June 1965 to 1970 - Marine Tanks & Ontos Action

This is the third of what was - and is - intended to be a monthly feature of abstracted Tank and Anti-Tank Command Chronologies. Due to some adjustments to the work load and priorities with the temporary sabbatical of our V.P. Dick Carey, we suspended the publication of May's *Breech Block.* This *Breech Block* – June 2013 – will give you a brief overview of the action that the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tanks and Anti Tanks were involved in during each June that they were in-country. For the complete command chronologies, please visit our Foundation's website where Pappy Reynolds has posted the Tank and Anti-Tank CCs. Most of the CCs are 100-300 pages in length with material that is not usually of great interest to many. I will attempt to feature that which is of most interest. If we've omitted areas that you would like to see included in these monthly overviews, please let me know. If you served in any of these units during the month of June and recall some experiences that you would like others to read about, jot them down and send them to us for inclusion in our upcoming book.

Please note that, the Command Chronologies routinely list all the battalions' principle staff officers. However, I will provide just the Bn. C.O.'s, X.O.'s, Operations (S-3), and Logistics Officers (S-4) of the battalions. Also, you will see the names of the C.O.s of H&S and the letter companies. I hope our readers, who may remember the names of their Platoon Leaders and Platoon Sergeants, as well as others with whom they served, will inform us of those as well. Those Marines are a part of our history which needs to be made known. We serve our Brothers best by recording their names in history.

Also, you are encouraged to access the Foundation's Map Chronology that Pappy has created. There you may find out exactly where your unit - battalion, company, often platoon, and occasionally section - was located at any given time. If you do not find your unit on one of Pappy's several maps, let us know.

June 1966

Note: The month of June, 1966 was included in the Mar-Dec 1966 1st Tanks Command Chronology. And, while 1st Tanks units had been in-country since July of 1966, the Tank Battalion, displacing from Camp Pendleton via Okinawa, didn't plant its flag in Chu Lai, RVN until early 1966. It was new at reporting in-country action via CC's and tank/infantry action in the Chu Lai TAOR was yet at its highpoint.

First Tanks:
Commanding Officers: LtCol A.W. Snell & Maj L.R.Burnette, Jr
Executive Officers: Maj's L.R.Burnette, Jr & R.E.B. Palmer
Operations Officer: Maj J.G. Collier
Logistics Officers: Maj's R.E.B. Palmer & H.J.L. Reid

By now First Tanks had taken over command and control of all its subordinate units and was well ensconced in the Chu Lai Combat Base (landing on 28 March 1967) conducting operations 24/7. Companies "A" & "B" were in direct support of 1st, 5th, and 7th Marines. Company "C" was in DS of Chu Lai Defense Command, provided one platoon to the SLF, and then moved its Hq. to Danang with OPCON to the 3rd MarDiv.

H&S C.O.s: Capt's J.D. Sparks & J.C. Greene, Jr
Location: Chu Lai Combat Base Hill 43 (BT 571041)

C.O.'s Company "A": Capt W.J. Britton
Location and Operations Summary: Chu Lai Combat Base
DS 5th Marines

(a) 1-30 June 1966 Chu Lai Combat Base. 01-031200H June, in direct support of 1st Marines; 031201H June - 30 June in direct support of 5th Marines. 18-30 June, 2nd Platoon in direct support of Chu Lai Defense Command.

C.O. Company "B": Capt E.E. Stith
Location and Operations Summary: Chu Lai Combat Base
DS 7th Marines

(a) 1-30 June 1966, Chu Lai Combat Base. In direct support of 7th Marines. 18-30 June, 1st Platoon in direct support of Chu Lai Defense Command.

C.O. Company "C": Capt F.U. Salas
Location and Operations Summary: Chu Lai Combat Base and Danang TAOR

(a) 1-18 June. In direct support of Chu Lai Defense Command, with two (2) tank platoons. 19 June, embarked for Danang aboard LST 1096. Arrived Danang 19 June - ADCON 1st Tks OPCON 3rd Marine Division. 19-30 June, in direct support of 1st Marines, Danang TAOR. 1-30 June, 2nd Platoon, Company C remains on SLF.

June 1967

First Tanks:
Commanding Officer: LtCol R.M/ Taylor
Executive Officer: Maj E.P. Taylor, Jr.
Operations Officers: Maj C.R. Brabec
Logistics Officer: Maj D.B. Crudup

Those Tankers whose tours to Vietnam were bookended by the month of June saw a dramatic difference in the combat OpTempo, the number of both enemy- and friendly-initiated contacts, and the confusion of who's where. The fragmentation of units - companies never deployed as such, platoons being divided on a regular basis into sections, and sections deployed to places unknown and then deployed further to just one tank assigned a specific mission away from its parent platoon.

All Tank Company CPs re-located from Chu Lai to Danang

Elements of both companies "A" & "B" and four flames supported the 7th Marines between 15-24 June on Operation Arizona and the 5th Marines on the same dates during Operation Adair. Note: Refer to the 5th and 7th Marines Command Chronologies for details of these 2 operations.

First Tanks COC remained the center of all activity for the Southern Sector, 1st MarDiv Rear Area comprising 744 tenant activities, running dozens of security patrols, ambushes, Civic Action and Med-Caps.

H&S C.O.: Capt R.E. Roemer
Location: Danang (AT 997723) Same as Bn CP.

At 151200H, a tank from the Headquarters Section, H&S Company, located at AT855518, observed a firefight between friendly troops and VC located at AT867524. The tank fired 13 rounds 90mm HE and 11 rounds 90mm WP. There were 5 VC KIA Probable.

At 210805H, a Headquarters tank leading an armor patrol detonated a mine at BT001580. The mine left a crater 10 feet in diameter and 6 feet deep. The tank received moderate damage. Two tank crewmen received minor injuries non-evac. Two infantrymen were injured, 1 med-evac.

C.O. Company "A": Capt W.J. Britton

Location and Operations Summary: CP Danang, (AT 235315)

At 011020H, a tank from 2nd platoon, Company A, located at AT904501 observed 4 VC carrying weapons at AT908508. The tank fired 1 round of 90mm HE and 250 rounds of .30 cal. A search revealed clothing and blood indicating 1 VC KIA Probable.

At 041415H, a tank from 1st platoon, Company A, was called as a reactionary force to assist a CAC patrol at BT032595 pinned down by an unknown number of enemy. The tank fired 4 rounds of 90mm WP, 4 rounds canister, and 50 rounds of .30 cal. at the VC position in the vicinity of BT033593. A search was made with negative results.

At 071015, a tank from 1st platoon, Company A, detonated a pressure type mine of approximately 50 lbs at AT993591. The tank was extensively damaged because the mine was detonated under the rear of the vehicle. One tank crewman was WIA non-evac.

At 151508H, a tank from 2nd platoon, Company A, located at AT949543, in the process of assisting a mined LVT, received 3 rounds of 57mm recoilless rifle fire from AT955334 and approximately 75 rounds of automatic and semi-automatic S/A fire from the east, south, and north of their position. Approximately 15 VC were observed near antitank weapon. The tank fired 3 rounds 90mm WP and 800 rounds .30 cal. It received 2 more 57mm recoilless rifle rounds. Two tank crewmen were WIA med-evac.

At 151700H, a tank from 1st platoon, Company A, located at AT863568 spotted 4 VC with packs and weapons at AT858557. The tank fired 100 rounds .50 cal. and 50 rounds .30 cal. There were 2 VC KIA Confirmed and 1 VC KIA Probable.

At 160745H, a tank from 2nd platoon, Company A, while moving south on a road sweep at AT904505, received 3 rounds of 57mm recoilless rifle fire and 400 rounds S/A fire from AT922502. The tank fired 7 rounds 90mm HE, 7 rounds 90mm WP, and 100 rounds .30 cal. The infantry arrived and called for air strikes on the enemy position.

At 180715H, a tank from 2nd platoon, Company A, hit a mine at AT912508. The tank received extensive damage. One tank crewman was WIA non-evac.

At 201400H, a section of tanks from 1st platoon, Company A, located at AT845377 received approximately 200 rounds S/A fire from AT843400. One of the tanks fired 9 rounds 90mm HE, 200 rounds .30 cal., and 50 rounds .50 cal. A search of the area revealed 2 VC KIA Confirmed and 2 VC KIA Probable due to heavy blood and drag marks on the trail. Three homemade gas masks were also found at the site.

At 211915H, a section of tanks from the 2nd platoon, Company A, located at BT016387 received approximately 30 rounds S/A fire from BT018390. The tanks fired 2 rounds 90mm HE, 90 rounds .50 cal., and 50 rounds S/A resulting in 2 VC KIA Probable.

At 221635H, a section of tanks from 3rd platoon, Company A, located at BT006324 fired 6 rounds 90mm composition consisting of 3 rounds 90mm WP and 3 rounds 90mm HE as prefire for a daytime patrol. There was effective coverage of the area located at BT006316.

At 231345H, a tank from the 2nd platoon, Company A, attached to Company B, detonated a pressure type mine of approximately 45 lbs TNT at AT909507. The tank was moderately damaged.

At 231500H, a section of tanks from 3rd platoon, Company A, located at BT055334 in support of infantry troops observed the infantry receiving approximately 15 rounds S/A sniper fire from BT056339 and BT058337. The tank fired 1 round 90mm canister at BT058337 and 1 round 90mm HE at BT055639 resulting in 1 VC KIA Probable.

At 291715H, a section of tanks from the 1st platoon, Company A, located at AT989358 was supporting the advance of infantry by fire on a suspected VC position at AT979360. The tanks fired 40 rounds 90mm HE and 100 rounds .30 cal. Three VC were observed running from the area. Two fell under fire. A search of the area revelaed 2 heavy blood trails indicating 2 VC KIA Probable.

C.O. Company "B": Capt J.C. Winther

Location and Operations Summary: CP Danang (AT 961677)

At 041230H, a tank from 1st platoon, Company B, detonated a mine of approximately 50 lbs at AT828553. The tank was moderately damaged with no casualties.

At 071130H, a tank from 1st platoon, Company B, located at AT787552 was requested to fire on a bunker occupied by VC spotted by an FO at ZC211578. The tank fired 2 rounds of 90mm WP. A search of the area revealed 1 VC KIA Confirmed.

At 090830H, a section of tanks from 1st platoon, Company B, located at AT808568, waiting to rendezvous with tank B53, was fired upon by snipers from the vicinity of AT814564. The tanks returned fire with 2 rounds 90mm HE, and 1 round 90mm WP. A search revealed 1 KIA Probable.

At 091500H, the 1st platoon, Company B, found a large antitank mine which appeared to be made from a 5 gallon watercan. It was blown with a ½ block of C-4. The explosion left a crater 6 feet in diameter by 5 feet deep.

At 091930H, a section of tanks from Company B, moved a reactionary force in response to an observation tower observing a VC movement in the vicinity of AT974604. The VC took cover in a cave, but a tank dozer dug them up and captured 4 VC with one carbine, grenades, and flares.

At 141435H, a section of tanks from 1st platoon, Company B, while in a blocking position at AT834546 observed infantry troops under fire from AT834545. The tanks fired 3 rounds of 90mm canister, 1 round 90mm HE, and 200 rounds .30 cal. A search of the area revealed 2 VC KIA Confirmed.

At 141615H, a section of tanks from 1st platoon, Company B, located at AT834546, while in support of infantry, received an unknown number of S/A sniper fire from AT834545. The tanks fired 2 rounds 90mm HE, 50 rounds .50 cal. and 250 rounds .30 cal. resulting in 2 VC KIA Probable.

At 151750H, a section of tanks from 3rd platoon, Company B, located at AT828545 observed a helicopter receiving fire from an enemy position located at AT834543. The tanks fired 3 rounds 90mm HE and 1 round 90mm WP resulting in 1 VC KIA Probable.

At 142200H, a section of tanks from 1st platoon, Company B, in a blocking position at AT837550 observed what appeared to be an enemy movement at AT831551. One of the tanks confirmed with its xenon light that the movement was 15 VC and fired 500 rounds .30 cal. at VC in the water. There were 5 VC KIA Probable.

At 151030H, a section of tanks from 3rd platoon, Company B, in a blocking position at AT828545 spotted 3 VC with weapons at AT834545. The tanks fired 4 rounds 90mm HE, 1 round 90mm canister, and 100 rounds .30 cal. A flame tank fired a 10 second burst at a hedgerow to clear the foliage for better observation. There were three VC KIA Confirmed by body count.

At 152016H, a tank from 3rd platoon, Company B, located at AT828543 sighted 1 VC at AT844547 crawling toward the river. The tank fired 2 rounds 90mm HE resulting in 1 VC KIA Confirmed.

At 151825H, a tank from 3rd platoon, Company B, located at AT828545 sighted 1 VC with a weapon at AT834545. The tank fired 1 round 90mm HE resulting in 1 VC KIA Probable.

At 181300H, a tank retriever from Company B, proceeding along the road at AT894519, enroute to aid a mine damaged tank, observed 2 VC at AT896521 and received 4 rounds S/A fire. The retriever fired 100 rounds .50 cal., 200 rounds .30 cal., 1 LAW, 3 rounds M-79, and 15 rounds 7.62mm. Results of the action were 1 VC KIA Confirmed and 1 VC KIA Probable.

At 201330H, an amphibous tractor assisting a section of tanks from Company B, detonated a mine of approximately 40 lbs at AT964547. The vehicle was moderately damaged. There were no casualties.

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

Location and Operations Summary: CP Danang (BT 073658)

At 011855H, a tank from 3rd platoon, Company C, detonated a pressure type mine of approximately 50 lbs at BT104647. The mine made a crater 4 feet deep and 10 feet in diameter. The tank was moderately damaged.

At 041845H, a section of tanks from Company C, in support of an infantry unit at BT100622, after receiving sniper fire, saw VC running from a treeline at BT098623. The tanks fired 1 round of 90mm HE and 200 rounds of .30 cal. Two VC were captured and two were KIA Probable.

At 081645H, a tank from 3rd platoon, Company C, detonated a mine of approximately 50 lbs at BT112627. The mine made a crater 4½ feet deep and 4½ feet in diameter. The tank was moderately damaged.

At 111710H, a tank from 3rd platoon, Company C, detonated a mine of approximately 60 lbs at BT107612. The mine made a crater 5 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep. The tank was moderately damaged with one tank crewman WIA non-evac.

At 120850H, a tank from 3rd platoon, Company C, detonated a mine of approximately 40 lbs at BT066632. The mine made a crater 6 feet in diameter and 4 feet deep. The tank was moderately damaged.

At 260830H, a section of tanks from 2nd platoon, Company C, on patrol in support of infantry troops, detonated a pressure type mine of approximately 40 lbs at AT987585. The tank was moderately damaged. One infantryman received minor wounds. The crater from the explosion was approximately 10 feet in diameter and 6 feet deep.

At 271345H, a section of tanks from 3rd platoon, Company C, in a blocking position at BT135624 saw 1 VC suspect trying to evade a sweeping force. The tank fired 15 rounds .30 cal. and captured one VC suspect.

At 281050H, a section of tanks from 2nd platoon, Company C, on a recon patrol detonated a booby trapped grenade at BT095676. The grenade was approximately 4 feet above the ground. The tank received minor damage.

At 291920H, a section of tanks from the 3rd platoon, Company C, were in a blocking position at BT130631. The tanks were in support of the infantry and were requested to fire on a boat at approximately BT140639 which refused to stop. The tank fired 2 rounds 90mm HE and sank the boat. Four VC KIA were confirmed by the infantry leader.

At 301515H, a section of tanks from the 3rd platoon, Company C, in support of the infantry at an ambush site located at BT172599 observed 2 boats trying to slip up the shore line at BT173600 with no lights. The tank fired 3 rounds 90mm canister and 25 rounds .30 cal. resulting in 5 VC KIA Confirmed by the infantry leader, and 5 VC KIA Probable.

At 301050H, a section of tanks from 3rd platoon, Company C, in support of infantry troops at BT074613 spotted 1 VCS running at BT074615. The tank fired warning shots and then fired approximately 50 rounds .30 cal. A search of the area revealed 1 VC KIA Confirmed.

At 301715H, a section of tanks from the 2nd platoon, Company C, in support of the infantry at BT079668 was requested to mark enemy positions at BT088673 with WP. The tank fired 1 round of 90mm WP.

June 1968

First Tanks:
Commanding Officers: LtCol H.W. Hite
Executive Officers: Maj D.R. Dickey
Operations Officer: Capt R.D. Gunselman
Logistics Officers: Maj J.A. Schuyler

Those Tankers and Ontos crewmen who were "fortunate" enough to have their time in-country bookended by June of '67 and June of '68 you would not have imagined in '67 what '68 would bring to

First Tanks. For starters we joined Company "A" of the First Anti-Tanks and then took OpCon of the newly created Company "B" of the Fifth Tanks. Fifth Tanks!? Read on.

During the month of June the 1st Tank Battalion participated in four major operations:

Operation Nevada Eagle

Tanks of Company A and Ontos of Company A (ATs) operated in support of the 101st Airborne on this operation which took place northwest of Hue. This operation was successful and resulted in 26 NVA kills for the vehicles of 1st Tank Battalion.

Operation Houston

This operation has been underway for some time southwest of Hue. Tanks of Company A and Ontos of Company A (ATs) have been in support of 1/5 on this operation which has taken place along Route 1 south from Phu Bai. The vehicles have been used in several capacities, sweep forces, reaction units, security - throughout the operation, and they continue to support the infantry in this way.

Operation Allenbrook

This operation has been in progress for some time. Support has varied from a company (-) to a heavy section of tanks throughout the month. These tanks have been furnished by Company B, Company B, 5th Tank Battalion, and Company C. The tanks have been vulnerable to mines since they have been channelized to roads with the advent of the spring rains.

The task organization for the 1st Tank Battalion (Rein) is as follows:

Company A (-) (Rein): D/S Task Force X-Ray (Phu Bai)

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

Company B, 5th Tank Battalion (Rein): D/S 27th Marines (DaNang)
One platoon: D/S 2nd Brigade ROKMC (Hoi An)

Company C(Rein): G/S 1st Mar Div (DaNang)

Company A, 1st AT's (Rein): D/S Task Force X-Ray (Phu Bai)

H&S C.O.s: Maj L.A. Gildersleeve & Capt G.P. Brodeur
Location and Operations Summary: (AT 997723)

At 100900H, a 1st Tank Battalion headquarters tank struck a 250 pound bomb rigged as a mine at (AT877828) resulting in heavy damage to the vehicle but no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 10Jun68, Entry 6)

At 111430H, two 1st Tank Battalion headquarters tanks were taken under fire by recoilless rifle and mortar fire at (ZC192559) while escorting a convoy to Hill 52. The tanks fired 90mm resulting in two (2) NVA KIA. There were no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 11Jun68, Entry 7)

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (1)

At 131155H, two 1st Tank Battalion headquarters tanks were in support of a convoy when they came under heavy fire at (ZC192559). One tank struck a mine and the other was hit by 57mm recoilless rifle fire. An air strike was called with unknown enemy casualties. There were no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 13Jun68, Entry 8)

At 201250H, two 1st Tank Battalion headquarters tanks on Hill 52 received one mortar round resulting in one (1) USMC WIA (med-evac). (Ref: S-3 Journal, 20Jun68, Entry 7)

C.O. Company "A"(-): Capt C.R. Casey
Location and Operations Summary: (YD 815165)

Company A (-) (Rein) is located in the Phu Bai/Gia Le area where they are in direct support of Task Force X-Ray. The company has provided support for two major operations throughout the month. These operations have been successful and the tanks have been well utilized. Tanks are also provided for defense of the Phu Bai Command.

At 020700H, two Company A tanks in support of "B" Troop of the 101st Cavalry had contact with NVA troops for about 6 hours; they received small arms fire, B-40 rockets and 60mm mortars. The tanks returned fire with 90mm, .30 and .50 caliber, resulting in six (6) NVA KIA. (Ref: Company A Spotrep of 2 June 1968)

At 030130H, three Company A tanks in support of the 101st, were set in a night defensive position at (YD965168) when an NVA attack overran the friendly lines. The tanks fired 90mm and .30 caliber machinegun resulting in twenty (20) NVA KIA. One tank was hit by a B-40 rocket with no damage to the tank and no friendly casualties. (Ref: Company A Spotrep of 3 June 1968)

At 060900H, Company A tanks were working with units of 1/5 at (YD937046) when they encountered a small enemy force. The tanks fired 90mm and .30 and .50 caliber machinegun resulting in five (5) NVA KIA and five (5) captured SKS Carbines. There were no friendly casualties. (Ref: Company A Spotrep of 6 June 1968)

At 201200H, a Company A tank in support of 1/5 hit a mine at (YD943045). Another Company A tank enroute to aid the disabled vehicle, struck a mine near the same location. Both tanks received moderate damage but no casualties from mines estimated to be 50 pounds. (Ref: Company A Spotrep of 20 June 1968)

C.O. Company "B"(Rein): Capt G.J. Murdock
Location and Operations Summary: (AT 922621)

The tanks of Company B (Rein) have been engaged in operation in the 7th Marines AOR. Two major operations are in progress in this area; Operation Allenbrook and Operation Mameluke Thrust. The tanks are used as convoy security and reaction forces. They also support the infantry by fire when possible since the wet paddies have limited most off-road movement.

The 2d Platoon, Company B, was detached from 1st Tank Battalion on 15 June and went afloat with BLT 2/7 on that date. On 18 June, Company B joined the 1st Platoon, Company A which had been acting as Division Reserve.

At 051730H, two Company B tanks were moving in support of a column at (ZC184555) when they received enemy fire from a hill overlooking their position. Both tanks received damage from B-40 rockets but 90mm fire was returned resulting in one (1) NVA KIA. There were no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 5Jun68, Entry 8)

At 080905H, a Company B tank while on a road sweep to Hill 37, hit a 40 pound mine resulting in moderate damage to the tank and no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 8Jun68, Entry 4)

At 241200H, a Company B tank struck a 40 pound mine at (AT837562) while in support of a convoy to Hill 52. The tank suffered moderate damage but no casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 23Jun68, Entry 6)

At 281350H, a Company B tank struck a mine at (ZC180553) while moving with an infantry platoon. The tank suffered moderate damage and one (1) USMC WIA (non-evac). (Ref: S-3 Journal, 28Jun68, Entry 6)

30 June 1968:

C.O. Company "C"(Rein): Capt R.T. Hopkins
Location and Operations Summary: (AT 997723)

Company C (Rein) is in general support of the 1st Marine Division. The Company C C.P. is now located in the 1st Tank Battalion cantonment. The company also has responsibility for the security of both major bridges in the SSDC AOR.

At 051830H, two companies of 1/27 were pinned down by enemy fire at (AT955535). A heavy section of tanks from Company C were called as a reaction force and they fired 90mm, .30 and .50 caliber machinegun resulting in one (1) VC KIA. There were no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 5Jun68, Entry 9)

At 061930H, three Company C tanks and Company Retriever were enroute to the 2d Company, ROKMC when they were hit by automatic weapons fire from two sides. The vehicles attempted to move forward out of the killing zone when one of the tanks hit a mine. The tanks fired 90mm and .30 and .50 caliber machinegun with unknown results. There were two (2) USMC WIA (med-evac) resulting from the mine. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 6Jun68, Entry 8)

At 081430H, while in support of a unit of the 26th Marines, a Company C tank spotted 4 NVA running into a village at (AT919522). The tank fired 90mm resulting in four (4) NVA KIA. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 8Jun68, Entry 10)

At 081800H, two Company C tanks were requested to fire at fortified positions at (AT913522) by the 26th Marines. The tanks fired 90mm resulting in four (4) NVA KIA and one (1) RPG-2 captured. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 8Jun68, Entry 11)

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At 121915H, a Company C tank was sent in support of the 26th Company, ROKMC at (BT088613) when it received small arms and automatic weapons fire. The tank returned fire with .30 and .50 caliber machinegun resulting in one (1) VC KIA and one (1) Chinese rifle captured. There were no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 12Jun68, Entry 7)

C.O. Company "A"(Rein), 1st ATBn: 1stLt G.B. Search
Location and Operations Summary: (YD 813165)

Company A, 1st Antitank's (Rein), remains in direct support of Task Force X-Ray with headquarters at Gia Le. The company has one platoon in direct support of the Phu Bai Defense Command. One platoon is in support of 1/5 on Operation Houston

At 011400H, the 2d Platoon, Company A (ATs) in support of the 1st Squadron, 502d Cavalry at coordinates (YD910146) came under heavy small arms, automatic weapons, B-40 rocket and mortar fire from coordinates (YD912146). The 2d Platoon deployed and expended 44 HEP-T, 16 HEAT, and 1500 caliber .30 rounds, resulting in two secondary explosions. The supported unit made no advance on the enemy position. (Ref: Antitank SITREP of 8 June 1968)

At 021120H, the 2d Platoon, Company A (ATs) in support of 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry at coordinates (YD968163) came under small arms and antitank rocket fire. The 2d Platoon deployed and returned 106mm and .30 caliber fire. Enemy fire was reduced. After a fixed wing air strike, enemy fire ceased. There were unknown enemy casualties but one (1) USMC WIA. (Ref: Antitank SITREP of 8 June 1968)

At 242000H, the 2d Platoon, Company A (ATs) received 60mm mortar fire while supporting units of 1/5 at (YD972171). Friendly casualties were one (1) USMC WIA (non-evac). (Ref: Antitank Spttrep of 24 June 1968)

C.O. Company "B", 5th TkBn: 1stLt R.M. Johnstone
Location and Operations Summary: (BT 072644)

Company B, 5th Tank Battalion (Rein) has been providing tanks for road sweeps, C.P. security and Operation AllenBrook. One platoon is in support of the 2nd ROK Brigade in the Hoi An area.

At 082320H, tanks of the 1st Platoon, Company B, 5th Tank Battalion, received small arms fire and mortars at (AT947530). The tanks returned fire with .30 caliber machinegun with unknown results. Friendly casualties were one (1) USMC WIA (med-evac). (Ref: S-3 Journal, 9Jun68, Entry 3)

At 131550H, two Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tanks and a Company B, 1st Tank Battalion tank were requested by 1/26 to fire on an enemy position in a treeline at (AT982566). The tanks fired 90mm and .30 and .50 caliber machinegun resulting in four (4) NVA KIA. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 13Jun68, Entry 7)

At 141710H, a Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tank in support of the ROKMC was hit by small arms and one (1) RPG round at (BT083613). The round did not penetrate but the driver was blinded by the flash resulting in one (1) USMC WIA (med-evac). (Ref: S-3 Journal, 14Jun68, Entry 8)

15 June 1968.

At 152145H, three Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tanks were hit by B-40 rockets and satchel charges while in support of a 3/27 night defensive position. The tanks returned fire with 90mm and .30 caliber machinegun with unknown results. Friendly casualties as a result of enemy action were two (2) USMC WIA (med-evac) and two (2) USMC WIA (non-evac). One enemy back pack was captured along with one B-40 rocket. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 16Jun68, Entry 2)

At 161630H, two Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tanks in support of 1/27 received sniper rounds from a treeline at (AT969546) resulting in one (1) USMC WIA (non-evac). The tanks fired 90mm with unknown results. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 17Jun68, Entry 11)

At 191300H, a Company B tank on a roadsweep at (AT873492) detonated an anti-personnel mine resulting in minor damage to the tank with no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 19Jun68, Entry 6)

At 220905H, a Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tank struck a 50 pound mine at (AT978545) enroute to the Liberty Bridge. The tank suffered moderate damage but there were no casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 22Jun68, Entry 4)

At 221230H, a Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tank struck a 50 pound mine while escorting Company C, 1/27 to the Liberty Bridge. The tank suffered moderate damage with no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 22Jun68, Entry 8)

At 221540H, a Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tank struck a mine at (AT937531) while proceeding in column to extract a mined vehicle. The tank suffered moderate damage and there was one (1) USMC WIA (med-evac) and one (1) USMC WIA (non-evac). (Ref: S-3 Journal, 22Jun68, Entry 11)

At 221915H, a Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tank observed VC in a woodline at (AT999539) while in support of a ROKMC unit. The tank fired 90mm resulting in three (3) VC KIA. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 22Jun68, Entry 12)

At 231710H, an aerial observer spotted 7 VC moving into a tree-line at (AT994559). A Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tank which was operating in the area with the ROKMC fired 90mm on the enemy, resulting in seven (7) VC KIA. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 23Jun68, Entry 9)

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At 241500H, two Company B, 5th Tank Battalion tanks were ambushed by small arms and RPG fire at (BT065657) while enroute to a patrol base from C.P. The tanks returned fire with 90mm and .30 caliber machinegun with unknown results. Both tanks were hit by RPG rockets resulting in light to moderate damage and three (3) USMC WIA (non-evac). (Ref: S-3 Journal, 24Jun68, Entry 8)

At 301550H, a Company B, 5th Tank Battalion struck a mine at (BT058658) while enroute to 3/27 C.P. The tank suffered moderate damage but there were no friendly casualties. (Ref: S-3 Journal, 30Jun68, Entry 9)

June 1969

First Tanks:
Commanding Officers: LtCol D.E. Young
Executive Officers: Maj D.R. Sparks
Operations Officer: Maj J.B. Terpak
Logistics Officers: Maj G.E. Berbaum

From June of 1966 to this June one can track the "rise and fall" i.e., post entry and pre departure of First Tanks. Scaling back of offensive operations (with much reduced mining incidents), cadre status of maneuver elements, and consolidating assets at the battalion CP, reduction in ammunition expenditure, reports of personnel and equipment shortages (i.e., not being replaced), are evidence of the scale down.

SECRET

During the month of June, **elements of the 1st Tank Battalion continued to support the infantry regiments of the 1st Marine Division and the 2nd Brigade ROKMC throughout the Southern I Corps by providing road sweeps and convoy security, counter-rocket and mortar fire, perimeter defense and providing valuable fire support for search and clear and search and destroy operations. Pipestone Canyon continued through the month of June with tanks on numerous occasions providing that margin of fire superiority which in turn destroyed the enemy's capabilities to hold the terrain in the 1st Marine Division TAOR.**

H&S C.O.s: Capt J.K. Marlatt
Location: (AT 997723)

101100H June 1969: Two tanks from Headquarters Plt in support of ROKMC at (BT062550) fired 90 [redacted] positions resulting in 10 NVA KIA.

131325H June 1969: A tank from H&S Co at (AT977523) hit a mine resulting in 5 USMC WIA, 3 MEDEVAC and 2 NONEVAC.

C.O.'s Company "A": 1stLt W.B. Blackshear
Location and Operations Summary: (AT 997723)

Company A remains in a cadre status as of 1 April 1969. The Company has 15 15 M48A3 tanks on hand. Two M48A5 tanks and 1 M51 VTR are Table of Equipment deficiences. The Command Post is co-located with that of the 1st Tank Battalion.

C.O. Company "B"(Rein): Capt K.W. Zitz
Location and Operations Summary: (AT 962621)

Company B (Rein), remained in direct support of the 5th and 7th Marine Regiments with two 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 rotating of platoons from the An Hoa area at regular interv intervals to insure the maximum number of combat ready vehicles continued th through the month of June. The two platoons in direct support of the 7th Marines were extensively employed on Hills 10, 37, 55 and 65 bringing direct fire to bear on sighted enemy movement, as well as infiltration routes. The two platoons in direct support of the 5th Marines provided bridge security at Phu Loc (6), road sweeps, and perimeter defense for the An Hoa Complex.

070200H June 1969: A tank from Co B at (AT877477) while on perimeter defense received rocket, mortar, and automatic small arms fire from (AT880480). Tank fired 90mm resulting in 3 NVA KIA.

091100H June 1969: A tank from Co B at (AT906491) detonated a mine resulting in 1 USMC KIA.

101830H June 1969: Two tanks from Co B in support of 1/7 at (AT898538) fired 90mm at boat at (AT886555) resulting in 3 VC KIA and 1 boat destroyed.

121000H June 1969: A tank from Co B in support of 2/5 on sweep found a 250 lb bomb rigged for command detonation at (AT924513). Bomb destroyed in place.

152030H June 1969: A tank from Co B at (AT880577) observed 3 VC in boat at (AT865567). Tank fired 90mm resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 boat destroyed.

C.O. Company "C": Capt T.H. Merrell
Location and Operations Summary: (BT078663)

Company C (Rein), continued to be tasked with the support of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 2nd Brigade ROKMC. The Company Command Post remains co-located with that of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines with a forward Company Command Post co-located with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines to support operation Pipestone Canyon. The 1st platoon remained in support of the 2nd Brigade ROKMC and the 2nd and 3rd platoons in support of the 1st Marine Regiment providing valuable direct fire support for search and clear operations in Operation Pipestone Canyon. The operation was a trememdous success. The 1st Platoon in support of the ROKMC distinguished themselves on numerous occasions accounting for more than 100 VC/NVA kills and numerous weapons and equipment captured. Company C destroyed 162 enemy bunkers during Operation Pipestone Canyon. On 1 June, Company C assumed OPCON of 1st Platoon Company A, 5th Tank Battalion which provided direct support to the 1st Marines, in connection with Operation Pipestone Canyon. The four (4) Headquarters Platoon tanks remained OPCON to Company C and provided valuable support to both the 1st Marines and the ROKMC.

020924H June 1969: Four tanks from Co C at (AT922813) in support of 2/1 fired 90mm and MG's and flame at enemy positions at (AT021593) resulting in 7 bunkers destroyed.

020945H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C received fire from unknown enemy sized force at (BT031599). Tanks returned fire with 90mm and MG's resulting in 6 NVA KIA, 1 NVA captured and the following equipment captured, 6 RPG launchers, 18 RPG rounds, 2 B40 rounds, 1 M60 MG, 4 AK47, 1 M2A Carbine, 1 LAAW and various pieces of individual equipment.

021945H June 1969: Three tanks from Co C in support of 2/1 at (BT017605) fired 90mm and MG's at enemy positions at (BT019605) resulting in 2 NVA KIA.

030900H June 1969: A tank from Co C in support of 2/1 fired 90mm at a bunker at (BT022590) resulting in one bunker destroyed.

030910H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of 1/1 at (BT007591) fired 90mm at two bunkers at (BT007594) resulting in 2 bunkers destroyed.

031130H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of 1/1 destroyed 150 bunkers from (BT006586) to (BT006595).

031645H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of ROKMC at (BT068529) fired 90mm at enemy at (BT062534) resulting in 11 VC KIA.

041230H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of ROKMC at (BT067529) observed VC in open at (BT063535). Tanks fired 90mm resulting in 2 VC KIA.
Ref: S-3 Journal 4 June 1969 Entry 14

041630H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of ROKMC at (BT063530) fired 90mm at VC in treeline at (BT063535) resulting in 3 VC KIA.

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061055H June 1969: A tank from Co C in support of 2/1 at (BT018596) observed 1 NVA in open. Tank fired MG resulting in 1 NVA KIA, and 1 AK47 with 7 Magazines captured.

061315H June 1969: A tank from Co C in support of ROKMC at (BT062531) observed 1 NVA in open at (BT063535). Tank fired 90mm resulting in 1 NVA KIA.

061530H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of ROKMC at (BT062531) fired 90mm and MG's at enemy in treeline at (BT063535) resulting in 5 NVA KIA.

071230H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of ROKMC at (BT062531) fired 90mm and MG's at enemy crossing river at (BT062533) resulting in 30 NVA KIA.

071400H June 1969: One man from Co C, at (AT998552) received shrapnel wound in shoulder while airstrike were being conducted. 1 USMC WIA MEDEVAC.

100820H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of ROKMC at (BT049523) fired 90mm at enemy bunkers at (BT049523) and treeline resulting in 15 NVA KIA.

111123H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C in support of 1/1 at (BT011533) fired 90mm at enemy bunkers at (BT009538) resulting in two bunkers destroyed.

SSIFIED [illegible]69: Two tanks from Co C in support of ROKMC at (BT060531) encountered unknown size enemy force. Tanks fired 90mm and MG's resuting in 28 NVA KIA.

171045H June 1969: Two tanks from Co C at (BT049549) fired 90mm at suspected enemy position at (BT047557) resulting in 3 NVA KIA and following gear captured, 2 SKS, 1 M1 carbine and various items of individual equipment.

211930H June 1969: A tank from Co C in support of 2/1 at (BT014520) received mortar fire resulting in 1 USMC WIA MED-EVAC.

C.O. Company "A", 1st ATBn: 1stLt B.J. Bethel

Location and Operations Summary: (AT 997723)

Company A (Rein), 1st Anti-tank Battalion has been in a cadre status since 1 April 1969. The Company Command Post remains co-located with that of 1st Tank Battalion.

The task organization of the 1st Tank Battalion as of 30 June 1969 was:

Company A (-):	Cadre
Company B (Rein):	2 platoons D/S 5th Marine Regiment 2 platoons D/S 7th Marine Regiment
Company C (Rein):	2 platoons D/S 1st Marine Regiment 1 platoon D/S 2nd Brigade ROKMC
Company A (Rein), 1st Anti-tank Battalion:	Cadre
Company A 5th Tank Battalion:	1st platoon OPCON 1 June to 8 June 1969
	2nd platoon passed OPCON 1 June 1969 to 1st Marine Division
	3rd platoon OPCON 1 June to 30 June 1969
Company A, 5th Anti-tank Battalion:	2nd platoon passed OPCON 1 June 1969 to 1st Marine Division

Of note here is that, while the level of activity of First Tanks continued from 22 June to the end of the reporting period, the S-3 Journal of the Command Chronology is missing. The spot reports are included and quite detailed, however, for purposes of this article will not be presented here.

June 1966

Third Tanks:
Commanding Officer: LtCol M/L. Raphael
Executive Officer: Maj J.G. Doss
Operations Officers: Maj E.L. Erickson
Logistics Officer: Maj F.W. Coates

During this period the command is on record of being unable to continue to support with its tanks all those missions for which the battalion is expected. This is due to the many calls for warm bodies to provide security throughout the Danang TAOR that are in fact trained tank and tank support technicians and the fill rate falling far short of the departure of personnel. In addition there has been a dramatic increase anti-tank assaults and mining incidents.

During June 1966 the 3d Tank Battalion continued to support the division in the Da Nang and Phu Bai TAOR's. On 20 June 1966 the 3d Tank Battalion was once again reinforced when it assumed operational control of Company "C" (-) 1st Tank Battalion.

Tank action during June has been decidedly more intense than any previous month. The tanks were involved in significantly more combat operations, engaged more enemy targets and made their presence felt by the enemy more than in past months. Tank suppor this month has been a major factor in the division successfully achieving domination of the greater portion of the Song Thu Ban/ Song Ky Lam River south of the Da Nang TAOR-an area long dominate by the Viet Cong.

The primary effort of the Tank Battalion this month was devoted to support of Operation Liberty in the Da Nang TAOR. (See special report of Operation Liberty).

OPERATION LIBERTY

The mission of Operation Liberty was to clear the southern portion of the Da Nang TAOR of VC forces. Assignments of tank battalion units on this operation were as follows:

Company "B" commenced the operation with the 1st and 2nd platoons in support of 1/1, the 3rd platoon in support of 2/9 and assumed OPCON of the 3rd platoon of Company "A" which was in support of 1/9. On 20 June Company "B" assumed OPCON of one section of 1st platoon Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion (OPCON of 3rd Tank Battalion). This section was put in support of 2/9. Also on this date 1st platoon Company "B" that had been in support of 1/1 was replaced by the 3rd platoon of Company "C" (-), 1st Tank Battalion. This Company "B" platoon then was committed in support of 1/9.

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ENCLOSURE (4)

H&S C.O.'s: Capts A.E. Lee & J.B. Terpak
Location: Danang (AT 989708) Same as Bn CP.

C.O.s Company "A": Capt J.J. Sucha & 1stLt H.L. Steigleman
Location and Operations Summary: Danang (AT 946762)

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The Tank Battalion operations of the month of June, exclusive of Operation Liberty, were as follows:

Company "A" (-) (Rein) continued to occupy key positions in the 3d Marine Regiment TAOR.

6 June: Two 1st platoon tanks supported Company "K", 3/9 in a sweep of area in grid squares (AT 9966 and 9562). There was no enemy contact.

8 June: While in a night position with Company "A" 1/9 a third platoon tank using its infra-red tank mounted searchlight observed a VC in the road at (AT 979623). The VC appeared to be preparing to set a mine. Tankcaliber 30 machine gun fire was directed on him and he fled into nearby treeline.

While in support of Company "A", 1/9, a Company "A" headquarters dozer tank destroyed and filled approximately 9000 meters of trenchline in grid squares (AT 9562, 9563, 9564, 9664, 9764).

15 June: Two Company headquarters tanks operating with elements of 2/9 discovered two camouflaged tank traps each 10' X 10' X 15' at (AT 948268) and (AT 949632). The bulldozer tank covered both traps.

19 June: A 2d platoon tank while in support of elements of 1/3 located at Nam O Bridge (AT 928828), received 12-15 rounds of mortar fire. The tanks returned caliber 30 and caliber 50 machine gun fire upon the suspected mortar positions. The tanks then supported an infantry search of the area. Search resulted in 2 VC KIA (PROB) and 2 VC WIA. Three 60 MM mortar rounds and 1 60 MM mortar sight were recovered.

29 June: Two 1st platoon tanks while in support of elements of 2/3 located at (AT 899579) sank a boat at (AT 878565). Tank 90 MM fire was delivered on target with good effect. Estimate 1 VC KIA (PROB) and 1 VC WIA (PROB) as a result of this action.

There were two additional incidents of Company "A" tanks receiving small arms fire during the month. In both instances tanks returned fire with unknown results.

The 1st platoon of Company "A" was in support of 2/3 for the duration of Operation Liberty.

Tank Operation during Operation Liberty (as depicted on the Operation Liberty overlay and the 1/1 operation overlay) were conducted in support of infantry units sweeping southward through their TAOR'S to assigned objectives bordering the north banks of the Song Thu Ban/Son Ky Lam waterway. Tanks provided combat support for their respective infantry units for the entirety of t operation. In the 2/9 TAOR the infantry and tank advance was blocked by the Song Ai Nghia river at (AT 990642). At this point the tanks supporting 2/9 were transfered to support operations ir the 1/9 TAOR. These tanks advanced southward with elements of 1/ crossed the river at (AT 968607) and then moved back into the 2/ TAOR to resume operations with 2/9 in the movement to their objective.

C.O. Company "B": Capt E.L. Tunget
Location and Operations Summary: Danang (AT 989708)

[redacted] Tank Batt[redacted] operations of the mont[redacted] June, exclusive of Operation [redacted] were as follows:

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COMPANY "B"

2 June: A 2d platoon tank observed and took under fire, 3 VC located at (AT 055629). Tank 90 MM fire resulted in 3 VC KIA (CONF).

Flame tanks from headquarters platoon were utilized by 2/9 in two fire missions to destroy enemy fortifications and possible ambush sites.

A company headquarters tank acting as security for flame tanks working with Company "F", 2/9, observed 4 VC running into a house at (BT 078619). 90 MM and 50 caliber fire demolished the house with resulting 4 VC KIA (PROB).

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ENCLOSURE (4)

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The following is a chronological sequence of events occurri on Operation Liberty:

COMPANY "B" (REIN)

11 June: 1st platoon supported Company "D", 1/1 in a sweep of th area at (BT 096635). Tanks destroyed one booby trap with 90mm fire. Two hundred feet of trenchline and 3 circular automatic weapons pits were also destroyed by the tanks.

14 June: A 3d platoon Company "A" tank OPCON to Company "B" observed 6 VC in treeline at (AT 947569) and fired 90mm at the enemy. A search of the area resulted in 3 VC KIA (CONF).

15 June: 3d platoon Company "A" OPCON to Company "B" and supporting Co. "B" 1/9 fired 90mm at suspected VC positions in village a (AT 927564) and destroyed same.

16 June: A 3d platoon tank while supporting elements of 2/9 observed 9 VC in the river at (BT 974565) and two VC with weapons on the north bank of the river. Tanks fired 90mm and observed bodies falling but the probable casualties could not be confirmed as no search was conducted due to in accessability of the area.

Two 2nd platoon tanks supporting Company "G" 2/9 destroyed 7 houses, 8 fighting holes and detonated 1 AP mine at (AT 005621) Three 2nd platoon tanks supporting Company "B" 1/1 located at (BT 078608) received 400 rounds of small arms fire and approximately 8 grenades from an estimated VC platoon. The tanks returned 90mm and 30 caliber fire. The results of this action were unknow as darkness precluded a search.

In this same vicinity a tank detonated an M-26 booby trapped grenade with no resulting casualties.

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ENCLOSURE (4)

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17 June: A 3rd platoon tank in support of 1/9 at (AT 9715567) observed 9 VC carrying weapons and entering the river. The tank fired 90mm into the enemy and the 3 VC appeared to be hit. Area was not searched as VC were south of the Song Thu Ban River. 3 VC KIA (PROB).

18 June: A headquarters flame tank in support of Company "B" 1/1 at (BT 080608) burned VC tunnels located in that area.

Two Company "A" tanks OPCON to Company "B" while in support of 1/9 at (AT 925550) received small arms fire and two rifle grenades. One rifle grenade hit one of the tanks but did not detonate. Tanks returned 90mm cannister fire and 30 caliber fire. The results of this action were one VC KIA (CONF) and one VC WIA (CONF).

Two Company "A" tanks OPCON to Company "B" and in support of 1/9 located at (AT 915557) received 15 rounds of mortar fire. Tanks returned 90mm fire at the suspected mortar sites. The mort fire ceased. Five infantrymen were wounded by the mortar fire.

A 3rd platoon tank in support of 1/9 at (AT 959555) observed with the tank mounted infra-red searchlight, 3 VC in a boat and 4 VC on the bank of the river. The tank switched to white light an fired 90mm, caliber 50, and caliber 30, upon the enemy. The boa was sunk and a search of the area resulted in 4 VC KIA (CONF). a personal search of the sunken boat conducted by the tank platoo commander on the following morning, the following items were fou thirty-five 100 pounds bags of rice, 45 gallons of kerosene, personal letters, assorted documents, Russian bandages and medic supplies and a wallet with 200 piasters.

19 June: Two 1st platoon tanks while in support of 1/1 located (BT 131625) engaged in a fire fight with VC located at (BT 1346 Tanks fired caliber 30 and a later search of the area disclosed VC WIA.

Two 1st platoon tanks in support of Company "D" 1/1 locate at (BT 116629) engaged an undetermined number of VC at (BT 1216 The tanks fired 90mm upon the enemy. Results of this action we 1 VC WIA.

21 June: A tank from the 1st platoon while in support of eleme of 1/1 located at (BT 126332) received 30 rounds of mortar fir from (BT 130628). The tank fired 90mm. Results were unknown a darkness precluded search.

Two 1st platoon tanks while in support of Company "B", 1/9 located at (BT 925535) received small arms fire from (AT 92552 Tanks returned fire with 90mm. The tank fire destroyed 6 boat and 4 houses. The results were unknown as an intervening rive precluded search.

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ENCLOSURE (4)

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Two 1st platoon tanks while in support of Company "B", 1/9 located at (AT 925534) received small arms fire from (AT 923526). The tanks returned 90mm fire and results were 1 VC KIA (CONF).

22 June: 1st platoon tanks while in support of Company "D", 1/9 observed VC at (AT 947543). The tanks fired 90mm and caliber 30 and observed direct hit on 3 VC. 3 VC KIA (CONF) were the results of this action.

23 June: Two 1st platoon tanks while in support of Company "D", 1/9 observed and fired 90mm and caliber 30 at (AT 947543). Direct hits on the enemy were observed by the infantry commander, however the area was not searched as the Song Thu Ban River intervened.

24 June: 2nd platoon tanks located at (AT 957562 fired 90mm on 4 VC located at (BT 947536). Results of this action were 2 VC KIA (PROB).

25 June: Two 2nd platoon tanks while in support of Company "D", 1/9 fired 90mm into 6 sanpans located at (AT 947544). VC casualties were unknown as the river made a search impossible. Six boats were sunk by the tank fire.

A company headquarters tank in support of Company "B", 1/9 located at (AT 925529) received small arms fire from a house at (AT 925529). The tank returned fire with 90mm and destroyed the house. A search of the area disclosed 1 VC KIA (CONF).

25-28 June: During this period Company "B" and Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion, tanks (OPCON to 3d Tank Bn) conducted a small operation in support of 1/1. (Refer to 1/1 operation overlay) 15 gun tanks, two flame tanks and one retriever were placed in direct support of the 1/1 which was advancing from Phase Line Amber to Phase Line Green. Personnel from Company "B" were placed in an advisory capacity to the operating sections of Company "C" 1st Tank Battalion, as the former had been operating in the area for 11 months and knew it well while Company "C" was relatively new to the area.

The vehicles were staged according to plan on the afternoon of 22 June at the LOD (Phase Line Amber). Assignments of tanks were made placing 3d platoon Company "C" 1st Tank Battalion and 1 platoon Company "B" 3d Tank Battalion in direct support of 1/1. Four tanks were committed on Axis Yellow and the remaining three tanks were committed to Axis Blue. Three tanks from the 2d platoon Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion were assigned to Axis Red. Three tanks from the 1st platoon were placed in direct support of Company "C", 1/1, on Axis Brown. The headquarters tanks and the retriever and two flame tanks from Company "B" 3d Tank Battalion were held in reserve and provided security for the command group of 1/1 which was mounted in two LVT's. Although originally scheduled to begin on the 23rd of June, the operation was postponed for a period of 48 hours.

[redacted]

Tanks expended 90mm, 50 caliber, and 30 caliber on the VC. Result of this action were 5 VC KIA (CONF) and 7 VC KIA (PROB). A total of 12 boats were also destroyed.

29 June: Two 3rd platoon tanks in support of Company "C", 1/9 located at (AT 902547) fired 90mm into a VC village. Village was searched by infantry with negative results.

30 June: A 2nd platoon tank while in support of Company "B" 1/9 fired at a sniper located at (AT 925529). The tank was then fired on by 57mm recoilless rifle but not hit. The tank returned fire with 90mm and 30 caliber. An air observer in the vicinity credited the tank with 4 VC KIA (CONF). This same tank observed boats landing VC at (AT 912556 and 911531). The tank fired 90mm and sank 2 boats and damaged 10 mord. A search of the area revealed 15 VC KIA (CONF).

During the month of June, Company "B" tanks received small arms fire in an additional 31 incidents. In all these VC incidents th tanks returned fire with unknown results as a search was not made due to inaccessability of the terrain, pressing operational committments, or darkness.

The following is a chronological sequence of events occurri on Operation Liberty:

COMPANY "B" (REIN)

11 June: 1st platoon supported Company "D", 1/1 in a sweep of t area at (BT 096635). Tanks destroyed one booby trap with 90mm fire. Two hundred feet of trenchline and 3 circular automatic weapons pits were also destroyed by the tanks.

14 June: A 3d platoon Company "A" tank OPCON to Company "B" observed 6 VC in treeline at (AT 947569) and fired 90mm at the enemy. A search of the area resulted in 3 VC KIA (CONF).

15 June: 3d platoon Company "A" OPCON to Company "B" and support ing Co. "B" 1/9 fired 90mm at suspected VC positions in village (AT 927564) and destroyed same.

16 June: A 3d platoon tank while supporting elements of 2/9 observed 9 VC in the river at (BT 974565) and two VC with weapons on the north bank of the river. Tanks fired 90mm and observed bodies falling but the probable casualties could not be confirmed as no search was conducted due to in accessability of the area.

Two 2nd platoon tanks supporting Company "G" 2/9 destroyed 7 houses, 8 fighting holes and detonated 1 AP mine at (AT 005621) Three 2nd platoon tanks supporting Company "B" 1/1 located at (BT 078608) received 400 rounds of small arms fire and approximat ly 8 grenades from an estimated VC platoon. The tanks returned 90mm and 30 caliber fire. The results of this action were unknow as darkness precluded a search.

In this same vicinity a tank detonated an M-26 booby trapped grenade with no resulting casualties.

17 June: A 3rd platoon tank in support of 1/9 at (AT 9715567) observed 9 VC carrying weapons and entering the river. The tank fired 90mm into the enemy and the 3 VC appeared to be hit. Area was not searched as VC were south of the Song Thu Ban River. 3 VC KIA (PROB).

18 June: A headquarters flame tank in support of Company "B" 1/1 at (BT 080608) burned VC tunnels located in that area.

Two Company "A" tanks OPCON to Company "B" while in support of 1/9 at (AT 925550) received small arms fire and two rifle grenades. One rifle grenade hit one of the tanks but did not detonate. Tanks returned 90mm cannister fire and 30 caliber fire. The results of this action were one VC KIA (CONF) and one VC WIA (CONF).

Two Company "A" tanks OPCON to Company "B" and in support of 1/9 located at (AT 915557) received 15 rounds of mortar fire. Tanks returned 90mm fire at the suspected mortar sites. The mort fire ceased. Five infantrymen were wounded by the mortar fire.

A 3rd platoon tank in support of 1/9 at (AT 959555) observed with the tank mounted infra-red searchlight, 3 VC in a boat and 4 VC on the bank of the river. The tank switched to white light an fired 90mm, caliber 50, and caliber 30, upon the enemy. The boa was sunk and a search of the area resulted in 4 VC KIA (CONF). a personal search of the sunken boat conducted by the tank platoo commander on the following morning, the following items were fou thirty-five 100 pounds bags of rice, 45 gallons of kerosene, personal letters, assorted documents, Russian bandages and medic supplies and a wallet with 200 piasters.

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23 June: Two 1st platoon tanks while in support of Company "D", 1/9 observed and fired 90mm and caliber 30 at (AT 947543). Direct hits on the enemy were observed by the infantry commander, however, the area was not searched as the Song Thu Ban River intervened.

24 June: 2nd platoon tanks located at (AT 957562 fired 90mm on 4 VC located at (BT 947536). Results of this action were 2 VC KIA (PROB).

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A company headquarters tank in support of Company "B", 1/9 located at (AT 925529) received small arms fire from a house at (AT 925529). The tank returned fire with 90mm and destroyed the house. A search of the area disclosed 1 VC KIA (CONF).

25-28 June: During this period Company "B" and Company "C",1st Tank Battalion, tanks (OPCON to 3d Tank Bn) conducted a small operation in support of 1/1. (Refer to 1/1 operation overlay) 15 gun tanks, two flame tanks and one retriever were placed in direct support of the 1/1which was advancing from Phase Line Amber to Phase Line Green. Personnel from Company "B" were placed in a advisory capacity to the operating sections of Company "C" 1st Tank Battalion, as the former had been operating in the area for 11 months and knew it well while Company "C" was relatively new to the area.

The vehicles were staged according to plan on the afternoon of 22 June at the LOD (Phase Line Amber). Assignments of tanks were made placing 3d platoon Company "C" 1st Tank Battalion and 1st platoon Company "B" 3d Tank Battalion in direct support of 1/1. Four tanks were committed on Axis Yellow and the remaining three tanks were committed to Axis Blue. Three tanks from the 2d platoon Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion were assigned to Axis Red. Three tanks from the 1st platoon were placed in direct support of Company "C", 1/1, on Axis Brown. The headquarters tanks and the retriever and two flame tanks from Company "B" 3d Tank Battalion were held in reserve and provided security for the command group of 1/1 which was mounted in two LVT's. Although originally scheduled to begin on the 23rd of June, the operation was postponed for a period of 48 hours.

DECLASSIFIED

Tanks expended 90mm, 50 caliber, and 30 caliber on the VC. Result of this action were 5 VC KIA (CONF) and 7 VC KIA (PROB). A total of 12 boats were also destroyed.

29 June: Two 3rd platoon tanks in support of Company "C", 1/9 located at (AT 902547) fired 90mm into a VC village. Village was searched by infantry with negative results.

30 June: A 2nd platoon tank while in support of Company "B" 1/9 fired at a sniper located at (AT 925529). The tank was then fired on by 57mm recoilless rifle but not hit. The tank returned fire with 90mm and 30 caliber. An air observer in the vicinity credited the tank with 4 VC KIA (CONF). This same tank observed boats landing VC at (AT 912556 and 911531). The tank fired 90mm and sank 2 boats and damaged 10 mord. A search of the area revealed 15 VC KIA (CONF).

During the month of June, Company "B" tanks received small arms fire in an additional 31 incidents. In all these VC incidents th tanks returned fire with unknown results as a search was not made due to inaccessability of the terrain, pressing operational committments, or darkness.

C.O. Company "C": Capt J.H. Garry III
Location and Operations Summary: Phu Bai (YD 879152)

COMPANY "C"

Company "C" continued to provide tank combat support for infantry units operating in the Phu Bai TAOR.

4 June: Two 2d platoon tanks supported Company "G", 2/1 in a sweep of the area in vicinity of (YD 526287). An estimated 2600 pounds of rice was discovered and turned over to the logistics support unit. Forty civilians were escorted out of the village of Ap Co Xuan.

6 June: Seven gun tanks and one flame tank supported Company "E 2/1 on a search and destroy mission along the Song Bo River at (YD 574276).

7 June: Seven gun tanks and 1 flame tank supported Company "H", 2/1 by delivering 90 MM gun fire into probable VC locations on the ridge line in grid squares (YD 4825 and 4925). The tanks fired into suspected VC fortifications in the village of Lou Hoa Hein (YD 4727). The flame tank fired upon the same village. En route back to Company "H" CP (YD 520300) the tanks, with infantry mounted, received 3 rounds of 81 MM mortar fire. The tanks returned 90 MM and caliber 30 fire into the suspected mortar site. No casualties were received by the Marines.

9-11 June: The 2d and 3d platoons supported 2/4 and 2/1 respectively, for the first two days of Operation Florida.

12 June: Five tanks supporting the 7th and 7th Vietnamese Airborne Battalions fired 90 MM into the village of Thanh Thanh at (YD 560240 and 570240) (Refer to Company "C" in support of VN Airborne Brigade Overlay). Tanks fired from positions as shown

on overlay into sectors A, B, & C in conjunction with the sweep of that area by the ARVN units. These missions were called by a tank liason team working directly with the Vietnamese units.

12 June: 3 tanks supported 2/1 and fired 90 MM at VC command posts and observation posts in grid squares (YD 4625, 4725, 4824, 4825).

14 June: Company "C" moved back to the 4th Marines TAOR. En-route tanks encountered many altars placed in the middle of the roads by demonstrating Buddhists. The altars caused some delay in the progress of the tanks. Approximately 375 altars were removed by the Vietnamese special police in order that the tanks could get through.

In Hue, at 0500 on the 15th of June, Buddhists demonstrated around tank positions. The demonstration was short lived and tanks departed Hue and arrived without incident at destination at 0720.

22 June: The 1st platoon supported 1/4 on a search and destroy mission in the vicinity of (YD 860350). The tanks fired preparatory fires of 90 MM into the area prior to the infantry search

COMPANY "C" 1st TANK BATTALION

Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion arrived in Da Nang on 19 Jun. This company was put under the operational control of 3rd Tank Battalion and committed in direct support of 1/1 on 20 June. All tank operations were conducted in support of Operation Liberty.

22 June: Two 1st platoon tanks participated in sweep in vicinity (BT 000630 to 013635) with elements of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines. The tanks destroyed 15 houses and 3 bunkers.

24 June: 3rd platoon tanks while in support of 1/1 located at (BT 105647) engaged enemy of unknown force. Four tanks fired 90m and 30 caliber with unknown results as darkness precluded search.

26 June: Two 1st platoon tanks while in support of elements of 2/9 located a minefield at (BT 007610). Tanks fired 90mm into mines and noted 18 secondary explosions.

27 June: Two 1st platoon tanks supported elements of 2/9 on a sweep in the vicinity of (BT 009613). Tanks destroyed 2 buildings and one bunker with 90mm fire.

28 June: Four tanks supported Company "B" 1/1 in a sweep conduct in the vicinity of (BT 079613). Two VCS were captured during thi search.

June 1967

Third Tanks:
Commanding Officers: Maj V.L. Sylvester & LtCol F.D. Chapman
Executive Officers: Majs J.P. Schultz & V.L. Sylvester
Operations Office: Maj P.F. Lessard

Logistics Officer: Maj J.P. Schultz

NVA/VC activity in the 3d Marine Division TAOR was very light during most of June. During the last week of the month increased activity near the Khe Sanh Combat Base prompted the movement of a platoon of tanks from Company "B" to that area. In order to continue our commitment to Operation Cimarron in the Con Thien-Gio Linh area a platoon from Company "C" was chop opcon to Company "A". This did not weaken Company "C" support of 4th Marine Regiment operations as the company had four platoons at the time due to the landing of an SLF. During the last few days of June activity picked up in the Con Thien area indicating that tanks may become more heavily committed there during July.

During June the locations of the gun companies and their supported units were as follows:

Company "A" (Rein) - D/S 9th Marine Regiment (Dong Ha)

Company "B" (Rein) - D/S 3d Marine Regiment (Camp Carroll)

Company "C" (Rein) - D/S 4th Marine Regiment (Phong Dien)

H&S Company: 2ndLt A.W. Hauser
Location and Operations Summary: Phu Bai

C.O. Company "A": Capt P.E. Byrne
Location and Operations Summary: Dong Ha

4 June 1967: At 041310H a Company "A" tank was hit by an enemy artillery round. Results were three USMC WIA (med-evac).

6 June 1967: From 060940H to 061400H three Company "A" tanks at (YD - 213732) moved with an infantry unit to escort a psychological operations team broadcasting to North Vietnamese. Tanks set up a defensive perimeter. No incidents occurred.

11 June 1967: At 111300H a platoon of tanks from Company "A" fired 303 rounds of 90mm HE at suspected artillery positions and VC company in a village. Results were four houses destroyed and numerous bunkers and trenches damaged.

27 June 1967: From 271110H to 271215H three Company "A" tanks fired five rounds of 90mm canister and 1050 rounds of .30 calibre at three NVA suspects. NVA fled with negative casualties; however, infantry found four grenades, one RPG rocket, 200 rounds small arms ammunition, 800 pounds rice, and assorted clothing and sneakers.

C.O.s Company "B": 1stLt R.L. Larking & Capt E.J. Kline
Location and Operations Summary: Camp J.J. Carroll

From 270950H to 271230H a Company "B" tank at (YD 116701) fired 60 rounds of 90mm HE at enemy vehicles and a large building. Results of fire were one building destroyed and one vehicle believed damaged.

29 June 1967: At 291830H two tanks from Company "B" at Con Thien fired two rounds 90mm WP at an enemy artillery position. A secondary explosion was observed.

C.O. Company “C”: Capt R.L. Ruhlman
Location and Operations Summary: Phu Bai

1 June 1967: At 011040H a Company "C" tank at (YD 548282) fired five rounds of 90mm HE at suspected enemy position at (YD 5726). Results were one enemy KIA (confirmed) and one enemy KIA (probable).

2 June 1967: At 021830H a Company "C" tank at (YD 548282) fired five rounds of 90mm HE at a suspected enemy position at (YD 565305). One enemy KIA (confirmed) resulted.

At 021855H a Company "C" tank at (YD 501318) hit an anti-tank mine, causing light damage to the tank. The mine was believed to be about 40 to 60 pounds and command detonated.

Note: The paucity of detailed tank action in the "Significant Events" sectikon of the Command Chronology reflects the difference of philosophy in the creaqtion and submission of it. For details pull up the complete CC from the Foundation web site and go to the day-by-day S-3 Journal. Additionally, the S-4 Annex covers movement, tanks' condition, tank damage due to enemy and other action. In fact, more often than not, if the C.O. wanted to know details of his tanks - all farmed out to supporte units - he asked the S-4. The tanks were not under the OpCon (S-3) of the tank battalion but were under Admin/LogCon (S-1/S-4)

June 1968

Third Tanks:
Commanding Officer: LtCol J.K. Fontenot Jr.
Executive Officers: Maj's J.C. Duff & C.J. Samuelsen
Operations Officers: Maj J.C Samuelsen & Cpat C.L. Sale
Logistics Officer: Maj J.W. Lowe

Task Force Mike. Task Force Mike was organized from 3d Tank Battalion assets supplemented by a company from 3d Reconnaisance Battalion to assume defense of the C-3, C-3 Bridge, and Cam Lo District Headquarters areas. The Task Force conducted patrols, LPs, used tanks for H&I fires, and provided perimeter security for the compounds in the complex.

H&S Company C.O.: 1stLt J.E. Georgaklis
Location and Operations Summary: Quang Tri

C.O.'s Company “A”: Capt's C.L. Sale & E.V. Sullivan
Location and Operations Summary: Dong Ha

Company A. During the month Company A supported the 1st and 3rd Battalion 3d Marines, the 1st and 3rd Battalions 9th Marines, and the 2nd Battalion 26th Marines. The unit participated in Operations Kentucky and Napolean/Saline. Support provided included road sweep escort, sweeps on designated objectives with infantry, destroying 57 bunkers, H&I fire, fire missions on observed NVA, one mission resulting in the destruction of one house, counter battery fire resulting in 2 secondary explosions. On 22 June the 5th Platoon was providing protection for bulldozers clearing a fire break across Leathernock Square. During an enemy probing attack A51 was hit by 2 RPGs, resulting in the evacuation of all crew members. A composite crew was placed on the tank and it continued operating. The company accounted for 2 KIA (C) during the month.

2 June 1968 A34, 31 fired 11 HE and 1 WP in support of F/2/26. Results unknown.

3 June 1968 A3 in support of F/2/26 fired 12 HE. All, 13, 34 fired 12 HE. Results unknown.

A34 fired 8 HE and 4 Beehive at troops in tree line. Results unknown.

C.O. Company "B": Capt C.W. Reinke
Location and Operations Summary: Camp Carroll

Company B. Company B supported the 3d Battalion 1st Marines, 1st Battalion 3rd Marines, 1st Battalion 4th Marines, 1st and 2nd Battalions 9th Marines and Task Force Hotel in Operations Lancaster and Scotland II AOs. Those units were supported with H&I fires, counter battery fire and reaction for infantry sweeps. Tanks of the company moved approximately 320 miles daily escorting convoys between Calu and Khe Sanh.

C.O. Company "C": Capt J.E. Lindsey
Location and Operations Summary: Cam Lo

Company C. Elements of Company C continued to provide support for Task Force Hotel and the 1st Marines in Operation Scotland II and the 3d Marines in Operation Napoleon/Saline, while the Company Command Post and remainder of the unit moved to C-3 to support Task Force Mike in the defense of C-3, C-3 Bridge and Cam Lo District Headquarters. The tanks conducted road sweeps, H&I fires, assisted in the medevac of wounded personnel and participated in offensive operations with infantry.

1 June 1968 C34, 35 reaction with G and F Co chopped to B 1/1 for attack. Assisted in Med Evacs of wounded. C34 & 35 fired 10 HE and 1500 .30 cal. 8 NVA confirmed KIA.

C34, 35 direct fire support of 2/3 and fired 67 HE and 3 Beehive. Results unknown.

C.O.'s Company "A" 3rd ATBn: Capt J.O. Lea & 1stLt A.A. Owen
Location and Operations Summary: Khe Sanh

Company A, 3d Anti-tanks. This company continued under the operational control of Task Force Hotel in Operation Scotland II. Ontos fired at enemy troops and provided H&I fires. The company started preparations to relocate their CP.

1st Plt, A Co, 3d AT's fired 12 HEPT and 8 AP at enemy in open. Neg results.

1st Plt, AT's fired 10 HEPT in support of 2/3 at enemy troop movement. Results unknown.

June 1969

Third Tanks:
Commanding Officer: LtCol J. Sleger.
Executive Officer: Maj J.P. Sauders
Operations Officer: Maj H.L. Bauknight
Logistics Officer: Capt W.N. Crafton

Third Tank Battalion, in general support of the 3d Marine Division (Rein) during the month, primarily supported the 3d Marine Regiment and Task Force Hotel. The tank companies participated in one major operation with 3d Bn, 3d Marine Regiment northeast of A-4. Throughout the month, the companies continued supporting the infantry with armored reaction forces and providing security for fixed installations. Additionally, 90mm main gun H&I fires were provided at fixed installations in conjunction with the flame tank platoon burning heavy vegetation around defensive perimeters. During this period of operations, two tanks in the battalion were damaged by mines.

3d Tank Battalion	G/S 3d Marine Division	1-30 June
Company A (Rein)	D/S 3d Marine Regiment	1-30 June
Company B (Rein)	D/S Task Force Hotel	1-16 June
	D/S 3d Marine Regiment	17-24 June
	D/S Task Force Hotel	25-30 June
Company C	IAW III MAF msg 041216Z FEB 69 (S) and	
	III MAF msg 120120Z MAR 69 (S)	1-30 June
Company A, 3d AT Bn.	IAW III MAF msg 041216Z FEB 69 (S) and	
	III MAF msg 120120Z MAR 69 (S)	1-23 June
	IAW RLT 9 Op. Ord. 6-69	24-30 June

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

5 June 1969	A MEDCAP was conducted in the Quang Tri area treating 14 adults and 39 children
12 June 1969	While on Recon Patrol, Kilo Sector duty squad found a camp site at coordinates YD 274544 along with a cave. In the cave four (4), 61mm mortars, one booby trap along with assorted 782 gear was found. All was destroyed in place.
12 June 1969	A MEDCAP was conducted in the Quang Tri area treating 13 adults and 49 children.
14 June 1969	On 14 June 1969, two Armored Personnel Carriers were turned in to 1st, Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized).
17 June 1969	A21 hit an estimated 25 pound mine while operating with F/2/9 at coordinates YD 150714. Light suspension damage was sustained.
18 June 1969	A41, providing security for H53, hit a mine while attempting to assist A21 at coordinates YD 146703. Light suspension damage was sustained.
18 June 1969	A MEDCAP was conducted in the Quang Tri area treating 14 adults and 53 children.
20 June 1969	On 20 June 1969, the remaining three Armored Personnel Carriers were turned in to 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized).
24 June 1969	A MEDCAP was conducted in the Quang Tri area treating 14 adults and 48 children.

H&S Company C.O.: R.J. Paterson
Location and Operations Summary: Quang Tri

c. Quang Tri Base Defense

3d Tank Battalion continued providing active defense of it's sector (KILO) within the Quang Tri Combat Base utilizing patrols, ambushes, OP's and LP's in addition to manning perimeter bunkers.

C.O. Company "A": Capt M.C. Wunsch
Location and Operations Summary: Dong Ha

a. Company A (Rein)

Company A remained in direct support of the 3d Marine Regiment throughout the month providing security for fixed installations and an armored reaction force. The company was committed as a reaction force on 17 June in support of a contact initiated by the 3d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment east of A-4.

As the month closed, Company A continued providing security for installations north of the Cam Lo River along Route #561.

C.O. Company "B": Capt W.J. Davis
Location and Operations Summary: Vinh Bai

b. Company B (Rein)

Company B remained in direct support of Task Force Hotel providing security for Vandegrift Combat Base in conjunction with firing 90mm main gun H&I fires and maintaining an armored reaction force in the western part of the Division's AO. On 17 June, Company B was committed to reinforce Company A, 3d Tank Battalion in support of contact initiated by 3d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment east of A-4. Company B remained deployed along Route #561 in conjunction with Company A until 24 June, when the company displaced to Vandegrift Combat Base to resume it's security/reaction mission in support of Task Force Hotel.

C.O. Company "C": Capt R.M. Flick
Location and Operations Summary: Quang Tri

c. Company C

During the month of June, Company C remained at Quang Tri Combat Base in compliance with the provisions of III MAF msg 041216Z FEB 69 (S) and III MAF msg 120120Z MAR 69 (S) and commenced preparations for compliance with RLT 9 Operation Order 6-69.

C.O.'s Company "A", 3rd ATBn: 1stLt's S.B. Hunt Jr., J.W. Jackson
Location and Operations Summary: Quang Tri

d. Company A, 3d AT Bn

Company A, 3d AT Bn remained at DHCB in compliance with the provisions of III MAF msg 041216Z FEB 69 (S) and III MAF msg 120120Z MAR 69 (S).

On 23 June the company deployed in accordance with RLT 9 Operation Order 6-69.

June 1966

First Antitanks:
Commanding Officer: Maj R.E. Harris
Executive Officer: Maj A.J. Eagan
Operations Officer: Maj A.J. Eagan
Logistics Officer: 1stLt T.F. Dempsey

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

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

Company A

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

Company B

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

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

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

Company C

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

(2) Provide direct support to the 7th Marines. See references (b), (e), (s), (n) and (u).

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

C.O. H&S Company: 1stLt W.D. Wester
Location and Operations Summary:

C.O. Company "A": Capt G.R. Van Horn
Location and Operations Summary:
DS 5th Marines

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. The 2nd Platoon, Company B supported Companies E and H

2. **Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C.O. Company "B(-)": Capt J.E. Felker
Location and Operations Summary:
Chu Lai Defense Command

2. Commanding Officer's narrative of significant events:

13 June - 1stSgt REID assumed duties as 1stSgt, Company A, vice 1stSgt HUFFMAN.

23 June - Company assigned two fold mission of direct support to the 5th Marines and direct support of the Chu Lai Defense Command. 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Antitank Battalion placed under the operational control of Company D.

24 June - Company Command Post relocated to vicinity Hill 35 Coordinates YB35093.

25 June - 2nd Platoon, Company A attached to Company B. 2nd Platoon Company B relocated to Company Command Post and 1st Platoon Company C assumed 2nd Platoon's mission at the Chu Lai Airstrip.

27 June - 2nd Platoon, Company B placed in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and relocated its Command Post to Hill 69.

28 June - Company Command Post fired upon (5 rounds SA) by an estimated two (2) VC snipers. Fire returned. No enemy or friendly casualties.
2nd Platoon, Company A departed Company B Command Post for Company C Command Post in preparation for operation "OAKLAND" in direct support of the 2nd Battalion 7th Marines.

29 June - 2nd Platoon, Company B participated in operational sweep in support of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines through the hamlets of KY LONG (1) BT 4305 and "HO NAME" BT 4405. Fifteen (15) major rounds fired in direct support from Ontos Ridge BT 4305. No enemy or friendly casualties.

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

C.O. Company "C": 1stLt D.R. West
Location and Operations Summary:
DS 7th Marines

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

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

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

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

June 1967

First Antitanks:
Commanding Officer: Maj P.S. Galligan
Executive Officer:
Operations Officer: 2ndLt M.J. Borek
Logistics Officer: 1stLt V.C. Davis

1-30 June 1967. The battalion continued its mission of supporting the Southern Sector Rear Area Defense by both day and night patrolling of the assigned SOR.

1-30 June 1967. During the month of June the 106mm Recoiless Rifle continued to be administratively deadlined. This condition led to the mounting of two .50 caliber machine guns on 15 Ontos; 5 Ontos per company. On 14 June 1967 the restriction that Ontos be employed in static, defensive positions only was lifted, and the Ontos with .50 caliber machine guns was again used as a direct fire support weapon with infantry units.

1 - 13 June	Ontos were used only in static, defensive positions because of the continued administrative deadline.

C.O. H&S Company: 2ndLt J.C. Hancock Jr.
Location and Operations Summary: Danang

C.O. Company "A": 2ndLt B.H. Bailey
Location and Operations Summary:
DS 1st Marines

14 June	Company C and Company A, 3rd Platoon (attached to Co. C) began direct support of 7th Marines, Operation ARIZONA. Set-up blocking positions from (AT820550 to AT900570) on north side of the Song Vu Gia river; secured 18 June.

18 June — Company A, 2nd Platoon, began direct support 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines in Operation BROWN; secured 21 June.

Company A, 2nd Platoon, A-21, A-23, and A-24 received 18-10 rounds small arms fire from AT998539; returned 170 rounds .50 caliber and 30 rounds .30 caliber from AT986535. Results 2 VC KIA confirmed.

19 June — Company A, 2nd Platoon, A-25, at 1645H hit enemy AV mine at BT029549 resulting in 4 USMC WIA med-evacs. Mine was pressure detonated with an explosive of 25 lbs. TNT. Ontos and all equipment was salvaged.

25 June — Company A, 2nd Platoon, began Operation CALHOUN. Ontos were used to provide road and artillery security at Duy Xuygen (BT083517); secured 30 June.

26 June — Company A, 3rd Platoon, while on mechanized patrol with infantry from 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, discovered enemy land mine at BT162602. Mine was destroyed by blowing in place, resulting in 1 USMC NBC as the results of flying shrapnel.

1. Throughout the reporting period, subordinate units of this command were assigned missions as follows:

1st PLT, DS 3rd Bn First Marines

2nd PLT, DS 2nd Bn First Marines

3rd PLT, DS 1st Bn First Marines

2. 1-30 June 1967. The Ontos in DS of the 1st Marine Regiment. 1-12 June 1967 the Ontos were on Admin Deadline and used only in defensive positions. 14-17 June 1967 3rd Platoon, Company A, participated in OPERATION ARIZONA. 18-21 June 1967 2nd Platoon, Company A, participated in OPERATION BROWN. 25-30 June 1967 2nd Platoon, Company A, participated in OPERATION CALHOUN. 12-30 June 1967 Company A continued to provide Ontos for escort missions, mechanized patrols and defensive positions.

9. Concept of Operation

At 180600 H June 1967, 2ndPlt CoA 1stATBn moved from Staging Area vicinity of (BT 928528) with CoC 1stBn 1stMar and commenced sweep of objective area which is the island complex formed by Song Dien Binh and Song Chiem Son Rivers.

10. Execution

At 180600 H June 1967 2ndPlt CoA 1stATBn along with CoC 1stBn 1st Marines commences sweep of objective area. The Ontos made no contact during the day and at 181530 H a Defensive Perimeter for night was set up at 954537. At 181800 H the position received an unestimated number of small arm rounds. A-21, A-23, and A-24 returned 90 rounds of .50 Cal., 80 rounds of .50 Cal. spotter, and 30 rounds of .30 Cal. CoC, 1stBn, 1stMar swept area and found 2 VC KIA. At 190600 H Ontos commenced sweep with no enemy contact during the day. At 191645 H, A-25 hit enemy land mine at 018546 resulting in 4 USMC WIA. All were MEDEVAC. A-25 was stripped of all useable gear which was placed in CoC 1stBn 1st Marines Defense Area at 020547. At 200800 H a helicopter picked up the gear taken off of A-25 and returned it to CoA 1stATBn CP. Second Platoon CoA 1stATBn stayed in CoC 1stBn 1stMar position all day with no enemy contacts. At 210700 H a helicopter (CH-53) picked up the hull of A-25 and took it to 1stATBn CP. At 210800 H 2ndPlt CoA 1stATBn departed CoC 1stBn 1stMar for 1stATBn CP. At 211100 H 2ndPlt joined Amtracks at 986535. At 211500 H 2ndPlt arrived at 1stATBn CP.

C.O. Company "B": Capt A.R. Grfeen
Location and Operations Summary:
DS 5th Marines

Company B, 2nd Platoon, began direct support of 2nd Battalion 5th Marines in Operation ARIZONA; secured 16 June.

1. Throughout the report period, platoons of this company were assigned missions as follows:

1st Platoon – Direct Support, First Battalion, Fifth Marines

2nd Platoon – Direct Support, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines

3rd Platoon – Direct Support, Fifth Marines

2. 14-16 June 1967 second platoon participated in Operation Arizona in support of 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines.

C.O. Company "C": Capt D.M. Hutson
Location and Operations Summary:
DS 7th Marines

14 June — Company C and Company A, 3rd Platoon (attached to Co. C) began direct support of 7th Marines, Operation ARIZONA. Set-up blocking positions from (AT820550 to AT900570) on north side of the Song Vu Gia river; secured 18 June.

SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 - 8 June 67 - Negative. Ontos administratively deadlined.

9 June 67 - 3rd Plt. Company C moved its CP and four (4) Ontos to Hill (37) for maintenance purposes.

10 - 13 June 67 - Negative. Ontos administratively deadlined.

14 June 67 - At 0730 3rd Plt. (rein) Company C, departed CP at Hill (37) in direct support of 3/7 Battalion on Operation "ARIZONA".

15 June 67 - Company C (rein) in support of 7th Marines Operation "ARIZONA". Negative results.

16 June 67 - Company C in support of Operation "ARIZONA".

16 June 67 - At 1315 Ontos (C-22) at (AT 830551) received 5 rounds sniper fire. Ontos returned fire with 40 .50 Cal. and 8 rounds .30 Cal. Negative results.

16 June 67 - Light section from 3rd Plt. Company A in support of Operation "ARIZONA" fired 10 .30 Cal. rounds at 3 VC at (AT 904566). Negative results.

17 June 67 - Company C (rein) was secured from Operation "ARIZONA". Ontos Plt. Co. C-22 received approximately 10 rounds sniper fire at (AT 330551) returned fire with 350 rounds .50 Cal. Results 1 VC KIA confirmed.

18 June 67 - Company C (rein) was secured from Operation "ARIZONA". 1st Plt. Company C returned to CP at Hill (55), 3rd Plt. Company C returned to CP at Hill (37) and 3rd Plt. Company A returned to CP at 1st Marine Regiment.

17 June — Company C, 2nd Platoon, C-22 received 10 rounds small arms fire from AT904566; returned 350 rounds .50 caliber. Results: 1 VC KIA: confirmed.

Note: The 1ATs (as well as the 3rd ATs) were reported on the 1st and 3rd Tanks command chronologies in subsequent years.

June 1966

Third Antitanks:
Commanding Officer: LtCol B.A. Heflin
Executive Officer: Maj E.H. Graham
Operations Officer: Maj E.R. Larson
Logistics Officer: Capt K.E. Sharff

e. Operations. The 3d Antitank Battalion continued to provide general support to the 3d Marine Division in the DANANG and PHU BAI TAORS. On 1 June the disposition and support roles of units of the Battalion were as follows:

H&S Company: 1stLt B.M. Mathews
Location and Operations Summary: Danang

C.O. Company "A": Capt S.R. Stewart
Location and Operations Summary:
Company "A" in direct support of the 3d Marine Regiment (DANANG)

1st Plt, Co "A" in direct support of Company "D", 1/3.

2nd Plt, Co "A" in direct support of Companies "C",1/3, "H",2/3 and Battery "K", 4/12.

3d Plt, Co "A" in direct support of Companies "G" and "H",2/3.

C.O. Company "B": Capt D.C. Satcher
Location and Operations Summary:

Company "B" in direct support of the 4th Marine Regiment.(PHU BAI TAOR)

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

2nd Plt, Co "B" in direct support of the 4th Marines.

3d Plt, Co "B". in direct support of the 1st Bn., 4th Marines.

C.O. Company "C", 1st ATBn: Capt F. Firing
Location and Operations Summary:
Company "C" in direct support of the 9th Marine Regiment (DANANG TAOR)

1st Plt, Co "C" in direct support of the 2nd Bn., 9th Marines.

2nd Plt, Co "C" in direct support of the 1st Bn., 1st Marines.

3d Plt, Co "C" in direct support of the 1st Bn., 9th Marines.

C.O. Company "A"(-): Capt G.R. Van Horn
Location and Operations Summary:

(d) Company "A", (-), 1st ATBn. Moving from CHU LAI to DANANG the advanced party arrived via LST 1096, USS ST CLAIR COUNTY at 280730H June. The remainder of the Company arrived at 301730H June via LST 1146, USS SUMMIT COUNTY. The Company was placed under OPCON of the 3d ATBn effective 281400H June. It was placed in direct support of the 1st Marine Regiment. The Company arrived with the 1st and 3d platoons, both of which were assigned a direct support role of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines.

Note: The command chronologies (CC) for each of the AT Companies are so detailed, lengthy, and the Battalion did not summarize them (by date or by unit) that they do not appear here. Keeping track of 45+ Ontos, deployed across 3 infantry battalions of 4 companies with 3 platoons each spread all over northern I Corps would be akin to herding bees! You are encouraged to visit the Foundation web site, call up the original, complete CC for more detailed analysis of each platoon's action for the month. And for even more detail of the operations of the Ontos acquiring the CCs of the supported infantry unit is encouraged. For example1st Plt, Co "A" was in direct support of Company "D", 1/3 and participated in Operation Liberty. To see what Company D/1/3 did during the month of June 1967 and particularly in Operation Liberty, pull up 1/3s CC, find D/1/3 and see what the Ontos did to support that Grunt Company.

June 1967

Third Antitanks:
Commanding Officer: LtCol C.R. Casey
Executive Officer: Maj C.R. Stiffler
Operations Officer: Capt B. Hastings
Logistics Officer: Capt B. Hastings

H&S Company C.O.: 2Lt C.P. Wager
Location and Operations Summary:
Khe Sanh TAOR

4. H&S Company. The company remained with the Battalion CP at (YD 825153) during the month. The reaction platoon conducted 33 night patrol/ambushes and six daylight squad patrols in the Battalion AOR. A Command Bunker is being constructed and water proofed in preparation for the Monsoon Season. The emplacement is 50% complete. A Communications Bunker has been completed, with a minimum of six feet of sand bags installed to provide 360 degrees protection. The Battalion participated in a practice 100% alert conducted by the Installation Coordinator on 30 June 1967. Primary and alternate landlines were tested and worked satisfactorily. A composite platoon of 38 men was committed by the Company to rough rider security and security for a Naval Survey Team at Colco Beach (YD 765346).

C.O.'s Company “A”: Capt's B. Hastings & K.L. Hock
Location and Operations Summary:
Khe Sanh TAOR

1. "A" Company. The Company was engaged in Operations Cimarron and Crockett throughout the month. The Company Command Post, 2d and 3d platoons operated out of the Khe Sanh Combat Base in direct support of the 26th Marines (XD 843418); the 1st platoon (rein) operated out of Camp J. J. Carroll (YD 060541) in direct support of 3d Battalion 4th Marines with a light section deployed at D-5 (YD 096518) in support of "M" Company 4th Marines. During the month, a total of 250 rounds of 106mm were expended as registration and counter mortar fire. During the enemy rocket/mortar attack of 27 June on Khe Sanh Combat Base, Ontos counter mortar fire resulted in one secondary explosion. The Company sustained one USN WIA, (non med-evac) during the attack of 27 June 1967. A new concept of Ontos employment was effected when Ontos, Tanks and Army Dusters, M422, were used to insert a Reconnaissance Team. On 17 June two Ontos on patrol with "L" Company 26th Marines ascended Hill 861 west of Khe Sanh demonstrating the cross country mobility and trafficability of the Ontos. The light section of the 2d platoon displaced from the Company CP to (XD 913403) to provide bridge security. During the month "A" Company received one R&E Ontos USMC Number 226756.

C.O. Company "B": Capt J.E Reilly
Location and Operations Summary:

Phu Bai TAOR

2. "B" Company. During the month the Company Headquarters, 2d and 3d platoons were in direct support of the 4th Marines on Operation Choctaw (YD 532319). The first platoon remained in direct support of the 3d Battalion, 3d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Regiment at (YD 691214) throughout the month. The platoon was visited by delegations of high-ranking American and Vietnamese Officials twice during the month and was involved in the filming of a joint USMC-ARVN operation to be utilized on television. The members of the 1st platoon assisted in repairing the access road to National Route 1. The 1st platoon sustained one NBC from an accidental discharge of a .50 caliber spotting rifle. The 2d and 3d platoons supporting the 1st Battalion 3d Marines and 1st Battalion 4th Marines, OPCON 4th Marines, participated in perimeter security and sweep operations with no enemy contact. The 3d platoon sustained 1 KIA and 2 WIA when an Ontos traveling from Phu Bai to the Choctaw Operation Area was hit by shrapnel from a 500 pound bomb detonated by a truck directly behind in column at (YD 598308). On 27 June one Ontos was reassigned from "C" Company 3d Antitank Battalion to "B" Company bringing the Company strength to 12 Ontos. During the month two R&E vehicles USMC Numbers 226847 and 226823 were received by the Company.

C.O. Company "C": Capt B.F. Ennis
Location and Operations Summary:
Dong Ha TAOR

3. "C" Company. During the month of June "C" Company (Rein) was in direct support of 9th and 12th Marines. The Company CP was located at Dong Ha, (YD 231583). The company was in direct support of Operation Cimarron and Operation High Rise. The 4th platoon was in direct support of land clearing operations at Con Thien, and sustained 3 WIA's at Con Thien who were treated in the field and returned to duty. The 3d platoon was in direct support of the 12th Marines at Gio Linh. All other platoons supporting 9th Marines in their operational commitments. Damage was sustained to the left bank of guns on one M50A1, USMC 22690, by shrapnel and also one M50A1, USMC 226953, had one support arm on the left side of the vehicle damaged by mortar fire; guns have been replaced and support arm repaired.

Note: By the June of 1968, 3rd ATBn actions of its subordinated companies and platoons were being reported on the 3rd Tanks CCs. Needless to say the reporting was sketchy at best. Research done on the Ontos' action will have to rely more on the reporting of the Ontos-supported infantry units than that of the tank battalion.