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

2/DH/js
9 Oct 1967

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 Sep 1967 to 30 Sep 1967
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B
Encl: ✓(1) 1st Tank Battalion Command Chronology

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

R M Taylor
R. M. TAYLOR

S & C FILE NO.
HEADQUARTERS
1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF
87 4102
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1st TANK BATTALION, FMF

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1ST TANK BN
CMD CHRON

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

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SEP 1967

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATAA. Commanding Officers

1st Tank Battalion LtCol R. M. TAYLOR
(1-30 Sep 67)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion Captain R. E. ROEMER
(1-15 Sep 67)
H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion Major P. G. RADTKE
(16-30 Sep 67)

Company "A", 1st Tank Battalion Captain W. J. BRITTON
(1-5 Sep 67)
Company "A", 1st Tank Battalion Captain R. W. MADDOX
(6-30 Sep 67)

Company "B", 1st Tank Battalion Captain J. C. WINNER
(1-15 Sep 67)
Company "B", 1st Tank Battalion Captain R. E. ROEMER
(16-30 Sep 67)

Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion 1stLt C. E. OBRLEN
(1-9 Sep 67)
Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion Captain R. D. GUNSELMAN
(10-30 Sep 67)

B. Location

H&S Company, 1-30 Sep 67, DaNang, RVN (AT997723)
Company "A", 1-30 Sep 67, Tam Ky, RVN (BT132452)
Company "B", 1-30 Sep 67, DaNang, RVN (AT965614)
Company "C", 1-30 Sep 67, DaNang, RVN (BT073660)

C. Battalion Staff Officers

Battalion Executive Officer Major V. J. GENTILE
(1-30 Sep 67)
Battalion Adjutant WO W. A. AKAHOSHI
(1-30 Sep 67)
Battalion S-2 Officer Captain D. HOWE
(1-30 Sep 67)
Battalion S-3 Officer Major R. M. CROLL
(1-30 Sep 67)
Battalion S-4 Officer Major J. A. SCHUYLER
(1-30 Sep 67)
Battalion S-5 Officer 1stLt N. O. WHITTINGTON
(1-30 Sep 67)

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D. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
44	673	1	15

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II. ADMINISTRATION

The 1st Tank Battalion retains administrative control of all companies.

There were no significant administrative problems during the month.

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A. The 1st Tank Battalion is currently in personnel category C-1 with a chargeable strength of 44 Marine Officers, 673 Enlisted, 1 Navy Officer, and 15 Navy Enlisted.

B. During the month of September, the Battalion joined 6 Marine Officers and 36 Marine Enlisted. 2 Marine Officers and 44 Marine Enlisted were transferred.

C. The following shortages are considered critical:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>SHORTAGE</u>	<u>ML</u>
0130	Lt 1	1
2002	Capt 1	1
2010	Lt 1	1
2025	WO 1	1
0122	Sgt 1	1
0441	GySgt 1	1
1811	SSgt 7	21
9992	MGySgt 1	1
* 2822	Cpl 1	0
3516	MSgt 1	1
3516	GySgt 1	1

* Not rated on Manning level, but have equipment on hand and in use at present time.

D. During the month of September this Battalion sustained 17 casualties, 3 of which were medically evacuated. During the same period there was 1 Marine medically evacuated for non-hostile reasons. One Marine WIA and medically evacuated while TAD to CAP School.

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A. Weather. The month of September brought with it the beginning of the monsoon season in the Danang area. The resultant saturation of the ground limited the area trafficable by tanks. As the monsoon season continues and the rainfall increases, tank trafficability can be expected to become even more limited. The decrease in VC activity in the Danang area also can probably be ascribed in part to the monsoon season.

B. Incidents. Incidents involving 1st Tank Battalion this month accounted for 5 VC KIA Confirmed and 16 VC KIA Probable. These figures decreased sharply from last month due to decreased VC activity in the Danang TAOR and also because of the decrease in tank activity because of the limited trafficability.

C. Mines. There were 11 mine incidents this month in which tanks were damaged, compared to 17 in August, which indicated decreased guerilla activity within the Danang TAOR. The mines were the usual box-type varying in estimated size from 20 to 110 lbs. One of the mines was command detonated and the rest were pressure detonated.

D. Intelligence Information.

1. A considerable amount of intelligence information was received at the beginning of the month indicating that the VC would attempt one or more large scale attacks (particularly rocket attacks) either just prior to or just after the National Elections on 3 September. Subsequent activities, however, did not bear this out.

2. The possibility of a small VC unit (squad or less) in the southern part of the Southern Sector remains good. However, no information as to its specific location has been obtained.

3. An RPG-7 was reported used by the enemy in the 5th Marines AOR this month. This was the first report of this weapon being used in or near the Danang TAOR. The possibility that the enemy will continue the use of this weapon in the Danang area at an increasing rate is not considered likely at this time. However, should this occur, it would impose a second serious threat to tanks (mines being the first in this area).

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At 031035H, a tank from Headquarters Platoon, Company C, on the way to recover a submerged vehicle, detonated a mine at BT160608. Moderate damage to the vehicle was sustained. There were no casualties.

At 061020H, a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company A, detonated an antitank mine at BT105343 resulting in one USMC WIA. The tank was lightly damaged.

At 061215H, a tank from the 2nd Platoon, Company C, detonated a mine at BT100612 while on escort duty. There was moderate damage to the vehicle with no casualties.

At 061500H, a tank from the 2nd Platoon, Company C, located at BT095613, spotted a mine placed in the road at that position. When S/A failed to detonate the same, it was blown in place.

At 061605, a tank from the 3rd Platoon, Company B, detonated a mine at AT932624 with moderate damage to the vehicle. There were 3 USMC WIA (Non-Evac) and 1 USMC WIA (Med-Evac).

At 061730H, a tank from the 3rd Platoon, Company C, located at BT078632, while assisting in a med-evac, observed 3 VC running at BT076638. The tank fired 90mm and found one VC KIA Confirmed.

At 070900H, a tank from the Headquarters Platoon, Company B, located at AT972588, received heavy S/A fire from AT972588. The tank returned 90mm, .50 cal. and .30 cal., resulting in 7 VC KIA Probable.

At 080001H, a tank from the 3rd Platoon, Company B, detonated a mine at AT925667. There was light damage to the vehicle with no casualties.

At 111800H, a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company B, detonated a mine at AT848854. There was moderate damage to the vehicle with no casualties.

At 130730H, a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company B, located at AT930517 observed VC running across a rice paddy at AT922504. The tank fired 90mm resulting in 1 VC KIA Confirmed.

At 140805H, a tank from the 2nd Platoon, H&S Company, detonated a mine at AT853565. There was moderate damage to the vehicle with no casualties.

At 160804H, a tank from the 2nd Platoon, Company B, detonated

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a mine at AT854568 with moderate damage to the vehicle. There was one tank crewman WIA (Non-Evac).

At 161415H, a tank from the 3rd Platoon, Company C, detonated a mine at BT092623. There was light damage to the vehicle with no casualties.

At 161611H, a tank from the 2nd Platoon, Company C, while en-route to assist another damaged vehicle, detonated a mine at BT101611. There was moderate damage to the vehicle with 2 tank crewmen WIA (Non-Evac).

At 201600H, a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company B, located at AT878575, was requested by infantry to fire at 9 VC located in a tree line at AT858546. The tank fired 90mm resulting in 1 VC KIA Confirmed and 1 VC KIA Probable.

At 220725H, a tank from the 3rd Platoon, Company C, detonated a mine at BT108645. There was light damage to the vehicle with no casualties.

At 271350H, a two truck convoy from Company A was returning from Chu Lai when one truck was hit by a command detonated mine of approximately 30 lbs. at BT158443 resulting in four friendly WIA (Non-Evac). A defensive perimeter was formed and a reaction force from the 5th Marines and Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, was dispatched to the area. No further contact was encountered.

At 281730H, a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company B, at AT878573 was requested by the infantry to fire upon VC observed digging at AT843548. The tank fired its 90mm resulting in two VC KIA Confirmed and 8 VC KIA Probable.

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SECRET~~VI. OPERATIONS AND TRAININGA. Tank Battalion Operations1. Command Relationships

- a. Company A (-) (Rein) ---D/S 5th Marines (-).
- b. 2nd Flt., Company A ----OpCon 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- c. Company B (Rein) -----D/S 7th Marines.
- d. Company C -----D/S 1st Marines.

2. Tank Operations. There were no major operations in which 1st Tank Battalion had a direct role. Several air-reconnaissances were made by Company A personnel in preparation for a possible role in Operation Cochise. Company A units were on call throughout Operation Swift, but were never employed. Companies A, B, and C conducted normal armored patrols, participated in numerous small unit sweeps, escorted convoys, provided on call and H&I fires, employed their tanks as part of various bridge securities, and maintained their tanks as part of reaction forces throughout the month.

3. Ground Based Defoliants Report. During the month of September, 1st Tank Bn M-67 Flame Tank expended a total of 1440 gallons of napalm mix on assigned missions throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR.

4. Anti-Tank Activities. During the month of September there were 13 mine incidents. Eleven involved tanks, one involved a 5 ton truck and one mine was blown in place after being discovered. Ten tanks required organizational maintenance repair, one tank required field maintenance repair and one tank was coded out as a combat loss. The mined vehicles were under repair for an average of 6 days, the longest being 16 days and the shortest being 2 days. Personnel casualties included 5 WIA (Med-Evac) and 7 WIA (Non-Evac). There were no recoilless rifle or RPG incidents during September. There was one AP mine discovered and destroyed in place during the month of September.

5. VC Box Score for September

- a. VC KIA Confirmed -----5
- b. VC KIA Probable -----16
- c. VC WIA -----0
- d. VC Detainees -----0

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- a. 90mm -----896
 - (1) HE -----(671)
 - (2) WF -----(178)
 - (3) Can. -----(47)
- b. .50 Cal. -----(3800)
- c. .30 Cal. -----(9600)

B. Training. For the month of September, training was centered on weapon safety, the new family of radios, boresighting and zeroing the 90mm gun, and the xenon searchlight. A two man civilian technical representative team conducted a 1 day school on the xenon searchlight for personnel from all companies on 16 September. The officer and staff school continued to meet on Friday nights. The subjects presented during September included the new family of radios, Viet Cong tactics, and the M-16 rifle. A weekly briefing was conducted by the respective section heads which summarized their activities within the Battalion.

C. Southern Sector Defense Command. The Combat Operations Center of the 1st Tank Battalion continued to control, initiate and direct defensive activities within the Southern Sector. Eleven tenant units conducted 687 activities, and 1st Tank Battalion conducted 60 patrols and ambushes. 3 special activities ranging from squad to platoon size were conducted when intelligence circumstances warranted them. Three significant events occurred in the Southern Sector during the month of September. On 041800H, a Marine in a truck from Company B, 1st Motor Transport Battalion received three S/A rounds at AT962706. The truck ran into a ditch, however neither the truck was damaged nor the driver injured. On 060030H an H&S Company, 1st AT Battalion, squad sized patrol found a freshly dug grave and observed lights at AT984703. It received 50 to 75 rounds of S/A while investigating. The patrol withdrew and a fire mission was called. A search was conducted at first light with negative results. At 262245H at AT982722 a 7th Bulk Fuel Company fire team sized patrol received 1 hand grenade from three VC resulting in one Marine WIA (Non-Evac). The patrol returned from 20 to 30 rounds of S/A fire with negative results.

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1. Supply Situation. During the month of September supply response has been relatively slow. Requisitions for track vehicles and Motor Transport equipment repair parts are not being filled on a timely basis. Common type items are still a problem to obtain. This unit holds outstanding requisitions for items such as staples, rubber bands, ball point pens, BA-30's, mimeograph paper, and duplicating paper, etc., which have long passed the normal supply response time. During this reporting period this command received one M-38A1. No problem areas are foreseen at the present time for Class I, III and V supplies.

2. Critical Items.

a. Supply items declared to be in a critical status: See page 12.

b. Potentially critical items: See page 13.

c. Major T/E deficiencies: See page 14.

3. Significant Supply Problem Areas. Blank forms are still in short supply. There is no change in the supply of left hand torsion bars. Some 762 gear has been received.

4. Maintenance Situation. The general status of over-all maintenance during this period has been good, with the exception of those problems covered in paragraph 6. There has been continued preparation for the monsoons in the form of additional drainage ditches and building water-proofing.

5. Major Items of Equipment.

<u>Item</u>	<u>T/E</u>	<u>O/H</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>NORS</u>	<u>NORM</u>
<u>Motor Transport</u>					
AM/PRC-83	2	2	2		
Trk, Cargo M-37	3	2	2		
AM/MRC-109	1	1	1		
<u>Tracked Vehicles</u>					
M48A3	53	47	41	2	4
M51VTR	4	4	1	1	2
<u>Engineer/Construction Equipment</u>					
TD-15	1	1	1		

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AN/MRC-83	2	2	2
AN/TGC-14A	2	0	
AN/PRC-25	15	14	14
AN/GGC-3	1	1	1
SB-86	0	1	1

Generators

60 HE 30KW PU 482	1	0	
60 HE 20KW PU 239	1	1	1

6. Significant Maintenance Problem Areas. During this period a total of 11 tanks sustained mine damage, one of which had to be evacuated from in-country. Two tanks were evacuated from in-country due to salt water submergence. Because of the slow supply response of spare parts, selective interchange is still extensively utilized to keep tanks off deadline. Currently 6 power packs are in 3d echelon maintenance for repairs.
7. Services Situation. No change.
8. Significant Transportation Problem Areas. None, except to Company A which is located in a remote area.
9. Other Items of Interest. No change.

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LIST OF CRITICAL ITEMS

<u>RUC</u>	<u>FSN</u>	<u>ITEM NAME</u>	<u>DOC#</u>	<u>PRI</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>IKH</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
21410	6115-721-4525	Generator, PU-482	7218-0072	05	1	MPB	BM ON 724C TO MPB 4FL 21 SEP TO MPB
21410	494C-014-0496	Cleaner, Steam, Trlr. Mtd.	7215-0004	02	1	MPB	BM ON 7256 TO MPB

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1. The below listed critical items have been on requisitions for periods in excess of the normal supply response time and aggressive follow-up action is being taken.

FSN	ITEM NAME	NOT		IMPACT	STATUS FOLLOWUP	SCOPE
		SHORT	SHORT			
5965-892-0972	Handset N-138			Critical	BB-254	Required for oper. Readiness
5660-262-9914	Stake, Barbed Wire	X		Minimal		
6135-858-5712	Battery, BA-386	X		Minimal		
6140-057-2554	Battery, 6TN	X		Critical	AFI 29 AUG	Required for replace. wiring
6140-160-7795	Wire WD 1/TT					
6145-226-8812	Wire WD 1/TT	X		Minimal		
6145-243-8466	Wire WD 1/TT			Minimal		
6810-249-9354	Electrolyte			Critical	BB 7259	Required to keep vehicle oper.
8340-543-7787	Tent, GP			Minimal		
2604-204-3198	Patch, Tire	X		N/A		
6605-846-7618	Compass, Magnetic	X				
6240-635-9800	Lamp, Incandescent	X				
8470-576-4193	Body armor	X				
8470-576-4194	Body armor	X				
8470-576-4195	Body armor	X				
7210-227-1524	Green Towel			Minimal		
ALL SIZES	Green Underclothing	X		Minimal		
6830-264-6755	Acetylene	X				
6830-169-0800	Oxygen	X				
ALL SIZES	Lightweight Utilities	X				
2610-540-4724	Tires & Tubes 1100x20			Minimal		
2610-204-4008	Tires & Tubes 900x20			Minimal		
2610-569-0815	Tires & Tubes 750x10	X				
N/A	Valve Core	X				
8440-543-7776	Socks, Black, Cushion	X		Minimal		
8466-242-4804	Dog Tags	X		Minimal		
8105-965-2509	Sand Bags			N/A		
5960-902-0468	Planar Triode					

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<u>ITEM NAME</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>DOC#</u>	<u>PRI</u>	<u>STATUS & LKH</u>
TEST, SET, AN/GRM-55 6625-973-2117	1	7255- G004	02	AF1 TO MCI 20 SEP 67
MIXING & TRANSFER UNIT 1040-339-1615	1	7143-	05	AF1 TO MCI 28 SEP 67
	1	7204-	05	AF1 TO MCI 21 SEP 67
TRUCK, CARGO, M-37 2320-542-4636	1	7184-	05	4G MPB ON 7264
TRUCK, UTILITY, M-38A1 2320-835-8319	1	7130- 0002	05	AF1 TO MCI 28 SEP 67
	1	7174	05	BV F/MRI ON 7259
CLEMMER STEAM, TRLR MTD. 4940-014-0496	1	7215- 0004	02	BM TO MPB ON 7256
M-5 COMPRESSOR 1040-987-9293	2	FORCE ISSUE		
TRUCK, M48A3 2350-895-9154	1	7204- 0050	02	AF1 TO MCI ON 24 SEP 67
	1	7174 0073	02	AF1 TO MCI ON 24 SEP 67
	1	7257- 0047	02	BM TO MRI ON 23 SEP 67
	2	7147 0054	02	AF1 TO MRI ON 21 SEP 67
	1	7270- 0070	02	
GENERATOR, PU-482 6115-721-4525	1	7218- 0072	05	AF1 TO MPB ON 21 SEP 67

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VIII. CIVIC ACTION

- A. On 16 September Mr. TIEP, Hamlet Chief of Phong Bao, visited the Civil Affairs Officer. Mr. TIEP inspected the recreation hut which was destroyed by high winds. The material in the hut was given to Mr. TIEP for distribution to needy families.
- B. On 22 September the people of Cam Hoa reported that their Hamlet Chief had been killed the previous evening by Marines test firing weapons. The CAO made a complete investigation and found that none of the Rules of Engagement had been violated. No further action was taken.
- C. On 29 September an Armed Propaganda Team was utilized in Cam Hoa and Yen Bao. The team passed information on the rewards program. Emphasis was placed on the fact that a reward would be paid for information as well as equipment.
- D. During the month of September, the MEDCAP figures fall off. The MEDCAP team treated 53 people at 1st Tank BAS, 34 at Cam Hoa, 130 at the Hoa Cam Dependents Housing Area, and 512 at Phong Bao. The total number of people treated was 729. The reason for the drop-off is probably due to the fact that the rice harvest is now in progress.
- E. During the month the CA Team distributed the following materials:
1. 25 bags of cement, 3 truck loads of lumber, and 550 gallons of water to the Buddhist School at Four Corners.
 2. 70 bags of soap at MEDCAP.
 3. 22,000 pounds of garbage to the pig farms.
- F. During the month of September, only two PSYOP movies were shown at the outdoor theater due to the weather. The two films drew an attendance of 900.
- G. Work slowed down on the Buddhist School at Four Corners during September. This is due to the fact that most of the people are working in the fields harvesting rice. Completion is expected in October 1967.
- H. The dispensary at the Phong Bao Market Place neared completion during September. The dispensary should be completed and put into use early in October.

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I. Psychological operations continued in the sector. Bulletin boards throughout the area were kept posted with PSYOP material. An Armed Propaganda Team was utilized to emphasize the rewards program.

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A. Installation of new FM radio equipment started the latter part of August and was brought to a halt on 28 September, after 89.4% completion. Completion of modification program was precluded due to deficiencies in modification kits.

B. Problems are anticipated with the new FM radios due to the complete lack of spare parts and float sets. An additional problem area is that one company is only partially modified.

C. The approaching monsoon season and its inherent effect on the telephone communications was considered by this unit. It is planned that all internal lines be overheaded to offset the effects.

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