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HEADQUARTERS
1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)
1st Marine Division (-) (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/RMC/dsj
5150
8 March 1971

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (-) (Rein), FMF (G-3 Field Historian)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 February to 28 February 1971

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2D

Encl: (1) 1st Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

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

D. E. Benstead
D. E. BENSTEAD

1ST ENGINEER BN

Classified by the Director of
Marine Corps History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of 38 CFR 101.11a Ser 009D323/232095 of
12 Feb 1979

[Signature] Signature Date *7/21/97*

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1ST ENGINEER BATTALION

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 FEBRUARY 1971 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1971

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV - SUBORDINATE UNITS COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA

1. Designation

Commander

1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) LtCol. D. E. BENSTEAD 16Jan71-Present

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters & Service Company	Capt. J.V. SELIGA	30Nov70-Present
Engineer Support Company	Capt. P.R. CATALOGNE	5Sep70-20Feb71
	Capt. R.C. WRIGHT	20Feb71-Present
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt. T.J. DUMONT	21Oct70-15Feb71
	Maj. J.G. DIXON	15Feb71-Present
Company "B" (Rein)	Capt. J.F. BRENNAN	19Jan71-24Feb71
	1stLt. G. KAZONICH	24Feb71-Present
Company "C" (Rein)	1stLt. T.H. DENIG	2Dec70-16Feb71
	1stLt. J.L. COOLEY	16Feb71-Present

ATTACHED UNITS

Company "C", 1st Shore Party Battalion Maj. R.W. SWEET 10Nov70-Present

2. Location

1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)	21Apr67-Present	Danang, RVN
Engineer Support Company	21Apr67-Present	Danang, RVN
Company "A" (Rein)	23Aug68-27Feb71	Danang, RVN
	27Feb71-Present	FLC, RVN
Company "B" (Rein)	50Oct70-28Feb71	C.B. Baldy, RVN
	28Feb71-Present	Danang, RVN
Company "C" (Rein)	19Aug70-Present	Danang, RVN
Company "C", 1st Shore Party Battalion	25Feb70-27Feb71	Danang, RVN
	28Feb71-Present	FLC, RVN

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Maj. D.P. HIBBS	6Jan71-Present
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj. R.R. CLARK	22Dec70-Present
S-1/Adjutant	1stLt. H.E. COPPERBERG	16Oct70-21Feb71
	1stLt. T.W. GUBALA	21Feb71-Present
S-2	1stLt. R.L. OSTRANDER	23Jan71-Present
S-3	Maj. J.G. DIXON	10Nov70-15Feb71
	1stLt. R.M. CORRIGAN	15Feb71-Present

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S-4	Maj. T.E. HARRIS	1Jul70-Present
S-5	1stLt. R.L. OSTRANDER	23Jan71-Present
Supply Officer	Capt. G.T. KALT	5Nov70-7Feb71
	Capt. G. BORROWS	7Feb71-Present
Communication Officer	1stLt. J.W. OKEEFE	8Dec70-22Feb71
	1stLt. L.N. SCHWANKL	22Feb71-Present
Medical Officer	Lt. S.D. SIDES	4Oct70-Present
Engineer Equipment Officer	W.O. H.C. BOUCHER	3Sep70-Present
Utilities	1stLt. R.J. McWILLIAMS	25Dec70-6Feb71
	1stLt. J.M. ELLINGTON	6Feb71-24Feb71
	W.O. K.E. WEADBROCK	24Feb71-Present
Construction Officer	W.O. K.E. WEADBROCK	20Oct70-Present
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt. J.C. GRADY	24Sep70-Present

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PART II

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
32	748	1	19

Throughout the month of February 1971, the 1st Engineer Battalion remained committed to combat engineer support of the 1st Marine Division and other III MAF Units with mine detection and clearance sweeps, construction of combat defensive fortifications and Fire Support Base improvements. An average of 12 combat engineers were employed in demolition teams rendering close combat support to the 1st and 5th Marine Regiments on platoon and company size operation. 7 Engineer Road Sweep Teams conducted sweeps over 2,000 Km of road resulting in the detection of 6 pieces of enemy emplaced ordnance. The counter mine program was further enhanced by the application of the Voluntary Information Program, 13 ordnance items were recovered.

The Land Mine Warfare School Training Program consisted of a Mobile Contact Team and the resident school for personnel of the 1st Marine Division. The instruction conducted by the contact team consisted of instructing 912 personnel in Demolition and Counter Surprise Firing Device Tactics. The 1st Engineer Battalion Land Mine Warfare School graduated 95 students.

The land clearing operation to provide resettlement land for the Vietnamese at Goi Noi Island continued throughout the month of February utilizing three (3) EIMCO tractors from 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) and (3) three disc harrows from Company "A", 7th Engineer Battalion. Over 100 hectares of the cleared land has been cultivated by the resettled Vietnamese.

The Division Ridge Road was up-graded on 5 February 1971 by personnel and equipment of Support Company, 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein). The task was accomplished by utilizing four (4) M-51 dump trucks, two (2) TL-16's and One (1) Case 450 to haul 200 tons of rock and achieve the necessary grade for the road. The task was accomplished in a minimum amount of time and accounted for 53 equipment hours and 118 man hours.

Engineer personnel from Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) and equipment supplied by the Support Company expended 714 man hours and 142 equipment hours retrieving seven (7) amphibious tractors buried at Camp Lauer. The removal was accomplished by utilizing three (3) M-37 Bay City Cranes, three (3) EIMCO tractors, three (3) TD-15's, two (2) TD-18's and two (2) MRS-100 tractors and pans.

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Construction of gun positions and new Landing Zones was accomplished on Hills 510 and 218. The work was accomplished by utilizing heliliftable Case 450's. On Hill 510, in addition to construction of gun positions and a new landing zone, a site was prepared for erection of an IOD tower and positions prepared for construction of bunkers. An IOD tower, prefabricated by the Construction Platoon of Support Company, 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) was helilifted to Hill 510 and erected by personnel of Company "B", 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein). The site preparations and erection of the tower was completed in a minimum amount of time which enabled the Integrated Optical Device to be operational immediately and the guns to be emplaced upon arrival on the respective hills.

The resident Land Mine Warfare School was discontinued 12 February 1971 for two (2) weeks. The school was temporarily discontinued for relocation from Camp Faulkner to Headquarters Battalion Area. The Land Mine Warfare School booby-trap lane was dismantled at Camp Lauer and established at Headquarters Battalion Area. The project of dismantling, moving and reestablishing the school, including billeting facilities, classrooms and boobytrap lane, was accomplished in a minimum amount of time by personnel of Company "C", 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) and the instructors of the Land Mine Warfare School. The reestablishment of the Land Mine Warfare School enables the school to continue to perform its vital mission after redeployment of the 1st Engineer Battalion (-).

The systematic dismantling and salvage of O.P. ROUND-UP and Fire Support Base RYDER was begun on 15 February 1971. Engineer personnel from Company "C", 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) salvaged all culvert material from O.P. ROUND-UP in less than three (3) days. Utilizing twenty (20) engineer personnel and three (3) heliliftable Case 450's. Fire Support Base RYDER was completely dismantled and all salvagable materials removed in a minimum amount of time. The dismantling of Fire Support Base RYDER, which consisted of over sixty (60) structures, a landing zone, and seven (7) gun positions, effectively denied the use of any materials at the site to the enemy.

Fields of fire were improved and a pioneer road was constructed on Division Ridge during February. Fields of fire were improved by systematically destroying unusable bunkers and towers and by removing tank tracks which were obstructing fields of fire and hindering observation. Utilizing an BIMCO tractor, a pioneer road was constructed in a minimum amount of time. The road permits vehicular traffic to isolated area of Division Ridge, which enhances observation and the ability to react more quickly to enemy activity.

Company "A" (Rein), 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) and Company "C", 1st Shore Party Battalion were relocated from Camp Faulkner to Maintenance Battalion Area on 27 February 1971. The units were relocated to enable them to continue to provide support to the 1st Marine Division (-) (Rein) after the redeployment of 1st Engineer Battalion (-). The relocation of both units was accomplished in a minimum amount of time which enabled the units to provide continuous support to the Division as Support Company, H&S Company and Companies "B" and "C" of 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) initiated standdown procedures on 28 February 1971.

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PART III

1. Personnel

a. Gains and Losses

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
DROPPED:	10	45	0	0
JOINED:	7	57	0	1

b. Casualties

	<u>KIA HOSTILE</u>		<u>KIA NON-HOSTILE</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
	0	0	0	2
	<u>WIA HOSTILE</u>		<u>WIA NON-HOSTILE</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
	0	2	0	7

2. Enemy Information

a. During the month of February 1971, 1st Engineer Battalion Road Sweep Teams received the following 13 ordnance items. (Figures in parentheses are those employed as mines or Surprise Firing Devices.)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
M-79 HE rounds	8
106 mm HE round	1
60 mm HE rounds	3
Chi-Com	1

b. In addition, sweep team found the following 6 items of ordnance (Figures in parentheses are those employed as mines or Surprise Firing Devices).

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
Anti-Tank Mine	1 (1)
40 lb. Rock Mine	1

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M-26 Grenade	1
30 lb. Shape Charge	1
82 mm HE round	1

3. Training

a. During February 1971, 95 students graduated from the five day course of instruction at the 1st Engineer Battalion Land Mine Warfare School. Unit attendance is listed below:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
1st Battalion, 1st Marines	7
2nd Battalion, 1st Marines	5
3rd Battalion, 1st Marines	5
1st Battalion, 5th Marines	1
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines	5
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines	6
1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)	50
84th Engineers	14
USAECV	2
	<hr/>
	95 Total

b. A mobile contact team traveled to elements of the 1st Marine Division to conduct one-half day courses of instruction for 912 students. Unit attendance is listed below:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
1st Battalion, 1st Marines	226
2nd Battalion, 1st Marines	19
3rd Battalion, 1st Marines	30
1st Battalion, 5th Marines	303
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines	49
1st Recon and Headquarters	56
11th Marines	157
11th Motor Transport	41
2nd CAG	31
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	912 Total

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As units of the 1st Marine Division (-) (Rein) initiated standdown procedures the 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) provided essential support in the form of flood light units, forklifts and wash down facilities. Selected units of the 11th Marines accomplished their standdown mission by utilizing the messing, billeting and wash down facilities of Camp Faulkner.

General Engineer Support was provided as evidenced by the completion of 33 Division Work Orders, 11 Battalion Work Orders and the production of 9,785,000 gallons of potable water during the reporting period.

Company "C", 1st Shore Party Battalion continues to operate 13 Landing Zones throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR. 7,575½ tons of resupplies and combat essential cargo and 6,567 passengers were moved utilizing a total of 1,069 helicopter sorties. In addition, eight (8) forklifts and operators provided support for allied operations at Khe Sanh and Fire Support Base Vandergrift.

In support of engineer operations a daily average of 38 organic motor vehicles traveled a total of 47,928 miles within the 1st Marine Division TAOR.

During the reporting period the Commanding Officer and selected Staff Officer continued to visit each job site and supporting Regimental areas to gain first hand knowledge of progress and problem areas. As a direct result of such visits a comprehensive plan to dismantle and salvage the various O.P.'s and artillery bases as units of the 1st Marine Division (-) (Rein) redeploy was formed.

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4. Construction

a. The following 33 Division Work Orders were completed during the reporting period.

- 42-71 2 Feb 71 Brace the roof on the COC bunker
- 1198-70 3 Feb 71 Construct one SEAhut for a storage building
- 1079-70 3 Feb 71 Replace mule shop & repair one SEAhut
- 1257-70 3 Feb 71 Rehab (7) Howitzer positions
- 1256-70 4 Feb 71 Restore ground to its natural condition
- 46-71 4 Feb 71 Remove buried equipment
- 1063-70 5 Feb 71 Construct one - four hole head
- 1230-70 5 Feb 71 Provide one forklift for an indefinite period
- 47-71 5 Feb 71 Upgrade road on Division Ridge
- 17-71 9 Feb 71 Construct one burn barrel & nine urinoils
- 44-71 9 Feb 71 Furnish equipment to remove 55 gallon drums
- 49-71 9 Feb 71 Install 30' staircase
- 43-71 11 Feb 71 Repair the convoy staging area exit
- 1161-70 12 Feb 71 Issue materials to QDSZ
- 45-71 12 Feb 71 Inspect and repair the water plumbing system
- 57-71 15 Feb 71 Construct one - four hole head
- 55-71 16 Feb 71 Determine the difference in height of two water towers
- 53-71 17 Feb 71 Weld CONEX boxes for Division Special Services
- 64-71 18 Feb 71 Make repairs to the wiring in the messhall
- 1195-70 18 Feb 71 Inspect, repair/replace ammo bunkers
- 66-71 19 Feb 71 Repair the ladder on an observation tower
- 27-71 20 Feb 71 Provide equipment with operator to restore area

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68-71 21 Feb 71 Construct Pioneer road on Division Ridge
 71-71 21 Feb 71 Deliver materials to construct a bunker
 59-71 21 Feb 71 Furnish equipment to police ridge line
 63-71 21 Feb 71 Construct one IOD tower
 60-71 24 Feb 71 Provide one dozer for sanitary land fill
 73-71 24 Feb 71 Haul (32) tons of crushed rock
 39-71 24 Feb 71 Construct two burn barrels
 56-71 25 Feb 71 Rehab doors and screen on (25) SEAhuts
 65-71 25 Feb 71 Construct (12) urinoils
 62-71 26 Feb 71 Relocate Land Mine Warfare School
 77-71 27 Feb 71 Provide equipment to construct (2) 155 howitzer gun pits

b. The following construct material was expended on the foregoing Division Work Orders.

Man Hours - 3,454	Equipment Hours - 783
Plywood - 235 SH	Nails - 154 LB
55 gallon drums - 38 EA	Pipe - 178'
Oxygen - 3,200 LB	Acetylene - 675 LB
30" Telegraph poles - 28 EA	Cement - 37 SK
Penepime - 4 EA (55 gal drums)	Welding rod - 7 LB
$\frac{1}{2}$ " Steel rod - 24'	Lampholders - 5 EA
Light bulbs - 15 EA	Shower heads - 15 EA
$\frac{3}{4}$ " Unions - 16 EA	Rock & Fill - 220 tons
Engineer Stakes - 70 EA	Matting - 93 PC
Tin - 12 SH	Lumber - 7,241 BF
16'x32' SEAhut-2 EA	Paint - 5 gal
Screen - 7 RL	

c. The following 11 Battalion Work Orders were completed during the reporting period.

4-71 2 Feb 71 Construct (15) signs for the numbering of urinoils
 17-71 2 Feb 71 Make repairs to the universal gym in the weight room
 421-70 6 Feb 71 Construct nine mount-out boxes
 436-70 9 Feb 71 Construct one fighting hole box

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8-71 9 Feb 71 Update the memorial plaques in the Battalion Chapel
23-71 10 Feb 71 Construct and erect sentry booth and guide rails
13-71 13 Feb 71 Repair the ladder on the water tower
22-71 13 Feb 71 Construct two signs
27-71 13 Feb 71 Construct one tire tube rack
28-71 17 Feb 71 Repair the bed of (1) - M-172 lowbed
31-71 20 Feb 71 Construct (3) signs

d. The following construction material was expended on the foregoing Battalion Work Orders.

Man Hours - 137
Plywood - 70 SH
Nails - 85 LB

Equipment Hours - 4
Lumber - 1,896 BF
Paint - 2 gallons

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PART IV

SUBORDINATE UNIT COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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PICTORIAL SUPPLEMENT
GOI NOI ISLAND RESETTLEMENT PROJECT