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

RRB:mls  
5700

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

**Subj:** Command Chronology for Period 1-31 May 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 references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*R. R. Berling*  
R. R. BERLING

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 May 1968 through 31 May 1968

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PART IORGANIZATION DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st Armored Amphibian Company  
 11th Marines  
 1st Marine Division

COMMANDER

Major P. J. SAXTON  
 1-11 May 1968  
 Major R. R. BERLING  
 12-31 May 1968

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None

2. LOCATION

<u>ELEMENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Company HQ	DaNang, RVN	1-31 May 1968
1st Platoon	Gua Viet, RVN	1-19 May 1968
	DaNang, RVN	20-31 May 1968
2nd Platoon	DaNang, RVN	1-2 May 1968
	Hoi An, RVN	3-31 May 1968
3rd Platoon	Hoi An, RVN	1-2 May 1968
	DaNang, RVN	3-18 May 1968
	Gua Viet, RVN	19-31 May 1968

3. STAFF OFFICERS

<u>(Billet)</u>	<u>(Rank and Name)</u>	<u>(Dates)</u>
Executive Officer	Capt. J. M. BYRD	1-31 May 1968
Fire Direction Officer	Capt. R. S. MCIEILAN	1-12 May 1968
	1stLt. N. A. LIEURANCE	13-31 May 1968
1stPlt Leader	1stLt. J. F. FOWLER	1-31 May 1968
2ndPlt Leader	2ndLt. J. E. PETERSON	1-31 May 1968
3rdPlt Leader	1stLt. P. J. BOSTROM	1-31 May 1968
Liaison Officer	2ndLt. J. R. GAZDAYKA	27-31 May 1968
Supply Officer	1stLt. M. J. OCALLAGHAN	1-31 May 1968
Maintenance Officer	1stLt. L. A. CULBERTSON	1-31 May 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
8	265

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

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

PART IINARRATIVE      SUMMARY

1. From 1 May through 31 May 1968, the Company CP remained at grid (AT995723) providing logistic and administrative support for all platoons.

2. During the reporting period the planned rotation of the 1st and 3rd Platoons was completed. On 2 May, Tractor 16 arrived at the Bridge Ramp, grid (AT 033762) from the Cua Viet. This vehicle was temporarily deadlined for tube replacement on arrival. On 9 May, Tractor 11 arrived at the Bridge Ramp and was positioned in the Company CP. On 13 May, Tractors 13 and 14 arrived at the Bridge Ramp and were positioned at the 3rd 8-inch Howitzer Battery position, grid (AT 921799) and Hill 47, grid (AT 974703), respectively. The rotation of the 1st Platoon was completed upon the arrival of Tractors 12 and 15 at the Bridge Ramp on 20 May 1968. From 1 May through 19 May 1968, elements of the 1st Platoon, at the Cua Viet, were OPCON to the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines; priority of fires remained with the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion. On 17 May, one section (Tractors 11 and 16) of LWTH6A1s from the 1st Platoon and one LWTP5A1 (CMD) displaced from the Company CP to the vicinity of Hill 65, grid (AT 878577) for Operation MAMELUKE THRUST (See Part III, paragraph 4). On 22 May, one section of LWTH6A1s (Tractors 12 and 13) displaced to grid (AT 902662) for OPERATION MAMELUKE THRUST (See Part III, paragraph 4).

3. On 1 May 1968, one LWTH6A1 section (Tractors 23 and 25) from the 2nd Platoon plus one LWTP5A1 (CMD) displaced from the Company CP to Hill 55, grid (AT 968616) for further movement to Hill 52 in support of an anticipated operation. On 2 May, Tractors 21, 22, and 24 departed the Company CP for Hoi An as part of the planned rotation of the 2nd and 3rd Platoons. With the cancellation of the anticipated operation, Tractors 23 and 25 displaced from Hill 55 and joined the remainder of the 2nd Platoon at Hoi An on 2 May. From 2 May through 31 May, the 2nd 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; with one section being located at Dien Ban in direct support of the 6th Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, 2nd ROK Marine Brigade.

4. On 2 May 1968, the 3rd Platoon displaced from Hoi An to the DaNang area as part of the planned rotation of platoons. The tractors of the 3rd Platoon were distributed between the Company CP, Hill 47, and 3rd 8-inch Howitzer position. On 4 May, Tractors 32 and 33, plus one LWTP5A1 (CMD) displaced to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines CP for an anticipated operation in the Go Noi Island area. With the cancellation of this operation, on 5 May, these tractors returned to the Company CP. On 5 May, Tractors 31 and 33 embarked at the Bridge Ramp for the Cua Viet position; followed by Tractors 32 and 35 on 11 May and Tractors 34 and 36 on 18 May 1968.

## 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	145	127	12	741
2nd	47	18	17	198
3rd	376	20	24	849

  

<u>PLT</u>	<u>TOTAL RNDZ FIRED</u>	<u>SUPPORTING</u>
1st	7862	III MAF (1st & 3rd MarDiv)
2nd	2195	2nd ROKMC Bde
3rd	6145	III MAF (1st & 3rd MarDiv)

  

<u>PLT</u>	<u>DIRECT FIRE MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSESSMENTS</u>
1st	10	Indirect fire: 100 KIAs,
2nd	0	9 Structures Damaged, 8
3rd	0	Structures Destroyed, 3
		Bunkers Destroyed, 1 Bunker
		Damaged, 1 Recoilless Rifle
		Destroyed

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. During the reporting period, the Company's personnel readiness rating of C1 was maintained. A new manning level was received during May. According to this new manning level the authorized strength has been decreased from 244 to 234 enlisted. This decrease in personnel could create a problem considering the Company's present operational commitments. This Company now rates a total of 15 SNCOs; but only has 8 chargeable. The critical area is the shortage of 1831 SNCOs and SGTs. The Company is presently short two Liaison Officers.

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

- (1) Joinings: 3 Officers, 24 Enlisted
- (2) Transfers: 2 Officers, 59 Enlisted
- (3) WIA(EVAC): 0 Officers, 116 Enlisted
- (4) WIANE; 0 Officers, 3 Enlisted
- (5) Not present for duty (man days)

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
TAD	0	44
LV(Spl)	0	59
R&R	0	116
Annual Lv(Hums)	0	0
HOSP (WIA)	0	17

HOSP (NBC)	0	32
CONFINED	0	8

- (6) Promotions: 2 1stLt, 13 Cpl, 6 Lcpl  
 (7) Awards: 2 Purple Hearts

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.

3. LOGISTICS. This Company is still awaiting the arrival of two of the four IWE1 Suspension components, due in December 1967. The numerous failures of the IWE1 roadwheel tires was the subject of a VER dated 28 May 1968. Due to these failures 86 roadwheel tires were placed on a priority O2 requisition on 29 April, and 100 tires were placed on priority O2 requisition on 17 May. The total of 186 roadwheel tires were placed on "Red Ball" on 4 June. Since this Company has depleted its assets of these tires, any additional failures can not be corrected and vehicles will be forced to run on unserviceable tires or without roadwheels. The Company is beginning to experience difficulties with the LWTH6A1 recoil mechanism. With the present FSR "In Country" assets of recoil replacement parts becoming depleted, future difficulties will lead to longer gun "down-time."

#### 4. OPERATIONS

a. Operation MAMELUKE THRUST. On 17 May 1968, Tractors 11, 16 and 02 displaced from the Company CP for Operation MAMELUKE THRUST. The mission of these tractors was to provide direct fire support for the fire base established by Kilo Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.

(1) 170900H May 1968. Tractors departed Company CP in route to Hill 65, grid (AT 878577).

(2) 1717500H May 1968. Tractors arrived at Hill 65 and set in to provide direct fire support of perimeter.

(3) 181400H May 1968. Tractors left Hill 65 for Hill 52, grid (ZC 213554). Met little resistance in route.

(4) 182000H May 1968. Tractors arrived at Hill 52. Set up on top of hill for night. Several mortar rounds landed in CP at approximately 2200. No casualties or damage to tractors.

(5) 191400H May 1968. Fired 19 rounds HE, 3 rounds HEPT, direct fire, at a mortar position. No damage assessment.

(6) 201330H May 1968. Fired 50 rounds HE and 1 round WP at suspected mortar position. Several mortar rounds landed in CP as soon as tractors started firing. Mortar position was silenced.

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- (7) 211100H May 1968. Fired 5 rounds HE with CP fuze, direct fire, at what appeared to be a rock bunker. Two direct hits good coverage of target.
- (8) 221430H May 1968. Took 3 rounds of incoming mortar fire. Two hit in water. One round hit ramp cable on Tractor 01, killing or wounding all FDC personnel inside tractor. Only minor damage to tractor. Returned direct fire at mortar position. Fired 26 rounds HE, 4 WP, and 50 caliber MG. Mortars silenced.
- (9) 221530H May 1968. Position received incoming mortar fire. Had two WIA(Evac). Returned fire. Fired 31 rounds HE, 1 round WP and 1 round Beehive. Mortars silenced.
- (10) 241130H May 1968. Fired 24 rounds HE at tree line and mountain side. Good target coverage.
- (11) 250715H May 1968. Received approximately 25 to 30 incoming mortar rounds. No casualties or damage to tractors.
- (12) 250745H May 1968. Fired 5 rounds HE at a bunker. Bunker was destroyed.
- (13) 252000H May 1968. Received 20 rounds of incoming mortar fire. Returned fire with 16 rounds HE and 3 rounds WP. No damage assessment.
- (14) 260550H May 1968. Fired 40 rounds HE as preparation fires.
- (15) 271130H May 1968. Tractor 16 moved out with convoy in route to Thuong Duc airstrip, grid (ZC 151541). Tractor 11 was left behind with half of CP group remaining.
- (16) 271330H May 1968. Tractor 16 arrived at new position and and started back to Hill 52 for Tractor 11.
- (17) 271600H May 1968. Tractor 16 towed 11 to new position on airstrip.
- (18) 28 May 1968. No incidents.
- (19) 290245H May 1968. Tractor 02 took two hits from RPG(B40 rockets). One hit amidship and one on starboard side of ramp. There were 4 WIAs from FDC personnel inside. Damage to tractor was minor.
- (20) 30 May 1968. No incidents.

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(21) 311515H May 1968. Received 25 to 30 rounds of incoming mortar fire. No casualties from Platoon personnel and no damage to tractors.

(22) Analysis (Period 17-31 May 1968)

(a) Total Rounds Fired-

216 HE

9 WP

3 HEPT

1 BEEHIVE

3 Mortars

positions silenced

1 Bunker Destroyed

Minor Damage to

Tractor 02.

(b) Total Damage Assessments

(c) Damage To Tractors

b. Operation MAMEIUKA THRUST. On 22 May 1968, Tractors 12 and 13 displaced from the Company CP to provide direct fire support for Hotel Battery, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines committed to support Operation MAMEIUKA THRUST.

(1) 221330H May 1968. Tractors displaced from Company CP enroute to grid (AT 902662).

(2) 221445H May 1968. Tractors arrived in position and set-in to provide direct fire for perimeter defense.

(3) 23 May 1968. No Incidents.

(4) 241800H May 1968. Fired 6 rounds HE in direct fire practice.

(5) 25 May 1968. No Incidents.

(6) 26 May 1968. No Incidents.

(7) 27 May 1968. No Incidents.

(8) 28 May 1968. No Incidents.

(9) 29 May 1968. No Incidents.

(10) 30 May 1968. No Incidents.

(11) 311100H May 1968. Fired 10 rounds HE and 4 rounds WP in registering tractors on possible direct fire targets.

(12) 311520H May 1968. Reregistered tractor 12 on direct fire H&I targets. Fired 3 rounds HE.

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(13) 311800H May 1968. Reregistered tractor 13 on direct fire H&I targets. Fired 3 rounds HE.

(14) 312100H-312400H May 1968. Tractors fired total of 8 rounds HE on direct fire H&I targets.

(15) Analysis (Period 22-31 May 1968)

(a) Total Rounds Fired - 30 HE

(b) Damage Assessment - NONE

(c) Friendly Damage and Casualties - NONE

#### PART IV

#### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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

#### References

#### Attached

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
d. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6640IV	Not Attached
e. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6540I THUONG DUC	Not Attached