

HEADQUARTERS  
1st Light AA Missile Battalion  
Marine Air Control Group-18  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

3:RKS:rm  
5213  
SerNo 031-67  
10 July 1969

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~~SECRET~~ Unclassified when enclosure (1) is removed

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group-18

Subj: Command Chronology, Submission of (U)

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for the period 1-30 June 1969

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1 to 30 June 1969.

*E. L. House*  
E. L. HOUSE

Declassified by the Director of  
Marine Corps History and Museums  
in accordance with the provisions  
of CNO ltr Ser 009D323/232095 of  
21 Feb 1979

Signature

Date

7/4/97

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1ST LAM BN

CMD CHRON

JUNE 1969

1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion  
Marine Air Control Group-18  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FME, PAC

Command Chronology  
DaNang, Republic of Vietnam  
1-30 June  
1969

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## PART I

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## 1. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	12 Oct 68 to present	LtCol John W. DRURY
Sergeant Major	20 Jan 69 to present	SgtMaj Phillip P. GIRTEN
Executive Officer	25 Mar 69 to present	Maj Edward L. HOUSE
S-1/Adjutant	31 Jan 69 to present	1stLt Harold D. MAYO JR.
S-2/S-3	14 Apr 69 to present	Capt Robert A. KOTZ
S-4	19 Jan 69 to present	Maj James D. MCGOWAN JR.
CO, H&S Battery	23 Apr 69 to present	Capt Albert I. HARTKOPF
CO, "A" Battery	6 Mar 69 to present	Capt James M. MUTTER
CO, "B" Battery	11 Apr 69 to present	Capt Charles RECHTENBACH
CO, "C" Battery	30 Mar 69 to present	1stLt Don O. THOMPSON
OIC, AFU "E"	6 Mar 69 to present	1stLt Denham B. CLEMENTS
Comm Officer	15 Mar 69 to present	1stLt Gordon L. ANDERSON

## 2. Task Organization and Unit Location

a. Task Organization: N/A

b. Unit Location:

- (1) H&S Battery Coordinates (1:50,000) BT007750 15 Feb 65
- (2) "A" Battery Coordinates (1:50,000) AT943917 21 Aug 66
- (3) "B" Battery Coordinates (1:50,000) BT091837 1 Sep 65
- (4) "C" Battery Coordinates (1:50,000) AT972737 26 Mar 65
- (5) AFU "E" H&S Coordinates (1:50,000) AT970620 27 Mar 66

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## 3. Average Monthly Strength

## a. Total Battalion

- (1) 41 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 493 Enlisted (USMC)
- (3) 0 Officers (USN)
- (4) 8 Enlisted (USN)

## b. H&amp;S Battery

- (1) 25 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 278 Enlisted (USMC)
- (3) 0 Officers (USN)
- (4) 4 Enlisted (USN)

## c. "A" Battery

- (1) 5 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 76 Enlisted (USMC)

## d. "B" Battery

- (1) 6 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 64 Enlisted (USMC)

## e. "C" Battery

- (1) 5 Officers (USMC)
- (2) 73 Enlisted (USMC)

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## 4. Important Visitors

On 18 June 1969, Dai Vy TAP, Commander of the ARVN units around Hai Van, visited the firing site at "A" Battery.

On 19 June 1969, Col L. B. HARDY, USA, Artillery Commander for the Army's Americal Division, viewed the FIREX at "A" Battery.

On 21 June 1969, Brig Gen W. G. JOHNSON, USMC, Asst Wing Commander of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, toured "B" Battery site.

On 22 June 1969, Col J. P. STABLER, USMC, MACV J3-11, visited the proposed translator site at "A" Battery. He was accompanied by Mr. B. M. BATTEY of Juspao.

On 23 June 1969, Brig Gen W. G. JOHNSON, USMC, Asst Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, visited "C" Battery.

On 23 June 1969, Col G. E. HAYWARD, USMC, Commanding Officer, 26th Marines visited "A" Battery during an inspection of India 3/26.

On 27 June 1969, Col J. L. SCHWARTZ, USMC, 1st Marine Division G-4; Col A. WALKER, USMC from the Field Chief of Staff Office; and Col N. A. CANZONA, USMC, H&HS Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Division, visited "C" Battery.

On 30 June 1969, Capt R. H. TROWER, USN, Wing Chaplain, conducted Protestant services at "A" Battery.

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## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

15 June 1969 marked the beginning of the 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion's Annual Service Practice or Hawk FIREX. The firing exercise site was "A" Battery located at Hai Van Pass. (AT943917)

The use of the Marine Corps Tactical Data System for Automatic firing commands from the Tactical Air Operation Center at Marine Air Control Squadron-4's site was a significant achievement in the field of Anti-Air Warfare. The success of the Hawk FIREX demonstrated the ability of the Automatic Assignment System to work in a tactical environment while tactically deployed. Fourteen of the fifteen Hawk Missiles fired were direct hits or near direct hits. One missile malfunction was due to operator error, leaving the First Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion with a launch to kill percentage of over 93%.

Safety was a key consideration in the planning and execution stages of the Hawk FIREX. Close coordination was established with the Air Force, Marine Air Group-16, Fleet Composite Squadron Five, Marine Air Control Squadron-4 and several other units and agencies. Notices to airmen and Marines were published well in advance of the Hawk FIREX informing them of the range limits, times, etc. Voice communications were maintained at all times between safety personnel during the hours of operation.

The system was actually put to use when during a minor delay, an actual unknown aircraft was reported approaching DaNang. A smooth transition from a practice situation to a tactical situation occurred almost without anyone realizing that it had taken place. More important it took place with no voice communications from the TAOC to the firing battery. A Marine Corps Hawk Missile Battery had for the first time made a tactical assignment against an actual unknown using the automatic system. When the aircraft was identified as friendly, the cease engagement command was given automatically (no voice) and the FIREX resumed almost as though nothing had occurred.

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## PART III

  
A. Administration. None

B. Personnel. None

C. Command and Control.

1. The Operations Section displaced from the old French NCO school compound to its new operations complex in the MACG-18 Headquarters Compound on 3 June 1969, with no break in operational communications.

2. The AN/TSQ-39 Operation Central was set up, integrated with MTDS (MACS-4) and the firing batteries, and then utilized to pass all commands, safety instructions, and amplifying instructions between MACS-4 and "A" Battery during the Battalion's annual FIREX.

3. Radar set, AN/UPS-1B, Ser #A-55, was being used for radar target correlation during the FIREX until a generator failure caused a blower motor in the high voltage power supply to burn out. Both radars are now down for parts.

D. Air Control. None

E. Special Operations. None

F. Civic Action.

1. The temple of a sub-hamlet of Khue Trung IV has been finished.


2. Seventy-five (75) per-cent of the lumber needed in the construction of two new classrooms in Hoa Cuong Elementary School has been delivered. The school is presently under construction and will be completed by the time school opens in September.

3. Four persons from the hamlet were evacuated to the German hospital ship for extensive medical treatment.

G. Ground Defense.

1. "A" Battery utilized 210 rolls of German tape during the month of June to complete two separate fences around the perimeter. The fences were augmented with tangle foot wire. During June, twelve (12) claymore mines were temporarily employed each night in likely avenues of approach. Thirty metal light stands were cemented in place to improve perimeter fighting, and four cases of trip flares have been employed around the perimeter.

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2. At present, "B" Battery ground defense capabilities are being revised. On 30 June 1969, a ground defense drill was conducted.

3. "C" Battery has made several improvements in the ground defenses during the month. The 30' observation tower that was emplaced last month has been sandbagged and a catwalk was built from the tower to the adjacent bank. Approximately eighty (80) barrels of diesel was dropped from a CH-53 on grassy areas around the perimeter which were previously inaccessible. The construction of a fence around the perimeter was brought nearer to completion. Sentry dogs were obtained from 3rd MP's and were integrated into the defense organization. A large number of claymore mines and trip flares were emplaced around the battery perimeter and in all likely avenues of approach. A spot light was obtained and emplaced in the tower to augment the PPS-6, Starlight, M-79 and M-60 located in the tower. In addition, a large jeep mounted searchlight from the Army has been obtained for illumination on the back side of the hill.

4. H&S Battery made no changes affecting the units defensive positions during the month of June. Ground defense condition III was set for the entire month of June.

5. AFU "E" has emplaced a double apron fence with double strands of concertina around AFU "E"'s living areas and equipment. The purpose is to strengthen "inner" defenses against sapper attacks.

#### H. Training.

1. "A" Battery conducted four (4) hours of GMS and thirty (30) hours of technical training during the month of June.

2. "B" Battery conducted three (3) hours of GMS and sixteen (16) hours of technical training.

3. "C" Battery conducted six (6) hours of GMS and forty-nine (49) hours of technical training. In addition, four (4) hours of task team training was held.

4. H&S Battery conducted five (5) hours of GMS training during the month of June.

5. AFU "E" conducted three (3) hours of GMS and twenty-seven (27) hours of technical training.

During the month of June, first hand training was received and gained by all the batteries in the battalion by taking part in the 15-25 June Hawk Missile FIREX.

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~~SECRET~~I. Logistics.

1. On 1 June 1969, WSM Staff reviewed Batteries "B" and "C" equipment.
2. On 2 June 1969, WSM Staff reviewed AFU "E" equipment. Found 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance outstanding.
3. On 3 June 1969, Battalion lost capability to repair air conditioners and refrigerations.
4. On 10 June 1969, generator school held for "A" Battery.
5. On 14 June 1969, contact teams were sent to "A" Battery to assist all batteries during the FIREX.
6. On 25 June 1969, the FIREX was completed and the contact teams returned to WSM.
7. On 29 June 1969, a CRE team was sent to "C" Battery.
8. On 30 June 1969, a CRE team was sent to "B" Battery. On this same date a maintenance meeting was held at WSM. All battery maintenance Officers and maintenance chiefs were present.

J. SUPPLY.

All 7770 items classified as excess have been pulled from stock and screened. All non-Hawk peculiar items have been shipped to Force Logistics Command. All Hawk peculiar items are packaged and awaiting disposition instruction.

A warehouse consolidation and a complete location verification are now in progress and will be completed during July 1969.

The following is a list of Expenditures:

## 1. OPBUD:

Total Spent this Month	\$ 53,505.91
New Authorization	-0-
Available Balance	12.48
Total Spent this Year	\$899,562.52
Total Authorized	\$899,575.00

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## 2. HOTEL:

Total Spent this Month	\$ 47,038.96
New Authorizations	\$ 79,000.00
Available Balance	\$ 23,009.28
Total Spent this Year	\$184,349.72
Total Authorized	\$207,359.00

## 3. QUEBEC:

Total Spent this Month	\$ -0-
New Authorizations	\$ -0-
Available Balance	725.65
Total Spent this Year	3,274.35
Total Authorized	4,000.00

## 4. HOTEL ISSA/ASA PMC Funds - This project is only used for ASA purchases from 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery.

Total Spent this Month	\$ 53,505.91
New Authorizations	-0-
Available Balance	(463.87) Debit
Total Spent this Year	\$113,463.87
Total Authorized	\$113,000.00

During the month of June, Battalion Supply received 831 requests from using units not including clothing and Ser-Mart items. Of this number, 408 issues were made from stock indicating a gross effectiveness of 50%. There were 160 requests for items not previously held in stock, which accounted for a net effectiveness of 62%.

K. Engineering. NoneL. Maintenance. None

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M. Communications/Electronics.

1. Radio Section. The first part of June was spent in preparation for the FIREX and in adjustment of the work load due to loss of manpower during the month. AAI and AAC radio nets using single side band equipment secured 24 June 1969 due to admin deadline of equipment. Upon the aforementioned, communications will be solely dependent on AN/PRC-25's and AN/TRC-27's.

2. Maintenance. During the month of June, 126 work orders were accepted of which 97 were completed. In addition, twelve (12) work orders from previous months were completed. Five (5) pieces of equipment are awaiting parts and six (6) pieces of gear are at higher echelon of maintenance. All necessary and required preventive maintenance was performed.

3. Radio Relay. During the first part of June, radio relay successfully completed relocating to the MACG-18 compound, and also completed construction of the new radio relay tower. From 15 to 25 June, radio relay was engaged in operation in support of the 1st LAAM Bn. FIREX. The radio relay communications provided were adequate and satisfactory.

4. Message Center. On 23 June 1969, the message center was relocated to its present site. Since the site is close to MACG-18 Headquarters, coordination between the two message centers is more feasible. All required reports and memoranda were submitted as well as additional reports called for.

5. Wire. The relocation of the Battalion Compound made it necessary to have communications up and in long before the actual move. A switchboard was installed in the new AAOC and all lines to Panama, TADC and relay were operable well before the actual move. Cl61 coils were also installed within the AAOC.

N. Construction. None

O. Motor Transport.

1. Total amount of vehicle mileage for the month of June was 49,986.
2. The total number of passengers carried for the month of June was 25,207.
3. The total tonnage transferred for the month of June was 2915.

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~~SECRET~~P. Informational Services.

1. During the month of June, 232 home town news releases were forwarded from the Battalion.

Q. Casualties.

1. The following personnel were evacuated during the month of June:

Cpl M. L. CHAPPEL, 2213366, was evacuated to USNH Guam.

L/Cpl M. L. KITCHEN, 2245072, was evacuated to USNH Guam for a hernia.

R. Awards.

1. Promotions during the month were as follows:

	H&S	"A"	"B"	"C"
First Lieutenant	2			
Staff Sergeant				1
Sergeant	7	5	1	6
Corporal	9	5	2	6
Lance Corporal	2	1		1

2. L/Cpl E. A. LAMONTAGNE received the Purple Heart Medal.

3. Sgt T. C. NOBLE received the Navy Commendation Medal.

4. Cpl D. F. LAUER was awarded the Good Conduct Medal.

5. Six (6) Marines were awarded Meritorious Mast.

S. Morale and Welfare. NoneT. Air Defense.

1. During the month of June the Battalion was involved in a Hawk Missile FIREX, while still maintaining its air defense obligations. The FIREX was the first FIREX in a war zone to be run by Automatic Data Link, and was immensely successful with 14 kills out of 15 targets engaged for a 93.3% kill ratio effectiveness.

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~~SECRET~~U. Base Development and Military Construction.

1. At "A" Battery, work progressed rapidly on the new messhall until 24 June, when the 7th Engineers received orders to halt work until further notice. During the halt the engineers constructed runners under the Coder-Decoder Van in order to expedite movement of the van in case of needed repair work. Members of 1st Division Communications rebuilt their comm bunker on top of Hill 724.

2. At "B" Battery, three (3) new ammunition bunkers were completed during the month. In addition, a ground defense command post is under construction.

3. At "C" Battery, a shed was built over the messhall water tank to help keep rain, dirt and insects out of the water. An old radar bunker was reconstructed and modified to provide a storage shed on top of the hill. An area was constructed to relocate the position for launcher #2 on the backside of the hill. A new trash pit was dug on point Romeo and the old pit was covered. A bank of dirt was leveled off in the Motor transport area to provide additional parking space. In addition, a new Motor transport garage was constructed by Korean work crews from Base Public Works. "C" Battery also resandbagged all the hootches and the tie downs were placed over the roofs. In addition, plastic sheeting was placed around the sides of some of the hootches to prevent rain from blowing in.

4. At H&S Battery, sand-filled barrels were stacked around the new enlisted living quarters for added protection against rocket attacks. All office's were moved out of the old French compound into the new office building originally constructed for MACG-18 Headquarters.

V. Enemy Action.

Enemy action at or around "A" Battery during the month of June was mostly limited to late evening and night attacks from Hill 1192 against bunkers along Highway 1. On 22 June 1969, five hours of sporadic enemy automatic and semi-automatic fire around "A" Battery perimeter resulted in one Marine WIA.

At "C" Battery, on 15 June 1969, at approximately 2215, an undetermined number of enemy troops were spotted about 200 meters outside the southwest section of the battery perimeter. They were taken under fire with M-16, M-60, and M-79 with unknown results.

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H&S Battery had several rocket attacks in the first part of the month of which the last was on the 7th of June when a 140mm rocket landed in the parking lot of MACG-18 office area. There were no injuries and only minor property damage.

AFU "E" was in Ground Condition II on the 6th, 7th, 16th, 18th and 20th of June 1969, during the hours from 2300 to 0630. On 7 June 1969, five (5) to six (6) small-arms rounds impacted near post #33 at DTG 072215, coordinates AT97016210. No casualties or equipment damage. On 16 June 1969, two (2) 140mm rockets impacted at coordinates AT97156200 (30 meters away from post #34). No casualties or equipment damage. On 18 June 1969, two (2) rockets (size unknown) and one (1) RPG round impacted at 3/11 - coordinates AT9765180. No casualties or equipment damage. On 20 June 1969, three (3) rounds (size unknown) impacted - two (2) at coordinates AT97006210 and one (1) at AT96956175. No casualties or equipment damage to "E". 7th Marines had two (2) WIA.

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