholders, 128 receptacles and 575 assorted electircal fixtures were required to complete the work order.

(21) Delivered 15 cubic yards of crushed rock to 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion. Three manhours, one equipment hour and 15 cubic yards of crushed rock were required to complete the work order.

(22) Inspected area and provided 80 cubic yards of crushed rock to 3/1. 50 manhours and 40 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(23) Constructed four 8' x 8' x 8' bunkers and two 8' x 16' bunkers for 3/11. 238 manhours, 13 equipment hours and materials provided by 3/11 were required to complete the work order.

(24) Dug drainage ditches for 7th Communications Battalion. 22 manhours and 18 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(25) Provided roofing tar to 1/11 for self-help repairs on messhall roof. Two manhours and 55 gallons of tar were required to complete the work order.

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(26) Dug 10 trenches at Hill 65 for 3/7. 86 manhours and 43 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(27) Delivered 12 loads of rock screenings to 4/11 at Hill 65 for gun pits. 60 manhours, 30 equipment hours and 60 cubic yards of rock screening were required to complete the work order.

(28) Delivered 15 rolls of screen wire to 1st Marines and provided technical assistance for installation. 240 manhours, two equipment hours, and 15 rolls of screen wire were required to complete the work order.

(29) Constructed 13 8' x 8' culvert bunkers for 5th Marines at An Hoa. 651 manhours, 13 rolls of tar paper, 158 BF of lumber, 2390 pounds of nails and 206 pieces of culvert were required to complete the work order.

(30) Poured concrete curb around messhall wash pad for 1/11. 12 manhours, 150 BF of lumber, three pounds of nails, 20 engineer stakes, 40 feet of wire, 12 cubic feet of mix and two bags of cement were required to complete the work order.

(31) Provided 50 cubic yards of crushed rock to 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion. 22 manhours, 19 equipment hours and 50 cubic yards of crushed rock were required to complete the work order.

(32) Constructed three AmTrac revetments at 1st Armored Amphibian Company and two at O.P. Hawk, for the 1st Armored Amphibian Company. 640 manhours, 96 equipment hours, 150 pieces of M8A1 matting, 90 telephone poles and 40 pounds of nails were required to complete the work order.

(33) Delivered 15 cubic yards of crushed rock to the 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion. 12 manhours, 12 equipment hours and 15 cubic yards of crushed rock were required to complete the work order.

(34) Provided technical assistance for construction of concertina fence to 1st Tank Battalion. 32 manhours were required to complete the work order.

(35) Picked up material for 20 4-hole heads from 3d MCB and delivered to 1st Engineer Battalion. 48 manhours and 16 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(36) Constructed tower and expanded the landing zone for 7th Marines at Hill 55. 2,992 manhours, 152 equipment hours, 2,970 BF of lumber, two rolls of roofing paper, and 80 pounds of nails were required to complete the work order.

(37) Constructed five mount out boxes for 5th Marines. 40 manhours, 855 BF of lumber and 45 pounds of nails were required to complete the work order.

(38) Issued 20 urinoils to 1st Marines. 10 manhours, 20 55 gallon drums and 100 feet of pipe were required to complete the work order.

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(39) Constructed five heads and 10 urinoils and delivered to 2/7. 128 manhours, 35 sheets of plywood, 25 sheets of tin, 1,225 BF of lumber, 40 feet of pipe and six equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

(40) Delivered 25 cubic yards of crushed rock to 1/7 at Hill 10. 12 manhours, 12 equipment hours and 25 cubic yards of rock were required to complete the work order.

(41) Delivered 10 cubic yards of crushed rock to 1st Armored Amphibian Company and materials for self-help program. Eight manhours, three equipment hours, 10 cubic yards of crushed rock, 3,357 BF of lumber and 50 pounds of nails were required to complete the work order.

(42) Constructed four SEA Huts at O.P. Crow for 2/1. 389 manhours, 20 sheets of tin, 16 sheets of plywood, and 1,110 BF of lumber were required to complete the work order.

(43) Cleared messhall drainline for 2/1. 20 manhours were required to complete this work order.

(44) Fabricated six metal grill stands for 1/7. Eight manhours, 12 equipment hours, 348 feet of angle iron and six pieces of 3' x 5' sheet metal were required to complete the work order.

(45) Installed aircraft revetment material at TTC-28 Pad for Division Engineer Officer. 1,176 manhours, 60 equipment hours, eight utility posts, 167 pieces of culvert, 500 pounds of footing plates, 6,100 splices, five gallons of roofing cement and 14 pieces of MSA matting were required to complete the work order.

(46) Blasted two craters on Hill 34 for 4/11. Two manhours, 50 pounds of C-4 and three 15 pound shape charges were required to complete the work order.

b. The following 20 Battalion originated Work Orders were completed during the month of October 1968.

(1) Installed drainage from TTC-28 Pad to existing drainage for 1st Marine Division Communications Company. 168 manhours, 25 pieces of culvert, 10 gallons of mastic and one bag of cement were required to complete the work order.

(2) Refinished souvenir rifle for 1st Engineer Battalion Commanding Officer. 10 manhours were required to complete the work order.

(3) Surveyed to relocate two towers for 1/1 to correct eight digit coordinates. Six manhours were required to complete the work order.

(4) Provided case tractor to 7th Engineer Battalion. One manhour and 20 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.

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- (5) Provided Bay City Crane to Division MARS Station to assist in installation of antenna tower. 41 manhours, and 39 equipment hours were required to complete the work order.
- (6) Hauled 10 cubic yards of sand to 1st Marine Division Schools. Five manhours, five equipment hours and 10 cubic yards of sand were required to complete the work order.
- (7) Delivered 20 cubic yards of sand to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division. Nine manhours, nine equipment hours and 20 cubic yards of sand were required to complete the work order.
- (8) Provided one dump truck to 1st M.P. Battalion to haul 40 cubic yards of fill. Eight manhours and eight equipment hours were required to complete the work order.
- (9) Renovated building for use as Division Post Office at Camp Faulkner. 50 manhours, 13 sheets of plywood, 15 pounds of nails and 334 BF of lumber were required to complete the work order.
- (10) Repaired leaks in roof of the 1st Engineer Battalion Supply Office. 12 manhours and one gallon of mastic were required to complete the work order.
- (11) Installed sink in 1st Engineer Battalion Sergeant Major's Office. Four manhours, 20 feet of pipe and three plumbing fixtures were required to complete the work order.
- (12) Installed two air conditioners in Staff NCO/Officer's Mess. Eight manhours were required to complete the work order.
- (13) Installed eight fans in Enlisted Men's Mess and relocated grille. 22 manhours were required to complete the work order.
- (14) Constructed six timber ammunition bunkers at the 1st Engineer Battalion. 4,140 manhours, 16, 224 BF of lumber, 32 driftpins, 120 engineer stakes, 360 feet of wire, six rolls of roofing paper and 38,000 sandbags were required to complete the work order.
- (15) Constructed one 10' x 24' bunker at Hill 10 for engineer personnel. 128 manhours, two equipment hours, 2,976 BF of lumber and 75 pounds of nails were required to complete the work order.
- (16) Conducted bridge reconnaissance of all bridges in the 1st Marine Division TAOR. 21 manhours were required to complete the work order.
- (17) Delivered 25 cubic yards of crushed rock to 1/7. 20 manhours, 10 equipment hours, and 25 cubic yards of crushed rock were required to complete the work order.
- (18) Inspected water heaters at 3/1 messhall. Results submitted to DED, four manhours were required to complete the work order.

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(19) Fabricated 60 half-barrels for 1st Engineer Battalion. 14 manhours, seven equipment hours, 30 barrels and 63 feet of pipe were required to complete the work order.

(20) Constructed 249 signs for 1st Engineer Battalion Supply. Nine manhours, seven sheets of plywood, three gallons of paint and 12 pounds of nails were required to complete the work order.

#### 7. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

a. During the month of October 1968, the 1st Engineer Battalion terminated aiding the local populace of the Hoa Phu Village, hence the 26th Marines has assumed this responsibility.

b. The village of Son Thuy I was aided during the month of October by the 1st Engineer Battalion S-5 due to its new location. The people of Son Thuy I are more self-reliant than those of Hoa Phu since only a small quantity of used clothes and scrap lumber has been requested from this battalion's civil affairs team. Additionally, medical assistance was rendered to two Vietnamese Nationals of the Son Thuy I Village.

#### 8. Religious Affairs

a. Four Catholic and four Protestant services were held at the 1st Engineer Battalion Chapel during the month of October 1968 at 0915 and 1030 respectively.

b. A total of 33 Catholic masses were held during the month of October throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR.

c. One memorial service was held at the 1st Engineer Battalion Chapel during the month of October 1968.

#### 9. Research and Development

During the month of October 1968, engineers of this battalion erected an experimental aluminum surveillance tower in the 1st Marines AOR. Some of the advantages of the aluminum tower in comparison to the conventional timber and sandbag tower are as follows:

- (1) all components of the tower are pre-fabricated
- (2) easily transported (pre-packed in crates)
- (3) can be disassembled and reassembled, and
- (4) requires no engineer equipment for erection.

Disadvantages of the aluminum tower however, are:

- (1) during shipment, members become warped or bent causing misalignment of bolt holes
- (2) aluminum bolt threads tend to strip easily, and
- (3) no information is available as to the type guns that may be mounted on the tower.

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## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

TAB A ✓	CO, "A" Co AA Rpt LJB/rlc over 3480 of 24 October 1968
TAB B ✓	CO, "A" Co AA Rpt LJB/rlc over 3480 of 28 October 1968
TAB C ✓	CO, "A" Co AA Rpt LJB/rlc over 3480 of 28 October 1968
TAB D ✓	CO, "C" Co AA Rpt PFF/mrg over 3480 of 30 June 1968 — <i>filed w/ Jan 68</i>
TAB E ✓	CO, "C" Co AA Rpt PFF/dep over 3480 of 25 July 1968
TAB F ✓	CO, "B" Co AA Rpt JWF/rdz over 3000.1 of 15 August 1968 — <i>filed w/ Jul 68</i>
TAB G ✓	CO, "B" Co AA Rpt LAA/rdz over 3000 of 5 November 1968

TAB H ✓ SITREPS # 276-305 (Filed Sep)

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

01:LJB:rlc  
 3480  
 24 Oct 1968

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From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion  
 Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.14  
 (b) Map Vietnam 6540 II, 6640IV series L7014

1. Code Name: Operation Mine Pike
2. Dates of Operation: 6 October 1968 - 19 October 1968
3. Location: Mountains southwest of An Hoa
4. Command Headquarters: 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines
5. Reporting NCO: LCpl John H. REYNOLDS 2390517/1371 USMC, PFC Timothy L. BEACE 2393900/1371 USMC
6. Task Organization: "C" Co., 1/1 OPCCN to 3/5
7. Supporting Forces: Not applicable
8. Intelligence: 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines S-2
9. Mission: Two engineers in close combat support of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines.
10. Concept of Operation: One engineer team consisting of one NCOIC and one engineer in support of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines on a search and destroy operation.
11. Execution: The engineer team departed the command post at 1st Battalion, 1st Marines at 1830 on 5 October 1968. The operation commenced on 6 October 1968; terminated on 19 October 1968.

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3480

12. Results: The following items were constructed during the operation:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COORDINATES</u>
14 Oct 1968	1	LZ, blown	18105172
16 Oct 1968	1	LZ, blown	16505059

13. Administrative Matters:

(a) Each engineer carried 20 lbs of C-4 explosive.

(b) PFC Timothy L. PEACE 2393900/1371 USMC was MEDEVACed from the operation on 7 October 1968 as the result of being a heat casualty.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: Engineers utilized a chain saw to construct the landing zones indicated in paragraph 12 above.

15. Commander's Analysis: The work of the engineers was routine and no unusual problems were encountered.

16. Recommendations: None

*L. J. Buchsteiner*  
L. J. BUCHSTEINER

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

01:LJB:rlc  
3480  
28 Oct 1968

**CONFIDENTIAL**

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A  
(b) Map Vietnam, Series L7014 Sheet 6540 1, Scale 1:50,000

1. Code Name: Lucky Lark
2. Dates of Operation: 23 - 24 October 1968
3. Location: Quang Nam Province
4. Command Headquarters: 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines
5. Reporting NCO: LCpl Richard L. WEIGLEB 2371734/1371 USMC
6. Task Organization: Not applicable
7. Supporting Forces: Not applicable
8. Intelligence: 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines S-2
9. Mission: Two engineers in close combat support of "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines.
10. Concept of Operation: One engineer team consisting of one NCOIC and one engineer in support of "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines on a search for VC and sympathizers within units TAOR.
11. Execution: The engineers departed the command post at 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines at 1030, 23 October 1968. The operation commenced at that time and terminated at 1500, 24 October 1968.
12. Results: The following items were destroyed during the operation:

(OVER)

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Tab-B

3480  
28 Oct 1968**CONFIDENTIAL**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COORDINATES</u>
23 Oct 68	1	M79 Round	979649
	1	105mm Round	979649
24 Oct 68	1	Patrol Building	998645
	4	A Frame Bunkers	998645

13. Administrative Matters: Each engineer carried 15 lbs of C-4 explosive.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: None

15. Commander's Analysis: The work of the engineers was routine and no unusual problems were encountered.

16. Recommendations: None

  
L. J. BUCHSTEINER

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

01:LJB:rlc  
3480  
28 Oct 1968

**CONFIDENTIAL**

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A

1. Code Name: Lucky Lark
2. Dates of Operation: 5 October 1968 - 17 October 1968
3. Location: Quang Nam Province
4. Command Headquarters: 1st Reconnaissance Battalion
5. Reporting NCO: LCpl Joseph A. CERBASI 2355882/1371 and LCpl George I. DAVIS 2397147/1371 USMC
6. Task Organization: Not applicable
7. Supporting Forces: Not applicable
8. Intelligence: Not Applicable.
9. Mission: Two engineers assigned to clear zones of fire and improve living conditions at Observation Post Banu.
10. Concept of Operation: Two engineers in direct support of "A" Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion departed "A" Company, 1st Engineers on 5 October 1968 and returned on 17 October 1968.
11. Execution: Same as paragraph 10 above.
12. Results: The following items were constructed during the operation:

(OVER)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Tab C

**CONFIDENTIAL**01:LJB:rlc  
3480  
28 Oct 1968


<u>DATE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
50ct68	100x55 ft.	Destroyed tree line to clear field of fire
60ct68	300 ft.	Installed tangle foot wire to reinforce defensive position
70ct68	3	Rebuild living bunkers

13. Administrative Matters: Each engineer carried 40 lbs of C-4 explosive.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: None

15. Commander's Analysis: The work of the engineers was routine and no unusual problems were encountered.

16. Recommendations: None

  
L. J. BUCHSTEINER**CONFIDENTIAL**

COMPANY "B"  
1st Engineer Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96692

J.A.A./rds  
3000  
5 Nov 1968

**CONFIDENTIAL**

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

Encl: ✓(1) Execution and Results; report of 2/5

1. Code Name: Maui Peak
2. Date: 060600H Oct 68 to 191800H Oct 68
3. Location: Dai Loc Province, Thuong Duc Province
4. Control or Command HQ:
  - a. Commanding Officer, 7th Marine Regiment
  - b. NCOIC, Engineer Detachment
5. Task Organization: Company "B", 1st Engineer Battalion had eighteen (18) engineers in direct support of the 2ndBn, 5th Marines.
6. Supporting Forces: N/A
7. Intelligence: During the operation, no significant engineer intelligence was obtained.
8. Mission: To provide engineer support for the 2ndBn, 5th Marines.
9. Concept of Operations: To clear area of mines and boobytraps, to destroy dud ordnance, and to keep Route 4 open between Hill 52 (ZU 218553) and Hill 65 (AF 878576).
10. Execution: See enclosure (1).
11. Results: See enclosure (1).
12. Administrative Matters: N/A
13. Special Equipment and Techniques: N/A
14. Analysis: No unusual problems were encountered; the demolition work was routine.
15. Recommendations: None.

L. A. AVALIS  
By direction

Tab G

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Execution and Results for 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines

06 Oct 68 - 19 Oct 68: Two engineer sweep teams, maintained on Hill 52 and Hill 65, were charged with the responsibility of opening that section of Route 4 between these two hills daily for convoys carrying supplies to the infantry units. The mine sweep covered 10,250 meters of road. No mining incidents occurred during this period.

6 Oct 68 - 9 Oct 68: The following items were destroyed:

1. 10 Bunkers
2. 15 Tunnel Complexes
3. 5 ChiCom Grenades
4. 70 "Firecracker" Artillery Rounds
5. 15 Claymores (M-1841)
6. 30 M-79 HE Rounds
7. 3000 Rounds 7.62 mm Linked Ammo
8. 10 LAW'S (M-72)

10 Oct 68 - 12 Oct 68: The following items were destroyed:

1. 13 Bunkers
2. 11 Tunnel Complexes
3. 20 AK-47 Magazines
4. 30 75 mm Recoilless Rifle Rounds
5. Fifty (50) 82 mm HE rounds
6. 15 Claymores

13 Oct 68 - 16 Oct 68: The following items were destroyed:

1. Fifty-five(55) 3.5 in. HE Rocket Rounds
2. 180 - 60 mm HE Rounds
3. 60 - 81 mm HE Rounds
4. 30 - M-79 HE Rounds
5. 16 - AK-47 Magazines
6. 19 - ChiCom Grenades
7. 4 - RPG Rocket Rounds
8. 1 - M-26 Frag boobytrapped with tripwire
9. 70 - 82 mm HE Rounds
10. 2000 Rounds - 7.62 mm Linked Ammo
11. 1000 Rounds - .50 Cal Linked Ammo

17 Oct 68 - 19 Oct 68: The following items were destroyed:

1. 60 - "Firecracker" Artillery Rounds
2. 5 - LAW'S (M-72)
3. 25 - M-29 Frag Grenades
4. 8 - 105 mm HE Rounds

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5. 25 ChiCom Grenades
6. 7 - 90 mm HE rounds
7. 2 - 60 mm HE rounds boobytrapped with pressure firing device.
8. 2 - 82 mm HE Rounds boobytrapped with trip wires.
9. 1 - 105 mm HE Round boobytrapped with tripwire.

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