

HEADQUARTERS

1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)

1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

EPO San Francisco, California 96602

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3/WM/reh

5750

Ser No.

15 December 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 November 1969 to 30 November 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPac 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2e

Encl: (1) 1st Engineer Battalion Chronology

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

Classified by the Director of
the Corps History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of the ltr Ser 009D323/232095 of W. M. WIOSKI
Feb 1979

W. M. WIOSKI
Signature Date 7/18/97

S & C FILES
HEADQUARTERS
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF

60 4507

COPIES 1 OF 5 COPIES

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 3200J0

1ST ENG BN
SWTS NR _____
COPY 1 OF 7 COPIES

UNCLASSIFIED

DIV COC
38-69

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1ST ENGR BN

COMD CHRON

NOV 1969

1ST ENGINEER BATTALION

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
PART I

PART II

PART III

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PART I

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. <u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	
1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)	Lt. Colonel R. E. SMITH	31Jul69-16Nov69
	Major W. M. WINOSKI	17Nov69-Present

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company (-)	1stLt. W. H. BARNETSON	24Oct69-Present
Engineer Support Company (-)	Maj. F. J. COX JR.	21Jul69-Present
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt. B. C. S. WORLEY	3Sept69-Present
Company "B" (Rein)	Capt. E. C. HEIN JR.	5Mar 69-Present
Company "C" (Rein)	Capt. R. J. GADWILL	7Sept69-Present
Company "A" (-), 5th EngrBn	Capt. J. L. REDIFER	28Oct69-Present
2. <u>Location</u>		
1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)	21Aug67-Present	Danang, RVN
Engineer Support Company (-)	21Apr67-Present	Danang, RVN
Company "A" (Rein)	23Aug68-Present	Danang, RVN
Company "B" (Rein)	6Aug 68-Present	An Hoa, RVN
Company "C" (Rein)	26Aug69-Present	Dong Trau, EVN
Company "A" (-), 5th EngrBn	28Oct69-Present	Danang, RVN
3. <u>Staff Officers</u>		
Executive Officer	Major W. M. WINOSKI	50Oct69 -Present
Sergeant Major	Sgt. Maj. J. M. WISE	15Jun69-Present
S-1/Adjutant	Capt. V. D. HIATT	20Dec68-20Nov69
	Capt. J. M. STOOPS	20Nov69-Present
S-2	1stLt. J. J. STEGER	29Oct69-Present
S-3	Maj. W. M. WINOSKI	21Aug69-Present
S-4	Maj. F. BUTSKO	1Aug69 -Present
S-5	1stLt. S. D. HAMMONS	14Aug69-29Oct69
	1stLt. J. J. STEGER	29Oct69-Present
Supply Officer	1stLt. G. W. JOHNSON	14Apr69-11Nov69
	2ndLt. G. F. MEDRANO	11Nov69-Present
Communications Officer	2ndLt. H. G. WATKINS	21Oct69-Present
Chaplain	Lt. I. H. THOMSON	18Oct69-Present
Medical Officer	Lt. R. S. HAXTON	4Aug 69-Present
Engineer Equipment Officer	1stLt. R. S. McLAUGHLIN	20Oct 69-Present
Utilities Officer	CWO-2 P. W. LINES	13Oct69-Present
Construction Officer	CWO-2 L. B. BOTTS	23Oct69-Present
4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u>		

	<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFF</u>		<u>ENL</u>
36		901

	<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>		<u>ENL</u>
2		12

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL
PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of November 1969, the 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) continued to assist small unit tactical operations with close combat engineer support in the form of assault demolition teams and special mine clearance teams. This support consisted of bunker destruction and clearing of landing sites. The Battalion also completed 61 Division and 10 Battalion work orders in all types of construction throughout the TAOR from Los Banos in the North to LZ Baldy and FSB Ross in the south. Thirteen water points were also operated by the Battalion throughout the TAOR. An average of 20 walking road sweep/mine clearance details operated daily on 1st Marine Division LOC's.

a. Company "A" provided close combat engineer support to the 1st Marines in small unit operations in their TAOR. A monthly average of thirty men were engaged in demolitions and special mine sweeps for tactical operations. Company "A" also maintained seven daily road sweeps for mines and boobytraps within their A. O. and an additional two-man sweep team for operation Duffle Bag. Company "A" also supported Headquarters Battalion, 1st Medical Battalion, and 3rd Amphibac Battalion in vertical construction, primarily bunkers.

b. Company "B" provided close combat engineer support to the 5th Marines during the month on small unit tactical operations. An average of thirty men were employed as demolition teams on these operations. The remainder of the Company, supported by men and equipment from H&S and Engineer Support Companies were engaged in cantonment improvement and vertical construction in the 5th Marines TAOR. In late November Company "B" commenced razing the cantonment at Phu Loc 6 (Liberty Bridge) and simultaneous construction of strongpoint berms and shelters at the North and South ends of the bridge. Improvement of internal cantonment roads at the An Hoa combat base, support of the bunker construction requirements of 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, and upgrading of the Hill 65 cantonment are now well in progress. Company "B" also maintained four regular mine sweeps during the month.

c. Company "C" remained committed to support of the 7th Marines in the field and at LZ Baldy and FSB Ross. During the reporting period, Company "C" supported small unit operations in the 7th Marines TAOR with an average of 8 men. Support consisted of demolition work and upgrading of FSB Ryder with assistance from Engineer Support Company in the form of light land clearing equipment. High on the list of work priorities for Company "C" has been upgrading of roads, electrical wiring and construction of bunkers for 7th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines at LZ Baldy and FSB Ross. Company "C" maintained three daily road sweeps in its AOR. Commanding Officer, Company "C" is also Commander of a defensive sector at LZ Baldy covering approximately 790 meters of perimeter. Company "C" personnel are engaged in sector defense assignments.

d. Company "A" (-) 5th Engineer Battalion remains committed to close combat engineer and construction support of the 26th Marines in their TAOR. This company averaged 70 men during the month in support of small unit tactical operations. In addition, Company "A" (-) 5th Engineer Battalion has supported construction needs for 1st Tank Battalion, Northern Artillery Cantonment, and seven other cantonments belonging to 26th Marines. This Company maintains six daily mine clearance sweeps.

e. H&S Company provided communication, supply, and medical support to all letter companies during the reporting period. In addition, H&S Company provides all services to the Battalion Command Post and rear units housed within the 1st Engineer Battalion Cantonment. H&S Company operates the 1st Marine Division Land Mine Warfare, Demolitions, and Boobytrap School. Perimeter security and interior guard are also operated by the Company.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1. Engineer Support Company has been in support of the letter companies in their operations and performance of work. Engineer Equipment hours for the period total 1,016 hours. Motor Transport support during the period totalled 54,622 miles in delivery of supplies and earthwork construction support. The thirteen water points operated by this company treated and delivered a total of 8,157,000 gallons of potable water and 516,000 gallons of non-potable water.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. Gains and Losses:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Dropped:	3		40	0		0
Joined:	2		89	0		5

b. KIA: OFF ENL WIA: OFF ENL
 0 1 0 8

2. Intelligence

a. Road & Bridge Reconnaissance: Daily road sweep reports continue to include condition of bridge, road, and culvert conditions and the potential or real effect of monsoon rains and flooding on these structures.

b. Weather: Weather during the month remained mostly cloudy with a few days that were intermittently sunny. Precipitation was in the area of the TAOR south of Danang. The monthly rainfall totalled 9.64 inches and the average temperature was 75.6 degrees.

c. Terrain: Extensive flooding made terrain (cross-country) passable with difficulty. Tracked vehicle condition II prevailed over most of the month and slowed earthmoving operations considerably. Rte. Q1 to LZ Baldy was flooded frequently and slowed movement of construction materials to that location and to its subsidiary, FSB Ross.

3. Mine Warfare:

a. A total of 1,950 \$VN was paid for the following ordnance collected under the VIP rewards program. All informants were Vietnamese children.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>BOOBYTRAPPED</u>
TNT Boosters	4	
M79 Beehive Round	1	
M26 Grenades	5	
Tin Can w/15 lb. charge	1	
60mm HE	2	
Pop Flare w/explosives	1	1
Smoke Grenade	1	
60mm Illumination	1	
M79 Round	5	

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

b. Ordnance Destroyed: The following ordnance was located and destroyed in place by road sweep engineers of this Battalion in sweeping 2,429,700 meters of road during the month.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>BOOBYTRAPPED</u>
81mm HE	11	
M79 round	4	
M79 warhead	1	
M79 beehive	1	
20 lb Ammo Box Mine	1	
5 lb Anti-personnel Mine	2	
10 lb Anti-personnel Mine	1	
5 lb Box Mine	6	
10 lb Anti-personnel Mine	1	
60mm rounds	24	
2.75 Rocket Rounds	1	
M33 Grenade	1	1
M26 Grenade	4	1
60mm W. P.	11	
RPG round	1	
LAAW	6	4
Human Skull on stake w/M26 Grenade	1	1
M14 Anti-personnel Mine	3	
M16 Anti-personnel Mine	3	
COFRAM	2	
80 lb Box Mine	1	
81mm Illumination	1	
60 lb Mine	1	
SFD Under Helmet	1	1
150 lb Rock Mine	1	
40 lb Rockmine	5	
60mm HE	10	
15 lb Box mine	1	
105mm HE	2	
Soda Can Mine	1	1
40 lb Box Mine	2	
M33 Frag	1	1
70 lb Rock Mine	1	
50 lb Box Mine	1	

4. Trainings: During the month of November a total of 292 students attended the three day course of instruction in Land Mine Warfare and Boobytraps conducted by this Battalion. Unit attendance was as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
1st Battalion, 1st Marines	31
2nd Battalion, 1st Marines	21
3rd Battalion, 1st Marines	23
1st Battalion, 5th Marines	13
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines	24
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines	27

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1st Battalion, 7th Marines	5
3rd Battalion, 7th Marines	15
1st Battalion, 26th Marines	14
2nd Battalion, 26th Marines	16
3rd Battalion, 26th Marines	9
5th Engineer Battalion	25
7th Engineer Battalion	17
1st Engineer Battalion	39
1st Recon Battalion	8
1st Shore Party Battalion	5

b. Mobile Instruction Team Attendance: ($\frac{1}{2}$ day course)

UNITATTENDANCE

Division Schools

44

5. Operations:

a. Construction on Hill 200 (Recon Outpost Nailbrush): From 17 to 27 November, a special team of engineers from H&S Company, and Support Company performed construction and demolitions on Hill 200. Construction consisted of earth leveling with Case 450 tractor, ditch digging with Case 580 backhoe and emplacement of 6 prefabricated 8'x8'x8' bunkers. Equipment was transported to and from site by external CH-53 lift. Bunkers were prefabricated at 1st Engineer Battalion C.P. and likewise heli-lifted to prepared positions. Special slinging arrangements and installation of taglines (steady lines) on the prefabricated bunkers greatly assisted aerial emplacement.

b. Land Clearing west of Hill 55: Attempts to clear bamboo thickets and small dwellings in this area proved futile using tractor dozers. As soon as the root structure was ^{disturbed} ~~distributed~~ the tractors would bog down. Retrieving was difficult. This method was abandoned in favor of demolitions. Two methods proved slow but effective. One method was to suspend 40 lb. cratering charges amidst the thickets and detonate them. The resultant blast sheared bamboo for an eight to ten meter radius. The method finally adopted for reasons of economy and supply availability was to employ bangalore torpedes in a criss-cross pattern. By month's end the project was 50% complete having started on 19 November. 700,000 square meters had been cleared effectively. Company "A" was in charge of this project.

6. Water Supply: During the month of November the 8,157,000 gallons of water (potable), was certified by Division Preventive Medicine Unit.

7. Construction:

a. The following 61 Division Work Orders were completed during the reporting period:

D646-69. Completed 3 November 1969. Provide materials and personnel to hook up sinks in mess hall.

D564-69. Completed 3 November 1969. Issue the following materials to be used on self help project:

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

- D634-69. Completed 3 November 1969. Provide materials & personnel to construct Staff NCO Club.
- D464-69. Completed 3 November 1969. Construct 30 immersion heater crates.
- D622-69. Completed 3 November 1969. Provide (1) tractor for a period of (2) days to repair and regrade berm lines.
- D633-69. Completed 3 November 1969. Issue 20 pieces of $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 18".
- D581-69. Completed 3 November 1969. Issue (3) 20'x32'x8' bunkers 1st Engr's. Provide technical assistance only.
- D596-69. Completed 4 November 1969. Inspect roof of dental clinic repair by application of tar on seams and nail heads if possible.
- D542-69. Completed 4 November 1969. Provide (2) tractors MRS 100 wheeled and (1) H82 scraper for a period of 5 - 6 weeks.
- D576-69. Completed 5 November 1969. Issue (1) 8'x12'x8' bunker and provide technical assistance.
- D517-69. Completed 5 November 1969. Provide and construct (1) 8'x12'x8' bunker w/flooring and lighting kit. Repair footing for (1) 40' tower.
- D631-69. Completed 6 November 1969. Reactivate work order 564-69. Repair decking on (4) 175mm gun pads.
- D465-69. Completed 6 November 1969. Construct 30 vac can crates and 14 vac jug crates.
- D483-69. Completed 6 November 1969. Provide technical assistance in construction of (2) 20'x32'x8' bunkers, Communication and COC. (1) 10'x24'x8' bunker BAS all w/flooring and lighting kits. 1st Engineers will perform electrical work and unit provide labor force.
- D656-69. Completed 16 November 1969. Issue (2) 2 hole heads and (4) 4 hole heads.
- D645-69. Completed 16 November 1969. Issue (5) 4 hole heads, tech assist. Completed 16 November 1969.
- D608-69. Completed 16 November 1969. Install gate at entrance to Hill 10.
- D573-69. Construct (4) partial hardbacks already built into sea huts by placing tineroofs and making necessary repairs at Phu Loc 3. Completed 16 November 1969.
- D605-69. Completed 16 November 1969. Issue (3) 4 hole heads.
- D665-69. Issue (10) urinals & cut & issue 10 half 55 gallon drums. Completed 17 November 1969.
- D579-69. Issue (1) 10'x24'x8' bunker w/deck and lighting kits. Completed 17 November 1969.

UNCLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

- D627-69. Completed 17 November 1969. Issue (1) 20x32x8' w/lighting & deck & (8) 8x12x8' bunkers.
- D629-69. Completed 17 November 1969. Issue (1) 10x24x8' bunker w/deck & lighting kit.
- D620-69. Issue (1) 20x32x8' bunker w/deck & lighting kit. Completed 17 November 1969.
- D501-69. Construct and issue 20 outside boxes. Completed 21 November 1969.
- D674-69. Clear drains at NAC. Completed 21 November 1969.
- D680-69. Completed 27 November 1969. Construct and issue (4) four hole heads and 10 urinals.
- D623-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Issue (2) 8x12x8 bunkers. Provide technical assistance only.
- D490-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Issue and construct (1) 16x32 Sea Hut w/electrical fixtures.
- D659-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Provide precut materials for (30) mess tables for Division messhall.
- D653-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Construct and issue 12 mess tables.
- D617-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Issue (2) 8x12x8 bunkers.
- D628-69. Completed 23 November 1969. Issue (1) 20x32x8 bunker w/flooring and lighting kit.
- D434-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Provide (6) 7' culvert bunkers and technical assistance.
- D610-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Renovate billeting and working spaces as required, a joint survey of buildings to repair will be made with a S-4 representative.
- D661-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Inspect and repair water towers also check output of water.
- D663-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Provide (1) tractor w/operator Hill 358.
- D644-69. Completed 22 November 1969. Issue (15) urnoils and construct (30) additional urnoils and issue upon completion.
- D597-69. Completed 25 November 1969. Inspect grease traps and repair drain and clean or replace as necessary.
- D516-69. Completed 23 November 1969. Check and repair drainage as necessary 1st Battalion, 1st Marines mess hall.

UNCLASSIFIED**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

- D582-69. Completed 23 November 1969. Clean drain in 1/1 messhall.
- D677-69. Completed 24 November 1969. Construct generator shed install 200 amp switch and wire into distribution system.
- D489-69. Completed 24 November 1969. Provide technical assistance for construction of 25 bunkers.
- D666-69. Completed 25 November 1969. Construct and issue 12 urinols for 1/3.
- D657-69. Completed 26 November 1969. Provide (1) Case 450 tractor for 2 days to Hill 200.
- D667-69. Completed 26 November 1969. Provide (1) tractor to rechannel drainage ditches.
- D681-69. Completed 20 November 1969. Repair or replace wiring in Hill 10 messhall.
- D451-69. Completed 27 November 1969. Erect interior partition in COC for separation from DASC.
- D635-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Construct (2) Redifer sheds and bunker.
- D641-69. Completed 24 November 1969. Construct (1) 8x8x8 bunker and (1) Redifer Shed to Helolift to FSB Ryder.
- D671-69. Completed 26 November 1969. Install lights, wiring, and hot locker in Butler building.
- D684-69. Completed 25 November 1969. Extend existing water line to BAS and install faucet.
- D658-69. Completed 24 November 1969. Construct (6) 8x8x8 bunkers for Hill 28.
- D712-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Rehabilitate 2/1 water point.
- D716-69. Completed 30 November 1969. Install switch in generator shed at Lang Cu.
- D690-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Renovate 3 strongback tents at An Hoa.
- D670-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Construct bridge and ditch main drainage canal at Xuan Tra Village.
- D638-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Deliver and spread 450 cu. yds. of fill.
- D630-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Upgrade electrical distribution at LZ Baldy.
- D621-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Issue 3 bunkers, 20x32x8' w/deck and lighting kits to 1st Medical Battalion.
- D591-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Upgrade Rt. 4 from Hill 65 to Hill 37.

CONFIDENTIAL

b. Personnel and materials used for the foregoing Division Work Orders:

Man Hours - 13,504	Lumber BF - 20,945
Nails pounds - 11,428	Equipment hours - 702
Culvert pcs. - 301	Screen rolls - 19
Pipe feet - 1,194	

c. The following 10 Battalion Work Orders were completed during the reporting period:

- B372-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Construct wall shelves in hooch for Staff and Officers attending LMWS.
- B371-69. Completed 29 November 1969. Construct 10 fighting hole boxes for H&S Co.
- B369-69. Completed 25 November 1969. Construct 2 Anti-personnel barriers.
- B365-69. Completed 11 November 1969. Construct 2 burn barrels for S & G.
- B364-69. Completed 8 November 1969. Issue materials for 2 strongback tents.
- B361-69. Completed 21 November 1969. Issue materials for 2 tank platforms.
- B346-69. Completed 7 November 1969. Construct 16 picture frames.
- B345-69. Completed 16 November 1969. Haul fill and install culvert as necessary.
- B363-69. Completed 31 November 1969. Directs performance of camp maintenance.
- B337-69. Completed 11 November 1969. Construct 3 strongbacks and 1 four hole head.

d. Personnel and materials utilized for the foregoing work orders are as follows:

Man Hours - 373	Screen - 8 rolls
Equipment hours - 36	Culvert - 321 pieces
Lumber BF - 6421	Rock - 400 cu. yds.
Nails - 221 lbs.	Tin - 26 sheets
Plywood - 143 sheets	

8. Civil Affairs:

- a. During the month of November 1969 a total of 133 Vietnamese civilians (not resulting from hostile action) were treated medically.
- b. Donated to the people of Son Thuy I 1,000 board feet of scrap lumber.
- c. Commenced construction of a hamlet clinic for the people of Son Thuy I.
- d. Second Platoon, Company "A" of this Battalion, with equipment and personnel from Support Company constructed a bridge and dug a drainage canal in order to relieve flooding in the village of Xuan Tra outside of the Battalion's CAAOR and in coordination with Division G-5. Results are that the water level in the village has abated from an average of three feet to isolated sections of shallow standing water.

UNCLASSIFIED