

HEADQUARTERS
11th Motor Transport Battalion, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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9 March 1967

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

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

Ref: (a) MC0 5750.2
(b) FMFPac0 5750.8
(c) Div0 5750.2B

Encl: ✓(1) 11th Motor Transport Battalion Command Chronology

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

R. C. Tashjian
R. C. TASHJIAN

Copy to: CG, 1st MarDiv

11th MT BN

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 February 1967 to 28 February 1967

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

A. The period covered by this report extends from 1 February 1967 to 28 February 1967.

B. Location. On 28 February 1967, the 11th Motor Transport Battalion was operating in general support of the 1st Marine Division (Rein) from its compound at grid co-ordinates (AT 948762).

C. On 28 February 1967, the major components of the battalion command and staff structure were as follows:

Commanding Officer	:	Major R. C. TASHJIAN
Executive Officer/S-3	:	Captain K. M. WILSON
Sergeant Major	:	W. R. ORTH, Sr.
S-1/Adjutant	:	Second Lieutenant R. O. BLANCHETTE
S-3A Officer	:	First Lieutenant L. W. BAILEY
S-4/Supply Officer	:	First Lieutenant D. J. DEAN
H&S Company	:	First Lieutenant R. W. BLACK
A Company	:	Captain M. E. LOVELESS
B Company	:	Captain W. J. KISER
C Company	:	First Lieutenant J. D. PARRIS
Transport Company	:	Captain S. G. PRATT

D. Average Monthly Strength. (1 February 1967 to 28 February 1967)

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>NAVY</u>
<u>Off</u>	17	<u>Enl</u>	354
		<u>Off</u>	1
		<u>Enl</u>	6

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

a. During the month of February, a large number of tactical convoys were dispatched in support of infantry battalions within the 1st Marine Division TAOR. On 11 February, this battalion began transporting M-8 matting on tactical convoys, averaging ten (10) tractor trailers carrying 100 tons daily to the 2nd Battalion 5th Marines near An Hoa. After unloading this matting, these convoys hauled coal and assorted other items to Red Beach. By the end of February, this logistical support operation was nearing completion.

b. 11th Motor Transport Battalion construction of maintenance, supply, operational and living facilities which began on 16 January by MCB-9 were nearly completed by the end of February. It was expected that all new facilities, including the new messhall, would be completed by 15 March.

c. On 11 February, Major R. C. Tashjian assumed the duties as Battalion Commander. Major Lee V. Barkley, the former Battalion Commander, was transferred that date to 1st Marine Division Headquarters where he assumed his new duties as the Division Motor Transport Officer.

d. Enemy contact on our local security perimeter was light during the month of February. No penetrations were attempted, and in the three cases of contact, our defensive reaction was adequate to thwart enemy probes. During February, our convoys to An Hoa were ambushed twice by Viet Cong small arms fire. Each time suppressive fire by our drivers and accompanying security effectively countered the ambushes with no casualties to members of this battalion or serious damage to it's vehicles. On 26 February, one convoy took approximately 25 mortar rounds while parked overnight at 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines CP. There were slight injuries to members of our battalion, and two M-52 tractors sustained minor damage to their windshields and body by shrapnel. One of our M-54's detonated a large mine on the 18th of February resulting in extensive damage to the vehicle, but the driver sustained no serious injury. No member of the 11th Motor Transport Battalion sustained any serious injury during the month of February.

e. During the month of February this battalion launched its civic action program in our assigned village, the village of Hoa Loc.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- a. 2 February 1967: 14 truck convoy hauled food for 3rd Platoon, 29th Civic Action Company. U. S. Army to Dai Loc at AT 915579.
- b. 6 February 1967: Ten (10) trucks of "C" Company transported troops of 2/4 in an administrative convoy from AT 948762 to AT 915579.
- c. 9 February 1967: Eleven truck convoy hauled ammunition from ASP-1 to "A" Battery, 11th Marines at grid co-ordinates AT 987675.
- d. 11 February 1967: Major R. C. Tashjian relieved Major Lee V. Barkley as Battalion Commander. The latter assumed duties as Division Motor Transport Officer. This battalion commenced motor transport support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. Eleven trucks of "B" Company hauled ammunition from ASP-1 to "A" Battery 1/11 at grid co-ordinates AT 987675. At 2305H, Marines of "C" Company heard two shots and observed two muzzle flashes across a rice paddy to the North of their perimeter position. Inspecting posts at the time, the officer of the day confirmed observation of these muzzle flashes in a tree line near the village of Thon Khanh Son at grid co-ordinates AT 949768. He also confirmed the sound of two incoming rounds passing overhead. After observing the muzzle flashes, "C" Company security fired one flare and returned ten (10) rounds of small arms fire. A search of the target area at first light revealed no traces of enemy activity.
- e. 18 February 1967: At approximately 0830H, one (1) M-54 driven by LCpl R. L. Bennett was returning from a road mine sweep when his vehicle detonated a large mine underneath the right intermediate dual wheel. Composed of about 40 pounds of black powder, this pressure type mine detonated at grid co-ordinates BT 028640 doing extensive damage to the truck. The driver was not seriously injured.
- f. 19 February 1967: Three (3) convoys involving twenty trucks hauled gear and personnel to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and cargo to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines.
- g. 20 February 1967: One convoy of five (5) tractor trailers hauled M-8 matting to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines to be used in the construction of the new SATS to be located there. A second convoy of five (5) tractor trailers hauled coal and barrels from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines to Red Beach. At 2320H, a bunker in the Transport Company sector at grid co-ordinates AT 949765 spotted two men in a hedge row to the front of their bunker. Subject men appeared to be moving slowly towards the wire. Sentries in the bunker challenged and fired a flare. As the enemy suspects attempted to escape, the position fired 15 to 20 rounds with no observable results.

No further movement was observed. At first light the rice paddy and hedge row to the front of the bunker were searched, but no traces of enemy activity were found.

h. 21 February 1967: One convoy composed of five tractor trailers and one security M-54 hauled approximately 50 tons of M-8 matting to the 2/5 CP. A second convoy composed of five tractor trailers plus three vehicles from FLC and two vehicles from Alpha Company had to spend the night at the ferry because they were not able to cross. A third convoy composed of five M-54's from Alpha Company returned from 2/5 hauling empty barrels and faulty ammunition. At approximately 1615, convoy number one from Transport Company came under VC attack at AT 919520. The attack was repelled by security furnished by 2/5. There were no USMC casualties, but one child was injured in a mortar blast. Two VC casualties were reported.

i. 22 February 1967: One convoy composed of five tractor trailers hauled 50 tons of M-8 matting to ferry at AT 921523. Only two vehicles were able to cross and deliver 20 tons of matting to 2/5. A second convoy composed of five tractor trailers, two M-54's and one M38A1 spent the night in 2/5 CP and returned with 243 empty oil drums. Nine tractor trailers, one lowbed, five M-54's and one MRC-109 remained at 2/5 CP due to inability to cross the ferry.

j. 23 February 1967: Two tractor trailers and two M-54's returned from 2/5 with 109 empty barrels and one rock crusher. At 2/5, two tractor trailers and one M-109 radio jeep remained overnight due to inability to cross the river. During the day, these two trucks hauled 100 tons of M-8 matting dropped yesterday from the North side of the river. Six tractor trailers and three M-54's remained on the South side of the river due to inability to cross until morning. At 1350H, one truck on the ferry in mid-stream received suspected sniper fire from the Northeast. A heavy volume of small arms fire by Marines on the ferry effectively suppressed the enemy fire with no resulting casualties. At 1623H, two tractor trailers, an M-109, and ONTOS security were proceeding South from the ferry towards 2/5 when a mine was detonated to the rear of an ONTOS resulting in one member of the security force WIA. This man was treated by our Corpsman.

k. 24 February 1967: One convoy composed of eight tractor trailers, three M-54's and one M-109 hauled 567 barrels and 12 tons of 155 shell casings. Two M-54's loaded with Class II ammunition and one empty M-54, pulling a water trailer returned from 2/5. A second convoy consisting of five tractor trailers from Transport Company and two M-54's from FLC left 11th Motor Transport Battalion CP for 2/5 hauling 50 tons of M-8 matting and fuel.

l. 25 February 1967: A convoy composed of ten tractor trailers, one M-35 towing a 105mm gun, one 25 ton lowbed loaded with a fork lift, one M-37, one M38A1 and one M38A1 with radio mount hauled 100 tons of M-8 matting and fifteen pallets of sand bags to 2/5. A second convoy composed of five tractor trailers, two M-54's and one radio jeep hauled 30.5 tons of coal and 10 tons of Class II supplies from 2/5 to D

Shipping and Receiving at FLSG-4. The two M-54's were not loaded. At 2315H a convoy from Transport Company, while parked in the 2/5 CP took approximately 25 incoming mortar rounds. Two M-52's were struck in the windshield on the passenger side and one M-52 was struck in the right door, battery compartment and gas tank. All damage was minor and Lt. Campbell, the Convoy Commander, sustained a minor wound in the leg from mortar shrapnel.

m. 26 February 1967: One convoy composed of ten tractor trailers, five M-54's and one M-109 hauled 100 tons of M-8 matting, 280 cases of beer and soda, PX supplies and fuel to 2/5. A second convoy composed of ten tractor trailers and one lowbed returned to this CP from 2/5 hauling six tons of 105mm cannisters, 500 pounds of ammunition and one 6000 pound fork lift. From 2/5 the convoy hauled 15,000 pounds of ammunition and one M-274 to the ferry at AT 921532.

n. 27 February 1967: One convoy composed of ten tractor trailers, one M-109 hauled 100 tons of M-8 matting and four pallets of sand bags to 2/5. A second convoy composed of ten tractor trailers, five M-54's and one M38A1 radio jeep returned from 2/5 hauling one ton of defective ammunition.

o. 28 February 1967: One convoy composed of ten tractor trailers and one M-109 hauled 10 tons of M-8 matting to 2/5. A second convoy composed of ten tractor trailers and one M-109 radio jeep hauled six tons of cannisters to this CP from 2/5. It hauled 11 tons of C rations, four 55 gallon drums of diesel fuel and two 55 gallon drums of MOGAS to the ferry at AT 921532.