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1ST ENGINEER BATTALION COMMAND CHRONOLOGY JUNE - [redacted] 1969

[redacted]

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

3/JLR/jds
5750
Ser. No. 070-69
15 July 1969

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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

Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 June 1969 to 30 June 1969

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

Encl: (1) 1st Engineer Battalion Chronology
TAB A A/A Rpt Opn Woodpecker V "A" Co/1st EngrBn

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

J. F. MADER

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

1ST ENGR BN CMD CHRON JUNE 1969

[redacted]

1ST ENGINEER BATTALION

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

PART I — ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II — NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III — SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

[redacted]

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION	COMMANDER	
1st Engineer Battalion	LtCol J. F. MADER	26Mar69 - Present
	SUBORDINATE UNITS	
H&S Company (-)	1stLt G. A. SCHILLER	3Apr69 - Present
Support Company (-)	Maj G. S. HAMILTON	16Apr69 - Present
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt L. E. PISTELLI	1Apr69 - Present
Company "B" (Rein)	Capt E. C. HEIN JR.	5Mar69 - Present
Company "C" (Rein)	1stLt C. S. JOLLY JR.	5Mar69 - Present
2. LOCATION		
1st Engineer Battalion	21Apr67 - Present	Danang, RVN
Support Company	21Apr67 - Present	Danang, RVN
Company "A"	23Aug68 - Present	Danang, RVN
Company "B"	6Aug68 - Present	An Hoa, RVN
Company "C"	21Apr67 - Present	Danang, RVN
3rd Platoon Company "A" 5th Engineer Battalion	29Mar69 - Present	Danang, RVN
3. STAFF OFFICERS		
Executive Officer	Maj J. G. CELLI	28Oct68 - Present
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj W. C. TRAMMEL	3Nov68 - 6Jun69
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj J. M. WISE	15Jun69 - Present
S-1/Adjutant	1stLt V. D. HIATT	20Dec68 - Present
S-2	1stLt M. E. ROBERTS	21Apr69 - Present
S-3	Maj L. T. NAPPI	[illegible] - Present
S-4	Maj M. E. McPHERSON	3Nov68 - Present

[redacted]

[redacted]

S-5	1stLt F. L. MIGLIORINI	5May69 - Present
Supply Officer	1stLt G. W. JOHNSON	14Apr69 - Present
Communications Officer	1stLt P. D. BUCY 1stLt L. D. HEIN	8Jul68 - 1Jun69 1Jun69 - Present
Medical Officer	Lt. C. N. LEBOVITZ	7Feb69 - Present
Engineer Equipment Officer	CWO-2 W. M. CARLSON	1Nov68 - Present
Utilities Officer		
Construction Officer	CWO-2 K. E. DOUGAN 1stLt E. A. KUBINSKI	28May68 - 6Jun69 6Jun69 - Present

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
31	703	2	12

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of June 1969, the 1st Engineer Battalion remained committed to combat engineer support missions while simultaneously completing 55 Division and 27 Battalion Work Orders and other engineer projects while maintaining assigned mine detection and clearing sweeps.

Combat engineer companies, reinforced by elements of Headquarters and Service Company and Engineer Support Company provided close combat engineer support in Operation Pipestone Canyon.

During the reporting period, 1,920,000 meters of road in the 1st Marine Division TAOR were swept for mines. Mine sweeps of roads resulted in 123 mines/boobytraps being located and destroyed. In addition to daily mine detection and clearing sweeps, 30 rough rider convoys were supported by combat engineers of this Battalion. Also 56 special sweeps were conducted during the reporting period.

Company "A" (Reinforced) is providing close combat engineer support to the 1st Marine Regiment on Operation Pipestone Canyon which commenced on 26 May 1969. In addition to the operational commitment, Company "A" is maintaining six daily mine detection and clearing sweeps in the 1st Marine Regiment TAOR.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Company "B" is in direct support of 5th Marines. Company "B" provided one squad in direct support of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines on Operation Pipestone Canyon since 260800H May 1969 and terminated this support on 8 June 1969. In addition to combat support, Company "B" also continued bunker construction and cantonment improvements for the 5th Marines and 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines at the An Hoa combat base. Two daily mine detection and clearing sweeps were maintained.

Company "C" provided one squad to "A" Company while in direct support of the 11th Marines Regiment on Operation Pipestone Canyon. Additional commitments on this operation, Company "C" provided one platoon (-) to 7th Engineer Battalion on Land Clearing on Go Noi Island. Six daily mine detections and clearing sweeps were continued by Company "C" during the reporting period. This Company also provided general support in the form of construction and cantonment repairs for units of the 1st Marine Division.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. Gains and Losses:

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
Dropped:	4	20	0	2
Joined:	1	30	0	1

b.

KIA	WIA
1	18

2. Intelligence

a. Road and Bridge Reconnaissance. During the month of June 1969, procedures whereby mine sweep teams submit daily reports of road, bridge, and culvert conditions for routes being swept were continued.

b. Weather. During the month of June 1969, the weather was characterized by relatively clear skies with a normal amount of rain. There was a total of 2.58 inches of rain during the reporting period, while temperatures ranged from a average high of 93.3 degrees to a average low of 79.4. Mean temperature being 86.3. Surface winds prevail at 150 degrees magnetic with an average of 6 knots velocity.

[redacted]

[redacted]

c. Mine Warfare. A total of 59,160 $VN was paid to indigenous personnel for the following ordnance:

ITEMS	QUANTITY	BOOBYTRAPS
Illum grenade	3	
Cofram	2	
66mm Rocket	1	
105mm HE	33	2
M26 grenade	35	1
Small arms rounds	1,457	
105mm Illum	1	
4.2 HE	1	
M79 round	132	
VC Shape Charge	1	
Boobytrap unknown type	6	
Chicom grenade	14	
VC homemade grenade	2	
81mm Illum	34	
60mm Illum	21	
M16 magizine	21	
AP mine	1	
M72 round	4	
60mm HE	18	
40mm HE	1	
NVA Rocket fuze	1	
81mm HE	4	
20mm round	1	
81mm WP	1	
25Lb Box mine	1	
Illum marker	3	
Fuze unknown type	1	
4.2 Illum round	1	
M79 Illum	1	
M79 Bee Hive	1	
M18A1 mine	3	
Trip flare	3	
B40 rocket	1	

d. Ordnance Destroyed.

(1) The following ordnance items located and destroyed on routine sweep in the 1st Marine Division TAOR are listed below:

[redacted]

[redacted]

ITEM	QUANTITY	BOOBYTRAPPED
Ammo can mine	1	
M79 rounds	18	
Cofram	1	
90mm round	1	
81mm WP	1	
105mm HE	5	1
81mm Illum	1	
60mm HE	8	2
25 # Moulded mine	1	
40mm HE	1	
M72 round	3	
10 # box mine	1	
81mm HE	9	3
2.75 Rocket	1	1
250 # bomb	2	2
20 # Box mine	2	
AT mine	2	
30 # Box mine	2	
AK rounds	300	
Illum grenade	1	
25 # Box mine	1	
60mm Illum w/explosives	1	1
Flare canister	1	
60mm WP	1	
500 # bomb command det.	1	
Home made boobytrap	4	
15 # rock mine	1	1
AP mine 5 #	1	
81mm Illum w/explosives	1	1

3. Training

a. During the month of June 1969, a total of 511 Marines attended the (3) day Demolition, Land Mine Warfare and Viet Cong Boobytrap School. In addition, 1,382 Marines and 21 ARVN Ranger Officers received the special one day classes taught by the Mobile Instruction team. Attendance for the period covered is as follows:

BATTALION	ATTENDANCE
1st Engineer Battalion	31
7th Engineer Battalion	28
1st Battalion 1st Marines	55

[redacted]

[redacted]

BATTALION	ATTENDANCE
2nd Battalion 1st Marines	35
3rd Battalion 1st Marines	39
1st Battalion 5th Marines	70
2nd Battalion 5th Marines	62
3rd Battalion 5th Marines	51
1st Battalion 7th Marines	32
2nd Battalion 7th Marines	44
3rd Battalion 7th Marines	7
1st Battalion 26th Marines	5
2nd Battalion 26th Marines	3
3rd Battalion 26th Marines	26
1st Recon Battalion	23

b. Mobile Instruction Team Attendance.

UNIT	ATTENDANCE
2nd CAG	211
SLF 3/26	600
3rd Battalion 26th Marines	142
Division Schools	47
1st Battalion 7th Marines	356
ARVN Officers	21
1st Shore Party Battalion	8
26th Marines	18

4. OPERATIONS.

a. Operation Pipestone Canyon. Operation Pipestone Canyon commenced on 26 May 1969 with Company "B" providing one squad in direct support of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment and terminated that support on 8 June 1969. On 31 May 1969, Company "C" was placed in direct support of the 1st Marine Regiment. Engineer efforts to open Route 4, East from the intersection of Route 4 and 1D, commenced on 6 June 1969. On 13 June 1969 Company "C" provided one platoon (-) in direct support of 7th Engineers on Land Clearing on Go Noi Island. During the reporting period, two special mine sweep teams have swept approximately 86,000 meters of road on Route 4, East of Route 1D. To date 4,550,000 square meters of land have been cleared along Route 4 and10,000 meters of pioneer road constructed. Also 201 bunkers, 223 fighting holes, 2,250 lineal yards of trench line and 72 lineal yards of tunnel were destroyed. Ordnance destroyed during the reporting period follows:

[redacted]

[redacted]

NOMENCLATURE	QUANTITY	BOOBYTRAPS
Chicom grenade	10	1
M72 round	3	
Cofram	3	2
AK rounds	4000	
60mm Illum	1	
81mm HE	4	
Rifle grenade	1	
M26 grenade	16	6
M79 round	20	
Shape charge	1	
500 # bomb	1	
155mm HE	1	
40 # Shape charge	1	
3.5 Rocket HEAT	2	
81mm WP	1	
M16 MOD2 Rocket cluster	1	
60mm HE	5	
106mm HE	2	

5. Water Supply. During the month of June 1969, the 1st Engineer Battalion operated eleven water points which produced 5,012,000 gallons of potable water for units throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR. In addition, a total of 1,065,000 gallons of non-potable water was produced.

6. Construction.

a. The following 55 significant Division originated Work Orders were completed during the month of June 1969:

(1) DWO D345-69. Clean out plugged drain and repairs as necessary at Regimental 1st Marines Messhall.

(2) DWO D299-69. Conduct inspection of all primary and secondary electrical distributions systems in 1st Marine Division TAOR.

(3) DWO D1025-68. Install wiring distribution system for 2/5 at An Hoa.

(4) DWO D306-69. Provide bus bar and double throw switch box. Wire primary and backup generator at Namo Bridge for 2/26.

(5) DWO D902-68. Construct (2) 10X24 bunkers at Camp Faulkner 1st Engineer Battalion.

[redacted]

[redacted]

(6) DWO D164-69. Construct (2) 10X24 bunker at Hill 55 for "B" Company 1st Tank Battalion.

(7) DWO D90-69. Clear area in front of defensive wire at Hill 55 for 7th Marines.

(8) DWO D358-69. Precut materials for construction of 15 windshield covers for 2/26.

(9) DWO D319-69. Furnish plexiglass drilled and countersunk for Division Engineer Office.

(10) DWO D316-69. Provide TD15 w/operator to construct new trash dump 2/7.

(11) DWO D359-69. Deliver spread and grade 120 cubic yards of 7" Surge rock. Erect (2) 3,000 gal tanks and install (2) 3/4" hose bills on existing pipes. Cut approximately 1500 ft"V" ditch for drainage at III MAF Transient facility.

(12) DWO D44-69. Provide and construct (1) 8X8 ammo bunker with vent on one side for 3/7.

(13) DWO D357-69. Construct (1) 20X32 and one 10X24 bunker with deck and lighting for 2/1.

(14) DWO D254-69. Clean out drain pipe at messhall, check drain and grease trap and repair as needed.

(15) DWO D317-69. Provide TD15 tractor and operator to 2/26 for two days for berms around ammo storage area.

(16) DWO D68-69. Grade access road to H/3/11.

(17) DWO D368-69. Provide Officer in Charge and (2) demo men to blow rock formation on Headquarters Battalion ridgeline 1st Marine Division.

(18) DWO D203-69. Construct (1) 10X24 bunker with deck and lighting.

(19) DWO D179-69. Install (2) 3,000 gallon water tanks and provide water main to messhall. Deepen and line well with 48" culvert pipe.

(20) DWO D48-69. Upgrade existing interior road network at 3rd LVT cantonment with 6" of 3" (-) rock on existing roads and oil.

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[redacted]

(21) DWO D297-69. Relocate (2) SEA Huts from 7th Engineer Battalion to Division Schools area and connect to electrical system.

(22) DWO D360-69. Construct16X32 Sea Hut with 5 rows of post and Sills for P.X. Install lighting.

(23) DWO D352-69. Precut and deliver (6) 8X8 bunkers to 1st Recon Battalion for further transport to Hill 119.

(24) DWO D45-69. Construct (2) 20X32 bunkers and (1) 10X24 bunker for 11th Marines CP.

(25) DWO D362-69. Grade 100X100 foot area for Helo pad and apply 2 heavy coats, bunker oil at H/3/11.

(26) DWO D798-68. Construct movie screen and benches and install water line to BAS for 2/1.

(27) DWO D110-69. Construct (2) 10X24 bunkers for K/4/11 at Hill 65.

(28) DWO D329-69. Provide (1) 20X32 precut bunker to S-4, 7th Marines.

(29) DWO D327-69. Issue (1) 20X32 precut with deck and lighting for BAS bunker and Provide technical assistance for 3/11.

(30) DWO D349-69. Repair stairs from Bn Commanders living quarters to messhall and replace hand rails for 2/7.

(31) DWO D344-69. Inspect water purification system at Esso plant and modify as necessary to provide fresh potable water to shower resevoir.

(32) DWO D238-69. Provide grader, mine sweep team and cable splicing team to support 7th Marines installation of BPS on Danang Barrier.

(33) DWO D304-69. Deliver 40yds sand and 8yds 3/4" gravel to 1st Hospital Company.

(34) DWO D219-69. Construct (1) 10X24 bunker with deck and lighting for Headquarters Battalion BAS.

(35) DWO D369-69. Paint and erect (2) signs at Camp "Stack Arms" R&R Center for 1st Marine Division.

(36) DWO D367-69. Provide Bill of materials to bring wiring at 3/1 up to acceptable standards.

[redacted]

[redacted]

(37) DWO D897-68. Construct (1) 10X24 bunker for Headquarters Battalion.

(38) DWO D298-69. Deliver 100 cubic yards of sand to 1st M.T. Battalion for sand bagging BAS and Comm.

(39) DWO D374-69. Clear clogged drain in messhall for 1/7.

(40) DWO D337-69. Construct R&R Center at 3rd LVT cantonment for 1st Marine Division.

(41) DWO D130-69. Install secondary Electrical distribution system with 4/0 wire at Hill 22 for 2/7.

(42) DWO D111-69. Construct (2) 10X24 bunkers at 1st 155 guns on Hill 34.

(43) DWO D106-69. Construct (1) 8X12 and (9) 8X8 bunkers for 1st Tank Battalion.

(44) DWO D348-69. Issue 5 urinoils to 1st Marine Regiment.

(45) DWO D208-69. Picked up materials for 16 SEA Huts and 6 four hole heads from 3rd NCB.

(46) DWO D380-69. Install shower fixtures at Stack Arms R&R Center.

(47) DWO D384-69. Corrected Electrical Discrepancy at 1st Marines C.P.

(48) DWO D341-69. Pull submersible pump from 2/7 well.

(49) DWO D381-69. Clean out messhall drain at 3/7.

(50) DWO D377-69. Repair foundation on Battalion Armory, 1/7 Hill 37.

(51) DWO D382-69. Repair damage to messhall Hill 55.

(52) DWO D390-69. Issue 50 pieces 3"X12"X12' lumber to Arvin Rangers Battalion.

(53) DWO D378-69. Rewire interior of messhall Hill 10.

(54) DWO D201-69. Provide (8) 10X24 bunkers to 5th Marines An Hoa.

(55) DWO D370-69. Construct messgear mount-out boxes for 1st Tank Bn.

[redacted]

[redacted]

b. The following 27 Significant Battalion originated Work Orders were completed during the month of June 1969.

(1) BWO B266-69. Accomplish following work at R&R Center in support of DWO 337-69.

a. Construct (2) life guard towers.
b. Construct (2) four hole heads.
c. Construct (15) mess benches.
d. Move 22½ SEA Huts to 3rd AmTrac Bn.
e. Connect Electrical power to all bldgs and to outdoor movie.
f. Install (1) field shower unit.
g. Install (3) 3,000 gal tanks for water.
h. Construct approximately 1.5 miles of single lane road.

(2) BWO B262-69. Construct 84 windshield covers for Bn embark Officer.

(3) BWO B254-69. Construct well at 3rd '" Howitizer.

(4) BWO B275-69. Repair or replace door on Bn S&C files as required for proper security.

(5) BWO B277-69. Level & rescreen S-3 office 1st Engr Bn

(6) BWO B278-69. Construct 5 tables for II CAG.

(7) BWO B281-69. Construct (1) small barbecue grill for Division Sgt Major.

(8) BWO B273-69. Construct (4) Standard four hole heads and (2) standard (2) hole heads in support of division work orders.

(9) BWO B250-69. Remove (2) partitions from school house and install (2) lights in Medcap room at San Thuy I and repair plumbing.

(10) BWO B260-69. Construct one water tower to support (2) 3,000 gallon tanks at 2/1.

(11) BWO B245-69. Design and install new sign at Camp Faulkner Main Gate 1st Engr Bn.

(12) BWO B270-69. Install (2) air-conditioners in 1st Engr Bn CCC Bunker.

(13) BWO B259-69. Construct (1) field range packing crate and (1) vacumm can and jug packing crate for 1st Engr Bn.

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(14) BWO B265-69. Accomplish following work in support of DWO 337-69.

1. Construct Water Tower
2. Reefer Shed
3. (1) 8X8 Bunker for Ammo
4. Provide 4 man crew to level SEA Huts

(15) BWO B272-69. Construct 25 Urinoils for S-3.

(16) BWO B180-69. Provide support for DWO 1007-69 as follows:

1. Construct Shelving
2. Panel Interior
3. Fabricate and install cabinets
4. Install electrical outlets and lighting

(17) BWO B258-69. Renovate and modernize (2) LMWS Classrooms, construct boardwalks.

(18) BWO B240-69. Construct parking lot in rear of Construction and Utilities shops.

(19) BWO B239-69. Construct (2) culvert fighting bunkers for 5th Marines An Hoa.

(20) BWO B238-69. Construct (2) screen doors for LOC Bunker for 5th Marines An Hoa.

(21) BWO B264-69. Accomplish following in support of DWO 337-69.

1. Construct outdoor theater.
2. Replace screening on 23 SEA Huts.
3. Construct movie projector storage building.
4. Provide 4 man team to emplace SEA Hut footings.

(22) BWO B282-69. Construct (2) Sentry Booths for roadside check-points on route 13-C for 3rd AmTrac Bn.

(23) BWO B279-69. Provide technical assistance to construct Booby-Trap lane at 2/7 Bn Combat Base.

(24) BWO B287-69. Construct a Boobytrap Lane fo 3/7.

(25) BWO B286-69. Provide Technical assistance to construct a tool shed for 3/7.

(26) BWO B285-69. Construct range targets for 2/7.

(27) BWO B288-69. Construct (1) 8X16 reviewing platform for 2/1.

[redacted]

[redacted]

c. 17,151 man hours, 61,276 BF lumber, 5,762 Equipment Hours, 1003 lbs of nails, 47,690 ft wire, 982 ft pipe, 400 ft cable, 13 sheets plywood, 44 sheets tin, 22 rolls of screen, 1,027 elect fixtures, 297 plumbing fixtures, 27 rolls roof paper, 5 uninoils, 8 pkgs of 10x24x8 Bunker pkgs, 1,118 bolts, 8 boxes of staples, 56 utility poles, 31 bundles of matting, 100 cubic yds of sand, 10 lbs of cement, 16 8x8 bunker pkgs, 2 grease traps, 13 rolls elect tape, 6 rolls tar paper, 1,250 ft Romex wire, 5 3000 gallon tanks, 3,100 tons of rock, 7½ cu yds of gravel, 16x32 Sea Hut pkg (1), 16 55 gal drums, 72 bolt clamps, 340 cu yds of 7" surge rock, 1 M3 shape charge, 2 M2A4 shape charges, 4 M37 kits, 3 tank platform, 470 cu yards 3" minus rock, 1,800 sand bags, 20 drift pins, 1 deck & lighting package, 2 standard 20x32x8 bunker pkg with deck & lighting, 4420 sq in of plexiglass, 3 boxes #8 wood screws, 1 20x32x8 bunker pkg, 10 Guy anchors, 10 Guy rods, 12 cases bangalore torpedoes, 2 pkgs TSFC bunker (Timber) pkg.

d. 10,131 man hours, 1,809 Equipment hours, 12,277 BF lumber, 190 lbs of nails, 86 sheets plywood, 6 sheets tin, 210 ft Romex cable, 90 ft pipe, 13 gallons paint, 25 55 gallon drums, 580 cu yds of 6" minus rock, 200 cu yds of gravel, 3 rolls screen, 8 flour. lights, 1 30-amp breaker, 8 Romex connectors, 2 handy boxes.

7. Civil Affairs/Civic Action.

a. During the month of June 1969, a total of 131 Vietnamese Civilians (not resulting from hostile action) received medical assistance.

b. Ten truck loads of scrap lumber and 82 pounds of commodities were delivered to the village of Son Thuy I and distributed to the villagers. Also, 6,600 pounds of rice was hauled from Danang to the village of Son Thuy I.

[redacted]

014159

3/LTN/jhg
3480
13 June 1969
059-69

[redacted]

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on Commanding Officer, Company "A" ltr 01/AWM/cel over 3480 of 6 June 1969

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

1. Concur with recommendations cited in paragraph 16 except that each operator will be given the opportunity to request and or reject the placement of steel plates around the operator compartment.

J. F. MADER

Cy 12 file

S & C FILES
HEADQUARTERS
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF
69 2150/1ST END
COPY 1 of 7 COPIES

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[redacted]

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

01:AWM:cel
3480
6 June 1969

[redacted]

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

S & C FILES
HEADQUARTERS
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF
69 2150
COPY 1 of 7 COPIES

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A

1. Code Name: Operation Woodpecker V

2. Dates of Operation: 301100H March 1969 to 301700H May 1969

3. Location: Dodge City

4. Commanding Headquarters:
(a) Commanding Officer, "A" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion
(b) Commanding General, 1st Marine Division

5. Reporting Officer: 1st Lieutenant Anthony W. MOTTO 010 52 07/1302 USMCR

6. Task Organization: An engineer platoon consisting of four T. D. 18 tractors from 1st Shore Party Battalion, four tractors and one M-60 crane from 1st Engineer Battalion, one T. D. 18 from 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, and one tractor from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines.

7. Supporting Forces: 21st Ranger Battalion, 37th Ranger Battalion, and 39th Ranger Battalion

8. Intelligence: The enemy was believed to be using this area extensively as a resupply route for ammunition and troops and also as a staging and recuperating area. The entire area was heavily fortified with bunker complexes, trench lines, and fighting holes. The bunkers destroyed were fighting type bunkers well emplaced with inter locking fields of fire. The location of the bunkers were usually in thick bamboo areas, almost undetectable from air and ground observation. Bunkers were also found within the trench lines, dug into the sides of the trench line. The bunkers were of extraordinary quality and craftsmanship, reinforced with bamboo, barbed wire stakes, and railroad ties obtained from the berm running north and south through the area. Spider holes and fighting holes were found in close proximity to the bunker complexes. Tunnels were discovered with the bunkers, heading from the bunkers to another type

[redacted]

[redacted] of fighting position. A trench line and fortified bunker position was discovered along the eastern bank of the small river extending from coordinates AT978596 to AT976571. The inteiligence report received by the Rangers revealed that the enemy had used this particular position to halt a sweep by the 21st Ranger Battalion. This trench line position led into the Song Thu Bon River and was believed to be a route of entrance and egress for the enemy.

An intercepted radio message received by the Ranger Headquarters Group showed that an NVA engineer platoon was tasked with the mission of destroying the equipment being used on the land clearing. Contact was made on 12 April 1969 by two companies of the 21st Ranger Battalion resulting in twenty NVA soldiers killed, and five friendly KIA's and twelve WIA's. Contact with the enemy in the area in which we were working was prevalent throughout the operation.

I feel that the main enemy technique used to hinder or stop the operation was the saturation of particular areas in which the tractors were to operate with booby-traps, resulting in numerous casualities to the engineers. The security suffered heavey losses from this technique. Areas such as those described were found at coordinates AT980577, AT979571, AT983567, AT990564, AT000570. The railroad berm is definitely heavily mined and booby-trapped. The Ranger security suffered numerous casualities along this fill.

Throughout the operation, evidence was discovered indicating that the enemy was using this area to stage its night attacks both on our positions and Marine positions located around Hill 55. Several small caches of food and ammunition were uncovered during the operation. A Browning Automatic Rifle was uncovered and found to be in perfect operating condition, having been recently oiled. VC flags and both VC and NVA uniforms were uncovered, along with rice and cornstuffs.

Particular attention should be paid to the fact that an estimated 92% of all ordnance destroyed was dud U. S. ordnance. An estimated 3% of this ordnance was found to be stripped of its explosive material. This may account for some of the mine and booby-trap incidents that have occured throughout this T. A. O. R. M-26 grenade booby-traps were prevalent throughout the operation. An estimated 95% of booby-traps detonated were from dud artellery rounds and M-26 hand grenades and 90% of those were M-26 grenades.

9. Mission:
(a) Provide combat engineer support to Ranger Battalions as required.
(b) Destroy all vegetation, field fortifications, and living areas within the area bounded on the West by Liberty Road extending to coordinates AT970565, on the East by the Suoi Co Ga River, on the north, by the Song La Tho River and on the South by the Song Thu Bon River.

10. Concept of Operation: Engineers from 1st Engineer Battalion assisted by operators from 1st Shore Party Battalion, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, and from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines acted in direct support of the 21st, 37th, and 39th Ranger Battalions. Ranger units were to provide tactical security for the engineers involved in the operation. The clearing of this area should partially eliminate the possibility of booby-trapping and aid in the denying of this terrain for future enemy use.

[redacted]

11. Execution: On [redacted] 00 March 1969 the engineers [redacted] ted Camp Faulkner for Hill 55. Arriving at Hill 55 at 1300 we were joined by Shore Party personnel and at 1400 departed to begin land clearing operations in the Dodge City area. Two engineer positions were established, one with each Ranger Battalion, with the respective battalions providing security for the men and equipment at their position. Each position worked separately from the other position until 25 April 1969 when all men and equipment were working in the same area. This eliminated some problems of control and augment the obtaining of parts and materials needed throughout the operation. The Rangers provided two companies for security and one platoon for close fire support of the tractors. The Ranger Companies were positioned one to two hundred meters around the equipment and the single platoon stayed with the tractors. The security didn't patrol out in front of the tractors but rather set in and remained in position. The equipment worked in designated areas with one engineer assigned to each tractor. All men wore helmets and flak gear at all times to reduce casualities due to booby-traps. Equipment was also positioned approximately 30 to 50 meters apart to eliminate the possibility of multiple casualities from the detonation of a mine or booby-trap by one tractor. The engineers followed in trace of the tractors recording all fortifications and ordnance destroyed. It was decided that for safety reasons all personnel were to remain behind the tractors. Night defensive tactics included some outpost and patrols. To augment the defensive positions, supporting fires to include 105MM howitzers were fired on likely avenues of approach and plotted for on-call targets. Harrassing and interdicting fires were continuous throughout the night. One POW reported that such fires resulted in 35 casualities on an NVA company. While working with the Rangers, the Marines did not participate in perimeter defense. One exception to this was that the permanent base camp located at coordinates AT992578 where Marines were credited with enemy kills on two occasions.

Before commencing work, the Ranger Companies called in artillery fire into the area we were going to work, in the hope of destroying any [illegible] booby-traps. This technique has minimal effect. The security section moved into their position twenty minutes prior to the tractors commencing work. It was felt that this technique would eliminate the possibility of an enemy ambush. This technique worked well, resulting in the security in contact with the enemy on five occasions before work commenced. One base camp was moved once during the operation from coordinates AT980583 to AT990570. This move was undertaken to reduce the time required to arrive at the site. One battalion size base camp and one company base camp were constructed during the operation. At night all tractors and trailers were dug in approximately 20 meters apart with berms built around them. This was done to lessen the possibility of damage to the tractors from mortar and rocket fragmentation.

One major lesson learned in the area of land clearing was the importance of helmets and flak jackets. On numerous occasions men were saved from death or serious injury from fragments from booby-traps. Another major lesson learned revolves around the fact that continuous patrolling and ambushing must be done in areas previously cleared. Six Ranger casualities and one Marine casuality resulted

[redacted]

[redacted] from booby-trapped an area worked in by the [redacted] party the previous day. Heavy bamboo tree lined work destroyed by using 40 pound cratering charges placed approximately five to six feet above ground level destroying an eight to nine foot wide growth of bamboo when detonated.

12. Results: Destruction accomplished and demolitions expended.

1. Engineers of Company "A", assisted by personnel from 1st Shore Party Battalion, Support Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, and 11th Marines, in support of the 21st, 37th, and 39th Ranger Battalions accomplished the following tasks:

a. Destroyed the following fortification:
   644 Bunkers
   533 Fighting holes
   400 Spider traps
   143 Yards of tunnel complexes

b. Destroyed 2911 yards of trench line approximately three to five feet wide.

c. Approximately 8,000,000 square meters were cleared.

d. Destruction of friendly ordnance:
   1-1000 pound bomb
   13-500 pound bomb
   15-250 pound bomb
   8-155MM rounds
   2-8 inch rounds
   2-106MM rounds
   38-105MM rounds
   2-90MM rounds
   6-81MM HE rounds
   2-81MM fuses
   68-60MM HE rounds
   12-60MM fuses
   1-60MM illumination round
   9-2.75 HE rockets
   6-cans 60MM increments
   1-2.75 W. P. rocket
   24-[illegible] rounds
   16-M 26 grenades not booby-trapped
   8-M 79's
   5-[illegible] rounds
   11-butterfly mines
   81-50 caliber rounds
   200-30 caliber rounds
   456-7.62MM ammunition
   100-5.56MM ammunition
   180-M 1 ammunition
   1-M 33 grenade
   1-20MM round
   2-aircraft illumination rounds
   1-bomb igniter

e. Enemy mines and booby-traps destroyed:
   20-M 26 grenades (booby-trapped)
   4-82MM rounds (booby-trapped)
   12-chi-coms (booby-trapped)
   2-105MM rounds (booby-trapped)

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1-M 16 mine
1-E 10 mine
2-25 pound directional mines
1-anti-tank mine
1-5 pound anti-personnel mine
3-booby-trapped ammunition cans

f. Enemy ordnance captured or destroyed:
6-B 40 rockets
2-R. P. G. rockets
124-NVA/VC blasting caps
1-75MM round
1-57MM round
2-pull, pressure, release firing devices
2-NVA 25 pound shape charges
2-NVA bangalor torpedoes
518-rounds of AK-47 ammunition
300-rounds SKS ammunition
39-chi-com grenades
2-mines, type unknown
1-SKS rifle
1-BAR

g. 570 pounds of rice, 650 pounds of corn, and 200 cans of fish destroyed.

h. Miscellaneous:
7-bodies one week old
4-books possibile intelligence information
16-wells
3-VC flags
1-sewing machine
4-knives
3-shovels

i. Total demolition expended:
C-4 4000 pounds
TNT 1000 pounds
6000 feet detonating cord
1200 blasting caps
3000 feet time fuze
8-40 pound shape charges
150-10 pound cratering charges

13. Administrative Matters:

1. A resupply point was established with the Ranger Group C. P. located on Hill 55. At this position two men were stationed and one M-51 was staged. All demolitions and "C" rations were stage at this position until needed by the using units in the field. As supplies of this nature were needed, they were delivered with the M-51. All demolitions and chow were ordered through Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion, who then delivered them to Hill 55. The men at this position were also responsible for the delievery of hot chow every night. This was obtained from the mess hall on Hill 55. The fuel and oil were delivered directly to the field daily. The refueler was scheduled for either 1200 ar 1700 daily so that all equipment was readily available for speedy refueling. Extra diesel was on hand in the field for emergency use when the refueler could not make it to the field. Such was the case on 30 April 1969, when

[redacted]

[redacted] at coordinates AT9[illegible]584 the refueler hit a five pound mine detering it from its mission. A water buffalo, also put out on the operation, was refilled every other day at Golden Gate Bridge. All supplies, excluding those items necessary for the maintenance of equipment, were ordered directly from "A" Company. Supplies needed for equipment, such as oil and parts, were ordered directly from Support Company, 1st Engineer Battalion.

2. Maintenance was performed by highly qualified mechanics who remained in the field. The contact team from 1st Engineer Battalion came to the field about every four days, checking equipment and bringing parts previously ordered for down equipment. When equipment was damaged due to enemy action or major breakdowns that could not be repaired in the field it was sent to 1st Engineer Battalion for repairs.

3. Casualities were treated immediately in the field by attached Navy personnel. Medevacs were called through the Ranger Headquarters. Landing zones were built in the field approximately 25 meters by 25 meters in size. This provided a safe landing zone for the medevac helicopter. Average time required to medevac a casuality was approximately twelve minutes from the time casuality was received.

4. N/A

5. N/A

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: The equipment on operation Woodpecker V (Phase 1) consisted of eight TD 18's, one M-60 crane, and one Eimco tractor. Each tractor has different capabilities and was employed in such a manner as to receive maximum output from each one. When in the field the tractors worked at a minimun of 30 to 40 meters apart so as to decrease the possibility of casualities if a tractor should hit a mine or a booby-trap. The Eimco is best employed in thick bamboo growthes or dence tree lines. The TD 18 is a slow but powerful machine suitable for this type of operation. The disadvantage of this tractor is the heat that is generated onto the operator from the engine. In extremely heavy bamboo thicket, cratering charges were used to destroy or weaken the bamboo. Incendary grenades were also employed with minimal effects on the bamboo.

15. Comments & Analysis: During the entire operation, coordination and cooperation was excellent. This was largely attributed to the Army advisors positioned with each Ranger Battalion. Over 8,000,000 square meters of terrain were completely leveled; enemy fortifications and caches were destroyed; and routes of entrance and exit into this area made easily observable. Because of the improved surveillance, booby-trapping and manoeuvering will be much more dificult for the enemy.

16. Recommendations:

1. That three or four days notice prior to the beginning of a land clearing operation be given to all personnel involved. This time would be used to properly P. M. equipment.

2. At all times, helmets and flak jackets should be worn to eliminate serious casualties suffered from fragmentation wounds.

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3. Extra parts, such as pet cocks, fuel lines, and shut-off valves, should be present in the field.
4. That personnel participating in a land clearing be told what type of ordnance may be found in the area and what to do when it is discovered. Pictures also could be shown to familarize the personnel with such ordnance.
5. One-half inch steel plates could be welded on either side of the tractor seat to add to the protection of the operator from fragments from booby-traps detonated on the side of the tractor.

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