

HEADQUARTERS
9th Engineer Battalion, MAF
PFO San Francisco, California 96602

3/fhw
5750
8 October 1967
0128167

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 30 September 1967

Ref: (a) HCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPAC 5750.6
(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. L. PEREA

Copy to
CG, III MAF (Engr)

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9TH ENGR BN
CMD CHRON

SEP 1967

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

9th Engineer Battalion

LtCol H. E. PEREA

Headquarters Company

1stLt G. BELEY to 9 September 1967
Capt. E. G. PETERS from 10 September 1967

Service Company

Capt. T. K. MCKEOWN to 10 September 1967
Capt. W. T. EVANS from 11 September 1967
to 18 September 1967
Capt. C. N. PASTINO from 19 September 1967

Company "A"

Capt. R. A. TIEBOUT

Company "B"

1stLt P. B. ALLEN to 10 September 1967
Capt. T. K. MCKEOWN from 11 September 1967

Company "C"

1stLt L. E. COULTER to 2 September 1967
Capt. W. H. SKIERKOWSKI from 3 September 1967

Company "D"

Capt. B. K. WIEDERHOLD

3rd Platoon, 1st Bridge Company
in direct support

2ndLt P. P. LAMAS

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2. LOCATION

9th Engineer Battalion(-)

Chu Lai, RVN 1 - 30 September 1967

*Company "A"

Hill 63, RVN 1 - 30 September 1967

*OFCOM 7th Engineer Battalion

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Major E. W. LIPSET

S-1 Adjutant

2ndLt J. R. HUDSON

Personnel Officer

2ndLt J. R. HUDSON

S-2/3

Major F. E. PAIGE

S-4

Capt. R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ

SgtMaj

SgtMaj E. C. YARGER

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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

1stLt P. MCCANN
 2ndLt H. J. COLEMAN
 Vacant
 Capt. E. G. PETERS to 21 September 1967
 1stLt H. E. FEIFS from 22 September 1967
 2ndLt D. C. JOHNSON to 13 September 1967
 WO-1 H. O. FEUER from 29 September 1967
 WO-1 F. A. R. LANDRY
 Lt G. H. SALTZBERG (MC) USNR
 2ndLt B. J. GRYOTKO
 Capt. C. N. PASTINO
 Capt. T. K. MCKEOWN to 9 September 1967
 Capt. E. G. PETERS from 10 September 1967
 Capt. R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ
 Capt. R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ
 Services conducted by visiting Chaplain
 Lt F. H. LUFFMAN

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH*

USMC		USN	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
42	949	1	20

*Includes "A" Company

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II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of September, the 9th Engineer Battalion, LtCol H. E. PEREA commanding, had as its primary missions the repair and upgrading of RVN Route #1 from Chu Lai to Thang Binh, support of Marine Corps and Army units in the Chu Lai TAO, and the construction of a road network at ROKMC connecting all outlying camps to Brigade Headquarters.

"A" Company remained under the OPCON of the 7th Engineer Battalion at Hill 63.

Primary responsibility for upgrading the 16 miles of RVN Route #1 from Chu Lai (BT 522043) to the Tam Ky bridge (BT 330209) was delegated to "D" Company. During this reporting period "D" Company, with one platoon working out of Hill 54 and one platoon out of the battalion area, laid 9355 cubic yards of 1 3/4" rock over a distance of 4.76 miles and prepared an additional 3.60 miles to receive rock. Sections of the road between Hill 54 and the Tam Ky bridge were widened and drainage ditches added. The better sections of road were patched with asphalt from Hill 54 to the Tam Ky bridge. On 30 September 1967 "D" Company

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removed it's one platoon (rein) from Hill 54 and relocated at Hill 29 (BT 227320), where its mission is to repair RVN Route #1 from Tam Ky north to Van An (BT 242318) a distance of 7.8 miles. "D" Company has expended 20,694 man hours on the upgrading and repair of RVN Route #1 with the following distribution of equipment hours.

<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
MS200	22	Water Trailer	100
MS100	454	Grid Roller	670
TD-24	86	125 Grader	64
550 Grader	673	TL-16	174
BMCO	280	TD-18	131
MRS100	894	125 AC	21
Smooth Roller	60	Tandum Roller	12
M-51	3618	16-S	53
M-54	468	5KW	51
M-52	290	150T46	31

"B" Company was assigned the project of the construction of a 21 mile road complex within the ROKMC camp connecting all outlying camps to Brigade Headquarters. One platoon (-)(rein) was sent on 29 August 1967 and returned on 21 September 1967 with road construction complete. While at ROKMC, "B" Company heavy equipment expended 1076 man hours and 128 equipment hours, and motor transport expended 772 man hours while covering 6742 miles and hauling 605 loads (3025 yards) of fill. The ROKMC water point produced 351,000 gallons of water.

The remainder of "B" Company was used primarily in support of Army units in the Chu Lai TAOR. One culvert on Route #22 was completed on 2 September 1967, and one helopad was completed on 14 September 1967. The company is now in the process of constructing four (4) messhalls, one for the 94th S&S Battalion, one for the 221st S&S Company, and two (2) for the 3/18th Artillery with 17 strongbacks. Also under construction is one shower and water tower for the 163rd Light Truck Company. On 29 - 30 September 1967 "B" Company replaced 4 culverts north of Tam Ky and on 2 October 1967 one platoon departed for Hill 29 to reinforce two tactical bridges from class 40 to class 60.

Between 1 September and 11 September 1967 "C" Company completed construction of one helopad and one 16' x 16' hut. Also under construction were two tropical huts, one maintenance shed, one ASF road, and one messhall for the 221st S&S Company. On 11 September 1967 these jobs were re-assigned to "B" and "D" Companies as "C" Company departed for Hill 10 (BT 199390) to repair RVN Route #1 from Hill 29 (BT 217320) to Thang Binh (BT 175418), a distance of 7.5 miles.

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During the month even with increased enemy initiated incidents, the 9th Engineer Battalion was able to maintain the movement of traffic over RVN Route #1, the road never remaining closed for a period of greater than four hours.

III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

7 September 1967	Joined Capt. W. T. EVANS
8 September 1967	LtCol PEREA to DaNang to visit III MAF
10 September 1967	Joined SSgt D. E. MATHIAS and HM1 K. E. ROGERS
11 September 1967	Joined SSgt KONRATH
12 September 1967	Joined GySgt MORROW
13 September 1967	Joined HM1 HAMRICK; PFC STAPLES WIA while with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion
14 September 1967	LtCol H. E. PEREA and Maj. E. W. LIFSET to TAD DaNang.
15 September 1967	LtCol H. E. PEREA and Maj. E. W. LIFSET from TAD DaNang.
16 September 1967	Maj. FAIGE and LtCol PEREA to Hill 10 on road reconnaissance
18 September 1967	Joined Maj. C. H. WALL
19 September 1967	Joined MSgt COOPER
20 September 1967	LCpl MOCK and WALKER to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion as demolition and mine sweep team.
22 September 1967	Joined Capt. MARSHALL, SSgt MOE and SSgt LOGAN. "C" Company received 15 - 20 rounds mortar fire; 20 WIA; 12 USMC, 1 USN, and 1 USA medevac
24 September 1967	Joined 1stLt SEABORG
25 September 1967	SSgt HARPER transferred to 5th Marines. LCpl CRAIG and LCpl CROSSON WIA when M-54 hit mine on RVN Route #1.
28 September 1967	"A" Company M-51 dump truck hit mine - 12 WIA, 12 were medevac. M-51 dump truck hit mine at BT 232558, 2 WIA from "C" Company.

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2. CIVIC ACTION

Ninth Engineer Battalion personnel with the assistance of one Vietnamese nurse, provided medical assistance to 165 residents of Tich Tay (BT 496053). Personal assistance to the villagers of Tich Tay consisted of 200 pounds of candy, 2 cases of cookies, 125 pounds of clothing, 20 pairs of shoes, 50 sewing kits, 2026 bars of soap, 6 volleyball kits, and 400 bottles of Micrin mouthwash. Thirty-nine truck loads of scrap lumber were given to the Buddhist school in An Tan.

Two residents of Tich Tay were evacuated to Quang Ngai via 1st Hospital Company, one man for suspected appendicitis and one girl for suspected tuberculosis.

The wiring of a church in Chu Lai (BT 504052) has been completed, while repair and painting of the Tich Tay dispensary is 80% and 20% complete respectively.

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Immediate plans called for the replacement of bridges #21 (BT 185406), #23 (BT 196392), and #24 (BT 201384), all of which are currently under construction with bypasses in place. To date "C" Company has compiled 9,135 man hours and 520 equipment hours in establishing their camp site which is 95% complete. The three bridges being constructed are 60% (#21), 5% (#23), and 5% (#24) completed with an expended 1820 man hours and 524 equipment hours. "C" Company also replaced a double 36" culvert at BT 217363, and repaired the road at locations of 5 mine incidents.

During September the two rock crushers have been operated by 13 -- 15 members of the Heavy Equipment Platoon from Headquarters Company. The 15 TPH crusher has operated 143 hours, producing 2020 yards of 2" rock. The 50 TPH has run 132 hours producing 2635 yards of 2" rock. Total man hours were 3512 and total equipment hours 1049. The 600 CFM compressor and rock drill have run 104 hours each, the M-37 crane 241 hours, the Euclid dump trucks 166 hours, and the TD-18 tractor 158 hours. The total amount of rock shot was 5673 yards using 6000 pounds of dynamite, 1500 feet of detonating cord, and 148 blasting caps.

The Utilities Platoon of Service Company has operated seven (7) water points producing 7,430,555 gallons of water. They have also done the electrical wiring and plumbing in conjunction with all work orders received by this battalion.

During the month of September there were five bridges and eight culverts blown on RVN Route #1 in the 9th Engineer Battalion's area of responsibility. There were also nine enemy mine incidents at locations other than culverts and bridges. Mines resulted in 19 USMC WIA, 14 Vietnamese KIA, and 1 Vietnamese WIA. The 9th Engineer Battalion captured four VC suspects and eight confirmed VC, all of whom were turned over to the Americal Division. There were seven incidents of sniper fire resulting in 2 enemy WIA probable, 1 enemy KIA probable and 1 USMC WIA. Company "C" received incoming mortar rounds at their position on Hill 10 on two occasions resulting in 20 WIA; 18 USMC, 1 USN and 1 USA. Fourteen casualties were medically evacuated.

There were three (3) two man demolition and mine detector teams sent to work with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion on Hills 403 and 707 resulting in two (2) 9th Engineer Battalion WIA.

During the month of September the 9th Engineer Battalion dropped 9 officers and 73 enlisted men and joined 9 officers and 68 enlisted men.

The 3rd Platoon, 1st Bridge Company remained in direct support of the battalion. On 29 September this platoon replaced a four (4) float, 118'4" long floating bridge with a class 70/75, 120 foot span M-6 bridge at BT 225348.

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Eleven hours of English language classes were held for 9 adults and 16 children. There are in addition 24 Vietnamese workers under vocational training and 4 Vietnamese workers attending a 7 week English language school. Those under vocational training include 14 carpenters, 7 masons, 1 carpenter tool room attendant, and 2 automotive servicemen.

The children's mid-autumn festival was attended by LtCol H. E. PERDA, Battalion Commanding Officer and Captain R. A. BLUMENKRANTZ, Civil Affairs Officer. All officials of Tich Tay Hamlet were present together with Mr DAL, committee member from Ky Lien Village. Two hundred pounds of hard candy and 500 cookies were distributed in conjunction with the cookies and candy given by officials of Ky Lien Village. After the ceremony the children and villagers in need of medical aid were treated by the 9th Engineer Battalion MEDCAP team. In all, forty-one people were treated. An ISO photographer was present during the entire ceremony and MEDCAP visit. The complete ceremony went smoothly and the people were very friendly and grateful.

3. ENGINEER OPERATIONS

- 1 September 1967 Started one (1) messhall 30' x 70' with 30' x 40' galley for 221st S&S Company.
- 2 September 1967 Triple 36" culvert blown at BT 411128. "D" Company repaired.
- 3 September 1967 Started two (2) 12' x 12' showers for 163rd Transportation Company. Started one (1) 120' x 20' laundry with 50' x 20' wing for the 94th S&S Battalion.
- 4 September 1967 Received spot reports of bridge blown at BT 219359 by VC and BT 230339. Also two culverts at BT 196391 and BT 217364.
- 6 September 1967 Completed 16' x 16' tropical hut for Americal Division. Started dozer support for 101st Airborne.
- 7 September 1967 Completed five (5) four hole heads. Started four (4) hole heads for 2/11 Cavalry.
- 8 September 1967 Turned over one VC suspect to MP's at BT 406135.
- 9 September 1967 Started two (2) tropical huts for Americal Division officer quarters. Furnished two man sweep team to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.
- 10 September 1967 Furnished two man sweep team to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion to 14 September 1967.
- 11 September 1967 Started leveling and clearing 200' x 600' area for motor pool for 163rd Transportation Company.
- 12 September 1967 Started hauling fill and upgrading area for MAG-13. Started one (1) messhall 30' x 50' with 30' x 30' galley, 16' x 32' garbage and pot shack and 20' x 30' mess gear washing area for 3/18th Artillery.

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15 September 1967 "C" Company received 7 mortar rounds outside CP (BT 200395)
17 September 1967 Completed bomb storage area in ASP for FLSC-B.
18 September 1967 "C" Company started construction of two steel stringer bridges at BT 185406 and BT 196392. Completed one drainage sump (30' x 30' x 10') for 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company.
20 September 1967 "C" Company started construction of steel stringer bridge at BT 201384. Completed leveling 200' x 600' area for motor pool for 163rd Transportation Company. Completed clearing and leveling area for 101st Airborne Campsite.
23 September 1967 FLSC-B request for repair of 25 revetments for ammo storage completed. Bridge #29 blown (BT 218359). Replaced by 9th Engineer Battalion
24 September 1967 Completed two (2) showers (12' x 12') for 163rd Transportation Company.
25 September 1967 Started 20' x 30' boiler shack to messhall for FLSC-B
26 September 1967 Bridge (BT 258326) blown.
27 September 1967 Bridge (BT 258289) blown.
29 September 1967 Replaced four (4) float floating bridge 118'4" long with 120' M-6 bridge at BT 225348.

4. TRAINING

In compliance with the 9th Engineer Battalion training SOP, each company holds three classes of General Military Subjects type training and two hours of technical training every week. The GMS classes are one half hour in length and are given on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 0700. Technical training is given on Sunday mornings, each MOS attending its own classes. Records are kept on each individual as to what classes he has attended. These records are checked by the Battalion Training Officer twice a month.

In addition to the above training, the following formal schooling was attended by 9th Engineer Battalion personnel during September:

4 September 1967 Three men to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion. One man to Embarkation Instruction Course, 1st Marine Division. One officer and one enlisted man to Embarkation School, Okinawa.
7 September 1967 Three men to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.
11 September 1967 Three men to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

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14 September 1967 Three men to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.
18 September 1967 Three men to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.
21 September 1967 Three men to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.
Eight men to 7th Communications Battalion motor pool
for vehicular waterproofing class.
25 September 1967 Three men to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.
28 September 1967 Three men to Land Mine Warfare School, 1st Engineer Battalion.

5. PATROLS

1 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 012100H to 020400H.
4 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 042200H to 050400H.
6 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 062300H to 070400H.
7 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 072100H to 080300H.
9 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 092200H to 100300H.
12 September 1967 Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 122300H to 130500H.
13 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 132200H to 140430H.
14 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 142200H to 150400H.
15 September 1967 Daytime Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 150600H to 151200H.
16 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 162100H to 170300H.
17 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 172400H to 180400H.
18 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 182100H to 190500H.
19 September 1967 Daytime Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 190530 to 191030H.
20 September 1967 Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 202200H to 210500H.
21 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 212200H to 220200H.
22 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 222100H to 230200H.
23 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 232000H to 240400H.
24 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 242100H to 250300H.
25 September 1967 Night Recon/Ambush Insert Patrol from 252200H to 260500H.
26 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 262300H to 270400H.
27 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 272300H to 280300H.
28 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 282100H to 290500H.
29 September 1967 Night Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 292200H to 300300H.
30 September 1967 Daytime Rein Fireteam Recon Patrol from 300600H to 301100H.

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
Tactical Bridging Report
LOC Report
Engineer Operations Report
Patrol Reports
Civic Action Reports
Spot Reports
Weekly Progress Reports

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