

(Unclassified
removal of Enclosure 1)

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

UNCLASSIFIED
DRAFTING UNIT

3/JM/lnw
5750
7 April 1967
019767

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force
Pacific, FPO San Francisco, California 96602 (Attn: Field Historian)
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 March 1967

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Enclos: (1) 9th Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with the provisions of
references (a), (b), and (c).


G. BABE

Copy to:
CG, III MAF (Engr)

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I. ORGANIZATION DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

9th Engineer Battalion

LtCol G. A. BABE

Headquarters Company

Capt P. D. TREDE to 22 March 1967
Capt B. K. WIEDERHOLD from 23 March 1967

Service Company

Maj E. W. LIFSET

Company A

Capt G. W. MIMS

Company B

Capt D. L. W. SHBURN

Company C

Capt T. L. KOSCIW

Company D

Capt H. E. ZELLLEY

2. LOCATION

9th Engineer Battalion (-)

Chu Lai, RVN 1-31 March 1967

Company A

Da Nang, RVN 1-31 March 1967

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj W. R. FLOYD

S-1, Adjutant

2dLt J. F. DARRACOTT

Personnel Officer

2dLt J. F. DARRACOTT

S-2/3

Maj F. E. LAIGE

S-4

Capt R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ

SgtMaj

SgtMaj J. B. CRANSTON

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt P. MCCANN

Engineer Equipment Officer

Capt W. HOGART

Construction Officer

2dLt F. R. PRICE

Communications Officer

1stLt G. BUCCI

AIM Officer

Capt J. R. HOLLEY

Maintenance Officer

CWO-3 S. J. JOHNSON

Utilities Officer

2dLt R. C. WRIGHT

Medical Officer

Lt G. H. SALZBERG (USNR)

Ordnance Officer

2dLt C. N. TOFFT

Supply Officer

WO R. CONROW

Legal Officer

Capt H. E. ZELLLEY

Emarkation Officer

Capt M. E. LUNDY

NBC/Civil Affairs Officer

Capt R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ

Chaplain

LtCmdr M. E. WHITE (USN) to 19Mar67

Lt R. LYONS (USNA) from 24Mar67

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0197674. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
35	945	2	16

III. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of March, Company "A" remained at Da Nang under OPCON of the 7th Engineer Battalion. The battalion (-) and a platoon from 1st Bridge Company, which is in direct support of Task Force X-Ray and billeted with this battalion, remained at Chu Lai. Delta Company assumed complete responsibility for maintaining and upgrading 25.76 km of Route # 1. The letter companies continued to maintain 2.5 km of Route # 22, the interior road net of FLSC-B, and the CLDC-ASP site. The above mentioned work utilized 949 man days and 4562 equipment hours using 4056 cubic yards of rock and 11273 cubic yards of fill. Two hundred and eighty two (282) feet of 36" culvert were installed. One hundred and ninety nine (199) sacks of cement were used. The quarry operation produced 851 cubic yards of $\frac{1}{4}$ " rock, 265 cubic yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ " rock, 680 cubic yards of 1" rock, and 855 cubic yards of 2" rock for a total output of 3248 cubic yards. The Battalion continued to support the ROK Marines by maintaining 20 km of roads and a water point. During the month the six (6) water points operated by the Battalion supplied 4,739,430 gallons of water. During this reporting period 4 men left on emergency leave; 3 men were wounded in action; 3 men were hurt in industrial/vehicular accidents; and one man was reported MIA. One Vietnamese National was killed by an MRS 200 accident on Route # 22. During the month the Battalion joined 87 enlisted men and 4 officers and transferred 43 enlisted men and 1 officer. One officer was attached TAD from MNG Taiwan.

The battalion completed a topographic survey of the proposed site for an airfield to be constructed for the 2nd Brigade of the ROK Marine Corps, re-decked the Warren Truss Railroad Bridge at coordinates BT 430109, and began decking the Warren Truss Railroad Bridges at coordinates BT 497066. The battalion completed 28 strongbacks, one well, one shower building with concrete deck, two 8'x12'x30' bunkers, and began work on one 16'x80' mess-hall extension and one 12'x12' pot shack for 3rd 8" Howitzers. The battalion also completed one well for 4th Battalion, 11th Marines. One 12'x16' pot shack, one 12'x14' vegetable locker and 20 four hole heads for 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines.

A 40'x80' carpenter shop was completed for the 9th Engineer Battalion. Seven bunkers were constructed for 7th Communications Battalion, 2 bunkers for 7th Marines CP, and five bunkers for Chu Lai Defense Command. The following covered maintenance facilities were under construction: 30'x46' 1st Motor Transport Battalion, 33'x28' 9th Engineer Battalion, and 14'x14' 9th Engineer Battalion.

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During March the recon officer made one aerial recon of the Duc Pho area, a deliberate recon of the Bridge # 16 and bypass at coordinates BS 593933, a hasty recon of Bridge # 32 at coordinates BT 230339, a deliberate recon and engineering drawing of Bridge # 19 at coordinates BS 568979, and completed a detailed Route Reconnaissance of Route # 22. Four sweep teams were sent to Chu Lai Defense Command, one sweep team and seven bridge personnel supported the Rough Rider convoys to Da Nang, and two sweep teams supported a 9th Engineer Patrol in grid squares BT 4904 and BT 5014. Twelve men from "C" Company were sent to support the 2nd ARVN Division on Operation BOONE, a platoon from "B" Company continued to support the ARVN on Operation DeSoto/Deckhouse VI, a platoon from "F" Company was sent to support 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Six men were sent on an operation with "K" Company 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, and "C" Company personnel blew a large cave at coordinates BT 496039. The Bridge Platoon constructed a 180 foot M4 Floating Bridge at coordinates BT 430109, built a 45 foot Deck Balk Fixed Span Bridge at Bridge # 19 at coordinates BS 568979 and inserted a 3 float class 60 tactical ferry at coordinates BS 597928. The battalion loaned 3 P-153 mine detectors to 1st Engineer Battalion.

III. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

1 March 1967

Received call from "A" Company stating that LCpl MOORE was MIA. PFC LINDA of Service Company to CONUS on emergency leave.

3 March 1967

Cpl MILLS of "B" Company wounded by 81mm flare cannister from "K" Company, 3/5. Lt ALLEN's platoon from "B" Company returned from Operation DESOTO with one (1) WIA-PFC J. L. LUHRSSDN. Lt HOLLEY and Lt LINDNER returned from ADN School on Okinawa. Lt COULTER returned from Embarkation School on Okinawa.

4 March 1967

LCpl COGGIN of "A" Company was WIA but returned to duty.

6 March 1967

Promoted 1st Lt's HOLLEY, LUNDY, and POLYASCKO to Captain.

7 March 1967

LCpl MANCO departed for CONUS on emergency leave.

13 March 1967

M51 dump truck overturned at ROKMC Camp but no serious injuries resulted.

14 March 1967

LCpl OLDRYD of "D" Company hit by vehicle of Service Company on Route # 1 which resulted in a broken leg.

15 March 1967

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16 March 1967

M51 dump truck's brakes failed, ran into another vehicle in the convoy. Accident occurred at ROKMC. No serious injuries.

17 March 1967

Major S. JOHNSON reported aboard TAD from MuG, Republic of China.

21 March 1967

LCpl WEINSTEIN of "D" Company injured while working on Route # 1.

23 March 1967

Capt B. K. WIEDERHOLD reported aboard. Vietnamese National died of injuries received from MRS 200 with B170A Scraper on Route # 22. One man from Bridge Platoon WIA while on Rough Rider convoy to Da Nang. Joined Lt R. LYONS, CHC, USA. PFC COYNE of "D" Company to CONUS on emergency leave.

24 March 1967

LtCol BABE left for Okinawa to observe ADI training.

25 March 1967

LtCol BABE returned from Okinawa

28 March 1967

LCpl GRAY departed for CONUS on emergency leave.

31 March 1967

2. CIVIC ACTION

Medical/Dental assistance to 218 Vietnamese in Tich Tay.

Eleven (11) MC-05 trailers and nine (9) M51 dump truck loads of scrap lumber, 351 lbs of 8 penny nails, 30 lbs of 6 penny nails, 24 bars of soap, and 12 toothbrushes to Tich Tay.

Evacuated one girl involved in vehicle accident to Medical Battalion.

Completed construction of: road in Tich Tay, sand berm and culvert at Ly Tin district headquarters, archway at Chu Lai New Life Village. Continued construction on Dickey Chapelle Dispensary and an irrigation ditch at Long Phu (1). Repaired generator at Chu Lai district headquarters and checked on wells for Tich Tay.

Taught English language classes to 77 adults and 162 children for 64 hours in Tich Tay and Ly-Tin district headquarters. Provided health and educational posters for Tich Tay and Ly-Tin district headquarters.

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3. COMBAT ENGINEER SUPPORT

3 March 1967

180 foot M4 Floating Bridge completed at second ferry-coordinates BT 430109. Culvert reported blown at coordinates BT 375178. Lt ALLEN's platoon of "B" Company returned from supporting ARVN on Operation DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI.

6 March 1967

Road recon of Route # 22 completed and submitted to III MAF.

7 March 1967

"C" Company loaned three P-153 mine detectors to "B" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion. Sent two (2) mine sweep teams to CLDC looking for 82mm mortars

12 March 1967

Submitted Engineer Operations Report Bridge # 16 at coordinates BS 593933 blown by VC. Repaired and built up bypass at BS 593933. Recon of Bridge # 16 by Bridge Platoon Commander.

13 March 1967

Recon officer accompanied Task Force X-Ray Engineer officer on aerial recon of Duc Pho area.

14 March 1967

Sent Corporals SMITH and MALSON to "K" Company, 3/5 to participate and observe ambush techniques. Began topographic survey of site for ROKMC Hasty Airfield. Began disassembly of 180 foot M4 Bridge at BT 430109.

16 March 1967

Sweep team from "D" Company cleared road in support of Rough Rider Convoy to Da Nang. Recon officer went on recon of Bridge # 32 coordinate BT 230376

21 March 1967

"C" Company blew cave at coordinates BT 496039 using 80 lbs of C4.

23 March 1967

Began work on bypass at Bridge # 19 coordinates BS 568979.

24 March 1967

Two mine sweep teams to Chu Lai Defense Command from "D" Company. Bridge Platoon sent seven (7) men in support of Rough Rider Convoy to Da Nang.

25 March 1967

Began decking on Tan Railroad Bridge at coordinates BT 497086.

26 March 1967

Two sweep teams and patrol from "B" Company at grid squares BT 4904, BT 500

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27 March 1967

Inserted 45 foot Deck Balk Fixed Span Bridge-class 30 at bypass near Bridge # 19 coordinates BS 568979.

28 March 1967

Sent platoon from "B" Company in support of 1/7. Sent six (6) men from "D" Company on operation with "K" Company 3/5. Upgraded bypass bridge near Bridge # 19 coordinates BS 568979 to class 54. Inserted 6 float class 60 tactical ferry at Song Tra Bong River coordinates BS 597928. Sent two (2) demolition teams from "C" Company in support of 2nd ARVN Division on Operation BOONE.

31 March 1967

4. TRAINING

4 March 1967

Lt HOLLEY and Lt LINDNER returned from ADM training on Okinawa. Lt COULTER returned from Embarkation School on Okinawa.

5 March 1967

FAM fire for 88 personnel with M14 rifle, .45 caliber pistol, and M60 machinegun. Nine (9) men sent to Mine Warfare School at 1st Engineer Battalion. FAM fire and demonstration of M79, M76 grenade launcher and .50 caliber machinegun for fifty (50) NCO's, SNCOS and officers.

6 March 1967

Training inspection by Division G-3. Ten (10) men to Mine Warfare School at 1st Engineer Battalion.

9 March 1967

Sent Corporals SMITH and MALSON of Headquarters Company to observe and participate in ambush with "K" Company. Ten (10) men to Mine Warfare School at 1st Engineer Battalion.

13 March 1967

LtCol B.BE left for Okinawa to observe ADM training.

16 March 1967

Ten (10) men to Mine Warfare School at 1st Engineer Battalion.

20 March 1967

LtCol BABE returned from observing ADM training on Okinawa.

25 March 1967

27 March 1967

28 March 1967

5. PATROLS

3 March 1967

Squad sized Night Recon Patrol from 032300H to 040300H. No significant sightings

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6 March 1967

Daytime Squad Sized Combat/Reaction Patrol from 060930H to 061130H. Received rounds from vicinity of Cn Lai New Life Village. Sent Reaction Patrol. Caught 1 VCS-turned over to ITT. Squad sized Night Recon Patrol from 080500H to 080500H. Encountered 3-5 VC fired 2 M79 rounds, 3-81 mm illumination rounds. Negative results, observed intermittent lights leaving area. Daylight search revealed 100 rounds of linked 7.62 mm ammo.

8 March 1967

Daytime Squad Sized Combat/Reaction Patrol from 060930H to 061130H. Encountered 3-5 VC fired 2 M79 rounds, 3-81 mm illumination rounds. Negative results, observed intermittent lights leaving area. Daylight search revealed 100 rounds of linked 7.62 mm ammo.

9 March 1967

Daytime Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol from 091700H to 091900H. Found one small tunnel in village. Search indicated it was family stores area.

11 March 1967

Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 112300H to 120400H. No significant sightings.

12 March 1967

Daytime Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol from 120630H to 121130H. Found punji stakes in area near coordinates BT 496044. Destroyed stakes

13 March 1967

Daytime Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol from 131300H to 131700H. Found one large cave and several small tunnels at coordinates BT 496039. Received four sniper rounds from vicinity of BT 490044. Night Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol from 142200H to 150200H. Detained one Vietnamese suspect.

14 March 1967

Daytime Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol from 181330H to 181730H. No significant sightings.

18 March 1967

Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 182100H to 190800H. No significant sightings

18 March 1967

Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 202000H to 210800H. Encountered several VC. Prematurely fired before they got into killing zone. Fired approximately 40 small arms rounds and 2 MK1 grenades. Results negative.

20 March 1967

Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 222200H to 230300H. Saw movement on trails near coordinates BT 497047. Fired approximately 12 small arms rounds, 3 81mm illumination rounds. Results negative.

22 March 1967

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23 March 1967

Daytime Reinforced Fire Team Recon Patrol from 231330H to 231800H. Found Vietnamese writings on underside of laurel leaves at coordinates BT 496047. Detained one Vietnamese suspect who tried to run from patrol.

23 March 1967

Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 232100H to 240900H. Sighted several persons moving through area near coordinates BT 50-043. Fired three rounds of small arms fire after repeated attempts to stop them via Vietnamese and English. Patrol caught 16 Vietnamese—ages 8-18 years old. Children and adults had had violated curfew to go to "movie" in An Tan Village, were searched for weapons and then delivered to their village.

26 March 1967

Day Patrol and Mine Sweep from 230730H to 231100H. No significant results except recovered several small arms rounds.

27 March 1967

Night Ambush Patrol from 272000H to 280800H. No significant sightings

29 March 1967

Night Ambush Patrol from 292100H to 300730H. No significant sightings.

31 March 1967

Night Ambush Patrol from 312100H to 010800H. No significant sightings.

REFERENCES

Staff Journals

Daily Progress Reports

III MAF Personnel Reports

1st Marine Division Work Orders

Maps: AMS Series L7014, sheets 6640II, 6738I, 6739I, 6739II, 6739IV

Task Organization Report

Logistics Report

Tactical Bridging Report

Engineer Operations Report

Patrol Reports

Well Drilling Report