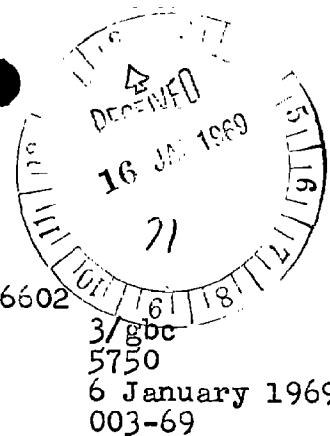


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HEADQUARTERS  
9th Engineer Battalion, FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602



(Unclassified upon removal of encl (1))

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 December 1968 to 31 December 1968

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

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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APO San Francisco, California 96602

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December 1968 - 31 December 1969

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY  
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF  
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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

9th Engineer Battalion

LtCol D. U. DAVIDSON

Subordinate Units

Headquarters Company

Capt. C. H. ROYER  
(1-13 December 1968)  
1stLt W. G. WARD  
(13-31 December 1968)  
Capt. J. K. NAGAZYNA  
(1-7 December 1968)  
Maj. E. M. CONDRA  
(7-31 December 1968)

Service Company

1stLt D. E. CRAIS  
1stLt G. M. SHERLIN  
1stLt W. H. JOHNSON  
(1-13 December 1968)  
Capt. C. H. ROYER  
(13-31 December 1968)  
1stLt W. G. WARD  
(1-13 December 1968)  
Capt. J. K. NAGAZYNA  
(13-31 December 1968)

"A" Company

"B" Company

"C" Company

"D" Company

Attached Units

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

2ndLt M. L. BECKER  
(1-18 December 1968)  
2ndLt K. D. PRICER  
(18-31 December 1968)

2. LOCATION

9th Engineer Battalion	Chu Lai, RVN	1-31 December 1968
Company "A" (-)	Hill #10	1-31 December 1968
	BT 199390	
2nd Platoon	Hill #29	1-31 December 1968
	BT 221326	
3rd Platoon	An Hoa, RVN	3-31 December 1968

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Company "B"	Chu Lai, RVN	1-31 December 1968
Company "C"(-)	Chu Lai, RVN	1-31 December 1968
1st Platoon	Tam Ky, RVN	1-31 December 1968
Company "D"	Hill #63	1-31 December 1968
	BT 136448	

### 3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer  
S-1 Adjutant  
Personnel Officer  
S-2/3  
S-4

S-5

Sgt Maj.  
Motor Transport Officer  
Construction Officer  
ADM Officer  
Maintenance Officer  
Utilities Officer  
Legal Officer  
Medical Officer  
Supply Officer  
Embarkation Officer  
NBC Officer  
Training Officer  
Education Officer  
Chaplain

Communications Officer  
Heavy Equipment Officer

Maj. J. W. STEVENS  
1stLt R. J. BURNS  
1stLt R. J. BURNS  
Maj. S. A. JOHNSON  
Maj. W. B. CHANWALL  
(1-15 December 1968)  
1stLt D. R. FARO  
(15-31 December 1968)  
Capt. C. E. HUGHES  
(1-15 December 1968)  
1stLt W. J. KING Jr.  
(15-31 December 1968)  
1stSgt F. F. ROHRS  
1stLt J. D. BUCHANAN  
1stLt C. J. TOENISKOETTER  
Maj. S. A. JOHNSON  
WO-2 W. E. YORK  
Capt. C. H. JONES  
1stLt R. J. BURNS  
Lt. A. P. IVERSON (USN)  
1stLt V. H. CUYNO  
1stLt D. R. FARO  
1stLt C. J. TOENISKOETTER  
1stLt C. A. ROSS  
1stLt C. A. ROSS  
LtComdr R. W. BLACK  
(1-31 December 1968)  
1stLt M. E. WENZEL  
WO-2 W. E. YORK

### 4. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	
40	890	2	

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## PART II

During the month of December 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 of 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.

Company "A"(-), located at Hill #10 (BT 199390), was in the process of maintaining and upgrading RVN Route #1 from (BT 259289) to Thang Binh (BT 175418), a distance of 10 miles. The 2nd Platoon, Company "A" was located on Hill #29. Between Bridge #35 (BT 259289) and Thang Binh (BT 175418), the "A" Company personnel expended 3,252 man hours and 979 equipment hours in hauling and placing 2,402 cubic yards of rock and spreading 29,000 gallons of pentaplime.

Company "B" was located at Chu Lai (BT 520044) and is engaged in vertical construction in that area. It also is paving RVN Route #1 from Chu Lai (BT 520044) to Tam Ky (BT 330209), the "B" Company personnel expended 5,442 man hours and 1,980 equipment hours in spreading 3601 tons of asphaltic concrete. Assisting in the paving operations of personnel from MCB-74. When complete QL-1 will have a 24 foot traveled way 2½" thick. At the end of this period a total of 4.4 miles conformed to the above standards.

Company "C" is currently upgrading RVN Route #1 from Ky Khoung to Bridge #35 (BT 259289), a distance of 14 miles. Between Chu Lai (BT 520044) and Bridge #35 (BT 259289), the Company "C" personnel expended 7,623 man hours and 1,090 equipment hours in hauling 17,403 cubic yards of rock and spreading 5,200 gallons of pentaplime.

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. Between Thang Binh (BT 175418) and the Song Cau Lau (BT 091554), the Company "D" personnel expended 2,523 man hours and 2,194 equipment hours in hauling 1,737 cubic yards of rock and spreading 11,000 gallons of pentaplime.

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During the month of December 1968, the 9th Engineer Battalion units replaced, installed or repaired seven culverts along RVN Route #1. This required 38' of 18" culvert, 38' of 36" culvert, 80' of 48" culvert and 40' of 60" culvert as shown below:

<u>Coordinates</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Man Hours</u>	<u>Equipment Hours</u>
CLDC	2	35'	48"	295	23
BT 408133	2	38'	18"	125	22
BT 181411	1	40'	60"	175	17
BT 117492	1	38'	36"	81	12
BT 119489	1	44'	48"	124	15

During the month, the following bridges were repaired:

<u>Bridge #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Man Hours</u>	<u>Equip Hours</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
51	BT 430109	229'8"	Steel Stringer, Timber Decking	2805	278	23 Dec 1968
*29	BT 219359	40'	Steel Stringer, Timber Decking	36	0	30 Dec 1968
52	BT 497067	251'5"	Steel Stringer, Pile Back Fill Abutment and Timber Decking	100	25	Incomplete

\*Technical assistance to 104th ARVN Engineers

During the month, there was no tactical bridging installed.

During the month, the following tactical bridging was removed:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date Removed</u>
*BT 102511	M-4	60	11 December 1968

\*Used as raft for Song Ba Ren Bridge

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The culverts destroyed by enemy demolitions are shown below:

<u>Culvert Location</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Date Destroyed</u>
BT 181411	1	21 December 1968
BT 117492	1	30 December 1968
BT 119489	1	31 December 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 road as shown below:

Company "B" maintains from BT 325180 to BT 330207 a distance of 2 miles for CAP Unit 1-1-2/1-1-3, also Route #22 West from BT 512053 to BT 493037 and Route #22 East from BT 538027 to BT 549049, a distance of 2.2 miles.

Company "C" continued the maintenance of 2.0 miles of roadway within the Supply Company (Rein) FLC-C (BT 532111) and the maintenance of 3.5 miles of roadway within the Supply Company (Rein) FLC ASP (BT 550044).

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. The Platoon is also responsible for upgrading 300 meters of road for MAG-13, and resurfacing roads in the MAG-12 area.

Since 1 December 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) Upgrading 2000 meters of road for MAC V Senior Advisor from Route #1 to BT 264252. Date Started 13 October 1968, Date Completed 10 December 1968; Man Hours: 600, Equipment Hours: 550.

During the month of December 1968, the 9th Engineer Battalion completed the following vertical construction.

(1) Constructed revetment walls for 54th Medical Battalion. Date Started 21 December 1968, Date Completed 24 December 1968; Man Hours: 20, Equipment Hours: 4.

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(2) Moved two Sea Huts for 1st CAG. Date Started 13 December 1968, Date Completed 25 December 1968; Man Hours: 120, Equipment Hours: 8.

(3) Constructed Disbursing Office extension for MAG-12. Date Started 13 December 1968, Date Completed 20 December 1968; Man Hours: 240, Equipment Hours: 5.

(4) Constructed a 2 story building 20'x30' for 23rd S&T Bn. Date Started 18 November 1968, Date Completed 5 December 1968; Man Hours: 1919, Equipment Hours: 18.

(5) Constructed maintenance building 35'x96' MT Lot 9th Engineer Battalion. Date Started 14 August 1968, Date Completed 19 December 1968; Man Hours: 3614, Equipment Hours: 125.

(6) Constructed maintenance and fuel storage pits in berm for MAG-12. Date Started 12 November 1968, Date Completed 7 December 1968; Man Hours: 25, Equipment Hours: 25.

(7) Surfaced parking lot with pentaprime for 3/18th Arty Bn. Date Started 2 December 1968, Date Completed 5 December 1968; Man Hours: 24, Equipment Hours: 10.

(8) Haul fill for building foundation for Radio Research Co. Date Started 1 December 1968, Date Completed 12 December 1968; Man Hours: 195, Equipment Hours: 135.

(9) Salvage tin from maintenance building for MAC-V. Date Started 7 December 1968, Date Completed 12 December 1968; Man Hours: 160, Equipment Hours: 3.

(10) Constructed six (2) hole latrines for Americal Division. Date Started 7 December 1968, Date Completed 13 December 1968; Man Hours: 200, Equipment Hours: 16.

(11) Resurface parking lot for MAG-13. Date Started 25 November 1968, Date Completed 11 December 1968; Man Hours: 55, Equipment Hours: 24.

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During the period, the 9th Engineer Battalion water points produced 4,235,000 gallons of potable water and expended 2,922 man hours and 4,244 equipment hours.

During the same period, the 9th Engineer Battalion conducted daily minesweeps from BT 520044 to BT 092549.

During the month of December, mine sweep personnel expended 12,726 man hours and 1,242 equipment hours on RVN Route #1 and were responsible for locating the subsequently mentioned mines.

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>METERS COVERED</u>	<u>COMPOSITION</u>
"G" Co	BT 520044	BT 330235	26,000	6
"G" Co	BT 300235	BT 259289	7,000	9
"A" Co	BT 242318	BT 259289	3,600	8
"A" Co	BT 242318	BT 226347	3,700	8
"A" Co	BT 198389	BT 226347	5,000	9
"A" Co	BT 198389	BT 175418	3,800	9
"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

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## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel & Administration

3 December 1968	Joined Maj. E. M. CONDRA
3 December 1968	Joined WO-2 W. E. YORK
8 December 1968	Joined 1stLt J. SPIKERMEN
8 December 1968	Joined SSgt C. G. SIPES
9 December 1968	Dropped SSgt J. M. CASTRO
12 December 1968	Dropped Maj. W. B. CHANNELL
13 December 1968	Joined 1stSgt G. GUSMAN
14 December 1968	Dropped Capt. C. E. HUGHES
14 December 1968	Joined SSgt D. L. DAVIS
14 December 1968	Dropped SSgt G. V. GERBERT
18 December 1968	Dropped SSgt V. J. RICHTER
24 December 1968	Joined SSgt M. P. KAUP
24 December 1968	Joined SSgt R. L. BALDERSON
30 December 1968	Joined MGySgt A. L. MOORE

2. Civic Action

During the month of December, the Civic Action team of this command treated 138 men, women and children on MEDCAPS. A total of 29 man days were spent in assisting the Tich Tay dispensary, Buddhist Temple and schools. Movies were shown twice last month in conjunction with the 7th Psy-Ops Bn, Psy-Ops Team, U. S. Army.

3. Training

2 December 1968	- Staff NCO Leadership School, 1 Enlisted, Danang
3 December 1968	- Special Weapons Training Course, 3 Enlisted, Okinawa
8 December 1968	- Land Mine Warfare School, 1 Enlisted, Danang
9 December 1968	- NCO Leadership School, 1 Enlisted, Danang
9 December 1968	- Officers Leadership School, 1 Officer, Danang
12 December 1968	- Basic Inf Weapons Repair, 1 Enlisted, Okinawa
14 December 1968	- Basic Ammo Tech School, 1 Enlisted, Okinawa
15 December 1968	- Organic Supply Accounting School, 1 Enlisted, Okinawa
15 December 1968	- Land Mine Warfare School, 1 Enlisted, Danang
22 December 1968	- Land Mine Warfare School, 1 Enlisted, Danang

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#### 4. Engineer Operations

2 December 1968 "A" Company sweep team found a 10 lbs nitrostarch mine with a pressure type firing device. Disarmed mine and returned it to CP.

6 December 1968 "D" Company sweep team discovered two sand piles at BT 154447. These were 2' high by 2' wide the width of road. composed of scrap-metal also warning signs were found. Obstacle removed.

10 December 1968 "D" Company sweep team found dirt barricade 3' wide across road at BT 154557. Obstacle was removed.  
"D" Company platoon working on Song Ba Ren bridge received 50 rounds small arms fire. Fire was returned with unknown results.  
"D" Company medevaced one VN female who swallowed rat poison at BT 103512.

11 December 1968 "A" Company sweep team found a 80 lbs nitro-starch mine. Mine blown in place.

14 December 1968 "A" Company sweep team found boobytrapped M-26 grenade at BT 177419. Grenade blown in place.

15 December 1968 "D" Company sweep team was attacked by 1-155 round, 2-105 round command detonated. Negative casualties. Wires traced to a concealed position 250 meters from road.  
"C" Company sweep team received small arms fire from 873 RF Company security located at BT 259286. Sweep team leader disarmed RF 100.

16 December 1968 "D" Company sweep team found bamboo barricade across road at BT 093544. Barricade removed.  
"A" Company sweep team reported VC unsuccessful in attempt to blow bridge at BT 225347. Two PF's were wounded in the fire fight.  
"A" Company sweep team called in dustoff for two wounded ARVN's at BT 205376.

17 December 1968 "D" Company platoon working on Song Ba Ren received 30 rounds small arms fire. Returned fire. Negative casualties.  
"D" Company sweep team found Vietnamese sign on pole in center of road. Removed sign with grappling hook.

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18 December 1968 "A" Company sweep team discovered bridge located at BT 219359 15% destroyed. 9th Engineer Bn tractor and trailer hit mine at BT 275265. Negative casualties both vehicles damaged.  
"A" Company vehicle assisting in the above incident hit mine 10 meters from the first one. One USA, one USMC minor wounds. Sweep team discovered another mine at the same location. Mine blown in place.  
Units adjacent to 9th Engineer CP received rocket rounds. They called in illumination, several illumination canisters landed in 9th Engineer CP causing minor damage to one Sea Hut and one 2½ ton trailer.

19 December 1968 "D" Company sweep team called in medevac for 7 VN personnel with shrapnel wounds at BT 102515.  
873 RF Company refused to provide proper flank security for "C" Company sweep team at BT 279255.  
"A" Company sweep team received 1 round of sniper fire at BT 248308. Negative casualties.

21 December 1968 "A" Company called in medevac for 3 PF wounded with shrapnel at BT 198389.  
873 RF Company refused to provide proper security for "C" Company sweep team at BT 282251.

22 December 1968 "A" Company sweep team found culvert blown at BT 181411. Requires 5 loads of fill to repair.

25 December 1968 873 RF Company failed to provide proper flank and point security for "C" Company minesweep. Pentaprime on Hill #29 caught fire 70 barrels burned. Fire caused by pop flare landing among the barrels.

26 December 1968 VN Civilian dropped M-79 round that he was turning in to "A" Company sweep team at BT 220358. Round detonated causing 1 VN KIA, 2 VN WIA's, and 2 USMC WIA. Medevac called in.

28 December 1968 "D" Company called in medevac for ARVN hurt in traffic accident at BT 103512.  
"A" Company received sniper fire at BT 219359. Fire was returned; security set up. Negative casualties.

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- 30 December 1968 "D" Company discovered culvert blown at BT 117492. Charge was an artillery round rigged as demolitions. One load of fill needed to repair.
- 31 December 1968 1/1 Cav unit declined to provide proper security in accordance with orders from their squadron at BT 198389.
- "D" Company found dirt barrier four feet high across road at BT 155447. Barrier was removed.
- "D" Company found culvert blown at BT 119489. Charge was estimated 70 lbs requires 105 loads of fill to repair.

##### 5. Voluntary Informant Program

During the month of December Vietnamese Civilians turned the following items of ordnance to 9th Engineer Battalion personnel:

- (1) 605 rounds 7.62mm ammunition
- (2) Nine Chi-Com grenades
- (3) 13 M26A1 grenades
- (4) 10 M-79 rounds
- (5) Six 105 rounds
- (6) Nine clips of M-1 ammunition
- (7) Two flares
- (8) Two 81mm mortar rounds
- (9) Two CS grenades
- (10) One Claymore Detonator
- (11) One Smoke grenade
- (12) One Rifle grenade
- (13) One 20mm aircraft shell
- (14) One Anti-personnel mine
- (15) 200 rounds linked M60 ammunition

Total amount paid for the period was 34,860 \$VN.

##### 6. Patrols

During the month of December, 9th Engineer Battalion conducted 31 Recon daylight and 31 nightly Recons consisting of checkpoints and observation posts in BT grids 4906, 4905, 4904, 4903, 5006, 5005, 5004, and 5003 between 2000H to 0500H.

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For the most part there was negative contact. However, on 18 December the night recon received 50 rounds small arms fire. On 22 December the daylight recon patrol captured an ARVN deserter.

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