

Note: "B" Company, First Tanks assets were in-country at Chu Lai and also on the SLF's by mid-1965 but were AdCon to - and activities were reported by - Third Tanks located in DaNang

December 1966

First Tanks:

Commanding Officer: LtCol J.W. Clayborne

Executive Officer: Maj R.D. McKee

Operations Officer: Capt F.U. Salas

Logistics Officer: Capt G.E. Hooker

Location & Operations Summary: Battalion CP Da Nang (AT 998722)

The month of December 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 a considerable time and effort improving the Battalion cantonment area and defensive posture.

Company "A" remained in Chu Lai under the operational control of Task Force X-Ray and supported the Chu Lai Defense Command.

Company "B" remained in direct support of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry, 173rd Brigade until 060249H. On that date Company "B" was placed in directed support of the 9th Marines.

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

The Battalion's defensive perimeter received only four minor outbreaks of harassing small arms fire during December. This was a considerable decrease from the amount received during November. And may be attributed to the improved defensive positions and the employment of an infrared weapon sight for night firing.

During the month of December elements of Company "C" participated in "**Operation Glenn**". Elements of Company "B" participated in "**Operation Sterling**" (See "Named Operations" - 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines search and destroy operation in Quang Nam Province) and H&S Company provided personnel support to the 3rd Tank Battalion for **County Fair operations**.

H&S C.O.s: Maj J.P. McGill & Capt J.C. Winther

Location & Operations Summary: Same as Bn CP

The 1st Tank Battalion's area of responsibility was well covered with a total of 15 night ambushes, six daylight security patrols, and seven night security patrols. On 27 December, this Battalion's area of responsibility was altered and a comparatively new region was available. This new area will also demand constant, aggressive patrolling.

C.O. Company "A": Capt C.R. Brabec

Location: Chu Lai (BT 515040)

C.O. Company "B": Capt L.E. Cherico

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 945763)

On 5 December a section of two tanks of the 2nd Platoon, Company "B", in position at (AT 893772), fired 17 rounds HE harassing and interdiction fire in support of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines.

At 041735H, one tank of the 1st Platoon, Company "B", in position at (AT 933632), in support of Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, received three rounds of small arms fire from vicinity of (AT 934634). Tank B-14 fired three rounds HE. The area was not searched due to darkness.

On 6 Dec 1966, Company "B" was placed in direct support of the 9th Marines.

On 11 December at 2130H, a section of two tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "B", in support of Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, in position on Hill 41 at (AT 934663), received 20 rounds small arms fire from vicinity of (AT 935668). Tanks fired six rounds of HE. No search was conducted due to darkness.

At 121100H, a section of tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "B", at (AT 956664) fired three rounds HE in support of elements of Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, which were receiving heavy fire from vicinity (AT 959663). Results are unknown. Infantry did not search.

On 12 December, two flame tanks from Company "B" were assigned the mission of burning and clearing avenues of approach and fields of fire on the ridge line behind the 1st Marine Division Command Post. The flame tanks expended approximately 9000 gal. of fuel accomplishing this task.

At 191830H, a section of two tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "B", in position of Hill 22, observed two Viet Cong with weapons running west across rice paddy in vicinity of (AT 952659). Tanks fired 50 rounds caliber .30 MG with inconclusive results. No search was conducted due to darkness.

C.O. Company "C": Capt P.S. Wiegand

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (BT 066715)

At 012000H, a section of two tanks of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", in position at (AT 998708), fired at a light on the south bank of the Song Cau Do River in the vicinity of (BT 000705). The tanks expended 50 rounds of .30 caliber MG and one rounds HE. A search conducted at first light revealed two Viet Cong killed.

At 021020H, a section of three tanks from the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in position at (BT 065630), in support of Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, observed several Viet Cong running toward a treeline in the vicinity of (BT 078625). The tanks fired seven rounds HE. The results were unknown as no search was conducted.

At 041230H, a section of three tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "C", supporting Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in position at (BT 055644), observed one Viet Cong run into a house in vicinity of (BT 053649). Tank C-11 fired one round WP. One body was

observed being carried away. Infantry conducted a search of area with negative results.

At 041235H, a section of three tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "C", supporting Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in position at (BT 058661), observed 10 Viet Cong running through a village into a hedgerow in the vicinity of (BT 064665). Tank C-11 fired five rounds HE. Infantry searched area with negative results.

At 041235H, a section of three tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "C" supporting Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in position at (BT 058662), observed several VC running into the treeline at (BT 065665). Tank C-13 fired four rounds HE and one round WP. Infantry searched area and found one Viet Cong killed in action confirmed.

During the hours of 1200H to 1500H on 4 December 1966, the 3rd Platoon, Company "C", in position at (BT 203570) fired 99 rounds HE and 26 rounds WP at targets of opportunity in vicinity of (BT 199563). Fire was directed by units of the Junk Fleet operating in the area. The results of the firing are unknown. No search was conducted due to a river barrier.

At 041815H, a section of three tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "C", moved from the Command Post of Company "M", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, to position at (BT 045533) to support infantry receiving heavy small arms fire. Tanks fired one round canister, seven rounds HE, 300 rounds caliber .50 MG, and 250 rounds caliber .30 MG at Viet Cong position in vicinity (BT 036658). Infantry was extracted from area and no search was conducted.

At 051430H, a section of two tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "C", moved to positions at (BT 057637) to support Company "M", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. Tanks fired 12 rounds HE, two rounds canister, 250 rounds caliber .50 MG. A search by infantry revealed three Viet Cong killed.

At 051540H, one tank of the 3rd Platoon, Company "C", supporting 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, in blocking position at (BT 077624), observed six Viet Cong attempting to flee from the infantry in vicinity (BT 074630). Tank C-32 fired six rounds HE. Tank crewmen observed three Viet Cong drop. Infantry continued sweep and did not search the area. Three Viet Cong killed in action probable.

On 4 December 1966, tanks of the 3rd Platoon, Company "C", fired 125 rounds 90mm at targets of opportunity in vicinity of (BT 199563), resulting in two Viet Cong killed and five bunkers destroyed.

On 9 December 1966, at 1810H, the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in support of 1st Battalion, 1st Marines in position at (BT 119628), observed three small boats moving downstream in the Song Ha Xan River in vicinity (BT 117031). Upon spotting the tanks, the boats hastily retreated toward the north bank. Tank C-11 fired four rounds HE. The results were unknown. No search was conducted due to darkness and a water barrier.

At 092005H, a section of two tanks of the 2nd Platoon, Company "C", in position at the Highway Bridge at (AT 998708), sighted a small boat moving downstream in the Song Cau Do River toward the bridge. Two Viet Cong in the boat fired several rounds of small arms at the tanks. The tanks returned on round HE and sank the boat. One Viet Cong was observed swept under by the current. The other Viet Cong was observed attempting to swim to the south bank of the river. The tanks swept the area with caliber .30 MG fire and observed rounds striking the Viet Cong. One Viet Cong killed in action confirmed.

On 10 December at 1400H, the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in support of Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in blocking positions at (BT 098659), observed several Viet Cong running across a rice paddy in the vicinity of (BT 094663). The tanks fired four rounds HE and 200 rounds of caliber .50 MG. The infantry searched the area and confirmed one Viet Cong killed and one captured.

At 111030H, the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in support of Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in position at (BT 102638), observed two Viet Cong running across a rice paddy in the vicinity of (BT 106637). Tanks fired three rounds of canister, two rounds of HE, and 100 rounds of caliber .30 MG. Infantry continued sweep and did not search the area.

At 111100H, the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in position at (BT 118638), observed three Viet Cong running across an open area in the vicinity of (BT 115634). Tank C-24 fired two rounds of HE. Infantry searched the area resulting in one Viet Cong killed in action confirmed.

On the morning of 16 December, the 2nd and 3rd Platoons, Company "C" in support of 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, in position at (BT 188589) and (BT 203569), fired 56 rounds of HE preparatory fires at Viet Cong positions prior to landing of 1st Battalion, 1st Marine units.

On 17 December at 1930H, a section of two tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in positions at (BT 053665), received small arms and automatic weapons fire from a house in the vicinity of (BT 050667). A round ricocheted off the tank and injured a crewman. Tanks returned fire resulting in one Viet Cong killed. One Marine was wounded and was evacuated to the 3rd Medical Battalion.

On the afternoon of 18 December, a section of two tanks of the 3rd Platoon, Company "C", in firing positions at (BT 209577), fired 79 rounds of HE at Viet Cong bunkers and fortifications located on the south bank of the Song Cau Bai River in the vicinity of (BT 213566) to (BT 216569). The Junk Fleet patrolling the river received fire from these positions and requested tank support to reduce Viet Cong positions. No search was conducted due to a water barrier.

At 182115H, a section of two tanks of the 1st Platoon of Company "C", in position at the Song Cau Do Highway Bridge observed two objects floating downstream toward the bridge. Both objects

appeared to have Viet Cong flags mounted. Tanks fired at the objects sinking them both. Secondary explosions were observed from both floats.

At 181605H, the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in blocking position at (BT 060628), observed two Viet Cong attempting to flee from blocking forces in the vicinity of (BT 058621). Tanks fired four rounds HE with inconclusive results. No search was conducted due to river barrier.

On 23 December at 2115H, a section of two tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company "C", in response to request of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, moved to position (BT 071708) to support infantry receiving fire from the French fort at (BT 071708). Tanks fired three rounds HEAT, nine rounds HE, and five rounds WP. No search was conducted due to darkness.

USMCVTH Comment: As 1966 wound down, the war was ramping up. The subtitle for the Corps official documentation "U.S. Marines in Vietnam" is "An Expanding War" (when citing this series the Foundation's uses "GB" i.e., Green Book, with the year covered "66" eg., GB66).

IIIMAF strength was nearly 70,000 and the CG Gen Walt commanded two infantry divisions, a reinforced air wing, and all the support organizations and personnel in-country to sustain the forces over the long haul. And what became increasingly obvious, III MAF was fighting 2 distinctly different wars roughly defined by that which was south of the Hai Von Pass and that north of the pass. The 3dMarDiv, north to the DMZ, fought a rather conventional war of a free fire zone nature against the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) while the 1stMarDiv was heavily engaged with the village-supported VC in a quasi-guerilla incursion with the goal of destroying the popular support of the guerilla VC by winning the hearts and minds of the locals. Though, as the war rolled out over the next several months the VC-manned forces were steadily depleted and reinforced with NVA soldiers to keep the units up to fighting strength. The VC infrastructure was essentially destroyed post-68 TET Offensive replaced by the NVA soldiers especially in the leadership positions and the war took on a conventional bent from that failed event until the Marines left in 1970.

December 1967

First Tanks:

Commanding Officer: LtCol V.J. Gentile

Executive Officer: Maj P.G. Radtke

Operations Officer: Maj R.M. Croll

Logistics Officer: Maj J.A. Schuyler

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 977723)

On 17 December 1967, 1st Antitank Battalion was reduced to one reinforced company with a strength of five Marine Officers, ninety-two Marine Enlisted and one Navy Corpsman, and was attached to 1st Tank Battalion. A cadre was formed to maintain and administer the Battalion records and was joined by H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion, on 21 December 1967, with a strength of one Marine Officer and six Marine Enlisted. Company A (-) (Rein) remained attached to 1st Marine Regiment located at Quang Tri (99 miles from the Battalion

CP). The 3rd Platoon (Rein) was attached to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, at Phu Loc (37 miles from the Battalion CP).

During the month of December the 1st Tank Battalion did not participate in any major operations.

Company A (Rein) continues to remain as security for the two top priority bridges in the Southern Sector Defense Command AOR; the Song Cau Do bridge and the Song Tuy Loan bridge. Company A has also assumed responsibility for the security of the Ha Dong bridge at (AT 990641). The 3rd Platoon supplies two tanks for bridge security on a rotating basis.

Company B (Rein) continues to remain in direct support of the 7th Marines. Their movement has been restricted to the roads making them more vulnerable to enemy lines.

Company C (-) (Rein) continues to remain in direct support of the 5th Marines in the Marble Mountain area. Trafficability in this area is good because of the composition of the terrain.

The locations of the gun companies and their supported units are as follows:

Company A (Rein), G/S 1st Mar Div (DaNang)

Company B (Rein), D/S 7th Marines (DaNang)

Company C (-) (Rein), D/S 5th Marines (DaNang)

3rd Platoon, Company C, D/S 2nd Battalion, 5th Mar (An Hoa)

On 1 December 1967, the 2nd Platoon, Company A, located at An Hoa was redesignated the 3rd Platoon, Company C, and was assigned the 3rd Platoon command frequency.

Also on 1 December 1967, the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 3rd Tank Battalion, was redesignated the 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, and was reassigned the 2nd Platoon command frequency.

On 17 December 1967, the 1st Tank Battalion joined Company A (Rein), 1st AT Battalion. On 22 December the 3rd Platoon (Rein) consisting of one officer, 27 enlisted, and 8 M50A1 Ontos were attached to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and on that date began moving vehicles from the 1st Tank Battalion to the Phu Luc area in the vicinity of (ZD 077992). The movement of all rolling stock was completed on 29 December 1967. Three vehicles participated in the initial road march. The remaining were transported by low-boy. Company A (-) remains in the Quang Tri area attached to the 1st Marines.

On 27 December a representative from the 1st Tank Battalion traveled to the Binh Son area to the 2nd Korean Marine Brigade Headquarters as a Tank Battalion Representative. Discussions were centered on the utilization of a Tank Platoon in a direct support role within the Korean TAOR.

On 17 December 1967 Company A (Rein), 1st Antitank Battalion, was attached to the 1st Tank Battalion. The Anti-tank Battalion Cadre was transferred to the 1st Tank Battalion on 21 December 1967. Logistic support plans for these units were incorporated into those of the 1st Tank Battalion.

H&S C.O.s: Capt C.R. Casey & Maj L.A. Gildersleeve

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 997723) Same as Bn CP.

The 1st Tank Battalion conducted 62 patrols and ambushes in the battalion area of responsibility and responded with one special activity of squad size in the SSDC TAOR.

C.O.s Company "A": Capt's R.W. Maddox & Capt C.R. Casey

Location: DaNang (977723)

C.O. Company "B": Capt R.E. Roemer

Location and Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 962621)

INTELLIGENCE. With the detonation of an unusual type mine by B-13 the Battalion total rose to 111. The mine detonated by B-13 was the first of its type encountered in the Division AOR. The mine was approximately 12"x12"x7" with 90* corners. Inside the mine was one pound of compressed TNT and a standard blasting cap. The exterior was dark grey to black in color and resembles pumice. The exterior can be ignited easily and burns with a bright light similar to the brightness given off by burning magnesium. The mine is detonated by crushing the blasting cap and carries the explosive force of approximately 80 pounds of TNT. B-13 was rendered unserviceable by the mine. Because of the lack of metal components the mine cannot be detonated by electric mine detonating devices employed by engineer sweep teams. After the detonation, an engineer probe team located a similar type mine that is being analyzed to determine its composition. The results of the incident were 2 USMC (KIA), 5 USMC (WIA) and an M48A3 unserviceable.

At 090100H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company B located at (AT 923563) received an incoming grenade which resulted in one USMC WIA (non-evac). The tank returned .50 caliber machinegun fire in the direction from which the grenade was received. Results are unknown.



GIBBONS, DONALD R.

Synopsis:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star Medal to Donald R. Gibbons (1377206), Gunnery Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Rein.), FMF, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on December 9, 1967. By his courage, aggressive fighting spirit and steadfast devotion to duty in the face of extreme personal danger, Gunnery Sergeant Gibbons upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval

Service.

Home Town: Detroit, Michigan

At 121930H a tank from the 3rd Platoon, Company B, located at (AT 926690) received a request from the infantry to fire at 6 VC in the open at (AT 893678). The tank fired 90mm with no search due to darkness.

At 171645H a tank of Company B located at (AT 936528) was requested to fire upon a village at (AT 924503) from which sniper fire had been received. The tank fired 90mm but no search was conducted.

At 172150H a tank from the 2nd Platoon, Company B, spotted five people dressed in black and white clothing at (AT 917834). Upon notification the infantry requested small arms fire. The tank fired .30 caliber machinegun with unknown results.

At 181014H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company B, detonated a mine of approximately 80 pounds at (AT 923548) resulting in one USMC KIA and one USMC WIA (med-evac). The vehicle suffered heavy damage.

(KIA was PFC J.H. Bush of Guyton, GA)

At 211100H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company B, located at (AT 923545) received automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of (AT 923543) while on a road sweep. The tank returned fire with .50 and .30 machinegun with unknown results.

At 252030H a tank from the Headquarters Platoon of Company B located at (AT 963607) spotted five VC running from a rice paddy to a treeline at (AT 967608). The VC fired 25-30 rounds of automatic fire. The tank returned fire with 90mm. A search disclosed two VC KIA.

At 281915H a tank from the Headquarters Platoon of Company B located at (AT 961802). The tank spotted two VC running from a treeline at that location and fired 90mm. Results indicated two VC KIA.

At 290915H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company B, received small arms fire from (AT 967587) while conducting a road sweep. The tank fired 90mm but no search was made.

At 291155H a tank from the Headquarters Platoon of Company B received a request to assist a truck that had been ambushed at (AT 967597). The tank fired 90mm, but no search was conducted.

At 29115H a tank position at (AT 926527) received incoming mortar and small arms rounds from the vicinity of (AT 921518). The tanks returned fire with 90mm and .50 caliber machinegun. No search was conducted due to darkness.

C.O. Company "C": Capt R.D. Gunselman

Location and Operations Summary: DaNang (BT072644)

At 041615H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company C, detonated a mine at (BT 069633) causing moderate damage to the vehicle and resulting in one USMC WIA (med-evac).

At 041630H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company C, while assisting a mined vehicle, received heavy small arms fire from a tree line at (BT 070638). The tank fired the 90mm, but no search was made due to the mission.

At 050800H a tank from the 1st Platoon, Company C, located at (BT 097618) discovered a 105mm round half buried in sand in an upright position. Two pieces of wood in a cross were found nearby, believed to be a pressure-type detonator. The tank fired .50 caliber at the device which failed to explode. The mine was reported to the infantry who stated they would clear it.

At 180800H a tank from the 2nd Platoon, Company C, received sniper fire from (BT 035645) while on a road sweep. The tank returned .50 and .30 caliber machinegun fire with unknown results.

On 251600H the 1st Platoon, Company C, was placed in direct support of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade of the Korean Marine Corps. This resulted when the 3rd Battalion assumed responsibility for the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines' AOR.

At 262000H a tank from the Headquarters Platoon of Company C located at (BT 072701) received a request from a CAP unit to fire at a village located at (BT 082690) from which mortar fire was coming. The tank fired 90mm but no search was made due to darkness. Approximately two hours later sniper fire was received from the same location. The tank fired .30 caliber machinegun silencing the sniper fire.

At 311000H two tanks from the 1st Platoon, Company C located at (BT 081609) received a request to fire at VC seen running at (BT 078606). The tanks fired 90mm with negative results.

C.O.s Company "A" (-) 1st AT Bn: Capt C.E. Woods & 1stLt V.C. Davis Location and Operations Summary: (YD 333493)

On 17 December 1967 Company A (Rein), 1st Antitank Battalion was attached to this Battalion. This Company consisted of 5 officers, 92 enlisted and 15 M50A1 Ontos.

On this date the 3rd Platoon (Rein), Company A (-), 1st Antitank Battalion, 1st Tank Battalion, was attached to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and began moving vehicles and equipment from the 1st Tank Battalion CP to the Phu Loc area. This movement was completed on 29 December 1967.

USMCVTHF Comment: 1967 ended with the Marines in I Corps facing the very real prospects that the NVA was poised to invade across the DMZ and capture the whole of Quang Tri Province with Hue the former imperial capital and establishing a new political reality for South Vietnam. Two NVA divisions fully kitted out as a conventional army with all the support units including tanks and surface-to-air defense capability. The NVA 325C and 304th invested Khe Sanh from across the Laotian border. COMUSMACV was firm in its assessment that Khe Sanh was the key to stopping the NVA from its intended goal.

In the meantime, reinforced by the NVA, the VC were poised to launch the '68 TET Offensive the results of which sent chills through America, changed the direction of the entire war effort, and ultimately the outcome of the American effort to stop the North.

December 1968

First Tanks:

Commanding Officer: LtCol M.C. Ashley, Jr

Executive Officer: Maj R.H. Graham

Operations Officer: Maj J.B. Terpak

Logistics Officer: Maj D.R. Sparks

Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 997723)

With the significant decrease in rainfall during December and the accompanying improvement in trafficability, tanks and Ontos of the 1st Tank Battalion returned to the field to provide support for the infantry regiments of the 1st Marine Division and the 2nd Brigade, ROK Marine Corps. Tanks participated in three major operations and numerous small unit operations, provided convoy and road sweep security, and strengthened the defensive positions of infantry units throughout the Division Area of Responsibility. Tanks continued to be employed on key terrain features where their highly accurate direct fire capabilities were used to interdict known enemy routes of advance and egress and to provide counter-rocket fire.

The task organization of the 1st Tank Battalion as of 31 December was:

Company A (-) (Rein):	D/S 26th Marine Regiment
Company B (Rein):	3 platoons D/S 5th Marine Regiment 2 platoons D/S 7th Marine Regiment
Company C (Rein):	D/S 1st Marine Regiment 1 platoon D/S 2nd Brigade, ROKMC
Company A (Rein), 1st Anti-tank Bn: Co A (-) G/S 1st MarDiv	1 Plt D/S Task Force Kilo Heavy Section D/S 3/1 Light Section D/S 3/7

Southern Sector activities continued to be initiated, coordinated and controlled by the Commanding Officer, 1st Tank Battalion. During December, activities conducted by SSDC tenant units included patrols, ambushes, LP's, OP's and COP's. During the month elements from the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines assumed control of the Cobb Bridge and continued to defend this key line of communication, reinforced by a light section of Ontos from CoA, 1st AT Bn. OP's Hawk, Panther, Tiger and Bear continued to provide early warning of enemy infiltration into the Southern Sector. Company A, 1st AT Battalion assumed command from Company C, 7th Engineer Battalion of OP Bear and began improvement of defensive positions with the installation of German Barbed Concertina, aircraft flares and E-8 CS dispenser. Counter-rocket and mortar sites, OP Panther and OP Hawk again proved their worth in the early morning hours of 23 December

when the enemy launched a rocket attack on Da Nang. No sooner had the enemy launched his attack than tanks from H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion located at OP Panther and LVTH6's from the 1st Armored Amphibian Company located at OP Hawk brought the enemy launching sites under intensive and highly accurate direct fire. An examination of the enemy launching sites the following day revealed that the direct fire from the LVTH6's was on target and had, in fact, destroyed one of the enemy's rockets before it could be fired. The defensive installations within the SSDC continue to provide the capability of delaying or denying an enemy penetration from the west into vital installations within the Southern Sector Defense Command and the Da Nang vital area.

H&S Company C.O.s : Capt M.P. Sams & Maj F.OP. Briseno

Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 997723)

The 1st Tank Battalion conducted 93 patrols and ambushes in the Battalion Area of Responsibility within the Southern Sector Defense Command.

C.O. Company "A" (-)(Rein): Capt B.R. Montgomery

Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 936782)

Company A (-) (Rein) remained in direct support of the 26th Marines with the Company command post co-located with that of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines. Elements of the 2nd and 3rd Platoons continued to be employed on Hill 190, providing counter-mortar and rocket fire, and at Namo Bridge, providing bridge security. The tanks located at Namo Bridge aided by a 50 power starlight scope and Ground Surveillance Radar fired numerous direct fire missions at increasingly large enemy groups in the (AT 9184) and (AT 9185) grid squares, thereby denying the enemy an accessible route of advance into the northern DaNang vital area.

150345H Dec 1968	A tank from Company A in support of Company A, 1/26 at (AT 922949), fired 90mm and MG's at enemy troops at (AT 912856). Unknown results.
152045H Dec 1968	A tank from Company A in support of Company D, 1/26 at (AT 899817) fired 90mm at enemy troops at (AT 908846). Unknown results.
182025H Dec 1968	A tank from Company A at (AT 922848) in support of 1/26 fired 90mm at enemy troops at (AT 917845). Unknown results.
201935H Dec 1968	Two tanks from Company A in support of 1/26 at (AT 923845) fired 90mm at enemy troops at (AT 912848). Unknown results.
232100H Dec 1968	Two tanks from Company C were ambushed at (BT 894662). Tanks fired 90mm and MG's resulting in 10 enemy KIA.

C.O.s Company "B" (Rein): Capt's R.A. Doyle & M.P. Sams

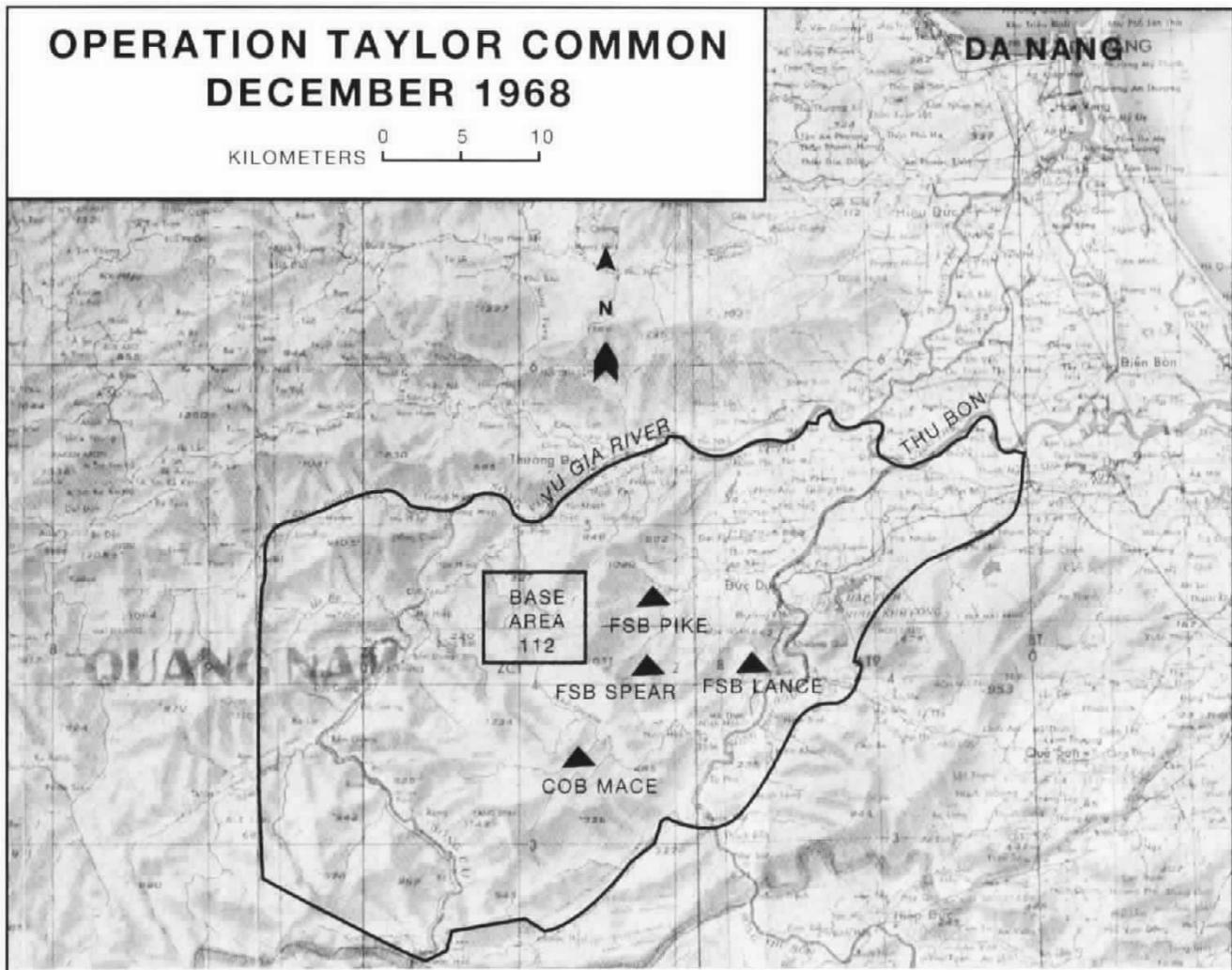
Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 962621)

Company B (Rein) remained in direct support of the 5th and 7th Marine regiments with three platoons in support of the 5th Marines and two in support of the 7th Marines. The Company command post remained co-located with that of the 7th Marine Regiment with a forward command post co-located with the 5th Marine Regiment. The 1st and 3rd Platoons of Company B remained in support of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines and the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines respectively, and during December relocated their command post to Hill 37 and Hill 10. Tanks from the 1st and 3rd Platoon were used primarily for convoy and road sweep security and for strengthening the defensive fortifications of their respective supported battalions. Due to the extensive amount of convoy traffic destined for An Hoa and the 5th Marines, as well as the heavy commitment for operation **Taylor Common**, (See "Named Operations" - 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 26th Marines operation to clear the An Hoa Basin, neutralize NVA Base Area 112 and develop Fire Support Bases to interdict NVA infiltration routes leading from the Laotian border.)

USMCVTHF Comment: On 6 December, General Dwyer issued the order launching Operation Taylor Common. The task force's mission was to "neutralize" Base Area 112 and to develop Fire Support Bases (FSBs) to interdict Communist infiltration routes leading from the Laotian border. The plan included three phases. The first step was to be a search and clear operation to ensure that An Hoa was secure. Units of the task force, in coordination with the ARVN 1st Ranger Group would sweep the Arizona Territory and the area between Liberty Bridge and An Hoa. In the second phase, TF Yankee would penetrate Base Area 112, establish a series of fire support bases in the eastern half of the area, and begin reconnaissance-in-force operations to locate and destroy the enemy. Phase three was to be an extension of the second phase, with Marine battalions operating out to the western edge of Base Area 112 in search of enemy units and facilities. (GB68)

The three month operation that commenced on 6 December and terminated on 8 March "cost the Marines 183 killed and 1,487 wounded. Of these casualties, 27 dead and 386 wounded were the result of booby traps; **26 were killed and 103 were wounded by errant friendly fire**. Enemy casualties exceeded 500 dead. Although the Marines captured huge quantities of enemy arms and supplies, forcing the NVA out of Base Area 112, as soon as they departed the AO, the enemy began returning. Such was the war in South Vietnam." (SF-EM)

USMCVTHF Comment: It's difficult to realize that 26 Marines died for a relatively small patch of the planet, thousands of mile from home and loved ones, by errors of their Brothers. An inexcusable "goat rope" of the much too willing, led by the totally incompetent, to do the unnecessary.



it was necessary for the 1st Tank Battalion to provide another tank platoon to support the 5th Marines. On 26 December, the tank platoon which returned from BLT 2/7 was placed under operational control of Company B and displaced to the 5th Marines command post to bolster their tank assets. Tanks in the An Hoa Basin were extensively employed during the month to provide security for convoys and road sweeps and in support of infantry units involved in search and clear and search and destroy operations.

- 041600H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company C (AT 924518) in support of 1/5 reacted to assist a convoy under fire from (AT 912517). Tanks fired 90mm and MG's. Action resulted in seven (7) enemy KIA.
- 061715H Dec 1968 A tank from Co B in support of Company C, 1/5 at (AT 957525) received A/R fire from (AT 965516). Tank returned fire with 90mm and MG's. Action resulted in three (3) enemy KIA.
- 101325H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company B in support of 1/5 at (AT 948525), received small arms fire from

(AT 962522). Tanks returned fire with 90mm and MG's. Results unknown.

111115H Dec 1968 A tank from Company B at (AT 937523) in support of Company C, 1/5 fired 90mm at a suspected enemy position at (AT 955532). A search of the area revealed three (3) enemy KIA.

131445H Dec 1968 A tank from Company B at (AT 956525) in support of Company C, 1/5 fired 90mm at enemy troops at (AT 966528). Action resulted in three (3) enemy KIA, four (4) AK47's and two (2) carbines, assorted medical and 782 gear, one (1) enemy captured and 42 detainees.

151115H Dec 1968 A tank from Company B in support of Company C, 1/5 struck a mine at (AT 945525). One (1) USMC WIA non-evac, moderate damage to the tank.

180820H Dec 1968 A tank from Company B in support of the 7th Marines struck a mine at (AT 968596) resulting in moderate damage to the vehicle.

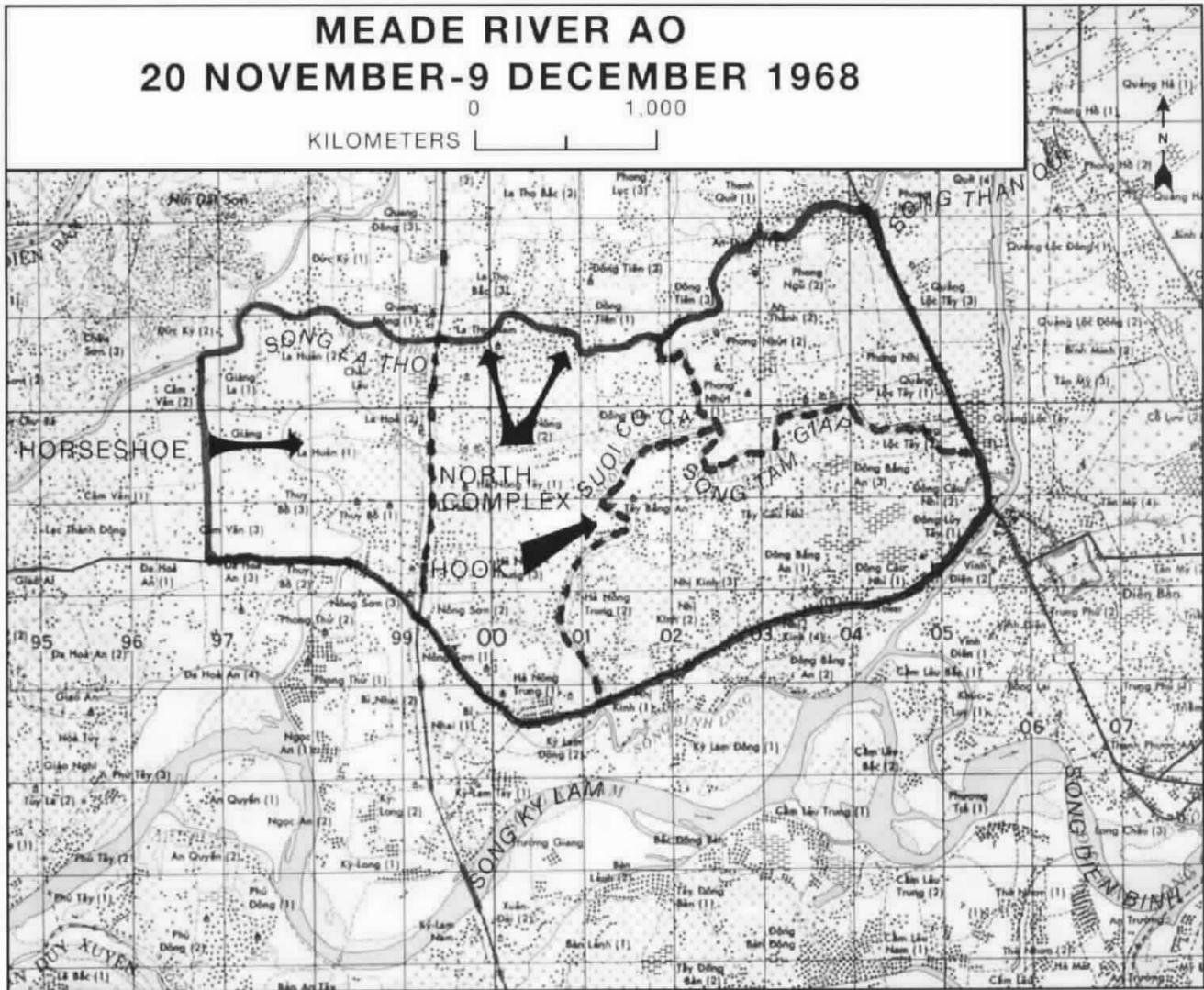
221130H Dec 1968 A tank from Company B in support of Company B, 1/5 at (AT 916514) fired 90mm into a suspected enemy position at (AT 923493). A search of the area revealed one (1) enemy KIA.

21145H Dec 1968 A tank from Co B at (AT 918488) fired 90mm H&I at (AT 897486). A search of the area revealed two (2) enemy KIA.

270830H Dec 1968 A tank from Company B struck a mine at (AT 982600) with moderate damage to the tank and no casualties.

C.O. Company "C" (Rein): 1stLt T.G. Roberts
Location and Operations Summary: CP (BT 078663)

Company C (Rein) continued to be tasked with supporting the 1st Marine Regiment and the 2nd Brigade, ROK Marine Corps. The Company command post remained co-located with that of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines. The 1st platoon remained within the 1st Tank Battalion CP preparing for deployment with BLT 3/26, and on 22 December was placed under operational control of BLT 3/26. Tanks from the 2nd platoon provided both direct and indirect fire support for operation **Meade River** (See "named Operations - 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 26th Marines and ARVN 51st Regiment cordon and search operations south of DaNang in support of Accelerated Pacification Campaign)



and supported numerous battalion and company size operations in the vicinity of Phuong Ho 1 and 2, Man Quan, and the Marble Mountain Area. The 3rd Platoon, in direct support of the 2nd Brigade, ROK Marine Corps, remained constantly in the field, providing valuable direct fire support for operation **Victory Dragon 6** and numerous company size operations.

091530H Dec 1968 Four tanks from Company C at (BT 122598) in support of the 25th Company, ROK Marines fired 90mm and MG's into suspected enemy position at (BT 126597). Action resulted in 13 enemy KIA's and one (1) M-1, two (2) M-16's, one (1) M-14 and one two (2) LAAW's captured.

111515H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company C in support of Company E, 2/1 at (BT 095662) were taken under heavy automatic weapons fire from (BT 099662). Tanks returned fire with 90mm and MG's. Action resulted in 20 enemy KIA.

191055H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company C at (BT 028568) in support of ROK Marines received heavy automatic weapons fire from (BT 022564). Tanks returned fire with 90mm and MG's. Unknown results.

191445H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company C in support of the 3rd Company ROK Marines at (BT 028568) fired 90mm and MG's at enemy troops assaulting their position from (BT 022564).

211750H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company C in support of the 3rd Co, ROK Marines found 10 enemy bodies and a large assortment of weapons at (BT 021562).

211415H Dec 1968 A tank from Company C in support of 2/1 at (BT 063621), became submerged to the turret ring in a rice paddy. Extraction was completed in 20 minutes and the tank was towed to the Company CP for Post-Submersion maintenance.

211335H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company C in support of the 3rd Company, ROK Marines at (BT 028568) received automatic weapons and small arms fire from (BT 022564). Tanks returned fire with 90mm. Unknown results.

230100H Dec 1968 A tank from Company C at (BT 065644) received one RPG hit from (BT 066636) which resulted in slight damage to the tank and one (1) USMC WIA non-evac.

232100H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company C were ambushed at (BT 894662). Tanks fired 90mm and MG's resulting in 10 enemy KIA.

271815H Dec 1968 Two tanks from Company C at (BT 017570) received mortar, B-40 rocket, automatic rifle and small arms fire from (BT 017573). Tanks returned fire with unknown results.

“And as hard as the fight during Meade River was (GB68) there was this entry: “The aftermath of Operation Meade River, however, is more a statement on the nature of counterinsurgency. After the other units departed the area, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines crossed the Song La Tho into Dodge City to exploit the success of the operation. By 11 December, the battalion added to its tabulation of enemy dead, 20 more North Vietnamese while taking 1 prisoner. A week later, patrols observed an increase in sniper fire . As 1968 ended, the 1st Marine Division reported that " . . . the enemy is persistent . By the end of [December] he had reoccupied the Meade River area, and gave indications of again preparing for a thrust against Dien Ban/Hoi An and Da Nang.” (GB68)



Photo is from the Col Robert G. Lauffer, USMC (Ret), Collection

One can see the formidable nature of the enemy bunkers with their reinforced timbers that the Marines encountered during Meade River. This bunker was in the Hook sector. (GB68)

Note: On 6 December, General Dwyer issued the order launching Operation Taylor Common. See above.

C.O.s Company "A" (Rein), 1st AT Bn: Capt F.P. Briseno & 1stLt J.J. Banning
Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT997723)

Company A (Rein), 1st Anti-tank Battalion remained within the Southern Sector Defense Command providing security for the Song Cau Do and Cobb Bridges together with infantry elements of the 1st and 7th Marines, respectively. One heavy section of Ontos remained in support of the 1st Marines at the Song Cau Bridge and a light section of Ontos supported elements of the 7th Marines on the Cobb Bridge. In addition to command responsibility for OP Panther and the Three Fingers Combat Outpost, Company A, 1st AT Bn was tasked with command of OP Bear. One platoon from Company A remained in support of the I Corps Quick Reaction Mobile Task Force, Task Force Kilo.

USMCVTHF Comments: 1968 was by all accounts the most important and most heavily engaged year of the Marine's participation in the Vietnam War. The year can be summed up by the citing the casualties suffered in two parts. During the earlier months of the year as a result of the enemy's several significant offensive operations, Marines suffered 21,338 casualties (3,057 KIA). As the enemy's emphasis changed as a result of their offensives

being severally beaten back with the resulting heavy, unsustainable casualties, so did the Marines' response and the result was that somewhat more than one third (1/3) the casualties i.e., 12,600 with 1,561 KIA. Nixon, the President-elect campaigned on the pledge to end the war "honorably" and General Westmorland was booted upstairs to the Chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be replaced by General Abrams. The "Body Count War" wound down.

The slogan of "winning the hearts and minds" of the Vietnamese civilians became the new war-winning philosophy and "Vietnamization of the Military" became the way-to-late goal of the American forces.

December 1969

First Tanks:

Commanding Officer: Maj J.J. Louder

Executive Officer: Maj R.D. Becker

Operations Officer: Capt T.F. Howe

Logistics Officer: Maj J.P. Senik

Location and Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 997723)

During the month of December the 1st Tank Battalion continued to support the 1st Marine Division and the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade throughout Quang Nam Province, providing direct fire support to infantry search and clear, and search and destroy operations, as well as road sweeps and convoy security, counter-rocket and counter-mortar fire, perimeter defense and armored mobile reaction force operations.

Task Organization. The task organization of the 1st Tank Battalion as of 31 December 1969 was:

Company A (-):	Cadre
Company B (Rein):	2 platoons and Company Headquarters, D/S 1st Marine Regiment 2 platoons and forward Command Post D/S 5th Marine Regiment
Company C (Rein):	2 platoons and Company Headquarters, D/S 7th Marine Regiment 1 platoon, D/S 2nd Brigade ROKMC
Company A, 5th Tank Bn	2 platoons D/S 26th Marine Regiment 1 platoon G/S 1st Marine Division

The 1st Tank Battalion conducted 65 patrols and ambushes in the Battalion Area of Responsibility within Southern Sector Defense Command.

SOUTHERN SECTOR DEFENSE COMMAND

During the month of December the Commanding Officer of the First Tank Battalion in his capacity of Commander, Southern Sector Defense Command, coordinated and controlled 1170 activities in support of the defense of the Southern Sector of the DaNang Vital Area.

H&S C.O.: Maj H.G. Duncan

Location and Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 997723) Same as Bn CP.

The tanks of H&S Company were employed in General Support of the 1st Marine Division as a tank reserve and to provide counter-rocket fire. One section continued operations with the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade on Barrier Island (BT 2054) in support of **Operation Victory Dragon** (See the note below) during the period 17-31 December. Flame tanks were used extensively within the Division TAOR to burn possible ingress routes to cantonments. One section was employed in direct support of the 7th Marines at Fire Support Base ROSS (BT 025342). Another section was employed in direct support of the 5th Marines on Hill 65 (AT 879576). During December, one flame tank was mined while in support of the 5th Marines, resulting in moderate damage to the tank.

USMCVTHF Comment: The "Victory Dragon" name the series of operations similar in name to most of the Korean Marine Corps named operations. Similarly, there is little documentation available from either the USM or the ROKMC sources.

"On 4 Dec a jeep and trailer from 1st Tanks with 3 USMC and 1 USN was ambushed by 25-30 VC wearing shorts and bandanas armed with AK-47's, SKS, RPG's and an M-79. The driver was thrown from the vehicle. One of the personnel unhooked the trailer from the vehicle to make driving easier. In the process the USN was hit and fell into the water. The jeep was started and the 3 USMC made it within 200 meters of the KMC lines before the jeep stalled. They proceeded on foot to the C.P. where they were med-evaced. Location of the incident is BT092690." (1stTks CC of Dec '69)

B/B Comment: The "USN" was HN D.C Shoenwald of Phoenix, AZ. It appears as though he was left behind – in the water – with no recorded attempt to retrieve him by the 3 "USMC's". It's not recorded if/when his body was finally recovered or if Luciani died of the bullet wound or drowned after falling into the water. Leaves me with a few questions.

C.O.s Company "A": 1stLt's P.H. McMath & F./P. Sherer

Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 997723)

Company A remained in a Cadre status. One M-51-VTR remained as a table of equipment deficiency. The Company Command Post continued to be co-located with that of the 1st Tank Battalion.

C.O. Company "B": 1st Lt J.M. Lidyard

Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 962621)

Company B (Rein) continued in direct support of the 1st Marines and 5th Marines. The Company Command Post is co-located with the 1st Marines Command Post on Hill 55 (AT 970621) with a forward Command Post co-located with the 5th Marines Command Post at the An Hoa Combat Base (AT 874475). The two platoons supporting the 1st Marines were employed on Hill 55 (AT 970621), Hill 37 (AT 915581), and at the Riviera (BT 103665). The two platoons supporting the 5th Marines

provided security and reaction force at Phu Loc (6) (AT 928527) and the An Hoc Combat Base (AT 874475).

C.O.s Company "C": Capt T.W. Kelly

Location and Operations Summary: CP (BT 135454)

Company C (Rein) remained in direct support of the 7th Marines and ROK Marine Brigade. Company C provided support to the 7th Marines with one platoon and the Company Headquarters at LZ BALDY (BT 133453) and one platoon at Fire Support Base ROSS (BT 025342). One platoon from Company C supported the ROKMC in **Operation Victory Dragon (See the note above)** during the period 17-31 December. Two Company C tanks were mined during December resulting in major damage and necessitating replacement of both vehicles.

C.O. Company "A" 1st AT Bn: 1stLt T.G. Harkins

Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 997723)

Company A, 1st Anti-Tank Battalion's strength was reduced to 1 officer and 1 enlisted, pending authority to reduce the unit to zero strength. Administrative equipment/directives were subsequently assigned to Company A, 5th Tank Battalion due to the assignment of ADCON to this Battalion on 28 October 1969 without a Company Headquarters.

C.O. Company "A" 5th Tank Bn: Capt M.F. Shisler

Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 997723)

Company A (-), 5th Tank Battalion continued in direct support of the 26th Marines with one section of tanks each at Namu Bridge (AT 929838), Hill 190 (AT 888802), Hill 10 (AT 923695) and Hill 41 (AT 929663). One platoon was brought in to the 1st Tank Battalion area for maintenance and subsequently placed in General Support of the 1st Marine Division. The Company Command Post is now located with the 26th Marines (AT 950758).

On 26 December 1968, South Vietnamese, Korean, and American commanders in I Corps Tactical Zone issued their Combined Campaign Plan for 1969. Designed to implement the objectives outlined in the nationwide campaign and pacification plans, this document was to provide basic guidance for the operations of Marines and allied forces in ICTZ through-out the coming year. (GB69)



Abel Papers, Marine Corps Historical Center

LtGen Robert K Cushman, left, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force ; LtGen Hoang Xuan Lam, Commanding General, I Corps ; and BGen Dong Ho Lee, right, Commander, 2d Republic of Korea Marine Brigade, sign the I Corps Combined Campaign Plan for 1969, outlining allied coordination and assistance policies for I Corps. (GB68)

December 1965

First Antitanks:

Commanding Officer: LtCol W. Moore

Executive Officer: Maj R.E. Harris

Operations Officer: LtCol W. Moore

Logistics Officer: Maj J.J. Keefe

Location & Operations Summary: Camp Pendleton, CA

H&S Company C.O.: Capt J.W. Schroeder

Location: Camp Pendleton, CA

C.O. Company "A", 1st AT Bn: 1stLt D.S. Feeney

Location: Okinawa

C.O. Company "B", 1st AT Bn: Capt J.;E. Felker

Location: Camp Pendleton, CA

C.O. Company "C" 1st AT Bn: 1stLt W.F. Snyder

Location & Operations Summary: RVN

The first platoon in direct support of 1/7 has been manning the MLR at (BT 578033) to (BT 570022). No patrols were conducted during this period due to heavy rains and flooding of the area. On 19 Nov 1965 the platoon fired small arms and .30 cal. M.G. from (BT 579033). They expended 1250 rounds of .30 cal. linked and 330 rounds of .45 cal.

The second platoon has had a heavy section in support of Task Force Smith defending the RMK Compound at (BT 528054). On 26 Nov 1965 the light section located at (BT 560048) escorted a (6) six truck convoy, consisting of (2) two platoons of "C", 1st Recon. And (4) four truck loads of artillery ammo. Leaving MLR at (BT 553016) and proceeding south on route #1 the convoy dropped off the 2 recon. Platoons at (BT 592936) and the proceeded to (BS 596927) dropping off the ammunition.

On or about 1200 that same day they returned north picking up the 2 recon. Platoons and returning to the Co. CP (BT 560048). No patrols were run due to flooding in the area.

The third platoon in direct support of 3/7 has had a light section at (BT 525024) and a light section at (BT 549016) manning the MLR. On 28 Nov 1965 the light section from (BT 549016) escorted a platoon of infantry aboard trucks south on route #1 to Tri Binh (1) (BS 567985). The troops off loaded, searched and cleared the village, reboarded the trucks and returned to the MLR.

USMCVTHF Comment: The month of December is included in the un-formatted "Command Chronology - July thru December 1965". The document is a narrative with no specific format making it difficult to summarize. However, the narrative style is quite comprehensive and covers much more detail than the standard formatted CC. Plus the chain of command includes the platoon leaders which is largely absent from the norm for CC's. For those interested in details of this period of 1st AT you are encouraged to access the Foundation's web site at <http://www.mcvthf.org>, go to the command chronologies page and follow the prompts to the applicable chronology.

December 1966

First Antitanks:

Commanding Officer: Maj J.J. Keefe

Executive Officers: Maj's M.F. Manning & J.L. Saul

Operations Officer: Maj J.J. Burke, Jr.

Logistics Officer: Capt C.R. Van Horn

Location & Operations Summary:

Throughout the reporting period, subordinate units of this Command were assigned missions as follows:

Company A, Direct Support of the 1st Marines.

Company B (-), 1-2 December 1966 Direct Support 4thBn, 503d Infantry, 173 Brigade U.S. Army; 3-31 December 1966 Direct Support 3dBn 9th Marines.

Company C (Rein), Direct Support of 7th Marines.

1-31 December 1966. Throughout the reporting period, active security patrolling and the establishment of a listening post were executed by this Command within Zone B Northern Sector Defense Area under the coordination of the Eleventh Marines.

1-31 December 1966. During the month of December, the Ontos of this Battalion were used extensively for mechanized convoy escort, security for engineer mine sweep units, and harassing and interdiction fires. The Ontos of this Command were not prevented from executing their assigned missions, despite monsoon conditions and marginal trafficability throughout the TAOR.

USMCVTHF Comment: To attempt to summarize the Command Chronology of 1st AT's is an injustice. The Ontos were everywhere! There was no job too large or too small for the Ontos to be involved. The command chronologies are detailed down to names of crews. This level of detail is found nowhere else in the archives of command chronologies. If you want to research further into the actions of Ontos you are encouraged to read the complete command chronologies, accessed through the Foundation's web site. Tank CCs are up to 500+ pages much of which is of slight interest (being generous) to most. However, the Ontos CCs are often but 23+ pages long and they are action filled and detailed. To complicate reporting, the Ontos Battalions were phased out halfway through the war and their actions strained through the sieve of the supporting respective Tank Battalions. From that point on, Tank's CCs mostly mentioned the attached Ontos units "in passing" and very little of what the Ontos did was reported in any great detail.

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 December Company A, Direct Support of 1st Marines; Company B (-), Direct Support of 4thBn, 503d Infantry, 173d Brigade, U.S. Army; Company C, Direct Support of 7th Marines.
- 3 December Company B (-), Direct Support of 3d Battalion, 9th Marines.
- 5 December 2d Platoon, Company A credited with 5 VC KIA probable.
- 7-11 December 3d Platoon, Company A participated in **Operation TRINIDAD**. (See "Named Operations" 1st Battalion, 1st Marines search and destroy operation in Quang Nam Province)
- 10-12 December Company B provided a Heavy Section of Ontos for security of Rough Rider between DaNang and Chu Lai.
- 11-15 December 3d Platoon, Company B supported 3d Battalion, 9th Marines on **Operation STERLING**. (See "Named Operations" - 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines search and destroy operation in Quang Nam Province)
- 12-25 December 3d Platoon, and a Light Section, 2d Platoon, Company C supported 7th Marines on **Operation SIERRA**. (See "Named Operations" and "Operations Details" - 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines search and destroy operation in Quang Ngai Province.)
- 17-21 December 1st Platoon, Company A participated **Operation GLENN**.
- 20-21 December Company B provided a Heavy Section of Ontos for security of Rough Rider between Da Nang and Chu Lai.
- 22 December Ontos A-34 of Company A hit an unknown type mine resulting in 1 KIA, 3 WIA, 1 DOW.

(LCpl M.G. Romanchuk of Hellertown, PA and Cpl V. Tarasuk of Rachel, WV.) Vehicle sustained total damage. Ontos C-35 of Company C number 1 gun prematurely fired into lead M-35 truck while moving into position to assist the convoy which had stopped due to enemy light automatic weapons fire, resulting in 1 KIA and 1 WIA.

25 December 2d Platoon, Company B moved from 3d Battalion, 9th Marines TAOR to 2d Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.
26 December 2d Platoon, Company B CHOP to 2d Battalion, 5th Marines.

H&S Company C.O.: Capt M.H. Collier
Location: DaNang (AT 991675)

C.O.s Company "A"(-): Capt's D.M. Hutson & G.J. Forbes
Location: DaNang (AT 991675)

C.O. Company "B" (Rein): Capt T.F. Dempsey
Location: DaNang

C.O. Company "C": Capt R.J. Esposito
Location: Chu Lai

December 1967

First Antitanks:

Commanding Officer: LtCol P.D. Reissner, Jr.

Executive Officer: Maj P.G. Radke

Operations Officer: Maj W.E. Wright

Logistics Officers: 1stLt V.C. Davis & Capt B.A. Vredeveld

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang

On 17 December 1967, 1st Antitank Battalion was reduced to one reinforced company with a strength of five Marine Officers, ninety-two Marine Enlisted and one Navy Corpsman, and was attached to 1st Tank Battalion. A cadre was formed to maintain and administer the Battalion records and was joined by H&S Company, 1st Tank Battalion, on 21 December 1967, with a strength of one Marine Officer and six Marine Enlisted. Company A (-) (Rein) remained attached to 1st Marine Regiment located at Quang Tri (99 miles from the Battalion CP). The 3rd Platoon (Rein) was attached to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, at Phu Loc (37 miles from the Battalion CP).

Current plans call for the movement of an Antitank cadre, presently located on Hill 34, into the 1st Tank Battalion CP. This cadre will handle the records and maintain files for the Antitank Battalion, in the event the reorganization of the Battalion is ordered.

Company A (-) remained attached to 1st Marines (OPCON 3d MarDiv) for the entire reporting period. Companies B, C, and H&S progressively reduced to zero strength, attaching 3dPlt, Co A to 1st Tank Battalion. Command (ADCON) Co A (Rein) passed 1st Tank Bn.

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 Dec 1st AT Bn commenced reorganization as directed by Tabs A and B to enclosure (1) and in accordance with plan established.

2 Dec Company B commenced relocation to Bn. CP.

7 Dec Co B reported at zero strength. Co C commenced relocation to Bn. CP.

13 Dec Co C reported at zero strength. H&S Co accelerated reduction begun in conjunction with letter companies.

17 Dec Command of Co A (Rein) passed to 1st Tank Bn.

18 Dec Control of former AT Bn. cantonment on Hill 34 passed to 7th Comm Bn. effective 1200H.

20 Dec Antitank Battalion colors retired.

21 Dec H&S Co. reported at zero strength. Only remaining AT Bn. unit is Company A (Rein), ADCON 1st Tank Bn. with Company A (-) OPCON 1st Marines. 1st Antitank Battalion ceased to function as a battalion as of this date.

USMCVTHF Comment: 20 December 1st Antitank Battalion colors retired.

H&S Company C.O.: 1stLt R.E. Bailey
Location: DaNang

C.O. Company "A"(-): Capt C.E. Woods
Location: Quang Tri

On 17 December 1967 Company A (Rein), 1st Antitank Battalion, was attached to the 1st Tank Battalion. The Antitank Battalion Cadre was transferred to the 1st Tank Battalion on 21 December 1967. Logistic support plans for these units were incorporated into those of the 1st Tank Battalion.

USMCVTHF Comment: Company "A" was absorbed into and reported by the 1st Tanks for 1968 and 1969.

C.O.s Company "B" (Rein): Capt J.K. Robinson, Jr.
Location: Hill 63, Quang Tin & Duong Son

C.O. Company "C": Capt W.E Nelson
Location: DaNang

December 1965

Third Tanks

Commanding Officer: LtCol M.L. Raphael

Executive Officer: Maj J.G. Doss, Jr.

Operations Officer: Maj H.L. Maxwell

Logistics Officer: Maj F.W. Coates

Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 989708)

H&S Company C.O.: Capt H.A. Bertrand Jr.

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 989708)

Special operations were conducted by H&S Company during the month of December in areas adjacent to the Battalion CP. 13 day time patrols and 7 night ambushes were conducted. One sweep and clear operation was conducted over two grid squares south and east of the CP. The battalion provided one infantry platoon on standby for immediate employment in the 3d Marine Division TAOR, during **Operation Harvest Moon**. (This operation included several ARVN units and "/Lien Kiet 18" was added to the official name of the operation. See "Named Operations" 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, "Lima" and "Echo" 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, and "Golf" Company 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 1st ARVN Regiment, 1st Battalion, 5th ARVN Regiment, 1st Battalion, 6th ARVN Regiment and ARVN 11th Ranger Battalion operation in Quang Tin Province 37 km NW of Chu Lai in Phuoc Ha and Que Son Valley's).

USMCVTHF Comment: 2dLt Herb Steigleman's 3dPlt., Co. "A", 1stTks attached to BLT 2/1 proved the blocking force against which 3/3 was driving the VC south. And read what he had to say about it:

Dagger Thrust Operations 1965

By (then) 2dLt Herb Steigelman

BLT 2/1 departed California the first Week of August 1965 with 3rd Platoon, Company B, 1st Tank Battalion attached. The platoon was embarked aboard the USS *Gunstan Hall* (LSD-4). After stopping in Midway for several hours to refuel the LST it was convoying with, the *Gunstan Hall* arrived at Red Beach Okinawa 30 days later (yes 30 days later). The platoon then road marched to Camp Hansen and occupied a portion of the Third Tank Battalion buildings. The battalion had already left for Vietnam. After a week of scrounging for anything left behind by 3D Tanks the platoon embarked aboard the USS *Point Defiance* (LSD-31) and sailed with the USS *Valley Forge* as the Special Landing Force (SLF). The Marines called the *Point Defiance* the "USS Secured". We didn't have the best of relationships initially.

The SLF was directed by MACV to make a series of amphibious raids called "Dagger Thrust Operations" along the coast of South Vietnam to try to keep the VC off balance as to where any future major landings and subsequent enclaves were to be located. The raids followed generally the same pattern with two grunt companies of the BLT making helicopter assaults to establish blocking positions inland and a third company landing via LVT's accompanied by the tank platoon's heavy section of three tanks embarked in the ship's LCU 1495. The majority of time only the heavy section was landed. The raids started out slowly and negative contact was made on the first two. Gradually, we started meeting more and more resistance. The last raid was actually opposed as the LVT's and the LCU were fired on by enemy 12.7mm machineguns as we came ashore.

It's probably a good thing that the first raids were easy. On the second landing we encountered terrain that, while looking solid, was actually a crust over very soft mud. At one time during the landing all the LVT's but one, all three tanks, a TD-15 dozer and TD-24 dozer were stuck at the same time. The lone LVT pulled one of the tanks out and we managed to

recover the other two. It took several days to get all the LVT's out. The battalion finally had to blow the TD-24 in place.

We would get intelligence from the Navy Seals as to beach gradient, presence of pot holes, reefs, etc prior to making a landing. On one raid the LCU dropped the ramp, the Bow Hook tested for depth and waved us off. "Pop" Kelly in B-34 led off and immediately submerged. The only things above the surface of the water were the tip of the gun tubes' blast deflector, two antennas, and "Pop's" head. The tank stalled full of seawater. There was an emergency problem in that L/Cpl Burrell, the driver, could not get his hatch open and the belly of the tank was on the bottom so the escape hatch wouldn't budge. "Pop" managed to get his foot on the hatch lever and popped the driver's hatch. He also managed to dismount the .30 cal machine gun and swam ashore with it after the crew. "Pop" was put in for the Bronze Star Medal for bravery but was awarded the Navy Marine Corps Medal (one step lower) since he wasn't under fire. The Sea Bee platoon that was attached to the BLT recovered B-34 after a few hours.

The BLT then made for Subic Bay in the Philippines to change shipping. While in Subic the platoon got an opportunity to go over to Zambolas to do some shooting. We also used the opportunity to show the Grunts what we could do. LtCol Bob Hanifin was the BLT and 2/1's commander and dropped in to observe. He was talked into firing "just one round" to see what it was like and how accurate the 90mm was. Thirty rounds later he climbed out of the tank a true believer. He made it a point to turn down operations if he couldn't employ "his" tanks. An interesting side note – when we went to Zambolas Sgt (at that time) Bob Embesi TC on B-33 had just finished a tour with Third Tanks and knew the area well. He said he could arrange for free chow (lunch and dinner) and free beer (closely monitored of course) after we secured in the evening. Sounded like a great idea to me. It sure beat eating C-Rats for five days. All we had to do was give the Filipinos our brass. When we came back from the field (if you want to call it that) I checked in with the battalion S-4 and was promptly told where to turn in my brass. When he found out what happened he went ballistic for a while but once he calmed down a little he just chalked it up to another dumb "Butter Bar" action and let me out of there with a little of my hide left.

We re-embarked aboard the USS *Monticello* (LSD-35). During backload another Butter Bar (Navy Ensign this time) fouled up and we spent an extra two weeks ashore. Turns out that instead of bringing the stern down to allow the Mike-8s (LCM's) and the LCU to swim in to the well deck, he brought the ship down on an even keel and flooded out all the motor T gear. We had to offload, change CV boots throughout and then backload again. Since none of our gear was affected we had a little extra R&R. The *Monticello* was a very friendly ship. Before each landing the mess deck would produce steak and eggs and the ship would have hot showers waiting when we got back.

After a couple of more landings we were on our way to Hong Kong for some greatly anticipated R&R when Operation Harvest Moon broke out. An infantry battalion had tangled with a VC (or NVA) regiment and was taking a beating. All the Grunts in the area were sorely needed. **My tank platoon, together with members of the Ontos and engineer platoons, became the "1st Provisional Rifle Company". I was designated CO of that lash-up and we helicoptered in to relieve a Grunt company guarding a HOWTAR section on top of a hill. We flew in with enough machineguns to outfit a regiment. After a week of soggy boredom we were flown back out to the ship.** No Hong Kong this time though, we were on our way to Phu Bai to relieve BLT3/4.

USMCVTHF Comment: This is a story told and re-told of the Tankers and Ontos Crewmen forming up to become infantry units. This occurred time and again because the BLT C.O.'s

and their staffs were unschooled in the proper use and potential of their attached tracks and the tracks Platoon Leaders were mostly 2Lt.

C.O. Company "A": Capt F.W. Jarnot

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 946762)

Company "A" remains in direct support of the 3d Marines, occupying strong points along the MLR and providing a mobile reserve force for the regiment. The company has two tanks on hill #41 (AT 934664) in support of an infantry company. The tanks working in conjunction with a AN/TPS-21 radar, are used extensively for H&I fires. Other tanks in the company were also employed in firing H&I's in the TAOR. The 3d platoon, "A" company, attached to the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, occupies strong points on Highway 1 and the airfield and provided the battalion with a mobile reserve force.

C.O. Company "B": Capt A.E. Lee

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 067719)

Company "B" remains in direct support of the 9th Marines with one platoon of tanks in support of the 2d Battalion and with one platoon of tanks in support of the 2d Battalion and the remainder in support of the 1st Battalion. This company continues to have a majority of tank offensive actions.

Company "B" participated in numerous search and clear and search and destroy operations and armored patrols. They also provided the 9th Marines with a mobile reserve force and occupied strong points along the MLR. During December, elements of the company had 20 contacts with the V.C. and killed an estimated 22 V.C. (17 Confirmed). They also apprehended 9 VCs and sunk two sampans. The most notable contact occurred in an action in which a section of tanks was employed as a mobile reaction force to aid an infantry squad under heavy attack. An estimated 60 uniformed VC were attacked. In the ensuing fire fight 41 VC were killed with the tanks credited with 13 of the kills.

C.O. Company "C": Capt E.L. Erickson

Location & Operations Summary: Chu Lai (BT 531094)

Company "C", attached to the 4th Marines occupied strong points along the MLR in the Chi Lai enclave. The company provides one tank platoon as part of the alert force near the Chu Lai airfield, and participated in beach patrols along their section of the perimeter.

C.O. Company "B", 1st Tanks: Maj A.L. Lamb

Location & Operations Summary: Chu Lai (BT 548060)

Company "B" 1st Tank Battalion, attached to the 7th Marines, supported operations within the TAOR, participating in sweep and clear and search and destroy operations and support of patrol. The company conducted beach patrols in the TAOR and provides one platoon

for the defense of the Chu Lai Airfield. (Third Herd. 1stLt R.A. Stewart, PltLdr.)

One Marine from B Company, 1st Tank Battalion (LCpl John F. ASHMAN 2096207/1811) was killed (non-battle) at Chu Lai. The proximate cause of his death was a through and through missile wound caused by a .50 caliber (cupola mounted MG) round in the left side of the chest. LCpl ASHMAN was standing approximately 5 feet in front of the weapon's muzzle on the right fender of the tank at the time of the discharge.

By December 1966, Marine units were stretched thin along the 265-mile length of I Corps . As one Marine commander observed, "too much real estate—do not have enough men . " (GB69)

December 1966

Third Tanks

Commanding Officer: LtCol W.R. Corson

Executive Officer: Maj E.R. Larson

Operations Officer: Maj E.L. Tunget

Logistics Officers: 2ndLt's R.J. Bright & J.P. Schultz

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 989708)

During the month of December 1966, the Battalion remained in support of both the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions. In the Danang TAOR, the Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Company (-), and Company "E" (Rein) were under the operational control of the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division. In the Dong Ha TAOR, Company "A" (Rein), Company "C" (Rein), and the Forward Operating Group (Det, H&S Company) were under the operational control of the Commanding General, 3d Marine Division. The Forward Operating Group was established at Dong Ha on 7 December 1966 in order to relieve the operating companies of the logistical burdens associated with being separated from the Battalion Headquarters. Administrative control of the entire Battalion remained with 3d Marine Division.

On 5 December 1966, a platoon from Company "A" was transferred to BLT 1/4 for rotation to Okinawa. On 12 December 1966, the tank platoon attached to the BLT 3/26 was joined and assigned to Company "A".

Tank combat operations during the month of December 1966 were limited considerably because of the monsoon weather. Cross country mobility was impossible in most areas with trafficability limited to road networks. The tanks were utilized in high ground for firing positions to provide support by fire for continuing infantry operations. Additionally, the tanks conducted H&I firings, both day and night.

The following support assignments were effective during the month:

Company "A"- D/S 3d Marine Regiment (Dong Ha)

Company "B"- D/S 9th Marine Regiment (Danang)

Company "C"- D/S 4th Marine Regiment (Dong Ha)

Companies "A" and "C" were committed in the Dong Ha TAOR in support of **Operation Prairie**, which is continuing. (See "Named Operations" and "Operations Details")

On 7 December 1966, 3d Tank Battalion established a Forward Operating Group consisting of logistics, communications, maintenance, and supply personnel and equipment in the Dong Ha area to assist Company "A" and "C" operating in the Dong Ha TAOR.

H&S Company C.O.s: 1stLt R.D. McDaniel & 2ndLt A.W. Hauser

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 989708)

The activities of Lieutenant Colonel William R. Corson's 3d Tank Battalion in the Hoa Tho village complex, on the northern bank of the Cau Do River, provided an excellent example of a coordinated civic action program. In December, the battalion's civic action team sponsored a farmers' meeting in the hamlet of Phong Bac. The village chief of Hoa Tho and the hamlet chiefs participated in the event; over 80 farmers attended. They discussed raising livestock and a representative from the U.S. Army 29th Civil Affairs Company distributed seed to the farmers. After the meeting, the village chief took the occasion to tell the people of the hamlet about the Marines. He stressed that the Marines were guests of the Government of Vietnam and that they were only trying "to help the Vietnamese people in the struggle for freedom and fight against Communism." By the end of 1966, the Marines had accumulated impressive statistics reflecting the assistance they had furnished to the South Vietnamese. (GB66)



Marine Corps Photo 19395 2

SSgt Gerald E. Anderson from the 3d Tank Battalion assists a Vietnamese farmer to put up a windmill to pump water from the Song Cau Do. Another Marine, Sgt Enos S. Lambert, Jr. (hidden by the

windmill except for his arm), helped with the project. The 3d Tank Battalion had a well-coordinated civic action program in the Hoa Tho Village complex south of Da Nang.

C.O. Company "A": Capt A.W. Facklam Jr.

Location & Operations Summary: Dong Ha (YD 061545)

From 041645H to 041915H, Company "A" tanks in support of 3/3 at (XD 975567) received 75mm recoilless rifle fire and heavy automatic small arms fire from enemy positions inside of caves at (XD 966573). One tank took a complete armor penetration which jammed the turret and the 90mm gun. Tanks returned a heavy volume of 90mm fire with excellent coverage of target. Results of fire were inconclusive as the area was not searched.

C.O. Company "B": 1stLt D.B. Garner

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 962611) 1 December 1966: At 011345H, while in support of 3/7 located at (AT 877576) Company "B" tanks observed one boat containing four VC and cargo on a river at (AT 832548) and (AT 845557). Tanks fired 90mm rounds into the target resulting in four VC KBGF confirmed and one boat sunk.

At 022100H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 876574) fired 90mm rounds into an enemy position believed to contain a platoon of VC who had a squad of infantry pinned down. Results of fire were two VC KBGF confirmed and the following items captured: one sub-machine gun caliber .45m, with two magazines; two ChiCom grenades; two M-26 grenades; two ponchos; one raincoat and one pack.

3 December 1966: At 031445H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 877575) sighted one boat containing three VC at (AT 849551) fired 90mm rounds, resulting in three VC KBGF confirmed, one secondary explosion, and one boat sunk.

4 December 1966: At 040815H, Company "B" tanks in support of 1/26 at (AT 968604) while on mine sweep, received small arms fire from (AT 973604). Tanks returned fire with 90mm rounds. Results were inconclusive.

5 December 1966: At 050950H, Company "B" tanks in support of 1/26 at (AT 933578) detonated an anti-tank mine while on a road mine-sweep. Results of the mine detonation was moderate suspension system damage. One tank crewman WIA, non-med-evac.

At 051200H, Company "B" tanks in support of 1/26 at (AT 927527) and (AT 934525) received heavy small arms fire from enemy positions at (AT 941526), (AT 941520) and (AT 934528). Tanks returned 90mm rounds into enemy positions. Results of fire were inconclusive.

6 December 1966: At 060715H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 877576) observed a boat at (AT 848554) containing three VC and cargo. Tanks fired 90mm rounds at the boat resulting in three VC KBGF confirmed, one large secondary explosion, and one boat sunk.

At 071815H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 876575) observed a large concentration of VC on a riverbank at (AT 853553). Tanks fired 90mm rounds into the area resulting in three VC KBGF confirmed, two VC KBGF probable, and two secondary explosions.

9 December 1966: At 092320H, Company "C" tanks in support of 3/4 at (YD 112705) received 15 rounds of 81mm mortars. Tanks did not return fire because enemy positions could not be determined.

10 December 1966: At 101030H, Company "B" tanks at (AT 919539) were returning on "Liberty Road" from Thu Bon Bridge. One tank detonated a mine causing moderate suspension damage. While initiating repairs one tank crewman stepped on a booby-trapped 105mm round. Results were one tank crewman KIA and four WIA.

(KIA Sgt D.J. Miller of East Lansing, MI)

15 December 1966: At 151900H, Company "B" tanks in support of 1/26 at (AT 968594) heard firing at (AT 967594) and (AT 969594). Tanks moved to position where two Ontos, two 6x6 trucks, and one Jeep had been caught in an ambush. Tanks returned fire with 90mm rounds and caliber .30 and caliber .50 machine gun fire. Area was searched with inconclusive results.

At 171150H, Company "B" tank in support of 1/26 at (AT 955584) detonated an anti-tank mine causing moderate damage to the tank's suspension system.

19 December 1966: At 190930H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 877575) observed a boat on the river at (AT 862563). Tanks fired 90mm rounds sinking the boat.

At 191140H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 877575) fired 90mm rounds at a VC boat at (AT 832549). Results were one boat sunk and one VC KBGF confirmed.

At 191440H, Company "B" tank in support of 3/7 at (AT 877575) observed a VC trying to retrieve cargo adrift in river at (AT 862563). The tank fired 90mm rounds resulting in three VC KBGF probable.

At 191900H, Company "B" tanks in support of 2/5 at (AT 928528) observed a number of enemy troops crossing river at (AT 907529). Tanks fired 90mm rounds with good target coverage. Results were inconclusive as the area was not searched.

At 211120H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 829557) received sniper fire from a treeline. Tanks returned fire with 90mm rounds resulting in one VC KBGF probable.

At 211700H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 829557) observed two VC at (AT 814575). Tanks fired 90mm rounds resulting in two VC KBGF probable.

22 December 1966: At 220745H, a Company "B" tank in grid square (AT 9763) was traversing a bridge culvert when a mine was detonated electrically under the culvert. There was no damage to the tank. A man was observed running away from the location. The tank fired caliber .30 machine gun; results were inconclusive.

26 December 1966: At 260750H, Company "B" tanks in support of 3/7 at (AT 876574) observed three boats containing VC troops crossing river at (AT 852557). Tanks fired 90mm rounds resulting in eight VC KBGF confirmed, two boats sunk, and the third boat capsized.

C.O.s Company "C": Capt P.F. Lassard & 1stLt R.C. Kinhead

Location & Operations Summary: Dong Ha (YD 234582)

18 December 1966: At 181115H, Company "C" tank in support of 3/4 at (YD 146689) detonated an anti-tank mine. Results were moderate damage to the tank suspension system.

At 181800H, Company "C" tank in support of 3/4 at (YD 136674) received a hit by an anti-tank weapon believed to be an RPG-2. At the same time small arms fire was received. The round penetrated the fuel cell, but the tank remained operational. The tank returned 90mm and .30 caliber fire, with inconclusive results.

26 December 1966: From 282245H to 282300H, Company "C" tanks in support of 3/4 at (YD 146613) received approximately 150 rounds of 82mm and 60mm mortar fire. Results were two tank crewmen WIA. Direction and location of enemy fire could not be determined.

Note: Refer to the Command Chronologies accessed at our web site. They are detailed down to the locations from which tanks fired, where the rounds impacted, and the results of the engagement. The Battalion "Significant Events", routinely found in the CC's, is absent from this month's chronology.

December 1967

Third Tanks

Commanding Officer: LtCol F.D. Chapman

Executive Officer: Maj B.M. MacLaren

Operations Officer: Maj C.J. Samuelson

Logistics Officer: Maj R.E. Finney

Location & Operations Summary: Gia Le

During the month of December, tanks of this Battalion participated in **five operations**. Poor trafficability continued to restrict tank activity and the majority of the Battalion's effort involved firing from static positions.

Operation Kentucky. Tanks of "A" Company and one platoon of "A" Company, 3d AT Battalion supported the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 3d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment, 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 12th Provisional Artillery Battalion, and the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in the Cam Lo, Con Thien, Gio Linh area. Support rendered included counter battery and H&I fires, firing canister at suspected enemy infiltration routes and direct HE and WP fires against enemy bunkers. In addition tanks at Con Thien accounted for eleven KIA (C) and twenty-one KIA (P) on 15 December while operating with elements of 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. The tanks fired beehive and canister. On 15 December tanks at Gio Linh accounted for five KIA (C) and 5 KIA (P) by firing an observed mission.



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A80047 0

Men of the 3d Marines on board tanks of the 3d Tank Battalion sweep the Con Thien Corridor within the Kentucky Area of Operations, north of Cam Lo District Headquarters. (GB69)

Operation Lancaster. Tanks of "B" Company participated in the operation in the Camp Carroll-Rockpile areas. The Company supported the 3d Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. Support included providing security for sixteen convoys to the Ca Lu position. During these convoys the tanks fired HE, canister, machine guns and flame at suspected ambush sites. On 19 December one tank on the convoy took an RPG hit during an ambush. The hit resulted in one WIA (med-evac). On 28 December the unit sustained one WIA (med-evac) from sniper fire along the route to Ca Lu. In addition to the convoy escort the tanks fired 90mm at suspected enemy gun positions and H&I fires. (See "Named Operations" & "Operations Details" - 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines search and destroy operation to safeguard Route 9 between Cam Lo and in the old Operation Kingfisher area around Ca Lu)

Operation Scotland. Tanks of the 3d Platoon of Company "B" and Company "A" 3d Anti-Tank Battalion supported units of the 26th Marine Regiment during this operation in the Khe Sanh area. Support was limited to participation in one patrol during which ten rounds of 90mm HE were fired at suspected enemy anti-aircraft positions. (See "Operations Details" for more information)

Operation Neosho. Tanks of Company "C" participated in this operation in the Phong Dien area. The unit supported was the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. Tanks fired 90mm HE H&I fires around Camp Evans, and one platoon went on patrol with "A" Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment with negative results. (See "Named Operations" and "Operations Details" - 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines operation northwest of Hue)

Operation Napoleon. On 21 December two tanks from "C" Company were moved to the Cua Viet area and placed in direct support of the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion. To date these tanks have participated in two patrols with negative results. (See "Named Operations" - 3rd Battalion,

1st Marines, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines and 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion operation on the coast, north of the Cua Viet River in the Dong Ha area. And "Operations Details for more information).

On 3 December one platoon of Company "C" was chopped to Battalion Landing Team 2/4.

On 15 December Company "A", 3d Anti Tank Battalion was attached to this Battalion.

On 15 December tank B-22 hit a mine on the road from Camp Carroll to Dong Ha while proceeding to H&S Company forward for maintenance.

The location of the gun companies and their supported units were as follows:

Company "A" (Rein)- D/S 9th Mar Regt (Dong Ha)

Company "B" (-) (Rein)- D/S 3d Mar Regt (Camp Carroll)

Company "C" (-) - D/S 4th Mar Regt (Camp Evans)

Company "A" (-), 3dATBn-OPCON 26th Mar Regt (Khe Sanh)

During this reporting period the primary supply activity has centered around the transfer of records and material from the 3d Anti-Tank Battalion for Company "A" (Rein) and the semi-annual inventory. Shipment of miscellaneous parts and T/E items to the company Headquarters at Khe Sanh is now underway.

H&S Company C.O.: 2ndLt J.E. Georgaklis

Location & Operations Summary: Phu Bai

The Battalion Reconnaissance Squad continued its activities around the Command Post. On 26 December the squad made contact which resulted in one VC KIA (C) and two VC KIA (P). There were no friendly casualties.

Defenses around the Battalion Command Post were improved by the installation of additional perimeter wire. Further improvements are planned.

27 Dec 1967 Battalion patrol contacted unknown number of VC outside CP. 1 VC POW (DOW), 2 VC KIA (P), 1 AK-47 plus individual gear.

C.O. Company "A": Capt G.W. Baker

Location & Operations Summary: Dong Ha

4 Dec 1967 Tanks of 1st Platoon Alpha Co. fired 10 canister, 10 HE, and 7 WP outside perimeter at suspected enemy infiltration routes.

Tanks of 1st Platoon Alpha Co. fired 25 canister, and 5 HE outside perimeter at probable enemy infiltration routes.

10 Dec 1967 Tanks of 1st Platoon Alpha Co. fired 20 HE H&I direct and 5 cannister at enemy infiltration routes outside the perimeter with unknown/negative results.

13 Dec 1967 Tanks of 1st and 5th Platoons Alpha Cp. Fired a total of 25 HE direct, 5 canister at infiltration routes

and suspected enemy concentrations w/negative results.

- 14 Dec 1967 Tanks of 1st Platoon Alpha Co. fired 25 HE, 15 canister at enemy infiltration routes w/negative results.(direct fire)
- 15 Dec 1967 A-33 fired a total of 32 HE indirect at enemy movement around perimeter. Results 5 KIA (C), 5 KIA (P).
Two tanks of 2nd Platoon Alpha Co. fired a total 25 HE, 28 beehive, 6 cannister, 3100 .30 cal while operating in support of 1/1. Results 11 KIA(C), 21 KIA(P).
- 26 Dec 1967 Tanks of Alpha Co. fired 10 canister upon request from 3/4 outside position at suspected enemy movement w/negative results.

C.O. Company "B": Capt D.W. Kent

Location & Operations Summary: Camp J.J. Carroll

- 1 Dec 1967 Tanks of Bravo Co. security for rough rider fired 2 cannister and 2300 .30 cal, 300 .50 cal recon by fire at suspected enemy ambush sites w/negative contact.
- 6 Dec 1967 Tanks of Bravo Co. ran security for a convoy firing 1000 .30 cal recon by fire w/negative results.
M48A3 tank USMC #217819 declared a combat loss and turned into salvage.
Tanks of Bravo Co. on a run to Ca Lu security for rough rider fired 4 cannister, 1 WP, Flame 60 sec rod, 4000 .30 cal recon by fire.
- 12 Dec 1967 Tanks of 3d Platoon Bravo Co. went on road patrol in support of 1/26, fired 10 HE at suspected enemy anti-aircraft position w/ unknown results.
Tanks of 2d Platoon Bravo Co. fired 2500 .30 cal recon by fire on rough rider in support of 3/9.
B-22 hit a mine on way to forward maintenance from Bravo CP while taking bridge by-pass. Hole 6' diameter and 4-5' deep. (USMC #201922)
Tanks of Bravo Co security on run to Ca Lu rough rider fired 2000 .30 cal recon by fire w/negative results.
- 16 Dec 1967 Tanks of Bravo Co. ran security for rough rider firing 1 cannister, 2500 .30 cal recon by fire w/negative results.
Tanks of Bravo Co. ran security for rough rider firing 2 cannister, 1700 .30 cal recon by fire w/negative results.
Tanks of Bravo Co. ran security for rough rider firing 800 .30 cal recon by fire w/negative results.
- 20 Dec 1967 Two tanks of Bravo Co. ran security for rough rider fired 3 cannister, 6000 .30 cal.

24 Dec 1967 Tanks of Bravo Co. ran security for rough rider firing 21 cannister, 11 HE, 8000 .30 cal recon by fire, w/negative results, also 55 sec rod flame.

26 Dec 1967 Tanks of Alpha Co. fired 10 cannister upon request from 3/4 outside position at suspected enemy movement w/negative results.

28 Dec 1967 Tanks of Bravo Co. road security for convoy firing 16 cannister, 4500 .30 cal, 25 .50 cal w/negative results. Received one casualty (WIA) from a sniper. Tanks of Bravo Co. prep fired for a patrol by 3/9 fired 29 HE direct, 1 beehive w/negative results.

31 Dec 1967 Tanks of Bravo Co. ran security for rough rider firing 19 cannister, 4000 .30 cal, 50 .50 cal recon by fire w/negative results.

C.O. Company "C": Capt W.J. O'Buch

Location & Operations Summary: Camp Evans

The 3d Platoon, Company "C" was redesignated as the 1st Platoon, Company "A", 5th Tank Battalion and "chopped" to BLT Two-Four on 3 December 1967 as a part of the 9th MAB Special Landing Force. This platoon embarked on 29-30 December and contained the following personnel and major items of equipment: 1 officer and 26 enlisted, 5 M48A3 tanks, 1 M54 truck, 1 M38A1 utility truck, 1 M105A2 trailer, and 1 M100 trailer.

2 Dec 1967 M54 Truck USMC #302413 turned over enroute to Dong Ha, 2 personnel injured. Tanks of Alpha Co. supporting 3/3 fired 20 canister outside perimeter at suspected enemy locations w/negative results.

8 Dec 1967 Tanks of 2nd Platoon Charlie Co. went on patrol with A-1/9 a total of approximately 7000 meters in an area North West of 1/9 CP had negative contact. Patrol from 0730-1600, 7 Dec 1967.

21 Dec 1967 Two tanks of 2nd Platoon Charlie Co. assigned direct support of the 1st AMTRACBN at Cua Viet

C.O. Company "A", 3dAtBn: Capt J.O. Lea

Location & Operations Summary: Khe Sanh

On 15 December 1967 Company "A" (Rein), 3d Anti-Tank Battalion was attached to the 3d Tank Battalion.

December 1968

Third Tanks

Commanding Officer: LtCol G.E. Hayward

Executive Officer: Maj J.P. Souders

Operations Officers: Maj H.L. Bauknight & Grubbs

Logistics Officer: Maj W.A. Grubbs

Location & Operations Summary: Quang Tri

PERSONNEL---The most notable events in personnel administration involved the reconstitution of the 1st Platoon, Company A, 5th Tank Battalion. The platoon, formed on the nucleus of 4th Platoon, Company B, is composed of 1 Officer, 29 Marine enlisted and one corpsman. Adcon of this unit along with the attached 2d Platoon, Company A, 5th Anti-Tank Battalion will be passed to 9th MAB on 1 January 1969. Opcon will remain with 3d Tank Battalion. The loss of the 1811's needed to form the tank platoon compounded an already severe shortage of 1811's.

During the month of December there were several reassignments of the Battalion assets and changes within the Division AO. The **Napoleon/Saline Operation** (See "Named Operations"- 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines and 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion operation on the coast, north of the Cua Viet River in the Dong Ha area) terminated on 2 December 1968. The **Kentucky** (See "Named Operations - 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 1st and 2nd Battalions, 26th Marines and 3rd Tank Battalion anti-infiltration operation in Leatherneck Square between Con Thien, Gio Linh, Cam Lo and Dong Ha) and **Scotland II Operational Areas** were modified and two new areas were initiated in the southern portions of the AO. Task Force Bravo was activated and has been assigned to modified Kentucky AO. **Marshall Mountain** has been assigned to the First Brigade of the Fifth Mechanized Division and the **Dawson River Operation** (See "Named Operations - 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines clear and search operation in the vicinity of Khe Sanh, Quảng Trị Province) has been assigned to the 9th Marine Regiment.

An Armored Personnel Carrier platoon was activated during December. The platoon is commanded by 1st Lt. B. TISA and consists of 6 M113A1. An Indoctrination and Maintenance Training Program was held for the APC Crewmen and Maintenance personnel by the 1/5 US Army. The operational readiness of the platoon is not complete at this time due to a lack of communication equipment and armament kits.

The Tank Battalion (-) was placed in direct support of Task Force Bravo and was reassigned as follows:

Company A	D/S 2nd Bn 3rd Marines
Company B	D/S 2nd Bn 3rd Marines
1 Platoon Co B.	D/S Task Force Hotel
Company C	G/S Task Force Bravo
2 Platoons Ontos	D/S Task Force Hotel
2 Platoons Ontos	G/S Task Force Bravo

Tanks and Ontos participated in one major Cordon and Search Operation, several small unit operations, road sweeps, provided road and bridge security and reinforced perimeter defense. Tank also continued to provide a reaction force for the Quang Tri Combat Base Defense.

H&S Company C.O.: Capt J.A. Rumbley

Location: Quang Tri

C.O. Company "A" (Rein): Capt R.J. Patterson

Location & Operations Summary: Con Thien & Dong Ha

Company A (Rein) continues to be in direct support of 2/3, and is operating out of Con Thien. The Company participated in sweeps of the area surrounding Con Thien. Company A fired H&I fires nightly and reported a secondary explosion that burned over twenty minutes, on 28 December. Working in conjunction with dusters and the infantry, the tanks also manned counter ambush positions along the MSR between Con Thien and C-3. One tank, A34, sustained moderate damage to its suspension system when it struck a mine suspected to be a 22 pound AT mine. There was one minor casualty.

01 December 1968 A32 at A-4 fired 80 rds. indirect fire at suspected enemy in grid 1371.

03 December 1968 A31 and A33 fired H&I fires from A-4 at suspected enemy positions. Results unknown.

05 December 1968 A22 and A23 fired in support of "K" Co. Results: "K" Co. received two (2) enemy KIA confirmed.

05 December 1968 A31 and A42 fired H&I fires from A-4 at suspected enemy positions. Results unknown.

05 December 1968 A32 and A33 fired H&I fires from A-4 at suspected enemy positions. Results unknown.

06 December 1968 A Co. reported receiving 10 rds. of 82mm incoming at C-2. Negative damage.

07 December 1968 A41 and A42 at A-4 fired 90 rds H&I at suspected enemy mortar position. Results unknown.

08 December 1968 A24 at C-2 Bridge received 5 RPG rds, with no hits recorded. A24 returned fire with results unknown.

10 December 1968 A32 and A33 fired H&I fires from A-4 at suspected enemy positions. Results unknown.

14 December 1968 Effective 0800 this date A Co. and B Co. placed in direct support of 2nd Bn. 3rd Marines.

14 December 1968 2nd platoon A Co. fired H&I fires at suspected enemy grid 1472. Results unknown.

16 December 1968 A33 at C-2B received enemy small arms fire. Returned fire. No casualties or damage to vehicles.

17 December 1968 1st platoon A Co. fired H&I fire at suspected enemy position. Results unknown.

19 December 1968 2nd Bn. 3rd Marines at A-4 requested fire mission on suspected enemy position. A32 fired six (6) rds. of 90mm HE. Results unknown.

21 December 1968 "E" Co. 2nd Bn. 3rd Marines at A-4 requested fire on suspected enemy positions. 3rd platoon "A" Co. fired into grid square 1169. Results unknown.

23 December 1968 A Co. at A-4, C-2 and C-2B fired H&I fires into suspected enemy in grid squares 1473 and 0969. Results unknown.

24 December 1968 "E" Co. 2nd Bn 3rd Marines at A-4 requested A Co. at A-4 and C-2B to fire prep fires for their patrols. A total of 110 rds. fired.

26 December 1968 A23 received one (1) sniper rd. while in security positions along the MSR to A-4. A23 returned fire. No casualties or damage to the vehicle.

27 December 1968 A33, 34, 41 departed A-4 with two squads of infantry to conduct a sweep around A-4.

27 December 1968 A42 at A-4 spotted a light at grid 092729, suspected enemy helicopters. A42, 23, 13 and 12 fired at the position. Results unknown.

28 December 1968 A34, in support of E/2/3, hit a 22 lb. AT mine at grid 115713 causing moderate damage to the right suspension system.

C.O.'s Company "B" (-) (Rein): Capt J.T. Miller
Location & Operations Summary: Asphalt Plant

Company B (-) (Rein) remains in direct support of 2/3 operating out of the Asphalt Plant. The move from Camp Carroll was completed on 10 December. Company B participated in **operation LAM SON 271**, a cordon and search operation of the Resettlement Village at Cam Lo. Armored patrols and sweeping of Route 9 continues to be a part of the companies daily mission, along with providing nightly security to the Cam Lo District Headquarters. Company B is also making preparations to assume an indirect fire roll from positions at the Asphalt Plant. The Third Platoon is in direct support of F/2/3 and is providing armored reconnaissance patrols and reaction force for the Mia Loc Area.

The 4th Platoon was in direct support of Task Force Hotel during December and conducted daily road sweeps and reaction forces from Ca Lu.

20 December 1968 B37 fired at suspected enemy positions on request of "F" Co. 2nd Bn. 3rd Marines. Results unknown.

30 December 1968 B Co. at 139552 received one (1) 60mm mortar rd. Sweep of area conducted with negative results.

C.O. Company "C" (Rein): Capt L.C. Kutchma
Location & Operations Summary: Quang Tri

Company C (Rein), in general support of Task Force Bravo, continues to operate from Quang Tri Combat Base and provided tanks for the reaction force for the defense of the base. Reinforced by H51 and H52, two (2) platoons participated in operation **LAM SON 271** in direct support of 1/4. Two (2) tanks, operating from Oceanview, provided direct support to the 1st AmTrac Bn. This section conducted

sweeps of the surrounding area as well as providing security for perimeter defense.

05 December 1968 C12 and C14 conducted a sweep between Cua Viet and Oceanview with 1 AmTrac Bn. One 28 lb. mine encountered and blown in place.

12 December 1968 C12 and C14 conducted a sweep with B Co. 1st AmTrac Bn. from Oceanview to DMZ. Negative results.

18 December 1968 C41, 14 and 25 fired H&I fire at suspected enemy positions. Results unknown.

28 December 1968 C24 at Oceanview fired 7 HE and 2 Beehive at suspected enemy movement at (YD 279759). Results unknown.

30 December 1968 C23 and C24 conducted a sweep with B Co. 1st AmTrac Bn from Oceanview to search suspected enemy positions. Negative results.

C.O.s Company "A" (Rein), 3rdATBn: 1stLt's F. Gypin Jr. & S.B. Hunt Jr.

Location & Operations Summary: Quang Tri

Company A (Rein) 3rd Anti-Tank Battalions CP remained at Quang Tri Combat Base. Two platoons were placed in general support of Task Force Bravo. One of these platoons provided security for the Cam Lo District Headquarters and the Cam Lo Bridge. The other two platoons remained in direct support of Task Force Hotel and operated out of Calu and Vandergrift Combat Base.

December 1965

Third Antitanks (Rein)

Commanding Officer: LtCol B.A. Heflin

Executive Officer: Maj O.R. Edmondson

Operations Office: Capt V.A Vernay

Logistics Officers: Capt S.R. Stewart & Maj O.R. Edmondson

Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 987711)

3d Antitank Battalion (-) (Rein) is in general support of the 3d Marine Division.

H&S Co (-) (Bn. C.P.) located DaNang TAOR (AT 987711)

Company "A" (-) (Rein) in direct support of the 3d Marine Regiment

1st Platoon Co. "A" in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines

1st Platoon Co. "A" 1st AT Bn. in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines.

3d Platoon Co. "A" attached to the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines

Company "B" (-) (Rein) attached to the 4th Marine Regiment.

1st Platoon Co. "B" in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines.

2nd Platoon Co. "B" in direct support of the 2nd
Battalion, 4th Marines.
Company "C" (Rein) in direct support of the 9th Marine
Regiment.
1st Platoon Co. "C" in direct support of the 9th Marines.
2nd Platoon Co. "C" in direct support of the 1st Bn. 9th
Marines.
3d Platoon Co. "C" in direct support of the 3d Battalion,
9th Marines.
3d Platoon Co. "B" in direct support of the 3d Battalion,
3d Marines.
Company "C" (Rein) 1st Antitank Bn. attached to the 7th
Marines.
1st Platoon Co. "C" in direct support of the 1st
Battalion, 7th Marines.
2nd Platoon Co. "C" in direct support of the 2nd
Battalion, 7th Marines.
3d Platoon Co. "C" in direct support of the 3d
Battalion, 7th Marines.

H&S Company (-) Commandants: 1stLt's D.B. House & J.T. Mathews
Location & Operations Summary: DaNang TAOR (AT 987711)

DaNang Enclave

H&S Co. (-) During the reporting period camp cantonment was completed. The company provided blocking force for a 9th Marine composite company size Search and Destroy operation CS (AT 9870) and (AT 9970). The company conducted squad, two-squad and company size Search and Destroy patrols within the adjacent TAOR area. On one patrol a unit from the 3d Tank Bn. acted as a blocking force. Familiarization firing of the M-60 machine gun was held at the Hoa Cam Training Center for newly joined personnel. Nine men attended the 12th Marines .50 cal. machine gun school.

C.O Company "A" (-) (Rein): Capt K.E. Sharff
Location & Operations Summary: (DaNang TAOR/Hue Phu Bai TAOR)

Company "A" (-) (Rein) During December the Company supported the Third Marine Regiment.

The 1st Platoon was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. On 3 and 4 December the ONTOS supporting the Battalion on hills 22 (AT 954667) and 41 (AT 934665) were withdrawn from their defensive role. This was due to realignment of the 1st Battalion's TAOR. On 14 December Familiarization firing of small arms was accomplished. On 16 December one ONTOS participated in convoy escort duties for operation **HARVEST MOON**. On 20 December one section was committed on operation **HARVEST MOON**, same mission.

(See "Named Operations" 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, "Lima" and "Echo" 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, and "Golf" Company 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 1st ARVN Regiment, 1st Battalion, 5th ARVN Regiment, 1st Battalion, 6th ARVN

Regiment and ARVN 11th Ranger Battalion operation in Quang Tin Province 37 km NW of Chu Lai in Phuoc Ha and Que Son Valley's)

"8-20 Dec-Operation HARVEST MOON was conducted approximately 25 miles northwest of Chu Lai. Units involved were Task Force DELTA, 2/7, 3/3, 2/1 (from SLF), and 3 ARVN battalions. These units were supported by USMC aircraft and artillery and by four B-52 strikes.

USMC: 51 KIA, 256 WIA, 1 MIA

VC: 407 KIA, 33 VCC, 231 VCS, 3 RALLIERS" (GB65)

During the month, after realignment of the 1st Battalion's TAOR one ONTOS was permanently committed in support of Company "B" 1st Battalion on high ground located at (AT 921692).

The 1st Platoon Company "A", 1st Antitank Battalion, continued in direct support of the 1st Battalion 3d Marines.

On 3 December a Harassing and Interdiction (H&I) mission was accomplished from (AT 898823) into impact area (AT 897835) to (AT 905836).

On 4 December one section with one Tank and two AmTrac participated in a reconnaissance patrol from (AT 918793) to (AT 909802) the purpose being to check out tracked vehicle operating on the sand flats area.

On 6 December one section acted as a security element in a mechanized patrol from IP (AT 898821) west on Route 14 to (AT 856843) no contact.

On 13 December H&I mission was fired from (AT 898822) into impact area (AT 897835) to (AT 905836).

On 16 December one section participated in a sweep through PHO NAM THONG HA (AT 863855) no contact. A large amount of miscellaneous material was found and destroyed.

On 17 and 19 December a section acted as convoy escort for operation HARVEST MOON.

On 22 December a section was employed with a platoon from the 1st Battalion 3d marines in a sweep of AP KIM HEIN (AT 824856). The purpose of this sweep was a show of force in support of the friendly village chief. The ONTOS were used extensively as night perimeter security/mobile reaction force throughout the Regimental TAOR.

Hue Phu Bai Enclave

3d Platoon Company "A" During the period of 1-21 Dec65 the platoon was attached to the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines. Their primary role was to provide nightly security.

On 21 December the platoon departed with BLT 3/4 aboard Naval Shipping.

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines replaced the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines. With the Battalion, the

2nd Platoon Company "A" 1st Antitank Battalion arrived and was placed under Administrative control of the 3d Antitank Battalion, on 221000H Dec65. During the remainder of the month of December the new platoon carried out the same role, that of providing night time

security for the Infantry Battalion.

Chu Lai Enclave

Company "B" (-) (Rein) During December the Company was attached to the 4th Marine Regiment. The 1st Platoon was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. During December their primary mission was manning the Battalion's MLR.

On 14 December one section reinforced the Company's 2nd Platoon on convoy escort duty. The convoy, in support of Company "G" 2nd Battalion advanced to CC (BT 174418) in support of operation HARVEST MOON.

On 18 December one section provided security for Battery "H", 3d Battalion 12th Marines to District Headquarters at Ly Tin.

On 22 Dec65 a Harassing and Interdiction mission was fired from (BT 523129) on to an island located at GS (BT 5214).

On 27 Dec65 the platoon acted as convoy security for a 1st Battalion one day operation. The convoy comprised of Company "C" and Battery "H", 3d Battalion 12th Marines. One section accompanied Battery "H" to firing positions at (BT 491071) and remained as a security element during the operation. The other section continued North with Company "C" to (BT 419122) where the infantry Company dismounted for a blocking mission.

On 30 Dec65a section reinforced a section of the 2nd Platoon Company "B", 3d AT Battalion on a 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines operation.

On 31 Dec65 the platoon escorted a composite Company from the 1st Battalion to (BT 419122).

The 2nd Platoon was in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. During December the primary mission was that of manning the Battalion's MLR.

On 12 December the platoon provided convoy escort duty for Company "H" , 2nd Battalion to (BT 411129).

On December 14th, the platoon reinforced by a section from the first platoon provided escort duty for Company "G", 2nd Battalion to (BT 174418) in support of operation HARVEST MOON.

On 30 Dec65 one section, reinforced by one section of the 1st Platoon Company "E", 3d AT Battalion, acted as convoy escort, the convoy was comprised of 2nd Battalion and ARVN troops. The ONTOS were used extensively as night perimeter security/mobile reaction force throughout the Regimental TAOR.

C.O. Company "C" (Rein): 1stLt A.G. Anderson II **Location & Operations Summary: (Da Nang TAOR)**

Company "C" (Rein) The Company was in direct support of the 9th Marines during December. The 1st Platoon was deployed in support of the 9th Marines from 1-6 December. The 1st Platoon was deployed for the remainder of December in support of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines. The Platoon was involved in carious patrols and blocking force roles on 6, 10, 15, 20, 21 and 27 December with Company "F" 2nd Battalion. On 13 December one section provided protective cover

for a helicopter MedEvac of some WIA Infantrymen in vicinity of HA DONG Bridge (AT 990643) utilizing their .30 cal. machine guns. On 15 December a section fired eight 106mm rounds and 500 .30 cal. machine gun rounds at Viet Cong located at (AT 995641), no confirmed kills.

On 17 December a Section fired five 106mm rounds and 100 .30 cal. machine gun rounds at Viet Cong in vicinity of HA DONG (AT 999643), no confirmed KIA. The platoon acted as a blocking force from (AT 994644) to (AT 986640) during operation **GOLDEN SPIKE**. They supported Company "G" 2nd Battalion, on a reconnaissance patrol in search of a new "G" Company C.P. location on 30 December.

The 2nd Platoon supported the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines.

On 5 December one ONTOS detonated an anti-personnel mine at (BT 073675) with no damage to vehicle or crew.

On 12 December one section provided security for an "A" Company, 1st Battalion sweep of NGAN CAU (BT 069676), no contact.

On 15 December while supporting Company "B", 1st Battalion covering fire for a pinned down squad at (BT 083693) was furnished. In firing ten 106mm and 200 .30 cal. machine gun rounds at Viet Cong troops located at (BT 079637) for the above mission three Viet Cong KIA's were confirmed.

On 19 December one section provided a blocking force for operation **MARI COPA** from (BT 087659) to (BT 091653).

While supporting Company "A" 1st Battalion on 22 December, a boat was sunk on the CAN BEIN river (BT 076696). This was done with six .50 cal. spotting rifle rounds.

The 3d Platoon provided support for the 2nd Battalion and 3d Battalion, 9th Marines and the 3d Motor Transport Battalion during December.

On 1 December a section with Company "K" 3d Battalion established a blocking position at (AT 995664) for a platoon sweep of GS (AT 9965), no contact.

On 2 December the same mission was accomplished with Company "K" 3d Battalion, however on this date three 106mm and six .50 cal. spotting rifle rounds were directed in a harassing and interdiction fire.

On 3 December while supporting Company "H", 2nd Battalion a section participated in a sweep of AN TO (1) (BT 024637), no contact. One section fired three 106mm rounds to assist a pinned down patrol from Company "H" 2nd Battalion (BT 032642), the Viet Cong broke contact. Platoon was placed in direct support of the 3d Motor Transport Battalion from 12 through 20 December in support of operation HARVEST MOON.

The 3d Platoon Company "B" was primarily in support of the 3d Battalion 3d Marines. They worked for the most part in defense of hill 22 (AT 954667).

On 9 December one section acted as convoy escort for operation **HARVEST MOON**.

On 16 December one ONTOS acted as river block on hill 47 (AT 974706).

On 27 December a section was deployed with a blocking force supporting Company "K" 3d Battalion in vicinity of BICK BAC, GS (AT 9862) and (AT 9863). The ONTOS were used extensively as night perimeter security/mobile reaction force throughout the Regimental TAOR.

C.O. Company "C" (Rein) 1stATBn: 1stLt W.P. Snyder

Location & Operations Summary: (Chu Lai TAOR)

During the month of Dec65 the Company was attached to the Seventh Marines.

The 1st Platoon was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. Their primary mission was manning the MLR. One section operated on 4 & 5 Dec65 in a general area bounded by (BT 540029), (BT 535039), (BT 565040) and (BT 570037) as a patrol element.

On 19 Dec65 the platoon acted as a convoy escort in support of operation **HARVEST MOON**.

"8-20 Dec-Operation HARVEST MOON was conducted approximately 25 miles northwest of Chu Lai. Units involved were Task Force DELTA, 2/7, 3/3, 2/1 (from SLF), and 3 ARVN battalions. These units were supported by USMC aircraft and artillery and by four B-52 strikes.

USMC: 51 KIA, 256 WIA, 1 MIA

VC: 407 KIA, 33 VCC, 231 VCS, 3 RALLIERS" (GB65)

During the convoy to TAM KY (BT 308227) one ONTOS escorted a M-35 truck that hit a mine at CC (BT 398150) back to Chu Lai. The platoon returned to Chu Lai with a convoy loaded with troops from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.

From 20-31 Dec65 the platoon conducted eight section sized patrols behind the 1st Battalions MLR with negative results.

The 2nd Platoon was in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.

From 1-8 Dec65 one section was in support of Task Force SMITH at the RMK compound (BT 528054).

On 8 Dec65 the platoon escorted two convoys from Chu Lai to TAM KY assembly area (BT 297234).

On 9 Dec65 the platoon escorted a supply convoy to THANG BINK assembly area (BT 156447) and returned on 10 Dec65 to Chu Lai.

On 12 Dec65 the platoon escorted a convoy with two reinforced platoons from Company "A" 1st Battalion, 7th Marines to TNANG BING (BT 156447).

From 13-18 Dec65 the platoon remained at the company area in a ready status. All the convoys from 8-12 Dec65 were in support of operation HARVEST MOON.

On 27 Dec65 one section participated in a live firing demonstration from their MLR positions (BT 496035). This was done for the benefit of 80 Popular Force troops.

The 3d Platoon was in direct support of the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines during the month of December. From 1-31 Dec65 one section was located at (BT 525024) and one at (BT 549016) manning the MLR. On 13 Dec65 the platoon established a blocking force from CC (BT

515026) to (BT 506026) in support of Company "K" and "L" 3d Battalion, 7th Marines sweep.

One section supported Company "K" on a reconnaissance within the 3d Battalion TAOR for new roads. From 20-31 Dec65 the platoon deployed one section on patrol each evening, prior to sunset along Route #1. The patrol mission was to ensure that all Vietnamese were out of the area for the night. The ONTOS were used extensively as night perimeter security/mobile reaction force throughout the Regimental TAOR.

December 1966

Third Antitanks

Note: The 58 page Command Chronology for this period is in disarray - missing is the chain of command and staff officer assignments. Repeated here is the same as November's personnel.

Commanding Officer: Maj C.R. Stiffler

Executive Officer: Capt D.C. Satcher

Operations Officer: 1stLt J.C. DeBilio

Logistics Officer: Capt D.C. Satcher

Location: (Da Nang TAOR)

KIA's

20 Dec: Cpl J. Paul of Philadelphia, PA

22 Dec: R.C. Boyd of Newark, CA

C.O.s H&S Company: 1stLt D.K. Caswell & 2ndLt C.P. Wager

Location: (Da Nang TAOR)

C.O. Company "A"(-)(Rein): Capt A.A. Compton

Location: (Phu Bai TAOR)

C.O. Company "B": Capt S.L. Camby

Location: (Phu Bai TAOR)

C.O. Company "C"(-): Capt S.T. Flynn

Location: (Phu Bai TAOR)

December 1967

Third Antitanks

Commanding Officer: Maj R.M. Jordan

Executive Officers: Maj L.V. Bearce & Capt R.C. McInteer

Operations Officers: Capt J.O. Lea & 1stLt N.A. Lia

Logistics Officers: Maj B. Hastings, Capt T.J. Solak & 1stLt J.L. Hickam

Location & Operations Summary: (Gia Le Combat Base)

C.O.s H&S Company: Capt J.O. Lea & 1stLt G.C. Mauch

Location & Operations Summary: (Gia Le Combat Base)

During the month of December 1967, the bunkers were completed and put in operation. Tanglefoot wire was repaired and additional strands put in. Repair of the outer and inner wire was conducted at the point where 3d Engineers wire joins this unit in the stream bed. H&S Company received green plastic material that has been used on all huts for weather protection and blackout purposes. H&S Company received rounds in the C.P. area on the 24th of December which resulted in no casualties. The reaction platoon conducted 27 night patrols, 1 day patrol, and 4 LP's during December 1967. LP made contact on the night of 24 December and took enemy under fire; had negative results. No friendly casualties or serious incidents occurred during the month of December.

C.O. Company "A" (-): Capt R.C. McInteer

Location & Operations Summary: (Khe Sanh AOR)

Company "A". Company "A" (-) (Headquarters, 2nd and 3rd Platoons) participated in **Operation Scotland** in direct support of 26th Marines during period 1-5 December 1967. Four patrols were conducted around the combat base and a trafficability study was conducted to determine the possibility of overland routes to Khe Sanh Village. Satisfactory routes were discovered and terrain will generally support tracked vehicle operations. First Platoon Company "C" was redesignated 1st Platoon Company "A" on 8 December 1967. This platoon was in direct support of 9th Marines located at Con Thien and C-2. On 15 December 1967 incoming hostile artillery resulted in 1 friendly KIA and 1 friendly WIA. Company "A" was redesignated Company A (Rein) and attached to 3rd Tank Battalion on 152400H.

KIA

On 14 Dec: LCpl G.E. Schubert of Wheeling, WV

C.O. Company "B" (-): Capt E.H.U. Schultes

Location & Operations Summary: (Gia Le Combat Base) Company "B". Company "B" 3rd Anti-Tank Battalion for the period 1-5 December 1967 proceeded to reduce to zero balance. On 5 December 1967 Company "B" was reduced to zero strength, but not deactivated. Its members were sent to various units throughout the 3rd Marine Division. These included 3rd Tank Battalion, Headquarters Battalion and 2nd Battalion 4th Marines. The majority of Company "B" was assigned to 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion where they formed the nucleus of a new Reconnaissance Company.

C.O. Company "C" (-): 1stLt N.C. Youngstrom

Location & Operations Summary: (Gia Le Combat Base)

Company "C". Company "C" 3rd Anti-Tank Battalion for the period 1-7 December 1967 proceeded to reduce to zero balance. On 7 December 1967 Company "C" was reduced to zero strength, but not deactivated. Its members were sent to various units throughout the 3rd Marine Division. These included 3rd Tank Battalion, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, and 1st AmTrac Battalion. The majority of Company "C" was assigned to 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion where they formed the nucleus of a new Reconnaissance Company.