

[REDACTED]

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

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3/EGP/fhw

5750

7 September 1967

0111567

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 August 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).


H. E. PEREA

Copy to:
CG, III MAF (Engr)

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9TH ENGINEER BN TPL #

0014

9TH ENGR BN

CMD CHRON

AUG 1967

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I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

9th Engineer Battalion

LtCol G. A. BABE to 6 August 1967
Maj. E. W. LIFSET from 7 August 1967
to 30 August 1967
Maj. H. E. PEREA from 31 August 1967

Headquarters Company

1stLt G. BELEY

Service Company

Major E. W. LIFSET to 6 August 1967
Capt. T. K. MCKEOWN from 7 August 1967

Company "A"

Capt. R. A. TIEBOUT

Company "B"

1stLt P. B. ALLEN

Company "C"

Capt. J. R. HOLLEY to 10 August 1967
1stLt L. E. COULTER from 11 August 1967

Company "D"

Capt. B. K. WIEDERHOLD

3rd Plt., 1st Bridge Company
In Direct Support

1stLt R. D. MOLSTAD to 8 August 1967
2ndLt P. P. LAMAS from 9 August 1967

2. LOCATION

9th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein

Chu Lai, RVN 1 - 31 August 1967

*Company "A"

Hill 63, RVN 1 - 31 August 1967

Company "B"

Tam Ky, RVN 1 - 23 August 1967
Chu Lai, RVN 24 - 31 August 1967

*OPCON 7th Engineer Battalion

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Vacant to 30 August 1967
Maj. E. W. LIFSET from 31 August 1967

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. BLUMENKRANTZ

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SgtMaj
Motor Transport Officer
Engineer Equipment Officer

Construction Officer
ADM Officer

Maintenance Officer

Utilities Officer

Medical Officer
Ordnance Officer

Supply Officer
Legal Officer
Embarkation Officer

NBC/Civil Affairs Officer
Chaplain

SgtMaj. E. C. YARGER
1stLt P. MCCANN
2ndLt R. E. D. ROOS to 14 August 1967
2ndLt H. J. COLEMAN from 15 August 1967
Vacant
Capt. J. R. HOLLEY to 10 August 1967
Capt. E. G. PETERS from 11 August 1967
2ndLt J. W. IVEY to 18 August 1967
2ndLt D. C. JOHNSON from 19 August 1967
Capt. T. K. MCKEOWN to 6 August 1967
Vacant from 7 August 1967 to 10 August 1967
WO-1 F. A. R. LANDRY from 11 August 1967
Lt G. H. SALTZBERG MC USN
CWO-4 C. I. HERRIOTTS to 18 August 1967
Capt. C. N. PASTINO from 19 August 1967
Capt. C. N. PASTINO
Capt. T. K. MCKEOWN
1stLt L. E. COULTER to 14 August 1967
Capt. R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ from 15 August 1967
Capt. R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ
Services conducted by visiting chaplain
Lt D. W. PEDERSEN CHC USNR

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH*

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
42	974	1	19

*Includes Company "A"

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II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of August, Company "A" remained under the OPCON of the 7th Engineer Battalion. Company "A" is located at Hill 63. Company "B" returned from the Tam Ky area on 23 August and is presently located at Chu Lai. The 9th Engineer Battalion (-) and the 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 Chu Lai north to Tam Ky. Company "D" spent 23,600 man hours and 11,002 equipment hours in placing 2609 cubic yards of fill and 7,779 cubic yards of rock. The quarry operation produced 3569 cubic yards of rock. The Battalion continued to support the ROK Marines with a reinforced platoon from Company "B" which is responsible for the maintenance of a 12.4 mile road network and a water point.

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Work on this project required 3731 man hours, 1369 equipment hours and 2500 cubic yards of fill. The water point at ROK supplied 709,000 gallons of water and the five other water points operated by this Battalion in the Chu Lai area produced 6,535,000 gallons. Company "B" completed construction of bridge #39 north of Tam Ky; an 80' steel stringer bridge with concrete pier intermediate support located at BT 276262. Company "B" also completed construction of bridge #37 north of Tam Ky; a 92' timber stringer bridge with pile bent intermediate supports located at BT 268273. This company installed a fair weather bypass at BT 237326 after the bridge at this location was blown. A two man demolition team returned from 1st Recon Battalion on 3 August. In addition two man demolition teams supported 1st Recon Battalion for the periods 9 - 13 August, 14 - 17 August, 18 - 24 August, and 20 - 24 August. During the month of August the Battalion joined 45 enlisted men and 6 officers, and transferred 72 enlisted men and 3 officers. One officer and one staff NCO attended the M16 School conducted by the 1st Marine Division on 2 August 1967. There were two change of command ceremonies in the Battalion during August. Major E. W. LIPSET relieved LtCol. G. A. BABE as commanding officer on 6 August. On 30 August 1967 Major H. E. PEREA assumed command vice Major E. W. LIPSET who assumed duties as executive officer. A 5 float class 55 ferry was maintained at Coordinates BT 378174. The 53' fixed span at BT 276262 was removed upon completion of the new 80' steel stringer bridge at this location. A 38'-4" fixed span was installed at BT 237326 on 26 August and removed on 30 August. The four float floating bridge at BT 226347 was partially destroyed by explosives placed by the Viet Cong on 29 August and was put back in operation by 31 August. Work was completed on a bunker and beach access road for 2nd LAAM Battalion. The 9th Engineer Battalion also supported Task Force X-Ray with a 30 kw generator during the period 8 - 30 August. Work orders completed for USMC units during this period included construction of seventeen 2 hole heads for CAP units in the Chu Lai Area, a 20' x 30' maintenance building for FLSG-B, hauling 1200 cubic yards of fill for MAG 13, three 8' x 8' x 8' bunkers for 2nd LAAM Battalion, a water point for FLSG-B, and regrading and surfacing a helopad for 1st Recon Battalion. The 9th Engineers continued to support army units located in the Chu Lai area. A 102' x 60' concrete deck was poured for a new Task Force Oregon EM club, a messhall was constructed for C Co., 25th Medical Battalion, and a GI house was built for the Task Force Oregon Messhall. In addition the Battalion completed the following; three 8' x 8' x 8' bunkers for the 2nd Surgical Hospital, a 150' x 300' storage area for the 80th GSG, installation of plumbing and wiring at the 161st Aviation Company and the 14th Aviation Battalion, a topographic study for the 14th Aviation Battalion cantonment, a computer building for the 188th Maintenance Battalion, rewiring of the electrical system at 2nd Surgical Hospital, a camp interior road net for the 101st Airborne Brigade, and wiring of the Task Force Oregon command bunker. In addition the Battalion is working on the following projects for U. S. Army Units: construction of 2 showers and a water tower for the 163rd Truck Company, erection of a 32' x 60' maintenance building for the 80th GSG, a 170' x 20' laundry building for the 80th GSG, a 76' x 20' shower building for the 80th GSG, a 30' x 50' messhall with a 30' x 30' galley

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for the 3/16 Artillery, a 30' x 50' messhall with a 30' x 30' galley for the 94th S&S Company, a 30' x 100' messhall with a 30' x 40' galley for the 221st S&S Company and five 4 hole heads. Work continues on a new bomb storage area at the ASP operated by FLSG-B. Finally during the month of August a drilled well was completed at Tam Ky.

III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

1 August 1967	Joined GySgt EWING, SSgt JORDON, and GySgt CUNNINGHAM from CONUS.
2 August 1967	Joined GySgt RECKER and SSgt PERRIN from CONUS.
3 August 1967	Joined GySgt BUCY from CONUS. LCpl SABLAN killed accidentally when he fell from utility pole.
6 August 1967	Change of Command Ceremony for LtCol. BABE. Major LIFSET took command of the 9th Engineer Battalion. LtCol BABE transferred to CONUS.
7 August 1967	Lt FLEFS and 3 enlisted men returned from ADM School.
9 August 1967	Joined GySgt PARKER from CONUS.
10 August 1967	Major PAIGE left for Okinawa on ADM matters. Joined WO LANDRY from CONUS. Transferred Capt. HOLLEY to CONUS.
11 August 1967	Joined GySgt MILLS from CONUS.
13 August 1967	Joined 2ndLt COLEMAN from CONUS.
18 August 1967	Joined 2ndLt DIEDEN, 2ndLt GARDNER and 2ndLt JOHNSON from CONUS.
27 August 1967	Joined SSgt WEEKS from CONUS.
30 August 1967	Change of Command Ceremony for Major LIFSET. Major PEREA took command of the 9th Engineer Battalion.

2. CIVIC ACTION

Medical assistance to 106 residents of Tich Tay (BT 496053) and dental assistance to 5 residents of Tich Tay. Personal assistance to the villagers of Tich Tay consisted of 72 bars of soap, 1 midwife kit, 1 volleyball kit, 12 tooth brushes, 21 notebooks, 7 pens, 22 dump truck loads of scrap lumber, 1 mason's kit and 1 carpenter's tool kit. Assistance was given to the Catholic Church in Chu Lai by installing lights and repairing a generator. Work has also begun on repair and painting of a dispensary in Tich Tay located at BT 496053. There are 24 Vietnamese undergoing vocational training including 14 carpenters, 7 masons, 1 tool room attendant and two automotive serviceman. English language instruction was given to 24 adults and 31 children of Tich Tay hamlet.

3. ENGINEER OPERATIONS

1 August 1967	Completed plumbing for messhall at C Co., 25th Medical Battalion.
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2 August 1967 Started GI house for Task Force Oregon messhall.
Finished storage pad for 80th GSG.

3 August 1967 Two men demolition team returned from 1st Recon Battalion.
Finished a bunker for 2nd LAAM Battalion. Completed wiring 14th Aviation Battalion cantonment

4 August 1967 Began wiring bunker for 2nd LAAM Battalion.

5 August 1967 Completed 3 bunkers for 2nd Surgical Hospital. VC blew three craters in Route #1 in vct BS 581957. 9th Engineers provided emergency repairs to open the road. Completed 25th Medical Battalion messhall.

7 August 1967 Began computer building for 188th Maintenance Battalion.
Began work on beach access road at 2nd LAAM Battalion.

9 August 1967 One 2 man demolitions team in support of 1st Recon Battalion. Company "B" received 8 - 10 rounds of 60mm mortar fire at BT 236315. No casualties. Company "B" blew in place two mines found at BT 252297.

10 August 1967 Started construction of 2 showers and a water tower for the 163rd Truck Company.

11 August 1967 Sent a 30 kw generator and operator to Hill 29 in support of Task Force X-Ray. Provided escort for Task Force X-Ray convoy. Started work on concrete deck for Task Force Oregon EM club. Completed power distribution system at 2nd Surgical Hospital. Completed a drilled well at Tam Ky. Mine sweep team found 5 lbs of documents, 1 National Liberation Front flag and a mine warning device at BT 452088.

12 August 1967 Completed wiring bunker at 2nd LAAM Battalion.

13 August 1967 A two man demolition team returned from 1st Recon Battalion.

14 August 1967 Sent a two man demolition team to support 1st Recon Battalion. Started hauling fill for maintenance area at 188th Maintenance Battalion.

15 August 1967 Completed GI house at Task Force Oregon Messhall. Began repair work on 1st Recon Battalion helopad. Finished plumbing and wiring the 563rd Medical Company. VC blew four 36" culverts at BT 251302.

16 August 1967 Company "B" completed an 80' steel stringer bridge at BT 276262. Provided air compressor to MAG 13 to operate arresting gear. A 9th Engineer Battalion sweep team found and removed two mines on Route #1 at BT 251802 and BT 250303. Service Company dump truck was hit by small arms fire between BT 400145 and BT 430109. No casualties.

17 August 1967 Prepared a site for construction at the 8th Support Group. A two man demolitions team returned from 1st Recon Battalion.

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18 August 1967 Sent a two man demolitions team in support of 1st Recon Battalion. Third Platoon, First Bridge Company removed 53' fixed span at BT 276262.

19 August 1967 Began work on a maintenance building for FLSC-B. Company "B" put in fair weather bypass at BT 237326.

20 August 1967 Sent a two man demolitions team to support 1st Recon Battalion.

21 August 1967 Began mine sweep of area for CACO "I".

23 August 1967 Company "B" completed 92' timber stringer bridge at BT 226346. Company "B" uncovered bamboo mine at BT 255296. Completed computer building for 188th Maintenance Battalion.

24 August 1967 Two 2 man demolitions teams returned from 1st Recon Battalion.

25 August 1967 Completed concrete deck for Task Force Oregon EM club.

26 August 1967 Completed mine sweep for CACO "I". Installed 38'-4" fixed span bridge at BT 237326. Company "C" picked up two VC suspects at BT 199390. Began construction of three 8' x 8' x 8' bunkers at 2nd LAAM Battalion.

28 August 1967 Provided escort for Task Force X-Ray convoy traveling from Hill 29 to Chu Lai. Began work on concrete slabs at Task Force Oregon messhall. VC blew culvert at BS 572974. VC partially destroyed floating bridge at BT 226347.

30 August 1967 Completed three 8' x 8' x 8' bunkers for 2nd LAAM Battalion.

31 August 1967 Completed work on helopad at 1st Recon Battalion. Provided assistance to Army to extinguish fire at 221st S&S Company.

4. TRAINING

2 August 1967 Two men to Division M-16 School.

3 August 1967 Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

7 August 1967 One man was sent to MUMS School, 1st Marine Division. Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

9 August 1967 Fifty-three men FAM fired the M-16, M-14, M-60, .45 Cal. pistol and shotgun.

10 August 1967 Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

13 August 1967 Forty-five men for officers and staff school. Speaker was Lt RANDLETT from EOD MAG 12.

14 August 1967 Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

17 August 1967 Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

21 August 1967 Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

24 August 1967 Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

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27 August 1967 Twenty-eight men attended a NBC Decontamination School at 9th Engineer Battalion.

28 August 1967 Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

31 August 1967 Three men were sent to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion. One man was sent to Division Embarkation School.

5. PATROLS

3 August 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 032200H to 040400H.

4 August 1967 Night Ambush Patrol from 042100H to 050200H. Seven detainees apprehended and released.

7 August 1967 Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 072100H to 080500H.

8 August 1967 Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 082400H to 090600H.

10 August 1967 Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 102200H to 110500H.

12 August 1967 Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 122300H to 130200H.

14 August 1967 Night Reinforced Fireteam Recon Patrol from 142200H to 150400H.

18 August 1967 Night Ambush Patrol from 182100H to 190400H.

20 August 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 202200H to 210300H.

22 August 1967 Night Ambush Patrol from 222400H to 230500H.

23 August 1967 Night Reinforced Fireteam Recon Patrol from 232200H to 240300H.

26 August 1967 Night Ambush Patrol from 262200H to 270500H.

28 August 1967 Night Ambush Patrol from 282200H to 290430H. Fired 100-150 rounds small arms fire and 1 M-79 round at fleeing individuals. Negative results.

30 August 1967 Night Reinforced Fireteam Recon Patrol from 302200H to 310430. Fired several warning shots to halt fleeing individuals. ID cards checked and detainees released.

31 August 1967 Night Ambush Patrol from 312100H to 010400H. No significant sightings, Patrol called back in at 2200H due to PF activities in the area.

REFERENCES

Staff Journals

Maps: AMS Series L7014; sheets 6739I, 6739IV, 6640II. AMS Series L606X;
Scale 1:12,500 Chu Lai and Vicinity

Task Organization Report

LOC Report

Engineer Operations Report

Tactical Bridging Report

Patrol Reports

Civic Action Reports

Spot Reports

Weekly Progress Reports

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