

May 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

Location & Operations Summary: (Da Nang TAOR)

(1) 3d Antitank Bn in general support of the 3d Marine Division.

(a) H&S Co (-) (Bn CP) located DANANG TAOR.

(b) Company "A" (-) (Rein) in direct support of 3d Marine Regiment. (DANANG).

1st Platoon Co "A" in direct support of the 3d Marine Regiment.

2nd Platoon Co "A" in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines.

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

(c) Company "B" (-) (Rein) in direct support of the 4th Marine Regiment. (PHU BAI),

2nd Platoon Co "A", 1st ATBn. in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines.

3d Platoon Co "A", 3d ATBn in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines.

3d Platoon Co "B", 3d ATBn in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines.

(d) Company "C" (Rein) in direct support of the 9th Marine Regiment (DANANG).

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

2nd Platoon Co "C" in direct support of the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines.

3d Platoon Co "C" in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines

C.O. H&S Company (-): 1stLt J.T Mathews

Location & Operations Summary: (Da Nang TAOR)

(a) H&S Company (-). Normal administrative and logistical support of the ONIOS Companies was provided during the month. In addition the Battalion sector of the 9th Marines Rear Security Area was covered by a vigorous program of night time patrols. Members of the H&S Company reaction platoon conducted 38 night patrols, 11 night ambushes, and five daylight patrols, all working out of the Battalion's Patrol Base in YEN BAC Hamlet (AT986705). On 12 May four Vietnamese Popular Forces soldiers were assigned to the Battalion under permissive orders. These PF's were utilized for reinforcement of the Patrol Base in YEN BAC Hamlet, and assisted in the Civic Action program. One fire team (reinforced) of the reaction platoon furnished security for an Engineer well-digging site at (AT990699) on seven occasions during the month. One rifle squad of the reaction platoon was placed under OPCON of the 2nd Bn., 9th Marines for C.P. defense from 7 - 11 May. On 15 May the entire reaction platoon was placed on standby alert for possible employment during the political crisis and resultant civil unrest in the City of DANANG. This standby status was secured on 25 May, without the reaction platoon having been called out.

C.O. Company "A" (-)(Rein): Capt S.R. Stewart
Location & Operations Summary: (Da Nang TAOR)
Danang Enclave

(b) Company "A" (-) (Rein) Continued in direct support of the 3d Marine Regiment. The 1st Plt. started the month in reserve with one ONTOS section at the Company C.P., their mission being direct support of the 3d Marines. The other ONTOS section was in support of "D" 1/3 at LE MY (AT699820). On 6 May the ONTOS section at LE MY was assigned the mission of locating a patrol from "D" 1/3 that had lost radio communications with their Company C.P. The patrol was located approximately six miles up Route #14, and the ONTOS escorted the patrol back to their C.P. On 15 May the reserved ONTOS section was placed on standby at the 3d AT Battalion Command Post for possible deployment as a part of Task Group ROMEO. On 19 May the ONTOS section located with "D" 1/3 at LE MY (AT699820) received incoming small arms fire from an estimated 20 VC. The ONTOS section was immediately dispatched with a squad of infantry up Route #14. The ONTOS fired 1500 rounds of cal. .30 machinegun ammunition at the fleeing VC. Results were 4-VC KIA (BC), one of which was directly credited to the ONTOS section. The section returned to "D" 1/3 C.P. with the enemy dead and some Marine 'IA's (Infantry). The remainder of the month was devoted to defense of the "D" 1/3 C.P. area at LE MY. The ONTOS section at the 3d AT Battalion C.P. was relieved of standby on 25 May, and returned to the Company C.P. 2nd Plt. continued in direct support of the 2nd Bn., 3d Marines, with one ONTOS section in support of "G" 2/3, the other ONTOS section in support of "H" 2/3. On 3 May the section with "G" 2/3 supported them in a sweep within the 2/3 TAOR. Sixteen 106mm recoilless rifle HEP-T rounds were fired at suspected VC positions with unknown results.

On 7 May one section supported "H" 2/3 on a sweep of KHVONG MY (1) (AT926684), with the ONTOS section acting as a blocking force. Although there were no major rounds expended, one VC and seven VCS were captured. The remaining portion of the reporting period was devoted mainly to maintaining defensive positions within the TAOR. The 1st Flt. Co "A" 1st ATBn. started the reporting period in direct support of the 1st Bn, 3d Marines, with one ONTOS section located on hill #358 (AT931885) with a platoon from "C" 1/3 and one section at the platoon C.P., which later provided C.P. security for "K" 4/12. Nightly H&I fire missions were fired by the ONTOS section on hill #358, and on 17 May during a VC probe one ONTOS crewman sustained minor wounds from a hand grenade. On 21 May during the civil unrest in DANANG one ONTOS was utilized on an armored road block at the junction of Highways #1 and #1A (AT974769). The Company Commander was on the scene throughout most of the period, which terminated on 25 May. On 28 May the Company Commander of "C" 1/3 called on the ONTOS section for a direct fire mission, as small arms fire was being received from (AT899875). The location was pin pointed by infantry tracer fire for the Section Leader. The ONTOS section fired twelve 106mm HEP-T recoilless rifle rounds at the target point, and the VC fire ceased. On 29 May an infantry patrol from "C" 1/3 went to the target area. They found substantial evidence of direct hits with the 106mm rounds. Many pieces of bloody clothing, bloody trails, pools of blood and pieces of human flesh were noted. A weapon believed to be a 57mm recoilless rifle or large automatic weapon was found. The weapon was destroyed to the extent positive identification was not possible. The platoon continued nightly H&I fire missions during the remainder of the month.

C.O. Company "B"(-)(Rein): Capt D.C. Satcher
Location & Operations Summary: (Hue/Phu Bai TAOR)

(3) PHU BAI TAOR

(a) Company "B" (-) (Rein) continued in direct support of the 4th Marine Regiment. The 3d Plt Co "B" 3d ATBn commenced the month in direct support of the 1st Bn, 1st Marines. During Operation CHEROKEE (5-7 May) the platoon of ONTOS was used to reinforce the assault companies. On the morning of 5 May one ONTOS detonated a large mine at (YD515263). The vehicle was destroyed, and one USMC KIA and two USMC MIA were sustained from the resulting explosion. That afternoon the platoon was placed under OPCON of the 4th Marines and assigned to the regimental rear area security. After the operation they were again placed in direct support of 1/1. During Operation WAYNE the platoon remained in defensive positions within the 1/1 defensive area. During the period of 11-20 May the platoon supported one sweep with elements of 1/1, with no contact reported. The platoon maintained defensive positions nightly on the 1/1 MLR. On 24 May the 1st Bn, 1st Marines displaced to the DANANG TAOR, the platoon displaced to the Company "B" C.P., and reverted to direct support of the 4th Marine Regiment. The 3d Plt Co "A" 3d ATBn continued in direct support of the 1st Bn., 4th Marines. On 5 May the platoon was used to support the assault companies on Operation CHEROKEE. When 1/4 continued to move north east during the operation the platoon remained in direct support.

At the completion of Operation CHEROKEE the platoon remained at the 1/4 C.P., located at (YD569245) where it manned defensive positions. On 27 May 1/4 displaced from the forward area (YD569245) to (YD894143). The platoon displaced also and remains in direct support of 1/4. The 2nd Plt Co "A" 1st ATBn was in direct support of the 2nd Bn., 1st Marines, with the mission of manning defensive positions on the 2/1 perimeter. The ONTOS were used extensively for night time protection along the MLR. On 27 May the 2nd Bn., 1st Marines displaced to relieve the 1st Bn., 4th Marines, and at this time the platoon reverted to direct support of the 4th Marine Regiment.