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HEADQUARTERS
1st Tank Battalion, FMF
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

2/JMR/lmf
5 March 1967
011-67
1 of 8

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

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 February 1967 to 28 February 1967

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

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

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

R M Taylor
R. M. TAYLOR

1ST TANK BN

FEB 1967

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. 1st Tank Battalion

Lt. Colonel J. W. CLAYBORNE
 Commanding Officer
 1-2 February 1967
 Lt. Colonel R. M. TAYLOR
 Commanding Officer
 2-28 February 1967

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion,
 Company "A", 1st Tank Battalion,

Captain J. C. WINTHER
 Captain C. E. BRABEC
 1-20 February 1967
 Captain J. H. COWMAN
 20-28 February 1967
 Captain L. E. CHERICO
 Captain P. S. WEIGAND

Company "B", 1st Tank Battalion,
 Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion,

2. LOCATION

Headquarters, 1st Tank Battalion, DaNang RVN AT 998722
 H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion, DaNang RVN AT 998722
 Company "A", 1st Tank Battalion, ChuLai RVN AT 515040
 Company "B", 1st Tank Battalion, DaNang RVN AT 945763
 Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion, DaNang RVN AT 074658

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Battalion Executive Officer

Major R. D. MCKEE
 1-22 February 1967
 WO-1 C. C. CARL
 Captain J. H. COWMAN
 1-17 February 1967
 2nd Lt. J. M. RAY
 17-28 February 1967
 Captain F. U. SALAS
 Major D. B. CRUDUP

Battalion Adjutant S-1, Legal Officer
 Battalion S-2/Civil Affairs Officer

Battalion S-3 Officer
 Battalion S-4 Officer

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
30	643	1	13

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY - S-3, 1st Tank Battalion, FMFFEBRUARY 1967PART IIOPERATIONS AND TRAININGI OPERATIONS

1. Operation Searcy. The 2nd and 3rd Platoon and Company Headquarters Tank Section of Company C participated in Operation Searcy during the period 1 - 9 February in support of elements of the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, in the 1st Marines sector of the Division TAOR.

2. Operation Stone. The 2nd and 3rd Platoon and the 3rd Section Flame Tanks of Company C participated in Operation Stone during the period 11 - 17 February in support of the 1st Marines in the southern portion of the Division TAOR in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines sector. During this period the Heavy Section of the 1st Platoon, Company B, assigned direct support of the 9th Marines, moved to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines area to provide tank support in that area.

3. Operation Pulaski. The 1st Platoon, Company B, participated in Operation Pulaski during the period 24 - 25 February in support of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, along the Song Vu Gia River in the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines sector of the Division TAOR.

4. Anti-Tank Activities. There were nine anti-tank mine incidents during February. Tanks of Company B detonated two mines in the 9th Marines sector. One additional Company B tank, assigned to the 1st Marines during Operation Stone, detonated a mine in the 1st Marine sector. Company C tanks detonated six mines in the 1st Marines sector. In most cases, the mine consisted of a very large explosive charge which caused moderate to extensive damage to the tank suspension system. In one case, a Company B tank detonated a mine which ruptured the right forward underside of the hull and caused internal damage to the vehicle and injuries to all crew members. The driver received the impact of the explosion and sustained a fractured hip.

5. Personnel Casualties. The Battalion sustained eleven WIA casualties during February. With the exception of one medevac resulting from a mine incident, all were treated at the local Battalion Aid Station and were returned to duty.

6. Viet Cong Box Score for February.

	<u>Co B</u>	<u>Co C</u>
VC KIA Confirmed	4	18
VC KIA Probable	2	27

7. Patrolling. Daily patrols and ambushes were scheduled around the

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Battalion Command Post. During February 1967, 23 ambush patrols and 17 reconnaissance patrols were dispatched from the Battalion Command Post.

II TRAINING

1. Battalion Training Program. The Battalion Training Program continued to emphasize tank training for all tank crewmen. Hill 41 Tank Gunnery Range was unavailable for firing, except for one day during the month of February, due to the presence of friendly troops in or adjacent to the firing range impact area.

2. Weapons Safety Training. The Battalion Weapons Safety Training Program was conducted weekly and continued to emphasize familiarization with and safety in handling all of the small arms used in this Battalion.

3. Troop Indoctrination and Orientation. Indoctrination and Orientation lectures were presented to 25 newly-joined personnel during February. Weapons Safety training and familiarization firing of all small arms weapons organic to the Battalion were included in this program. The nearby range facilities of the ARVN Hoa Cam Training Center were utilized for all weapons firing.

4. Officers and Staff Non Commissioned Officers Schools. Three periods of instruction were conducted for Officers and Staff Non Commissioned Officers of this Battalion.

5. Technical Training. MOS training was conducted by the various platoons and sections in H&S Company. The Motor Transport and Maintenance Platoons and the Communication and Headquarters Tank Sections actively conducted MOS training.

6. Unit Training. The gun companies conducted training in tank subjects and General Military subjects in addition to the weekly weapons safety training. The gun companies, which are not employed extensively in operations because of the restrictive characteristics of the terrain, conducted intensive MOS and General Military subjects training.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- A. Significant Operations Conducted
- B. Casualties Sustained
- C. Civic Action
- D. Administration
- E. Personnel
- F. Intelligence

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SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

At 032000H the 3rd Platoon, Company B, in position on Hill 41 (AT 934662) received approximately 100 rounds small arms fire from vicinity of AT 935659. Tanks illuminated area with tank-mounted searchlight and fired two rounds 90mm HE and three rounds 90mm WP. Physical search was not conducted due to darkness.

At 041830H a tank of the 3rd Platoon, Company C, in support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, enroute to night patrol base at Hoa An Bridge, detonated a mine at BT 119629 resulting in moderate damage to the left side of the tank. Five infantrymen aboard the tank were injured and were med-evac. Two tank crewmen received minor injuries (non-evac). Mine estimated to be eighty pounds and was believed to have been electrically detonated. Tank was retrieved to Company C C.P.

At 051120H a tank of the 3rd Platoon, Company B, moving east on the road at AT 942663 detonated a mine resulting in moderate damage to the right side of the tank. There were no crewmen injured. The explosion caused a crater five feet wide and four feet deep. Tank was retrieved to Hill 41.

At 121345H the 3rd Platoon, Company C supporting Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines at AT 975220, observed eight Viet Cong running singly across a bridge over the SONG BA BEN River in vicinity AT 984525. Tanks fired seven rounds 90mm HE and 100 rounds Caliber .50 MG. Three Viet Cong Probable.

At 121415H the 3rd Platoon, Company C, supporting Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines at AT 984520, observed fifteen Viet Cong running south from several small bunkers in vicinity at AT 998524. Tanks fired thirteen rounds 90mm HE and 350 rounds caliber .50 MG. Observed one Viet Cong hit by round and remainder fled into nearby brush. Search not conducted due to mission. One Viet Cong KIA Confirmed.

At 131835H a section of two tanks of the 3rd Platoon, Company C supporting Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, in position at AT 987517, observed several Viet Cong on a hillside in vicinity AT 984507. Tanks fired twelve rounds 90mm HE and 100 rounds caliber .50 MG. Five Viet Cong KIA Confirmed.

At 142330H a section of two tanks of the 3rd Platoon, Company C, was in support of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines at AT 972518. Tanks fired 150 rounds caliber .50 MG and one M-26 grenade. One tank crewman received superficial wounds and was treated by a corpsman and returned to duty. Infantry searched at first light with negative results.

At 151330H a section of tanks from 2nd Platoon, Company C, in support of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, at AT 975555 observed one Viet Cong in vicinity of AT 975558. Tanks fired one round of 90mm Cannon resulting in one Viet Cong KIA Confirmed.

At 151500H a section of tanks from the 2nd Platoon Company C, in support of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines at AT 975550, received fire from

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eight Viet Cong vicinity of AT 975552. Tanks fired thirteen rounds HE and three rounds Cannister. Infantry conducted a search of area and found one Viet Cong KIA Confirmed.

At 161300H, the 2nd Platoon, Company C, in support of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, in sweep of PHO THY village (AT 961551), fired at suspected Viet Cong positions in the village and densely wooded area nearby. Tanks fired 27 rounds 90mm HE, 675 rounds caliber .50 MG and 100 rounds .30 caliber MG. Search of the area found five Viet Cong KIA confirmed, and nine Viet Cong KIA Probable.

At 161725H, two tanks from the 3rd Platoon, Company C, in support of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines at AT 974511, fired twelve rounds of HE and two rounds WP at several Viet Cong near AT 988508, resulting in one Viet Cong KIA Confirmed and one Viet Cong KIA Probable.

At 170730H, a tank from Company C at BT 106619 detonated a mine resulting in extensive damage to the suspension system on the right side of the vehicle. Mine was estimated to contain 100 pounds explosive. There were no personnel injured. The tank was recovered to Company C C.P.

At 181040H, a flame tank detonated a mine at BT 099612, causing extensive damage to the left side suspension. No crewmen were injured. The mine was estimated to contain approximately 70 pounds of explosives and created a crater five feet wide and three feet deep. The tank was retrieved to the Company C C.P.

At 181230H a gun tank of the 3rd Platoon, Company B, detonated a mine at AT 956663 causing extensive damage to the right suspension system. Five tank crewmen were injured. One was med-evac to First Med Battalion and four were non-evac. The tank was retrieved to the Tank Platoon C.P. on Hill 41.

At 191230H, the 2nd Platoon, Company C, supporting 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in a sweep in position at BT 062625, observed three Viet Cong attempting to flee from sweeping force in vicinity of BT 058620. Tanks fired four rounds HE and observed two Viet Cong hit. Search was not conducted due to mission. Two Viet Cong KIA Probable

At 190900H a gun tank of the 1st Platoon, Company C, detonated a mine at BT 073631, causing moderate damage to the left suspension system. No one was injured. Tank was retrieved to Company C C.P. at Third Battalion, First Marines.

At 191245H the 2nd Platoon, Company C, supporting a 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines sweep in position at BT 076211, received automatic rifle fire from vicinity BT 068615 and observed approximately eight Viet Cong running in tree-line. Tanks fired seven rounds HE and 30 rounds caliber .50 MG. Tank crew observed three Viet Cong blown in the air and two Viet Cong hit by MG fire. Three Viet Cong KIA confirmed and two Viet Cong KIA Probable.

At 191615H a gun tank of the 2nd Platoon, Company C, detonated a mine at BT 063632 resulting in moderate damage to the right suspension system.

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No one was injured. The mine was estimated to contain 40 pounds of explosive and caused a crater three feet deep and four feet wide. The tank was retrieved to the Company C C.P. at the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines.

At 192000H a section of three tanks of the 2nd Platoon, Company C at BT 066632 received small arms fire and two rounds of recoilless rocket fire from vicinity of BT 067631. Tanks fired ten rounds Cannister with inconclusive results. No search conducted due to darkness.

At 261900H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company C, in support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines during Operation "Lafayette" in the vicinity of BT 132601, observed four Viet Cong boarding a boat to escape the cordon in the vicinity of BT 139605. The tank fired four rounds HE and observed the boat disintegrate, resulting in three Viet Cong KIA Confirmed and one Viet Cong KIA Probable.

At 271700H a gun tank of the 1st Platoon, Company C, supporting the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines during Operation "Lafayette", detonated a mine at BT 088607, resulting in moderate damage to the left suspension system. No one was injured. The mine was estimated to contain 110 pounds of explosive and caused a crater four feet deep and ten feet wide. The tank was retrieved to the Company C C.P.

At 281630H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company C, in support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines during Operation "Lafayette", detonated a mine at BT 085658, resulting in moderate damage to the left suspension system. Two Marines sustained slight bruises. Explosion was caused by approximately 20 pounds of black powder creating a crater four feet deep and four feet wide.

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CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

During the month of February this Battalion sustained 11 casualties, one of which required medical evacuation. All wounded Marines have been returned to duty status.

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On 17 February 1967, 2nd Lieutenant J. M. RAY relieved Captain J. H. COWMAN as Civic Action Officer.

On 3 February 1967, a Spring Day Festival was held at the HOA PHAT School in HOA AN. There were an estimated 650 people in attendance. They were entertained by the 1st Marine Division Band, a Karate demonstration and boxing matches.

On 22 February 1967, an Elders Day Festival was held at the "War Chief" memorial in HOA AN. The Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division, Major General NICKERSON was in attendance as was Colonel MALLORY of G-5 and Lt. Colonel TAYLOR of the 1st Tank Battalion. There were an estimated 150 elders in attendance and they were entertained by the III MAF band, a Culture and Drama Team and boxing matches. A highlight of the ceremony was the raising of the RVN flag, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

During the month of February, three requests for material have been forwarded through G-5. To date there have been no action taken on the construction materials for the dispensary. However G-5 assures this office that the materials will become available as soon as possible.

During the month of February, two loads of scrap lumber has been delivered to the village. One load was distributed by the village chief to needy villagers and the other load is being used to build forms for the foundation for the dispensary. Twelve bags of cement were procured by the C.A. Team for use in the village. Six bags are being used to rebuild a bridge and the other six bags will be utilized in starting construction of the dispensary.

On 24 February 1967, C.A. personnel attended a PYSOPS conference at III MAF. The topics under discussion dealt primarily with the development and distribution of propaganda leaflets and the organization and functions of the office of Civil Operations (OCO).

Advanced planning currently includes completion of the dispensary, relocation of the market place, fencing for the school and construction of playground equipment.

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Company A (Rein), 1st Tank Battalion, is within the Chu Lai Tactical area of responsibility. This Company has a strength of five Marine Officers, 134 Marine Enlisted, and two Navy Enlisted. The 1st Tank Battalion retains administrative control of Company A.

PERSONNEL

The 1st Tank Battalion is currently in personnel category C-1, with a chargeable strength of 34 Marine Officers, 694 Marine Enlisted, one Navy Officer, and 12 Navy Enlisted. This is compared to an authorized manning level of 36 Marine Officers, 597 Marine Enlisted, one Navy Officer and 14 Navy Enlisted.

During the Month of February the Battalion joined one Marine Officer and 18 Marine Enlisted. One Marine Officer and 10 Marine Enlisted were transferred.

The following MOS's are considered critical:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>ON BOARD</u>
3510	01	00
2867	01	00
0141	04	01

Four breaches of discipline occurred during the month of February resulting in two Special Court-Martials and two Summary Court-Martials.

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INTELLIGENCE

During the month of February a total of .31 inches of rainfall was recorded. This is compared with 10.62 inches which fell last month. This lack of precipitation has resulted in increased trafficability over both roads and terrain.

Within the DaNang TAOR there were 65 incidents of which 34 were Viet Cong initiated. Of them, nine incidents were mines. These mines either pressure or electrically detonated and resulted in moderate to extensive damage to the tanks. There were nine injuries of which eight were minor and one was med-evac. One significant event occurred when a section of tanks from Company C were fired upon with recoilless rifle fire. This incident along with the increased mine activity is indicative that the Viet Cong are stepping up their anti-tank activities in the DaNang TAOR.

A sequential listing of the anti-tank mines detonated during February is included in the section on significant operations.

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