

HEADQUARTERS
7th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein, FMF
c/o FPO, San Francisco, California 96601

3/TCG/bfn
5750
2 October 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force and Naval Component Command

Subj: Command Cronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following Command Cronology covering the period 24 August to 30 September 1965 is submitted.

2. Average Monthly Strength.

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
Off	38	1
Enl	928	11

3. Personnel.

a. During the month of September this Battalion gained 81 enlisted and 1 officer.

b. Our losses consisted of 1 officer (USMC), 7 enlisted (USMC) and the Battalion Doctor (USN).

4. Administration. The Battalion has experienced only minor administrative problems. A recommendation for Purple Heart was submitted 27 Sep 65 on SSgt L. M. RANCATTI (Co "B"), who had received a flesh wound from VC sniper fire.

5. Civil Affairs/Military Government/Community Relations.

a. The civil affairs and community relations are concentrated on the village of Hoa Khanh. Since the Battalion is centrally located to the hamlets comprising Hoa Khanh, our civic action program is directed entirely towards this village. Since arriving in this area the civil affairs officer has contacted the village chief, his council and hamlet leaders. Through the aid of ARVN interpreters, and their civil affairs teams, the village chief and civil affairs officer have established areas of security, responsibility, censorship and civilian control.

b. Programs of assistance that this organization has accomplished in the local village are as follows:

ENCLOSURE (5)

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(1) An organized shopping center has been established with controlled prices, which are maintained under the jurisdiction of the village chief. Requests from tradesmen to establish shops in the shopping center are coordinated through the chief.

(2) Censorship reports submitted to this Battalion by the village chief containing population count of adults and children, supplemented with current reports of refugees. The reliability of reports is the responsibility of the chief.

(3) A recommendation has been submitted through channels to investigate increasing school facilities and requirements in the village.

(4) Plans for the future include the possible hiring of local villagers to work in the camp and surrounding area. A list of recommended personnel having a clearance is being compiled by the chief for future reference.

(5) Weekly meetings have been established with the chief in order that the Battalion legal officer may process villagers' claims for destruction of crops and property.

(6) Medical aid for villagers has been established on a 3 day a week basis and approximately 50 adults and children are treated each day. During the reporting period a total of 477 civilians have been treated.

(7) Dirt fill and grading has been furnished on a very limited basis. The new life hamlet of Phouc Long, however, was given 20 dump truck loads of fill to use as top soil. This consisted of spoil which was required to be removed.

(8) Scrap wood chips have been distributed to each hamlet to be used for fuel.

c. It is felt at this time that the civil affairs program and community relations can be considered excellent in all respects. One definite problem that hinders progress considerably, however, is lack of permanently assigned interpreters.

6. Intelligence.

a. Enemy action. The Battalion received two incidents of sniper fire, on 041720H Sep and 251055H Sep, in the vicinity of the Battalion area, one of which resulted in a casualty.

b. As part of the security agreements made between the military and village leaders, information relating to VC activities will be referred

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directly to this command. Nothing of importance was imparted to the Battalion during the reporting period.

7. Training.

a. Since landing in Da Nang, the following training has been accomplished:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
"Why We Are Here"	1
"Relationship with People of Viet Nam"	1
"The Nature of the Viet Cong"	1
"Vietnamese History and Culture"	1
"Political Implications in Viet Nam"	1

8. Special Operations. None.

9. Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare. None.

10. Command and Control. The Battalion Staff and Company Commanders remain unchanged since embarking for Viet Nam.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Billet</u>
MEEKER, E. L.	LtCol	CO
FIELD, F. J.	Maj	XO
WALDVOGEL, I. F.	CWO-2	Adj
WINTER, S. L.	1stLt	S&C, Legal
GLASS, T. G.	1stLt	S-2
MCCANDLESS, J. R.	Maj	S-3
LULEY, R. E.	Maj	S-4
KERR, R. A.	Capt	CO, HqCo
THOMPSON, J. M.	Capt	CO, ServCo
STEIN, M. A.	Capt	CO, Co"A"
HARDACKER, N. A.	Capt	CO, Co"B"
SOLTER, H. L.	Capt	CO, Co"D"
WUERCH, G. P.	Capt	CO, 1stBrdgCo

11. Air Defense. At the present time this Battalion has 4, .50 Cal machine guns with anti-aircraft mounts, strategically located within the Battalion area. A defense overlay including these positions has been forwarded to the 3rd Marine Regiment.

12. Logistics.

a. Two ships, USS Vancouver and USS Thomaston, arrived off Da Nang,

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during the early morning hours of 24 August 1965. Unloading operations commenced that same day utilizing landing craft over Museum Pier. Unloading was completed and all cargo and equipment had been moved to the Battalion camp by the evening of 26 August 1965. The USS Washburn arrived and unloading was commenced on 30 August 1965. Landing craft were again utilized only this time the Commercial Pier was used. Unloading was completed and all cargo was in the Battalion camp by the evening of 1 September 1965.

b. Operations in conjunction with the establishment of a permanent camp for elements of this Battalion were commenced immediately upon arrival. To date 90 strongbacks for general purpose tents, seven strongbacks for command post tents, eight strongbacks for storage tents, four strongbacks for pyramidal tents, a 1600 man galley, nine "8 hole heads" and a temporary carpenter shop have been erected. *without messhall, 8 PM*

c. Battalion supply section has established a supply complex within the boundaries of the camp. Supplies currently on hand are as follows: Class I, 529 cases of MCI rations, Class II, as authorized by unit allowance list and as established by unit property record history data, Class III, 100 drums of diesel fuel and 75 drums of mogas, Class IV, as required, Class V, 8.5 S/T of small arms and .77 S/T of high explosives. Approximately 2900 requisitions have been processed of which 2100 have been sent to a higher echelon. Six hundred (600) empty 55 gallon drums have been salvaged of which 50 are used throughout the camp as trash barrels and 550 have been converted for use as culvert material.

d. The Battalion aid station has treated 1467 military patients. There has been one battle casualty (leg wound from a ricochet), 26 men have been hospitalized and nine have been evacuated out of the area.

e. The Battalion's motor transport equipment has amassed over 70,000 miles of operation and has hauled an estimated 65,000 yards of fill and sand, over one million board feet of lumber and timbers and 1500 S/T of other construction materials.

f. The Water Supply Platoon has dug a well 120 feet deep for use within the Battalion camp. This well was not completed due to urgency of Headquarters Battalion cantonment requirements. The rotary well rig was at the Headquarters Battalion cantonment and drilling operations for a well there have begun. Four water points have been reestablished and have produced 1,776,716 gallons of potable water. Shower facilities have been provided for 18,784 men. A 70 foot drain line was installed at the III MAF messhall, 2,000 feet of two inch pipe were laid at Headquarters Battalion cantonment, 65% of external temporary plumbing was completed at Headquarters Battalion cantonment, and the laying of permanent external plumbing at the CG's quarters, ADC's quarters and

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CG's mess were completed.

g. The Battalion Maintenance Platoon has serviced/repared 310 pieces of motor transport equipment and 118 pieces of engineer equipment. The welding shop has welded the 550 salvaged fuel drums into various lengths of culvert material. Telephone/electrical poles were fabricated out of bomb fin crates and 8 inch shell packaging. Eight inch shell packaging has also been made into underground drains and bomb fin crates have found usage as tent frame footings and supports for benches in the chapel. A contact team from the maintenance platoon has made two trips to Chu Lai to service this Battalion's equipment in that area.

h. The Battalion mess section has been operating since the morning of 25 August and to date has served almost 70,000 individual meals.

i. The Battalion's Construction Platoon during this period has received, stored, cut and delivered 260 strongbacks for general purpose tents. Twenty (20) strongbacks for general purpose tents have been constructed, nine "8 hole heads" were prefabricated, three sentry booths were built, timbers were cut as needed for various projects and lumber pre-cut for the Battalion's 1600 man galley as required. Trained personnel were supplied to other units to train and supervise the construction of various buildings.

j. The Battalion's Utilities Platoon has installed exterior wiring throughout the Battalion camp area, supplies a generator for the detachment at Chu Lai, supported the 3rd Engineer Battalion with 30 KW generator for 3 days, completed wiring 20% of the CG's house, and supplies the Battalion camp with electrical power on a 24 hour basis.

13. Major Construction Projects. During this reporting period the major projects completed and under construction are as follows:

a. Completed.

- (1) Construction and operation of class 60 ferry in Da Nang.
- (2) Cleared and leveled air base perimeter.
- (3) Construction of a 150 foot class 60, M4T6 floating highway bridge across the Song Tuy Loan (River) in the vicinity of AT 946699.
- (4) Construction of a class 60, M6 standard bridge across the Song Can Bien (River) in vicinity of AT 072701. 195' *EMK*

b. Under Construction.

- (1) Construction of ammunition supply points # 1 and # 2 to contain Division and Wing class V supplies.

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- (2) Construction of 500 man and 1600 man messhalls.
- (3) Construction of CG's and ADC's quarters.
- (4) Construction and maintenance of northern portion of Route 268.
- (5) Installation of water and sewage distribution systems for Headquarters cantonment.
- (6) Installation of primary and secondary power distribution system for Headquarters cantonment.
- (7) Construction of camp cantonment for the Second Battalions of the 3rd and 9th Regiments to include 291 strongbacks and five 500 man galleys (modified).

E. L. Meeker
E. L. MEEKER

Added ; Embr O #102-65 (2 Aug 65) 280 055

EnCont 0388-65

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HEADQUARTERS

7th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein, FMEF

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA

Serial Number: 06-65

021600 August 1965

Embarkation Order 102-65 to Accompany Operation Order 102-65

- Ref: (a) 7th Engr Bn Admin O 102-65
 (b) FMEFPac O P4600.1F
 (c) Bn O 4600.1A
 (d) FMEFM 4-2

Time Zone: Tange

1. Organization for Embarkation

- a. General. The Battalion will form into Embarkation Group Alfa which will be organized into three Embarkation Teams as prescribed in Annex A (Organization for Embarkation and Assignment to Shipping).
 b. Assignment to Shipping. See Annex A.

2. Material to be Embarked

- a. Organic Equipment. See reference (a).
 b. Types and Amounts of Supplies. See reference (a).
 c. Preparation of Supplies and Equipment for Embarkation. In accordance with references (b), (c) and (d).
 d. Movement to POE. Instructions for the movement of supplies, equipment and personnel to the POE will be disseminated through the Battalion S-4 Officer.

3. Personnel

- a. Uniform, Equipment and Baggage. See reference (a).
 b. Advance Details
 (1) Working parties and security personnel will be moved to respective embarkation areas prior to movement of any material to the embarkation area concerned.
 (2) Advance parties will be moved to embarkation areas to coincide with the arrival time of respective ships. See reference (d) for functions of advance parties.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~c. Movement of the Main Body

- (1) The main body of troops for each embarkation team will be moved to respective POEs to coincide with the expected time for completion of loading material.
- (2) Embarkation Team Commanders will submit transportation requirements to this Headquarters (S-4).

d. Embarkation Rosters. See Annex C (Personnel) to reference (a).4. Embarkation Areas

- a. Assignment to Embarkation and Staging Areas. See Annex B.
- b. Material Handling Equipment. Requests for materials handling equipment will be submitted to this Headquarters (S-4).
- c. Security. Embarkation Team Commanders will be responsible for the security of material while in embarkation and staging areas.

5. Embarkation Schedules

- a. Limiting Dates. Embarkation will be completed in accordance with Annex C.
- b. Berthing and Loading Schedule. See Annex C.

6. Control

- a. Port Coordination. The ports will be coordinated by the Division Embarkation Section, 1st Marine Division (-) Rein, FMP.
- b. Embarkation Control Office
 - (1) Embarkation Control Office functions are set forth in reference (d).
 - (2) This Headquarters will establish a Control Office at Camp Del Mar (Telephone 8464), during the period of embarkation.
- c. Communications
 - (1) Communications between POEs and this Headquarters will be by telephone.
 - (2) Long distance telephone calls will be restricted to lease lines.

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7. Miscellaneous

a. Loading Plans

- (1) Prepared in accordance with reference (d).
- (2) Loading Plans will be distributed in accordance with the following.
 - (a) Division Embarkation Section - Six copies
 - (b) Each ship concerned - 11 copies
 - (c) One corrected copy will be delivered to the Division Embarkation Representative prior to sailing

b. Reports. See Annex D.



E. L. MEEKER

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

ANNEXES:

- A - Organization for Embarkation and Assignment to Shipping
- B - Staging Plan
- C - Berthing and Loading Schedule
- D - Reports

DISTRIBUTION: Annex D (Distribution) to Administrative Order 102-65

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 7th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein, FMR
 CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA
 Serial Number: 06-65
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Annex A (Organization for Embarkation and Assignment to Shipping) to
 Embarkation Order 102-65

Ref: (a) 7th Engr Bn Admin O 102-65

Time Zone: Tango

1. Embarkation Team Alfa-1

- a. Ship. USS WASHBURN (AKA-108)
- b. Commanding Officer of Troops. First Lieutenant M. H. BISHOP
- c. Embarkation Officer. First Lieutenant M. H. BISHOP
- d. Embarked Units

Detachment, Headquarters Company	0	-	4
Detachment, Service Company	1	-	28

2. Embarkation Team Alfa-2

- a. Ship. USS THOMASTON (LSD-28)
- b. Commanding Officer of Troops. Captain N. S. HARDACKER, Jr.
- c. Embarkation Officer. First Lieutenant R. W. PHILLIPS
- d. Embarked Units

	USMC	USN
Company "B"	5 - 144	0 - 2
Detachment, Headquarters Company	0 - 32	1 - 0
Detachment, Service Company	1 - 42	

3. Embarkation Team Alfa-3

- a. Ship. USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2)
- b. Commanding Officer of Troops. Lieutenant Colonel E. L. MEEKER
- c. Embarkation Officer. First Lieutenant J. S. KIRLEY
- d. Embarked Units

	USMC	USN
Headquarters Company (-)	14 - 150	1 - 4
Service Company (-)	4 - 158	
Company "D"	5 - 144	0 - 2
1st Bridge Company (-), FMR	4 - 85	

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BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MEEKER

J. C. Dangler
J. C. DANGLER
First Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps
Battalion S-4 Officer

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 Serial Number: 06-65
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Annex B (Staging Plan) to Embarkation Order 102-65

Ref: (a) FMFM 4-2

Time Zone: Tango

1. General

- a. Vehicles and equipment will be staged by ship loads in accordance with Appendix 2.
- b. Vehicles and equipment will be staged in march order with the items to be loaded first at the head of the column.
- c. Vehicles will be marked in accordance with paragraph 511.h. of reference (a).

2. Security. Security of vehicles and equipment while in the staging areas will be the responsibility of the Embarkation Team Commander.

3. Control. Staging and movement to the POE will be coordinated by the Battalion S-4 Officer.

4. Staging

- a. Staging of vehicles and equipment will be completed in the Battalion Motor Pool in sufficient time to commence movement to the POE Staging Areas in accordance with the schedule contained in Appendix 2.
- b. Vehicles will be staged and loaded at the U. S. Naval Base, San Diego.
- c. Equipment will be staged and loaded at Camp Del Mar.
- d. Class V (Basic Allowance and 30 DOA) will be handled at Camp Del Mar.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MEEKER

C. Dangler
 C. DANGLER

First Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps
 Battalion S-4 Officer

B-1

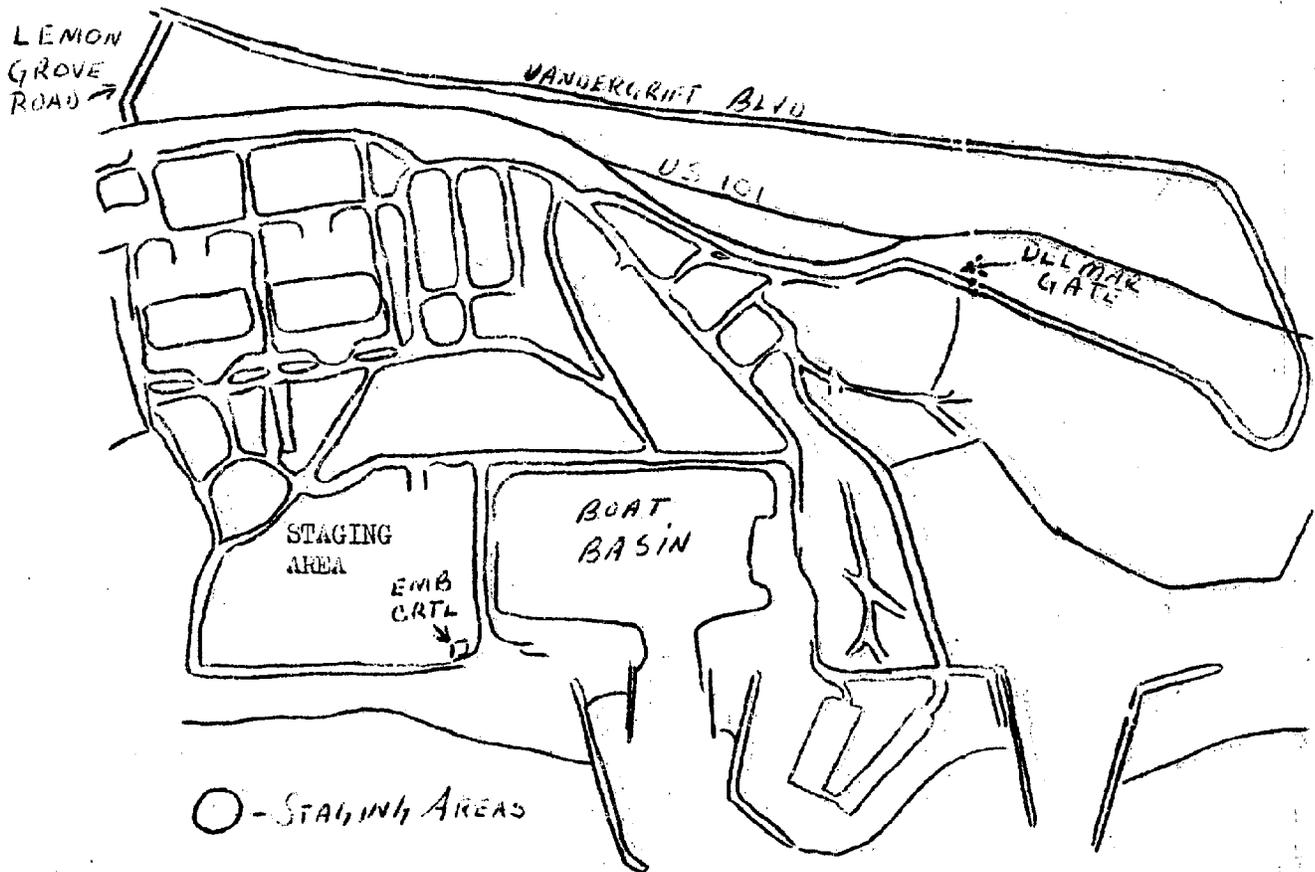
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7th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein, FMF
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA
Serial Number: 06-65
021600 August 1965

Appendix 1 (Diagram of Camp Del Mar Area) to Annex B (Staging Plan) to
Embarkation Order 102-65

Time Zone: Tango



BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MEEKER

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Appendix 2 (Staging Schedule) to Annex B (Staging Plan) to Embarkation
 Order 102-65

Time Zone: Tango

1. The Staging Schedule at Camp Del Mar and U. S. Naval Base, San Diego is as follows.

<u>EMBARKATION TEAM</u>	<u>COMMENCE STAGING</u>	<u>STAGING AREA</u>
Alfa - 1	290800 July	San Diego
Alfa - 2	020800 August 030800 August	Camp Del Mar San Diego
Alfa - 3	020800 August 030800 August	Camp Del Mar San Diego

- a. See Appendix 1 for location of Camp Del Mar Staging Area.

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 First Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps
 Battalion S-4 Officer

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 CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA
 Serial Numbers: 06-65
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Annex C (Berthing and Loading Schedule) to Embarkation Order 102-65

Time Zone: Tango

<u>EMBARKATION TEAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>LOADING DATE</u>
Alfa - 1	San Diego	31 Jul - 2 Aug
Alfa - 2	San Diego Camp Del Mar	4 and 6 Aug 5 Aug
Alfa - 3	San Diego Camp Del Mar	4 and 6 Aug 5 Aug

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7th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein, FMF
 CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA
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Annex D (Reports) to Embarkation Order 102-65

Time Zone: Tango

1. Loading Reports. Loading Reports will be submitted to this Headquarters (S-4), Telephone 5477, initially on commencement of loading and every eight hours there-after until completion. Reports will be in the below format and contain the following information.

a. Initial Loading Status Report.

Subj: Initial Loading Status Report (Name and hull number of ship)

Alfa: Time commenced loading

Papa: Number of personnel, Off/Enl, to be embarked.

Charlie: Cubic feet and S/T of cargo by class of supply (number of drums of Class III) to be embarked.

Victor: Number and square feet of vehicles.

Foxtrot: Expected time of completion.

b. Eight Hour Loading Report.

Subj: (DTG) Loading Status Report (Name and hull number of ship)

Alfa: Time commenced loading

Papa: % of personnel embarked

Charlie: % of cargo embarked by class

Victor: % of vehicles embarked

Foxtrot: Estimated time of completion

2. Sailing Reports. Sailing Reports (Sierra Report) will be submitted by the Embarkation Team Commander by classified message in the format shown in Appendix 1.

3. Reports of Shipboard Accommodations and Spaces, Embarked Troops

a. Embarkation Team Commanders will submit a Report of Shipboard Accommodations and Spaces, Embarked Troops, in the format shown in Appendix 2, upon completion of this movement to CG FFPAC. Reports of an unsatisfactory condition which continued to exist after having been referred for corrective action to the Commanding Officer of the

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ship, will be forwarded to CG, FMFPAC via the troop chain of command.

b. An advance copy of any unsatisfactory report of shipboard accommodations will be delivered to the Commanding Officer of the ship concerned.

c. Reports will be concise, thorough and objective, and must cite specific examples and include sufficient detail to permit higher Headquarters to prepare a request to the appropriate naval command for remedial action.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MEEKER

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First Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps
Battalion S-4 Officer

APPENDICIES:

1. Sailing Report
2. Report of Shipboard Accommodations and Spaces Embarked Troops

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HEADQUARTERS
 7th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein, FMF
 CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA
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Appendix 1 (Sailing Report) to Annex D (Reports) to Embarkation
 Order 102-65

Time Zone: Tango

MESSAGE FORMAT FOR SAILING REPORTS

FROM: EMBARKATION TEAM COMMANDER

TO:

INFO:

SAILING REPORT

A. MCO 3000.2

B. FMFPACO P4600.1

PARA 1. NAME OF SHIP, DTG SHIP COMMENCED LOADING; DTG SHIP COMPLETED LOADING

PARA 2. ETD, ETA, AND DESTINATION

PARA 3. ORGANIZATION FOR EMBARKATION. LIST THE FOLLOWING DATA IN FIVE COLUMNS FOR EACH UNIT/DET EMBARKED:

FIRST COLUMN - NAME OF UNIT OR DET

SECOND COLUMN - MARINE OFFICERS/ENLISTED

THIRD COLUMN - NAVY OFFICER/ENLISTED

FOURTH COLUMN - OTHER SERVICES OFFICERS/ENLISTED

FIFTH COLUMN - TOTAL PERSONNEL EMBARKED

PARA 4. NAMES OF COMMANDERS OF BATTALION/SQUADRON OR LARGER UNITS EMBARKED

PARA 5. THE NUMBER BY TYPE OF CREW SERVED WEAPONS

PARA 6. THE NUMBER BY TYPE OF WHEELED AND TRACKED VEHICLES

PARA 7. THE NUMBER BY TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

PARA 8. THE NUMBER BY TYPE OF ALL OTHER MAJOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT

PARA 9. TOTAL SQUARE FEET OF VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT EMBARKED (DO NOT INCLUDE MAJOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT MOBILE LOADED)

PARA 10. EMBARKED SUPPLY SUMMARY BY CLASS - RE D IN FOUR COLUMNS

SUPPLIES	M/O	LFORM	O/L	T
CLASS I	(MOUNT OUT)	(LANDING FORCE	(OPERATING LEVELS)	(TRAINING)
NO		OPERATION		
CU FT		RESERVE		
WT/ST		MATERIAL)		
CLASS II & IIA				
CU FT				
WT/ST				
CLASS III & IIIA				
BULK				
MOGAS (NO GALS)				
AVGAS (NO GALS)				
JP-5 (NO GALS)				

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DIESEL (NO GALS)
DRUMMED
MOGAS (NO DRUMS)
AVGAS (NO DRUMS)
JP-5 (NO DRUMS)
DIESEL (NO DRUMS)
OTHER POL (NO DRUMS)
CLASS IV & IVA
CU FT
WT/ST
CLASS V & Va
CU FT
WT/ST
INSERT N/A WHEREVER APPROPRIATE

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MEEKER

J. C. DANGLER
First Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps
Battalion S-4 Officer

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 CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA
 Serial Number: 06-65
 021600 August 1965

Appendix 2 (Report of Shipboard Accommodations and Spaces Embarked Troops) to Annex D (Reports) to Embarkation Order 102-65

Time Zone: Tango

REPORT OF SHIPBOARD ACCOMMODATIONS AND SPACES, EMBARKED TROOPS

Unit(s) _____ USS _____

Number of Officers _____ Number of Enlisted _____

Name of Operation _____

Date and Location of Embarkation _____

Date and Location of Debarkation _____

(Check one)

*Unsatis- Satis- Good to Not
factory factory Excellent Applicable

1. Troops space allocation
2. Troop messing
 - a. Food
 - b. Service
3. Troops bathing facilities
4. Troop toilet facilities
5. Troop laundry facilities
6. Medical facilities
7. Dental facilities
8. Recreational facilities
9. Ship's exchange
10. Barber shop
11. Stowage

* All unsatisfactory markings should be amplified in detail (dates, specific instances, etc.) on an attached sheet, using identical paragraph numbers as above, to be used as a basis for determining corrective action.

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*Unsatis- <u>factory</u>	Satis- <u>factory</u>	Good to <u>Excellent</u>	Not <u>applicable</u>
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- a. Personal gear
- b. Organization gear
- 12. Office space
- 13. Officer space allocation
- 14. Officer messing
- 15. General cargo space
- 16. Troop gasoline stowage
- 17. Troop Ammunition stowage
- 18. Cargo handling gear
 - a. Booms
 - b. Nets
 - c. Slings
- 19. Troop communication facilities
- 20. Troop-crew relationship
- 21. Condition of landing nets
- 22. Does the ship conform with the Ship's Loading Characteristics Pamphlet Yes or No. If No, briefly explain.
- 23. Additional comments not covered elsewhere in this report.

(Name)	(Rank)	(Org)
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BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MEEKER

J. C. DANGLER
 First Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps
 Battalion S-4 Officer

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