

HEADQUARTERS  
7th Engineer Battalion (-) Rein, FMF  
c/o FPO, San Francisco, California 96601

3/RHR/bfn  
5750  
5 January 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
Subj: Command Chronology  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following monthly report is submitted covering the period 1 December to 31 December 1965.

2. Average Monthly Strength.

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
Off	35	1
Enl	987	16

3. Personnel.

<u>Gains</u>			<u>Losses</u>		
	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>		<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
Off	0	0	Off	1	0
Enl	43	0	Enl	45	1

4. Administration. No administrative problems.

5. Civil Affairs/Military Government/Community Relations. Civil affairs continues on a daily basis in five (5) hamlets in the village of Hoa Khanh. Approximately 2000 pounds of candy were distributed to the children on Christmas Day. Approximately 100 pounds of clothes and 150 pounds of soap were also distributed during the month. The medical program is continuing 3 days a week. The civil affairs program and community relations can be considered excellent in all respects.

6. On 27 December 1965, Major R. E. LULEY was relieved of duties as S-4 officer and assigned as Battalion Executive Officer. 1st Lt J. S. KIRLEY was relieved of duties as Heavy Equipment Officer and assigned as 1st Bridge Company Commanding Officer. Captain G. P. WUERCH was relieved as Commanding Officer of 1st Bridge Company and assigned as Commanding Officer of Company "A". Captain M. E. STEIN was relieved of duties as Company Commander of Company "A" and was assigned as the Battalion S-4 Officer.

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7. Intelligence Incidents Reported.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Incident</u>	<u>Coordinate</u>
042040	Small arms sniper fire	955784
051530	Mine detonated	989642
131630	Small arms fire	956787
272120	Small arms fire	990641
280100	Throwing of home made bomb	989769
310950	Information received from village Polic Chief of Hoa Khanh, Mr. Than Van Ben, stated that the men listed below, live in Ap Xuan Thieu (Vic 935812), act as intelligence collecting agents on U.S. personnel in north sector of Da Nang TAOR. Information is then passed through Ap Da Phuog (Vic 945786), Hoat Dong Ving, Xa Ha Khanh, Tnoy Son, (Hoa Vinh Hamlet) and then to Da Nang, where information is then passed to the VC. The Police Chief also stated that he would be willing to show U.S. Marines the house where the men lived, they are in the area usually between 1900 and 0500-0600 in the morning.	

Pham Dinl Am	Province Chief
Pham Dinl Nhon	Province Chief Nephew
Pham Dinl Le	Cadre

8. Logistics.

a. During the month of December 1965 the administrative logistics office (S-4) submitted 11 reports. Two of these reports were "Special Reports", one required by a message and one by a telephone call. Both of these reports gave less than 24 hours for research, compulation and submission. On 21 December 1965 a "Request for Modification of Allowances" was submitted to CMC for additional TD-15s and an asphalt distributor. This office was also instrumental in the acquisition of a rock quarry from the Vietnamese, thereby saving the U.S. Government a considerable amount of money by quarrying the area purchased ourselves and not paying local nationals for the material by the truck load. During the quarter ending 31 December 1965 this office obligated 4,200,000 \$ VN for quarried rock.

b. Supply. The supply section has during this period processed approximately 2600 requisitions, of which 2250 were forwarded to FLSG. This Battalion is still hampered by the slow receipt of requested material and the receipt of unserviceable material/shortage in received shipments. These problems were brought to the attention of the Division Supply Officer and further action is being taken at that command level. See CO, 7thEngrBn ltrs 21/ELM/WJR/edh over 4400 of 22Dec65 and 24Dec65 for details.

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c. Messing. The Battalion Mess Section has during this period operated 24 hours per day feeding three principle meals and a midnight meal for the men working nights. Meals have consisted of both "A" and "B" rations supplemented by bakery products drawn from FLSG or baked in our own mess. A sufficient portion of the mess hall was completed during this period enabling the officers and men to sit at tables while eating. It is estimated that in excess of 70,000 meal portions were fed during December.

d. Medical. The Battalion Aid Station treated 1276 military patients during this period. Eighteen of those treated required evacuation to the Field Hospital, 3rd Medical Battalion. Medical teams performing Civil Affairs duties at the New Life Village gave medical aid in the form of 2488 treatments to Vietnamese Nationals.

e. Motor Transport. The Battalion's motor transport equipment accumulated 89,178 miles in support of the Battalion's operations.

f. Maintenance. The Battalion maintenance platoon performed 2nd echelon services/repairs on 168 items of motor transport equipment and 3rd echelon services/repairs on 117 items of engineer equipment. Major problems encountered by the maintenance platoon are the lack of proper facilities and the lead time involved for receipt of repair parts. The former problem will be much alleviated by the construction of a Butler building currently in progress. The latter problem although somewhat improved, still remains. The average time lapse for the receipt of repair parts now is 12 to 15 days for motor transport and 25 days for engineer repair items.

g. Utilities. The Battalion camp utilities are provided by the utilities platoon, Service Company. During the month of December improvements to the camp water supply was the main project. A well was completed and two 3,000 gallon storage tanks were installed. Underground pipe lines were laid from the storage tanks to the maintenance area, construction lot, Service Company Area, showers, aid station and mess hall. Showers were provided daily for an average of 400 men. Electrical power for most of the camp is provided 24 hours a day by alternating two 60 KW generators. During the hours 1800 to 2200 the maximum load for the generator is normally required. Company "D" is still providing its own power with a 30 KW generator.

9. Training. The only training accomplished by the Battalion was OJT.

10. Special Operations. The 3rd Bridge Platoon was employed during Operation Harvest Moon. The platoon provided security and working parties, and erected one 60' footbridge, as well as conducting four bridge recons.

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On 27 December a flash commitment was received to erect a foot-bridge. The 2nd Bridge Platoon erected 360' of footbridge in support of 2/9 despite the difficulties of excavation for site preparation, the necessity of hand carrying the bridge components due to the site's inaccessability to bridge trailers, and small arms and mortar fire encountered.

- 11. NBC Warfare. None.
- 12. Command and Control. No chages from paragraph 6 of this report.
- 13. Air Defense. No change.

  
E. L. MEEKER

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