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HEADQUARTERS
9th Engineer Battalion
1st Marine Division (REIN)
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

5750
3/PJS/wbm
7 July 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General (Attn: Field Historian), III Marine Amphibious Force, FMF, FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FOR/SA I CorpsO 3121.1C

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

R. W. CRISPEN

9th Engr Bn

6-30 Jun 66

Enclosure (6)

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. Organizational Data

a. Ninth Engineer Battalion, FMF

b. Period covered: 6-30 June 1966

c. Organization/Units

Organization/Units	C.O.	Location	Average Monthly Strength USMC	Average Monthly Strength USN
9th Engineer Battalion	LtCol R. W. CRISPEN	Chu Lai, RVN	47-959	1-18
Headquarters Company	Capt D. L. WASHBURN	Chu Lai, RVN	19-175	1-18
Service Company	Maj W. R. FLOYD	Chu Lai, RVN	6-226	
Company A	Capt R. F. GOINS	Da Nang, RVN	6-147	
Company B	Capt T. J. DALZELL	Chu Lai, RVN	6-144	
Company C	Capt C. E. LANE	Chu Lai, RVN	5-133	
Company D	Capt C. WILLIAMS	Chu Lai, RVN	5-134	

d. Battalion Staff

Executive Officer	Maj H. I. FREY
S-1 Adjutant	Capt D. M. MARCHAND
Personnel Officer	2ndLt J. F. DARRACOTT
S-2/3	Maj J. C. FLOYD
S-4	Capt E. E. SCHILHAB
Sgt.Maj.	Sgt.Maj. T. G. ELDRIDGE

e. Special Staff

Motor Transport Officer	Maj F. R. SMITH
Engineer Equipment Officer	Capt W. HOCART JR.
Construction Officer	1stLt H. E. ZEALLEY
Communications Officer	1stLt D. S. LLOYD
Maintenance Officer	CWO-3 S. J. JOHNSON
Utilities Officer	2ndLt. R. C. WRIGHT
Medical Officer	Lt. R. A. SCHAEFER (USNR)
Ordnance Officer	2ndLt C. N. TOFFT
Supply Officer	2ndLt W. R. M. TUCKER
Legal Officer	1stLt J. E. MCDONALD
Embarkation Officer	1stLt M. E. LUNDY

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

The Advance Party of the Battalion, under Major J. C. FLOYD, S-2/3, flew into Vietnam on 23 May 1966. The next element to arrive was part of Service Company aboard USS Mathews, AKA-96, on 27 May 1966. The Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Company B plus elements of Service Company and Company D arrived on 6 June 1966 aboard USS Ogden, LPD-5.

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Companies A and C arrived on 15 June 1966 aboard USS Gunston Hall, LSD-5, and USS Fort Marion, LSD-22. Company D (-) arrived on 17 June 1966 aboard USS Stone County, LST-1141.

Company A reembarked on 25 June and proceeded to Da Nang under OPCON 7th Engineer Battalion. The remainder of the Battalion is OPCON III MAF, ADCON 1st Marine Division (REIN).

The Advance Party picked the Battalion camp site from two areas which were available, and had the camp laid out by the time the main body arrived. Work began immediately to make the area, colloquially known as the "Gobi Desert", into a home for the Battalion. The camp was located just west of Route 1 approximately a quarter-mile southeast of the Chu Lai "New Life" village. The area is covered with a fine white sand.

Concurrent with camp construction, equipment and personnel were gradually but increasingly absorbed by outside projects and work orders. By the end of the third week in June the Battalion was fully employed, with the vast majority of its efforts being spent in support of the 1st Marine Division (REIN).

3. Detailed Description of Significant Events

062145	June 1966	Battalion arrived in Vietnam
071730	June 1966	LtCol HARMON (MAF Engr) aboard for conference with Battalion Commander.
081615	June 1966	LtGen WALT aboard to address the Battalion.
091000	June 1966	Coordinated defense with 11th Marines and 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.
14-19	June 1966	1stLt KOSCIW and SSgt SMITH flew to Okinawa in connection with ADM.
151530	June 1966	Companies A and C arrived and disembarked.
160730	June 1966	FMFPAC Engineer Officer visited CP.
170843	June 1966	One platoon of Company B put in a five ponton ferry across VINH AN River (BT 378175) while another platoon of Company B installed a treadway on the bridge across TRAU River (BT 430109)
171100	June 1966	Company D arrived in Battalion area after debarking
18-21	June 1966	Installed tramway at(BT 378174)
19-20	June 1966	Detachment Company C constructed a 38'-4" fixed balk bridge at BT 219359 (16 km northwest of Tam Ky) in support of OPERATION KANSAS.
20	June 1966	Company B began imrpovement of Route 1 from Route 20 north to TAOR.
20	June 1966	Began pre-cutting and stockpiling of cantonment materials for other units.
21	June 1966	Constructed three ponton ferry across TRAU River (BT 430109) when existing bridge collapsed under 155 Gun (SP).
22-23	June 1966	Converted railroad bridge across TRAU River (BT 430109) for vehicle Traffic.

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241000	June 1966	Cut the fence in Company B area to allow five Vietnamese to exhume and move abody from a grave inside the perimeter.
251800	June 1966	Company departed aboard USS Summit County, LST 1146, ETA Da Nang 260600H.
291130-1700	June 1966	Airfield reconnaissance team made recon of QUANG NGAI airfield for Joint Airfield Survey Team, at III MAF's request.

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LIST OF REFERENCES

1. S-2/3 Section Journal 6-30 June 1966
2. S-4 Section Journal 6-30 June 1966
3. Daily Personnel Reports 6-30 June 1966
4. S-1 Section Journal 6-30 June 1966
5. Force Engineer Officer memo of 26 June 1966
6. C.O., 9th Engineer Battalion ltr 3000 over 3/PJS/lee of 30 June 1966 (Airfield Recon)
7. III MAF Work Order 8002 (Route 1)
8. III MAF Work Order 8006 (Cantonment Assist)
9. III MAF Work Order (Battalion Cantonment)
10. Maps. Vietnam 1:50,000 Sheets 6657 I
    6658 II
    6739 I
    6739 II
    6739 IV
    6757 IV

APPENDIX A

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