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HEADQUARTERS  
11th Engineer Battalion  
3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

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285968

3/LLI/gmj  
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5750  
9 June 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 May 1968 to 31 May 1968;  
Submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.9  
(c) 3rd MarDivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 11th Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

1. Pursuant to references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*V.A. Perry*  
V. A. PERRY

Group 4  
Downgraded at 3 Year Intervals  
Declassified After 12 Years  
DOD Dir 5200.10

Unclassified when  
Enclosure is removed

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11TH ENGR BN

CMD CHRON

JUN 1968

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[REDACTED]COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. Designation  
11th Engr Bn.

1st Commander  
LtCol Victor A. PERRY

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Hq Co	Capt. M.D. FITZGERALD USMC 17 Mar 68 - Current
Serv Co	Maj. N.M. OLF USMC 22 Jan 68 - 20 May 68
	Capt. D.C. SIKES USMC 21 May 68 - Current
A Co	Capt. P.J. GARIBOLDI USMC 24 Mar 68 - Current
B Co	1stLt R.F. BAILLES USMC 22 Nov 67 - Current
C Co	Capt. J.R. PLIER, USMC 23 Sept 67 - 7 May 68
	1stLt W.A. WOODCOCK USMC 8 May 68 - Current
D Co	Capt. R.E. BRINKLEY USMC 25 Nov 67 - Current
2. Staff Officers	
Executive Officer:	Maj. W.J.P. MANNIX, USMC 26 Nov 67 - Current
S-1/Adjutant	1stLt E.V. BURNETT, USMC 1 Jan 68 - Current
S-2/3	Maj. J.C. THORP, USMC 24 Nov 67 - Current
S-4	Maj. C.J. WOLK JR. USMC 26 Nov 67 - Current

Enclosure (1)

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Supply Officer

1stLt H. RIJFKOGEL USMC  
20 Nov 67 - Current

Communications Officer

1stLt R.W. O'CONNOR, USMC  
28 Nov 67 - Current

Medical Officer

Lt F.G. SANFORD USN (MC)  
28 Jul 67 - Current

Chaplain

CDR. J.V. BORCZYK USN (CHC)  
16 April 67 - 6 May 68MTCDR. R. KUKLER USN (CHC)  
7 May 68 - Current

## 3. Location

1 May 1968 - 31 May 1968 - Dong Ha, R.V.N.

## May Monthly Strength

USMC		USN		other	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
45	1008	3	25	1	12

## Part II

During May a total of 6,120 man-days, 1,867 engineer equipment hours, 10,314 board feet of lumber, 130 sheets of 8" tin, 5,000 sheets of MBI matting and 13,000 gallons of asphalt were expended on engineer projects.

During May the Battalion remained at Dong Ha Combat Base. The engineer effort of the Battalion was concentrated at Dong Ha Combat Base, Camp Carroll, on Route 9 and along Route 561.

Company B operated from LZ STUD at Ca Lu in support of Task Force Hotel and the Fourth Marines in the Lancaster and Scotland areas of operations. Company B maintained Route 9 from Ca Lu to Khe Sanh, cleared brush 75m along each side of the road, and provided construction support at LZ STUD ISA.

Engineer support at LZ STUD included construction of ASP berms, construction of bunkers, working the trash pit, road maintenance, and clearing fields of fire.

DECLAS

During May a river ford was constructed at the C-2 bridge (YD 126673) to supplement the bypass and to make it possible to repair the bridge. The M-6 tactical bridge has been removed and the bridge abutments are being repaired so that the M-6 bridge may be reinstalled by 1 September for the monsoon season. The bridge repairs are part of an overall plan to improve route 561 so that passage from route 9 to Con Thien will not be hampered by heavy rains. The Cam Lo River bridge located at YD 148604 is being repaired. This is a 17 span concrete bridge with two destroyed spans replaced by I beam construction. Construction yet to be accomplished on Route 561 includes grading, reshaping, ditching, and placing a surface on 13,000m of road and emplacement of culverts and culvert wingwalls at all culvert sites.

Other major construction projects completed or now in progress include clearing 75m on each side of Route 9 from Cam Lo to Khe Sanh. Construction of two helicopter landing zones on the Dong Ha Combat Base; a 200'x400' LZ for Division Headquarters and a 100'x175' LZ for 11th EngrBn have been completed. A limited, all weather, single lane, combat road, class 60, 5000m from YD 213727 to YD 175718 along the trace of 566 continues to be under progress; however no progress was made because of the tactical situation and the relatively low priority of this Dual Blade requirement. Two other roads were under construction, a 300m access road for 9th M.T. Bn was completed and a 1500m access road for 12th Marines on which construction has been due to more important equipment commitments. Both roads are of minor significance. Eleven gun pads for 175mm guns were constructed at Camp Carroll. Two gunpads for 8" guns were built at LZ HAWK (XD 895406). Company D is in Leather Neck Square, north of Dong Ha and between Con Thien and Gio Linh, clearing landing zones and traces for ease of access into area. The traces will be from

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route 561 to route 1. This Battalion continues to operate a daily mine-sweep on Route 9 and on call minesweeps on Route 1; during the last month 5 AT mines were discovered, 12 AP mines and, 33 other pieces of ordinance consisting of dud artillery, grenade and RPG rounds. Three A.P. mines were recovered and turned over to G-2.

During the reporting period, the battalion continued to operate and maintain waterpoints in the 3d MarDiv area of operation. A total of 4,924,048 gallons of potable water was produced. The water situation at Dong Ha continues to be critical due to increased demands and dry weather. A conference was held in March which resulted in an attempt to alleviate the water shortage by installing a pumping station on the Cam Lo river; this project has met with marginal success.

The 11th EngrBn continues to furnish the majority of electrical power for the 3d MarDiv Northern area of operation. Nineteen generators at seventeen different locations were operated during May. The Battalion has thirty-five generators, ten of these are not functional at present.

The Battalion's asphalt distributor was evacuated for repair on 28 Nov 67. On 3 Mar 68 the distributor was at 3d FSR on Okinawa. No further word on the distributor has been received. The Eleventh EngrBn has no capability to place asphalt for the maintenance of roads.

The Explosion of the Class III Ammo Dump adjacent to 11th Engr Bn containment on 13 May caused extensive building damage in the camp area. All buildings have been repaired except for the Butler building slated for Supply storage.

Thirteen mine detectors, three Eimco's, one M51A2, one Sheepsfoot roller, and 19 TLI sound powered telephones were received during the reporting period.

One Bay City Crane, one MRS-100, one Eimco, one 125 CFM Air Compressor, and one 16S Mixer were coded out. Although there was a net gain in T/E equipment, there was actually a loss of capability because of the type of equipment coded.

Four 2000 gallon tankers which were excess to the 1st MAW were received. They were put into running condition and one was issued to the 3rd EngrBn and two to 9th Mtrs. The trucks are to be used to haul non-potable water.

During the month of May the 11th EngrBn had operational control of the following unit: 3d Plt 3d Bridge Company, 1 Officer 15 Enlisted. The 25th Chemical Company (SC) USA which was under control of the 11th EngrBn returned to Korea on 11 May 68.

During May this Battalion suffered 8 hostile casualties and 11 non-hostile casualties.

During May, 5 Marine officers one Naval officer and 58 Marine and 2 Naval enlisted were transferred. Five Marine officers and one Naval Officer and 80 Marine enlisted joined the Battalion.

During the month of May, training of personnel was as follows:

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Nineteen Marines were involved in advanced training, 2 officers 4 staff NCO, 13 enlisted. Embarkation School (1) officer, Registered Publications School (1) officer, Staff NCO leadership (1) Staff NCO, Multi-Fuel Instruction Team (3) Staff NCO and (7) enlisted, NCO Leadership School (2) enlisted, Personnel Response School (1) enlisted, Vietnamese Language School (1) enlisted, and Basic Organic Supply School (2) enlisted.

31 May 1968, the 11th Engineer Battalion's Personnel status was:

<u>USMC (jd)</u>		<u>USMC (ATT)</u>		<u>NAVY</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
44	1008	1	31	2	25

The Battalion's personnel strength by major areas of deployment was as follows:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
		<u>DONG HA</u>	
<u>30</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>CAM LO</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>CA LU</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>CON THIEN</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>C-2</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>DA NANG</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>CAMP CARROLL</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>NON-EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>1</u>

2. May 68 Completion of one 12'x12' bunker for 11th Engr Bn.

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4 May 68 Construction of six gun pads at LZ Hawk completed XD 895406

Route 9.

9 May 68 Completed two ASP berms at LZ Stud XD 001482 one dental clinic for 11th EngrBn and one South East Asia Hut for 11th EngrBn.

13 May 68 XD 985440, Route 9, Einco tractor hit blast type mine, two hostile casualties, medevac. In same area found 4 Claymore type mines set in ambush position; mines blown in place. Battalion hit by artillery, class 3 ammunition supply dump next to 11th EngrBn was hit and set off secondary explosions for 4 hours. The following damage resulted from the secondary explosions: 4 friendly casualties non-medevac; one Butler building destroyed; construction shop wall blown in and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of roof blown off; one 3,000 gallon water tank destroyed. Company areas had 30 tents damaged; all six company supply tents damaged. Bridge Platoon had its maintenance shed destroyed, 5 bridge trailers damaged, numerous flat tires, one mobile crane badly damaged and all floating bridge assets destroyed. 11th EngrBn borrow pit opened for production.

15 May 68 Repaired rain damage to bridge on Rt 9 XD 913404. Constructed four South East Asia Huts and a 200'x400' Div L.Z. at Dong Ha consisting of a graded stabilized soil covered with runway matting.

16 May 68 Camp Carroll, enemy artillery injured one man who was medevaced.

Installed culvert bypass at XD 982532, Route 9.

17 May 68 Received 2, 2,000 gallon water tankers, 3 Einco tractors.

Opened borrow pit at XD 035565, route 9.

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18 May 68 XD 977434, route 9, Received 7 rounds small arms fire, three friendly WIA's - medevac.

19 May 68 XD 974434 route 9 Found four claymore type mines set in ambush position; mines blown in place, XD 949427, route 9, Found 1 claymore type mine set on side of road; mine blown in place. Constructed river ford at YD 136666 route 561 class 60, single lane, for use during dry season.

20 May 68 YD 245607 route 1, One truck hit by RPG round. One friendly casualty non-medevac, moderate damage to truck.

21 May 68 XD 972433, route 9, Found two claymore type mines set 15' apart on road side, mine blown in place. Completed construction of 400m access road for 9th M.T. Bn Dong Ha and completed a 16'x24' BAS Bunker for 9th M.T. Bn Dong Ha.

22 May 68 XD 959428, route 9, Burning of undergrowth produced three secondary explosions; three enemy bunkers found; bunkers destroyed. Completed Construction of Parade Review stand Dong Ha Division.

24 May 68 Parade Review Stand disassembled.

25 May 68 XD 001482, Completed two ASP berms at LZ Stud.

28 May 68 XD 001482, Completed Construction of ice shed at LZ Stud.

30 May 68 YD 060569, Einco tractor struck AT mine, one friendly WIA, Med-evac, track of tractor blown off.

Destroyed Position "Yankee" Station located approximately 100m South of Con Thien also destroyed unnecessary positions located at C-2 bridge reducing this position to platoon size from Company size. LZ construction and clearing operation in Leather Neck Square had cleared 113 acres.

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