

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 O 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 - 3rd Marine Division Command Post, PHU BAI

Direct Air Support Center
 Air Support Radar Team "C"

- (4) Detachment BRAVO - 3rd Marine Division (Forward) Command
 Post, DONG HA, RVN.

Direct Air Support Center
 Air Support Radar Team "D"

b. Period Covered. 1 November through 30 November 1966.

c. Key Billet Assignments.

Commanding Officer
 Executive Officer
 Operations Officer
 DASC OIC
 ASRT "B" OIC

LtCol H. HUNTER
 Major D. KARSHER
 Major R.F. GORE
 Capt. R.M. ONDRICK
 2/Lt J.L. THASKER

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
 AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12
 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10
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Mass-2

Grand Chron

Nov 1966

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Detachment ALPHA

DASC OIC

ASRT "C" OIC

Detachment BRAVO

DASC OIC

ASRT "D" OIC

Administration Officer

Services Officer

Communications Officer

Major J.P. FOX

Capt. J. QUIDAS

1/Lt. T.J. KOONTZ

Major C.W. OLSEN

Capt. A.J. PARDINI

1/Lt. L.R. MINIUM

1/Lt. R.L. KING

1/Lt. E.G. STUCKRATH

Capt. J.W. AYERS

2. Sequential Listing of Significant Events.

- 1 Nov. (U) Commanding Officer and staff visited Det C-1, 5th Special Forces Group to discuss radar bombing support of the special forces camps.
- 2 Nov. (U) The staff Det C-1, 5th Special Forces Group visited MASS-2 to discuss radar controlled paradrops for the camps. The staff toured the DASC and ASRT to observe air support operations.
- 4 Nov. (U) ASRT "B" conducted the first TPQ-10 strikes controlling the A6A "intruder".
- 6 Nov. (C) ASRT "A" (CHU LAI) delivered emergency TPQ-10 strikes in support of special forces unit from DET A-102, TIEN PHU. First bombs on target in eight minutes after initial call, special forces units captured enemy position and gave battle damage as 2 KIA and 4 probable KIA and 4 strikes.
- 7 Nov. (U) Delivered lecture to VMCJ-1 on capabilities of TPQ-10 system to position photo aircraft.
- 8 Nov. (C) ASRT "B" conducted first tactical paradrop under TPQ-10 control at the request of Det A-109, THUONG DUC. The drop was conducted at 5500 feet and all chutes landed in the drop zone.
- 9 Nov. (C) MASS-2 received warning order to be prepared to move ASRT's out of DONG HA on short notice due to proximity of long range enemy artillery. Reconnaissance parties sent to QUANG TRI and KHE SANH.
- 10 Nov. (U) ASRT "D" conducted practice radar approaches to DONG HA airfield to develop emergency GCA procedures. Four runs conducted with excellent results.
- 12 Nov. (S) ASRT "C" conducted first TPQ-10 strikes into North Vietnam. Controlled 6 A6A "Intruders" each carrying 28 500 pound bombs against enemy anti-aircraft sites near the Demilitarized Zone. Mission covered by ECM aircraft from VMCJ-1. This continuing operation given code name HEAVY HAND (U).

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- 13 Nov. (C) During Operation HEAVY HAND the TPQ-10 monitored the first "fully automatic" A6A strikes using the DIANE (Digital Integrated Attack Navigation Equipment) system. All bombs on targets.
- 15 Nov. (C) MASS-2 received a warning order to be prepared to displace the squadron command post to the 3rd Marine Division Command Post, PHU BAI.
- 16 Nov. (C) Commanding Officer and Operations Officer made a reconnaissance of the PHU BAI vital area and contacted the Chief of Staff, 3rd Marine Division on possible CP and ASRT locations.
- 18 Nov. (S) Conducted planning with Det C-1, 5th Special Forces Group for possible TPQ-10 support for Operation LONGSTREET. This operation consists of a long range penetration by special forces to conduct raids behind enemy lines.
- (U) Major General ROBERTSHAW, CG, 1st MAW visited the Direct Air Support Center at DONG HA.
- 19 Nov. (C) The Direct Air Support Center and ASRT at CUH LAI were transferred to MASS-3.
- 20 Nov. (C) Received order to displace Air Support Radar Team "C" from DONG HA to PHU BAI to support 3rd Marine Division.
- 22 Nov. (C) Air Support Radar Team "C" airlifted by KC-130 to PHU BAI.
- 23 Nov. (C) Air Support Radar Team "C" commences operations at PHU BAI.
- 24 Nov. (C) Rear Area Defense Commander (CO, 11th Marines) increased ground defense posture due to intelligence reports of increased VC activity in area. During evening of 24-25 November adjacent units (7th Eng. Bn., 11th Mar) were probed by VC units. MASS-2 continued increased defensive posture for the rest of November.
- 29 Nov. (U) Direct Air Support Center at DANANG controlled air operations in support of Operation MISSISSIPPI

3. Statistical Data.a. Direct Air Support Centers.

	Total Missions			
	Fixed Wing	Helicopter	Med-Evac**	Total
DASC, 1stMarDiv CP	232	1060	(287)	1292
DASC, 3rdMarDiv CP	315	506	(63)	821
DASC, 3rdMarDiv(FWD) CP	619	704	(56)	1323

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	Total Missions			
	<u>Fixed Wing</u>	<u>Helicopter</u>	<u>Med-Evac**</u>	<u>Total</u>
*DASG, Task Force XRAY CP	511	350	(215)	1061
TOTALS	1,477	3,020	(621)	4,497

* Transferred to MASS-3 on 19 November 1966

** Med-Evacs are included within the helicopter mission

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>
*ASRT "A" - CHU LAI	268	365	280	398.875
ASRT "B" - DANANG	284	249	320	504.375
ASRT "C" - PHU BAI	337	678	358	957.775
ASRT "D" - DONG HA	517	777	538	1,378.750
TOTALS	1,406	2,069	1,496	3,239.775

* Transferred to MASS-3 on 19 November 1966

4. Narrative Summary.

a. (U) Administration. The average overall strength of the squadron decreased from last month due to the transfer of personnel to MASS-3 and normal rotation. The average monthly strength was:

Officers	43
Enlisted (USMC)	190
Enlisted (USN)	2

The following promotions were effected during the period: One Lieutenant to Captain, one Staff Sergeant to Gunnery Sergeant, three Sergeants to Staff Sergeant, thirteen Corporals to Sergeant, ten Lance Corporals to Corporals, ten Private First Class to Lance Corporal, and one Private to Private First Class.

b. (U) Civil Affairs. During the month, First Lieutenant B.M. BIGGS instructed the faculty members of HOA MY Primary School in basic English.

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c. (C) Special Services. Special services consisted of several beach runs, nightly movies, USO shows, continued use of the squadron book exchange library, weight lifting room, volleyball court and archery range.

d. Operations and Training.

(1)(C) At the beginning of the reporting period, four Direct Air Support Centers and four Air Support Radar Teams were in active support of operations within I Corps Tactical Zone. On 19 November, the Direct Air Support Center and Air Support Radar Team at CHU LAI were transferred to Marine Air Support Squadron Three. On 22 November, Air Support Radar Team "C" was displaced from DONG HA to PHU BAI to provide better support for the PHU BAI TAOR. Up until this time two Air Support Radar Teams had been located at DONG HA to control the heavy air operations in Operation PRAIRIE area.

(2)(C) As a result of the heavier radar bombing commitments, the total tonnage during November far exceeded any month since the AN/TPQ-10 systems were introduced into Vietnam. During the month 1406 missions were flown, dropping 3,239.38 tons of bombs on 2,069 targets (1.56 tons/target). This was an increase of 400 tons over the previous records set during October 1966. Since arriving in Vietnam, the Air Support Radar Teams of this squadron have controlled 13,017 missions and dropped 18,171.28 tons of ordnance.

(3)(C) During this reporting period, the AN/TPQ-10 system demonstrated its full capabilities as it was used to conduct offensive air operations in North Vietnam, provide deep air support for ground units in I Corps area, provide close air support for special forces units in close combat with the enemy, control C-123 and C-130 aircraft during radar controlled parachute resupply operations, position photo aircraft for night photography missions, and finally to provide ground controlled approaches to DONG HA airfield.

(4) (S) On 12 November, MASS-2 and VMA(AW) 242 (A6A) commenced Operation HEAVY HAND against enemy anti-aircraft units located just north of the DMZ. During this operation 46 strikes were flown into North Vietnam as well as 87 strikes into the DMZ. The strikes into North Vietnam also included EF-10B and EA-6A aircraft to provide ECM coverage against fire control radars. Despite over 850 anti-aircraft weapons reported in the strike area, all strikes were successfully accomplished against only moderate flak.

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(5)(C) During November, there were indications of increased enemy activity in the vicinity of the squadron command post. The Rear Area Defense Coordinator provided the squadron with timely intelligence data and squadron security posts were alerted prior to any units in the area being probed by the V.C.

(6)(C) Basic training during the month consisted of improving ground defense positions, lectures on Scouting and Patrolling; The Nature of the Enemy, and Prevention of Venereal Disease.

e. Supply and Services (C)

(1) Supply support for the AN/TPQ-10 continued to improve during November. The squadron developed and submitted to higher echelons recommended lists of maintenance float and insurance items to further improve TPQ-10 maintenance.

(2) Supply support for critical generator parts improved during November however this area of supply still requires constant supervision. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Generator Inspection team surveyed the squadron generator sites and reported them in satisfactory condition.

(3) The squadron utilities section continued to work on improving the camp area. An extension to the Staff NCO Club and shelters for the AN/TPQ-10 antenna were completed during the period. In addition work on improving the Motor Transport Area was begun.

5. (C) Commanders Comments. Prior to 19 November, this squadron controlled air support operations on a 220 mile front in four large Tactical Area of Responsibility. The arrival of MASS-3 has allowed this squadron to reduce its lines of communications and concentrate its efforts to the northern portion of I Corps Tactical Zone. The planned future employment of a Marine Air Support Squadron in direct support of each division will further improve the command and control of air support operations.

H. Hunter, Jr.
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