

(1)

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

3/EGP/flw  
5750  
8 August 1967  
0114567

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 July 1967

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

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

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

*F. E. Paige*  
F. E. PAIGE  
By direction

Copy to:  
CG, III MAF (Engr)

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S & C FILES  
HEADQUARTERS  
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF  
67 3215  
Copy 1 of 3

9TH ENGINEER BN TPL #

3947

9TH ENGR BN  
CMD CHRON

July 1967

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I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

9th Engineer Battalion

LtCol G. A. BABE

Headquarters Company

Capt. G. A. BUCCI to 30 July 1967  
1stLt G. BELEY from 31 July 1967

Service Company

Maj. M. W. LIFSET

Company "A"

Capt. R. A. TIEBOUT

Company "B"

1stLt P. B. ALLEN

Company "C"

Capt. J. R. HOLLEY

Company "D"

Capt. B. K. WEDDERBOLD

3rd Platoon, 1st Bridge Company

1stLt R. D. HOLSPED

2. LOCATION

9th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein

Chu Lai, RVN 1 - 31 July 1967

Company "A"

Da Nang, RVN 1 - 18 July 1967  
Hill 63, RVN 19 - 31 July 1967

Company "B"

Tan Ky, RVN 1 - 31 July 1967

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Vacant

S-1 Adjutant

2ndLt J. R. HUDSON

Personnel Officer

2ndLt J. R. HUDSON

S-2/3

Maj. F. E. PAIGE

S-4

Capt. R. A. BLUEMIRANTE

SgtMaj

SgtMaj E. C. YARGER

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt P. MCCANN

Engineer Equipment Officer

2ndLt R. E. D. ROOS

Construction Officer

Vacant

Communications Officer

Capt. G. A. BUCCI to 30 July 1967  
1stLt G. BELEY from 31 July 1967  
Capt. J. R. HOLLEY

ADM Officer

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Maintenance Officer  
Utilities Officer  
Medical Officer  
Ordnance Officer  
Supply Officer

Legal Officer  
Embarkation Officer  
NBC/Civil Affairs Officer  
Chaplain

2ndLt J. W. IVEY  
Capt. T. K. HICKMAN  
Lt G. H. SALTZBERG MC USN  
CWO-4 C. I. HERRIOTTS  
2ndLt D. J. LUCAS to 28 July 1967  
Capt. C. N. PASTINO from 29 July 1967  
Capt. T. K. HICKMAN  
1stLt R. J. COULTER  
Capt. N. A. BLUMENKANTZ  
Services conducted by visiting Chaplain  
Lt D. W. PEDERSEN USNR

#### 4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
39	1015	1	18

### II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of July, Company "A" remained under the OPCON of the 7th Engineer Battalion but moved from Da Mang to Hill 63 on 19 July. On 1 July Company "B" moved from Chu Lai to Tam Ky. The 9th Engineer Battalion (-) and 3rd Platoon, 1st Bridge Company, in direct support of the Battalion remained at Chu Lai. Company "D" retained responsibility for maintaining and upgrading Route #1 from the rock crusher site north to Tam Ky. Company "D" spent 20,626 man hours and 8248 equipment hours in placing 3032 cubic yards of fill and 6274 cubic yards of rock. The quarry operations produced 3112 cubic yards of rock. The Battalion continued to support the ROK Marines with a reinforced platoon from Company "C" which is also responsible for maintaining 12.4 miles of road and a water point. Work on the road net required 5095 man hours, 2007 equipment hours, and 4200 cubic yards of fill and the water point supplied 587,000 gallons of water. The five other water points operated by the 9th Engineer Battalion in the Chu Lai area supplied 4,361,700 gallons. Company "B" moved to Tam Ky and began repair work on Route #1 between Hill #29 and Tam Ky and also started construction of the first three bridges north of Tam Ky. The first bridge (40' span, steel stringer, located at BT 283252) was completed on 30 July 1967 and work continues on the other two; an 82' steel stringer bridge with concrete pier intermediate support, at BT 276262, and a 98' timber stringer bridge with pile bent intermediate supports at BT 268273. Company "B" also removed existing PSP decking and replaced it with 3" x 12" decking and 3" x 12" treadway on the existing eiffel bridge at

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BT 226347. This work was performed on 4 July 1967. The road repair work by Company "B" required the placement of 80 pieces of 60" culvert. A demolition team in support of the 1st Marine Reconnaissance Battalion returned on 4 July and one in support of 2/11 returned on 1 July. Two man demolition teams also supported 1st Reconnaissance Battalion for the periods 4 - 8 July and 26 - 31 July. Another two man team left on 30 July.

Also in the month of July the Battalion joined 48 enlisted men and 4 officers and transferred 56 enlisted men and one officer. One officer left for Okinawa to attend ADM School. On 5 July, Major MACKENZIE, CO 1st Engineer Battalion visited the 9th Engineer Battalion area and during the period 12 - 14 July LtCol WILSON, new 1st Marine Division Engineer Officer visited the Battalion area and project sites. A 5 float class 55 ferry was maintained at coordinates BT 378174; a 53' fixed span with intermediate supports was installed at BT 276262; a four float floating bridge 98' long was installed at BT 226347; and a 45' fixed span with intermediate supports was installed at BT 219359. Work has been completed at the Dickie Chappelle dispensary and the building is now in use by the Vietnamese. In addition, the Battalion completed a bunker for 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and continued work on one at 2nd LAAI Battalion. Other work performed included the following; cleaned out a well for 3rd Antracs unit, constructed packing boxes and disconnected utilities for CLIC, completed 2 - 300' x 450' bomb storage pads for MAG 12, installed 40' x 36" culvert on Route 422, and constructed a 20' x 100' area with a 5' berm for TAFDS for MAG 36 at FOK Marines. The Battalion continued to support Task Force Oregon. The Task Force Oregon TOC bunker was completed as was a cantonment for the 161st Aviation Company and one for 14th Aviation Battalion. A storage pad and road network were completed for the 221st S&S Company. Work began on a 150' x 300' laterite pad for the 80th GSG and 80' of 36" culvert was installed for drainage in the same area. The Battalion also started on a 30' x 70' messhall for the 25th Medical Company, Utilities personnel began wiring and installing plumbing in the 14th Aviation Battalion cantonment and the 161st Aviation Company cantonment, and began drilling a well at Tam Ky. Finally the construction platoon built 22 - 4 hole heads.

### III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

#### 1. PERSONNEL

2 July 1967	Joined GySgt EUGENHART and GySgt COLANGELO from COMUS.
3 July 1967	Joined 2ndLt LEATHERS, 2ndLt BRADY, SSgt BAKER and SSgt CHAMBERS from COMUS.
7 July 1967	Joined WO GLEYEAL from COMUS.
13 July 1967	Awarded Purple Heart Medal to LCpl WEINSTEIN and PFC WARD.
17 July 1967	Awarded Purple Heart Medal to LCpl B. H. VIGNANT.

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20 July 1967      Joined SSgt HAZLETT from COMUS.  
22 July 1967      Awarded a Certificate of Commendation to SSgt W. H. ASHFORD.  
Awarded Purple Heart Medal to LCpl G. R. AGGUINO, Pvt  
M. C. LINTON JR., LCpl G. E. MICHEAL JR., Sgt F. L. PEUGH,  
and LCpl W. L. SMART.  
24 July 1967      Joined 2ndLt BELEY from COMUS.  
28 July 1967      Joined Capt. PASTING from COMUS.

## 2. CIVIC ACTION

Medical Assistance to 45 residents of Tich Tay (BT 496053).  
Dental Assistance to 64 residents of Tich Tay. Personal  
Assistance to the people of Tich Tay consisted of 560  
bars of soap, 52 dump truck loads of scrap lumber, 8 -  
55 gallon drums, 14 tooth brushes, 16 cases of Micrin  
mouth wash, 24 carpenters kits, 10 mason kits, and 30  
school kits. Also 8 large boxes of hospital supplies,  
250 bars of soap, 7 cases of Micrin mouth wash, and 1  
doctor kit was donated to the Dickie Chapelle hospital  
(BT 504054). In addition 7 jeep trailer loads of scrap  
lumber and 20 lbs of 6d nails were donated to the Buddhist  
pagoda at BT 504045. Work on the Dickie Chapelle  
dispensary was completed during the month of July as were  
two irrigation ditches in the vicinity of BT 496067 and  
496062 respectively. A culvert was also installed at  
BT 496062. There are 24 Vietnamese workers undergoing  
vocational training; 14 carpenters, 8 masons, and 2  
automotive mechanics. English instruction totaling 44  
hours was held for 26 children and 17 adults of the Tich  
Tay community.

## 3. ENGINEER OPERATIONS

1 July 1967      Company "B" arrived at Tam Ky and started work on bridge  
at BT 268273.  
3 July 1967      Company "B" started work on bridge at BT 283252. Bridge  
Platoon emplaced 45' fixed span at BT 219359. Completed  
concrete slab for 188th Maintenance Company. Division  
Inspector conducted a Material Readiness Inspection.  
4 July 1967      Company "B" replaced decking on bridge at BT 226347.  
Two man demolitions team with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion  
returned. Another two man team took their place.  
Provided support for a convoy from 1st Engineer Battalion  
going to Hill 29.

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5 July 1967 Bridge Platoon emplaced 98' floating bridge at BT 226347. Fire at BT 399145 caused by helicopter crash in Army ammo dump. Company "D", 1st Platoon provided assistance to contain and extinguish fire. Major MCKENZIE CO 1st Engineer Battalion visited 9th Engineer Battalion area.

6 July 1967 Bridge Platoon emplaced 55' fixed span at BT 276262.

8 July 1967 Company "B" started work on bridge at BT 276262. Company "D" completed septic tank and well at Dickie Chapelle dispensary. A two man demolitions team returned from 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.

9 July 1967 Company "C" finished Task Force Oregon TOC bunker. Started wiring and installing plumbing at 161st Aviation Company.

10 July 1967 Started work on bomb storage pads at MAG 12. Company "B" received 10 rounds of sniper fire at BT 276262. Company "D" received 3 rounds of sniper fire at BT 403142.

11 July 1967 M51 from Company "B" hit a mine at BT 257292. Two Marines and one corpsman slightly wounded and returned to duty. Started work on laterite pad for the 221st SAS Company. Began wiring and installing plumbing at 14th Aviation Battalion. Dug out well for unit of 3rd Antrac Battalion.

12 July 1967 Started drilling well at Tam Ky. LtCol MILSON, new 1st Marine Division Engineer Officer visited 9th Engineer Battalion.

13 July 1967 Built packing boxes and disconnected utilities at CLIC Headquarters.

17 July 1967 Company "D" received sniper rounds at BT 395178.

19 July 1967 Provided support for Company "A", 9th Engineer Battalion as they moved to Hill 63. Began work on 188th Motor Transport Battalion Motor Transport Lot.

21 July 1967 LtCol BABE, LtCol HARRIS, and LtCol FOUDEBURNK traveled to Da Nang from Chu Lai via Route #1. Began work on 80th GSG laterite storage pad. Installed 40' of 36" culvert on Route #22. Completed bomb storage pads for MAG 12.

22 July 1967 LtCol BABE returned from Da Nang with Col JOHNSON, III MAF Engineer Officer. An M51 from Company "D" received 6 sniper rounds at BT 364182. Observed 15 - 20 armed VC. Finished 161st Aviation Company cantonment.

25 July 1967 Constructed a 20' x 100' area with a 3' berm for TAFDS for MAG 36 at POK Marines Camp.

26 July 1967 Sent two men to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. Began construction of a messhall at the 25th Medical Company.

27 July 1967 Promoted 2ndLt BELLEY to 1stLt. Date of Rank is 1 July 1967.

29 July 1967 Finished construction of 14th Aviation Battalion area.

30 July 1967 Sent two man demolition team to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.

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PFC J. E. LAVIGNE killed by exploding mine while working with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. Two man demolition team sent to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion on 26 July returned to 9th Engineer Battalion.

4. TRAINING

3 July 1967

One man was sent to Embarkation School, Okinawa. Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

6 July 1967

Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

8 July 1967

Thirty-one men FAM fired the M-16 rifle and .45 caliber pistol at the MAC 12 FAM fire range.

9 July 1967

Three men departed for Da Nang for GAC Indoctrination Course.

10 July 1967

Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

13 July 1967

Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

17 July 1967

Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

20 July 1967

Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

21 July 1967

One man was sent to HCO Leadership School, Camp Butler, Okinawa.

24 July 1967

1stLt FIEBS and 3 enlisted men left for Okinawa to attend ADM School. Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

27 July 1967

Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

29 July 1967

Thirty-four men FAM fired the .50 caliber machinegun at the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Range.

31 July 1967

Five men were sent to Landmine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

5. PATROLS

1 July 1967

Night Ambush Patrol from 012200H to 020500H. No significant sightings.

3 July 1967

Night Ambush Patrol from 032000H to 040100H. No significant sightings.

4 July 1967

Day Reinforced Fireteam Recon Patrol from 040630H to 041200H. No significant sightings.

5 July 1967

Night Ambush Patrol from 052130H to 060130H. Checked IDs of 5 Vietnamese fishermen and released.

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6 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 062200H to 070200H. No significant sightings.
8 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 082200H to 090400H. No significant sightings.
11 July 1967	Night Reinforced Fireteam Recon Patrol from 112400H to 120400H. One male fisherman detained, checked ID card and released him.
13 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 132200H to 140400H. No significant sightings.
15 July 1967	Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 152200H to 160530H. No significant sightings.
17 July 1967	Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 172300H to 180500H. No significant sightings.
18 July 1967	Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 182100H to 190300H. No significant sightings.
19 July 1967	Day Reinforced Fireteam Recon Patrol from 190500H to 191100H. No significant sightings.
22 July 1967	Night Reinforced Fireteam Recon Patrol from 222130H to 230130H. Heard 5 shots fired between Tich Tay and An Tan.
23 July 1967	Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 232100H to 240500H. No significant sightings.
24 July 1967	Night Reinforced Fireteam Recon Patrol from 242200H to 250400H. No significant sightings.
25 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 252230H to 260400H. No significant sightings.
26 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 262300H to 270400H. No significant sightings.
27 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 272100H to 280500H. No significant sightings.
28 July 1967	Night Ambush from 281800H to 290530H at laterite pit on Route #22 received several bursts of AW fire, no casualties.
29 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 292100H to 300400H. No significant sightings.
30 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 302400H to 310500H. One VC suspect challenged at 50 yards. Did not respond, one round fired by patrol leader, negative results.
31 July 1967	Night Ambush Patrol from 312200H to 010400H. No significant sightings.

#### REFERENCES

Staff Journals  
Maps MMS Series L7014; sheets 6640IV, 6739IV, 6640II, 6740III,

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AMS Series L606X scale 1:12,500 Chu Lai & Vicinity  
Task Organization Report  
LOC Report  
Engineer Operations Report  
Tactical Bridging Report  
Patrol Reports  
Civic Action Reports  
Spot Reports

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