

FIRST ARMORED AMPHIBIAN COMPANY
11th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

JEH:krj
5700
7 Feb 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 11th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 January to 1 February 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8A
(c) DivO 5750.2B
(d) RegtO 5750.2E

Encl: ✓ (1) First Armored Amphibian Company Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.


J. E. HARMS

GROUP 1
DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

1ST ARMORED AMPH Co

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JAN 1969

FIRST ARMORED AMPHIBIAN COMPANY
11th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 January 1969 to 1 February 1969

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PART IORGANIZATION DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st Armored Amphibian Company
 11th Marines
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

COMMANDER

Major J. E. HARMS
 1-31 January 1969

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. LOCATIONELEMENTLOCATIONDATES

Company HQ	DaNang, RVN (AT 995723)	1-31 Jan 1969
1st Platoon (-) one section	Dien Ban, RVN (BT 066585)	1-31 Jan 1969
one section	Hoi An, RVN (BT 110581)	1-31 Jan 1969
2nd Platoon	Cua Viet, RVN (YD 348698)	1-31 Jan 1969
3rd Platoon (Rein) one section	Hill 47 (AT 974703)	1-31 Jan 1969
one section	Northern Artillery Cantonment (AT 921799)	1-31 Jan 1969
one section (Rein)	Company CP	1-31 Jan 1969

3. STAFF OFFICERS

(Billet)

(Rank and Name)

(Dates)

Executive Officer (None Assigned)		1-21 Jan 1969
Fire Direction Officer	1stLt R. F. FULKERSON	22-31 Jan 1969
Maintenance Officer	1stLt M. L. CAPIK	1-31 Jan 1969
Supply Officer	1stLt L. L. YOUNG JR	1-31 Jan 1969
1st Platoon Commander	1stLt J. N. SCHUETTE	1-31 Jan 1969
2nd Platoon Commander	2ndLt L. K. THON	1-31 Jan 1969
2nd Platoon Commander	1stLt J. E. PETERSON JR	1-20 Jan 1969
3rd Platoon Commander	2ndLt L. E. ALLEN JR	21-31 Jan 1969
Liaison Officer	2ndLt J. R. GAZDAYKA	1-31 Jan 1969
	2ndLt L. E. ALLEN JR	1-20 Jan 1969

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC
OFF ENL
8 229

USN
OFF ENL
0 5

OTHER
OFF ENL
0 0

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the reporting period, the Company Headquarters remained at grid (AT 995723); providing logistical and administrative support for all platoons/sections.
2. From 1 January 1969 to 1 February 1969, the 1st Platoon (-) remained in the 2nd Korean Marine Brigade area with the assigned tactical mission of general support. One section (rein) was positioned in the Brigade's Artillery Battalion cantonment at grid (BT 066585). One section was positioned at Dien Ban, grid (BT 066585). The Company's organic Fire Direction Center is located with the Platoon Headquarters at the Artillery Battalion Cantonment. In addition to providing direct and indirect fire support for the Korean Marines, the 1st Platoon (-) fires missions for ANGLICO, Civic Action Platoons and RVN units within the Hoi An area.
3. From 1 January 1969 to 1 February 1969, the 2nd Platoon remained in the Cua Viet River position, grid (YD 348698), OPCON to the 12th Marines. The platoon's primary mission was direct support of the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion. In connection with this mission, this section conducted armored patrols from their base camp, grid (YD 348698), to Oceanview, grid (YD 283763). The Fire Direction Center continued to be provided by the 12th Marines.
4. From 1 January 1969 to 1 February 1969, the 3rd Platoon (rein) (reinforced with one LVTH6A1 from the 1st Platoon), remained in the immediate DaNang area. One section was positioned at the Northern Artillery Cantonment, grid (AT 921799); one section at OP HAWK, grid (AT 974703); and one section (rein) at the Company CP, grid (AT 995723). The 3rd Platoon (rein) assigned tactical mission remained as general support. In conjunction with this mission, the section located at the Northern Artillery Cantonment, provided security for Med Cap programs in the village of Trung Son, grid (AT 915806). The primary mission of the section located at OP HAWK remained as direct counterrocket fire. On 22 January 1969, in relation to this assigned mission, OP HAWK fired 62 rounds direct fire at an active rocket site. (See Part III, section 2, par b). During this month, one LVTH6A1, from the Company CP, displaced nightly to the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines cantonment to provide direct fire support for the perimeter security. On 18 January 1969, LVTH6A1, USMC No. 105420, located at the Company CP, was completely destroyed by fire. Three enlisted Marines were medevaced as a result of the fire. (See Part III, section 2, par a).

5. TABLE OF FIRE

<u>DIRECT</u> <u>FIRE MISSIONS</u>	<u>OBSERVED</u> <u>FIRE MISSIONS</u>	<u>UNOBSERVED</u> <u>FIRE MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOT</u>	<u>H&I</u>
1	241	5	17	495
<u>105mm ROUNDS EXPENDED</u>		<u>FIRED FOR</u>		
696		ARVN		
753		ROK Marines		
870		11th Marines		
1184		3rd Marine Division		
1626		1st Marine Division		

CONSOLIDATED SURVEILLANCE

KIA - 3
Structures (Destroyed) - 1
Secondary Explosions - 2
Sampans (Destroyed) - 3

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. With two LVTH6A1 platoons not being under direct Company control, the personnel readiness category has been rated as C-4. The projected readiness category during January 1969, if all elements were under company control, is C-2 due to T/E deficiencies not yet received by this unit. The shortage of SNCOs and sergeants, OF 1831, is a continuing problem. Based on manning level this Company is authorized 4 SNCOs and 10 sergeants OF 1831. At the present time, there is 1 SNCO and 1 sergeant assigned. The remaining SNCO billets are being filled by OF 0811.

b.	(1) Losses	USMC		USN	
		OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
	Administration	1	14	0	1
	Battle WIA (Evac)	0	0	0	0
	Battle WIA (Non-evac)	0	0	0	0
	Battle KIA	0	0	0	0
	Battle DOW	0	0	0	0
	Nonbattle	0	5	0	0
	(2) Replacements	1	28	0	1
	(3) Net Losses	0	0	0	0
	(4) Net Gain	0	9	0	0

c. Two men, Cpl P. J. HEELAN 2171171/1341 and LCpl T. C. WOLFE 2376461/2142, were presented the Navy Achievement Medal for "outstanding professional duty".

2. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

a. Fire on LVTH6A1 - 18 January 1969. On 18 January 1969, a fire broke out onboard an LVTH6A1, USMC No. 105420 completely destroying the vehicle.

(1) 181810H Jan 1969. While replacing the fuel pumps in the fuel cells, one of the LVTH6A1s caught on fire. Luckily, Cpl W. H. NIEMAN JR 2368822/2142, Cpl M. SALSEERG 2197721/2142 and Cpl J. M. JONES 2332389/2143 managed to escape from the vehicle.

(2) 181811H Jan 1969. Corporal JONES, Although on fire himself, tackled and extinguished the flames on Cpl NIEMAN. (Cpl JONES has been recommended for the Navy-Marine Corps Medal for his heroic action).

(3) 181813H Jan 1969. Numerous Marines from surrounding areas tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire with hand-held CO2 fire extinguishers.

(4) 181815H Jan 1969. Corporal NIEMAN, SALSBERG and JONES were admitted to the 1st Armored Amphibian Company sickbay for treatment of burns on various portions of their bodies.

(5) 181820H Jan 1969. A phone call was placed to the Force Logistics Command Fire Department for assistance in putting out the fire.

(6) 181825H Jan 1969. The burning How-6 was towed away from the immediate area to lessen the chance of further property damage.

(7) 181845H Jan 1969. The FLC Fire Department arrived and immediately commenced fighting the fire.

(8) 181850H Jan 1969. Corporal NIEMAN and Cpl JONES were medevaced to 1st Medical Battalion due to the seriousness of their wounds.

(9) 181915H Jan 1969. Corporal SALSBERG, after receiving first aid, was medevaced to 1st Medical Battalion.

(10) 181920H Jan 1969. The fire department extinguished the flames and washed down the areas where gasoline had dispersed.

(11) 191400H Jan 1969. An inspection team from Force Service Regiment placed the burned LVTH6A1 in a Code H status.

(12) 191500H Jan 1969. First Lieutenant Lt. L. YOUNG 099966, was verbally assigned as investigating Officer in relation to the loss of one LVTH6A1, USMC No. 105420.

(13) 231200H Jan 1969. First Lieutenant L. L. YOUNG received a written order appointing him as investigating Officer in relation to the loss of one LVTH6A1, USMC No. 105420. (Investigation is still pending at the present time).

b. Direct Counterrocket Fire - 22 January 1969. On 22 Jan 1969, the LVTH6A1 section located on OP HAWK fired a total of 62 rounds direct fire at an active enemy rocket site located at grid (AT 967703).

(1) 220600H Jan 1969. OP HAWK observed the launching of approximately 20 enemy rockets at a range of 1500 meters. The U. S. Army searchlight team located at this position immediately illuminated the suspected launch site. After a few seconds, it was determined that the target met the established criteria for immediate direct counterrocket fire so OP HAWK commenced firing.

[REDACTED]

(2) 220613H Jan 1969. A "check fire" was placed on the guns by the 11th Marine Regiment. OP HAWK had fired 34 rounds of HE, 26 rounds WP and 2 HEP rounds.

(3) Surveillance - Negative.

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Enclosure (1)
[REDACTED]

PART IVSUPPORTING DOCUMENTSREFERENCE MAPSATTACHED

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| a. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000
Series L70114, Sheet 6641 III
DANANG | Not Attached |
| b. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000
Series L70114, Sheet 6442 IV
QUANG TRI | Not Attached |
| c. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000
Series L70114, Sheet 6640 I
HOI AN | Not Attached |
| d. Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000
Series L70114, Sheet 6640 IV
DAI LOC | Not Attached |