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222368

HEADQUARTERS
3d Engineer Battalion
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

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g/djw/djw
5750
4 April 1968

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From: Commanding Officer, 3d Engineer Battalion
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (AO 3D)
Via: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Commanding General, 3d Marine Amphibious Force
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March 1968 to 31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMF PacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) 3d Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

Report Symbol: MC 5750-06

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

J. H. Aiken
T. H. AIKEN
by direction

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

3rd Engineer Battalion (Rein)
3rd Marine Division (Rein), MCF

COMMANDER

LtCol J. W. PERRIN
1-6 March 1968
Major R. S. KROLAK
7-31 March 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. LOCATION

- 1-31 March 1968: Company "A" with detachments of Engineer Support Company and H&S Company located at Dong Ha, RVN.
- 1-13 March 1968: Company "B" with detachments of Engineer Support Company and H&S Company located at Quang Tri, RVN.
- 14-31 March 1968: Company "B" with detachments of Engineer Support Company and H&S Company located at Cau Viet, RVN.
- 1-31 March 1968: Company "C" with detachments of Engineer Support Company and H&S Company located at Dong Ha, RVN.
- 1-3 March 1968: H&S Company and Engineer Support Company minus detachments located at Gia Le, RVN.
- 4-31 March 1968: H&S Company and Engineer Support Company minus detachments located at Quang Tri, RVN.
- 1-31 March 1968: Detachments of H&S Company and Engineer Support Company minus the Headquarters located at Gia Le, RVN.
- 1-18 March 1968: Provisional Company "G" organized from elements of Engineer Support Company and H&S Company, with strength of: USMC, OPF 5, USMC ENL182, USN ENL 4, and assigned OPCCN 38 Marine Regiment, Quang Tri, RVN for perimeter defense duty.
- 19 March 1968: Provisional Company "G" disbanded.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Major R. S. KROLAK
1-6 March 1968
Major T. H. AIKEN
6-31 March 1968

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Adjutant/S-1

CWO-2 J. R. CLARK
1-31 March 1968

S-2

Capt A. S. JONES
1-31 March 1968

S-3

Major T. H. AIKEN
1-31 March 1968

S-4

Capt W. R. FORD
1-31 March 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHERS</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
32	685	2	15	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

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A. INTELLIGENCE

1. The Intelligence Officer resumed nightly briefings of the Battalion Commander and Staff during the month of March. Significant events concerning the 3rd Engineer Battalion and the area around Quang Tri Combat Base and Northern Quang Tri Province were highlighted.

2. On displacement to Quang Tri Combat Base the tactical situation grew more sensitive. On several occasions enemy were spotted and killed very close to the perimeter. All indications were that the enemy planned a massive ground assault on the airstrip to interdict the supply missions to Khe Sanh. Agent reports were consistent and numerous that the attack was to come toward the end of the month with the 26th the most often repeated date. That the attack failed to materialize could be due to several reasons; 1) the enemy supply routes were interdicted to the point that he could not mass the materials necessary to support such an attack; or, 2) higher command postponed the attack in conjunction with holding back the Second Phase Offense in the South.

3. Mine and boobytrap incidents remained rather low in March. This could be explained by reasons; 1) the enemy was amassing supplies for his Second Phase Offensive; 2) the movement of the 3rd Marine Division's A.O. to Northern Quang Tri affords the enemy much less opportunity for mining, and; 3) the introduction of the 1st Air Cav and its mobility hindered the traditional mining tactics.

4. One type of boobytrap is worthy of notice. It consists of a C-ration can in the road as if it had been discarded by Marines. The can is connected to a pull fuze with a very short trip wire. Thus, when a sweep team man sees the can his normal reaction is to kick it from the path of his detector.

B. Training

1. Training during the month of March consisted of GMS Training outlined in Part II, Section B.

2. The 3d Marine Division Landmine Warfare School conducted by this unit continued operating.

a. QUANG TRI LMWS

(1) 3d Engineer Battalion-31

3. During the month of March Tunnel Teams continued to train.

C. Operations

1. General: During the month of March the 3d Engineer Battalion remained operational in general support of the 3d Marine Division. Employment of the Battalion was in a dual role of combat support and combat service support.

2. General Combat Support

a. A total of 299 deliberate/visual mine sweeps were conducted during March for a daily average of 43,174 meters. The following mine sweep road segments were covered:

(YD 315546-330519)
 (YD 303560-245605)
 (YD 138612-142591)
 (YD 138612-133640)
 (YD 133641-138612)
 (YD 118698-128679)
 (YD 129661-133649)
 (YD 187723-189721)
 (YD 060550-128589)
 (YD 033561-992556)
 (YD 062545-095516)
 (YD 307536-294528)

b. There were a total of 15 sweeps conducted in support of motor transport convoys between PHU BAI and QUANG TRI for a total of 1,035,000 meters.

C. Direct Combat Support

a. General support of infantry operations was provided through task organized engineer units from the 3d Engineer Battalion. This support was primarily provided by the letter companies, with detachments from F&S Company and Engineer Support Company. This support provided in the QUANG TRI, DONG HA, KHE SANH, Camp CARROLL, CUA VIET and PHU BAI areas of operation. The primary work performed was mine sweeping, demolitions and bunker construction.

- b. Company "A" continued to support the 4th Marine Regiment. One platoon supports the 26th Marines at KHE SANH with general mission of developing and maintaining the base camp and providing combat support.
- c. Company "B" continued its support of the 3d Marine Regiment at QUA VIET.
- d. Company "C" continued to support the 9th Marine Regiment in the DONG HA and CON TIEN areas. One platoon from Company "C" supports the 26th Marines in KHE SANH with the general mission of developing and maintaining the base camp and provide combat support.

4. Combat Service Support

a. Roads and Bridges

This organization maintained access roads at KHE SANH and in the Battalion area at QUANG TRI. There were no bridges constructed or repaired.

b. Field Fortification

This organization continued to assist other organizations in the KHE SANH, DONG HA, QUANG TRI AND QUA VIET areas with material and man power to improve existing field fortifications including defensive wire and bunker construction.

c. General Construction

Constructing water tower, generator pad and general construction in Battalion and Division C.P. area at QUANG TRI. Constructing of bunks and tables in bunkers in the DONG HA, CALU and C-4 areas.

- d. Utilities platoon, generator section continued to maintain generators during March at KHE SANH, QUA VIET, PHU BAI and QUANG TRI. A total of seven (7) water points were operated during March. The total water production for March was:

Potable-	2,195,560
Raw-	822,970
Total	<u>3,018,530</u>

e. Drafting and Surveying

This section continued to support the 3d Marine Division with drafting and surveying.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATIONS WERE MAINTAINED WITH DONG HA AND RELAY SYSTEM TO QUA VIET.
2. MAINTAINED ONE SB-22 AND ONE PCR-25 AT GIA LE FOR THIRD ENGINEER REAR.
3. DISPLACED FROM GIA LE ALL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR INSTALLATION AT NEW COMMAND POST SITE.
4. NEW COMMUNICATIONS CENTER WAS ESTABLISHED AND FORTIFIED WITH SAND-BAGS.
5. PROVIDED 24 HOUR SWITCHBOARD WATCH AT NEW BATTALION HEADQUARTERS.
6. DISPLACED RPS SYSTEM WITH TWO GRADS TO NEW COMMAND POST SITE.
7. MAINTAINED COMMUNICATIONS FOR THIRD ENGINEER "GOLE" PHU COMPANY.
8. SWITCHBOARD INSTALLED WITH THREE RADIO RELAY LINKS TO DIVISION.
9. BEGAN UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE TELEPHONE CABLES.
10. TWO RC-292 FOR USE WITH AN/PCR25 AND ONE 40 FOOT WHIP ANTENNA FOR USE WITH AN/PCR47 WERE ERECTED AT NEW SITE.
11. MAINTAINED 24 HOUR COC WATCH, AND RADIO WATCH.
12. INSTALLED HOT LINES TO HEADQUARTERS BATTALION THIRD MARINE DIVISION REAR, BLOCKING FORCE POSITIONS AREA DEFENSIVE BUNKERS.

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1. Logistics

1. During March 1968 the Battalion moved from Gia Le Combat Base to Quang Tri.
2. Movement of the Battalion is continuing, with a convoy arriving every third day. Due to a lack of vehicles this move will continue through April.
3. Supply has continued normally throughout the move, with body armor remaining in very critical supply. Resupply or turn-in on the rehab program is non-existent in Quang Tri. Helmet liners are fast becoming in short supply.
4. The Da. AC location has been changed from Thu Bai to Dong Ha. Transition was made easily.

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F. CIVIL AFFAIRS

1. The 3rd Marine Division has not yet assigned this unit a Civil Affairs responsibility. This was precluded by several factors including this units work load and the tactical situation. It is doubtful if the tactical situation will permit civic action in the near future.

2. This unit contributed clothes and toys to the MACV Civil Affairs Officer for distribution to the Khe Sanh refugees at Cam Lo. The TET Agression Relief Project was also initiated with the results due in April.

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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S-1 LISTING OF SEQUENTIAL EVENTS

1Mar68	Company personnel accounting resumed, battalion level accounting ceased
2Mar68	Unit relocated to Quang Tri RVN
4Mar68	LtCol J. W. PERRIN admitted to NSA Hospital Danang in a serious condition - Non hostile
7Mar68	Major R. S. KROLAK assigned as Bn CO vice LtCol J. W. PERRIN relieved. Major T. H. AIKEN assigned as ExecO vice Major R. S. KROLAK relieved. Major AIKEN retains the additional duty as S-3.

Total casualties reported for March 1968 are:

3	KIA, USMC Enlisted
3	WIA, USMC Officers
15	WIA, USMC Enlisted
1	WIA, USN Enlisted

B. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

- 2 Mar 1968 - Left Phu Bai staging area for Quang Tri. Arrived at Quang Tri and began unloading.
- 4 Mar 1968 - S-2 to MACV for intelligence briefing at Quang Tri City.
- 7 Mar 1968 - S-2 and S-2 chief to MACV for intelligence briefing at Quang Tri City.
- 8 Mar 1968 - Command Chronology declassified by order of XO; M/PT Overlay removed, returned Command Chronology to S-3 for delivery.
- 15 Mar 1968 - Quang Tri Base received 37 (Approx) rounds of 122mm rockets.
- 21 Mar 1968 - S-2 chief went on recon patrol to scout terrain in front of perimeter.

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C. S-3 SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 3 Mar 68 - Started erection of temporary Battalion CP at QUANG TRI
- 14 Mar 68 - Company "B" moved to CUA VIET in support of 3d Marine Regiment
- 15 Mar 68 - 3d Engineer Battalion was tasked with storing wire and supervising of installation in the QUANG TRI Base Defense Perimeter
- 18 Mar 68 - Capt GRESHAM attended meeting at Base Coordinators office on use of South Vietnamese laborers to fill sand bags
- 23 Mar 68 - Directed by Division Engineers Office to send a 30KW generator to CUA VIET
- 28 Mar 68 - Request from Division Engineers Office to repair Intelligence Comm Bunker
- 29 Mar 68 - Company "B" completed construction of LZ at CUA VIET

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D. S-4 Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 2 March 68 Third Engineer Battalion was relocated from Gia Le to Quang Tri.
- 13 March 68 S-4 office relocated from Gia Le to Quang-Tri.
- 15 March 68 Prepared initial MARS Report.
- 21 March 68 Captain Ford, S-4, entered the hospital in Dong Ha with a high fever.
- 22 March 68 The Battalion heavy equipment arrived at Dong Ha ramp. The heavy equipment was carried from the Hue Ramp by LSU.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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