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

2889
ATTN: FIELD HISTORIAN

3/RTH/fhw
5750
5 June 1967
0115667

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 May 1967

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

Encl: (1) 9th Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

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

G. Babe
G. BABE

Copy to:
CG, III MAF (Engr)

9TH ENGR BN

CMDCRON

17 1967
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1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF
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MAY 1967

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I. ORGANIZATION DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>
9th Engineer Battalion	LtCol G. A. BABE
Headquarters Company	Capt. B. K. WIEDERHOLD to 25 May 1967 Capt. G. A. BUGGI from 26 May 1967
Service Company	Maj E. W. LISET
Company "A"	Capt. G. W. NIMS
Company "B"	Capt. D. L. WASHBURN to 27 May 1967 1stLt P. B. ALLEN from 28 May 1967
Company "C"	Capt. T. L. KOSCIW to 29 May 1967 Capt. J. R. HOLLEY from 30 May 1967
Company "D"	Capt. H. E. ZEALLEY to 25 May 1967 Capt. B. K. WIEDERHOLD from 26 May 1967
3rd Platoon, 1st Bridge Co.	Capt. R. KEBBLE to 21 May 1967 1stLt R. D. NOSTAD from 22 May 1967

<u>2. LOCATION</u>		
9th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein	Che Laj, RVN	1-31 May 1967
Company A	Da Nang, RVN	1-31 May 1967
Company B (-)	Phu Bai, RVN	15-31 May 1967

<u>3. STAFF OFFICERS</u>	
Executive Officer	Maj W. R. FLOYD
S-1, Adjutant	1stLt J. F. DARRACOTT
Personnel Officer	1stLt J. F. DARRACOTT
S-2/3	Maj F. L. ALGER
S-4	Capt. R. L. KUMMERLUTZ
SgtMaj	SgtMaj J. E. CRANSTON to 25 May 1967
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt P. MCCARTHY
Engineer Equipment Officer	Capt. W. HOSLER
Construction Officer	2ndLt F. P. LEECH
Communications Officer	Capt. G. A. DODGE
ADM Officer	Capt. J. R. HOLLEY
Maintenance Officer	CJO-3 S. J. [illegible]

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

1stLt R. C. WRIGHT
Lt G. H. SALTZBERG (MC, USNR)
1stLt C. N. TOFFT
WO R. CONAROW
Capt. H. E. ZEALLEY
Capt. M. E. LUNDY
Capt. R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ
Services conducted by visiting
Lt J. DORSEY (USN)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
44	1100	1	18

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II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of May, Company "A" remained at Da Nang under OPCON of the 7th Engineer Battalion. Commencing 15 May 1967 Company "B" (-) Rein was sent to Phu Bai to provide engineer support in OPCON of III MAF. The Battalion (-) and 3rd Platoon, 1st Bridge Company, in direct support to the battalion, remained at Chu Lai. "D" Company continued to assume complete responsibility for maintaining and upgrading 25.76km of Route #22. The above mentioned work utilized 4530 man hours and 3070 equipment hours, using 4508 cubic yards of fill and 3399 cubic yards of rock. The following culverts were installed: 144 feet of 18 inch and 128 feet of 36 inch. The quarry operation produced 2687 cubic yards of rock. The Battalion continued to support the ROK Marines by maintaining 20 km of roads and a water point. This work utilized 3364 equipment hours and 7562 cubic yards of fill. There was 434,000 gallons of water produced for ROK. During May the six (6) other water points operated by the battalion produced a total of 2,513,224 gallons of water. A reinforced platoon was in direct support of the 5th Marines in Operation Union II for three (3) days. A demolition team was furnished to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion for two (2) days. One (1) minesweep team was sent to support a 7th Motor Transport convoy. During the reporting period one (1) man left on emergency leave and one (1) man was accidentally shot by U. S. Army personnel at Duc Pho, one (1) man was injured when a TD-18 he was operating hit a mine and one (1) man was injured by a dropped culvert. During May the battalion joined one-hundred thirty eight (138) enlisted men and three (3) officers, and transferred thirty-six (36) enlisted men. One officer was TAD in Phu Bai for two days concerning engineer support. A Bronze Star was awarded to one (1) sergeant. The Battalion Reconnaissance Officer conducted bridge and road recon within the Da Nang - Duc Pho area. Also a helicopter reconnaissance was made of the Duc Pho - Duc Pho area. A combination tactical ferry was removed at coordinates BT 497066. The battalion completed a roadnet at BT 545054 and constructed a two (2) lane fair weather road from coordinates BT 240177 to BT 245185. A 5 float class 55 ferry was maintained by the battalion at coordinates BT 378174 and a 1250 square foot ammunition storage facility was completed. The battalion commenced construction on a complete cantonment for the Army 161st Combat Aviation Company. The following work was done in support of Task Force Oregon: commenced construction of a 100 foot by 100 foot helipad.

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pad at the POW compound, furnish a 125 GPM compressor and operator for construction of mortar positions in BHC billeting areas, and construct a 300 meter by 175 meter storage pad. The battalion also did the following work through Task Force Oregon for the 2nd Surgical Hospital: provide access and commence digging well at coordinates BT 528117, pour concrete sidewalk and extend pharmacy building 10 feet with a concrete deck, install plumbing and electrical fixtures in X-Ray building, construct water lines from water tower to operating and wash rooms, and construct one (1) quonset hut with concrete deck and sidewalls. The four (4) TD-18's and ten (10) operators in support of U. S. Army 39th Engineers returned to the battalion, while the two (2) 5kw floodlight units plus two (2) operators remained in their support.

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III. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

1 May 1967	2ndLt ROOS reported aboard.
3 May 1967	CySgt COX reported aboard for two (2) weeks to assist in battalion legal matters.
5 May 1967	Maj. FLOYD visited Da Nang to present promotions to individuals of "A" Co.
6 May 1967	Capt. WASHBURN TAD to Phu Bai.
	LtCol. BABE visited Da Nang concerning administrative matters.
8 May 1967	Capt. WASHBURN returned from TAD at Phu Bai.
10 May 1967	Seventy (70) men from "B" Company embarked by aircraft to Phu Bai to provide engineer support in OPCON of III MAF.
11 May 1967	1stSgt DONAHOU reported aboard. Maj. PAIGE visited Tam Ky for a conference concerning the An Tan Bridge.
12 May 1967	Members of "B" Company embarked on LST #41 for Phu Bai. Sgts DENTON, SAMS, and SHADWAL promoted to SSgt.
15 May 1967	Col. T. D. JOHNSON, III MAF Engineer, visited 9th Engineer Battalion.
16 May 1967	Col. T. D. JOHNSON departed 9th Engineer Battalion.
18 May 1967	2ndLt HOWELL promoted to 1stLt. Sgt MOOT of Service Company accidentally shot by U. S. Army personnel at Duc Pho.

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20 May 1967

GySgt BASKETT departed for CONUS on emergency leave. 2ndLt IWEY reported aboard.

21 May 1967

LCpl JOHNSON of "D" Company received head concussion when TD-18 he was operating hit mine near Tam Ky.

22 May 1967

PFC LACRESSE of "D" Company injured by dropped culvert.

23 May 1967

LtCol BABE, 1stSgt GROSSE of "B" Co. and 1stSgt KERN of "C" Company visited Phu Bai to observe "B" Company engineer operations in that area.

24 May 1967

SgtMaj CRUMSTON departed PCS for CONUS.

26 May 1967

LtCol BABE and Major PAIGE visited

III L&L concerning administrative matters

LtCol BABE visited Hill #29 near Tam Ky

2ndLt HUDSON reported aboard. HM3

REDWINE awarded Bronze Star.

2. CIVIC ACTION

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Medical/Dental assistance to 121 Vietnamese of Tich Tay

Personal assistance to Vietnamese of Tich Tay consisting of 28 dump truck loads of scrap lumber, 30 lbs of nails 75 lbs of clothes, and 51 bars of soap

Public improvements consisted of the completion of two irrigation ditches, and maintenance of one (1) road.

Continued work on Dickie Chapelle Dispensary, and generator repair at Chu Lai New life.

Work was begun on a flagpole, a community bath and well for Tich Tay village.

3. ENGINEER OPERATIONS

1 May 1967

Imp. Reconnaissance was made of the Tich Tay Village area by Service Company personnel. 9th Engineer Battalion mortar set into position east of Battalion CO's hut

3 May 1967

"D" Company with now found one (1) 105mm illumination round with mechanical firing device and one (1) 155mm illumination round at BT 482076.

Also parts of one (1) MK-24 aircraft flare were discovered at this point.

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12 May 1967

13 May 1967

16 May 1967

17 May 1967

18 May 1967

Two (2) additional operators departed to work at Duc Pho. An light ran off road and hit embankment. There were no injuries and no other vehicles were involved.

Removed ferry at An Tan bridge, replaced by U. S. Army ferry.

Furnished 125 CFM compressor and operator to Task Force Oregon for construction of mortar positions in HHC billeting area. Major PUTORI, Oregon Col. 2nd ARVN Div. reported that VC blew bridge at BS 314677. A fifty (50) foot span was considered impassable. Battalion Recon Officer made recon of An Tan bridge at BT 497066.

Provided access and commenced digging well at FLSG-B and 2nd Surgical Hospital at BT 528117

Commenced construction of 100' x 100' helopad at POW compound at Task Force Oregon.

One (1) Vietnamese civilian sneaked through the International Defensive wire, was apprehended, questioned and released. LtCol BABE, Maj. PAIGE, and 2ndLt PLUNKETT made helicopter reconnaissance of

the Duc Pho - Mo Duc area. Two (2) Vietnamese civilians were apprehended attempting to enter Battalion area. They were questioned and released.

Two (2) Vietnamese apprehended at rock quarry while attempting to steal diesel fuel. One fled and a single .45 cal. shot was expended into air. Both men turned over to ITT.

Laundry worker from Snow White Laundry of An Tan reported to Sgt ROBBINS 9th Engineer Battalion that his sister had sent her child to live in An Tan because 200 VC had moved into the area around her home at BT 4307.

"C" Company sent min-sweep team to support a 7th Motor Transport convoy. LtCol BABE, Capt. KIBBLE, 2ndLt PLUNKETT and Sgt CHASSE departed on bridge recon at Duc.

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19 May 1967

One (1) platoon from "D" Company proceeded to Tam Ky to commence work on 5.5 miles of road west of Tam Ky from BT 318221 to BT 240177.

20 May 1967

Lt MATTESON of "D" Company recovered one fuzed M26 fragmentation grenade and 16 1/2# blocks of C4 while tearing down campsite of 4/11. "C" Company tore down campsites of 3rd 8" howitzers and 3rd 155mm guns.

22 May 1967

"D" Company completed 5.5 miles of road project west of Tam Ky from BT 318221 to BT 240177.

24 May 1967

Four (4) 105mm HE rounds were recovered after falling off of U. S. Army truck near Tich Tay village.

30 May 1967

Commenced construction of cantonment area for 161st Combat Aviation Company. The (4) four TD-18s plus ten (10) operators in support of U. S. Army 39th Engineers at Duc Pho returned to 9th Engineers, while the two (2) 5kw floodlights plus 2 (2) operators remained.

4. TRAINING

1 May 1967

Eleven (11) rounds of 81mm illumination were fired to zero the gun.

2 May 1967

One (1) man departed to Da Nang for MUMMS Supply School.

4 May 1967

Two (2) men departed to Da Nang for Generator School.

5 May 1967

FAM firing class and firing held at MAG-12 range. One (1) man departed to Da Nang for MUMMS Supply School.

10 May 1967

Class on 81mm mortar given by Sgt MACK. MGySgt DANIELS made arrangements for instruction on and firing of M16 Rifle.

17 May 1967

Small arms contact team from FLSC-B inspected companies weapons.

22 May 1967

Motor Transport inspection was held by a team from 7th Motor Transport.

24 May 1967

5. PATROLS

1 May 1967

Night SID Insertion Patrol from 012200H to 020200H. No significant sightings.

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Night Ambush Patrol from 032300H to 040400H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 042200H to 050200H. No significant sightings.
Night SUD Insertion Patrol from 052000H to 060100H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Daytime Recon Patrol from 060600H to 061100H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 072200H to 080400H. No significant sightings.
Night Ambush Patrol from 092300H to 100400H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 110200H to 110600H. No significant sightings.
Night Ambush Patrol from 122200H to 130400H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Daytime Recon Patrol from 140600H to 141200H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 152300H to 160300H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 162400H to 170500H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 182300H to 190500H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 192200H to 200500H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 202300H to 210300H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 222200H to 230500H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol from 232300H to 240500H. No significant sightings.
Reinforced Fire Team Daytime Recon Patrol from 250700H to 251235H. Many Vietnamese civilians were found without ID cards on their person because

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26 May 1967

of fear of ruining them while working
in rice paddies.

Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon
Patrol from 262300H to 270500H. No
significant sightings.

28 May 1967

Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon Patrol
from 282400H to 290400H. Captured 7
detainees and took to IIT. Interrogated
and found to be innocent civilians.

29 May 1967

Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon
Patrol from 292300H to 300300H. No
significant sightings.

30 May 1967

Reinforced Fire Team Night Recon
Patrol from 302300H to 310300H. No
significant sightings.

REFERENCES

Staff Journals

Maps: AMS Series L7014, sheets 6640II, 6738I, 6739I, 6739II, 6739IV, 6740III
6738IV, 6758II

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

Task Organization Report

LOC Report

Tactical Bridging Report

Engineer Operations Report

Patrol Reports

Spot Reports

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