

HEADQUARTERS
9th Engineer Battalion, FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/gbc
5750
6 October 1968
0062-68

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division, Fleet Marine
Force, Pacific, FPO San Francisco, California 96602
(Attn: Field Historian)

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 September 1968 to 30
September 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2E

Encl: ✓(1) 9th Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

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

D. U. Davidson
D. U. DAVIDSON

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9TH ENGR BN

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SEP 1968

9TH ENGINEER BN

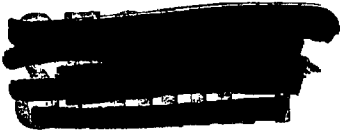
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September 1968 - 30 September 1968
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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

9th Engineer Battalion

COMMANDER

LtCol H. E. PEREA
*LtCol D. U. DAVIDSON

Subordinate Units

Headquarters Company
Service Company
Company "A"
Company "B"
Company "C"
Company "D"

Capt. C. H. ROYER
Capt. J. K. NAGAZYNA
Capt. G. B. BARNEY
1stLt G. M. SHERMAN
Capt. D. W. JOHNSON
1stLt W. G. WARD

*Assumed duties on 15 Sept 68

Attached Units

3rd Bridge Platoon, 1st Bridge
Company in direct support

2ndLt P. J. SHEA

2. LOCATION

9th Engineer Battalion	Chu Lai, RVN	1-30 September 1968
Company "A"	Hill #10	1-30 September 1968
	BT 199390	
Company "B"	YD 893129	1-30 September 1968
Company "C"	Chu Lai, RVN	1-30 September 1968
Company "D"	Hill #63	1-30 September 1968
	BT 136448	

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer
S-1 Adjutant
Personnel Officer
S-2/3

S-5
S-4

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Maj. C. W. WALL
1stLt R. J. BURNS
1stLt R. J. BURNS
Capt. W. H. SKIERKOWSKI
*Maj. S. A. JOHNSON
1stLt C. E. HUGHES
Maj. W. B. CHANNELL

*Assumed duties on 21 September 1968

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Sgt Maj.

Motor Transport Officer
 Construction Officer
 ADM Officer
 Maintenance Officer
 Utilities Officer
 Medical Officer
 Ordnance Officer
 Supply Officer
 Legal Officer
 Embarkation Officer
 NBC Officer
 Training Officer
 Education Officer
 Chaplain

Sgt Maj. D. K. CRAIG
 **Sgt Maj. R.V. OWEN
 1stLt J. D. BUCHANAN
 Maj. S. A. JOHNSON
 Maj. S. A. JOHNSON
 GySgt B. SCHUMPERT
 Capt. C. H. JONES
 Lt. A. P. IVERSON USN (MC)
 Capt. C. H. JONES
 Capt. S. W. FITZGERALD
 Capt. C. H. ROYER
 1stLt R. G. ERICSON
 1stLt W. B. TOWNE
 1stLt W. B. TOWNE
 2ndLt P. R. FARO
 Services conducted by
 visiting Chaplain Capt.
 C. J. RICHARDSON

**Assumed duties on 10 September 1968

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
42	957	1	18

PART II

During the month of September 1968, the 9th Engineer Battalion, LtCol D. U. DAVIDSON Commanding, continued as its primary mission the maintenance and upgrading of RVN Route #1 from Chu Lai (BT 520044) to the Song Cau Lau (BT 091554). The maintenance and road networks for the Americal Division, Supply Company (Rein) FLC, plus Engineer Support of Free World Forces in the Chu Lai TAOR continued to require a significant engineer effort.

*Assumed duties on 15 September 1968
 Vice LtCol H. E. PEREA

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Company "A" (-) was located at Hill #10 (BT 199390) and was in the process of maintaining and upgrading RVN Route #1 from Hill #29 (BT 226320) to Thang Binh (BT 175418) a distance of 11 miles. The 2nd Platoon, Company "A" was located on Hill #29 and was in the process of upgrading and maintaining RVN Route #1 from Tam Ky (BT 300235) north to Hill #29 a distance of 8.2 miles.

Company "B" (-) was located in the Hue-Phu Bai area, RVN YD 893129, in direct support of Task Force X-Ray. First Platoon, Company "B" was located at Chu Lai (BT 520044) and is engaged in bridge and vertical construction.

Company "C" continued maintenance and upgrading of RVN Route #1 between Chu Lai (BT 520044) and Tam Ky (BT 330209), a distance of 16 miles and engaged in vertical construction in the support of the Americal Division.

Company "D" continued maintenance and upgrading of RVN Route #1 from Thang Binh (BT 175418) to the Song Cau Lau (BT 091554), a distance of 11.1 miles and engaged in construction in support of Free World Military Forces.

During the month of September, upgrading and repair of RVN Route #1 was broken down into three areas of responsibility; Chu Lai to Tam Ky, Tam Ky to Thang Binh, and Thang Binh to the Song Cau Lau.

Between Chu Lai (BT 520044) and Tam Ky (BT 330209), 9th Engineer Battalion personnel expended 5756 man hours and 5633 equipment hours in hauling 10,412 cubic yards of rock and placing 20,745 gallons of asphalt.

Between Tam Ky (BT 300209) and Thang Binh (BT 175418), the 9th Engineer Battalion personnel expended 4460 man hours and 4321 equipment hours in hauling and placing 6542 cubic yards of rock.

Between Thang Binh (BT 175418) and the Song Cau Lau (BT 091554), 9th Engineer Battalion personnel expended 647 man hours and 644 equipment hours in hauling and placing 824 cubic yards of rock, 265 cubic yards of fill, and 336 cubic yards of sand.

During the month of September, the 9th Engineer Battalion units replaced, installed, or repaired thirteen (13) culverts along RVN Route #1. This required 267' of 18" culvert, 220' of 48" culvert, and 88' of 60" culvert as shown below:

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<u>Coordinates</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Man Hours</u>	<u>Equipment Hours</u>
BT 392162	2	44'	18"	40	3
BT 403140	1	44'	18"	25	2
BT 217362	1	44'	60"	40	5
BT 242317	3	45'	18"	200	16
BT 125484	1	40'	48"	22	5
BT 117491	1	40'	48"	22	5
BT 115494	1	40'	48"	22	5
BT 358190	1	40'	60"	88	40
BT 203381	2	50'	48"	328	182

During the month of September 1968, Company "A" repaired the following bridge:

<u>Bridge #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Man Hours</u>	<u>Equipment Hours</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
35	BT 259289	40'	Steel Stringer, Timber Decking	50	2	25 Sept 68

During the month of September there were seven (7) culverts destroyed and two bridges damaged by enemy demolitions. There were twenty-four (24) incidents where mines were blown in place; seven (7) incidents where boobytraps were found; and five (5) incidents where craters were blown in a place other than an existing culvert.

The culverts destroyed by enemy demolitions are shown below:

<u>Culvert Location</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date Destroyed</u>
BT 353195	1	2 September 1968
BT 102515	1	21 September 1968
BT 117493	1	22 September 1968
BT 330209	1	22 September 1968
BT 180413	1	22 September 1968
BT 179414	1	22 September 1968
BT 396144	1	29 September 1968

In addition to the major road and bridge work being done on RVN Route #1 the 9th Engineer Battalion was responsible for the repair and maintenance of other sections of roads shown below:

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Company "C" continued (1) the maintenance of 2.0 miles of roadway within the Supply Company (Rein) FLC-C (BT 532111); (2) the maintenance of 3.5 miles of roadway within the Supply Company (Rein) FLC-ASP (BT 550044); (3) the maintenance of 1.6 miles of roadway on Route #22W (BT 512053)-(BT 493037); and (4) the maintenance of 0.6 miles of roadway on Route #22E (BT 538027)-(BT 549049).

Headquarters Company Heavy Equipment Platoon retained the responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the Americal Perimeter Road (BT 521071)-(BT 519049) a distance of 8.5 miles.

Since 1 September 1968, the 9th Engineer Battalion has provided the following additional Engineer Equipment Support for the U. S. Army, U. S. Navy, U. S. Marine Corps and the Korean Marine Corps units within its area of responsibility:

(1) Construction of defensive berm for ROKMC. Date Started 27 August 1968, Date Completed 1 September 1968; Man Hours: 28, Equipment Hours: 28.

(2) Support to drill one 60' well at Tam Ky. Date Started 14 May 1968, Date Completed 14 September 1968; Man Hours: 3598, Equipment Hours: 3177.

(3) Upgraded 150 meters of road within the 2nd LAAM Battalion cantonment. Date Started 14 May 1968, Date Completed 27 September 1968; Man Hours: 300, Equipment Hours: 150.

During the month of September 1968, the 9th Engineer Battalion completed the following vertical construction:

(1) One (4) hole latrine for 3/16th Artillery Battalion. Date Started 2 September 1968, Date Completed 7 September 1968; Man Hours: 38, Equipment Hours: 6.

(2) Support to finish interior of TOC bunker for MAC-V at Tam Ky. Date Started 19 August 1968, Date Completed 3 September 1968; Man Hours: 838, Equipment Hours: 52.

(3) One 12'x12' building with a 12'x12'x4" cement pad for the 123rd Avn Battalion. Date Started 18 August 1968, Date Completed 2 September 1968; Man Hours: 569, Equipment Hours: 72.

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(4) Installed ceiling in recreation building for the 2nd Surgical Co. Date Started 30 August 1968, Date Completed 6 September 1968; Man Hours: 600, Equipment Hours: 22.

(5) Five sea huts for 1/82nd Artillery Battalion. Date Started 9 August 1968, Date Completed 15 September 1968; Man Hours: 837, Equipment Hours: 52.

(6) Four (4) hole latrines for 3/18th Artillery Battalion. Date Started 2 September 1968, Date Completed 10 September 1968; Man Hours: 115, Equipment Hours: 10.

(7) One patio 32'x20'x4" for 74th Hospital Co. Date Started 31 August 1968, Date Completed 19 September 1968; Man Hours: 845, Equipment Hours: 123

During the period, the 9th Engineer Battalion water points produced 5,348,500 gallons of potable water and expended 2743 man hours and 5,204 equipment hours.

During the same period, the 9th Engineer Battalion conducted daily mine sweeps from (BT 520044) to (BT 092549).

During the month of September mine sweep personnel expended 8,423 man hours and 857 equipment hours on RVN Route #1 and were responsible for locating the previously mentioned mines.

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>METERS COVERED</u>	<u>COMPOSITION</u>
"C"Co	BT 520044	BT 330235	26,000	4
"A"Co	BT 300235	BT 259289	7,000	4
"A"Co	BT 242318	BT 259289	3,600	4
"A"Co	BT 242318	BT 226347	3,700	4
"A"Co	BT 198389	BT 226347	5,000	5
"A"Co	BT 198389	BT 175418	3,800	4
"D"Co	BT 144457	BT 175418	5,000	10
"D"Co	BT 144457	BT 113497	5,200	12
"D"Co	BT 113497	BT 092549	6,800	12
Total			66,100	

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel & Administration

3 September 1968	Joined 1stLt C. A. ROSS
3 September 1968	Joined SSgt J. D. CRALL
4 September 1968	Joined SSgt S. F. CASSEDY
4 September 1968	Dropped SSgt J. D. GAUDET
4 September 1968	Dropped SSgt R. G. GRAHAM
6 September 1968	Dropped 1stLt J. R. GARDNER
6 September 1968	Dropped SSgt E. ABBOTT
7 September 1968	Joined GySgt O. E. SHOEMAKER
7 September 1968	Dropped SSgt A. L. HIGGINS Jr.
8 September 1968	Joined Capt. J. W. MOUDY
15 September 1968	Dropped LtCol H. E. PEREA
15 September 1968	Joined LtCol D. U. DAVIDSON
15 September 1968	Dropped Capt. W. H. SKIERKOWSKI
15 September 1968	Joined GySgt M. TIALAWEA
15 September 1968	Dropped SSgt R. P. WEIK
17 September 1968	Dropped GySgt W. F. DUDEN
20 September 1968	Dropped GySgt W. C. LOWE
21 September 1968	Joined Maj. S. A. JOHNSON
22 September 1968	Joined 2ndLt C.J. TOENISKOETTER
22 September 1968	Joined SSgt H. L. BROWNELL
24 September 1968	Joined SSgt D. J. FRIEBOHLE
24 September 1968	Joined GySgt E. V. GOLDSMITH

2. Civic Action

Seven (7) MEDCAPS were held at the Field Dispensary in Tich Tay and one roving MEDCAP blanketing the entire Tich Tay area during the month of September. The MEDCAPS treated a total of 139 Vietnamese people. The Battalion donated 90 bags of cement for "public improvement projects" including 9 wells and the construction of a Buddhist Temple. Both projects are 95% complete. Construction of road from coordinates BT 506046 to BT 495053 continued this month with it's completion scheduled for 10 October 1968. This road serves as an access road from RVN Route #22 to the An Tan River for some 900 villagers. Members of the Tich Tay "Combat Youth Group" continued to receive by-weekly instruction in Military Subjects from 9th Engineer Battalion instructors.

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- 2 September 1968 One culvert blown at BT 333195. Company "A" minesweep found one (1) "C" ration can filled with explosive with pull friction fuze at BT 225349. Company "D" minesweep received sniper fire at BT 169576.
- 3 September 1968 Company "D" minesweep received sniper fire at BT 098522 and found two (2) US M-2 bounding antipersonnel mines at BT 262252.
- 4 September 1968 One (1) crater blown in road at BT 125482. Company "D" minesweep found one (1) booby-trapped M-26 grenade at BT 094535. One (1) ARVN truck hit mine at BT 354196. Negative casualties.
- 8 September 1968 Company "D" minesweep found one (1) 20 lb pressure release mine at BT 119489. Mine exploded during removal resulting in one (1) KIA.
- 9 September 1968 Company "D" minesweep received automatic weapons fire at BT 171578.
- 11 September 1968 Company "A" minesweep found two (2) mines at BT 259289. Company "D" minesweep received heavy sniper fire at BT 102507. One (1) ARVN WIA. Company "D" destroyed building used by the VC to manufacture mines at BT 106550.
- 16 September 1968 Company "D" minesweep received automatic weapons fire at BT 061630. One (1) WIA.
- 17 September 1968 Company "A" minesweep found two (2) mines with pressure/electric fuse at BT 234335. Vietnamese hit mine at BT 259289. Ten (10) Vietnamese KIA, one (1) USMC KIA, one (1) USA WIA and six (6) Vietnamese WIA.
- 18 September 1968 Company "D" minesweep received sniper fire at BT 092532.
- 19 September 1968 Company "A" while working on Route #1 received sniper fire at BT 203381. USMC Dump truck hit mine at BT 093549. One (1) KIA and four (4) WIA. USA truck hit mine at BT 258289. One (1) KIA and three (3) WIA.
- 20 September 1968 Company "D" received sniper fire at BT 145547. Negative results. Company "A" minesweep found one (1) mine with pressure/electric fuse at BT 259289. A member of company "D" tripped a boobytrap at BT 102514 resulting in one (1) WIA.

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21 September 1968 Armored Car hit mine at BT 277263. Seven (7) WIA. USMC dump truck hit mine at BT 273267. Two (2) Vietnamese WIA. A crater was blown at BT 101517. A culvert was blown at BT 102515. Company "A" minesweep found one 45 lb mine at BT 235331 with pressure/electric fuze.

22 September 1968 Two (2) craters were blown at BT 134475 and BT 153450. Four (4) culverts were blown at BT 117493, BT 330309, BT 180413, and BT 179414. Company "C" minesweep found two (2) 25 lb concrete mines at BT 330209. Company "A" minesweep found one (1) 15 lb mine at BT 258290. Treadway on bridge at BT 259289 partially damaged by explosive. Vietnamese bus hit mine at BT 259289. Seven (7) WIA and seven (7) KIA, all Vietnamese.

23 September 1968 A crater was blown at BT 101517. Truck hit mine at BT 101517. Negative casualties.

26 September 1968 Found boobytrap at BT 430109. Found one (1) 15 lb mine at BT 119489.

27 September 1968 Found mines at BT 235332 and BT 233336, both had pressure/electric fuze. Found one (1) 40 lb mine with pressure/electric fuze at BT 233336. Found one (1) grenade boobytrapped at BT 440099.

29 September 1968 Culvert blown at BT 396144.

30 September 1968 Found two (2) boobytrapped M-26 grenades at BT 220358. Bridge at BT 080550 had one complete span and portion of another destroyed.

4. Training

1 September 1968 1 man sent to Organic Supply Accounting School, DaNang

2 September 1968 1 man sent to Division Embarkation School, DaNang

6 September 1968 1 man sent to Communications Cryptology School, Japan

9 September 1968 1 man sent to Non-commissioned Officers School, DaNang

9 September 1968 4 men sent to Atomic Demolitions and Munitions School, Okinawa

7 September 1968 1 man sent to Staff Non-commissioned Officers School, DaNang

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15 September 1968 1 man to Non-commissioned Officers School, Danang
 21 September 1968 2 men to Embarkation School, Okinawa
 23 September 1968 1 man to Projectionist School, Danang
 30 September 1968 1 man to Officer Leadership School, Danang
 30 September 1968 1 man to Non-commissioned Officers School, Danang

5. Patrols

1 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 012200H to 020430H
 2 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 022300H to 030600H
 3 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 032200H to 040300H
 4 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 042300H to 050500H
 5 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 052400H to 060500H
 6 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 062300H to 070600H
 7 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 072300H to 080600H
 8 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 082300H to 090600H
 9 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 092200H to 100245H
 10 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 102300H to 110200H
 11 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 112330H to 120420H
 12 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 122250H to 130200H
 13 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 132250H to 140450H
 14 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 142350H to 152330H
 15 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 152300H to 160330H
 16 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 162300H to 170520H
 17 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 172300H to 180530H

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18 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 182130H to 190315H
19 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 192305H to 200450H
21 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 212045H to 220255H
22 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 222330H to 230230H
23 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 232300H to 240230H
24 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 242230H to 250350H
25 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 252300H to 260230H
26 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 262300H to 270505H
27 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 272215H to 280230H
28 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 282100H to 290310H
29 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 292230H to 300325H
30 September 1968 Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol with
ambush from 302400H to 010500H