

UNCLASSIFIED

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

3/den  
5213/5  
004769

SECRET (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1))

14 MAY 1969

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division (Rein), FMF, FPO San Francisco, California 96602 (Field Historian)

Subj: Command Chronology; submission of

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

Encl: (1) 9th Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

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

B. F. VISAGE

9TH ENGINEER BN

S & C LOG 0047-69  
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HEADQUARTERS  
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF  
14 MAY 1971  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 April 1969 - 30 April 1969

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PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation  
9th Engineer Battalion

Commander  
Lieutenant Colonel B. F. VISAGE  
1-30 April 1969

## **SUBORDINATE UNITS**

Headquarters Company  
Service Company  
Company A  
Company B  
  
Company C  
Company D

1stLt W. G. WARD 1-30Apr69  
Capt. C. H. JONES 1-30Apr69  
1stLt D. E. CRAIS 1-30Apr69  
1stLt J. D. BRUNE 1-24Apr69  
1stLt D. R. FARO 25-30Apr69  
Capt C. H. ROYER 1-30Apr69  
Capt J. K. NAGAZYNA 1-30Apr69

**ATTACHED UNITS**

3rd Platoon, 1st Bridge Company 1stLt K. D. PRICER 1-30Apr69  
in direct support

## 2. Location

9th Engineer Battalion	Chu Lai, RVN	1-30 April 1969
Company A (-)	BT 199390, Hill 10	1-30 April 1969
1st Platoon	BT 221326, Hill 29	1-30 April 1969
3rd Platoon	BT 290230, Tam Ky, RVN	1-30 April 1969
Company B	Chu Lai, RVN	1-30 April 1969
Company C (-)	BT 947783, 7th EngrBn Chu Lai, RVN	1-15 April 1969 16-30 April 1969
1st Platoon	BT 922738, H 3/11	1-30 April 1969
3rd Platoon	BT 290230, Tam Ky RVN	23-30 April 1969
HE/MT Platoon	BT 290230, Tam Ky RVN	1-30 April 1969
Company D	BT 136448, Hill 63	1-30 April 1969
Task Organized Element X-Ray; Motor Transport Platoon, 3rd Platoon Company C; Element Headquarters Company Heavy Equipment; Service Company Motor Transport Platoon	Tam Ky, RVN	1-30 April 1969

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3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer  
 S-1 Adjutant  
 Personnel Officer  
 S-2/3 Officer  
 S-4 Officer  
 S-5 Officer  
 Sergeant Major  
 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

Major J. W. STEVENS 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt R. J. BURNS 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt R. J. BURNS 1-30Apr69  
 Major E. M. CONDRA 1-30Apr69  
 Major R. B. FIELD 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt W. J. KING 1-17Apr69  
 1stLt J. N. EHRHART 18-30Apr69  
 SgtMaj J. L. NICKLES 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt J. D. BUCHANAN 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt C. J. TOENISKOETTER 1-17Apr69  
 1stLt R. J. CALDARELLA 18-30Apr69  
 Major E. M. CONDRA 1-30Apr69  
 CWO2 W. E. YORK 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt R. H. MILLER 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt R. J. BURNS 1-30Apr69  
 Lt C. B. GANTT 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt L. BUCKLEY 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt D. R. FARO 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt C. J. TOENISKOETTER 1-17Apr69  
 1stLt R. J. CALDARELLA 18-30Apr69  
 1stLt R. J. CALDARELLA 1-30Apr69  
 1stLt R. J. CALDARELLA 1-30Apr69  
 Lt Cmdr R. W. BLACK 1-28Apr69  
 Lt R. S. LIPPERT 29-30Apr69  
 1stLt M. E. WENZEL 1-22Apr69  
 1stLt J. F. CRAWFORD 23-30Apr69  
 1stLt G. E. SHERMAN 1-30Apr69

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC  
 Officer Enlisted

41 969

USN  
 Officer Enlisted

2 19

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PART II

1. During the month of April 1969 the 9th Engineer Battalion under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel B. F. VISAGE continued as its primary mission, the maintenance, upgrading, and asphalt paving of RVN Route #1 from Chu Lai (BT 520044) to the Song Cau Lau (BT 091544). Engineer Support of the Free World Forces in the Chu Lai TAOR continued to require a significant engineer effort.
2. Company A (-) located at Hill #10 (BT 196391) was engaged in the process of maintaining and upgrading RVN Route #1 from Tam Ky (BT 330209) to Thang Binh (BT 175418) a distance of 14 miles.
3. Company B located at Chu Lai was engaged in vertical construction in that area. The Heavy Equipment/Motor Transport Platoon is part of a task organized element currently upgrading and paving RVN Route #1 from Tam Ky (BT 330209) to Hill #10 (BT 196391) and is responsible for maintaining RVN Route #1 from Chu Lai (BT 520044) to Tam Ky (BT 330209).
4. Company C (-) Command Post was located at the 7th Engineer Compound (BT 947783) during 1-15 April 1969, the company was engaged in direct support vertical construction for the 1st Marine Division. On 16 April 1969 Company C (-) relocated to Chu Lai (BT 513047), leaving the 1st Platoon to complete the vertical construction for the 1st Marine Division. On 23 April 1969, the 3rd Platoon, Company C (-) joined with the task element at Tam Ky (BT 294232) to place culverts on RVN Route #1 as part of the upgrading cycle. The Heavy Equipment/Motor Transport Platoon is located at Tam Ky RVN (BT 294232) and is currently upgrading RVN Route #1 from Tam Ky (BT 312227) to Hill #10 (BT 196391).
5. Company D, located at Landing Zone Baldy (BT 136448) continued maintenance and upgrading of RVN Route #1 from Thang Binh (BT 175418) to the Song Cau Lau (BT 091544) a distance of 11.1 miles, and is engaged in construction support of the Free World Forces.
6. During the month of April 1969, upgrading and repair of RVN Route #1 was broken down into three main areas of responsibility; Chu Lai to Tam Ky; Tam Ky to Thang Binh; and Thang Binh to Song Cau Lau.
7. From Tam Ky (BT 292240) North to BT 276261, RVN Route #1, elements of Headquarters Company, Service Company, Company B, and Company C expended 1,762 man days and 8,768 equipment hours in hauling 5,888 cubic yards of rock, 1,938 cubic yards of sand, and 40,051 cubic yards of laterite in upgrading RVN Route #1 to MACV Standards in preparation for paving with asphaltic concrete. Headquarters Company spread 49,700 gallons on peneprime/RC 800 in the maintenance of shoulders on RVN Route #1.
8. Between Tam Ky and Thang Binh, Company A personnel expended 202 man days and 1,365 equipment hours in hauling and placing 132 cubic yards of rock, 885

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cubic yards of sand, and 3,963 cubic yards of laterite in upgrading RVN Route #1. Additionally 36,000 gallons of peneprime was spread as a dust palliative on RVN Route #1.

9. Between Thang Binh and Song Cau Lau, Company D expended 255 man days and 1,237 equipment hours in hauling and placing 119 cubic yards of laterite, spreading 43,000 gallons of peneprime, and operating the rock quarry in support of RVN Route #1.

10. All upgrading in the assigned area will conform to MACV standards for highways and roadways, mineral products are provided from quarries operated by RMK/BRJ, Company D, 9th Engineer Battalion, and local Vietnamese contractor. Laterite pits are operated by the 9th Engineer Battalion at Hill #54 (BT 398145), at Tam Ky (BT 290233), and a rock crusher site (BT 109429) operated by Company D.

11. During the month of April 1969 the 9th Engineer Battalion installed the following culverts:

a. <u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	#	<u>Type</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>M/H</u>	<u>E/H</u>
BT 282250	6Apr69	2	48"	50'	48	6
BT 411128	14Apr69	1	36"	50'	40	5
BT 272268	18Apr69	2	36"	70'	64	8
BT 278258	21Apr69	2	36"	70'	64	8

b. During this period the following bridges were repaired/constructed/under construction:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>M/H</u>	<u>E/H</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
BT 276261	89'4"	60	Steel Stringer Concrete Support Pile Backfill Abutment	604	152	Completed 26Apr69
BT 225347	190'	60	Steel Stringer Pile Bent, Pile Backfill Abutment	N/A	N/A	Under Construction
BT 219359	40'	60	Steel Stringer Pile Backfill Abutment	N/A	N/A	Under Construction
BT 259289	80'	60	Steel Stringer Pile Bent, Pile Backfill Abutment	N/A	N/A	Under Repair

c. During the month the following tactical bridging was installed:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
BT 225347	75'	60	M-6	Blown Bridge; Installed 25Apr69

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d. During the month the following tactical bridging was removed:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
BT 225347	45'	60	M4T6	Destroyed by enemy action on 24Apr69

12. In addition to major road and bridge construction the 9th Engineer Battalion was responsible for the repair and maintenance of the section of road as shown below:

a. Headquarters Company Heavy Equipment Platoon retained the responsibility for upgrading the Command Post Roads in the MAG-12 and MAG-13 areas.

13. Since 1 April 1969 the 9th Engineer Battalion has provided the following additional Engineer Support for the U. S. Army, U. S. Navy, U. S. Marine Corps, and the Korean Marine Corps.

a. Repaired catwalks on First Bridge, dates started 24 April 1969; date completed 29 April 1969; 8 man hours; 1 equipment hour.

b. 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines: 250 man messhall with pot shack; date started 23 December 1968; date completed 11 April 1969; 15,000 man hours; 165 equipment hours.

c. Company A (-) 9th Engineer Battalion: six bunkers 8'x8'; date started 4 March 1969; date completed 8 April 1969; 100 man hours; 0 equipment hours.

d. 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines: 38 strongback tents; date started 8 March 1969; date completed 12 April 1969; 8,700 man hours; 0 equipment hours.

e. 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines: 13 four hole heads; date started 8 March 1969; date completed 12 April 1969; 1,000 man hours; 0 equipment hours.

f. 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines: 20'x20' Garbage Shed with concrete deck; date started 8 March 1969; date completed 12 April 1969; 3,000 man hours; 0 equipment hours.

g. Company A (-), 9th Engineer Battalion: 150 man messhall; date started 19 March 1969; date completed 9 April 1969; 1,141 man hours; 120 equipment hours.

h. Company A (-), 9th Engineer Battalion Complex Tam Ky: construct one 16'x32' seahut for messhall with concrete deck and connecting enclosed breezeway to dining spaces; date started 19 March 1969; date completed 7 April 1969; 664 man hours; 20 equipment hours.

i. 54th Medical Detachment, Americal Division: 40'x60' Maintenance Hangar with concrete deck; date started 19 March 1969; date completed 26 April 1969; 3,932 man hours; 152 equipment hours.

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j. 5th Special Forces Nong Son: 20'x50' messhall with concrete deck; date started 25 March 1969; date completed 5 April 1969; 500 man hours; 0 equipment hours.

k. Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion: constructed Motor Transport Grease Rack; date started 25 March 1969; date completed 5 April 1969; 995 man hours; 10 equipment hours.

l. 27th Separate Surgical Battalion: sank well; date started 24 February 1969; date completed 9 April 1969; 120 man hours; 800 equipment hours.

m. 3/16 Artillery Battalion, Americal Division: erected Radar platform with retaining wall; date started 25 February 1969; date completed 18 April 1969; 551 man hours; 40 equipment hours.

n. Company A, 9th Engineer Battalion: erected one 50' steel sentry tower; date started 5 March 1969; date completed 14 April 1969; 400 man hours; 56 equipment hours.

o. 5th Special Forces Nong Son: construct five 8'x8' timber bunkers and two 12'x12' mortar pits; date started 24 March 1969; date completed 22 April 1969; 1,058 man hours; 0 equipment hours.

p. Americal Division: construct 34 aircraft revetmentsstands; date started 26 March 1969; date completed 28 April 1969; 883 man hours; 230 equipment hours.

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PART III1. Civic Action.

a. During the month of April 1969 the Civic Action Team accompanied the MedCap Team and assisted in the treatment of 203 men, women, and children of the Ky Lien Village area.

b. The Battalion furnished technical supervision for the excavation of two wells in the Hamlet of Tich Tay #2, BT 496053.

c. During the reporting period this Battalion has accompanied fifteen Popular Forces patrols within its Area of Operations. Movies have been shown on four occasions and a leaflet drop and broadcast was conducted in conjunction with the 7th Psy-Ops Battalion, U. S. Army.

2. Training.

<u>Date</u>	<u>School or Course</u>	<u>Off/Enl</u>	<u>Location</u>
5Apr69	Infantry Weapons Repair Course	Enlisted	Okinawa
6Apr69	Landmine Warfare Course	Enlisted	Danang
6Apr69	Basic Organic Supply Course	Enlisted	Danang
7Apr69	Welding School	Enlisted	Okinawa
7Apr69	Staff NCO Leadership School	Enlisted	Danang
13Apr69	Landmine Warfare Course	Enlisted	Danang
14Apr69	NCO Leadership School	Enlisted	Danang
14Apr69	NCO Leadership School	Enlisted	Danang
17Apr69	Registered Publications School	Officer	Danang
20Apr69	Welding School	Enlisted	Okinawa
20Apr69	Welding School	Enlisted	Okinawa
20Apr69	Landmine Warfare Course	Enlisted	Danang
26Apr69	Basic Ammo Tech School	Enlisted	Okinawa
27Apr69	Landmine Warfare Course	Enlisted	Danang
27Apr69	Embarkation School	Officer	Okinawa
27Apr69	Vietnamese Language School	Enlisted	Danang
28Apr69	Generator School	Enlisted	Danang

3. Engineer Operations.

## a. 1 April 1969

(1) Company D sweepteam assisted in Medevac of six ARVN soldiers.

## b. 2 April 1969

(1) Company D sweepteam found VC propaganda leaflets written in Korean at BT 101516. Area policed and swept with negative results.

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c. 3 April 1969

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(1) Company A sweepteam found one M-14 A/P mine buried on shoulder of road at BT 207377. Mine was removed and destroyed.

(2) Company A sweepteam found hole in road over culvert at BT 258300 possible attempted mining. Road repaired and area swept with negative results.

(3) Company D sweepteam found VC propaganda leaflets written in Korean at BT 101516. Policed and swept area with negative results.

(4) Company D sweepteam found VC mine markings on roadway at BT 119489. Area swept, one 25 pound nitro starch mine was located. Mine removed and destroyed.

d. 4 April 1969

(1) Company A sweepteam found hole in road at BT 258290, indications of possible mining attempt. Road repaired and area swept with negative results.

e. 5 April 1969

(1) Company A sweepteam found one M-79 round on shoulder of the road at BT 200386. Removed and destroyed.

f. 7 April 1969

(1) Company D sweepteam found VC propaganda leaflets written in Korean at BT 101516. Area policed and swept with negative results.

(2) Company D sweepteam taken under enemy small arms fire at BT 097524. Enemy force of approximately ten VC sighted. Korean Marine security called in artillery. No known casualties resulted from this engagement.

(3) Company D sweepteam assisted in Medevac of VN woman with shrapnel wounds.

g. 8 April 1969

(1) Company D sweepteam found one M-26 fragmentary grenade at BT 166433. Ordnance was destroyed in place.

(2) VN civilian truck detonated mine at BT 105505. There wer no casualties. Truck was removed and road repaired.

(3) Company A sweepteam found one 60mm HE mortar round at BT 256295. Ordnance removed from road shoulder and destroyed.

(4) Company D assisted in Medevac of VN civilian with head wound.

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(5) Member of Company D activated booby-trapped M-26 grenade while dismounting from truck at BT 101511. One VN civilian killed, four VN civilians wounded, one USMC wounded. Area swept with negative results.

h. 11 April 1969

(1) Company D assisted in Medevac of two VN civilians with shrapnel wounds.

(2) Company A sweepteam found one forty pound nitro starch mine at BT 258290. Ordnance was destroyed in place.

i. 12 April 1969

(1) Company A sweepteam found one M-26 grenade at BT 245310. Ordnance was removed and destroyed.

(2) Company D assisted in Medevac of four VN civilians with shrapnel wounds.

(3) Company A sweepteam found forty pound nitro starch mine in roadway at BT 272276. Ordnance destroyed in place. Road repaired.

(4) Company A sweepteam found one forty pound nitro starch mine in roadway at BT 272267. Ordnance destroyed in place. Road repaired.

(5) Company A sweepteam found one M-26 grenade at BT 245315 on roadway. Ordnance was removed and destroyed.

(6) Company A sweepteam found one Chi-Com grenade on right shoulder of road. Ordnance destroyed in place.

j. 15 April 1969

(1) Company A sweepteam found one 60mm mortar round at BT 255278 on side of roadway. Ordnance destroyed in place.

(2) Company D sweepteam security Korean Marine Corps set off fifty pound pressure release mine at BT 101516. Five KMC WIA, two USMC WIA, Medevac called in and area reswept.

(3) Company D sweepteam and Korean Marine Corps security suffered five KMC WIA and two USMC WIA as the result of a VC command detonated explosion. Medevac called in and area swept with negative results.

k. 16 April 1969

(1) Company D sweepteam found one 105 HE round in paddy at side of road at BT 113497. Ordnance destroyed in place.

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l. 17 April 1969

(1) Company D sweepteam assisted in Medevac of five ARVNs with shrapnel wounds.

(2) Company D sweepteam found VC propaganda leaflets at BT 101516. Area policed and swept with negative results.

m. 18 April 1969

(1) Company A sweepteam found two forty pound nitro starch mines in roadway at BT 278257. Ordnance destroyed in place and road repaired.

n. 19 April 1969

(1) Company A sweepteam found two forty pound nitro starch mines with pressure release fuzes on roadway at BT 254294. Ordnance destroyed in place and road repaired.

(2) Company A found one forty pound nitro starch and one twenty pound nitro starch mine on roadway at BT 254293. Ordnance destroyed in place and road repaired.

o. 20 April 1969

(1) Company A sweepteam found one 81mm HE mortar round on side of road at BT 178416. Ordnance destroyed in place.

(2) Company A sweepteam found one fifty pound nitro starch mine in roadway at BT 274265. Ordnance destroyed in place and road repaired.

p. 21 April 1969

(1) Company B sweepteam found one 60mm HE mortar round on roadway at BT 380170. Ordnance removed and destroyed.

(2) Company A sweepteam found one twenty pound nitro starch mine in roadway at BT 257289. Ordnance destroyed in place and road repaired.

q. 24 April 1969

(1) Company A sweepteam found one 60mm illumination round on side of road at BT 263280. Ordnance destroyed in place.

r. 25 April 1969

(1) Company D sweepteam found one M-79 round and one M-26 grenade on side of road at BT 123489. Ordnance removed and destroyed.

s. 26 April 1969

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(1) Company D sweepteam found one M-26 grenade on side of road at BT 093536. Ordnance destroyed in place.

(2) Company D sweepteam found one 60mm WP round on road at BT 165437. Ordnance removed and destroyed.

(3) Company D sweepteam suffered two USMC WIA from command detonated mine at BT 102516. Area searched with negative results.

t. 30 April 1969

(1) Company D sweepteam found one M-26 grenade on side of road at BT 121488. Ordnance removed and destroyed.

4. Voluntary Informant Program.

a. During the month of April 1969 Vietnamese civilians turned in the following ordnance to the 9th Engineer Battalion.

- (1) One 81mm mortar illumination round
- (2) Nine M-79 rounds
- (3) One 60mm mortar WP round
- (4) Twenty  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound blocks of TNT
- (5) Six M-26 fragmentary grenades
- (6) Four 60mm HE mortar rounds
- (7) Six Chi-Com grenades
- (8) One B42 rocket
- (9) One 175mm HE round
- (10) Fourteen M90 fuzes
- (11) One 81mm HE mortar round
- (12) One 105mm HE round
- (13) Fifty M60 machinegun rounds

b. Total amount of funds expended for the period was 25,000 \$VN.

5. During the month of April 1969 the 9th Engineer Battalion conducted thirty daylight patrols and thirty night reconnaissance patrols in its area of responsibility with one incident involving enemy contact. At 0019H hours on 7 April 1969 a nine man reconnaissance patrol made contact with an eight man VC force at BT 505037 resulting in one KIA VC and no friendly casualties. Upon initial enemy contact the Battalion Alert Force moved out to envelope the remaining VC who had broken contact with the patrol. At BT 501035 the Alert Force engaged three VC resulting in two VC KIA and no friendly casualties. The following equipment was taken as a result of the engagement:

- a. One AK47 rifle
- b. One AK50 rifle
- c. Five AK47 magazines
- d. One hundred fifty eight 7.62mm rounds
- e. Two cartridge belts

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- f. One binocular
- g. Two Chi-Com grenades

In addition to the equipment listed above various documents were taken and turned over to G-2 Americal Division, U. S. Army for evaluation.

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