

DECLASSIFIED

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

PJS:krj
5700
4 May 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1-30 April 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. A. SAXTON

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APR 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 April 1968 to 30 April 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
 1-30 April 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. LOCATIONELEMENTLOCATIONDATES

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Company HQ | DaNang, RVN | 1-30 Apr 1968 |
| 1st Platoon | Cua Viet, RVN | 1-30 Apr 1968 |
| 2nd Platoon (Rein) | DaNang, RVN | 1-30 Apr 1968 |
| 3rd Platoon (-) | Hoi An, RVN | 1-30 Apr 1968 |

3. STAFF OFFICERS

| (Billet) | (Rank and Name) | (Dates) |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Executive Officer | Capt. J. M. BYRD | 1-30 Apr 1968 |
| Fire Direction Officer | Capt. R. S. MCLELLAN | 1-30 Apr 1968 |
| 1st Plt Leader | 2nd Lt J. F. FOWLER | 1-30 Apr 1968 |
| 2nd Plt Leader | 1st Lt C. L. PHILLIPS | 1-11 Apr 1968 |
| 2nd Plt Leader | 2nd Lt J. E. PETERSON | 12-30 Apr 1968 |
| 3rd Plt Leader | 1st Lt P. J. O'BRIEN | 1-15 Apr 1968 |
| 3rd Plt Leader | 2nd Lt P. J. BOSTROM | 16-30 Apr 1968 |
| Liaison Officer | 2nd Lt J. E. PETERSON | 1-11 Apr 1968 |
| Liaison Officer | 2nd Lt P. J. BOSTROM | 1-15 Apr 1968 |
| Supply Officer | 1st Lt M. J. O'CALLAGHAN | 1-30 Apr 1968 |
| Maintenance Officer | 1st Lt L. A. CULBERTSON | 1-30 Apr 1968 |

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

| <u>USMC</u> | |
|-------------|-----|
| OFF | ENL |
| 10 | 265 |

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

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

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. From 1 April through 30 April 1968, the Company CP remained at grid (AT 995723) providing logistic and administrative support for all platoons.

2. From 1 April through 30 April 1968, the 1st Platoon CP remained at the mouth of the Gua Viet River, grid (YD 348698). On 2 April, the two sections that displaced to C-4, grid (YD 312722), on 31 March, returned to the Platoon CP. (See Part III, paragraph 4). OPCON of the 1st Platoon remained with the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines. Priority of fires remained with the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion. On 19 April and 27 April 1968, one section from the 1st Platoon, in support of Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE, displaced to C-4. (See Part III, paragraph 4).

3. From 1 April through 30 April 1968, the 2nd Platoon (Rein) (w/1 INTH6 from 3rd Platoon) was located in the DaNang area. The platoon provided a section of INTH6Als for Hill 47 OP, grid (AT 974703). The assigned tactical mission of this section remained as general support, with a priority mission of direct fire into the rocket belt. The two sections (tractors 22, 23, 24 and 25) that displaced to Hill 55, grid (AT 965662), on 31 March 1968, in preparation for an anticipated operation in the vicinity of Hill 52, grid (AT 789552), returned on 6 April 1968; the operation being cancelled. One section was repositioned in the Company CP and one section was repositioned at the 3rd 8-inch Howitzer Battery position, grid (AT 921799). The assigned tactical mission of both sections remained as general support. From 1 April through 30 April 1968, one tractor from the 2nd Platoon (Rein) 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 April through 30 April 1968, the 3rd Platoon (-) remained at the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade CP near Hoi An, grid (BT 110581) with the assigned tactical mission of direct support of the Brigade. One 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&I</u> |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1st | 103 | 12 | 32 | 420 |
| 2nd | 301 | 78 | 3 | 1023 |
| 3rd | 11 | 0 | 35 | 106 |

| <u>PIT</u> | <u>TOTAL RDS FIRED</u> | <u>SUPPORTING</u> |
|------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1st | 4169 | III MAF |
| 2nd | 5109 | III MAF |
| 3rd | 1210 | 2nd ROKMC Brigade |

| <u>PIT</u> | <u>DIRECT FIRE MISSIONS</u> | <u>TOTAL ASSESSMENTS</u> |
|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1st | 0 | None |
| 2nd | 0 | None |
| 3rd | 0 | Indirect fire - 1 bunker destroyed, 4 huts destroyed, 8 huts damaged and 1 KIA |

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. During the reporting period, the Company's personnel readiness rating of C1 was maintained. On 30 April 1968, the Company was 110% of manning level. However, the shortage of SNCOs has become critical. The Company rates a total of 17 SNCOs by manning level and 28 by T/O. We presently have nine (9) SNCOs joined chargeable. One SSgt is in the hospital and is not expected to return. The First Sergeant rotates on 6 May, with no anticipated replacement. One SSgt rotates on 26 May 1968. One GySgt is presently on 30 days special leave. The Company rates 11 officers and presently has eight (8). The Commanding Officer and Fire Direction Officer rotate on 13 May, with no replacement assigned as yet for the FDO.

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

- (1) Joinings: 0 Officer, 27 Enlisted
- (2) Transfers: 2 Officers, 9 Enlisted
- (3) WIANE: 0 Officer, 1 Enlisted
- (4) Not present for duty (man days)

| | Off | Enl |
|------------------|-----|-----|
| TAD | 0 | 30 |
| Lv (Spl) | 0 | 30 |
| R&R | 16 | 169 |
| Annual Lv (HUMS) | 0 | 22 |
| Hosp (WIA) | 0 | 0 |
| Hosp (NBC) | 0 | 89 |
| Confined | 0 | 14 |

- (5) Promotions: 10 Sgt, 15 Cpl, 27 LCpl, 2 PFC
- (6) Awards: 1 Purple Heart

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 was continued. On 22 and 29 April, waterborne training was conducted in the Song Cau Do River, grid (AT 032735). The following is a list of subjects covered:

- (1) Pre-water operations instructions
- (2) Gyro operations instructions
- (3) Simulated direct fire instructions, waterborne
- (4) Water driving, landing, direct fire drill
- (5) Water driving and landing on off shore islands
- (6) Formation driving
- (7) Field expedients (stuck vehicles)
- (8) Post-water operations and checks

3. LOGISTICS. This Company is not only awaiting the arrival of two of the four LWTEL suspension components, due in December 1967, but is also experiencing numerous failures of the LWTEL roadwheel tires that have been received. The cause for these failures is unknown and may be the subject of a UER.

4. OPERATIONS

a. Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE. On 31 March 1968, two sections from the 1st Platoon displaced to C-4, grid (YD 312722) to provide direct and indirect fire support for units committed to Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE.

- (1) 311300H Mar 1968. Tractors 11, 12 and 17 departed Platoon CP for C-4.
- (2) 311410H Mar 1968. Tractors 11, 12 and 17 arrived at C-4 and are laid for indirect fire.
- (3) 311540H Mar 1968. Tractors 15 and 16 departed Platoon CP for C-4.
- (4) 311610H Mar 1968. Tractors 15 and 16 arrived at C-4 and are laid for indirect fire.
- (5) 311800H Mar 1968. Guns are registered.
- (6) 311930H Mar-021315H Apr 1968. Guns provided direct and indirect fires to committed units.
- (7) 021315H Apr 1968. Tractors 15 and 16 departed C-4 for Platoon CP.
- (8) 021500H Apr 1968. Tractors 15 and 16 arrived Platoon CP and emplaced.
- (9) 021530H Apr 1968. Tractors 11, 12, and 17 departed C-4 for Platoon CP.
- (10) 021700H Apr 1968. Tractors 11, 12 and 17 arrived Platoon CP and emplaced.

(11) Analysis(a) Total Ammunition Expended

HE - 472
 Illumination - 51
 WP - 20

(b) Observed Rounds - 344
 (c) Unobserved Rounds - 50
 (d) H&I - 148
 (e) Missions Fired
 observed - 17
 unobserved - 2
 TOT - 2
 H&I - 37
 TOTAL 58

(f) Assessment - None

b. Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE. On 19 April 1968, one section from the 1st Platoon displaced to C-4, grid (YD 312722) to provide indirect fire support for a sweep operation conducted by Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines in the vicinity of Ha Loi Tay, grid (YD 302732).

- (1) 191600H Apr 1968. 1st Section displaced to C-4.
- (2) 191800H Apr 1968. 1st Section laid at C-4.
- (3) 201430H Apr 1968. 1st Section released by Commanding Officer, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. Departed C-4 for Platoon CP.
- (4) 201600H Apr 1968. 1st Section arrived and emplaced at Platoon CP.
- (5) Analysis

(a) Total Rounds Fired - None

c. Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE. On 27 April 1968, tractors 13 and 15 displaced to C-4 to provide illumination for a night time encirclement of a suspected NVA position conducted by the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines.

- (1) 270800H Apr 1968. Tractors 13 and 15 departed Platoon CP for C-4.
- (2) 270930H Apr 1968. Tractors 13 and 15 arrived and emplaced at C-4.
- (3) 272000 - 280600H Apr 1968. Tractors fired H&I missions.
- (4) 281315H Apr 1968. Tractors released and returned to Platoon CP.

(5) Analysis

(a) Total Rounds Fired - 103 HE

(b) Total Damage Assessment - None

d. SSDC Provisional Company Reconnaissance - Search Operation. On 9 April 1968, the 1st Armored Amphibian Company Reaction Squad was committed to a SSDC Provisional Company reconnaissance-search operation as an element of the task organization. The assigned mission of the Provisional Company was to conduct offensive and reconnaissance operations in the western portion of the SSDC area in order to gather intelligence data and capture enemy personnel. The Provisional Company departed the SSDC CP at 0800 on 9 April 1968 and returned at 1145 on 12 April 1968. There was negative contact with the enemy.

PART IVSUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Annex A (list of references) to 1st Armored Amphibian Company Command
Chronology of 1 April to 30 April 1968.

| <u>References</u> | <u>Attached</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| a. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6641III 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 |