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

3/DRP/cwm  
5750  
26 March 1971

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

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 March to 31 March 1971

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

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Encl: ✓(1) 1st Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

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

*D. E. Benstead*  
D. E. BENSTEAD

1st ENGR BN

Declassified by the Director of  
Marine Corps History and Museums  
in accordance with the provisions  
of CMO ltr Ser 009D323/232095 of  
21 Feb 1979

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

1st ENGR BN  
SWTS NR 032-71  
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MAR 1971

1st ENGINEER BATTALION

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 MARCH 1971 TO 31 MARCH 1971

- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- ✓ PART IV - SUBORDINATE UNITS COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FILED SEP  
✓ PHOTOGRAPHS

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## PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA

<u>1. Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	
1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)	LtCol. D. E. BENSTEAD	16Jan71-Present

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters & Service Company	1stLt. J. W. OKEEFE	11Mar71-10Mar71
	1stLt. R. E. BLAIR	10Mar71-Present
Engineer Support Company	Capt. R. C. WRIGHT	20Feb71-Present
Company "A" (Rein)	Maj. J. G. DIXON	15Feb71-Present
Company "B" (Rein)	1stLt. G. KAZONICH	24Feb71-3Mar71
	Capt. G. J. POLYASCKO	3Mar71-23Mar71
Company "C" (Rein)	1stLt. R. M. CORRIGAN	23Mar71-Present
	1stLt. J. L. COOLEY	16Feb71-Present

ATTACHED UNITS

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

1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)	21Apr67-Present	Danang, RVN
Engineer Support Company	21Apr67-Present	Danang, RVN
Company "A" (Rein)	27Feb71-Present	FLC, RVN
Company "B" (Rein)	28Feb71-Present	Danang, RVN
Company "C" (Rein)	19Aug70-Present	Danang, RVN
Company "C", 1st Shore Party Battalion	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. T. W. GUBALA	21Feb71-Present
S-2	1stLt. R. L. OSTRANDER	23Jan71-Present
S-3	1stLt. R. M. CORRIGAN	15Feb71-23Mar71
	1stLt. R. L. OSTRANDER	23Mar71-Present
S-4	Maj. T. E. HARRIS	1Jul70-Present

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S-5	1stLt. R.L. OSTRANDER	23Jan71-Present
Supply Officer	Capt. G. BURROWS	7Feb71-Present
Communication Officer	Capt. L. N. SCHWANKL	22Feb71-Present
Medical Officer	Lt. S. D. SIDES	40ct70-Present
Engineer Equipment Officer	W.O. H. C. BOUCHER	3Sep70-Present
Utilities Officer	W.O. K. E. WEADBROCK	24Feb71-Present
Construction Officer	W.O. K. E. WEADBROCK	20ct70-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>
33	517	1	8

Throughout the month of March 1971, the 1st Engineer Battalion continued to furnish close combat and general engineer support to the 1st Marine Division and other III MAF units. This support consisted of mine detection and clearance sweeps, construction of combat defensive fortifications and fire support base improvements and destructions. An average of twenty (20) combat engineers were employed in demolition teams rendering close combat support to the 1st Marine Regiment on platoon and company size operations. Five (5) Engineer Road Sweep Teams conducted sweeps over 2,000 KM of road. The counter mine program was further enhanced by the application of the Voluntary Information Program; a total of (45) ordnance items were recovered and a total of 4,400 Piasters were paid out for the return of this ordnance.

The Land Mine Warfare School training consisted of Mobile Contact Teams and a formal five day school of instruction for personnel of the 1st Marine Division. The instructions conducted by the Contact Teams consisted of a one-half day lecture and practical application in Demolitions and Counter Surprise Firing Device Tactics; a total of (317) personnel from units throughout the 1st Marine Division received this instruction. A total of (59) students graduated from the formal five day course of instruction conducted by 1st Engineer Battalion Land Mine Warfare School.

The land reclamation operation to provide resettlement land for the Vietnamese on Goi Noi Island and Route 4 East (Ha Nong Trung 1 & 2) was completed on 10 March 1971. A total of (200) Hectares of land was cleared.

On 5 March 1971, (4) Combat Engineers and one (1) 450 Case tractor with operator were helicopter lifted to Hill 218 for the destruction of this position; this task was completed on 7 March 1971.

On 8 March 1971, a combined reconnaissance team consisting of personnel from this unit, the 11th Marines and 1st Shore Party Battalion, reconnoitered Hills 119, 250, and 425 and a plan for the destruction of the positions on these hills was agreed upon by all parties concerned. On 11 March, Engineer Teams were helicopter lifted into Hills 119 and 250 in execution of the aforementioned plans. Two 450 Case tractors were employed also. Hill destruction and clearance was accomplished as planned at both sites and evacuation took place on 15 March 1971.

General Engineer Support was provided as evidenced by completion of 18 Division Work Orders, 1 Battalion Work Order, and the production of 7,425,000 gallons of potable water during the reporting period.

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During the month of March 1971 in compliance with standdown procedures of Troop Withdrawal Program, Increment VI, members of the 1st Engineer Battalion, Companies "B", "C", "H&S", and "Engineer Support", departed the Republic of Vietnam for Conus. Personnel leaving Camp Faulkner had a personnel inspection conducted by Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General E.H. SIMMONS. Baggage was inspected by marijuana dogs in coordination with Criminal Investigation Division (CID). Flights departed for Conus on the 10th and 13th of March, with 100 and 97 Marines from 1st Engineer Battalion respectively leaving. On 21 March, 14 1st Engineer Battalion left for Conus and in addition on 26 March another 10 departed for Conus. On 27 March, 38 additional 1st Engineer Battalion Marines departed the Republic of Vietnam for Westpac duty stations in Okinawa and Japan. Eighty (80) additional personnel will leave with the 1st Engineer Battalion for Camp Pendleton by ship.

On 28 February 1971, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion and Company "C", 1st Shore Party Battalion relocated their Command Posts to FLC at Camp BOOKS.

AT 282200H March 1971 Opcon of Company "A" (Rein), 1st Engineer Battalion and Company "C" 1st Shore Party Battalion was passed to 1st Marine Division and Adcon of those units passed to Headquarters Battalion 1st Marine Division.

AT 280730H March 1971, the 1st Engineer Battalion relinquished all responsibilities of Camp FAULKNER to 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, United States Army. Photographs taken on 22 March of Camp FAULKNER are included for record purposes. (SEE TAB A)

On 31 March 1971, 1st Engineer Battalion (-) embarked with equipment and 78 personnel on board the LPD DULUTH for redeployment to Fifth Marine Amphibious Brigade, Camp Pendleton California. A change of command ceremony was held at Camp Faulkner with Major Terry E. HARRIS assuming command vice LtCol. D.E. BENSTEAD. Major Harris will enplane 1 April 1971 with remaining personnel (6) and colors to redeploy the battalion to Fifth Marine Amphibious Brigade, Camp Pendleton, California.

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## PART III

## 1. Construction

a. The following 18 Division Work Orders were completed during the reporting period.

- 61-71 1 Mar 71 Construct one lubrication rack
- 69-71 2 Mar 71 Furnish one floodlight unit for the M.T. lot
- 50-71 3 Mar 71 Repair SEAhuts, showers & heads
- 1160-70 4 Mar 71 Repair LZ 432 gate
- 67-71 4 Mar 71 Supply (1) 3,000 gal tank & (1) 55 gpm pump
- 70-71 4 Mar 71 Grade area adjacent to the "E" Club
- 78-71 4 Mar 71 Provide (4) loads of sand
- 81-71 5 Mar 71 Construct (12) urinoils
- 79-71 8 Mar 71 Provide equipment to dig two trash pits
- 82-71 12 Mar 71 Supply (1) 3,000 gal tank & (1) 55 gpm pump
- 24-71 13 Mar 71 Repair roof over stage of theater
- 80-71 15 Mar 71 Inspect and shorten perimeter
- 84-71 16 Mar 71 Construct (1) sentry booth
- 86-71 18 Mar 71 Pickup & deliver material to construct one bunker
- 1092-70 19 Mar 71 Additional work at the Division P.X.
- 85-71 19 Mar 71 Relocate reviewing stand
- 54-71 21 Mar 71 Provide equipment to offload supplies
- 89-71 22 Mar 71 Restore Stack Arms

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

Man Hours - 429  
 Plywood - 86 SH  
 Penepime - 39 (55 gal) drums  
 Corr. Metal - 4 SH  
 Nails - 200 LB  
 M8A1 Matting - 157 PC  
 Paint - 17 Gal

Equipment Hours - 173  
 55 gal drums - 12 EA  
 5' Engineer stakes - 93 EA  
 Screen - 57 RL  
 Rock & fill - 120 Tons  
 Lumber - 2,300 BF  
 #12 wire - 1,200'

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Lamp Holders - 50 EA  
 2" Pipe - 160 LF  
 Oxygen - 275 LB

Shower Heads - 15 EA  
 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Pipe - 80 LF  
 Acetylene - 100 LB

c. The following (1) Battalion Work Order was completed during the reporting period.

26-71 3 Mar 71 Repair the roofs and structures in the cantonment

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

Man Hours - 128  
 Nails - 25 LB

Tin - 35 SH

## 2. ENEMY INFORMATION

a. During the month of March 1971, Company "A" (Rein) 1st Engineer Battalion sweep teams found the below listed enemy and U.S. ordnance. (Figures in parentheses are those employed as mines or surprise firing devices.)

<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Enemy</u>
81mm Mortar - 1	0

b. In addition the below listed items were turned over to the sweep teams by the local Vietnamese people. (Figures in parentheses are those employed as mines or surprise firing devices.)

<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Enemy</u>
105mm Illum - 1	(AP Mine Homemade) (2)
105mm HE - 2	
81mm HE -15	
81mm Illum - 3	
4.2 HE - 3	
60mm HE - 6	
50 cal. -10	

## 3. TRAINING

a. During March 1971, (59) students graduated from the five day course of instruction conducted at the 1st Engineer Battalion Land Mine Warfare School. Unit attendance is listed below:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number personnel</u>
1st Marines	(56)
MACV advisor team #4	(3)
TOTAL	(59)

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b. Mobile Contact Teams traveled to various units of the 1st Marine Division to conduct one-half day courses of instruction for a total of (317) students. Unit attendance is listed below.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number personnel</u>
1st Marines	(212)
1st Recon Bn	(32)
Hq Bn	(16)
11th Marines	(57)
TOTAL	(317)

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