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1ST AMTRAC BN 3RD MARINE DIV COM



MAND CHRONOLOGY NOV 1966 BOX 1



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

3:ARG:tjs
5750
4 Dec 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A
(b) DivO 3480.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology; November 1966

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

J. J. KEEFE

1st AT Bn

Nov 1966

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Dec 1966

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1st Airborne Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Rein), CMV

Location: Paving, Republic of Vietnam

Period Covered by Report: 1 - 30 November 1966

Name/Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and Chief Subordinates:

- (1) LtCol R. B. HARRIS (1 Nov) - Commanding Officer
- Major W. B. MANNING (10 Nov) - Commanding Officer
- Major J. J. KULPIS (11 Nov) - Commanding Officer
- Major M. W. MANNING - Executive Officer
- SgtMaj D. W. HILFMAN (1 Nov) - Sergeant Major
- SgtMaj K. S. SAWYER (1 Nov) - Sergeant Major

(2) Executive Staff

- 1stLt M. L. FILL - S-1/Adjutant
- Capt G. J. FORBES - S-2
- Major J. J. BURKE JR. - S-3
- Capt G. R. VANHORN - S-4

(3) Special Staff

- Capt K. S. HENDRICKSON - Supply Officer
- 1stLt D. B. SHUBER - Com-React Officer
- 1stLt J. M. KELLY - Motor Transport Officer
- 2dLt W. C. DAVIS - Ordnance Maintenance Officer
- Lt(MC) S. L. BIVENS JR, USNR - Medical Officer

(4) Subordinate Commanders

- Capt. D. M. HUNSON - Company Commander Company A
- Capt. T. E. DEMPSEY - Company Commander Company B
- Capt. R. J. ESPOSITO - Company Commander Company C
- Capt. M. H. COLLIER - Company Commander IKS Company

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

a. Throughout the reporting period, subordinate units of this Command were assigned missions as follows:

- Company A - Direct Support of 1st Marines.
- Company B (-) - Direct Support of 4thBn, 503d Infantry, 173d Brigade USMC
- Company C (Rein), Direct Support, 7th Marines.

b. 1 - 27 November 1966. The Battalion Civil Affairs Officer and Medical Officer continued the MEDCAP program in the villages of YEN BAC

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and CEM WOA, treating a total of 139 Vietnamese civilians during the period. The civil affairs program was conducted in conjunction with 3d Antitank Battalion.

c. 1 - 27 November 1966. Throughout the reported period, active security patrolling and establishment of ambushes was executed within the Southern Sector Defense Area on alternate nights in conjunction with 3d Antitank Battalion under the coordination of 3d Tank Battalion.

d. 1 - 30 November 1966. During the month of November, there has been continued extensive use of the Ortos for mechanized patrolling, convoy escort, harassing and interdiction fires, and security for engineer mine sweep units. Despite monsoon conditions and reduced trafficability throughout the TADA, Ortos of this Command have not been prevented from executing their mission. See references (a) and (b).

e. 9 November 1966. The Battalion Commander, LtCol R. E. HARRIS, was killed in action by sniper fire at 1115 in the Hai Van pass area while visiting units of Company B (-). The Battalion Sergeant Major and the Battalion Commanders driver were wounded in the action.

f. 11 November 1966. Major J. J. KLEFF assumed command of the Battalion at 1530.

g. Company C (Rain), 1st Antitank Battalion has submitted its Command Chronology to 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, for period 1 - 30 November 1966.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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Appendix (1) List of References to 1st Antitank Battalion Command
Chronology (November 1966).

1. The following references apply to paragraph 2 (Commander's Narrative
Summary of Significant Events).

- Ref: (a) Company A, 1stATBn Command Chronology
(b) Company B, 1stATBn Command Chronology

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4 Dec 1966

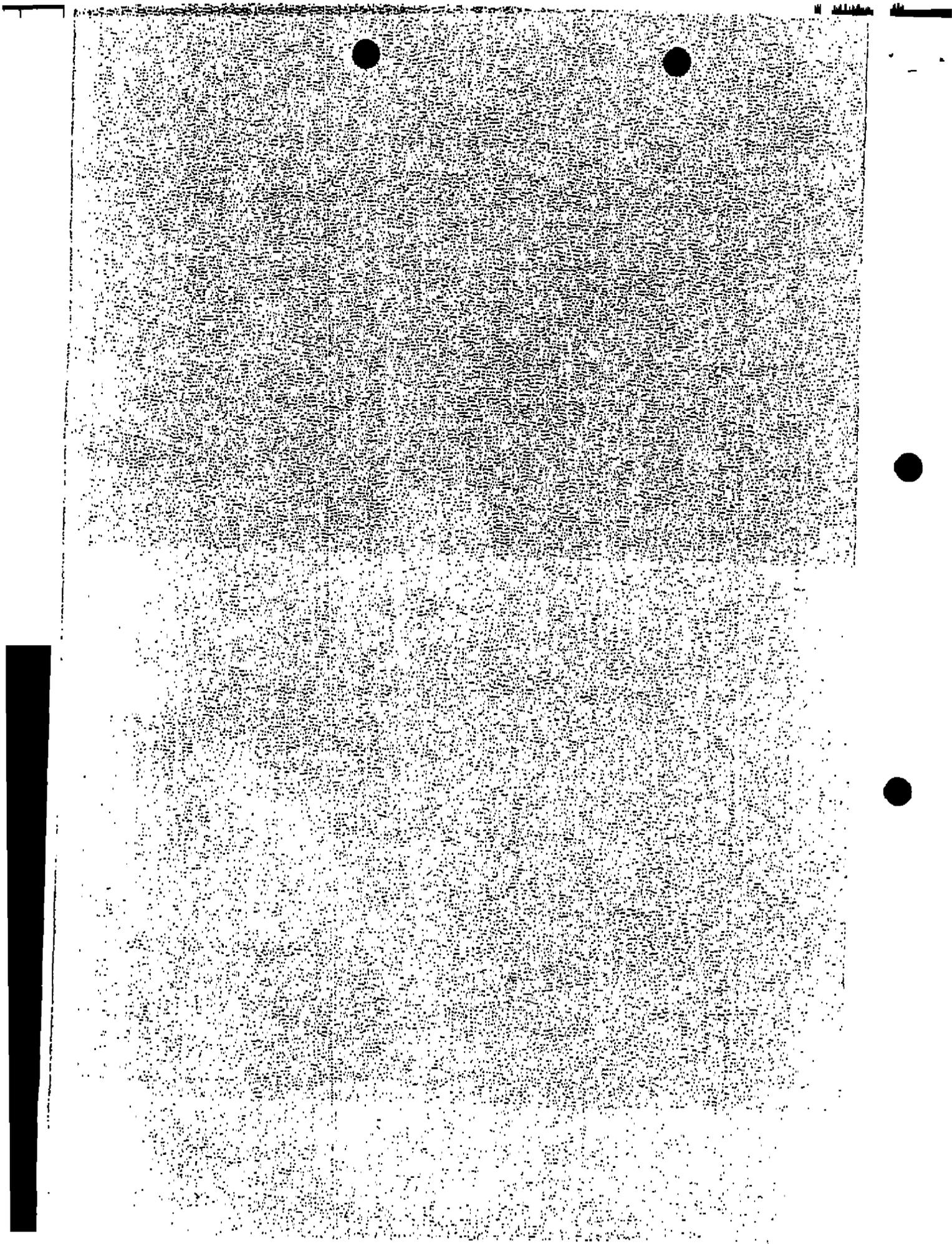
Appendix (1) List of References to 1st Antitank Battalion Command
Chronology (November 1966).

1. The following references apply to paragraph 2 (Commander's Narrative
Summary of Significant Events).

- Ref: (a) Company A, 1stATBn Command Chronology
(b) Company B, 1stATBn Command Chronology

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Appendix 2 (Documentation) to 1st Antitank Battalion Command Chronology
(November 1966)

1. Documentation for the 1st Antitank Battalion Command Chronology for the period 1 - 30 November 1966 is provided by the Tabs to this Appendix.

TAB

A - Company A Command Chronology

B - Company B Command Chronology

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

DMH:jb
5750
1 Dec 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion (ATTN: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) BnO 3480.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology; November 1966

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is submitted.


D. M. HUTSON

Co "A" 1st AT Bn

Nov 1966

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, November 1966

1. Organizational Data.

a. Mission. DS of 1st Marines

b. Location. Da Nang, RVN

- 1) Company "A" CP - AT 991675
- 2) 1st Platoon CP - AT 071658
- 3) 2nd Platoon CP - AT 004623
- 4) 3rd Platoon CP - AT 104583

c. Period Covered by Report. 1 November to 30 November 1966

d. Name / Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and Chief Subordinates.

Capt D. M. HUTSON	Commanding Officer
1stLt C. H. STALCUP	Executive Officer
1stSgt G. E. DICKSON	First Sergeant
CySgt W. K. WEITKNECHT	Gunnery Sergeant

Subordinate Commanders

2ndLt B. H. BAILEY	1st Platoon Commander
1stLt F. S. ROE	2nd Platoon Commander
SSgt J. S. PANDAVELA	3rd Platoon Commander

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events.

a. During the current reporting period, Company A, has had operational and administrative control of its three organic gun Platoons. During the entire reporting period, Company A has been in DS of 1st Marines.

b. Throughout the reporting period, the 1st Platoon has been in DS of 3/1, the 2nd Platoon has been in DS of 2/1, the 3rd Platoon in DS of 1/1.

c. Company, due to its CP being located with 1st Marines Regimental Command Post, has the mission of manning a portion of the Regimental Perimeter.

d. During the reporting period no elements of this command have participated in any major operations. Action has been confined to conveying, mechanized patrols, H&I fires, and support for engineer mine-sweep teams. These missions have been shared generally throughout the Platoons of the Company.

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e. A chronological listing of significant events:

1 November. The first Platoon fired 17-106mm rounds as H&I fires. See ref (a).

3 November. The 3rd Platoon conducted a recon patrol with S-3 of 1/1. See ref (b).

4 November. The 1st Platoon expended 21 major caliber rounds at suspected enemy positions (AT 067677). See ref (c).

8 November. 1st Platoon provided for minesweep security and fired 3 major caliber rounds at suspected enemy positions. 2nd Platoon conducted mechanized recon. See ref (d) & (e).

10 November. 1st Platoon fired 13-106mm rounds as H&I fires. See ref (f).

11 November. 2nd Platoon fired 2-106mm rounds at snipers firing on helos. Firing ceased. Later, 2nd Platoon fired 16-106mm rounds on sniper at AT 013653 with unknown results. SA ceased. Light section from 2nd Platoon made Op-Con to 3/1 for overnight protection fo bridge at AT 999705. See ref (g).

12 November. 1st Platoon provided security for minesweep team. 2nd Platoon, while on patrol fired 2-106mm rounds on sniper at AT 013653 with unknown results. SA ceased. Light section from 2nd Platoon made Op-Con to 3/1 for protection of bridge at AT 999705 overnight. See ref (g).

13 November. 1st Platoon conducted mechanized patrol. See ref (h).

14 November. Company "A" furnished one Ontos for combat patrol with "I" Co, 1st Marines to Antrach (1). Company "A", CO acted as assistant CO for patrol. Negative results. 1st Platoon furnished three Ontos as security for minesweep team. One Ontos from 1st Platoon located at AT 013568 received approx 10 rounds SA fire and returned 200 rounds of .30 Cal. SA ceased. See ref (i).

15 November. 3rd Platoon provided a light section of Ontos for security for supply convoy to CAC-2. AT 1800H the 2nd Platoon dispatched two Ontos, on request to the aid of a 6X6 truck caught in an ambush at AT 035638. Ontos arrived and received SA fire; returned 5 major caliber and 1900 rounds of .30 Cal. SA ceased. See ref (i) & (j).

16 November. 1st Platoon provided four Ontos as security for minesweep. 1st Platoon Ontos on patrol in support of Company F, 1st Marines returned 10-106mm rounds on SA fire at AT 016619. See ref (j).

17 November. 1st Platoon provided security for minesweep team. See ref (k).

18 November. 1st Platoon provided security for minesweep team. See ref (l).

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19 November. 1st Platoon provided a light section for relief of ambushed patrol at AT 067677. No action. 1st Platoon also furnished Ontos for 2 minesweeps during the day. A light section from 2nd Platoon was made Op-Con to 3/1 for protection of bridge at AT 700999. See ref (m).

20 November. 2nd Platoon Ontos received SA fire from AT 996630 and returned 6 major caliber rounds. SA ceased. At 1630H a 3rd Platoon Ontos received 35-40 rounds SA fire from AT 113624 while in blocking position in support of Company "C", 1st Marines. The Ontos returned 250 .30 Cal rounds. 2VC KIA's and 25 VCS were credited to Company "C". A 3rd Platoon Ontos engaged a sniper at AT 992632 after receiving 50 rounds auto-rifle fire. The Ontos returned two major caliber rounds and 20 rounds .30 Cal. No VC casualties found. See ref (n) & (o).

21 November. The 1st Platoon provided four Ontos for minesweep in support of Company "M", 1st Marines. While in minesweep two major caliber rounds were expended on a possible ambush site with negative results. The 1st Platoon also provided four Ontos for convoy protection for move of 3/1's CP to AT 072658. See ref (o) & (p).

22 November. 3rd Platoon conducted H&I fires expending 56-106mm rounds. Results: Destroyed large rice warehouse, 2 small buildings, and 2 VC KIA's (confirmed and credited to Company "A", 1stATBn) See ref (q).

24 November. 1st Platoon supported minesweep team. 3rd Platoon conducted H&I fires expending 11-106mm rounds. See ref (q).

28 November. 1st Platoon fired 12-106mm rounds at sniper with negative results. Firing ceased. 2nd Platoon conducted mechanized patrol. 3rd Platoon expended 3-106mm rounds at snipers vicinity AT 019571. See ref (r).

f. Detailed Description of Significant Events.

1. During the reporting period, the use of Ontos within the TAOR of 1st Marines has increased significantly.
2. During the reporting period, the requirement for short inner axles has increased. An effort is being made to correct driving practices, but due to the regularity of the breaking of axles the fault can not be laid to driving practices exclusively. The procurement of inner axles is material to the continued operation of the Company.

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Appendix I (List of References) To Company "A", 1st ATBn, Command Chronology,
November 1966

1. The following references are cited:

- | | | | |
|------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|
| Ref. | (a) | Company A, SITREP of | 1Nov66 |
| | (b) | | 3Nov66 |
| | (c) | | 4Nov66 |
| | (d) | | 8Nov66 |
| | (e) | | 9Nov66 |
| | (f) | | 11Nov66 |
| | (g) | | 12Nov66 |
| | (h) | | 13Nov66 |
| | (i) | | 14Nov66 |
| | (j) | | 16Nov66 |
| | (k) | | 17Nov66 |
| | (l) | | 18Nov66 |
| | (m) | | 19Nov66 |
| | (n) | | 20Nov66 |
| | (o) | | 21Nov66 |
| | (p) | | 22Nov66 |
| | (q) | | 25Nov66 |
| | (r) | | 29Nov66 |
| | (s) | CO, CoA, 1stATBn, msg of | 30 November 1966 |
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COMPANY B
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

RRT/drp
3000
2 December 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) BnO 3480.1
Encl: (1) Command Chronology; November 1966

1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

T. F. Dempsey
T. F. DEMPSEY

Co "B" 1st AT Bn

Nov 1966

RRT/drp
2 December 1966

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, NOVEMBER 1966

1. Organizational Data

- a. Location, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam
- b. Period Covered by Report, 1 - 30 November 1966
- c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and Chief Subordinates.

(1) Commanding Officer and Staff

Capt T. F. DEMPSEY	Commanding Officer
1stLt R. R. TIMBERG	Executive Officer
1stSgt J. M. REID	First Sergeant
GySgt V. K. WALKER	Gunnery Sergeant

(2) Subordinate Commanders

2ndLt A. F. TRAYNOR, Jr.	Second Platoon Commander
SSgt D. R. PRIDEMORE	Third Platoon Commander

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

a. As a result of the CHOP of the 1st Platoon to Company "C", 1st Antitank Battalion, during October, Company "B" was reduced to a Company Headquarters and two organic Antitank platoons.

b. During the entire month of November Company "B" remained in direct support of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Airborne in the northern portion of the 1st Marine Division TAOR. The Company Headquarters was co-located with the 4/503rd (Abn) Headquarters. At the commencement of the reporting period the 2nd Platoon was supporting Company A, 4/503rd (Abn) occupying two section positions commanding the Hai Van Pass and the northern mountain approaches into the Da Nang Combat Base. The 3rd Platoon was in support of Company "C" 4/503rd (Abn). One section occupied positions on the eastern finger of Hill 190 overlooking the Song Cau De. From these positions interdiction fires could be placed up and down the river as well as on the high ground to the north and west. The other section supported a platoon combat base in the western portion of the TAOR. One Ontos from the 3rd platoon reinforced a roadblock on the bridge which spans the Song Cau De at the point where it flows into the Bay of Da Nang.

ENCLOSURE (1)

RRT/drp
2 December 1966

On 2 November this Ontos was relieved of the above mission and joined the section located on Hill 190.

c. Based on the recommendations of the Commanding Officer of this Company the Commanding Officer 4/503rd (Abn) decided to displace a light section to his Company "B" Combat Base on Hill 22 at AT 905719. A significant obstacle to this plan appeared to be a stream reportedly unfordable to vehicular traffic. A bridge across the stream had been washed away in the early monsoon floods. Rather than delay the displacement until a new bridge could be constructed, on 2 November, the Company Commander lead a patrol to reconnoiter the stream and attempt to locate a ford for the Ontos. The patrol accomplished its mission in that a ford was located about 150 meters downstream from the old bridge.

d. Despite the existence of the ford the displacement of the section to the B/4/503rd (Abn) Command Post was delayed until 7 November. The displacement was accomplished utilizing a newly constructed pontoon bridge across the stream discussed above. The light section which moved in to support B/4/503rd (Abn) was a combined section, one Ontos from both the 2nd and 3rd Platoons under the operational control of the 3rd Platoon Commander. The disposition of the Antitank units for the remainder of the reporting period was as stated below.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
2nd Platoon CP	AT 944919
Lt.Sect,2nd Platoon	AT 944919
Lt.Sect,2nd Platoon	AT 931885
3rd Platoon CP	AT 897821
Lt.Sect,3rd Platoon	AT 897821
Lt.Sect,3rd Platoon	AT 892772
Lt.Sect,3rd Platoon (Combined Section)	AT 905719

e. On 3 November the 3rd Platoon supported C/4/503rd (Abn) on a company - size search and destroy operation in the west central portion of the Battalion sector. The 3rd Platoon set into blocking positions to the east and south while the infantry swept eastward through the village of Than Hoa Trung. No contact was made with enemy units during this operation.

f. On 4 November the Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion, Major R. E. HARRIS was killed as a result of a Viet Cong ambush. Major HARRIS, accompanied by the Company Commander, was visiting second platoon positions in the Hai Van Pass area. The ambush was sprung from the seaward side of the road halfway up the pass. The Battalion Sergeant Major and the Battalion Commander's driver were wounded in the action.

ENCLOSURE (1)

RRT/drp
2 December 1966

g. On 23 November a light section of the 3rd Platoon moved into supporting positions on Hill 190 to provide on - call fires for elements of C/4/503rd (Abn) which was sweeping the area north of the Song Cau De from Truong Dinh through Hoa Lac on an axis of advance generally east. No contact was made by the infantry and no rounds were expended by the antitank unit.

h. During the month of November the antitank units of this Company have been utilized for extensive harrassing and interdiction fires. A total of 989 major caliber rounds were expended during the reporting period, almost all for the nightly Hand I fires. In addition, the Ontos sections of the 3rd Platoon have frequently participated in both combat and reconnaissance patrols with their supported units or subordinate units thereof. Despite the heavy rains during this period the Ontos has proven itself capable of traversing any terrain necessary for the accomplishment of its mission. In only one instance has an Ontos found itself mired down in mud and it was retrieved within minutes by the other Ontos in its section.

i. As the reporting period ended the 4th Battalion, 503rd Airborne was preparing to return to its home base at Bien Hoa. It will be relieved by the 3rd Battalion 9th Marines. The Company Commander is preparing recommendations to present to the Commanding Officer, 3/9, for a redistribution of Ontos units. It is the opinion of this Command that the inherent mobility of the Ontos is not being gainfully employed since the 2nd Platoon, on the Hai Van Pass, is operating in a completed static position. The Commanding Officer's recommendations will include displacement of the 2nd Platoon into the lowland portion of the Battalion sector while replacing the Ontos in the mountains with either ground - mounted or mule - mounted 106mm recoilless rifles.

ENCLOSURE (1)