

HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RRT:tjs
5750
5 Jul 1966

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

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2
(b) DivO 3480.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology; June 1966

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

Robert E. Harris
ROBERT E. HARRIS

1st AT BN

Declassified by the Director of
Marine Corps History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of CMO ltr Ser 009DS23/232095 of
21 Feb 1979

[Signature] signature Date 7/11/97

2AB (10) to Appendix (A) to Enclosure (1)
Re: 1st Marine Div Com OCH77-66

7/11/97

5750
5 Jul 1966COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1. 1st Antitank Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

- a. Location: Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam
- b. Period Covered by Report: 1 - 30 June 1966
- c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and Chief Subordinates:

(1) Maj. R. E. HARRIS	Commanding Officer
Maj. A. J. EAGAN	Executive Officer
SgtMaj C. C. DOBBS	Sgt. Major

(2) Executive Staff

2ndLt D. W. MANIFOLD	S-1/Adjutant
1stLt F. S. ROE	S-2
Maj. A. J. EAGAN	S-3
1stLt T. F. DEMPSEY	S-4

(3) Special Staff

1stLt K. S. HENDRICKSON	Supply Officer
1stLt D. B. SHIKER	Comm-Elect Officer
1stLt J. M. KELLY	Motor Transport Officer
CWO E. A. ANASZEWICZ	Ordnance/Maintenance Officer
Lt(MC) S. L. BIVENS JR., USN	Medical Officer

(4) Subordinate Commanders

1stLt W. D. WESTER	- Company Commander, H&S Company
Capt G. R. VAN HORN	- Company Commander, Company A
Capt J. E. FELKER	- Company Commander, Company B
1stLt D. R. WEST	- Company Commander, Company C

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

- a. At the beginning of the reporting period subordinate units of this Command were assigned missions as follows:

Company A DS 5th Marines
 Company B(-) DS Chu Lai Defense Command
 Company C DS 7th Marines

1 June 1. 1stLt W.D. WESTER was assigned duty as CO, H&S Company relieving Capt W.F. SNYDER who rotated to CONUS. See reference (a).

2. A heavy section from the 3rd Platoon, Company A supported Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in a company size search and destroy operation. See references (b) and (c).

5750
5 Jul 1966

2 June. 1stLt D.R. WEST was assigned duty as CO, Company C vice Capt J.W. SCHROEDER. Capt SCHROEDER was transferred to the 7th Marines for duty. See references (d) and (e).

4 June. An accidental discharge of a 106mm recoilless rifle mounted on a Company B Ontos resulted in the death of three Marines and the wounding of four others. The Commanding Officer immediately ordered an investigation to inquire into the circumstances of the accident. Major A.J. EAGAN was appointed investigating officer. See reference (g).

11 June. The heavy section of the 2nd Platoon, Company C was placed in direct support of the Company D, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines Combat Base. Operating out of this position, the Ontos were able to provide direct fire support in small unit actions throughout the reporting period. See references (e), (g) and (h).

13 June. The light section (subsequently increased to a heavy section) of the 3rd Platoon, Company C was placed in direct support of the Company I, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines Combat Base. See references (e) and (i).

14 June. A light section from the 1st Platoon, Company A supported Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in a company size search and destroy operation. See references (b) and (j).

15 June. A light section from the 1st Platoon, Company A operated as a blocking force in support of a Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines heliborne assault on a suspected VC stronghold. See references (b) and (k).

18 June. A light section from the 2nd Platoon, Company C provided direct fire support to Company D, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines in a company size search and destroy operation. See references (e) and (l).

20-26 June. Company A (-) (Company Headquarters and two AT platoons) participated in Operation KANSAS. Company A (-) was OPCON 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines for the duration of the operation. See references (b), (m), (n), (o), (q), and (r).

20 June. The Commanding Officer issued 1stATBn Frag Order 301/1-66 assigning the following missions to subordinate units of this Command:

Company A

(1) Shift OPCON to CG, 3rdMarDiv upon completion of Operation KANSAS.

Company B

(1) Assume OPCON one (1) AT platoon from Company C.

(2) Provide direct support to the 5th Marines with one (1) AT platoon.

(3) Provide direct support to the Chu Lai Defense Command with two (2) AT platoons.

ENCLOSURE (1)

5750
5 Jul 1966Company C

- (1) Shift OPCON one (1) AT platoon to Company B.
- (2) Provide direct support to the 7th Marines. See references (b), (e), (s), (n) and (u).

25 June. In modification of his earlier order directing one AT company to shift OPCON to CG, 3rdMarDiv, the CG, 1stMarDiv directed one AT Company (minus one platoon) to shift OPCON. The Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion directed Company B to join one platoon from Company A pending the arrival in-country of BLT-3/5. See references (b), (e), (m), (u) and (v).

26 June 1. One Ontos from the 3rd Platoon, Company C detonated a mine which totally disabled the vehicle. One crewman was killed and a second seriously wounded by the blast. Ontos had been operating out of the Company I, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines Combat Base. See references (e), (h), and (q).

2. Company A (-) returned from Operation KANSAS and shifted OPCON to this Command pending embarkation to Danang Combat Base. See references (b), (q), (r) and (w).

29 June-1 July. The 2nd Platoon, Company A participated in Operation OAKLAND in direct support of the 7th Marines. See references (e), (x) and (y).

29 June 1. Company A (-) embarked aboard the USS Summit County (LST-1146) for displacement to Danang Combat Base and shifted OPCON to CG, 3rd Marine Division (Rein). See references (b), (x) and (z).

2. The 2nd Platoon, Company B supported Companies E and H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in a search and destroy operation through suspected VC sanctuaries.

3. A study "Evaluation of Ontos Employment" was prepared and presented to the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division. See reference (aa).

5750
5 Jul 1966Appendix 1 (List of References) to 1st Antitank Battalion Command Chronology
(June 1966)1. The following references apply to paragraph 2 (Commander's Narrative
Summary of Significant Events)

- Ref: (a) BSO 56-66
(b) Company A, 1stATBn Command Chronology
(c) 1stATBn SITREP #40 of 1 June 1966
(d) BSO 56-66
(e) Company C, 1stATBn Command Chronology
(f) Investigative report AJE/gdm over 5830 of 10 June 1966.
(g) 1stATBn SITREP #42 of 11 July 1966
(h) 1stATBn Lessons Learned, June 1966
(i) 1stATBn SITREP #43 of 13 June 1966
(j) 1stATBn SITREP #44 of 14 June 1966
(k) 1stATBn SITREP #45 of 15 June 1966
(l) 1stATBn SITREP #46 of 18 June 1966
(m) CG, 1stMarDiv msg 190820Z June 1966
(n) 1stATBn SITREP # 47 of 20 June 1966
(o) 1stATBn SITREP #48 of 22 June 1966
(p) 1stATBn SITREP #50 of 25 June 1966
(q) 1stATBn SITREP #51 of 26 June 1966
(r) After Action Report; Operation KANSAS
(s) CO, 1stATBn Frag Order 301/1-66
(u) Company B, 1stATBn Command Chronology
(v) CG, 1stMarDiv msg 230108Z June 1966
(w) CG, 1stMarDiv msg 260840Z June 1966
(x) 1stATBn SITREP #52 of 29 June 1966
(y) After Action Report; Operation OAKLAND
(z) CG, 1stMarDiv msg 122254Z June 1966
(aa) Study: "Evaluation of Ontos Employment"

5750
5 Jul 1966

Appendix 2 (Documentation) to 1st Antitank Battalion Command Chronology
(June 1966)

1. Documentation for the 1st Antitank Battalion Command Chronology for the period 1-30 June 1966 is provided by the TABS to this Appendix.

TAB

- ✓A - Company A Command Chronology
- ✓B - Company B(-) Command Chronology
- ✓C - Company C Command Chronology
- ✓D - 1stATBn SITREP #40 of 1 June 1966
- ✓E - 1stATBn SITREP #42 of 11 June 1966
- ✓F - 1stATBn SITREP #43 of 13 June 1966
- ✓G - 1stATBn Lessons Learned, June 1966
- ✓H - 1stATBn SITREP #44 of 14 June 1966
- ✓I - 1stATBn SITREP #45 of 15 June 1966
- ✓J - 1stATBn SITREP #46 of 18 June 1966
- ✓K - 1stATBn SITREP #47 of 20 June 1966
- ✓L - 1stATBn SITREP #48 of 22 June 1966
- ✓M - 1stATBn SITREP #50 of 25 June 1966
- ✓N - 1stATBn SITREP #51 of 26 June 1966
- ✓O - After Action Report; Operation KANSAS
- ✓P - CO, 1stATBn msg 200820Z June 1966
- ✓Q - 1stATBn SITREP #52 of 29 June 1966
- ✓R - After Action Report; Operation OAKLAND
- ✓S - Study: "Evaluation of Ontos Employment"

COMPANY A
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

GJPtjs
29 Jun 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) EnO 3180.1
Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

G. J. FORENS
By Direction

C "A" 107 AT 81

June 66

Tab A

GJFttjs
29 Jun 1966COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1. Company A, 1st Antitank Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMP

- a. Location: Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam
- b. Period covered by Report: 1 - 30 June 1966
- c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer and Chief Subordinates:

(1) Capt. G. B. VAN HORN	Commanding Officer
1stLt G. J. FORRES	Executive Officer
1stSgt V.L. RICATTO	Company 1stSgt
(2) <u>Platoon Commanders</u>	
Sgt J. W. ANDROLOWICZ	1stPlt Commander
SSgt A. F. HOLMAN	2ndPlt Commander
GySgt V. L. STREER	3rdPlt Commander

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

a. At the beginning of the reporting period Company A was in direct support of the 5th Marine Regiment. The 1st Platoon was in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines located Hill 69 Coordinates BT 468068. The 2nd Platoon was in direct of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines located on Hill 54 coordinates BT 397145. The 3rd Platoon was located at coordinates BT 434081 in direct support of 5th Marines CP.

b. On 1 June a heavy section of Ontos from the 3rd Platoon was in direct support of G-2/5. A clearing operation was made from Hill 22, coordinates BT 423091, north to the Song TRAU River (BT 422093). The Ontos fired 24 106 rounds at trenches and suspected enemy positions. Several trenches were damaged; no enemy casualties noted.

c. On 14 June G-2/5 conducted a company stile sweep along the SONG TRAU River (BT 422093). A light section of Ontos from the 1st Platoon supported this operation from blocking positions at BT 422092. No enemy contact made.

d. On 15 June at 1430H a light section of the First Platoon was employed in blocking positions at BT 434057 over looking Ky Long (1) in support of G-2/5. No enemy contact was made.

e. On the 20th of June Alfa Company Headquarters plus the first and third platoons shifted OPCOM to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines for Operation KANSAS. The platoon assumed defensive positions in direct support of I, K and M Companies, of the 3rd Bn, 1st Marines Co. A's participation in this operation resulted in 2 VC KIA (prob) and 1 VC WIA (prob)

f. On 24 June 2nd Platoon Alfa Company was put under operational control of Bravo Company, 1st Antitank Battalion, which is in direct support of the 5th Marines.

GJFrtjs
29 Jun 1966

g. On 26 June Company A (-) returned to the 1st Amphibious Battalion GP and made preparations to board ship for Da Nang. The rear echelon of the Company Headquarters, which remained in Chu Lai during Operation KANSAS, boarded ship the 25th of June and sailed for Da Nang on 26 June.

h. On 29 June the 1st and 3rd Platoon plus the remaining Company Headquarters boarded ship. Upon reaching Da Nang Alfa Company will be in direct support of the 1st Marines, shifting GPCOH to CU, 3rdMarDiv.

i. During the reporting period units of this Company participated in four Operations and escorted one convey outside the 1st Division TACR.

COMPANY B
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

1 July 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion
Subj: Command Chronology Report for period 1-30 June 1966; Submission of
Ref: (a) BuO 3480.1 of 24 Apr 66
Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

J. E. FELNER

Co "B", 1st AT BN

June 1966

Tab B

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
CoB(-)(Sea)1stA7th

1 July 1966

1. Organization Data: 1 headquarters section, 4 Onco Platoons.
 - a. Location: Chu Lai Combat Base and Hill 35 BT 4300.
 - b. Period Covered by Report: 1 - 30 June 1966.
 - c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer: J. E. PILVER, Capt, BMC
2. Commanding Officer's narrative of significant events:
 - 13 June - 1stSgt REID assumed duties as 1stSgt, Company A, vice 1stSgt HUFFMAN.
 - 23 June - Company assigned two fold mission of direct support to the 5th Marines and direct support of the Chu Lai Defense Command. 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Antitank Battalion placed under the operational control of Company B.
 - 24 June - Company Command Post relocated to vicinity Hill 35 coordinates (35083).
 - 25 June - 2nd Platoon, Company A attached to Company B. 2nd Platoon Company B relocated to Company Command Post and 1st Platoon Company C assumed 2nd Platoon's mission at the Chu Lai Airstrip.
 - 27 June - 2nd Platoon, Company B placed in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and relocated its Command Post to Hill 69.
 - 28 June - Company Command Post fired upon (5 rounds SA) by an estimated two (2) VC snipers. Fire returned. No enemy or friendly casualties.
2nd Platoon, Company A departed Company B Command Post for Company C Command Post in preparation for operation "OAKLAND" in direct support of the 2nd Battalion 7th Marines.
 - 29 June - 2nd Platoon, Company B participated in operational sweep in support of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines through the hamlets of KY LONG (1) BT 4305 and "HO NAME" BT 4405. Fifteen (15) major rounds fired in direct support from Oton Ridge BT 4305. No enemy or friendly casualties.

enclosure (1)

COMBAT
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO SAN Francisco, California 96602

DWR/ev
3120
2 July 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) EnC 3480.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is submitted.

D. A. WEST

COMPANY CHRONOLOGYOrganizational Data1. Locations

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| a. Company Headquarters | BT 548018 |
| b. 1st Platoon | BT 548018 (until 21 June) |
| c. 2nd Platoon | CR-BB-663984 |
| d. 3rd Platoon | CR-BT-548018, heavy section-
BB538947 |

2. Period Covered by Report. 1 June through 30 June 1966.

3. Principle Billets

Commanding Officer	1st Lt. D. R. WISY
First Sergeant	1st Sgt. F. R. JORDAN
Platoon Commander, 1stPlt	SSgt. V. C. BUEBAS
Platoon Commander, 2ndPlt	SSgt. G. A. WEAVER
Platoon Commander, 3rdPlt	Sgt W. E. LEMICK

4. Narrative of Significant Events

Events this month revolved around (1) loss and change of personnel and (2) change in concept of employment from large-scale battalion and regimental operations involving the entire Ontos platoon or company to the combat base concept using sections and platoons of Ontos to support companies and platoons of infantry.

On 1 June the following men were promoted to their present rank:

SSgt V. C. BUEBAS
 SSgt G. A. WEAVER
 Sgt F. H. MILLS
 Sgt L. L. WHIPPLE
 Sgt J. H. MASSBY
 Sgt W. E. WELLS

ENCLOSURE (1)

Company Ontos operated a total of 2161 miles and 478 hours during the month of June.

D. R. WEST

ENCLOSURE(1)

On 2 June Capt. J.W. SCHROEDER was relieved and 1stLt. D.R. WEST was assigned as company commander.

On 11 June 2nd Platoon moved its CP from the company area to Hill 40 (BS 663984) in support of D/1/7 combat base.

On 12 June 2nd Platoon moved its CP to the company area.

On 13 June a light section from 3rd Platoon moved to I/3/7 combat base at Thanh Tra (2) (BS 536947).

On 20 June Purple Heart Medals were awarded to

L/CPL A. A. AVALOS, 1947575/0353 USMC

PP.F.C. J. R. BUCCI, 2131267/0353 USMC

On 21 June 1st Platoon changed to opcon of Bravo Company and moved to augment Chu Lai Defense Command. PFC J. R. BUCCI, 2131267, received a self-inflicted wound in the left leg and was evacuated.

On 26 June C-34 detonated an antitank mine on the road to I/3/7. The driver, L/Cpl A.A. AVALOS 1947575, was killed by the blast. The Ontos Commander, Sgt P.L. MEADORS, 1909695, received multiple shrapnel wounds in the legs and was evacuated.

On 28 June a replacement vehicle was received for C-34. Second Platoon Company "A" came to the Company "C" CP in preparation for Operation "Oakland", a 7th Marines operation.

On 29 June the 2nd Platoon Company "A" departed on Operation "Oakland" accompanied by a Company "C" command group in charge of SSgt. R.E. LINEBERRY, 1493072. No contact was reported and the platoon remained at Nui Vong, (BS 56070), in support of 3/11, except for one vehicle in support of 7th Marines CP.

On 30 June Operation "Oakland" continued with no change in the location or role of the Ontos. First Sergeant F.N. JORDAN, 1121955, joined the company.

The company escorted convoys to Quang Ngai on 4, 21, 25 and 26 June.

Two officers and 16 enlisted men rotated during the month of June. Seven men joined during the month. Strength on 30 June 1 Marine officer 68 Marine enlisted and 1 Navy enlisted.

ENDLOSURE (1)

HEADQUARTERS
 1st Antitank Battalion
 1st Marine Division (Rein), PMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RPT:jjk
 11 Jun 1966

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

Subj: SITREP #42 for period 110000H to 112400H June 1966

1. Company C

110800H. The heavy section of the 3rd platoon escorted a convoy to Quang Ngai and back. Convoy closed the Combat Base at 111400H.

110800H. The heavy section of the 2nd platoon commenced movement to the D-1/7 Combat Base at Hill 40 (BS 663983). All Ontos in position at 110930H. This position is now the new 2nd Platoon command post.

R. E. HARRIS

Copy 3 of 4

Received copies _____ of _____ and _____ of _____, 1st AT Bn SITREP #42 June 1966

NAME _____

TIME/DATE _____

Tab E

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RRT:tjs
13 Jun 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: SITREP #43 for period 130001H to 132400H June 1966

1. Company C

130755H. The light section of the 3rd Platoon departed the Company C command post to reinforce the I-3/7 combat base at Thanh Tra (2), BS 536947.

131201H. Marines from I-3/7 drawing water from well at Thanh Tra (2), received three incoming hand grenades from three VC. A rifle squad and one Ontos were pursuing VC when they received incoming mortar fire. The Ontos driver was wounded. 1 USMC WIA (non-evac). Other details and results unknown.

13115H. Same Ontos section, in vicinity of Thanh Tra (2), fired six 106 rounds at suspected VC observation post. One dwelling destroyed. Other details and results unknown.

(NOTE) Final two entries based on fragmentary information received from 3/7. Communications difficulties exist between 3/7 and I-3/7.

R. E. HARRIS

Copy 3 of 4

Received copies of and of , 1st AF Bn SITREP #43 of 13 June 1966.

NAME _____

TIME/DATE _____

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Tab F

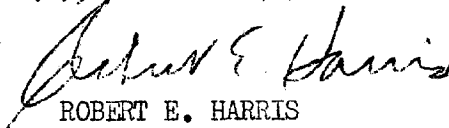
HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

E

3:RRT:tjs
3480/1
5 Jul 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein)
Subj: Lessons Learned
Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1
Encl: (1) Lessons Learned, June 1966

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


ROBERT E. HARRIS

Tab 9

3480/1
5 Jul 1966LESSONS LEARNED, JUNE 1966ITEM 1. Viet Cong Tactics

It has been noted that small VC units attempt to inflict casualties by maneuvering between friendly unit positions and firing at both units simultaneously hoping to cause the friendly units to fire toward one another. Strict fire discipline and thorough knowledge of patrol activity and disposition of other friendly units in the area are essential to prevent a situation of this nature from developing adversely.

ITEM 2. Employment of Ontos at Infantry Company Combat Bases

During the month of June, Ontos sections have been gainfully employed at infantry company combat bases and have supported company, platoon and squad size operations. In the short time since their displacement to these combat bases, Ontos have become an integral part of company operations.

Ontos support has been enthusiastically received by both company and platoon commanders. They have taken advantage of the inherent mobility and firepower of the Ontos by using it to provide direct fire support to patrols and sweeps. The Ontos have also been utilized very effectively to patrol MSR's.

This method of employment, while having several drawbacks, has many significant advantages. Aside from the massive firepower and shock action made available to the infantry company commander by collocating an Ontos section with him, he has been made more aware of the capabilities of the Ontos, its value as a direct fire support weapon, and the methods of tactical employment of antitank units. The Antitank company, in turn, has learned how to support such remote operations both administratively and logistically.

Aside from the obvious logistical problems created locating antitank units at substantial distances from their parent company, the major disadvantage of this type of employment is that the infantry battalion or regimental commander loses flexibility in employment of his supporting arms by committing them indefinitely to company combat bases. However, it is the opinion of this command that this method of employment is greatly superior to the still prevalent "palace guard" concept of Ontos employment.

ITEM 3. Viet Cong Mines

During the month of June one Ontos was totally disabled, one crewman was killed and a second crewman seriously wounded by a Viet Cong mine. The explosive used was a 155mm artillery round. The emplacement of the mine and its firing mechanism are considered to be of interest.

3480/1
5 Jul 1966

The emplacement of the mine is shown in Tab A to this report.

The firing mechanism consisted of the following:

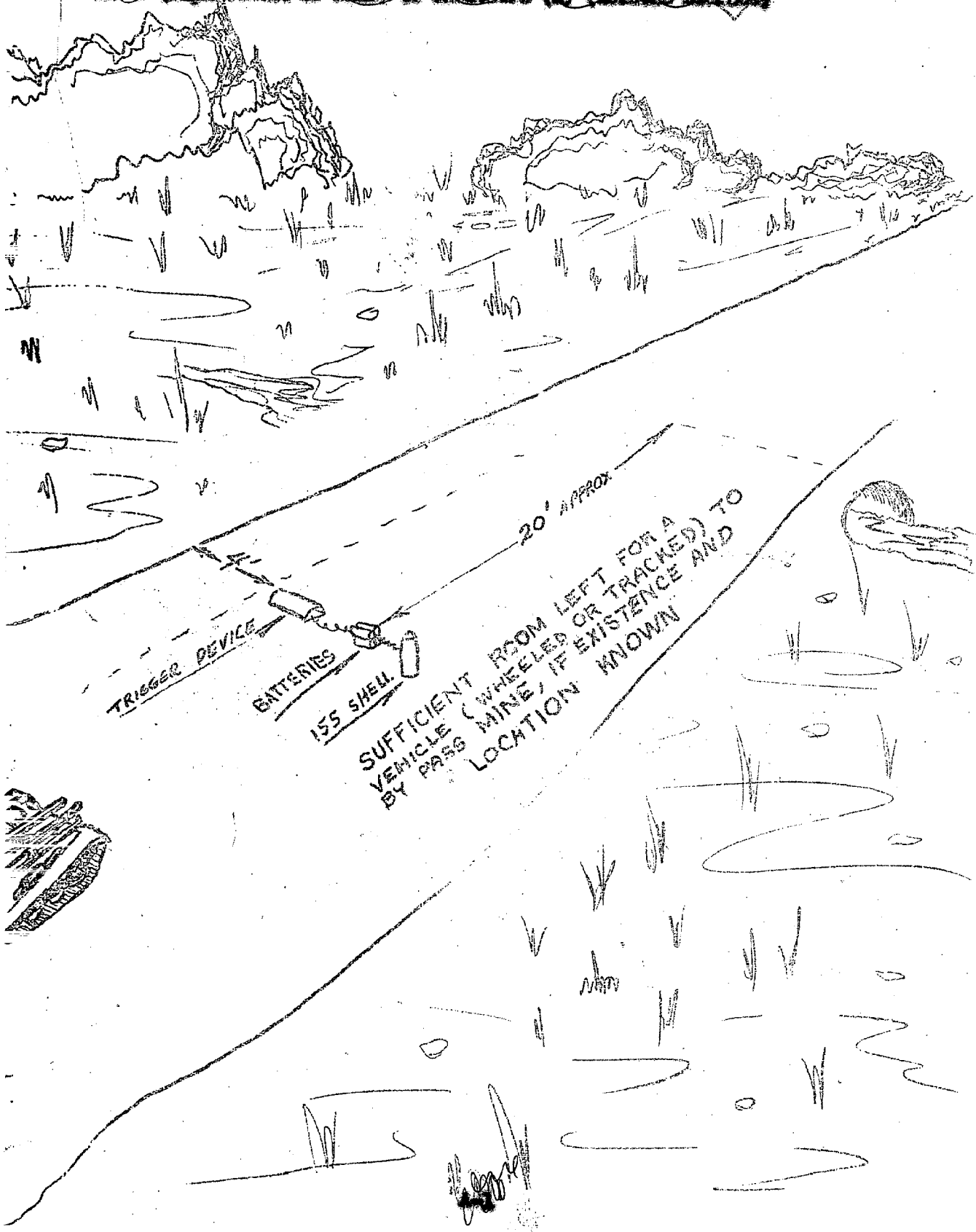
- Two (2) six inch pieces of bamboo (split)
- One (1) six inch piece of bamboo (flat)
- Four (4) flashlight batteries
- Electrical wire

A sketch of the firing mechanism is provided as Tab B to this report.

The entire mine was concealed just below the surface of the road and the weight of a man would have detonated it.

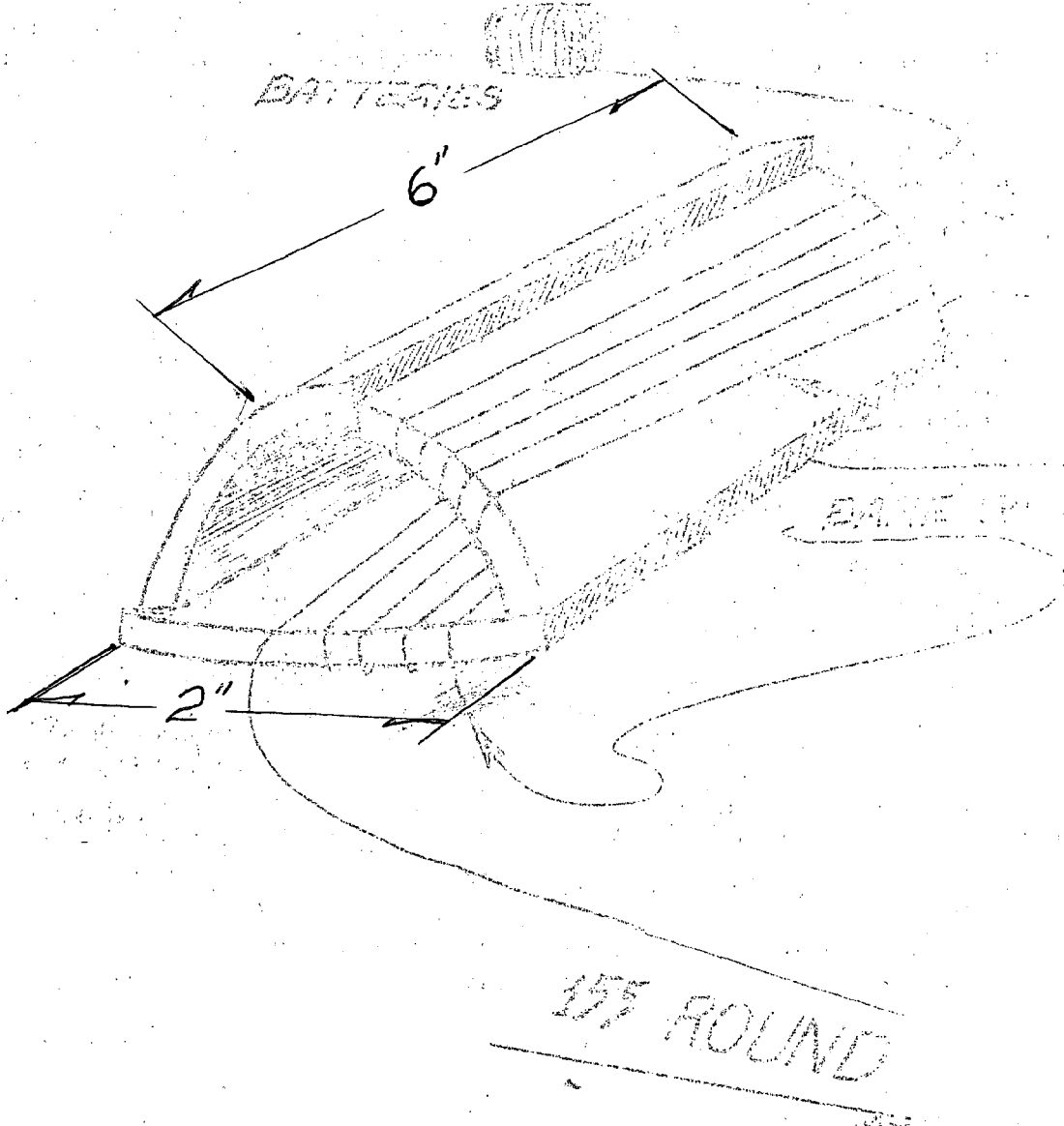
~~SECRET~~

Tab A (Implementation of Mine) to enclosure (U) (London Journal)



3100/1
5 JUL 1968

Tab D (Firing Mechanism) to enclosure (1) (Lounger Loaded)



HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RRt:tjs
11 Jun 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein)
Subj: SITREP #44 for period 140001H to 142400H June 1966

1. Company A

140635H. The light section of the 1st Platoon moved into blocking positions at BT 422092 in support of G-2/5 company-size sweep. Negative results. Section returned to Company A command post at 1430.

2. Company B. Negative.

3. Company C

140800H. The light section of the 2nd Platoon moved out from Hill 40 (BS 663984) on a combat patrol with one platoon from D-1/7. Ontos moved with infantry to BS 674986. Large boulders in the elephant grass in this vicinity proved impassable for Ontos. Prior to this, the Ontos had fired 25 rounds of .30 caliber from BS 673983 at suspected VC positions.

141140H. Ontos, with dismounted ground guide, was attempting to continue through elephant grass when sniper fire was received at BS 673983. Ground guide stepped on punji stake. 1 USMC WIA (non-evac).

141150H. Ontos returned to D-1/7 Combat Base on Hill 40.

R. E. HARRIS

Copy 3 of 4

Received copies of and of , 1st AT BN SITREP #44 June 1966

NAME

TIME/DATE

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Tab H

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADQUARTERS
 1st Antitank Battalion
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

2iFSR:tjs
 15 Jun 1966

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein)
 Subj: SITREP #45 for period 150001H to 152400 June 1966

1. Company A

1430H. Light Section of the First Platoon moved into blocking position at BT 434057 over looking Ky Long (1) in support of G-2/5.

2. Company B. Negative.

3. Company C. Negative.

R. E. HARRIS

Copy 3 of 4

Received copies of and of , 1st AT Bn SITREP #45 of June 1966

NAME _____

TIME/DATE _____

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Tab 1

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

HEADQUARTERS
 1st Antitank Battalion
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RRT:tjs
 20 Jun 1966

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein)
 Subj: SITREP #47 for period 200001H to 202400H June 1966

1. 201611H. The Commanding Officer issued 1stATBn Frag Order 301/1-66 assigning the following missions to subordinate units of this command:

Company A

(1) Shift OPCON to CG, 3rdMarDiv upon completion of Operation KANSAS.

Company B

(1) Assume OPCON one (1) AT platoon from Company C.

(2) Provide direct support to the 5th Marines with one (1) AT platoon.

(3) Provide direct support to the Chu Lai Defense Command with two (2) AT platoons.

Company C

(1) Shift OPCON of one (1) AT platoon to Company B.

(2) Provide direct support to the 7th Marines

Frag Order 301/1-66 effective upon receipt.

2. Company A

200030H. Company CP at BT 435081 received 20-30 rounds SA and AW. Returned 50 rounds SA and AW. Negative results.

200840H. Company A(-)(Headquarters and two AT platoons) commenced road march to join 3/1 for Operation KANSAS.

201545H. Company A(-) arrived at 3/1 position and shifted OPCON to that organization.

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3. Company C

200730H. Detached one light section from the 1st platoon to reinforce 5th Marines perimeter defense. These positions had previously been occupied by Company A Ontos. Company B assumed OPCON of 1st Platoon, Company C at 201610H.

R. E. HARRIS

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NAME _____

TIME/DATE _____

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96342

3:PTT:jjk
25 June 1966

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

Subj: SITREP #50 for period 250001H to 252400H June 1966

1. Company A.

251435H. Company A defensive position (BT 142364), integrated into 3/1 perimeter, observed 4 male Vietnamese at BT14367 moving in a southerly direction. They appeared to be carrying rifles. A spotter plane flew over and all four rapidly concealed themselves in dense brush. Two Ontos fired forty rounds of 50 caliber spotter-tracker. One VC appeared to be hit. A fire team from 3/1 was dispatched to search area. While searching, they received two rounds SA fire. Two VC then broke from tree-line at BT 142358 and ran to BT143155. Ontos fired two 106 WFP-T rounds. A second 3/1 fire team was dispatched to search this area. Search revealed massive pools of blood. Attempts to follow blood trails proved unsuccessful. One US M-79 grenade launcher (loaded) was captured. In addition, the following items were also found: 1 set of keys, 1 pair of fingernail clippers, 1 set of blank dog tags (covered with blood) and 1 cigarette lighter. Captured equipment will be disposed of by 3/1. Two VC KIA (prob), 1 VC MIA (prob).

2. Company B.

250145H. The light section of the 2nd Platoon commenced security guard for a 2/5 MEFCAF team. Ontos manned security positions on high ground in grid square BT4607 while team worked in nearby villages.

3. Company C.

250216H-260230H. Two Ontos from the 2nd Platoon participated in a 3/1/7 platoon-combat search and destroy operation. Operation was conducted between BT670970 and BT680970. Two VCS were apprehended during operation; 1/7 will report details and disposition of VCS.

250300H-261430H. A light section from the 3rd Platoon provided security for a convoy from the Combat Base to Quang Ngai and back. No incidents.

R. E. HAYES

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Tab A

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HEADQUARTERS
 1st Antitank Battalion
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RRT:tjs
 26 Jun 1966

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein)
 subj: SITREP #51 for period 260001H to 262400H June 1966

1. Company A (-)

261800H. Company A (-) returned from the Operation KANSAS area where they had been OPCON 3/1. Upon arrival at the 1st Antitank Battalion CP, Company A(-) shifted OPCON to this Battalion.

The rear element of Company A embarked aboard the USS St. Clair County today for movement to Danang.

2. Company B (-)(Rein)

260730H to 261630H. The light section of the Second Platoon provided security for H/2/5 during its displacement from Hill 69 (BT 465071) to Hill 35 (BT 435078). No incidents.

3. Company C (-)

261000H. One Ontos from the 3rd Platoon departed the I/3/7 Combat Base at (BS 537947) to escort a vehicle from OP 39 to that position.

261030H. Ontos commander at BS 554956 spotted approximately 30 VC about 50 meters to left of road and fired 50 rounds of .30 caliber at them. Results unknown. At this point the Ontos ran over a mine which was apparently a dud because it failed to detonate properly causing no damage. Ontos continued down road another forty meters and hit a second mine. The driver was killed instantly and the Ontos commander was wounded (evac to 1stMedBn). The First Sergeant of D/1/7, who had been a passenger on the Ontos, was thrown clear of the vehicle and was uninjured. When he regained his senses he noted smoke coming from the Ontos. He pulled the Ontos Commander clear of the vehicle and recovered the body of the driver. He then took up defensive position in the brush to the side of the road. 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA (evac to 1stMedBn), Ontos severely damaged.

261033H. Ontos proceeding from I/3/7 Combat Base to assist the beleaguered Ontos and crew at BS 552961. Ontos fired 100 rounds of .30 caliber and two 106 rounds at VC from BS 551956. Results unknown. I/3/7 searched area and will report

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3:RPT:tjs
26 Jun 1966261045H. I/3/7 captured 2 VC running from vicinity of damaged Ontos.261325H. M62 wrecker from FLSG-B retrieved damaged Ontos.260630H to 261750H. Two Ontos from the 3rd Platoon provided convoy escort to Quang Ngai and back.

R. E. HARRIS

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FILE _____

TIME/DATE _____

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1st ANTITANK BATTALION
S & C LOG NO: 0030-66
COPY 10 OF 11

HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96302

3:27:15
E123
28 Jun 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, Task Force I-Ray
Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation KANSAS
Ref: (a) DivO 3,80.1
Encl: (1) After Action Report, Operation KANSAS

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

Robert E. HARRIS

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Tab 0

SECRET3123
28 Jan 1966

g. 26 June 1966. At 1330 proceeded by road convoy to 1stATBn OP. Open arrival, at 1800, 1stATBn assumed OPSOM.

11. Results. 2 VC KIA (Prob) and 1 VC WIA (Prob).

12. Administrative Matters

a. Supplies. The Logistical Support Area was located at the Tam Ky Airfield. There were no difficulties encountered.

b. Maintenance. The Ontos Company (-) is capable of limited self-support though 2nd echelon in ordnance, motor transport, and Ontos repair. No difficulties were encountered.

c. Treatment of Casualties. No casualties.

d. Transportation. No difficulties encountered.

e. Communications. This continues to be a major problem. Operation KANAS was conducted in area where the distance involved was beyond range of company organic communication equipment. Reliance of land line was sole communication link between Company A (-) and Battalion Headquarters.

f. Medical Evaluation. No comment.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques. No comment.

14. Commanders Comments. The 3rd Battalion 1st Marines were assigned the mission of providing security for K Battery, 4/11. Because of this security posture the AF Company A (-) was not employed to its maximum capabilities.

15. Recommendations. Utilize antitank units in a manner which synergize with the fire power and mobility of the Ontos

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2100.1

OO DXIU
 DE WZGA NR 651 (714847)
 ZNY SSSSS
 -T- SEVENTH MARINES
 -T- FIFTH MARINES
 -T- CLDC
 C 200820Z
 FM FIRST ANTI TANK BN
 TO ZEN/FIRST ANTI TANK BN
 INFO DXIU/CG FIRST MARINY
 DXIU/SEVENTH MARINES
 DXIU/FIFTH MARINES
 DXIU/CLDC

IMMEDIATE

	INFO	ACT
CO	H	
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Adj		
SgtMaj		
S-1		
S-2		
S-3		PRET
S-4		
Legal		

SECRET

FRAG ORDER 30171-65
 A. CG FIRST MARINY MSG 180400Z JUN 1965
 1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE (A) COMPANY A WILL SHIFT OF COM TO
 CG THIRD MARINY UPON COMPLETION OF OPERATION KANSAS.
 2. THE FOLLOWING MISSIONS ARE ASSIGNED TO SUBORDINATE UNIT OF
 THIS COMMAND IN FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF REFERENCE (A):
 A. COMPANY B
 (1) ASSUME OPCON ONE (1) AT PLATOON FROM COMPANY C.
 (2) PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE 5TH MARINES WITH ONE (1)

PAGE TWO WZGA 651 SECRET

AT PLATOON.
 (3) PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT TO CLDC WITH TWO (2) AT PLATOONS.
 B. COMPANY C
 (1) PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE 7TH MARINES
 (2) SHIFT OPCON ONE (1) AT PLATOON TO COMPANY B.
 3. EFFECTIVE UPON RECEIPT.

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BT

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1DIV 2100/3 (1-65)

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FPM
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RPT:jjk
29 Jun 1966

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

Subj: SITREP #52 for period 290001H to 292400H June 1966

1. Company A (-)

292100H. Company A (-) scheduled to embark aboard USS Summit County (LST-1116) for displacement to Danang.

2. Company B (-) (Rein)

290500H--291630H. The 2nd Platoon provided direct fire support to Companies E and H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in a search and destroy operation in Ky Long (1) (BT435054) and unidentified hamlet at BT45055. The Ontes were employed as a blocking force on Ontes Ridge (BT435058).

291500H. Following the burning of uninhabited dwellings by the infantry, the Ontes Platoon fired 15 106 rounds at assigned targets in the two hamlets to complete the destruction of dwellings suspected to be night-time sanctuaries for the VC. Good target coverage, excellent show of force.

3. Company C (-) Negative

1st Antitank Battalion. One platoon (2nd Platoon, Company A) OFGON 7th Marines for Operation OAKLAND.

290535H. Ontes platoon departed Combat Base as a security force for the 3/11 convey to Nui Vong (BS709609). Upon arrival, the platoon set into defensive firing positions as security for the artillery.

291600H. One Ontes moved to the top of Nui Vong (BS699609) to augment 7th Marines Regimental CP security.

R. E. HARRIS

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NAME _____

TIME/DATE _____

1st ANTITANK BATTALION
S & C LOG NO. 0033-66
COPY 1 OF 39

HEADQUARTERS
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RRT:tjs
3123
5 Jul 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines
Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation OAKLAND
Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1
Encl: (1) After Action Report; Operation OAKLAND

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

Robert E. Harris
ROBERT E. HARRIS

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Tab R

SECRET

3123
5 Jul 1966

011555H. Ontos platoon escorted 3/11 and 7th Marines Regimental Command Group from operational area to Chu Lai Combat Base.

011845H. Convoy closed Combat Base and shifted OPCON to CO, 1st Antitank Battalion.

11. Results. Negative.
12. Administrative Matters. No problems encountered.
13. Special Equipment and Techniques. None required.
14. Commander's Analysis. Since the arrival of this Headquarters in the Republic of Vietnam, many attempts have been made to gain employment of Ontos as a direct fire support weapon of the Infantry-Ontos team. To this end, constant liaison has been effected with supported units at all levels. Additionally two studies were prepared and distributed. One, "Employment of Ontos" discussed the new and varied methods of employment of Antitank units available to the tactical commander in a counter-guerrilla conflict. The second, "The Effect of Weather, Terrain and Hydrography on Ontos Operations", was a discussion of the area in and around the Chu Lai Combat Base and included Ontos-going overlays.
 For the duration of Operation OAKLAND, three Ontos were employed as security for the artillery. The remaining Ontos was positioned on a hill overlooking the Regimental Command Post. Certainly missions of this nature partially utilize the firepower capability of the Ontos. However, it is felt that valid missions existed elsewhere, which would have exploited all the capabilities of the weapon in a direct fire support role. Despite the fact that the maneuvering battalion encountered little enemy resistance, intelligence reports stated that several fortified hamlets and intrenchments could be anticipated. It is in this situation, while the infantry is moving in the assault, that the Ontos can deliver tremendous firepower on enemy emplacements and reduce friendly casualties by a significant amount.
15. Recommendations. Employ antitank units in a manner commensurate with the inherent mobility and firepower of the Ontos.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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20 Jun 1966

Since the arrival in-country of the First Marine Division's remaining forces of two Ontos platoons and two tank platoons has been restricted, placed in static defense positions and in the case of the Ontos, often in such close proximity to sensitive equipment, or to friendly units forward of the position, that they have been prohibited from firing their armor armament. This restriction on mobility and firepower has reduced the Ontos to little more than a fixed .30 caliber machine gun mount. The tanks have been similarly restricted in the use of their 90mm guns.

An additional liability inherent in the static employment of armored vehicles is their increased vulnerability to attacks by antitank weapons. A case in point is an Ontos which last fall was put out of action by a single 57mm Recoilless Rifle round. It had been moved to the same defensive position night after night and presented an easy target. If armored vehicles must be considered indispensable to installation defense, they should be used as centrally located and controlled mobile strike forces which have a variety of predetermined approach routes and firing positions where they can be directed as needed. A total of one tank platoon and one Ontos platoon would provide the defense commander with an immense concentrated amount of shock and firepower; all mobile, and all flexible. It could be employed as one combined force, as two separate platoons, or as composite platoon or section size elements spotted at two or more locations within the defense sector. This type of employment will result in greater protection of vital installations with fewer armored units being tied down with the resultant loss of firepower and mobility.

CONCLUSIONS

1. That arbitrary assignment of large quantities of armored vehicles to static defense commitments is wasteful of their mobility and in some cases, firepower.
2. That comparable defensive power can be obtained with fewer armored vehicles if they are organized into centrally controlled mobile strike forces.
3. That the use of fewer armored vehicles for installation defense will allow a greater availability of these vehicles for offensive fire support missions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Reduce Ontos direct support to Chu Lai Defense Command from two platoons to one.
2. Place the single platoon thus made available into general support of the Division with priority to tactical regiments, as needed.

27 Jun 1966

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SUBJECT: Evaluation of Ontos Employment**PURPOSE:** To determine the feasibility and desirability of reducing the quantity of Ontos support allocated to the Chu Lai Defense Command**ASSUMPTIONS:** For purposes of this study it will be assumed that the enemy will continue to present no significant armor threat to USMC forces in Vietnam.**FACTS BEARING ON THE SUBJECT:** A recent redeployment of forces has reduced the Ontos strength of the First Antitank Battalion in the Chu Lai Combat Base. At the same time, the Division PACR has been expanded, giving each available Regiment responsibility for greater area coverage with fewer Marines than ever before. The 1st AT Battalion has only six antitank platoons under COMBAT and is expected to remain at this present level during the foreseeable future. One third of these assets (two AT platoons) is allocated to static defense missions in support of the Chu Lai Defense Command. The remaining four AT platoons are assigned in direct support of the tactical regiments (2 platoons to each).**DISCUSSION:** During April, 1966, this Headquarters submitted a study on employment of Ontos (OO 1stAFM ltr 31A/Etjs over 300 of 30 April 1966). This study pointed up the capabilities of Ontos in tank-like employment and concluded that the employment of Ontos in fire support missions and/or as mobile striking forces is preferable to using them as static CP defense weapons.

Current Army and Marine Corps doctrine repeatedly affirms this conclusion in no uncertain terms. Two examples are quoted below:

From draft FM 9-1 (Armor Operations in Vietnam), Chapter 3, Section II, paragraph 3-3:

"The position defense is wasteful of Armor capabilities, since it utilizes only firepower and fails to capitalize on mobility or the potential for shock. In a guerrilla war there is little reason for Armor to act on the defensive except for local security in assembly areas or when in garrison. Commanders at all echelons must resist the temptation to waste armor by using it as 'palace guard' or as pillboxes to defend fixed installations, however important."

From FM 9-1 (Tank Employment) in section 565 (Operations against Irregular Forces):

"When tanks are placed in direct support of, or attached to a unit in control of an area of responsibility, they are employed as part of a striking force. After the enemy is located, this force is employed to isolate, surround, and destroy the enemy force. Tanks are normally assigned the mission of rapidly sealing off enemy escape routes."