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HEADQUARTERS
11th Engineer Battalion
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/WWS/efw
S&C #017-67
5750
8 June 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)

VIA: (1) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 May 1967 to 31 May 1967; submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) 3rdMarDivO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) 11th Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Regrade unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

R. L. Mulford
R. L. MULFORD

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11TH ENGR BN CMD CHRON

MAY 1967

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Eleventh Engineer Battalion

COMMANDERLtCol. R. L. MULFORD, USMC
16Aug66-CurrentSUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

Capt. A. J. BURGER, USMC
21Apr67-Current

Service Company

Maj. R. F. EASTIN, USMC
6Apr67-Current

"A" Company

Capt. T. C. POPE Jr., USMC
1Apr67-Current

"B" Company

Capt. P. L. BARTH, USMC
1Feb67-Current

"C" Company

Capt. W. S. MARSHALL III, USMC
30Aug66-Current

"D" Company

Capt. N. T. BERTHUSEN, USMC
1Mar67-18May67
Capt. W. D. CORNELIUSON, USMC
19May67-Current2. LOCATION

1 May 1967 - 31 May 1967: Dong Ha RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj. H. R. SHORTT, USMC
29Mar67-Current

S-1/Adjutant

2nd Lt. R. G. GULLEY, USMC
5Jun66-Current

S-2/3

Maj. H. R. SHORTT, USMC
1Sep66-28May67
Capt. W. R. ACREE, USMC
29May67-Current

S-4

Maj. J. T. SCHULTZ, USMC
25Jul66-Current

Supply Officer

2nd Lt. F. V. RHYDER, USMC
17Sep66-Current

Enclosure (1)

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Communication Officer

1st Lt. P. C. TRIOLO, USMC
 1Sep66-2May67
 2nd Lt. G. E. ANDREWS, USMC
 3May67-Current

Medical Officer

LT. C. L. HIGHGENBOTEN, USN (MC)
 29Jan67-2May67
 LT. T. C. NEESE, USNR (MC)
 7May67-Current

Chaplain

LCDR. M. A. ONDO, USN
 24Jan67-Current

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
43	1298	2	18	0	0

PART II

During the month of May 1967, the 11th Engineer Battalion continued to provide Engineer support to the 3rd Marine Division (Northern AOR) and other Units located in the Dong Ha Combat Base, Camps J. J. Carroll, Gio Linh and Khe Sanh. "C" Company, reinforced, of this Battalion, headquartered at Phu Bai, RVN under the operational control of the III Marine Amphibious Force, continued to provide Engineer support to the 3rd Marine Division units located in the Hue, Phu Bai area. Road maintenance and road improvement projects continued to be accelerated in order to maintain and improve adequate routes of communications commensurate with the tactical situation. Road maintenance and road improvements to the 18.6 miles of road net in the Dong Ha Combat Base, 4.20 miles of road net at Camp Carroll and 1.25 miles of road net at Gio Linh consisted mainly of ditching, grading, installing culverts for drainage and applying gravel to earth surface roads. Road maintenance and road improvements to the 27 miles of macadam surface road on Route Nine from Dong Ha to Ca Lu and 8.8 miles of macadam surface road on Route One from Dong Ha to Gio Linh consisted primarily of repairing culverts, maintaining bridge bypasses, and repairing existing macadam road surface with concrete or a mixture of crushed aggregate and bituminous asphalt. This task is being increased daily due to rapid deterioration of the existing surface caused by age, weather conditions and increased traffic.

A limited all weather, class 25, .09 miles of single lane, 12 feet wide, with Laterite base and Laterite surface was completed in the vicinity of YD232595 as an access road for the 12th Marines in the Dong Ha Combat Base Complex.

A limited all weather, class 25, .14 miles of single lane, 12 feet wide, with Laterite base and Laterite surface was completed in the vicinity of YD235591 as an access road to a living area for 9th Motor Transport Battalion in the Dong Ha Combat Base Complex.

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A limited all weather, class 30, .11 miles of two lane, 22 feet wide, with river run gravel base and Laterite surface was completed in the vicinity of YD230594 as an interior road for the new central water point for the Dong Ha Combat Base Complex.

A limited all weather, class 60, .11 miles of two lane, 22 feet wide, with river run gravel base and Laterite surface was upgraded from a class 45 as the main access road from Route One to the 3rd Marine Division Command Post at the Dong Ha Combat Base Complex in the vicinity of YD248602.

A limited dry weather, class 60, 8.37 miles being upgraded to two lane, 22 feet wide, by clearing and grading on existing Route 561 from YD150606 to YD137673 and on an existing trail from YD137673 to Con Thien at YD114701. A 200 meter strip on both sides of this road is being cleared of all vegetation and obstructions. This road is being upgraded for use as the Main Supply Route to Con Thien.

During the reporting period, a total of 3561 man days, 4231 Engineer equipment hours, 8108 cubic yards of material, and 454 feet of nestable culvert were expended on road maintenance and road construction projects.

During the reporting period, 5 non-standard bridges were constructed; 211 feet of M4T6 balk was retracted and 188 feet was erected.

Replaced a single lane timber stringer, wood deck bridge, 40 feet long with two 60 inch diameter culverts 40 feet long with a Laterite surface roadway 18 feet wide at YD218709 on Route One.

Replaced a destroyed class 12, steel stringer bridge, 72 feet long with four 60 inch diameter culverts 40 feet long with a concrete slab roadway 15 feet wide at YD220635 on Route One.

Replaced a destroyed Eiffel bridge, 40 feet long with one 60 inch diameter culvert 40 feet long with a Laterite surface roadway 18 feet wide at YD219635 on Route One.

Replaced a destroyed timber stringer, wood deck bridge, 15 feet long with two 60 inch culverts 40 feet long with a concrete slab roadway 15 feet wide at YD103576 on Route Nine.

Replaced a destroyed timber stringer, wood deck bridge, 15 feet long with two 36 inch and two 60 inch diameter culverts 40 feet long with a concrete slab roadway 15 feet wide at YD096575 on Route Nine.

During the reporting period, the Battalion continued to operate and maintain the water supply points for the Dong Ha Complex. Personnel, equipment and materials were provided to maintain and repair the existing structures, facilities and equipment at the Dong Ha Combat Base. During May 1967, a total of 2,538,285 gallons of potable water was produced and 49 projects for repairs to existing facilities and/or cantonment type projects were completed.

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On 5 May 1967, this Battalion started operations on Phase II of Operation "Fire Break" which consisted of clearing a circle with a radius of 500 meters around both Con Thien (YD114701) and Gio Linh (YD214746). In the 23 days of actual operation, an average of 31 USMC Tractors and 3 ARVN Tractors were used daily. This phase was completed on 29 May 1967.

On 30 May 1967, Phase III of Operation "Fire Break" was started which consists of widening the 200 meter strip from Con Thien (YD114701) to Gio Linh (YD214746) to a width of 600 meters. In the 2 days of actual operations, an average of 24 USMC Tractors and 2 ARVN Tractors were used.

During the reporting period, the Engineer support provided the 3rd Marine Division units, Phu Bai area by "C" Company, 11th Engineer Battalion consisted of operating and maintaining a water point at the ARVN Boot Camp cantonment area; construction of an airport terminal building, which was a continuous project until suspended on 25 May 1967 due to shortage of materials; providing personnel and equipment to continue construction of the 3rd Marine Division Ammunition Supply Point Complex, including constructing access and interior roads, construction of bunkers and other related defenses, which was suspended 7 May 1967 due to other commitments; maintained the 3rd Marine Division Trash Dump and conducted deliberate mine sweeps daily. This Company was assigned Operation Cumberland on 7 May 1967 which consists of building a 22 kilometer, class 30 road and a fire support base of approximately 1000 meters square west of Phu Bai.

Currently the 11th Engineer Battalion cantonment is 98 percent complete. Personnel protective defenses in the living and working areas continued during May and are currently 70 percent complete.

The Battalion Enlisted Club is completed and now operating after necessary reconstruction as a result of hostile fire damage.

The Battalion Aid Station bunker has been completed and equipped with necessary equipment to provide for care and treatment of patients.

The Battalion Chapel is under construction and is presently 10 percent complete.

During the month of May, the 11th Engineer Battalion received four graders, road, motorized, 550 M-65, bringing the Battalion up to T/E on this item. Also received were one 60KW; three 30KW, PU 482/M; and three 20KW, PU 239 generators, which increases the capability of this Battalion to provide electrical power for the Dong Ha Combat Base Complex.

During the month of May, this Battalion suffered three KIA's, including one USN Corpsman, from rocket and mortar attacks; 135 WIA's and 15 non-hostile injuries.

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During the month of May, this Battalion joined one Marine Officer and transferred seven; 40 Marine Enlisted were joined and 172 were transferred; one Navy Officer was joined and one transferred; four Navy Enlisted were joined and four transferred. On 31 May 1967, the Battalion personnel strength by major areas of deployment was as follows:

<u>Marine Corps</u>			<u>Navy</u>	
Officers	Enlisted		Officers	Enlisted
		Dong Ha		
28	792		2	10
		Phu Bai		
6	188		0	2
		Ca Lu		
1	41		0	2
		Con Thien		
2	69		0	2
		Cam Lo		
0	24		0	0
		Camp Carroll		
0	8		0	0
		Non-Effective		
3	77		0	1

PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events

1 May 1967	Completed Phase I of "Operation Fire Break".
5 May 1967	Started Phase II of "Operation Fire Break" which consisted of clearing a 500 meter strip 360° around both Con Thien (YD114701) and Gio Linh (YD214746).
6 May 1967	11 WIA's were incurred at Con Thien project due to enemy mortar attack.

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7 May 1967 "C" Company ceased operations on 3rd Marine Division Ammunition Supply Point, Division Trash Dump, and all Division work orders to prepare for "Operation Cumberland".

8 May 1967 Elements of this Battalion at Con Thien (YD114701) assisted the Infantry Battalion in the perimeter defense against a hostile attack. 27 WIA's were incurred.

8 May 1967 On the daily sweep of Route One from Dong Ha (YD241611) to Gio Linh (YD214746) it was discovered that four culverts and one bridge were destroyed by enemy action. Hasty repairs were instituted to allow immediate use.

15 May 1967 Initial loading and staging of "C" Company for "Operation Cumberland" was started. A ferry was installed for movement across the Huong River.

16 May 1967 A ground reconnaissance was conducted on the west side of the Huong River for a camp site and initial portions of the road to be built.

17 May 1967 Work was started on the road for "Operation Cumberland".

18 May 1967 In a mortar and rocket attack on the Dong Ha Complex, this Battalion received direct hits on two strong-backed tents used for living quarters and on the new enlisted club. Casualties were one KIA and 62 WIA's.

23 May 1967 A sweep team from "C" Company attached to 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines had one KIA and four WIA's when the truck they were riding exploded an enemy mine approximately ten miles south of Phu Bai.

24 May 1967 Completed clearing 500 meter strip around Gio Linh.

27 May 1967 Started operations on upgrading Route 561 to class 60, and clearing a strip of 200 meters on both sides of road.

29 May 1967 Completed clearing 500 meter strip around Con Thien to conclude Phase II of "Operation Fire Break".

30 May 1967 Started Phase III of "Operation Fire Break", which consists of widening original 200 meter strip from Con Thien to Gio Linh to a width of 600 meters.

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