

MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON 2
 Marine Wing Headquarters Group 1
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
 FPO, San Francisco, 96602

3:JMS:wnc
 5750
 Serial # 03A13066
 10 ~~1965~~ 1966
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From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Headquarters Group 1
 Subj: Command Chronology (u)

Ref: (a) WGO 5750.1A
 (b) WGO 5750.2
 (c) ForceO 3121.1B
 (d) GruO 5750.1

1. Organizational Data

a. Subordinate Units:

- (1) Devastate Alpha - AN/TPQ-10 system #11 located at Chu Lai, RVN
- (2) Devastate Bravo - AN/TPQ-10 system #2 located at Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN.
- (3) Devastate Charlie - AN/TPQ-10 system #6 located at Phu Bai, RVN
- (4) Devastate Delta - AN/TPQ-10 system #14 located at Dong Ha, RVN
- (5) Landshark - DASC located at 3rd Marine Division Command Post, DaNang, RVN.
- (6) Landshark Alpha - DASC located at Chu Lai, RVN.
- (7) Landshark Charlie - DASC located at Phu Bai, RVN.
- (8) Landshark Bravo - Mobile DASC in the field (20 Apr -).

b. Period Covered: 1 April through 30 April 1966.

c. Commanding Officer	LtCol R. W. SHEPPE
Executive Officer:	Maj. J. R. EDDY
Operations Officer:	Maj. J. L. NORTON
Landshark OIC:	Capt. T. H. FOLD
Landshark Alpha OIC:	Capt. C. W. OLSEN
Landshark Bravo OIC:	Capt. S. J. DOHERTY
Landshark Charlie OIC:	Capt. J. J. DEENEY JR.
Devastate Alpha OIC:	Capt. J. P. FOX
Devastate Bravo OIC:	Capt. L. J. MORTON
Devastate Charlie OIC:	Capt. W. H. RUTINGS
Devastate Delta OIC:	Capt. T. M. QUILLAN
Administrative Officer:	Capt. S. J. DOHERTY
Supply Officer:	Maj. L. D. HARPOLD

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
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Communications Officer:

Capt J. W. AMERS

Intelligence Officer:

WO J. J. SNEA

Motor Transport Officer:

1stLt C. D. CUMY

2. Significant Events as They Occur Chronologically.

a. 1Apr. Major General KYLE, Commanding General, Third Marine Division, visited the Direct Air Support Center at DaNang and was briefed by DASC personnel.

b. 2Apr. The classical close air support system as prescribed by Marine Corps doctrine was used for the first time in the Republic of Vietnam.

c. 3Apr. The Third Direct Air Support Center in RVN was activated at Phu Bai by Marine Air Support Squadron Two.

d. 6Apr. The Air Support Radar Team located at Marble Mountain Air Facility tracked an F-4B aircraft equipped with the APN-154 radar beacon to the maximum limits of the TPQ-10 radar.

e. 15Apr. Brigadier General ELWOOD, the Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, visited the Direct Air Support Center at DaNang and observed the operations of the support radar team located at Marble Mountain Air Facility.

f. 18Apr. Brigadier General ENGLISH, the Assistant Division Commander, Third Marine Division, visited the Direct Air Support Center located at Chu Lai, and was briefed by the DASC personnel. Brigadier General ELWOOD, the Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, observed operations of the Air Support Radar Team at Chu Lai.

g. 20Apr. Colonel J. B. SWEENEY, Chief of Staff, Third Marine Division, was briefed by the DASC personnel at DaNang.

h. 21Apr. Lieutenant General WALT, CG III MAF, visited the Air Support Radar Team located at Dong Ha and was briefed by ASRT personnel. Brigadier General ELWOOD, AWC 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, visited both the DASC and ASRT at Phu Bai. A mobile DASC was assigned to an infantry battalion to augment the air liaison section for operation Georgia. This was the first use of a mobile DASC in this capacity.

i. 22Apr. Major General KYLE, CG 3d MarDiv, visited the mobile DASC in the field, and was briefed by the DASC personnel.

j. 23Apr. Chief of Staff, III MAF, was briefed during a visit of the mobile DASC.

k. 26Apr. Lieutenant General WALT, CG III MAF, was briefed during a visit of the Phu Bai DASC.

l. 29Apr. The DASC located at Chu Lai is now in position at the 1st MarDiv Command Post.

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a. Landshark:

(1) Helo Missions:	1060
(2) Fixed-Wing Missions:	359
(3) Med-Evacs:	208

b. Landshark "Alpha":

(1) Helo Missions:	1068
(2) Fixed-Wing Missions:	246
(3) Med-Evacs:	997

c. Landshark "Bravo":

(1) Helo Missions:	35
(2) Fixed-Wing:	19
(3) Med-Evacs:	24

d. Landshark "Charlie":

(1) Helo Missions:	213
(2) Fixed-Wing:	79
(3) Med-Evacs:	34

e. Devastate Alpha:

(1) Controlled 36 F-8, 313 A-4, 6 F-4 on 280 missions.
(2) Dropped 432 D-1, 535 D-2, 54 D-11, 961 D-12 bombs.

f. Devastate Bravo:

(1) Controlled 34 F-8, 143 A-4, 42 F-4 on 200 missions.
(2) Dropped 366 D-1, 52 D-2, 13 D-3, 64 D-11, 594 D-12, 242 D-13, 43 ANM 65 bombs.

g. Devastate Charlie:

(1) Controlled 62 F-8, 43 A-4, 157 F-4 on 243 missions.
(2) Dropped 355 D-1, 44 D-2, 29 D-3, 38 D-11, 936 D-12, 44 ANM 65 bombs.

h. Devastate Delta:

(1) Controlled 58 F-8, 48 A-4, 51 F-4 on 110 missions.
(2) Dropped 192 D-1, 61 D-2, 8 D-3, 8 D-11, 326 D-12, 24 D-13, 31 ANM 65 bombs.

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4. Narrative Summary

a. Administration. The average strength of the squadron has increased from last month, the results being as follows:

Officers - 45
Enlisted USMC - 248
Enlisted USN - 2

The increase in personnel was due largely to a recognition by higher authorities that the tasks of this Marine Air Support Squadron could not be fulfilled on a continuing basis without more people. The General Electric Technical representative remains with the communications section of the squadron and has proven invaluable in technical assistance.

In addition to the increase in personnel promotions were presented to one officer and fifty-two enlisted. Two of the enlisted promotions were to Staff Non-Commissioned Officer grade. The squadron received seventeen R & R quotas during April. In addition to the quotas one officer went to Hong Kong from the standby list.

b. Special Services. Special Services activities consisted of beach parties on eight separate occasions, outdoor movies in the squadron C. P. area, and continued use of the squadron book exchange library. A body building room with apparatus locally manufactured has become a significant recreational outlet for many members of the squadron as well as the use of special services provided athletic gear for basketball and volleyball.

More facilities will become available to squadron personnel when construction is completed on the proposed recreation hut. Plans are to equip this structure with a billiard table, ping pong table, and an area for a reading room.

c. Intelligence. The squadron now disseminates all available current intelligence (classified) by means of a briefing folder which is maintained daily and brought up to date immediately after the daily Wing briefings which are attended by a representative of the squadron intelligence section. Unclassified intelligence is pro-

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mulgated by an information folder available to all hands in the C.P. area and by monthly staff visits to the provinces. In addition to the above, formal intelligence training classes are conducted as part of basic training with classes on the enemy, the weather and terrain.

Aerial photographs, both vertical and oblique have been obtained of all the squadron outlying areas. The purpose of this action is to provide visual orientation for members of the squadron prior to their departure to sub units.

d. Operations & Training. Of significant importance during this period is the fact that the squadron outfitted and established its third permanent DASC in Vietnam at the Hue Phu Bai area. The squadron now has a DASC working with the three major FSCC's of the III MAF.

Basic training has been reinstituted by the training section and follows the basic guideline set forth by CMC. In addition local interest training is being conducted by the intelligence section and several lectures have been given by experts from other units on subjects pertinent to counter insurgency guerilla warfare. Squadron training records are being brought up to date and expanded to include individual training cards, records of attendance for classes both in basic training and technical training.

Familiarization firing of individual weapons and the M-60 machine gun was started this month and will be completed during May. The communication section has completed this training, and in addition all members of this section have been schooled on operating the Seismic Intrusion Device. Eventually all members of the squadron will have been schooled on the SID from an operating standpoint; however, to date only familiarization lectures have been given the bulk of squadron personnel.

The four ASRT's and three DASC's of the squadron functioned throughout the period in support of all the operations conducted. During Operation Georgia, the squadron was directed to augment the Air Liaison Section of one battalion in the 3d MarDiv. This was accomplished by outfitting and sending to the field a mobile DASC. This marks the first time that Air Wing personnel took part in operations as an integral part of the Division. Although utilization of the mobile DASC for augmentation of Air Parties is not in accordance with Marine

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Air Control Doctrine, the operation has provided valuable training for Air Controllers and radio operators besides giving those personnel involved a first hand knowledge of ground forces conduct during Air/Ground coordinated operations.

e. Logistics & Services. An A & M Inspection was held in Supply on 29 April 1966 with satisfactory results; however, the major and minor discrepancies necessitated the assignment of an assistance team and required a reinspection of the Supply Section within thirty (30) days.

The generator problem continues: the requirements for spare parts and the lack of readily available spares peculiar to the 45 KW Stewart Stevenson Generators cause an unacceptable down time.

The problems encountered previously in Motor Transport are rapidly being alleviated. However, certain parts (i.e. Brake Shoes and C.V. Boots) should be stocked in depth in preparation for the Monsoon Season.

TPQ-10 Spares are 98% available as is the Maintenance Float. The critical part, transmitter subassembly, for the UPS-1C has an ETA of May 1966 and upon receipt will remove that end item from deadline.

Clothing has been no problem. 95% of the requirements are filled upon request although some stock denials are present at times in popular sizes.

f. Communications/Electronics. With the activation of a third DASC, the existing acute shortage of communications equipment has become even more acute. There now exists insufficient equipment to cover essential nets even if all the equipment is operable. Experience indicates a need for at least 20% excess of required equipment to allow for maintenance. Maintenance on operating equipment is limited and the outlook for the future is pessimistic unless some relief is forthcoming with additional communications equipment.

g. Ground Defense. The unit was inspected by the 1stMAW Inspector and was considered as satisfactory with minor discrepancies. A report has been forwarded to the Wing Inspector listing the action taken or programmed to correct the discrepancies. A new squadron SOP is scheduled for issue on 20 May 1966. The squadron Ground Defense Officer inspected all of the sub-units and a trip report has been submitted, coupled with recommendations. Distribution of arms and ammunition has been improved by recent arrivals of supplies; however, the non-availability of items, such as flares, mines, and tactical wire continues to be a problem in the outlying units.

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The squadron guard personnel now receive a regular schedule of training (27 hours) during their seven(7) day tour.

Work continues on defensive protective positions. A total of six (6) new positions were established. A command bunker site for use during enemy attacks of any nature has been selected and construction will commence when materials and equipment are available.

5. Commanders Comments.

a. This squadron has available in the Republic of Vietnam, four AN/TPQ-10 Radar Course Direction Centrals, which have the capability of performing a wide variety of missions in addition to the primary role of radar controlled bombing. Unfortunately the radar has a limited range/tracking capability, and operations are adversely affected by cloud attenuation or ground clutter. When aircraft are equipped with a Radar Beacon, these limitations can be overcome, and aircraft can be controlled at much greater ranges under severe weather conditions and at lower altitudes. A recommendation to equip all Marine Aircraft operating in Vietnam with AN/APN-154 radar beacons has been forwarded by separate correspondence.

b. It has become necessary for this unit to use its tactical generators on an around-the-clock schedule to supply power for the various DASC's, ASRT's, and camp functions. The generators are not designed for sustained operations of indefinite duration; although a necessity, it is completely unsatisfactory. It has been recommended that the 50 KW series - 300 Caterpillar low rpm commercial generator (or equivalent) be provided to alleviate the abuse of tactical generators while in a semi-garrison environment.

R. W. Sheppe
 R. W. SHEPPE

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