

(Unclassified upon
removal of enclo-
sure (1).)

ORIGINAL

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

3/JTO/kwc
5750
7 May 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, (Rein), Fleet
Marine Force Pacific, FPO San Francisco, California 96602
(Attn: Field Historian)

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 30 April 1967

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

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

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c) enclosure (1)
is submitted.

G. BARE
G. BARE

Copy to:
CG, III MAF (SCI-15)

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9TH ENG BN

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I. ORGANIZATION DATA

1. DESIGNATION

9th Engineer Battalion
Headquarters Company
Service Company
Company "A"
Company "B"
Company "C"
Company "D"

COMMANDER

Lt. Col. G. Gabe
Capt. B.K. Wiederhold
Major E.W. Lifset
Capt. G.W. Mims
Capt. D.L. Washburn
Capt. E.L. Kosciw
Capt. H.E. Zealley

2. LOCATION

9th Engineer Battalion (-)	Chu Lai, RVN	1-30 April 1967
Company "A"	DaNang, RVN	1-30 April 1967

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer
S-1, Adjutant
Personnel Officer
S-2/3
S-4
Sgt Major
Motor Transport Officer
Engineer Equipment Officer
Construction Officer

Major W.R. Floyd
1/Lt. J.F. Darracott
1/Lt. J.F. Darracott
Major F.E. Paige
Capt. R.A. Blumenkrantz
Sgt Major J.B. Cranston
1/Lt. P. McCann
Capt. W. Hocart
2/Lt. F.R. Price

Enclosure (1)

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Communications Officer
ADM Officer
Maintenance Officer
Utilities Officer
Medical Officer
Ordnance Officer
Supply Officer
Legal Officer
Embarkation Officer
NBC/Civil Affairs Officer
Chaplain

1/Lt. G. Bucci
Capt. J.R. Holley
CWO-3 S.J. Johnson
1/Lt. R.C. Wright
Lt. G.H. Saltzberg (USNR)
1/Lt. C.N. Tofft
W.O. R. Conarow
Capt. H.E. Zealley
Capt. M.E. Lundy
Capt. R.A. Blumenkrantz
Lt. R. Lyons (USNR) to 16 April 1967

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
40	1023	1	16

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II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of April, Company "A" remained at DaNang under OPCON of the 7th Engineer Battalion. The battalion (-) and a platoon from Bridge Company billeted with this battalion, remained at Chu Lai. "D" Company continued to assume complete responsibility for maintaining and upgrading 25.76 KM of route # 1. The latter companies continued to maintain 2.5 KM of route # 22, approximately 2 KM of interior road net of FLSG-B, the CLDC-ASP site, 2.4 KM of 5th Marines CP access road, 1.5 KM of 3rd Battalion 5th Marines access road, and 2.3 KM of the Task Force X-Ray interior road net. The above mentioned work utilized 1667 mandays and 5043 equipment hours, using 25090 cubic yards of fill and 9608 cubic yards of rock. The following culverts were installed: 60 feet of 12 inch, 90 feet of 18 inch, 32 feet of 24 inch, and 80 feet of 48 inch. Two hundred sixty-nine (269) bags of cement and four hundred sixty-seven drums of asphalt were used. The quarry operation produced 5548 cubic yards of rock. The Battalion continued to support the ROK Marines by maintaining 20 KM of roads and a water point. During April the six (6) water points operated by the Battalion produced a total of 3,811,316 gallons of water. During the reporting period two (2) men left on emergency leave, one (1) man was accidentally shot in the leg by another Marine while on an Ambush Patrol and one (1) man was injured by an Army 81MM Mortar round that was shot into a 9th Engineer Battalion Borrow Pit. During April the Battalion joined ninety-one (91) enlisted men and eight (8) officers and transferred twenty-eight (28) enlisted and one (1) officer. One officer terminated his TAD with the Battalion and returned to MAAG Taiwan. The Battalion Reconnaissance Officer made a bridge reconnaissance from BT323217 North to BT232338 and a bypass reconnaissance from BT323217 South to BS642747. The Battalion completed the decking of the Warren Truss Railroad Bridge at coordinates BT498067 and constructed a Steel Stringer Bridge at coordinates BS568979. A combination tactical ferry at coordinates BS597927 was removed. One (1) well was drilled in the Battalion Area, to be used for the Battalion cantonment. The Battalion completed a one-lane fair weather road from BS685992 to BS698977, and continued work on the widening of route # 1 from BT522044 to BT379174. A Tank Trail was constructed from BT526106 to BT529106 and from BT52113 to BT519116. The Battalion completed two (2) covered maintenance facilities, a 30 feet by 46 feet building for 1st Motor Transport Battalion and a 33 feet by 28 feet building for 9th Engineer Battalion. An LSA for 196th Light Infantry Brigade was completed and an ASP for the Army Logistic Command was constructed. A 45 foot span of M4T6 Balk Deck Fixed Bridge was removed at BS568979. Under construction are two (2) miles of interior roads for the U. S. Army Logistic Support Group.

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During April one (1) Mine Sweep Team was sent to CLDC, and one (1) Sweep Team was sent to 3rd 8 inch Howitzers, one (1) Sweep Team to 2/7, one Sweep Team to 4/11, and a platoon from "B" Company returned from engineer support of 1/7. One (1) reinforced squad manned Hill 49 as security when "K" Company of 3/5 moved north and one (1) platoon from "B" Company provided security for 175MM Guns on move to Tam Ky, and were joined by one (1) squad from Bridge Platoon who provided support with a combat loaded 45 foot M4T6 Balk Deck Fixed Span Bridge. An Alert platoon from "C" Company was dispatched to Tam Ky to provide additional security for 175MM guns. Three (3) P-153 mine detectors were loaned to U. S. Army 196th Light Infantry Brigade and four (4) TD-18 Bulldozers with ten (10) operators and two (2) flood light units were sent to assist the 39th Army Engineers construct a C-130 capable airfield at Duc Pho.

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III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

2 April 1967 Lt. Halloran reported aboard
Lt.Col. Babe and Major Paige attended Change
of Command ceremony at MCB40. Lt.Col. Babe
and Major Paige went south to observe Opera-
tion Boone.

3 April 1967 Major Johnson, who was TAD from Chinese MC in
Taiwan, departed to visit other Engineer Opera-
tions in I Corp area with Capt. Hocart.

5 April 1967 Capt. Trede transferred to CONUS for RELAD. Lt.
Darracott, Lt. Wright, and Lt. Tofft promoted to
1st Lt. Pfc. Dawkins departed on emergency leave.

7 April 1967 Major Floyd made a visit to "A" Company in the
DaNang TAOR. Lt. Allen returned from TAD in
Okinawa.

9 April 1967 Lt.Col. Babe made a visit to DaNang concerning
Admin. matters, and returned.

10 April 1967 Lt. O'Kelley, Lt. Coulter, Lt. Platz, and Lt.
Allen promoted to 1st Lt. Lt. Denton trans-
ferred to Camp Butler by Service Record while
sick.

12 April 1967 Lt. Cook reported aboard.

13 April 1967 Lt. Matteson, GySgt Currier and SSgt Cowart
departed for Okinawa for TAD.

15 April 1967 Major General Cushman made a visit to 9th Eng-
ineer Battalion. GySgt Towe assigned duty as
Battalion Career Advisor.

16 April 1967 LtCol. Babe attended memorial services for the
late Col. Horn at Headquarters III MAF. Chaplain
Lyons reassigned to 1st Hospital Company.

17 April 1967 Lt. Hart, Lt. Lamotte, Lt. Thompson, Lt. Feifs,
and Lt. Martin reported aboard.

22 April 1967 L/Cpl Fuller of "C" Company injured when Army 81MM
mortar round was shot into area where troops were
working.

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- 23 April 1967 Lt. Hammell and Lt. Plunkett reported aboard. Sgt. Pierce of "D" Company to CONUS on emergency leave.
- 26 April 1967 LtCol. Babe and Major Paige made a reconnaissance trip to Duc Pho.

2. CIVIC ACTION

Medical assistance to 100 Vietnamese of Tich Tay .

Personal assistance to Vietnamese of Tich Tay consisted of 25 bars of soap, 6 toothbrushes, 3 rubber balls, and 57 M-51 . dump trucks loads of scrap lumber.

Completed wells, repaired road and drainage of road for Tich Tay.

Continued work on Dickie Chapelle dispensary, generator repair at Chu Lai New Life, and the irrigation ditch at Long Phu # 1.

English language class to 40 adults and 64 children for 33 hours in Tich Tay.

3. COMBAT ENGINEER SUPPORT

- 1 April 1967 Work begun on decking of An Tan railroad bridge at BT498067.
- 6 April 1967 Mine Sweep Team from "B" Company to CLDC.
- 7 April 1967 Mine Sweep Team from "C" Company to 3rd 8 inch Howitzers.
- 8 April 1967 Completion of Binh Son Bridge by ARVN Engineers. The Ferry was pulled from Binh Son.
- 9 April 1967 Work begun by "D" Company on Ammunition Supply Point for U. S. Army.
- 11 April 1967 Platoon from "B" Company returned from engineer support of 1/7.
- 13 April 1967 LtCol. Babe and Major Paige made helicopter reconnaissance of route #1 area.

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- 15 April 1967 Loaned three P-153 Mine Detectors to 196th Light Infantry Brigade of U. S. Army. Completion of decking of An Tan railroad bridge at BT498067. The battalion completed a one lane fair weather road from BS685992 to BS698977. Six (6) shafts with tunnels were located at BT505037. One shaft destroyed 75% by use of a 40 lb. Ammonium Nitrate Cratering Charge and $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of C4. Remaining tunnels were not of tactical significance to merit necessary demolitions.
- 17 April 1967 Two mine sweep teams sent out; one south to 2/7, one north to 4/11.
- 19 April 1967 TD 24 bulldozer fell off cliff in borrow pit on route 22. No injuries were incurred and damage was slight to the equipment. The crane was back in operation within three (3) hours.
- 21 April 1967 Reinforced squad from "D" Company manned Hill 49 as security when "K" Company of 3/5 was moved north to support Operation Union. One platoon from "B" Company provided security for 175MM guns on move to Tam Ky. One squad from Bridge Platoon also provided support with a combat loaded 45 foot Balk Deck Fixed Span Bridge. Reconnaissance Officer and Bridge Platoon Commander made bridge reconnaissance from BT323217 North to BT232338.
- 22 April 1967 One (1) 81MM mortar round from Army shot into 9th Engineer borrow pit wounding one (1) Marine. Slight damage was incurred upon one (1) TD-18 bulldozer and one (1) M51 Dump Truck. Reconnaissance Officer made Bypass Reconnaissance from BT323217 south to BS642747.
- 28 April 1967 Four (4) TD-18 dozers with ten (10) operators and two (2) flood light units committed to 39th Army Engineers at Duc Pho. One (1) well was drilled to the rear of the Officers Club in the 9th Engineer Battalion Area.

4. TRAINING

- 3 April 1967 Ten (10) Marines sent to Mine Warfare School at 1st Engineers.
- 6 April 1967 FAM fire 100 men on the M-60 Machine Gun, M-14 rifle, and 45 pistol conducted at MAG 12 Range.
- 9 April 1967 Multi- Fuel Maintenance Class conducted 1300.

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12 April 1967 Battery School for communications personnel.
14 April 1967 Battery School for communications personnel.
17 April 1967 EIMCO Company representative, Mr Miles, arrived and commenced instruction on EIMCO tractors.
26 April 1967 EIMCO Company representative completed his instructions
27 April 1967 Instruction on operation of 81MM mortar begun..

4. PATROLS

2 April 1967 Fire team sized Night Recon Ambush Insert Patrol from 022230H to 030330H. No significant sightings.
3 April 1967 Squad sized Night Patrol to insert Seismic Intrusion Devices from 032000H to 032400H. At approximately 2330, 3 men were seen carrying instrument about 4 feet long. Called and received illumination, but men were gone. No further contact.
4 April 1967 Squad sized Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 042000H to 050100H. Total of eleven (11) detainees seized and delivered to ITT. They had a total of four (4) U.S. M-2 carbines with 1000 rounds of ammunition, two (2) U.S. M-26 Frag. Grenades, and miscellaneous 782 gear.
5 April 1967 Squad sized Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 052000H to 060200H. No enemy contact or sightings.
9 April 1967 Fire team sized Daytime Reconnaissance Patrol from 090615H to 091200H, No significant sightings.
11 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Night Patrol from 112300H to 120300H, No significant sightings.
13 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Daytime Reconnaissance Patrol from 131315H to 131730H, No significant sightings.
14 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Night Ambush Patrol from 142000H to 150800H, No significant sightings.

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16 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Daytime Reconnaissance Patrol from 160530H to 161200H. Received two (2) sniper rounds from vicinity of coordinates BT492046.

18 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Night Patrol from 182200H to 190400H. No significant sightings.

19 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Daytime Reconnaissance Patrol from 191300H to 191800H. No significant sightings.

20 April 1967 Reinforced squad sized Night Ambush from 201900H to 210800H. Placed on hill 49 to guard 9th Engineer Battalion rear as Kilo Company 3/5 had pulled out. No significant sightings. Reinforced fire team sized Night patrol from 202200H to 210200H. No significant sightings.

21 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Daytime Reconnaissance Patrol from 210600H to 211200H. No significant sightings.

22 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Daytime Reconnaissance Patrol from 220930H to 221600H. No significant sightings.

24 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Daytime Reconnaissance Patrol from 240500H to 241200H. No significant sightings.

25 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Night Patrol from 252200H to 260400H. Received small arms fire and automatic weapons fire. Two (2) men detained and turned over to IPT. No weapons found.

28 April 1967 Squad sized Night Ambush Patrol from 282300H to 290530H. No significant sightings.

28 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Daytime Reconnaissance Patrol from 280700H to 280930H. Found footprints and evidence of digging in front of "B" Company perimeter area. Civilians said five (5) men in area the previous night.

30 April 1967 Reinforced fire team sized Night Patrol from 300100H to 300500H. No significant sightings.

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REFERENCES

Staff Journals

Maps: AMS Series L7014, sheets 6640 II, 6738I, 6739I, 6739II, 6739IV,
6740III, 6838IV.

AMS Series L909X Scale 1:12,500 Chu Lai and Vicinity

Task Organization Report
Logistics Report
Tactical Bridging Report
Engineer Operations Report
Patrol Reports