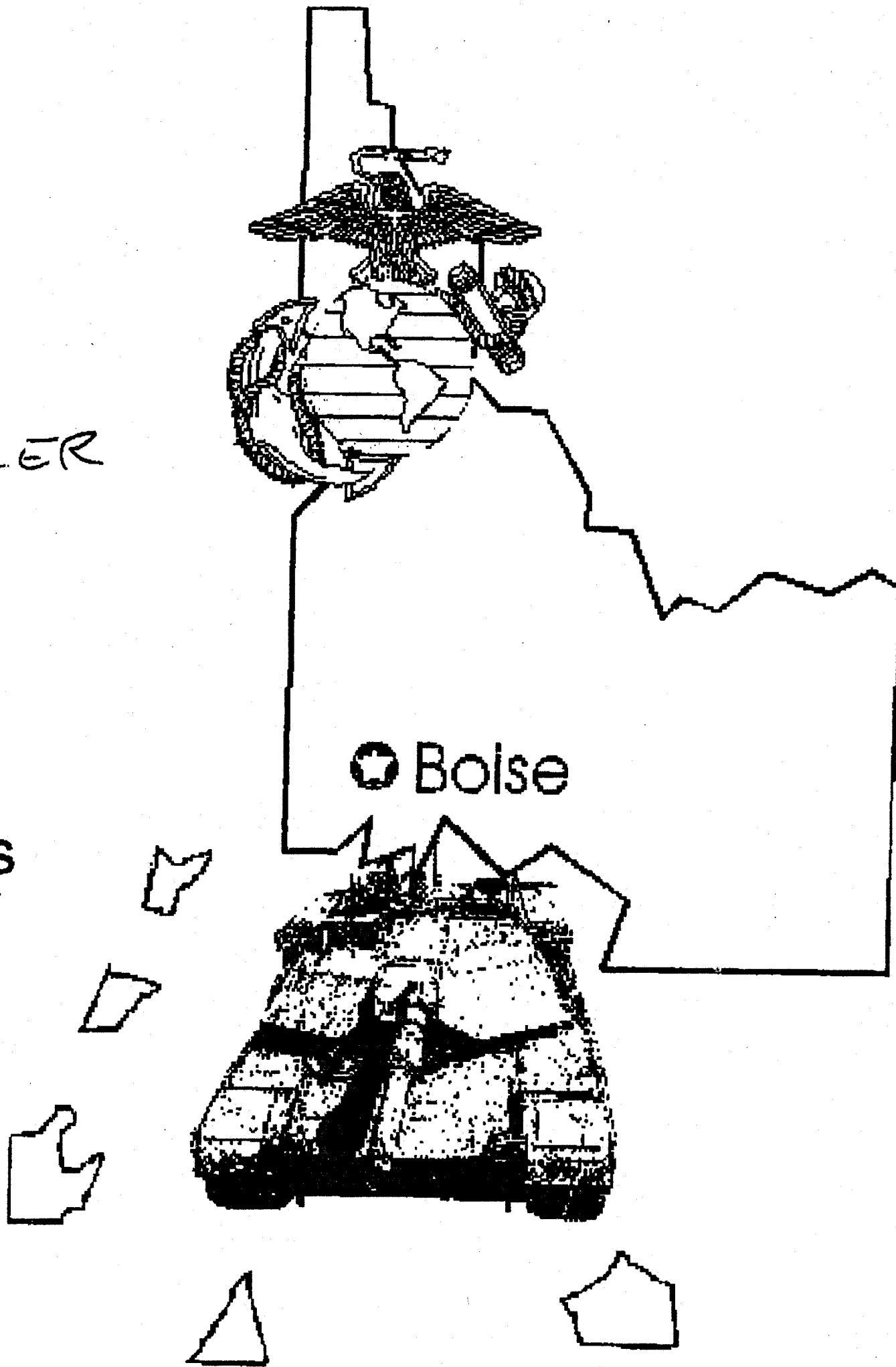


A
FAX
FROM: *CAPT MULLER*

C Company,
4th Tank Bn
"Total Force Tank
Gunnery Champions
1996"



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TOTAL PAGES: *2*

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

COMPANY "C" (REIN), 4TH TANK BATTALION
4TH MARINE DIVISION, FMF, USMC
NAVAL AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER
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BOISE, IDAHO 83705-6807

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4790

I-I

3 July 97

MEMORANDUM

From: Inspector-Instructor

Subj: TRUE-LOCK FASTENER SYSTEM, APPLICATION TO M1A1 T-158 TRACK

1. While the T-158 track currently in use on the Marine Corps' M1A1 tanks is a significant improvement over the older T-156 track, and the track formerly used on the M60A1 RISE/Passive tank, it still requires a significant number of man-hours to properly maintain in peak operating condition. The single most common fault that is found when "walking track" (the procedure used by tank crewmen to inspect and maintain the track) are loose or missing wedge bolts, which secure the end connectors that join the individual track blocks together.
2. While I have not personally tested the True Lock system for preventing the loosening and subsequent loss of wedge bolts, I have examined the system at length, and firmly believe that this system has the potential to eliminate this maintenance concern.
3. While the loosening of wedge bolts seldom results in serious damage to a tank, there are other ramifications such as premature wear to the track itself and the man-hours consumed in walking track and correcting loose wedge bolts. Depending upon operational tempo, track mileage and terrain, a crew can easily spend an hour a day (3-4 man hours) walking track and tightening end connectors during operations.
4. The True Lock system promises to save my unit (a reserve tank company) approximately 28 man hours per drill weekend in maintenance; time which can be reinvested in combat training. Money saved on replacement wedge bolts, wedges, end connectors, and through increased track life can be put towards increased and improved training, resulting in increased mission readiness.
5. Point of contact is Captain Paul Muller at the address on the letterhead, or by phone at DSN: 422-6256 or comm: (208) 422-6256.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. L. Muller".

P. L. MULLER
Captain, U.S. Marine Corps
Inspector-Instructor