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HEADQUARTERS
3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

RECEIVED
20 DEC 1968

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099-68

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-30 November 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) November 1968 Command Chronology
(2) November 1968 Situation Reports (Copies)

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

2. Upon removal of enclosures (1) and (2), this letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED.

J. E. Hennegan
J. E. HENNEGAN

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1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF
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HEADQUARTERS
3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-30 November 1968

INDEX

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion

COMMANDER

Maj J. H. Keegan 1-4 Nov
LtCol J. E. Hennegan 5-30 Nov

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company - 1st Lt H. C. Barger 1-10 Nov
Capt S. F. White 11-30 Nov

"A" Company - Capt D. J. Sconyers 1-30 Nov

"B" Company - Maj F. M. Vann 1-30 Nov

UNITS IN DIRECT SUPPORT

Det, Sentry/Scout Dog Platoon, 3d Military Police Battalion
Det, 1st Shore Party Battalion (Mine Sweep Team)
Det, 1st Dental Company

2. LOCATION: 1-30 Nov: DaNang, Quang-Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam

3. STAFF OFFICERS

CO Maj J. H. KEEGAN 1-4 Nov
LtCol J. E. HENNEGAN 5-30 Nov

XO Maj J. H. KEEGAN 5-30 Nov

S-1 1stLt W. J. PETERS 1-30 Nov

S-2 2dLt R. EQUI 1-30 Nov

S-3 Capt J. R. WILLIAMS 1-30 Nov

S-4 Maj J. F. MOLINEAUX 1-30 Nov

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH:

USMC		USN		OTHERS	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
20	586	1	14	0	0

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During this period the Battalion supported the 1st, 5th, 7th, 26th Marines and the ROKMC. Technique of employment consisted of two Platoons (Rein) to the ROK's; one Platoon each to 2/1, 5th Marines, 1/7, 3/7, 3/26; one Section (Rein) to 1/26.

On 26 November the 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion conducted a cordon and search operation in conjunction with a psychological operation. The objective of this combined operation was to influence the villagers in assisting us to curtail the number of mining incidents which occured in the Tan An area. The people from the village reacted very favorably towards our operation and upon its termination asked if they might be granted woodcutting privileges in the Tan An area. Lieutenant Colonel HENNEGAN granted this privilege after first having specified the conditions under which the wood must be cut. At the conclusion of the operation all personnel were debriefed by Lieutenant Colonel HENNEGAN who reemphasized the salient teaching points.

The Battalion had an average of 57 vehicles commited daily in direct support of the 1st Marine Division. The mission and frequency of specific tasks were:

Security - 32
Recovery - 71
MedEvacs - 13
Resupply - 149
Surf Recovery - 2
Blocking Force - 60
Reaction Force - 63
Administration - 40
Troop Movement - 163
Search and Destroy - 27
Patrols and Mine Sweeps - 36

Vehicle utilization averaged 6.2 hours per day carrying an average of 3 persons and 289 pounds of cargo per day. In addition, the LVTE1's fired eighteen line charges.

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. TOPICS:

a. Personnel and Administration

(1) The personnel status as of November was category II: however, we anticipate a further decrease in our personnel readiness unless we receive an adequate number of replacements.

(2) Twenty-nine Marine Corps enlisted personnel rotated to CONUS.

(3) Two Marine Corps officers, twenty-one Marine Corps enlisted and one Navy enlisted were received as replacements.

(4) Reenlistment rate for the month was 100%. This was based on three enlistments.

(5) Casualties: Two KIA and twelve WIA.

(6) There were fifteen extensions of overseas tours, five new enrollments in USAFI, and six new MCI enrollments.

(7) Awards: Three Navy Commendation Medals, one Navy Achievement Medal and twelve Purple Heart Medals were awarded.

(8) Thirty-three personnel went on R&R during the month. The Battalion's morale is considered to be high.

(9) The Savings Bond participation was 81%.

(10) The Exchange Services (PX, Barber Shop, Gift Shop and Laundry) are adequate.

b. Enemy

(1) A total of ten contacts were made with the enemy. These contacts were:

(a) Two Viet Cong Suspects sighted
(b) One act of terrorism
(c) Seven booby trap incidents. These booby traps consisted of five M-26 grenades, one 60mm mortar round and one unknown firing device (possibly an 81mm mortar round). All seven booby traps were rigged with trip wires.

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(2) Two detainees were held. Both were questioned by 5th CIT and released as innocent civilians.

(3) Ninety squad-size patrols were conducted; of these, sixty were during the hours of darkness.

(4) Two search and clear operations were conducted. The first involved a platoon from 2/26 and the second a platoon from 2/1 and FOB-4. Both operations had the additional support of a detachment from 5th CIT. These operations did not result in any enemy contact.

c. Training

(1) Formal training and OJT were conducted in conjunction with operational commitments. The following classes were presented to the members of this Command.

(a) Field Sanitation and First Aid
(b) Pacification Indoctrination
(c) Promotion System E-1 to E-4
(d) Individual Responsibility
(e) Vietnameses Indoctrination
(f) LVT Driving School
(g) LVT Radio Set-up
(h) LVT Maintenance
(i) Personal Response
(j) Tactical Trends
(k) Communications
(l) Moral Guidance
(m) NBC Training

(2) Personnel attended the following schools:

(a) Officer Leadership - 1 off
(b) SNCO leadership - 2 enl
(c) NCO Leadership - 2 enl
(d) Career Advisory - 1 enl
(e) Embark School - 1 off, 2 enl
(f) Organic Supply Accounting - 1 enl
(g) Kit Carson Orientation - 1 enl
(h) Basic Ammo Tech - 1 enl
(i) Land Mine Warfare - 6 enl
(j) Engine Generator - 3 enl

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d. Logistics

(1) Supply Situation

(a) Minor LVT suspension parts continue to be a problem. The D.X. program has shown some improvement but essentially it remains the same as last month. One LVTE-1 has been deadlined since 3 Sep 1968 awaiting a pallet lift cylinder. This vehicle is incapable of firing line charges until the defective pallet lift cylinder is replaced.

(b) This Battalion continues to maintain a C-1 status in equipment and supplies on hand. In order to maintain this high standard, T/E replacement vehicles are needed.

(c) The shortages of typewriters remains critical. Of the eighteen typewriters authorized, thirteen are on hand.

(2) Maintenance

(a) There were no vehicles mined this month. However, one LVTP5-A1 was submerged and has not been located due to the high surf and rough seas.

(b) The average daily deadline during the month was five LVTP5-A1's and two LVTE-1's. One LVTP5-A1 Command Vehicle was evacuated under the FY 68 R&E program and one LVTP5-A1 was coded and dropped due to a mining incident during October 1968.

(c) The Battalion is currently short thirty-one mechanics, MOS 2142. A continuation of this deficiency will cause additional maintenance problems.

(3) Motor Transport

(a) The daily deadline rate for wheeled vehicles during November was at 14%. This does not indicate a trend or a recurring problem area, but stems from the fact that five vehicles are deadlined at FSR awaiting third echelon maintenance.

(b) The Battalion motor vehicles logged 27,939 miles with two minor accidents. A total of 1656 passengers were carried and 233.5 short tons of cargo.

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(4) Services

(a) The 1st Engineer Battalion is currently repairing the access road from the Battalion C. P. to route 13C MSR.

(b) Public works is commencing to rebuild the messhall drain sump.

(5) Medical Situation. The following statistical information is provided concerning medical activities:

Total patients seen in MedCap	337
Total Battalion patients (non-MedCap)	437
Total Venereal Disease cases	1
Total Innoculations	671

e. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

(1) Three hundred and thirty seven Vietnamese civilians (59 females, 50 males, 228 children) were treated by Battalion medical personnel at MedCaps. Also, five Vietnamese civilians were treated at the Battalion Dental Clinic.

(2) In the vicinity of Tan An village two Vietnamese civilians were killed and one was wounded by friendly H&I fire. One Vietnamese woman was accidentally killed by Sea Anchor personnel with an M-79 while she was gathering wood outside of Sea Anchor's east wire.

(3) During the month one terrorist incident occured in the village of KHUE BAC (coord BT075707) resulting in one USA WIA, Five indigenous soldiers WIA, one indigenous soldier KIA, and a Vietnamese wounded.

(4) Distribution was made of 2,500 reward leaflets and 1,500 Vietnamese newspapers to the people of this area. The Orphanage received $115.00 from donations by Battalion personnel. A donation of commodities, worth approximately $120.00, was made to the Orphanage.

(5) A small boy turned in one half of a 7.62 ammunition belt. He was rewarded with $200VN.

f. Communications

(1) Personnel. The overall personnel status remains adequate.

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One new radio operator was joined and four persons were transferred to CONUS. Two of these were in OF 25 and two were in OF 28. Projected losses for the coming months show a shortage in OF 25. Currently we are cross training personnel in the OF 25 field to overcome the predicted shortage.

(2) Equipment. Six LVTP-5 (CMD) tractors remain to be modified with single sideband equipment. The required materials are on order priority 02 through FSR. One AN/MRC-83 radio set has been coded. As soon as paper work is received this vehicle will be reordered. Our mobile communication capability is further reduced by a AN/MRC-109 which was stolen and a AN/MRC-83 presently on deadline.

(3) Maintenance. Problems have been encountered with the waterproofing of antenna matching units MX-6707. Tests have revealed the problems in this area are greatly reduced by packing the upper portion of the MX-6707 in Dixseal. A program has been initiated within the Battalion to pack all antenna bases on the tractors in Dixseal.

(4) Operations. During this period, 786 messages were received and 26 were transmitted by this unit.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

See enclosure (2) for copies of Situation Reports submitted during the reporting period.

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DTG-Ø21630Z

FM 3D AMTRBN
TO CG 1STMARDIV
BT

099-68

SITREP 187 AS OF Ø2ØØØ1H TO Ø224ØØH NOV68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT Ø21545H AT COORD 919498 TWO VC SUSPECTS PASSING AMTRACS THREW ONE M-26 GRENADE. 4TH PLT WAS IN PROCESS OF SUPPORTING 1/5 WHEN INCIDENT OCCURED. APPREHENDED THE TWO VC SUSPECTS & TURNED THEM OVER TO 13TH ITT.

L. (A) TWO DETAINEES (POSSIBILITY THEY ARE NVA)

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASUALTIES: NONE

GP 4

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FM 3D AMTRBN
TO CG 1STMARDIV
BT

SITREP 188 AS OF Ø4ØØØ1H TO Ø424ØØH NOV68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT Ø4151ØH AT COORD Ø747Ø5 PATROL FOUND ONE BOOBY TRAP CONSISTING OF M-26 GRENADE INSIDE TIN CAN WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. PATROL ESTABLISHED SECURITY & BLEW BOOBY TRAP IN PLACE.

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASUALTIES: NONE

GP 4

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TT/RPP
CCN-Ø3

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FM 3D AMTRBN
TO 1ST MARDIV
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

SITREP 189 AS OF Ø8ØØØ1H TO Ø824ØØH NOV68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT Ø8Ø3ØØH AT COORD Ø78713 FOB-4 SPECIAL FORCES BECAME ENGAGED IN A FIRE FIGHT. IT RE MAINS UNDETERMINED IF THIS EXCHANGE WAS AMONG FRIENDLIES OR NOT. AS A RESULT OF THIS FIRE FIGHT OUR POSITION TOOK APPROX 75 ROUNDS OF SMA LL ARMS FIRE. CLEARED LIVING QUARTERS AND CONDUCTED MED EVAC TO NSA.

F. (A) ONE USMC KIA (HEAD WOUND)

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASUALTIES: ONE USMC KIA

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FM 3D AMTRBN
TO CG 1STMARDIV
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

SITREP 190 AS OF 13ØØØ1H TO 1324ØØH NOV68

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT 131445H AT COORD Ø747Ø5 PATROL FOUND ONE BOOBY TRAP CONSISTING OF M-26 GRENADE PACKED IN MUD AND LAYING ON A TRAIL. PATROL ESTABLISHED SECURITY AND BLEW BOOBY TRAP IN PLACE.

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASULTIES: NONE

GP 4

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TO CG 1ST MARDIV

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SITREP 191 AS OF 220001H TO 222400H NOV 1968

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT 221815H AT COORD 084685 PATROL FOUND ONE M-26 GRENADE BOOBY TRAP WITH TWO TRIP WIRES ATTACHED. PATROL ESTABLISHED SECURITY AND BLEW TRAP IN PLACE.

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASUALTIES: NONE

G. 4

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FM 3D AMTRBN
TO CG 1STMARDIV
C O N F I D E N T I A L
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SITREP 192 AS OF 230001H TO 232400H NOV 1968

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1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT 231645H AT COORD 078699 POINT MAN FROM 3D AMTRBN PATROL TRIPPED M-26 GRENADE BOOBY TRAP ATTACHED TO TRIP WIRE. PATROL ALSO FOUND ONE 60MM MORTAR BOOBY TRAP WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. THE 60MM MORTAR ROUND WAS LOCATED APPROX TWO FEET FROM M-26 GRENADE BOOBY TRAP. CONDUCTED MEDEVAC FOR WIA & BLEW 60MM MORTAR ROUND IN PLACE WITH ¼ LB C-4.

G. (A) ONE USMC WIA

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASUALTIES: ONE USMC WIA

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FM 3D AMTRBN
TO CG 1STMARDIV
C O N F I D E N T I A L
BT

241600Z NOV 68

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SITREP 193 AS OF 240001H TO 242400H NOV 1968

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT 240915H AT COORD 089691 A MARINE FROM 2/1 WHILE ACCOMPANYING PATROL FROM OAP 2-5-1 TRIPPED BOOBY TRAP MADE WITH M-26 GRENADE WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. SENT TWO AMTRACS FROM THIS UNIT TO CONDUCT MEDEVAC TO NSA.

G. (A) ONE USMC WIA

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASUALTIES: ONE USMC WIA

(19)

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FM 3D AMTRACBN
TO CG 1STMARDIV
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SITREP 194 AS OF 250001H TO 252400H NOV 1968

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT 252320H AT COORD 086691 3D AMTRACBN PATROL TRIPPED SURPRISE FIRING DEVISE. PATROL MEMBERS STATE THAT THE 3D MAN IN LINE TRIPPED FIRING DEVISE. BOOBY TRAP APPEARS TO BE AT LEAST 81MM MORTAR WITH TRIP WIRE ATTACHED. PATROL ESTABLISHED SECURITY & MED EVAC WAS CONDUCTED TO NSA.

F. (A) ONE USMC KIA

G. (A) THREE USMC WIA

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

HAS BEEN SENT

5. CASUALTIES: ONE USMC KIA
THREE USMC WIA

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CCN 23
TOR 26 [illegible]
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AT _____

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3D AMTRACBN
TO CG 1ST MARDIV
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SITREP 195 AS OF 270001H TO 272400H NOV 1968 HAS BEEN SENT

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT 272320H AT COORD 088692 3D AMTRACBN PATROL SPOTTED TWO VIET CONG SUSPECTS APPROX 50 METERS TO THEIR EAST. TOOK VIET CONG SUSPECTS UNDER FIRE. OBSERVED SUSPECTS FLEEING EAST. NEG RESULTS OBTAINED FROM ENCOUNTER.

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASUALTIES: NONE

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Act-X			
Info-X			

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FM 3D AMTRAC
TO CG 1STMAFDIV
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BT

SITREP #96 AS OF 290001H TO 292400H NOV 1968

1. UNIT LOCATION: NO CHANGE

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION: NO CHANGE

3. CONTACTS: AT 292300H AT COORD 087592 3D AMTRACBN PATROL SPOTTED THREE VIET CONG SUSPECTS MOVING FROM EAST TOWARD THE VILLAGE OF TAN AN. PURSUED VIET CONG SUSPECTS BY FIRE.

4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: NONE

5. CASUALTIES: NONE

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