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HEADQUARTERS
1st Tank Battalion, FMP
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

2/JHC/js
8 February 1967
SER.No. 05-67
1 of 8

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division, FMP

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 January 1967 to 31 January 1967

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: ✓(1) 1st Tank Battalion Command Chronology

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

R. M. Taylor
R. M. TAYLOR

1ST TANK BN

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JAN 1967

Part I

Organizational Data

1. 1st Tank Battalion
Fleet Marine Force
1st Marine Division

J. W. CLAYBORNE
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

Subordinate Units

- H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion
Company A, 1st Tank Battalion
Company B, 1st Tank Battalion
Company C, 1st Tank Battalion

Captain J. C. WINTHER
Captain C. R. BRABEC
Captain L. E. CHERICO
Captain P. S. WEIGAND

2. Location

- Headquarters, 1st Tank Battalion
H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion
Company A, 1st Tank Battalion
Company B, 1st Tank Battalion
Company C, 1st Tank Battalion

DaNang RVN AT 998722
DaNang RVN AT 998722
Chu Lai RVN BT 515040
DaNang RVN AT 945763
DaNang RVN BT 066715
(1-30 Jan 1967)
DaNang RVN BT 074658
(31 Jan 1967)

3. Staff Officers

- Battalion Executive Officer
Battalion Adjutant S-1/Legal Officer
Battalion S-2/Civil Affairs
Battalion S-3
Battalion S-4

Major R. D. MCKEE
WO-1 C. C. CARL JR.
Captain J. H. COWMAN
Captain F. U. SALAS
Captain G. E. HOOKER
(1-2 Jan 1967)
Major D. B. CRUDUP
(3-31 Jan 1967)

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
OFF	ENL
33	665

USN	
OFF	ENL
1	15

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PART II

Narrative Summary

The 1st Tank Battalion's area of responsibility was well covered with a total of 40 patrols and ambushes. The 40 patrols included 23 ambush and 17 reconnaissance patrols.

The month of January found the 1st Tank Battalion in basically the same positions as the preceding month. H&S Company, in addition to providing the logistical and maintenance support for two gun companies, spent considerable time and effort improving the Battalion cantonment area and defensive posture.

Company B remained in direct support of the 9th Marines.

Company C remained in direct support of the 1st Marines.

During the month of January, elements of Company B participated in "Operation Cleveland."

A vigorous training program was instituted during the month of January. This program is designed to obtain maximum utilization from time available.

Troop indoctrination is conducted by the Commanding Officer, H&S Company, for all incoming personnel in order to acquaint them with the mission of the United States Forces in Vietnam, general information in connection with duty in Vietnam, and the customs, life, and religion of the Vietnamese. Familiarization firing and safety instructions of all small-arms weapons organic to this Battalion are included in this troop indoctrination.

Three periods of instruction were conducted for officers and staff noncommissioned officers of the Battalion.

One hospital corpsman graduated from a four-week course in Vietnamese language at the Army Language School in Okinawa. Upon returning to the Battalion, he was assigned to the Battalion Civic Action Team.

Weekly weapons safety training for all members of this Battalion was instituted during the month of January to cover all small-arms weapons. The purpose of this training is to inculcate in all hands the necessity of adhering to the basic rules of weapons safety.

Tank Gunnery Training was conducted during the month of January on Hill 41 Tank Gunnery Range. The purpose of this training is to improve and maintain the proficiency of tank crews in tank gunnery.

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NBC Training was conducted for the Battalion and Company NBC officers and noncommissioned officers in radiac equipment, Sets 27-J and AN-174 PD. In addition, a refresher course was presented in the operation, functioning, and maintenance of the tank-mounted M-8 Filter Unit and the M-14A2 mask.

A request was submitted to Division on 19 January 1967 for permission to construct a small-arms familiarization firing range in vicinity of AT 953723, for the purpose of conducting small-arms training and firing.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- A. Significant Operations Conducted.
- B. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy.
- C. Casualties Sustained.
- D. Logistics.
- E. Civic Action.
- F. Administration.
- G. Personnel.
- H. Intelligence.

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DECLASSIFIEDSignificant Operations Conducted

At 071800H the 3rd Platoon, Company "B", moving to Hill 22 (AT 953667) with infantry from Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, received approximately 50 rounds SA fire from vicinity AT 950667 resulting in four infantry personnel WIA. Tanks fired 11 rounds HE, one round WP, and 200 rounds caliber .30 MG. One Viet Cong was observed hit by fire.

At 101755H a tank of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", detonated a mine at BT 109647, resulting in moderate damage to the tank and injury to one tank crewman. The crewman was not evacuated. The mine was buried in a sandy area and was estimated to weigh 100 lbs. The crater was 5 feet deep and 12 feet wide. Immediately afterward, the tank and infantry received fire from vicinity BT 111651. Tank returned fire resulting in five Viet Cong KIA Confirmed and three Viet Cong KIA Probable. The damaged tank was retrieved to the Company Command Post.

At 121215H the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", in support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, as a blocking force in position at BT 091671, observed three Viet Cong running across a rice paddy in vicinity BT 085674. Tanks fired five rounds HE. One Viet Cong was KIA Confirmed and one Viet Cong was wounded and detained by infantry.

In the early morning of 15 January, 1967, the heavy section of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", was instrumental in repelling a Viet Cong attack of approximately 100 Viet Cong against the perimeter (BT 054687) of the 2nd Platoon, Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. Tanks moved into the overrun position, located the Viet Cong and destroyed them with machine gun fire. The tanks were credited with 20 Viet Cong KIA Confirmed and 10 Viet Cong KIA Probable.

At 161300H a section of two tanks of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", supporting a 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines reconnaissance group at BT 072608, observed a group of Viet Cong fleeing into a rice paddy in vicinity BT 072609. Tanks fired eight rounds HE, resulting in five Viet Cong KIA Confirmed.

At 171145H the 1st Platoon, Company "B", on Hill 41 (AT 934664) observed three Viet Cong, armed with rifles, moving in an easterly direction in vicinity AT 949653. Tanks fired several rounds HE. No search was conducted due to lack of infantry in the area.

At 171145H the 1st Platoon, Company "B", on Hill 41 (AT 934664) observed two Viet Cong armed with rifles moving westward in vicinity AT 925656. Tanks fired one round HE resulting in two Viet Cong KIA.

At 201410H the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", in support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines conducting a sweep at BT 111627, observed six Viet Cong running across a rice paddy in vicinity BT 106629. Tanks fired HE and caliber .50 MG, resulting in two Viet Cong KIA. Rounds were observed to strike Viet Cong.

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At 211230H a section of tanks of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", enroute from Company "C" CP (BT 066715) to Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines positions at BT 0566, observed one Viet Cong running across sand flat at BT 058650. Tanks fired ~~two~~ rounds HE. One Viet Cong KIA Confirmed.

Operation Cleveland. The 3rd Platoon, Company "B", participated in "Operation Cleveland" during the period 24-25 January in support of elements of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, in Grid Squares AT 8870, 8970, 9070, 9170, and 9271.

At 271300H a section of three tanks of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", at BT 074600, in support of elements of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, received enemy fire from the treeline vicinity BT 078678. Tanks fired eight rounds HE and two rounds canister. Infantry conducted search of area and found indications where four bodies had been pulled away. Four Viet Cong KIA Probable.

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Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy

During the month of January, this Battalion received credit for 36 confirmed Viet Cong killed in action. Additionally, 17 Viet Cong are considered as probables and this Battalion was responsible for the capture of one Viet Cong.

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INTELLIGENCE

During the month of January a total of 10.62 inches of rainfall was recorded. This is less than one half the rain which fell the previous month. This resulted in better road conditions within the TAOR.

Within the DaNang TAOR there were 34 incidents of which 15 were VC initiated. Of the 15, six were anti-tank mines consisting of between 25 to 100 pounds of explosives. These mines were either pressure or electrically detonated and resulted in light to extensive damage to the tanks. There were four tank crewmen wounded in action as a result of mines, none of which required medical evacuation.

During the month of January the S-2 section made 10 staff visits with other S-2 section within the DaNang TAOR. The purpose of these visits were to obtain information concerning conditions and trafficability of the roads and bridges within the DaNang TAOR.

The following is a sequential listing of anti-tank mines detonated during January 1967:

At 081310H tank C-32 proceeding South along trail BT 09616, detonated a mine resulting in light damage to the vehicle.

At 101755H a tank of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", triggered a mine at BT 109647, resulting in moderate damage to the tank and injuring one crewman.

At 151730H a tank of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", detonated a mine at BT 060672, resulting in light damage to vehicle. Tank was repaired and continued on its mission.

At 201110H a flame tank with the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", detonated a mine at BT 100640, resulting in moderate damage to vehicle and injury to two tank crewmen.

At 231335H a tank of the 3rd Platoon, Company "C", detonated a mine at BT 083603, resulting in moderate damage to the vehicle.

At 301325H a tank of the 1st Platoon, Company "B", detonated a mine at AT 950664, resulting in extensive damage to the tank and one crewman injured.

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PERSONNEL

The 1st Tank Battalion is currently in personnel category C-1, with a chargeable strength of 34 Marine Officers, 685 Marine Enlisted, one Navy Officer, and 15 Navy Enlisted. This is compared to an authorized manning level of 36 Marine Officers, 598 Marine Enlisted, one Navy Officer, and 14 Navy Enlisted.

During the month of January the Battalion joined one Marine Officer and 57 Marine Enlisted. 13 Marine Enlisted were transferred.

The following MOS's are considered critical:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>On Board</u>
3510	01	00
2867	01	00
0141	04	01

Two breaches of discipline occurred during the month of January resulting in Special Court Martials.

During the month of January this Battalion had five Marines medically evacuated for non-battle reasons.

The 1st Tank Battalion reenlisted one career Marine during January.

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ADMINISTRATION

Company "A" (Rein), 1st Tank Battalion, is within the Chu Lai Tactical Area of Responsibility. This Company has a strength of five Marine Officers, 121 Marine Enlisted, and two Navy Enlisted. The 1st Tank Battalion retains administrative control of Company "A".

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Civic Action personnel attended several conferences during the month. The civic action conference was held on 27 January at Division and as usual, the conference was well conducted and a considerable amount of pertinent information was available. On 25 January, Civic Action personnel attended a psychological operations conference held at III MAF. Gy Sgt Arnold had previously attended and successfully completed a three day psychological operations school conducted at III MAF.

Civic Action personnel initiated a troop indoctrination program oriented towards the coming TET holiday period. This troop indoctrination course consists of information pertaining to the rewards program, Revolutionary Development, Civic Action, the TET holiday period, and the Chieu Hoi program. It is anticipated that all hands will receive this information prior to the TET period which runs from 9 to 12 February.

The later part of the month of January found the Civic Action personnel involved in assisting in the planning for a school festival to be held in Hoa An on February 3.

Advanced planning currently includes dispensary construction, a school eye testing program, relocation of the market place and a festival honoring the village elders.

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CIVIC ACTION

On 2 January 1967 GySgt L. E. ARNOLD, 954557 relieved SSgt W. KEYSER as Civic Action Chief.

Early in January a dental program was initiated in the schools of Hoa An Hamlet. This program, which will continue indefinitely, was well received by the children and school officials. Dental personnel indicated that the children's teeth are in better than average condition. This dental program was also instituted in Dong Be on a monthly basis and once again was very well received. Future plans call for expanding the Dental Program so that more villagers will benefit from this project.

On 6 January the hamlet chief of Dong Be consented to a request for various shrubs and plants to be utilized in an area beautification program in the contonment area. Later in the month he presented civic action personnel with over forty different plants for this project. Once again, future plans call for expanding this program and utilizing additional plants obtained from the hamlet chief.

Hamlet officials from Dong Be requested permission to enter the cantonment area and remove several graves. Permission was granted and on 9 January hamlet personnel attempted to locate six graves. Only three graves could be located and these were removed. A considerable amount of religious significance was involved in the grave removal and the hamlet personnel were extremely grateful to be allowed to remove the graves.

During the month of January, three separate requests for construction materials were forwarded through Government of Vietnam channels. All materials requested were to be utilized in self-help projects and all requests were monitored by the G-5 section. Two of the requests were disapproved and the materials were then requested through G-5 channels. It is anticipated that the early part of February will see the requested materials arrive and utilized.

English classes continued in Hoa An over the reporting period. These classes are taught by personnel from the 1st Military Police Battalion in a combined civic action venture.

During the month of January, three truck loads of scrap lumber were presented to school officials in Hoa An. In all instances, this lumber was for a specific purpose, in this case a school gate and shelving for the school. Dong Be personnel also were given some scrap materials but one again only for specific purposes, in this case school and playground equipment repair.

On 20 January, Civic Action personnel attended a conference at 3rd Tank Battalion concerning a proposed expansion of the MEDCAP Program into areas where no such program had existed. As a result of the conference, a combined MEDCAP Team with appropriate security measures will enter the areas. This unit will provide one fire team and one corpsman weekly for this combined effort.

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SUPPLY

During the period covered by this report a normal logistics function has continued with particular emphasis in the Ordnance, Motor Transport, and Supply areas. In these areas, the objective has been improvement of maintenance standards, supply response to urgent requirements, and an overall increase of combat readiness. Steady, continued improvement has been made which is largely attributable to the FY 67 R&E Program which has made serviceable assets available and increased the selective interchange capability. In a cantonment situation there is continuing emphasis on improvement of camp facilities, billeting, storage, and maintenance facilities. Particular difficulty is encountered in obtaining construction material and simple hardware through supply and non-supply channels.

At present, one of the two XM-30 periscopes FSN 1240-971-0194 for the M-67A2 Flame Tank has been received on document number 40339. Document number 45568 is still outstanding to MCSC, Barstow, Tracer action has been initiated in accordance with existing Red Ball procedures.

A trend still exists toward the non-availability of certain motor transport and tracked vehicle repair parts. Supply response seems to be improving at a slow pace. Small arms weapons are currently in short supply although this is not considered a significant problem area in that the existing shortage of weapons is due to a temporary buildup of personnel over authorized T/O strength. Projected personnel attrition during the next month will alleviate this situation. In addition, this command has lost, by assessment or condition coding, a total of five $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Trucks 4x4 without replacement. As a result, transportation support has become increasingly critical. A shortage of compressors for the Flame Tanks seriously impairs the mission capability.

Battalion maintenance is presently well staffed at all personnel levels. Much success has been enjoyed in the maintenance effort due to selective interchange capability developed with the FY 67 R&E Program. During this period, seven M-48A3 Tanks sustained substantial mine damage. Four were repaired locally and three evacuated. One M-48A3 was lost through submergence on 28 January 1967. Maintenance facilities are being improved as material becomes available.

A Special Service hut is under construction and will be ready for troop use as soon as concrete is received for the deck. Other troop services are satisfactory and continued improvements are effected as material becomes available.

Advanced planning currently includes concentrated efforts in all areas of the logistics function, with particular emphasis in the areas of maintenance and supply.

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Casualties Sustained

During the month of January this Battalion sustained four casualties, none of which required medical evacuation. The four wounded Marines were treated at the Company Aid Station prior to returning to duty.

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