

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

3:GDG:jdd  
5750  
5 May 1968  
044-68

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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 - 30 April 1968

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

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

*J. O. Gregerson*  
J. O. GREGERSON

MASS-3

CMO CHRON

MASS-3  
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ENCLOSURE (4)  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY (U)  
MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON 3  
1 - 30 April 1968  
Chu Lai, RVN

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. (U) Commanding Officer LtCol Johnny O. GREGGERSON  
 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 William C. HUNDLEY  
 Administrative Officer Capt George F. WARD, Jr.
2. (C) Marine Air Support Squadron 3, Chu Lai, RVN.
  - a. CP, Chu Lai, RVN
  - b. DASC One, ASRT Alfa and ASRT Charlie (1-24 Apr 68), Da Nang, RVN
  - c. DASC Two and ASRT Bravo, Khe Sanh, RVN
  - d. Detachment, MASS-3, LZ Stud, Hwy #9, RVN (1 April to 15 April 68)
3. (C) ~~27~~ officers and 183 enlisted

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PART II - SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

April found the squadron still deployed throughout the length of I Corps. In addition to detachments at Da Nang and Khe Sanh, the squadron had fielded a small liaison party to the TACP with the 1st Air Cav Division for Operation PEGASUS. As PEGASUS was superseded by SCOTLAND II, the Khe Sanh detachment said farewell to the 26th Marines and welcomed their new partners, the 1st Marine Regiment.

The big news of the month concerned the lifting of the siege of Khe Sanh by Marine and Army forces in Operation PEGASUS. The Khe Sanh detachment participated in this operation, working under the control of the 1st Air Cav via RASH CONTROL. Experiences of participants in this operation made Marine Corps doctrine on tactical air support seem much more sound and valid. Target clearances were difficult to obtain; conversely when a target was passed down from higher level, it had to be carefully rechecked for validity. By 7 April the siege was nominally lifted even though the base continued to be hit sporadically by artillery hidden in Laos. For a time right after the linkup it appeared as though Khe Sanh was to be abandoned. However, after a week or so of uncertainty, a decision was made to hold Khe Sanh and keep the DASC and ASRT there. As the 1st Marines relieved the 26th Marines and commenced pushing out from the base, air activity began to pick up. Task Force Hotel was created using the 1st Marines as a nucleus and by the end of the month the Khe Sanh detachment was considered also a part of TF Hotel.

On 24 April ASRT Charlie ceased operations and loaded up to return to Okinawa. They arrived in RVN on 23 October 1967, and became operational on 5 January 1968. During its four months of operations in conjunction with ASRT Alfa, ASRT Charlie controlled 1054 radar bombing missions striking over 2000 targets with 2300 tons of ordnance.

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

	<u>Da Nang</u>	<u>Khe Sanh</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fixed-wing missions	1049	1227	2276
Helo missions	485	74	559
Med-evac missions	796	54	850

ASRT

	<u>Alfa</u>	<u>Bravo</u>	<u>Charlie</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bombing missions	259	821	137	1217
Targets hit	383	836	228	1447
Ordnance dropped (tons)	740	2963	319	4022

2. (U) System operational hours as of 30 April

	<u>A-9</u>	<u>A-17</u>	<u>A-6</u>
Total operational hours	1415	14,114	18,787
Hours since rehab	9807	9,280	16,565
Hours during April	671	607	560

3. (U) Squadron participation in operations

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agency</u>
PEGASUS/LAM SON 207	1-15 Apr 68	Khe Sanh DASC and ASRT "B"
SCOTLAND II	15 Apr 68 —	-do-
JASPER SQUARE	10-14 Apr 68	Da Nang DASC and ASRT's "A" & "C"
BRILLIANT DRAGON III	28 Apr 68 —	-do-
BALLARD VALLEY	29 Apr 68 —	-do-

4. (U) Civic action. 500 plague inoculations were given to natives in our area of responsibility. Metal roofing and cement were provided for a family that had their house burned this past month.

5. (U) Compound improvements. A ten thousand gallon metal water tank was installed for the squadron's use at Chu Lai.

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