

MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON-3
 Marine Wing Headquarters Group-1
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:DFB: gww
 5750
 3 January 1967

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, RVN aboard the USS Jennings County (LST-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 MACS-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 unequalled accuracy; and (on two occasions) deploying air support personnel to the field in support of field operations.

D. L. Fenton
 D. L. FENTON

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

- A. Marine Air Support Squadron-Three, Chu Lai, RVN
- (1) CP, DASC, and ASRT (King Lear "B", Chu Lai)
- (2) ASRT (King Lear "B", 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 O. J. Farr
- E. November - 27 Officers and 102 Enlisted
- December - 27 Officers and 140 Enlisted

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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:

<u>DASC</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Fixed Wing Missions controlled	196	706	902
Helo Missions controlled	428	1417	1845

<u>ASRT's</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Missions controlled	114	121	504	432	1171
Targets hit	153	125	789	617	1684
Ordnance dropped (tons)	155	273	763	705	1896

e. Special Operations.

(1) Mobile DASC. During operation "Rio Blanco", 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 ten (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:

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

(2) Special Forces Camps Resupply. On 28 Nov 1966, the Quang Ngai ASRT controlled the paradrop resupply of two Special Forces Camps located at Gia Vuc and Minh Long. All drops were within 100 meters of the drop zone center points. 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 FOB. On one

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other occasion, 25 Dec, both ASRT's conducted vectoring and positioning of aircraft for resupply of Special Forces at Thien Phouc, Ha Thanh, Tra Bong, and Minh Long. The actual drops were not controlled by the ASRT's due to a misunderstanding on the part of the aircrews and unannounced changes in aircraft/camp/ASRT assignment 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 Practise. King Lear Alpha 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 1 appear within the capability of the equipment.