



### MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON-3

Marine Wing Headquarters Group-1 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac FPO San Francisco, California 96602



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From: Commanding Officer

To: Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Headquarters Group-One (Attn. S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology, submission of

MASS-3
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Ref:

- (a) MCO 5750.2
- (b) wgo 5750.1B
- (c) Gruo 5750.1
- 1. In accordance with the instructions contained in references (a), (b), and (c), the subject chronology is submitted.

2. Narrative Summary. Marine Air Support Squadron-Three arrived in Chu Lai, RVM aboard the USS Jennings County (IST-846) on 10 Nov 1966. Upon joining the First MAW, the squadron numbered 27 Officers and 95 Enlisted. The personnel immediately began phasing into DASC and ASRT operations. On 17 Nov, an ASRT was deployed to Quang Ngai and operational the following day. Although operationally controlled by MASS-3, the DASC and two ASRT's continued to be included in the daily operational summaries of MASS-2 through 19 Nov. On 20 Nov, MASS-3 assumed reporting responsibility for its three air support agencies. Statistical data for this squadron is computed from a data base date of 20 Nov 1966.

As the tempo of operations increased, there was a likewise step-up in the construction of the squadron camp-site. Working spaces were moved into on 25 Nov and a routine schedule of activity established. Control of three defensive bunkers on the western edge of the squadron perimeter was assumed at this time. These positions form a key link in the defensive perimeter of Sub-Sector I in the Chu Lai Defense Command. Construction of the living quarters continued with all available hands augmenting Mobile Construction Bn. 3 in a variety of skilled and unskilled tasks and labors.

On 15 December, the squadron (now numbering 151 men) moved into the living quarters and enjoyed a steak dinner in the newly completed messhall. The presence of Col W. L. Atwater highlighted the first meal served by the squadron. Hot water showers were turned on that evening and enjoyed by all. Prior to completion of the camp-site, squadron personnel had been billeted by MMCS-7 and Task Force X-RAY. Construction and various improvement projects continue on bunkers, services working areas, and supply storage facilities.

As the year closed, the squadron comfortably established in first class living and working areas; operating a DASC with proficiency and versatility; conducting radar bombing with unequaled accuracy; and (on two occasions) deploying are support personnel to the field in support of field operations.

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#### PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

- A. Marine Air Support Squadron-Three, Chu Lai, RVN
- (1) CP, DASC, and ASET (King Lear "B", Chu Lai)
  - (2) ASRT (King Lear "A", Quang Ngai)
- B. 10 November 31 December 1966
- C. Marine Wing Headquarters Group-One. First MAW (10 Nov 31 Dec 66)
- D. Commanding Officer

LtCol Donald L. Fenton

Executive Officer

Maj John C. Dixon

Operations Officer

Maj Desmond F. Browne

Administration Officer

2ndLt William R. Burlingame

Services Officer

Capt Robert I. Hagener

Supply Officer

Capt Otto G. Linden

Comm/Elect Officer

Capt Thomas C. J. Farr

E. November - 27 Officers and 102 Enlisted

December - 27 Officers and 140 Enlisted





## PART II

- a. Personnel. Personnel strength has grown from 27 Officers and 95 Enlisted to 27 Officers and 157 Enlisted.
- b. Administration. The proper administration of personnel matters and processing of reports was extremely difficult due to the absence of the required Group and Wing references.
- c. Welfare Programs. An elaborate Christmas Dinner was served in the squadron messhall after which gifts were given out by the Commanding Officer to all personnel.
- d. Air Operations. Air support operations were successfully conducted throughout the period of this chronology and are as summarized below:

DASC Fixed Wing Missions controlled		<u>ov</u> .96	<u>DE</u> 70	<u>c</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> 902
Helo Missions controlled	4	.28	14	17	1845
ASRT's Missions controlled	A 114	B 121	<u>A</u> 504	B 432	TOTAL 11.71
Targets hit	153	125	789	617	1684
Ordnance dropped (tons)	155	273	763	705	1896

# e. Special Operations.

(1) Mobile DASC. During operation "Rio Blance", 19 - 26 Nov, MASS-3 provided two (2) officers to assist in control of air operations flown in support of the 7th Marines. In actuality, these officers were directly responsible for the control of twenty-one (21) fixed wing and one-hundred forty-five (145) helo missions.

On tem (10) hours notice the considered a Media (vivi) DASC for

On tem (10) hours notice, the squadron deployed a Mobile (mini) DASC for operation "Sierra" in support of the same unit during the period 12-18 Dec. This DASC had complete control of all Marine air support missions within "Sierra" TAOR and controlled forty-five (45) fixed wing and ninety-three (93) helo missions. Air control results were excellent and comments of praise concerning the DASC's proficiency and ability were received from participating air and ground units. The Mobile DASC consisted of:

3 Officers	EQUIPMENT	COMMUNICATIONS	POWER
	2 M-35	2 PRC 25	1 PU 239
8 Enlisted Men	1 Van (mounted)	2 PRC 41, 1 TRC 75	

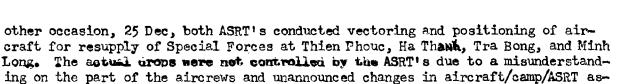
<sup>(2)</sup> Special Forces Camps Resupply. On 28 Nov 1966, the Quang Ngai ASRT controlled the paradrop resupply of two Special Forces Camps located a Gia Vuc and Minh Long. All drops were within 100 meters of the drop zone center ints. Gia Vuc received ten (10) chutes of foodstuffs totalling 11,000 pounds while Minh Long was the recipient of eight (8) chutes which carried 6,500 pounds of POL. On one

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signment and scheduled time on target.



- (3) Flare Drops. On 21 and 22 Dec, King Lear Bravo controlled a C-117 under IFR conditions in making flare drops around the CLDC. A total of twenty-three (23) flares were dropped and all on target. These drops were run in between scheduled ordnance missions.
- (4) GCA Practice. King Lear Alphe conducted GCA practice with a U. S. Army OIC aircraft to the Quang Ngai airfield on 30 Nov. The results were excellent in all respects and minimums of 300 and I appear within the capability of the equipment.

