

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

3/ JLR/roh  
5750  
Ser No. 0105-69  
12 November 1969

**CONFIDENTIAL**

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 October 1969 to 31 October 1969

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

Encl: ✓ (1) 1st Engineer Battalion Chronology

Tab: ✓ (a) Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase IV, "A" Co, 1st Engineer's After Action Report

Tab: ✓ (b) Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase V, "A" Co, 1st Engineer's After Action Report

Tab: ✓ (c) Land Clearing Operations After Action Report "A" Co, 1st Engineer's

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

*R. E. Smith*  
R. E. SMITH

Classified by the Director of  
the Corps History and Museums  
in accordance with the provisions  
of ARMO Rtr Ser 009D323/232095 of  
12 Dec 1979

*[Signature]* signature Date 7/18/97

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1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF

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*Div Col*  
*03-69*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

1ST ENGR BN

CMD CHRON

OCT 1969

1ST ENGINEER BATTALION

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[REDACTED]

PART I

PART II

PART III

PART IV

PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

1st Engineer Battalion

LtCol R. E. SMITH

31 Jul 69-Present

SUB-ORDINATE UNITS

H&amp;S Company (-)

1stLt R. M. WALLACE

13 Aug 69-24 Oct 69

1stLt W. E. BARNETSON

24 Oct 69-Present

Support Company

Maj F. J. COX JR.

21 Jul 69-Present

Company "A" (Rein)

Capt B. C. S. WORLEY

30 Sept 69-Present

Company "B" (Rein)

Capt E. C. HEIN JR.

5 Mar 69 -Present

Company "C" (Rein)

Capt R. J. GADWILL

7 Sept 69-Present

Company "A" (-), 5th Engr. Bn.

1stLt J. L. REDIFER

28 Oct 69-Present

2. LOCATION

1st Engineer Battalion (Rein)

21 Aug 67-Present

Danang, RVN

Support Company

21 Apr 67-Present

Danang, RVN

Co

Company "A"

23 Aug 68-Present

Danang, RVN

Company "B"

6 Aug 68-Present

An Hoa, RVN

Company "C"

26 Aug 69-Present

Dong Truoi, RVN

Company "A", 5th Engr. Bn.

28 Oct 69-Present

Danang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj J. G. CELLI

28 Oct 68-5 Oct 69

Maj W. M. WIOSKI

5 Oct 69 -Present

Sergeant Major

SgtMaj J. M. WISE

15 Jun 69-Present

S-1/Adjutant

1stLt V. D. HIATT

20 Dec 68-Present

S-2

1stLt W. H. BARNETSON

14 Aug 69-20 Oct 69

1stLt S. D. HAMMONS

21 Oct 69-28 Oct 69

1stLt J. J. STEGER

29 Oct 69-Present

S-3	Maj W. M. WINOSKI	21Aug69-Present
S-4	Maj F. BUTSKO	1Aug69 -Present
S-5	1stLt S. D. HAMMONS	14Aug69-Present
Supply Officer	1stLt C. W. JOHNSON	14Apr69-Present
Communications Officer	1stLt L. D. REIN 2ndLt H. G. WATKINS	1Jun69 -21Oct69 21 Oct69-Present
Medical Officer	Lt. R. S. HAXTON	4Aug69 -Present
Engineer Equipment Officer	CWO-2 W. M. CARLSON 1stLt R. S. McLAUGHLIN	1Nov68 -20Oct69 20Oct69-Present
Utilities Officer	CWO-2 P. W. LINTS	13Oct69-Present
Construction Officer	CWO-2 P. W. LINTS CWO-2 L. B. BOYTS	13Jul69-23Oct69 23 Oct69-Present

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
32	714	2	12

PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of October 1969, the 1st Engineer Battalion (Reinforced) remained committed to combat engineer support missions of small unit size with four infantry regiments. The Battalion also completed 42 Division and 15 Battalion Work Orders and other engineer projects and maintained mine detection and clearing sweeps.

a. Combat engineer companies, reinforced by elements of the Headquarters and Service Company and Engineer Support Company provided close combat engineer support in unamed operations, Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase V and Project Duffle Bag. During the reporting period the 1st Engineer Battalion continued with construction of protective bunkers and canteenment improvements throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR.

b. During the reporting period 2,356,700 meters of road in the 1st Marine Division TAOR were swept for mines by walking sweep teams. Mine sweeps of roads resulted in 23 mines and boobytraps being located and destroyed. In addition, to daily mine detection and clearing sweeps, 23 rough rider convoys were supported by combat engineers of this Battalion.

2. Company "A" provided close combat engineer support to the 1st Marine Regiment. During the period 24 September 1969 through 29 September 1969, Company "A" provided one platoon (-) in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment while engaged in Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase IV. During the period 18 October 1969 through 21 October 1969, Company "A" (-) was in direct support of the 1st Marine Regiment (-) in support of operation Pipestone Canyon Phase V. In addition to operational commitments, Company "A" maintained seven mine detection and clearing sweep teams and one 2-man sweep team on Project Duffle Bag. During the reporting period, Company "A" remained committed to cantonment improvements in the 1st Marine Regiment TACR. After Action Report for Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase IV is submitted as TAB (a) of this report, and After Action Report for Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase V is submitted as TAB (b).

3. Company "B" provided close combat engineer support to the 5th Marine Regiment in the form of fourteen 2 man demolition teams. In addition, Company "B" continued bunker construction and cantonment improvements for the 5th Marine Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines at the An Hoa combat base. During the reporting period, Company "B" maintained four daily mine detection sweeps.

4. Company "C" is supporting the 7th Marine Regiment and is currently committed in providing necessary close combat engineer support to the 7th Marine Regiment on unmassed small unit operations in the Que Son area. In addition, Company "C" is assisting in the construction of protective bunkers and cantonment improvements in the 7th Marine Regiment's TACR. Company "C" maintains three daily mine sweep teams.

5. Company "A" (-), 5th Engineer Battalion became OPCON, ADCON to the 1st Engineer Battalion (Rein) on 28 October 1969 and remains in general support of the 26th Marine Regiment. Company "A" (-) established Headquarters at Camp Faulker and is currently in the process of forming the Company Headquarters to include the requisitioning of all T/E items required. Company "A" (-) is committed to bunker construction and cantonment improvement throughout the 26th Marines TACR. Company "A", 5th Engineer Battalion provided an average of 70 men in close combat engineer support of small unit operations during the reporting period.

PART III  
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. Gains and Losses:

	USMC		USM	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
Dropped:	4	43	00	00
Joined:	5	94	00	00

b.  $\frac{KIA}{00}$      $\frac{WIA}{2}$

2. Intelligence

a. Road and Bridge Reconnaissance. During the month of October 1969, procedures for mine sweep teams to submit daily reports of road, bridge, and culvert conditions for the routes being swept were continued. Normal reports were upgraded to include information on road, bridge, and culvert conditions in preparation for the impending Monsoon.

b. Weather. During the month of October 1969, the weather was characterized by cloudy skies and heavy rain with an occasional sunny day. Precipitation during the reporting period totaled 36.60 inches. Temperatures averaged a high of 83 degrees and a low of 74 degrees.

c. Mine Warfare.

(1) A total of 3,400 \$VN was paid to Vietnamese (mostly children) for the following ordnance:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>BOOBYTRAPPED</u>
TNT Bomber	6	
60mm HE	4	
60mm Illumination round	1	
Belt of M60 Ammo	1	
1/2 lb of TNT Charge	2	
M26 Grenade	4	
10 lb Box	1	1
105mm HE	1	
M79 round	7	
105mm Smoke	1	
105mm Illumination	1	
57mm HE	1	

d. Ordnance Destroyed

(1) The following ordnance items were located and destroyed in place on routine mine sweeps in the 1st Marine Division TAOR:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>BOOBYTRAPPED</u>
30 lb rock mine, command detonated	1	
60mm HE	8	
M79 round	8	1
M26 grenade	11	4
81mm illum	2	
B40 Rocket	5	
60lb box mine	1	
Sack w/bicycle parts w/explosives	1	1
60mm illum	2	
81 mm HE	2	2
Smoke Grenade	3	
Hand illum Flare	1	
AP Mine	2	
COFRAM Round	1	
500 lb Bomb	1	
105mm HE	2	
5 lb box mine	1	
40 lb box mine	1	

3. Training.

a. During the month of October 1969, a total of 496 students attended the (3) day Demolition Land Mine Warfare, and Viet Cong Boobytrap School. In addition, 302 Marines received the special one day classes taught by the Mobile Instruction Team. Attendance for the period covered is as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
1st Battalion, 1st Marines	51
2nd Battalion, 1st Marines	43
3rd Battalion, 1st Marines	47
1st Battalion, 4th Marines	1
2nd Battalion, 4th Marines	3
3rd Battalion, 4th Marines	4
1st Battalion, 5th Marines	41
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines	58
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines	39
1st Battalion, 7th Marines	6
1st Battalion, 26th Marines	21
2nd Battalion, 26th Marines	28
3rd Battalion, 26th Marines	41
1st Engineer Battalion	61
7th Engineer Battalion	10
11th Engineer Battalion	2
1st Recon Battalion	14
3rd Recon Battalion	7
9th Motor Transport Battalion	1
3rd Tank Battalion	3
1st Shore Party Battalion	2
HQ, 1st Infantry Brig.	5
1st Australian Task Force	6
177th Armer	1

b. Mobile Instruction Team Attendance

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
1st Marine Division Schools	52
3rd Battalion, 1st Marines	250

4. Operations.

a. Land Clearing Operation: During the period 24 October 1969 through 29 October 1969, a Land Clearing/Search and Destroy Operation was conducted by the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in conjunction with the NOKMC in grid squares BT0663 to BT0964. Engineer support consisted of Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion, providing one Engineer Officer and one squad reinforced with two TD-18 L.F. tractors, and operators, one mechanic and one Equipment Chief from Engineer Support Company, one radio operator and one Corporal from H&S Company. Additional support was provided by 11th Marines with three TD-18 L.F. tractors, and three operators. During the land clearing Operation, a total of 236,000 square meters of land was cleared and 140 bunkers were destroyed. Ordnance destroyed is listed below. Land Clearing Combat After Action Report is submitted as Tab (c) of this report.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>BOOBYTRAPPED</u>
105mm HE	4	
155mm HE	4	
M79 round	2	
60mm HE	1	
81mm Illumination	1	
250 lb Bomb	1	
175mm HE	1	1
8" How Round	1	
Box mine	1	1
M26 Grenade	2	

b. Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase IV. During the period 240600H September 1969 to 291800H September 1969, Company "A" provided one platoon (-) in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment during Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase IV. Results of this action are submitted as Combat After Action Report, Tab (a) of this report.

c. Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase V. During the period 180730H October 1969 to 211430H October 1969, Company "A" provided one platoon (-) in direct support of the 1st Marine Regiment, during Phase V of Operation Pipestone Canyon. Support consisted of special road sweep teams and demolition teams. 1st Platoon, 1st Bridge Company provided support in the installation of three 40 ft. pentoon foot bridges for the purpose of crossing the Yen Ne River, grid square AT9766. During the operation Company "A" destroyed 24 family bunkers, and one Reinforced 20'x40' concrete building. Ordnance destroyed is listed below. Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase V Combat After Action Report is submitted as Tab (b) of this report.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>BOOBYTRAPPED</u>
M26 Grenade	2	
B40 Rocket	1	
M72 Round	1	
60mm HE	1	
81mm HE	2	

5. Water Supply. During the month of October 1969, the 1st Engineer Battalion operated thirteen water points which produced 6,863,000 gallons of potable water for units throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR. In addition, a total of 363,000 gallons of non-potable water was produced.

#### 6. Construction.

a. The following 42 Division Work Orders were completed during the month of October 1969.

1. D454-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Construct mount out boxes.
2. D600-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Provide (1) 580 Case tractor w/backhoe and operator for period of one week to S-4, MAG-16.



- [REDACTED]
3. D602-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Provide angle dozer with operator for a period of 7 days.
  4. D594-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Inspect and repair COC bunker as necessary.
  5. D572-69. Issue (3) 10x24x8 bunkers. Completed 27 October 1969.
  6. D595-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Draw and construct (1) tent deck and frame 16x32.
  7. D574-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Install  $\frac{1}{2}$  culvert drainage ditch.
  8. D411-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Construct 220 mount out boxes for 3/26.
  9. B463-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Construct 20 field range packing crates.
  10. D585-69. Completed 28 October 1969. Repair water storage tank.
  11. D560-69. Completed 30 October 1969. Replace ladder on "B" Section tower.
  12. D522-69. Completed 30 October 1969. Provide and construct (3) SEA huts w/drain
  13. D559-69. Completed 2 October 1969. Issue (1) precut 8'x12'x8' bunker deliver to Lt Room Hill 146.
  14. B473-69. Completed 3 October 1969. Issue (2) bunkers - (1) 20'x32'x8' and (1) 10'x24'x8' w/flooring and lighting kit.
  15. D547-69. Completed 5 October 1969. Construct display case for CO, 1st MarDiv.
  16. D504-69. Completed 9 October 1969. Construct and hang (12) screen doors at messhall 3/26.
  17. B497-69. Completed 9 October 1969. Issue and construct (4) SEA huts 16'x32'.
  18. D502-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Construct (1) 12'x14' Generator Shed.
  19. D556-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Construct (1) 18'x16' garbage shed.
  20. D350-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Issue 7 urinoils (4) 4 hole heads & (2) 2 hole heads.
  21. D538-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Issue 200 pieces MSA-1 matting.
  22. D534-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Four 10'x15' concrete slab in Sgt's mess.
  23. B461-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Draw materials and provide tech assist for (1) 20'x32' bunker w/deck and lighting package.
  24. B291-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Issue materials to Service Co., HQBn.

- [REDACTED]
25. D578-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Issue (1) 20"x32"x8' bunker w/decking and lighting kit.
  26. D564-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Replace 3"x12" decking on (4) 175mm Gun Pads.
  27. D438-69. Completed 13 October 1969. Issue 24 pieces 24" culvert w/boots.
  28. D577-69. Completed 14 October 1969. Issue (1) 8'x12'x8' bunker.
  29. D601-69. Completed 14 October 1969. Issue and deliver (5) sheets 4'x8'x1/2" mahogany plywood to D80.
  30. D536-69. Completed 16 October 1969. Construct (1) 2 hole head for Vietnamese mess hall workers.
  31. D590-69. Completed 16 October 1969. Issue 12 Blackjack poles 35' long.
  32. D489-69. Completed 15 October 1969. Provide 4 men w/tools and equipment to plaster exterior walls of BAS Bunker for experimental project.
  33. D570-69. Completed 17 October 1969. Conduct survey of perimeter lighting and recommend materials required to install at Hill 55.
  34. D580-69. Completed 16 October 1969. Issue (1) 20x32x8 bunker and provide tech assistance Chu Ha 2/1.
  35. D482-69. Completed 11 October 1969. Provide technical assistance for construction of (2) 20'x32'x8' bunkers and (1) 10x24x8 bunker; all w/decking and lighting kits for 1st Shore Party, LZ Balay.
  36. D607-69. Completed 20 October 1969. Construct (1) shed to house ICD equip. on Hill 200 for 11th Marines, also provide necessary material to renovate bunkers.
  37. D584-69. Completed 21 October 1969. Pickup materials, prep site and construct (13) tent decks Hill 55 1st Marines.
  38. D575-69. Completed 24 October 1969. Issue (2) bunkers (1) 10x24x8 and (1) 8x12x8 w/decking and lighting kit for 8x12x8 bunker.
  39. D612-69. Completed 24 October 1969. Procure and issue materials for (6) G. P. Tents 16x32.
  40. D563-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Install 200' - 24" culvert for drainage.
  41. D598-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Provide electricians to determine necessary wiring and fixtures for GOC Bunker.
  42. D592-69. Completed 27 October 1969. Provide procure and deliver materials to construct 80 mess tables.

b. Personnel and Materials utilized for above listed Division Work Orders.

Man hours	13709	Wire nails	7
Equipment hours	265	Matting	208 pcs.
Lumber BF	35235	Galval	8 yds.
10x24x8' Bunker plgs	6	Sand	3 yds.
20x32x8' Bunker plgs	6	Cement	196 bags
8x12x8' Bunker plgs	2	Roofing Paper	15 rolls.
Deck & Lighting kits	12	screen	3 rolls.
16x52 SEA hut plgs	4	hinges	20 pr.
Tent Beaks	13	sandbags	300 each
3000 Gallon Tanks	2	nails	769 lbs.
Tin, sheets	170	door handles	12 each
Pipe, assorted	28ft	Blackjack poles (35')	12 each
54" culvert	56 pieces	drift pins	20 each
24" culvert	127 pieces	400 amp fuse box	1 each
12" culvert	100 pieces	sealant	10 gal.
3/4" plywood	20 sheets		
1/2" plywood	231 sheets		

c. The following 15 Battalion Work Orders were completed during the month of October 1969.

1. B327-69. Completed 2 October 1969. Construct door for S&C Bunker located at Regt. S-1 and Regt. S-4 at An Hoa CB.
2. B236-69. Completed 5 October 1969. Construct (1) building in M&S Company Area.
3. B342-69. Completed 5 October 1969. Construct box as shown on drawing.
4. B348-69. Completed 12 October 1969. Replace 30 pieces tin on heavy equipment and construction building.
5. B347-69. Completed 16 October 1969. Construct (4) cabinets for 1st Engr Bn S-1.
6. B349-69. Completed 24 October 1969. Extend present com tech shop to include old Bn. mail room.
7. B352-69. Completed 15 October 1969. Issue (2) wire nails to M&S Company.
8. B351-69. Completed 20 October 1969. Replace roof on Bldg. 7467 1st Engr Bn.
9. B356-69. Completed 14 October 1969. Issue listed materials to be picked up by requesting unit.
10. B350-69. Completed 21 October 1969. Issue & construct (1) 16x52 standard SEA hut w/lights, and (1) 16x16 SEA hut for billeting.
11. B340-69. Completed 22 October 1969. Construct (3) drafting tables and (1) supply/drawing cabinet.
12. B360-69. Completed 28 October 1969. Construct and install map board for Div. G. G.

13. B237-69. Completed 30 October 1969. Construct (4) strongbacks on existing tent decks. (3) cancelled and (1) completed.

14. B355-69. Completed 30 October 1969. Replace old plywood on steeple roof and repaint nework and repaint bulletin board.

15. B143-69. Cancelled 9 October 1969, by E-3 Officer.

d. Personnel and Materials utilized for above listed Battalion Work Orders.

Man hours	4474	Flexiglass, sheets	2
Equipment hours	11	18" culvert	4
Lumber BF	17251	Urinoils	2
16x32 SEA hut w/lights	1	Nails	955 lbs
16x16 SEA hut	1	Screen	4 rolls
Fin, sheets	384	Concrete	140cu. yd.
3/4" plywood, sheets	69	Cement	10 bags
1/2" plywood	53 1/2	Hinges	7 pair
Mahogany panelling, sheets	398	Metal Stakes	15 each
		Paint	1 gallon

7. Civil Affairs/ Civil Action

a. During the month of October 1969, a total of 250 Vietnamese civilians (not resulting from hostile action) patients received medical assistance.

b. Donated to the people of Son Thuy I during October 1969 were 1000 board feet of scrap lumber and one transportation run to Danang for the purpose of procuring rice and other household needs.

PART IV

✓ Tab (a): Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase IV, "A" Co., 1st Engineer's After Action Report

✓ Tab (b): Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase V, "A" Co., 1st Engineer's After Action Report

✓ Tab (c): Land Clearing Operations After Action Report, "A" Co., 1st Engineer's

COMPANY "A"  
 1st Engineer Battalion  
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

01:BCSW:fpt  
 3480  
 26 Oct 1969

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion (Attn: S-3)  
 Subj: Combat After Action Report  
 Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1B

1. Code Name: Operation Pipestone Canyon Phase IV
2. Dates of Operation: 240600H September 1969 to 291800H September 1969
3. Location: Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam, Dodge City Area
4. Commanding Headquarters: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment
5. Reporting SNCO: SSgt Walter S. HAYES 191 75 18/1371 USMC
6. Task Organization: 1st Platoon (-), Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion
7. Supporting Forces: N/A
8. Intelligence: The enemy was known to be utilizing the area for bunkers and tunnels for weapons and arms storage, and as a staging area. The entire was suspected to be heavily booby-trapped. Reports stated that approximately a company of sappers were operating in the area.
9. Mission:
  - (a) Provide combat engineer support for 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.
  - (b) Destroy bunkers, fortifications, and observe as directed by Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines.
10. Concept of Operation: One engineer demolition team moved with each infantry letter company to provide close combat engineer support.
11. Execution:
  - (a) 1st Squad (-), 1st Platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion moved with Company "A", 1st Bn, 1st Marines on D-day. They moved by vehicle to the vicinity of BT003567 where at 1100 Company "A", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines began sweeping North.

(b) 2nd Squad (-), 1st Platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion moved with Company "C", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines at 1045 on D-day. They were helilifted with Company "C", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines to the vicinity of BT997604 and began sweeping southeast.

(c) 3rd Squad (-), 1st Platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion moved with Company "D", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines at 1045 on D-day. They were helilifted to the vicinity of BT013604 and began a sweep southwest.

(d) 1st Platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion terminated their support of 1st Battalion, 1st Marines at 1800 on D + 5.

## 12. Results:

(a) All of the assigned missions were accomplished. A total of 370 pounds of C-4 were expended.

(b) The following is a list of ordnance and fortifications destroyed by 1st Platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion

- 1 - 500 lb bomb
- 2 - 250 lb bombs
- 4 - 8" rounds HE
- 9 - 155 mm rounds HE
- 6 - 105 mm rounds HE
- 2 - 81 mm rounds HE
- 14 - Box mines (stored in cave)
- 2 - M-72
- 14 - M-79 rounds HE
- 1 - B 40
- 3 - RPG
- 2 - bear traps
- 1 - homemade shape charge
- 1 - homemade mine
- 3 - Chinese Communist grenades
- 9 - M-26
- 300 - .30 cal rounds

Fortifications


- 2 - foot bridges
- 37 - bunkers
- 3 - caves
- 1 - spider hole

Ordnance Booby-trapped

- 3 - ammo cans
- 1 - trip flare
- 1 - smoke grenade (rifle)

## 13. Administrative Matters:

(a) Engineers carried their own demolitions, and in addition, each rifle squad carried 20 lbs of C-4. They were not resupplied with M-60 fuse lighters as needed.



(b) N/A

(c) N/A

(d) Transportation: Transportation to the field was by supported units organic motor transport and by helicopter. Transportation from the field was by LVT's and organic motor transport.

(e) N/A

(f) N/A

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: N/A

15. Commanders Analysis: All missions assigned to engineers were accomplished. All company commanders utilized engineers in a correct and safe manner.

16. Recommendations: N/A

*B C S Worley*  
B. C. S. WORLEY

COMPANY "A"  
 1st Engineer Battalion  
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

01: ~~SECRET~~  
 3480  
 24 October 1969

**From:** Commanding Officer  
**To:** Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion (Attn: S-3)  
**Subj:** Combat Operations After Action Report  
**Ref:** (a) DivO 3480.1B

1. Code Name: Pipestone Canyon Phase V
2. Date of Operation: 180730H Oct 69 to 211430H Oct 69
3. Location: Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam, Dodge City area, East Grid BT00 to West Grid AT97, and South Grid BT58 to North Grid BT61.
4. Command Headquarters: Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Regiment
5. Reporting Officer: Captain B. C. S. WORLEY 08 93 36/1310 USMC
6. Task Organization: Company "A" (-), 1st Engineer Battalion. 1st Platoon, 1st Bridge Company (-).
7. Supporting Arms: N/A
8. Intelligence: The enemy was using this area to collect rice, using the people as laborers, and their family bunkers for storage and hiding. Several explosions occurred while the huts were being burned by the National Police leading to the conclusion that arms and ammunition were hidden in many of the huts.
9. Mission:
  - a. Provide combat engineer support for the 1st Marine Regiment (-) (Rein) during sweep and cordon operation.
  - b. Destroy all bunkers, fortifications, and ordnance located.
  - c. Conduct road sweep of QL 1D South from Golden Gate Bridge to the "T" at Route 4, then east on Route 4 to the railroad berm.
  - d. Provide demolition team to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines on call.



10. Concept of Operation: One four (4) man demolition team was placed in direct support of each letter company of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, and Company "E", 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines during the sweep from east to west in the cordon. One six (6) man sweep team moved with security to conduct a road sweep of Route 1D and Route 4 east to the berm. One two (2) man detector team moved with the amtracs to conduct road sweeps into hamlets. Bridge teams were placed on call with bridges for heli-lift into the area of operation.

11. Execution:

- a. 1st squad, 3rd platoon, Company "A" moved with security from Golden Gate Bridge at 0630 to sweep Route 1B to the "T" at Route 4, and then east on Route 4 to the railroad berm.
- b. 1st squad (-), 1st platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion moved with Company "A", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines to LZ in the vicinity of BT 005584 at 0730 on D-day.
- c. 2nd squad (-), 1st platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion, moved with Company "B", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines to LZ in vicinity of BT 005584 at 0730 on D-day.
- d. 3rd squad (-), 1st platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion, moved with Company "C", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines to LZ in vicinity of BT 005605 at 0730 on D-day.
- e. 1st squad (-), 2nd platoon, Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion, moved with Company "E", 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, to LZ in vicinity BT 005605 at 0730 on D-day.
- f. 1st platoon, 1st Bridge Company moved independently from LZ 486 to three LZ's prepared along Blue Line, running through BT 0259 and 0260 grids at 1400 on D-day, and installed three 40' pontoon foot bridges across the Blue Line. The task was completed at approximately 1530 on D-day.
- g. 1st platoon, 1st Bridge Company, was extracted at 1200 on D-day + 1 leaving the bridges in place.
- h. A two man detector/demolition team of the 2nd squad, 3rd platoon, moved with a column of amtracs at 1430 on D-day + 1 from the Golden Gate Bridge into the area of operation to clear a path for the amtracs while they were receiving and hauling rice.
- i. 1st platoon, 1st Bridge Company, was reinserted at 0930 on D-day + 4 to remove foot bridges and prepare them for heli-lift out.
- j. 1st platoon, 1st Bridge Company, was extracted with their bridges at 1200 on D-day + 4
- k. Company "A" (-), 1st Engineer Battalion, terminated their support of the operation at 1530 on D-day + 4 and was removed from the area of operation by trucks.

12. Results:

- a. All assigned missions were accomplished. A total of 130 lbs of C-4 was expended.
- b. The following ordnances and fortifications were destroyed.
1. Ordnances:
    - 2 - M-26 Grenades
    - 1 - B-40 Rocket
    - 2 - 60mm H. E. Rounds
    - 1 - 81mm Illumination Rounds
    - 2 - 81mm H. E. Rounds
    - 2 - 105 H. E. Rounds
    - 1 - 155 H. E. Rounds
    - 1 - Box mine (2 or 3 lbs)
    - 1 - Helmet booby trapped with SFD
  2. Fortifications:
    - 24 - Family bunkers
      - 1 - Reinforced concrete building 20 x 40 ( a school house or church)

13. Administrative Matters:

- a. Supply: Engineers carried all of their demolitions with them. Resupply of M-60 fuse lighters was requested by engineer personnel to the infantry company commander with negative results.
- b. N/A
- c. N/A
- d. Transportation: Transportation to the field was by helicopter. Transportation from the field was by supported units' organic motor transport.
- e. N/A
- f. N/A

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: The use of pontoon foot bridges were deployed in support of an infantry battalion while on sweeps. Three pontoon foot bridges were staged at LZ 486 in three lifts with three six-man teams to accompany each lift. The 1st Battalion, 1st Marine swept up to the 30' wide canal which had been swollen by recent rains. Suitable crossing sites were selected and swimmers put across to provide security for the bridge team. When the security was in position and the LZ's prepared in the vicinity of each of these selected bridge site, the bridges and teams were picked up and helilifted into the prepared LZ's, and construction began immediately. All three bridges were in place within one hour and a half, allowing the infantry to transverse the canal during their initial sweep and as routes of resupply between the C. P. group and forward elements. The installation and extraction of the bridges proved that foot bridges can readily be employed and are quite effective in this type of operation.

[REDACTED]

15. Commanders Analysis: Of the various missions outlined in paragraph 9, all were feasible and accomplished. The engineers could have been utilized more effectively by the infantry company commander. On occasions, engineers were called up to blow something only to find that the infantry demolition teams had already started setting the charges. Twice engineer demolition teams were left without security while they were setting charges in bunkers.

16. Recommendations: N/A

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COMPANY "A"  
 1st Engineer Battalion  
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

O1:BCS:rlh  
 3480  
 5 Nov 1969



From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion (Attn: S-3)  
 Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report  
 Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1B

1. Code Name: N/A
2. Date of Operation: 241200H to 291400H Oct 1969
3. Location: Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam, in grid squares 0663 to 0964.
4. Commanding Headquarters: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment
5. Reporting Officer: 2ndLt Emmett A. RATTERMAN O10 91 21/1301 USMC
6. Task Organization: 1st platoon (Rein), Company "A", 1st Engineer Battalion consisting of two TD-18 LF tractors from 1st Engineer Battalion and three TD-18 LF tractors from 11th Marines.  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602
7. Supporting Arms: N/A

8. Intelligence: The enemy was believed to be using the area as a resupply route for ammunition and troops as well as a staging area by utilizing the many bunkers located in the area. The bunkers were restored family style bunkers in or near the ruins of the many houses located in the area. Many of the bunkers had been destroyed on previous operations.

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer  
 Subj: Combat Operations

The bunkers were constructed of sand and dirt reinforced by logs and corrugated tin from the nearby ruins. The approaches to the area at first gave the impression of being heavily booby trapped but once in the area few SFD's were discovered. Some friendly ordnances gave off secondary explosions when blown.

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Tab C

9. Mission:

- a. Provide combat engineer support for the 1st Battalion (-), (Rein), 1st Marine Regiment during a land clearing/search and destroy operation.
- b. Destroy field fortifications, living areas, and tree lines as designated by the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion (-), (Rein), 1st Marine Regiment.
- c. Strip clear a 300m wide area from the S. Vinh Dien River to Grid BT 060647

10. Concept of Operation: One three(3) man demolition team was placed in direct support of each letter company, Companies "A" and "B", 1st Battalion, and Company "E", 2nd Battalion, during the operation. The five(5) TD-18 LF tractors cleared the area as designated by the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. One demolition man, a corpsman and a radio operator were placed with the land clearing element.

11. Execution:

- a. Two demolition teams of the 1st platoon, Company "A" moved with Companies "A" and "B", 1st Battalion to Cau Ha combat base at 1000 on D-day.
- b. Two demolition teams of the 1st platoon, Company "A" moved with Companies "A" and "B", 1st Battalion, in their sweep from Cau Ha to the southern boundry of the 1st Marines TAOR at 1200 on D-day.
- c. One demolition team of 2nd platoon, Company "A" moved with Company "E", 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines at 1030 on D-day + 2 to provide combat support.
- d. The land clearing element consisting two TD-18 tractors moved with the 1st Battalion CP group to establish a base camp in the vicinity of BT 075643 at 1030 on D-day + 2.
- e. The land clearing element moved out with security from Company "B", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines at 1300 on D-day + 2 to begin clearing a 300m strip along the blue line in grid square 0663. The land was swampy and only 1200 square meters could be cleared.
- f. The land clearing element was joined by two TD-18 LF's from 11th Marines at 1630 on D-day + 2 bringing the number of tractors to four.
- g. The land clearing element moved out with security from Company "E", 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines at 0730 on D-day + 3 and began spot clearing buildings, bunkers, and tree lines in grid squares 0763 and 0764.
- h. The land clearing element was joined by one additional TD-18 from 11th Marines at 1530 on D-day + 3, bringing the total number of tractors to five.

- [REDACTED]
- i. The land clearing element moved out with security from Company "A", 1st Battalion, 1st Marines at 0730 on D-day + 4 to spot clear in grid squares 0663, 0763, and 0764.
  - j. The land clearing element moved out with security from Company "A", 1st Marines to Cau Ha combat base at 1500 on D-day + 4 where they remained on call until the operation secured on D-day + 5.
  - k. The demolition teams in support of the infantry letter companies moved from the field with their supported company as they returned to their battalion area at 1400 on D-day + 5.

## 12. Results:

- a. All assigned missions were accomplished with the exception of the clearing of a strip along the north side of the blue line from the Song Vinh Dien River to BT 070635. A total of 200 lbs of C-4 was expended with 100 blasting caps and 500 feet of time fuse.
- b. A total of 236,200 square meters were spot cleared and the following ordnances and fortifications were destroyed.

### 1. Ordnances

- 4 105mm H. E. rounds
- 4 155mm H. E. rounds
- 2 M-79 rounds
- 1 60mm H. E. round
- 1 81mm illumination round
- 1 250 lb bomb
- 1 175mm H. E. round (booby trapped)
- 1 8" Howitzer round
- 1 Box mine (SFD)
- 2 M-26 frag (SFD)

### 2. Fortifications

- 140 bunkers

## 13. Administrative Matters:

- a. Supply: Engineers and infantry units carried demolitions with them. They were resupplied on D-day + 4 with demolitions. Diesel fuel was furnished by the supported unit backed up by an emergency diesel fuel supply carried by the engineers.
- b. Maintenance: Maintenance on equipment was accomplished by assigning an equipment mechanic to the land clearing element. The engineer's base camp was utilized for daily PM's.
- c. N/A

- [REDACTED]
- d. Transportation: Transportation to and from the field was by supported units organic motor transport.
- e. Communication: A radio operator moved with the land clearing element and maintained communication with the 1st Engineer Battalion net. The security for the land clearing element had a radio which was utilized to monitor the supported unit's cmd net.
- f. N/A
14. Special Equipment and Techniques: The equipment employed on the operation were TD-18's. The tractors worked at a minimum of 30 meters apart. The operators wore flak jackets and helmets at all times. The tractors bladed their way through each new area and never utilized the same path cleared the day before, reducing the chances of detonating a mine set by the enemy the night before.
15. Commander's Analysis: Of the various missions outlined in paragraph 9, all were feasible. Due to the short planning time prior to the commencement of the operation, tractors from other division units were late in arriving at the designated staging area. This caused a loss of valuable time which resulted in the total mission not being able to be carried out because of the rains after the operation started. Had all of the tractors arrived on time, the area by the Song Vihn Dien could have been cleared before the heavy rain set in on the night of D-day + 2. Throughout the operation, the cooperation was excellent between the engineers and the supported units.
16. Recommendations:
- a. That three to four days notice prior to the beginning of a land clearing operation be given to all personnel involved. This time would be used to properly coordinate for and prepare equipment for use.
- b. At all times, helmets and flak jackets should be worn to reduce the possibility of wounds caused by either explosion or falling debris.

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