

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

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From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Headquarters Group 1
 Subj: Command Chronology (U)
 Ref: (a) Group 0 5750.1

1. Organizational Data.a. Subordinate Units.

- (1) Direct Air Support Center - 1st Marine Division Command Post
 DA NANG, RVN.
- (2) Air Support Radar Team "B" - AN/TPQ-10 Radar Course Direction
 Central located on hill 225, DA NANG, RVN.
- (3) Detachment ALPHA - Task Force XRAY Command Post, CHU LAI, RVN.

Direct Air Support Center
 Air Support Radar Team "A"

- (4) Detachment BRAVO - Task Force DELTA Command Post, DONG HA, RVN.

Direct Air Support Center
 Air Support Radar Team "C"
 Air Support Radar Team "D"

- (5) Detachment CHARLIE - 3rd Marine Division Command Post, PHU BAI,
 RVN.

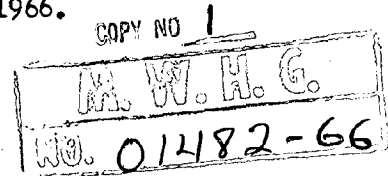
Direct Air Support Center

- b. Period Covered. 1 October through 31 October 1966.

- c. Key Billet Assignments.

Commanding Officer
 Executive Officer
 Operations Officer

LtCol H. HUNTER
 Major E.S. PAYNE
 Major R.F. GORE



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ENCLOSURE (5)

MASS-2

Cmd Chron

Oct 1966

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DASC OIC	Capt. J.W. GIBBONS
ASRT "B" OIC	1stLt. L.R. MINIUM
Detachment ALPHA OIC	Capt. R.J. THOMPSON
DASC OIC	Capt. R.J. THOMPSON
ASRT "A" OIC	Capt. J.M. O'NEIL
Detachment BRAVO OIC	Major D.E. BROWNE
DASC OIC	Capt. A.J. PARDINI
ASRT "C" OIC	Capt. R.M. ONDRICK
ASRT "D" OIC	Capt. D.A. QUIDAS
Detachment CHARLIE OIC	Major J.P. FOX
DASC OIC	Capt. R.C. DEYO
Administrative Officer	1stLt. R.L. KING
Services Officer	Major C.W. OLSEN
Communications Officer	Capt. J.W. AYERS

2. Chronological Listing of Significant Events.

- 1 Oct Major General NICKERSON, CG, 1st MarDiv visited the Direct Air Support Center at CHU LAI.
 - 2 Oct Major General DAVIS, CMC Evaluation Team visited the Direct Air Support Center at DA NANG.
 - 3 Oct Major General ROBERTSHAW, CG, 1st MAW visited Air Support Radar Team ALPHA at CHU LAI.
 - 4 Oct Air Support Radar Team DELTA located at DONG HA set a new TPQ-10 record by controlling 55 missions and dropping 259,000 pounds of bombs on 99 targets in one day.
 - 5 Oct Air Support Radar Teams CHARLIE and DELTA conducted radar tracking tests to determine if one TPQ-10 could be used to check the accuracy of the other set. It was found that one set could determine a gross error in the other set, and the two co-located ASRT's will employ this technique when delivering ordnance in close proximity of friendly units.
 - 6 Oct Operations personnel attended a planning conference at Third Marine Amphibious Force on Radar Bombing Support of the Special Forces Camps within I Corps Zone.
 - 7 Oct MASS-2 received warning order from 1st MAW to be prepared to reactivate the Direct Air Support Center at PHU BAI. Requested and received augmentation of personnel and equipment from MWHG-1.
- Brigadier General ELWOOD, AWC, 1st MAW visited the Direct Air Support Center at DONG HA.

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- 9 Oct First echelon of the PHU BAI DASC was airlifted out of DONG HA by KC-130 aircraft. Second echelon from DA NANG was delayed due to the high priority air movement of elements of the 3rd Marine Division.
- 10 Oct Major General ROBERTSHAW, CG, 1st MAW visited the Direct Air Support Center and Air Support Radar Teams CHARLIE and DELTA at DONG HA.
- Second echelon of PHU BAI DASC air lifted out of DA NANG by C-117.
- 12 Oct PHU BAI Direct Air Support Center fully operational at 121730H.
- 13 Oct Mister Robert MC NAMARA, Secretary of Defense and party visited the Direct Air Support Center at DONG HA.
- 14 Oct Operations personnel attended a Rear Area Defense planning conference at the 11th Marines CP.
- Major General ROBERTSHAW, CG, 1st MAW and Brigadier General STYLES, ADC, 1st MarDiv visited the Direct Air Support Center at CHU LAI.
- 15 Oct MASS-2 became only marginally COMBAT READY (C-3) in equipment due to major deficiencies in generator and UHF radio maintenance.
- 19-20 Oct Major General ROBERTSHAW, CG, 1st MAW visited the Direct Air Support Center and both Air Support Radar Teams at DONG HA.
- 21 Oct Counter Intelligence Team conducted an inspection of MASS-2 to assist in improving security procedures.
- 22 Oct Reconnaissance patrol from MASS-2 captured a Viet Cong Suspect while on patrol within Sub-Sector BRAVO of the Rear Area Defenses.
- Severe weather throughout I Corps Tactical Zone reduced total Air Support Radar Team operations to 5 missions. Airfields throughout the area were closed.
- 23 Oct CG, 1st MAW alerted MASS-2 for possible emergency parachute resupply mission in the NONG SAN area to be controlled by Air Support Radar Team BRAVO. All units ready to conduct mission within one hour, but mission cancelled when helicopter resupply was effected.
- 24 Oct Air Support Radar Team BRAVO conducted practice paradrop operation from an altitude of 4,000 feet. No accurate wind data was available and each drop was adjusted like artillery fire. First drop was 700 meters southwest of drop point, after correcting

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26 Oct 1st MAW Supply Advisory Team visited MASS-2 to assist in streamlining supply procedures in an attempt to improve the Equipment Readiness category.

27 Oct MASS-2 survey team completed a tentative survey of possible ASRT locations at the KHE SANH Special Forces Camp near the LAOTIEN border.

3. Statistical Data.

a. Direct Air Support Centers.

	Total Missions			
	<u>Fixed Wing</u>	<u>Helicopter</u>	<u>Med-Evac*</u>	<u>Total</u>
DASC, 1st MarDiv CP	226	1,094	(339)	1,320
DASC, Task Force XRAY CP	411	1,102	(301)	1,513
DASC, Task Force DELTA CP	636	988	(167)	1,624
DASC, 3rd MarDiv CP	125	190	(35)	315
TOTALS	1,398	3,374	(842)*	4,772

* Med-Evacs are included within the helicopter missions

b. Air Support Radar Teams.

	<u>No of Missions</u>	<u>No of Targets</u>	<u>No A/C Control</u>	<u>Tons of Bombs Drop</u>	<u>No Days Down</u>
ASRT "A" - CHULAI	554	628	585	804.6	0
ASRT "B" - DANANG	131	125	146	197.2	7
ASRT "C" - DONG HA	550	1,115	560	1,005.9	8
ASRT "D" - DONG HA	420	811	467	832.6	7
TOTAL	1,655	2,679	1,758	2,840.3	22

c. USAF Radar Bombing Support. In addition to the ASRT totals, the USAF MSQ-77 (SKYSPOT) located at DONG HA provided backup support by handling 58 TPQ-10 divert missions against 71 targets with 126 tons of bombs.

4. Narrative Summary.

a. Administration. The average overall strength of the squadron decreased from last month, the end of the month strength being:

Officers	48
Enlisted USMC	216
Enlisted USN	2

Three Captains were promoted to Major, two Second Lieutenants were promoted to First Lieutenant, one Gunnery Sergeant was promoted to Master Sergeant, four Sergeants were promoted to Staff Sergeant, two Corporals were promoted to Sergeants, seven Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal. eighteen

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Private First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal, and one Private was promoted to Private First Class.

b. Civil Affairs. During the month First Lieutenant B. M. BIGGS instructed five faculty members of the HOA MY Primary School in basic english.

c. Special Services. Special Services consisted of several beach runs, nightly movies, continued use of the squadron book exchange library, weight lifting room, volleyball court and archery range. A squadron party was held in the squadron area on 30 October.

d. Operations and Training.

(1) At the beginning of the reporting period, three Direct Air Support Centers and four Air Support Radar Teams were in active support of operations within I Corps Zone. In mid September, the Direct Air Support Center at DONG HA was reinforced with the PHU BAI DASC to support the ever increasing tempo of air operations near the Demilitarized Zone. The timeliness of this move became apparent in October when the Direct Air Support Center and the two Air Support Radar Teams supporting Operation PRAIRIE (Extended) controlled the largest air operation of the war. During the month of October a total of 2,652 missions (988 Helicopter, 636 fixed wing, 970 TPQ-10, and 58 MSQ-77) were conducted in direct support of Operation PRAIRIE.

(2) On 7 October, the squadron was alerted to the possibility of reactivating the Direct Air Support Center at PHU BAI to support the projected displacement of the 3rd Marine Division Command Post. Since the squadron was already fully committed, it was necessary to request both personnel and equipment augmentation from other wing units. Through excellent staff action and cooperation from all echelons of the wing, the necessary augmentation was ready within 36 hours. The first echelon was airlifted into PHU BAI on the 9th of October, the second echelon was delayed until the 10th due to the higher priority air movement of elements of the 3rd Marine Division. This Direct Air Support Center was fully operational on the 12th and ready to conduct operations prior to the Division Fire Support Coordination Center being ready.

(3) As a result of the heavier radar bombing commitments, the total tonnage dropped during October far exceeded any month since the AN/TPQ-10 systems were introduced into Vietnam. During this month 2,840.3 tons of bombs were delivered on 2,679 targets (1.06 ton/target). This was an increase of 824 tons over the previous record set during September. Since arriving in Vietnam the Air Support Radar Teams have controlled 11,611 missions and dropped 14,931.9 tons of ordnance.

(4) During the month, the squadron conducted staff visits to III MAF and Detachment C-1, 5th Special Forces Group in order to coordinate plans for radar bombing support of the Special Forces "A" Detachments located within I Corps. The 5th Special Forces Group desires to enter the Marine

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Tactical Air Request System so as to reduce the time involved in getting air support when a camp is under attack. The details are being worked out to provide this capability.

(5) During the period, operations personnel from MASS-3 have been on temporary duty with the various Direct Air Support Centers and Air Support Radar Teams of MASS-2 in order to acquire experience in the operating procedures being employed in Vietnam.

(6) During this period the operations section conducted a survey into the possibility of utilizing the AN/TPQ-10 for special operations. Plans to employ the AN/TPQ-10 for an emergency ground controlled approach to DONG HA are well under way and actual tests are scheduled for early November. The Air Support Radar Teams have been reviewing paradrop procedures and the test conducted during October has shown that the system provides the ground commander with an excellent emergency resupply capability. The 5th Special Forces group have also shown an interest in this paradrop capability and are currently revising their plans to include this type of resupply.

(7) During the period, the 11th Marine Regiment replaced the 12th Marine Regiment for rear area defense coordination. New ground defense plans have been received and the squadron is currently updating local security plans. MASS-2 now supplies one reconnaissance patrol per week to the 11th Marines to support patrol requirements in the rear area, in addition to assigned perimeter security positions.

(8) Basic training during the month consisted of improving ground defense positions, lectures on Security of Military Information and the PRC-25 FM Radio, and preparation for the Counter Intelligence Inspection from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

e. Supply and Services.

(1) On 26 October, the Wing Supply Advisory Team visited this squadron to assist in improving supply support with special emphasis on generator and radio repair parts. Higher echelons have shown an awareness of our problems and are taking the necessary steps to improve equipment readiness.

(2) The squadron utilities section completed a new enlisted head, an extension to the Enlisted Club, and a generator shed on COMM hill. In addition, they completed Weatherproofing of all billeting areas and are continuing work on renovation and remodeling of enlisted quarters.

(3) The Seabees have surveyed the site of the new squadron mess hall and construction is to begin in early November.

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(1) During the month of October, the number and variety of missions performed by MASS-2 continued to expand. The AN/TPQ-10 Radar Course Direction Control is proving to be one of the most versatile and effective weapons systems employed in this conflict. Recent interest in TPQ-10 for the emergency COA and paradrop resupply missions in additions to the records being set in the number of missions conducted and ordnance delivered indicate even greater demands will be placed on the TPQ-10 system during the coming monsoon.

(2) The effort of operating eight functional air support agencies over an extensive area has created certain command and control problems as well as difficulty in maintenance and resupply. The requirement for additional air support agencies in counter insurgency operations has been one of the major lessons learned during the present conflict. The planned arrival of MASS-3 in-country during November will greatly alleviate many of the problems. With 2 MASS in direct support of each division the air support system should greatly improve its effectiveness.

H. Hunter, Jr.
H. HUNTER Jr.