

MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON 3
 Marine Air Control Group 18
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

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FILE NO 220-68

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3:CDG:jdd
 5750
 6 April 1968
 0040-68

From: Commanding Officer.

To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group 18

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C
 (b) GruO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, MASS 3, 1 - 31 March 1968

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the MASS 3 command chronology for March 1968 is submitted as enclosure (1).

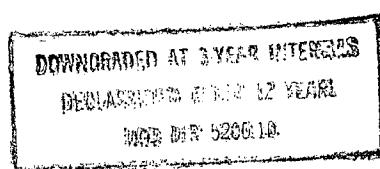
2. This letter becomes unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

J. O. Gregerson
 J. O. GREGERSON

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CMD CHRON



ENCLOSURE (4)
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY (U)

MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON 3

1 ~ 31 March 1968

Chu Lei, RVN

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. (U) Commanding Officer LtCol John O. GREGERSON
Executive Officer Maj William J. SULLIVAN
Operations Officer Maj George B. TOWNSEND, Jr.
Comm-Elect Officer Capt Charlton H. BLANKS
Services Officer Capt James A. VOLLENDORF
Supply Officer 1st Lt Edmund E. WALSH, Jr. (1-23 Mar 68)
Administrative Officer 1st Lt William C. HUNDLEY (23-31 Mar 68)
Capt George F. WARD, Jr.
2. (C) Marine Air Support Squadron 3, Chu Lai, RVN.
 - a. CP, Chu Lai, RVN
 - b. DASC, Chu Lai, RVN (1-27 Mar 68)
 - c. DASC One, ASRT Alfa and ASRT Charlie, Da Nang, RVN.
 - d. DASC Two and ASRT Bravo, Khe Sanh, RVN
 - e. Detachment, MASS 3, Camp Evans and Ca Lu area, RVN (28-31 Mar 68)
3. (C) 35 officers and 180 enlisted.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART II - SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

March opened with the squadron operating air support control agencies throughout the length of I Corps. Squadron effort was focused throughout the month on supporting the DASC and ASRT at Khe Sanh in support of operation Scotland.

Activity at Khe Sanh continued at a fast pace. NVA artillery, rockets and mortars continued to pound the 26th Marines' perimeter while relatively good weather throughout the month allowed US airpower to pound the NVA. Midway through the month, ASRT Bravo began to experience maintenance problems due to the shock of repeated near misses at the site. Similar problems with radio antennas were experienced throughout the month at both DASC and ASRT sites; however none of those problems shut down operations except for brief periods. Of particular interest was the shelling experienced on 17 March. That day the DASC bunker took three direct hits, one of which ripped open the overhead of the entrance passageway. Another of those hits damaged the DASC generator. During this same attack the communications bunker took a direct hit and a AN/MRC-87 parked outside was destroyed, also by a direct hit. During the month the Khe Sanh detachment suffered four casualties (one from a sniper), bringing the squadron's total to seven WIA for the Khe Sanh operation.

On 7 March a single manager concept was introduced which placed some 1st MAW assets under control of 7th Air Force. As a result the Da Nang DASC became subordinate to I DASC and the Khe Sanh DASC became subordinate to DASC V. This realignment usurped many of the functions that Marine DASC's had customarily performed. As the month drew to a close, the normal control and coordination problems arising from the realignment were being worked out, though not to everyone's satisfaction. One specific result of the new concept was that the TPQ-10 missions in support of 1st Mar Div dropped from a daily average of ten to five.

On 27 March the squadron fielded a detachment to augment 1st Air Cavalry Division headquarters for operation PEGASUS. In anticipation of such a move the Chu Lai DASC was dissolved on 27 March and the functions gradually handed over to the Americal Division.

During the month of March the Khe Sanh DASC provided weather, save-a-plane and enemy fire information in support of 1st MAW OP-PLAN 3-68 during resupply operations to the hill complex northwest of Khe Sanh. Approximately 60 resupply missions were coordinated involving over 700 helicopter sorties and over 800 fixed wing sorties.

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PART III - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. (C) Operations. Air support operations for the month:

	<u>DASC</u>			
	<u>Chu Lai</u>	<u>Da Nang</u>	<u>Khe Sanh</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fixed-wing missions	381	696	1962	3039
Helo missions	57	748	46	851
Med-Evac missions	9	559	5	573

	<u>ASRT</u>			
	<u>ALFA</u>	<u>BRAVO</u>	<u>CHARLIE</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bombing missions	276	1752	258	2286
Targets hit	462	1814	414	2690
Ordnance dropped (tons)	655	7282	560	8497

2. (U) System operational hours as of 31 March.

	<u>ALFA (A-9)</u>	<u>BRAVO (A-17)</u>	<u>CHARLIE (A-6)</u>
Total operational hours	no logs available	13,507	18,227
Hours since Rehab	8,216	8,673	16,005
Hours during March	744	697	690

3. (U) VIP visits. The Khe Sanh detachment was visited by both Asst. Wing Commanders during the month.

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