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10770 P942 of 12 October 1971.

P. B. Jellens 3/10/77
Signature/Date

192 A.T. EM
Command Chronology

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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Jul 65 - 1976
D-61

UNCLASSIFIED

5750
20 Dec 1965COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. 1st Antitank Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein)(Rear), FMF

- a. Location: Camp Pendleton, California.
- b. Period Covered by Report: 1 July 1965 - 31 December 1965.
- c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff & Chief Subordinates:

(1) During the reporting period the following officers commanded the 1st Antitank Battalion (-):

Major A. J. EAGAN	-	1 July - 30 August 1965
Major R. E. HARRIS	-	31 August - 27 September 1965
Lt.Col. W. MOORE	-	28 September - to present

(2) The following officers presently comprise the staff and chief subordinates:

Major R. E. HARRIS	-	Executive Officer
2ndLt. J. A. LANE	-	S-2
Major A. J. EAGAN	-	S-3
Major J. J. KEEFE	-	S-4
Capt. J. E. FELKER	-	Company Commander Company B
Capt. J. W. SCHROEDER	-	Company Commander H&S Company

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

a. At the beginning of Fiscal Year 66, Major A. J. EAGAN was in command of the 1st Antitank Battalion (-). Company C, under the command of 1st Lt. W. F. SNYDER, had deployed in late May to the Far East as part of RLIT-7.

b. In early July, 1st Platoon, Company B, commanded by 2nd Lt. F. S. ROE, deployed with BLT-1/5 to Kaneohe, there to form part of the new 1st Marine Brigade.

c. During the first half of August, Company A, commanded by 1st Lt. D. S. FEENEY, deployed to West Pac in increments with separate BLT's of RLIT-1, and with the East Pac MAB.

1

~~ENCLOSURE (1)~~

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1st A.T. Bn

Jul-Dec 1965

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5750
20 Dec 1965

d. On 17 August 1965, the 1st Antitank Battalion (-) moved from The Horno Area, where it had been stationed since activation in 1957, to the Del Mar Area of Camp Pendleton.

e. RLT-5 was activated on 27 August 1965, and Company B (-), 1st Antitank Battalion went under its operational Control. Administrative control remained with this Battalion.

f. Major R. E. HARRIS assumed command of the Battalion on 31 August 1965, Major EAGAN becoming the Battalion S-3 Officer.

g. Lt. Col. WALTER MOORE assumed command of the Battalion on 28 September 1965. Major HARRIS assumed duties as Battalion Executive Officer.

h. A Material Readiness Inspection of the 1st Marine Division (Rein)(Rear) was conducted by a team from FMFPAC during the week of 25-29 October. Grades assigned to this Battalion ranged from "Satisfactory" to "Satisfactory with Minor Discrepancies".

i. Company B (-) returned to operational control of the 1st Antitank Battalion (-) from RLT-5 on 6 December 1965.

3. Detailed Discription of Significant Events.

a. Tactical Employment of the Ontos in RVN.

(1) Information received from units of this Battalion deployed in RVN state that the Ontos is being used primarily to support the infantry by fire. This being the secondary mission of the Antitank Battalion, several new methods for the tactical employment of the Ontos have been conceived and put into practice in RVN. The versatility and mobility of the vehicle have been demonstrated by the successful completion of a variety of assigned missions. The letters in enclosure (2) discuss these new developments in detail.

b. Logistics.

(1) Information from both RVN and Okinawa state that certain problems regarding operating stocks for both the tracked and wheeled vehicles organic to this Battalion have been encountered. Letters in enclosure (2) also discuss these problems in detail.

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C-8-2

ENCLOSURE (1)

Supporting Documents

Tab A: 1st AT Bn 1500, "Information from the field", 18 Oct 65

Tab B: 1st AT Bn 1500, "Information from the field", 25 Oct 1965

Tab C: 1st AT Bn 1500, "Information From The Field", 18 Nov 1965

Tab D: 1st AT Bn 1500, "Lessons Learned in Viet Nam", 14 Dec 1965

ADDED [frm 3d AT Bn Chronologies]

Co "C", 1st AT Bn Operations Summary

24-30 Sep 65

1-7 Oct, 8-14 Oct; ; 22-28 Oct 65

29 Oct-4 Nov; 5-11 Nov; 12-18 Nov; 18-30 Nov 65

30 Nov-10 Dec; 10-20 Dec; 20-31 Dec 65

HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion (-)
1st Marine Division (Rein)(Rear), FMF
Camp Pendleton, California 92055

3:AJE:bey
1500
18 Oct 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: Information from the field

Encl: (1) Copy of CO, CoC, 1st ATBn ltr WFS/jvp over 1560 of 70Oct65

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded for distribution to each Marine and Corpsman in your unit.
2. It is desired that you incorporate into your training such items as are applicable.

Walter Moore
WALTER MOORE

DISTRIBUTION: "A" plus
(1) copy to each Individual

TAB (A)

~~ENCLOSURE 1-2~~

+

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COMPANY "C"
 1st Antitank Battalion
 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96601

WFS/jvp
 1560
 7Oct65

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion (-)

Subj: General Information

1. It was good to hear from the Battalion. I see many new faces have been added since our departure. To bring everyone up to date on our activities since 25 May 1965. We arrived on Okinawa 18 June 1965 and departed there from 9 August 1965, enroute to Chu Lai, Viet Nam. Since our arrival we have participated in operations "Starlight" and "Piranha". Because of the lack of antitank weapons by the Viet Cong the Ontos has taken a more offensive role. We have supported by fire, infantry attacks, on enemy implacements. We were credited with several kills. In the area of tactics, the Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant has greater control if he is a crew member. The wheel vehicles can not travel over the same terrain the Ontos can, so we bump the loader and insert either the Platoon Commander or Platoon Sergeant. Our movement with the Ontos is restricted but not to the degree tanks are. Our primary missions have been manning road blocks, the MLR, and accompanying convoys. A light section, during the past week, has been utilized on a patrol with a fire team riding. (No VC killed yet).

Maintenance, preventive type is continual. We have had two axles broken because of the rugged terrain and sand. We have been getting good support from the 3d Antitank Battalion. In the area of wheeled vehicles, brake shoes and C.V. joints are taking a beating. We check the brakes and wheel cylinders each week. The way things stand right now you have what you bring with you and that's all. Very little support is coming from the supply line. But we keep getting "it's on the way".

In the area of training the following areas should be stressed. Driver training over rugged terrain with the driver buttoned up. The Ontos Commander needs to stand up in his hatch in order to observe the location of the V.C., they use camouflage very effectively. The Ontos Commander also needs to wear a flak jacket. "B" Company, 3d Antitank Battalion had a man killed from small arms, which might have been prevented by wearing a flak jacket. Quick reaction with the .30 Cal. MG should be stressed. The vehicle has to move also because of the limited fan of fire between the 106's. Night security and the proper use of the counter-sign and password should be stressed. Many good Marines are being killed by their fellow Marines.

These points should be of some help. The enclosed information sheet has been given to Company A, 1st Antitank Battalion for guidance. Hope to see you over here soon.

/s/W. F. Snyder
 W. F. SNYDER

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion (-)
1st Marine Division (Rein)(Rear), FMF
Camp Pendleton, California 92055

3:AJE:bey
1500
25 Oct 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: Information From The Field

Encl: (1) Copy of CO, CoA, 1st ATBn ltr of 12Oct65

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded for distribution to each Marine and Corpsman in this Command.
2. It is desired that you incorporate into your training such items as are applicable.

Walter Moore
WALTER MOORE

DISTRIBUTION: "A" plus
(1) copy to each Individual

TAB (A)

~~ENCLOSURE (2)~~

UNCLASSIFIED

COMPANY A
 1st Antitank Battalion
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96601

12 October 1965

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion

Dear Sir:

Since my last letter a few things have happened which may be of interest both to you and your staff and to the Bravo Company Commander.

We have found that we have not had our hands tied by lack of funds. We are given so much for specified period. For example, we were given \$4,000.00 for the month of September and \$9,000.00 for the second quarter. These are not rigid figures, however. We asked for and received an extra \$2,00.00. We'll be asking for more later this quarter. We're buying as much as we feel is necessary. The Gunner is very concerned over the lack of operating stock. We are trying to beef it up through requisitions but don't know if we'll get them or not.

Lead time on requisitions may be up to 120 days when we go to Viet Nam and Captain REID, Tanks supply officer, is quite concerned over this. He's most anxious that we get all we can. The Captain is keeping our books on both supply and fiscal matters and all requisitions go through him.

The training areas are not too good. Because of the rough terrain we are pretty much restricted to the many dirt roads. We are, however, getting a chance to go to the field because we were able to work out a deal with 1stBn, 3dMar. Company A, Tanks has not been so fortunate. We were lucky, too, in that the training areas that we are using are accessible to the Ontos without the use of lowboys.

We have been able to obtain major rounds and are scheduled to have a shoot the 18th through the 20th. We were very worried initially about shooting. First, as I wrote previously, there was not ammunition available and later, when we submitted our range requests, we had them denied by Division. The infantry battalions get first priority on ranges and training areas. In the shuffle we managed to get a range that is better than the one we first requested.

Lt. Hugh CONNOLLY from Charlie Company was here last week from Chu Lai. Primarily, he came to complete an investigation involving one of his men. He also managed to get in a little R&R. Hugh gave us a lot of information regarding operations in his area and this was good since most of the other people we had talked with had been in the Da Nang area. The situations and the areas differ. Lt. Bob DONOHUE, former Company Commander of Company A, Third ATs, also briefed us before he left for Da Nang.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

So far we have not had too many discipline problems. In the main morale is good even though liberty is quite restricted - none being over night and only 50% ashore at one time. This holds true for Officers and Staff NCOs also. The biggest problem has been with the troops who drink too much and come in late. There have been only a few cases of this.

V.D. is another problem out here and currently we have two cases. We have counseled all of the men regarding this matter, but there is always 10% who don't get the word. What the future may hold is still a question, but perhaps the limited liberty will help keep it down.

If the newspapers are correct it would seem that Lt. NOONAN and the Second Platoon have seen some action. They were on Operation Spread Out and the Ontos' were used to shoot up some bunkers. As I understand it, BLT 2/1 is the raid battalion so they will probably make a few more hits before they actually go in on the line.

/S/D. S. Feeney
D. S. FEENEY

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion (-)
1st Marine Division (Rein)(Rear), FMF
Camp Pendleton, California 92055

3:RRT:bey
1500
18 Nov. 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: Information From The Field

Encl: (1) Excerpts from 1stLt. Hugh J. CONNOLLY, 1st Platoon Commander,
CoC, 1st ATBn ltr of 12Oct65
(2) Excerpts from CWO E. A. ANASZEWICZ, Maintenance Officer, 1st
ATBn ltr of 3Nov65

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded for distribution to each Marine and Corpsman in your unit.
2. It is desired that you incorporate into your training such items as are applicable.

Walter Moore

WALTER MOORE

DISTRIBUTION: "A" plus
(1) copy to each Individual

TAB (C)

ENCLOSURE (2)

3

Excerpts from a letter received from 1stLt. Hugh J. CONNELLY, 1st Platoon Commander, Company C, 1st Antitank Battalion, attached RLT-7

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At this time, my Ontos platoon has a variety of missions covering all types of offensive and defensive combat. I have a light section attached to a rifle company. This section holds a 150 meter line on the MLR during both day and night.

We are also part of a reaction force used to assist patrols forward of the MLR when they become pinned down by fire. We have been employed in this role several times.

Yesterday, we leveled an island with 100 major calibre rounds because infantry patrols were receiving sniper fire during the day. This island was about 800 meters off the coast.

Many times small junks come too close to shore and immediately the heavy section is called for to guard the beach line and prevent an attack by the "junk fleet". To date, we have not fired any major calibre at these junks but we have spent several hours "tracking" with our fire control system.

The present mission that the Ontos is being assigned is a one vehicle patrol with an infantry fire team--behind the lines. We have picked up over twenty infiltrators and Viet Cong suspects in the past two weeks. Being highly mobile, small, and able to traverse all rice paddies, the Ontos excels in this role. Tanks and Amtracs are too large for the job. The patrol runs twice daily, at varying times. We are able to cover the entire rear area with one Ontos in about 1½ hours where an infantry patrol would take all day. This is essentially the only way to stop snipers in the rear.

We have also acted as security for both armored and wheeled vehicle convoys, often under heavy small arms fire.

In the defense of the MLR, a light section was credited with 1 kill when they were probed by V.C.. This was accomplished by the .30 caliber (150 rounds). We are probed constantly but seldom is a body found to confirm a kill. I believe we have made many more kills but have no confirmation.

We have participated in several major operations during the past three months, notably "Starlight" and "Piranha". Our missions in these operations have varied with the terrain and enemy situation, but we operate continuously.

On "Starlight" we landed and were immediately formed into an armored column consisting of Ontos, Mites, a few PC's and a dozen Mules. We proceeded to the CP under light fire. The following day a heavy section of Ontos fired 30 major caliber rounds at enemy fortified positions, mortar emplacements and V.C. withdrawal routes. This was prep fire for an infantry company taking a hill.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

After The objective was seized, we shifted our fire to a new objective and fired H & I fires with major caliber. This is a primary mission--support of the infantry by fire.

This mission was accomplished under fire but the direction of my Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Z. KEHLER, and coordination with infantry security made it possible to eliminate the small arms fire. Several mortar rounds were fired into our position during that night.

On "Operation Piranha" we landed in the fourth wave in support of one rifle company. During the entire operation, we were in general support of the battalion, primarily responsible for CP defense.

It is difficult to say what I anticipate for future employment. I have to prepare for anything ranging from an assault wave landing to an armored column. I do anticipate sending a section to a company size patrol base. They will probably assist in the destruction of caves and fortified positions. They will also be used as the lead element of a reaction force used to assist patrols under fire.

Our indirect fire capability has not been used to date but I am continuously working on fire procedures with the M13 elevation quadrant and the mil scale on the turret race. My men have become extremely competent at range cards and artillery type area fire in this manner.

The following is a list of training recommendations based on my experience.

1. Drive over all types of terrain, day and night, in rain and wind. The Driver is probably the most important crewman 95% of the time.
2. Fire all weapons as much as possible. I fire once a week at least 75 major cal. rounds. Fire in sections. I can't over emphasize the importance of the Section Leaders--they must be the best. Fire all small arms as much as possible and make sure all men know the weapons inside out.
3. Train with the infantry, if possible in sections.
4. Use your indirect fire capability and range cards.
5. Be able to react to any situation under fire. Any quick reaction drill would be beneficial.

A good deal of the time over here you do nothing but sit. But you never know. One night I was in the rack at 2330 and a little after midnight we were aboard an LST. In the morning we were in a fire fight. You just never know. Things happen without warning and you're off.

ENCLOSURE (1)

2

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CWO ANASZEWICZ was a member of an Ordnance Inspection Team which recently completed an inspection of tracked vehicle units in South Vietnam.

The Ontos is not being used as an antitank weapon at present since there are no such animals (tanks) in the hands of the V.C.. The Ontos is used to support the infantry (like tanks) on sweeps to clear the area of V.C.. It is also used in roadblocks as well as in support at night when troops are dug in on a forward hill on the edge of a TAOR. You'll find that they do fire the 106's now and then but the machine guns are generally used more. If a cannister round were available, it would aid greatly since most of the shooting is anti-personnel.

The Ontos wasn't originally designed for front line operations like a tank, but that's what they use it for. They are usually scattered about the area by platoons and sections. You'll even see them by themselves or with a tank.

One thing for sure, Ontos that have had the misfortune of running over a landmine are normally zapped out for good and stripped of usable parts. I inspected one Ontos on a forward position one afternoon. That night the hill got hit by the V.C.. The Ontos got it the first round (57mm). It cracked and punched a hole right through the driver's side. A couple of more glancing hits in the rear (same side) caused two small holes and blasted the three 106's on that side. Luckily, the driver wasn't inside at the time.

With regard to training, I'd still continue the usual training in gunnery. Also, more training at night with illumination flares because that goes on quite a bit here. I'd set in a platoon or section, then have another group try to sneak in and pounce upon them in the dark.

The V.C. seem to get all set up during the daytime lining up targets (if the vehicles always stay in the same spot). When night comes, if no one has changed position, all they have to do is use their daytime reference and pull the trigger. They're really good at it--they'll spend hours on their bellies to crawl to the right spot.

When they set up positions here, everyone digs holes and puts up bunkers also. There have been cases where a crew or part of a crew could not get to their vehicle and the only thing that saved them was a hasty bunker or parapet.

Here's another big thing. You may have to be on the alert all night and when the heat's off come daybreak one tends to slack off. The men tend to put off improving bunkers and P.M. on the vehicles. This slacking off allows a lot of rust to accumulate on the armament. I get the impression that a lot of strong backs are used to build tents, PX's, showers, etc., but sometimes this same amount of zeal and resourcefulness is not put forth on improving the maintenance and crew working area.

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If you're on the beach at Chu Lai or Da Nang, it's rough. You're in deep sand, salt spray, etc.. If it's dry, blowing sand complicates the maintenance problem. It's bad enough in the states, but over here you have to stay on top of the troops to keep tools in shape and to make sure they don't get lost. Some areas of Da Nang have hard stand (good ground) so long as it's dry. Come the rain--ouch!!

You're in rough country around Chu Lai,--rocks, streams, etc.. Practically have to keep the Deep Water Fording kits on at all times, and these items take a beating.

In many areas tracked vehicles are restricted to roads and trails. Consequently, mines are always a threat. One can use the same trail or road for days on end and then--zap!! I've traveled one road here several times and one night a jeep and a truck got it over the same route I had been travelling. You almost have to travel in the same tracks you've followed before. Mines have proven very valuable to both sides.

Ontos appear to be able to traverse a lot of ground a tank would bog down in. Lots of deep sand and rice paddies here. When some of the so-called roads get slopped up, you're in trouble--especially the wheeled vehicles.

The employment of the Ontos depends on the area tactical commander and the advice he receives.

We'll be leaving here in a few days for Okinawa and perhaps a nice chance to get a good night's sleep. Being a transient is for the birds. Ran into Lt. WAGGONER from our Company C. He's out of the hospital and looks good.

One thing more--get all the gunnery training you can back there. The ranges in Okinawa are hard to come by and leave something to be desired.

Hope I gave you some info to go on and not too much garbage with it.

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion (-)
1st Marine Division (Rein) (Rear), FMF
Camp Pendleton, California 92055

1/REM/rab
1500
14 Dec 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: Lessons Learned in Viet Nam

Encl: (1) CO, Co "A", 1stATBn ltr of 7Dec65
(b) CO, Co "C", 1stATBn ltr 3300 of 30Nov65

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded for distribution to each Marine and Corpsman in your unit.
2. It is desired that you incorporate into your training such items as are applicable.

Walter Moore

WALTER MOORE

DISTRIBUTION: "A"
Plus: (1) copy to each Individual

TAB 01

ENCLOSURE 1-21

COMPANY A
 1st Antitank Battalion
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96601

7 December 1965

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion

Dear Sir:

Our current status is somewhat difficult to pinpoint at this time. It would appear that, for the present at least, the company will be employed as a retraining command. Platoons will come up from RVN. Those rotating to CONUS will go and the remainder of the platoon along with the replacements will be reformed into an effective unit. From what has been indicated the retraining cycle is to be approximately thirty days.

Several problems have arisen in dealing with the retraining of these platoons with the area of logistics support. The first is the perennial one of repair parts, they haven't become available even on priority two requisitions. Should one of the vehicles have to be replaced there are no Ontos available other than the mount-out vehicle. Of course we are in the same situation with wheeled vehicles. Finally there is a matter of personnel replacement. Supposedly this must be done from our own assets, which of course are non-existent.

The first platoon has left us and is now part of A Company Third AT's. They took the place of A Company's second platoon. The platoon from Third AT's has come back to us for the retraining cycle that I have previously described. We sent the first platoon out with as much gear as we could. We based our predictions of what they would need from our own experience and that of some of the officers and men who have come through on R&R and for rotation.

The second platoon is still afloat with BLT 2/1 and from what we have been able to learn second-hand they are doing a fine job. So far they have made two "dagger thrust" raids with the BLT. From the last word that we had the SLF was in Subic Bay. The BLT should soon be returning here. How long the duration of the stay will be is yet another question.

Right now we are concentrating on getting the third platoon ready to go on the SLF with BLT 3/1. This is made difficult by the fact that we need a starter assembly, an alternator, and a track section to have all five vehicles running. All of these parts have been on order for some time, but have not yet arrived. Trying to give the platoon an operating stock is also difficult for the same reason.

We have had to do some juggling of personnel because of the new rule on 17 year olds and because of injuries and profiles to some Marines. This is a minor factor at the present, but should the current trend continue the company could be put into a bad situation unless the division sends us some more.

All of the gear that the platoon brought back from RVN is in surprisingly good condition. It reflects the time and effort that has been spent by the crews in up keep. The men are proud of this and have every right to be so. The only piece of gear that could be considered to be in poor condition is the Mighty Mite and this really isn't in too bad shape.

Last week the battalion was inspected by the team from FMF Pac. The battalion came out of it well. There was one unsatisfactory and that was mount-out. I think that the reason for this was that the battalion had excesses of many items. It may have been too, that the inspector was displeased by the fact that we have one platoon block that is on order.

Our motor transport was deemed to be unsatisfactory. I think that this was basically because the records were not in good order. The records were known to be in bad shape, but some of the errors went back as much as two years. These we were loathe to change for the inspection because it was felt that it would have no lasting value.

In the area of Comm-Elec it was noted that our company had more gear in the repair shop than did the rest of the battalion. We were familiar with this problem, but again because of the parts situation nothing can be done. This section is giving us outstanding support so we have nothing to worry about here. We have been assured that any requirement it would be filled.

We were satisfactory with discrepancies in all other areas of the inspection. Oddly enough with all of the LTI's and records checks no one looked at the Ontos. Colonel Nelson made a pass through the maintenance area, but he and his party were the only ones that looked. This was somewhat of a disappointment to say the least.

We are probably one of the most inspected units on the island. It would seem that we have some kind of inspection every week. There have been at least seven LTI's of varying degrees of thoroughness.

Some problems have arisen regarding training. These basically hinge on the fact that we feel that as much driving as possible should be done in order to have them ready. On the other hand Battalion feels that material readiness is preferable to crew readiness. Undoubtedly there is a happy medium that can be reached some where along the line, but we've not found it yet. This problem is further spurred on by the fact that the S-4 is constantly getting blasts from Division about our deadline being excessive. On the other hand we are constantly being told to drive and get as much field work as possible. The only solution to both problems is that we get the necessary parts to get the vehicle off deadline and get some major items such as alternators and starters for op. stock. Should this happy situation occur then most of our problems in this area would be solved.

Another basic training problem is that we must be lowbayed to our ranges and some of the training areas. The Ontos are not allowed on the hard surfaced roads by Division. In the past Third AT's drove all over on the black top with no questions asked. The Army, who controls the roads merely request Ontos get convoy numbers, clear it with them and don't drive on the roads at mid day during hot weather.

This has been repeatedly explained to several staff officers, but to no avail, and yet some even refuse to inquire on the basis of our recommendations. This is a real exception to the general rule, however, in the main we have been getting excellent support from everyone.

What ever the support we get from other units still does not make it feel like it comes from the family. We still feel very much like orphans in our present situation. We hope that the battalion will soon be coming, and that we might have some forwarning so we might make the proper prior arrangements. Failing this we were wondering if you, Sir, could come out on an inspection trip along with your S-4 and any other appropriate staff officers. I think that this type of trip could go farther to show you what we are doing than any letter that Lt. SNYDER or I might write.

Yours truly,

D. S. FEENEY

COMPANY "G"
 1st Antitank Battalion (-)
 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco 96601

WFS/fnm
 3300
 30Nov1965

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 3d Antitank Battalion (Rein), 3d Marine
 Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Lessons Learned in Viet Nam

1. Since coming to Chu Lai, Viet Nam the officers and men of "C" Company, 1st Antitank Battalion (-), through their experiences, have learned the following lessons:

a. A company operating in an area separated from the ATBn needs the following items over and above the allowance list:

- (1) 1 Maintenance Test
- (2) 13 GP Tents
- (3) 1 Tool Kit, common, tracked vehicle Set "B"

b. In its role in Viet Nam the Ontos is taking on a more offensive role. It can be used to support the infantry by fire with the 30 Cal. MG or the 106's.

c. In its role as convoy escorts the reaction time with the 30 Cal. MG is limited due to it being located between the 106mm gun banks. If the MG mount could be raised and made on a secondary turret with 360 degree traverse, the reaction time in the event of an ambush or sniper fire would be greatly reduced.

d. Preventive Maintenance is a continual thing. Particular attention is necessary in the following areas: the carburetor and transmission linkage needs to be oiled twice a week. Sprocket bolts checked for torque each week, track adjusting bolts oiled and turned each week. Don't remove fenders or mud guards. Cover OC's hatch during rains to keep firing panel dry. Seal 106 firing solenoid with rubber cement or sealer. These practices are all necessary when operating in sandy terrain and during rainy weather.

W. F. SNYDER

Copy to:
 CO, 1stATBn (-)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMPANY #80
1st Antitank Battalion
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96601

WFS/jvp
10Oct65

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 3d Antitank Battalion (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Weekly Operations Summary; report of
Ref: (a) BuO 3100.2

1. In accordance with reference (a), the attached report is submitted for the week 0001 H 24Sept65 - 2400 H 30Sept65.

W.F. Snyder
W. F. SNYDER

Q "C", 1st AT Bn

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24 - 30 Sep 65

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WEEKLY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

Company "C", 1st Antitank Bn, 3dMarDiv

1stLt W. F. SNYDER Commanding

		No Off	No Hal	No Navy	GridCoor
CoHqqs	1stLt W. F. SNYDER	1	26	2	560048
1stPlt	1stLt H. J. CONNOLLY	1	19	0	560048
2ndPlt	2ndLt H. T. SCHEMIT	1	19	0	018195
3dPlt	2ndLt N. M. WOOD	1	19	0	560048

1. Operations.

a. The operations remain the same with one exception. A light section from the 1st Platoon is now conducting two daylight mechanized patrols behind the MLR. Riding on the Ontos is a fire team from A-1/7. Their mission is to check all persons within zone, apprehend unauthorized personnel, and bring them to the Battalion Collection Point. Attached is the patrol zone overlay.

2. Training.

a. A firing range for the ontos is being made on 3/7's MLR.

W. F. Snyder
W. F. SNYDER

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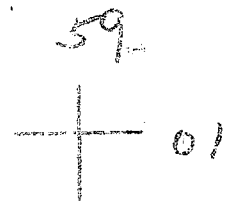
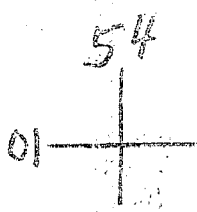
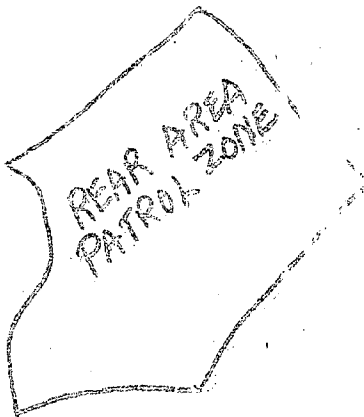
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1st Bn, 7th Mar
CMB IAI, RVN
29100H Sep 65

ANNEX A - (Patrol Zone Overlay) to Frag Cr # 5-65

Ref: (a) BnO 3121.1

Time Zone: H



W. H. JOSEMAN
 W. H. JOSEMAN
 Major, U.S. Marine Corps
 Executive Officer

DISTRIBUTION: Ref (a)

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