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FIRST ARMORED AMPHIBIAN COMPANY  
11th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

PJS:krj  
5700  
4 April 1968

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 11th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1-31 March 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.2B  
(d) RegtO 5750.2D

Encl: ✓(1) First Armored Amphibian Company Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
P. J. SAXTON

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MAR 1968

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FIRST ARMORED AMPHIBIAN COMPANY  
11th Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 March 1968 to 31 March 1968

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~~SECRET~~PART IORGANIZATION DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st Armored Amphibian Company  
 11th Marine Regiment  
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF

COMMANDER

Major P. J. SAXTON  
 1-31 March 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. LOCATIONELEMENTLOCATIONDATES

Company HQ	DaNang, RVN	1-31 Mar 1968
1st Platoon	Cua Viet, RVN	1-31 Mar 1968
2nd Platoon (Rein)	DaNang, RVN	1-31 Mar 1968
3rd Platoon (-)	Hoi An, RVN	1-31 Mar 1968

3. STAFF OFFICERS(Billet)(Rank and Name)(Dates)

Executive Officer	Capt. J. M. BYRD	1-31 Mar 1968
Fire Direction Officer	Capt. R. S. MCLELLAN	1-31 Mar 1968
1st Plt Leader	1st Lt T. C. GOSCH	1 Mar 1968 (KIA)
1st Plt Leader	2nd Lt J. F. FOWLER	2-31 Mar 1968
2nd Plt Leader	1st Lt C. L. PHILLIPS	1-31 Mar 1968
3rd Plt Leader	1st Lt P. J. OBRIEN	1-31 Mar 1968
Idaision Officer	2nd Lt P. J. BOSTROM	1-31 Mar 1968
Idaision Officer	2nd Lt J. F. FOWLER	1 Mar 1968
Idaision Officer	2nd Lt J. E. PETERSON	29-31 Mar 1968
Supply Officer	1st Lt M. J. OCALLAGHAN	1-31 Mar 1968
Maintenance Officer	1st Lt L. A. CULBERTSON	1-31 Mar 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>	
OFF	ENL
9	260

<u>USN</u>	
OFF	ENL
0	4

<u>OTHER</u>	
OFF	ENL
0	0

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~~SECRET~~PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. From 1 March through 31 March 1968, the Company CP remained at grid (AT 995723) providing logistic and administrative support for all platoons.
2. From 1 March through 31 March 1968, the First Platoon remained at the mouth of the Cua Viet River, grid (YD 348698). On 1 March two tractors, 12 (USMC No. 105543) and 15 (USMC No. 105597) were committed to support of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines on Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE II. Tractor 12 was hit by RPGs. The Platoon Commander, 1st Lieutenant Thomas C. GOSCH, and two crewmen were killed. The tractor was a total combat loss (See Part III, paragraph 4). On 31 March, two sections displaced to C-4, approx grid (YD 3170710) to provide indirect fire support for the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and elements of the 3rd Marines. During this reporting period, OPCON of the 1st Platoon was passed from the 12th Marines to the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines. Priority of fires remained with the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion.
3. From 1 March through 31 March 1968, the Second Platoon (Rein w/1 LVTH6 from 3rd Plt) was located in the DaNang area; the 1st Section being located on Hill 47 OP, grid (AT 974703), the 3rd Section in the Company CP, and the 2nd Section at 3rd 8-inch Howitzer Battery, grid (AT 921799). On 4 March 1968, tractors 26 and 27 displaced to the 3rd 8-inch Howitzer Battery position to provide additional perimeter security. Tractors 23 and 24 displaced from the 3rd 8-inch position to the Company CP. On 17 March 1968, tractors 23 and 24 displaced to the vicinity of grid (AT 913668) for participation in Operation WORTH. These tractors returned to Company CP on 26 March 1968 (See Part III, paragraph 4). On 31 March 1968, two sections (tractors 22, 23, 24, and 25) displaced to Hill 55, grid (AT 965662) in preparation for an anticipated operation in the vicinity of Hill 52, grid (AT 789552). The assigned tactical missions of the sections on Hill 47 OP and at 3rd 8-inch Howitzer Battery remained unchanged. From 1 March to 31 March 1968, one tractor from this platoon displaced nightly from the Company CP to the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines position to provide direct fire support for the defense of the perimeter.
4. From 1 March through 31 March 1968, the Third Platoon (-) remained at the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade CP at Hoi An, grid (BT 110581) with the assigned tactical mission of direct support of the Brigade. The 3rd Section remained at Dien Ban in direct support of the 6th Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, 2nd ROK Marine Brigade.

## 5. TABLE OF INDIRECT AND DIRECT FIRE MISSIONS

<u>PLT</u>	<u>OBSERVED FIRE MISSIONS</u>	<u>UNOBSERVED FIRE MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOT</u>	<u>H&amp;I</u>
1st	148	35	91	438
2nd	347	28	1	1124
3rd	13	13	130	65

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PLT1st  
2nd  
3rdTOTAL RDS FIRED6289  
4991  
3028SUPPORTINGIII MAF  
III MAF  
2nd ROKMC BrigadePLT

1st

DIRECT FIRE MISSIONS

1

2nd

0

3rd

0

TOTAL ASSESSMENTS

12 KIA-Direct Fire, 1 KIA-In-direct fire, 8 Bunkers destroyed, 10 Structures destroyed and 19 Structures damaged. Negative Surveillance  
3 Bunkers destroyed, 1 Bunker damaged, 5 Buildings destroyed, 50 meters of trenchline destroyed, 1 Automatic weapons position silenced.

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSI. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. During the reporting period, the Company's personnel readiness rating was maintained. The Company remained short of SNOs and sergeants, MOS 1831. Two Platoon Commanders will be transferred in April. The Company Commander and Fire Direction Officer will leave in May.

b. Below are listed significant personnel occurrences during the month:

- (1) Joinings: 1 Officer, 10 Enlisted
- (2) Transfers: 0 Officers, 12 Enlisted
- (3) KIA: 1 Officer, 2 Enlisted
- (4) WIA: 0 Officers, 7 Enlisted
- (5) WIAE: 0 Officers, 3 Enlisted
- (6) Not present for duty (man days)

	OFF	ENL
TAD	0	34
Lv (Spl)	0	24
R&R	14	99
Annual Lv (HUMS)	0	11
Hosp (WIA)	0	100
Hosp(NBC)	0	23
Confined	0	31

- (7) Promotions: 4 Cpl, 7 LCpl
- (8) Awards: 4 Bronze Stars, 13 Purple Hearts, 1 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/gold star

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2. TRAINING. Due to the numerous operational commitments during the month, GMS training was at a minimum. Indoctrination of newly arrived personnel and familiarization firing of weapons was continued.

3. LOGISTICS. The Company is still awaiting the arrival of two of the four LVTEL suspension components to effect complete conversion of the current LVTP5A1 system. The direct fire sights, which were on "Red Ball", have been received. The receipt of these sights has increased the operational capability of the company. One LVTH6A1 was coded as a combat loss; as was one M54.

#### 4. OPERATIONS.

a. Operation PIONEER. The Company Command Chronology for January should be corrected to indicate that the 3rd Platoon operation in support of the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade was Operation PIONEER.

b. Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE. On 1 March 1968, one section, tractors 12 and 15, of the 1st Platoon was committed in support of the Third Battalion, 1st Marines for Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE in the vicinity of THON MAI XA THI, grid (YD 280668).

(1) 291630H Feb 1968 Departed 1st Platoon CP, grid (YD 348698) for rendezvous point 1, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines CP, vicinity grid (YD 308682).

(2) 291915H Feb 1968 Departed for LOD, Jones Creek, grid (YD 284670). Stayed the night northwest of the LOD.

(3) 010715H Mar 1968 Tractors crossed LOD and proceeded toward THON MAI XA THI.

(4) 010809H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 had progressed approximately 100 meters from LOD when RPG round deflected off starboard lifting ring and smashed into turret. Two WIANE - Crew Chief and driver.

(5) 010810H Mar 1968 Section Chief, on tractor 15, wounded by snipers while manning 50 caliber machine gun. Section Chief was evacuated.

(6) 010900H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 advanced approximately 100 meters and fired 8 rounds of 105mm HE into a suspected sniper position. Results - 2 confirmed KIA.

(7) 010915H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 became stuck on a pagoda foundation. Fired 16 105mm HE and 3 WP rounds at sniper positions. Results - sniper fire silenced. An LVTP5A1 pulled the tractor off the pagoda at 1045.

(8) 011100H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 fired 10 rounds 105mm HE and 2 WP at suspected sniper positions. Results - sniper fire silenced.

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(9) 011115H Mar 1968 Tractor 12 hit by three RPG rounds. One round passed through the gun shield into the turret, another hit aft of the driver's hatch, and the third hit the number two port roadwheel. The tractor caught fire and was abandoned by the crew. The Platoon Commander, 1st Lieutenant Thomas C. GOSCH, the radio operator and a crewmember were killed by sniper or automatic weapons fire. The remainder of the crew were WIA evacuated. Results - 3 KIA and 5 WIA.

(10) 011400H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 was called upon to extract a stuck tank.

(11) 011415H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 fired 10 rounds 105mm HE and 2 WP at suspected sniper positions. Results - 2 confirmed KIA and 3 suspected positions silenced.

(12) 011425H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 fired 5 rounds 105mm HE at confirmed sniper positions. Results - 5 confirmed KIA.

(13) 011435H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 was driven on top of a building containing an RPG team. Result - 2 confirmed KIA.

(14) 011500H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 was unable to extract a stuck tank. Fired 2 rounds 105mm HE at sniper position. Results - 1 confirmed KIA.

(15) 011600H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 continued in a northerly direction. Fired 14 rounds 105mm HE and 5 WP at buildings and bunkers. Results - buildings and bunkers destroyed.

(16) 012000H Mar 1968 Tractor 12 moved to tractor 15 position by LVTP5A1 crew from 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion.

(17) 012200H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 received light mortar incoming. Remained in position for the night.

(18) 021700H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 moved 600 meters to southeast of village and set up for the night.

(19) 030330H Mar 1968 Position received light incoming mortar fire.

(20) 030655H Mar 1968 Moved tractor back to pick up point on Qua Viet River.

(21) 030930H Mar 1968 LCM Picked up tractor and returned it to Qua Viet Ramp.

(22) 031035H Mar 1968 Tractor 15 arrived at 1st Platoon CP.

Enclosure (1)

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(23) Analysis

(a) Total Rounds Fired - HE - 65  
WP - 12

(b) Damage Assessment - 12 KIA (confirmed)  
Numerous buildings and bunkers destroyed.

(c) Friendly Casualties and Damage - 3 KIA  
8 WIA  
1 LVTH6A1 - Combat loss  
1 LVTH6A1 - Light damage

c. Operation WORTH. On 17 March 1968, one section of the 2nd Platoon were attached to Battery M, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines for Operation WORTH.

(1) 171715H Mar 1968 Tractors 23 and 24 departed Company CP.

(2) 171930H Mar 1968 Arrived at and positioned tractors, vicinity grid (AT 913668).

(3) 231630H Mar 1968 Fired 16 rounds HE and 4 rounds WP in direct fire practice.

(4) 261600H Mar 1968 Departed position for Company CP.

(5) 262100H Mar 1968 Arrived at Company CP.

(6) Analysis

(a) Total Rounds Fired - 16 HE  
4 WP

(b) Damage Assessment - NA

(c) Friendly Casualties and Damage - None

Enclosure (1)  
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Annex A (list of references) to 1st Armored Amphibian Company Command  
Chronology of 1 March to 31 March 1968.

<u>References</u>	<u>Attached</u>
a. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6641111 DANANG	Not Attached
b. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6442IV QUANG TRI	Not Attached
c. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6640I HOI AN	Not Attached