

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

3:KPC:rmc
5750
6 Jan 1969

03-69

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group 18
Subj: Command Chronology (U)
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.10
(b) GruO 5750.1

Encl: (a) Command Chronology, MASS-3, 1 - 31 December 1968

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), the MASS-3 Command Chronology for December 1968 is submitted as enclosure (1).
2. This letter becomes unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

K. L. Scarborough
K. L. SCARBOROUGH
Acting

MASS-3
FILE NO 21-69

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ENCLOSURE (4)

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MASS-3

CMD CHRON

DEC 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY (U)
MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON 3
1-31 December 1969
Chu Lai, RVN

ENCLOSURE (1)
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Part I Organizational Data

- (U) Commanding Officer 1-31 Dec 68 LtCol William J. SULLIVAN
- Executive Officer 1-26 Dec 68 Maj Myrl S. ENGEL, Jr.
27-31 Dec 68 Maj Kenneth L. SCARBOROUGH
- Operations Officer 1-31 Dec 68 Capt Kenneth P. CLARENDON
- Services Officer 1-31 Dec 68 Capt Charles W. FISH
- Administrative Officer 1-31 Dec 68 1st/Lt John A. HODGES
- OIC, MASS-3 Det. #1 1-26 Dec 68 Maj Kenneth L. SCARBOROUGH
Da Nang 27-31 Dec 68 Capt John C. WILLIAMS
- OIC, MASS-3 Det. #2 1-31 Dec 68 Maj Charles H. MANAZIR
Vandegrift Combat
Base
- (C) Marine Air Support Squadron - 3, Chu Lai, RVN
- a. CP, Chu Lai ASRT Alfa, Chu Lai, RVN
- b. Da Nang DASC, Da Nang ASRT Alfa, Da Nang ASRT Bravo, Da Nang, RVN
- c. Vandegrift DASC, Vandegrift Combat Base, RVN
- (U) Average monthly strength of squadron:
- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Marine Officers | 36 |
| Marine Enlisted | 198 |
| Naval Officers | 0 |
| Naval Enlisted | 2 |

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Part II Narrative Summary

(C) During the month of December Da Nang ASRT A conducted a special test and evaluation project under the direction of the Seventh Air Force and Task Force Yankee of the First Marine Division.

The purpose of the project was to use the AN/TPQ-10 Radar Course Directing Central for control of C-130 aircraft dropping the 10,000 pound MK-121 bomb to clear helicopter landing zones and possible fire support bases on terrain covered by heavy canopy and dense undergrowth. Ten MK-121 bombs were dropped with satisfactory results.

The missions were conducted at 150 KTS True Air Speed (the minimum acceptable airspeed for the radar computers) and at an altitude of 6000 feet AGL. Tracking difficulties were discovered at this airspeed/ altitude at an associated target distance of 42,000 meters slant range. This was resolved by the installation of an AN/APN-154 Beacon Transponder in the bottom of the aircraft fuselage and using an extended antenna.

The aircraft was configured for a two weapon capacity with the bombs resting on sleds side by side on the deck of the aircraft. To each weapon was attached a 23 foot extraction parachute which was deployed at 30 seconds from target (2,000 meters). At 800 meters and at 400 meters respectively a "stand-by" command was transmitted by the ASRT Controller and then a single "Mark" at approximately 25 meters to target. At this time the loadmaster pulled the single restraining load-locking pin and the extraction was effected. The chute remains with the weapon during its trajectory-ostensibly providing some degree of stabilization in flight. In addition to the 30 seconds advisory, the pilot also required a one minute and two minute warning (4,000 meters and 8,000 meters to target). These periodic transmissions are given in time frames instead of meters since the Air Force crew were more familiar with this type countdown.

Ballistics information was provided by the Air Force for time of Fall, Trail, and wind offset. Zero winds were inserted into the Ballistics Computer, True Air Speed set at 150 KTS, and the appropriate target latitude entered. Organic to the time of fall figure was a programmed factor for reaction time involved with the transmission and interpretation of the release command and the physical delay of removing the bomb sled locking pin.

The results of the project proved the method of delivery accurate to 25 meters. Depending on the target location and the nature of the terrain topography this may or may not be sufficient. The weapon's Effective Casualty Radius is estimated at approximately 900 meters. Favorable results were achieved as far as clearing a desired area without creating unfavorable crater effects.

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Part III Significant Events1. (C) Operations. Air Support Operations for the month of December:DASC

	<u>Da Nang</u>	<u>Vandegrift</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Fixed Wing Missions	1,447	1,116	2,563
Helio Missions	779	297	1,076
Mod-Evac Missions	666	267	933

ASRT

	<u>Chu Lai "A"</u>	<u>Da Nang "A"</u>	<u>Da Nang "B"</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Bombing Missions	248	263	163	674
Targets Hit	320	386	237	943
Visual Targets	∅	∅	∅	∅
Ordnance dropped (tons)	680.72	737.19	484.07	1,901.98
Sorties	252	330	198	780 680

2. (U) System operating hours as of 31 December 1968:

	<u>A-7</u>	<u>A-9</u>	<u>A-15</u>
Total operating hours	19,081	22,666	UNKNOWN*
Hours since rehab.	14,687	11,666	7,926
Hours during December	695	687	712

*Log book doesn't go that far back

3. (U) MASS-3 Units Participated in the following operations during the month of December:

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Hardin Falls	2-31 Dec	Chu Lai ASRT Alfa
Fayette Canyon	15-31 Dec	-do-
Meade River	1-9 Dec	Da Nang DASC, ASRT Alfa and Bravo
Taylor Common	7-31 Dec	-do-
Scotland II	1-31 Dec	Vandegrift DASC
Dawson River	1-31 Dec	-do-

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4. (U) Civic Action

During the month of December MASS-3 MEDCAP treated 148 persons. 200 bars of soap were distributed throughout Trung Toan Hamlet for hygienic purposes.

On 3 December the MASS-3 Civic Action Officer passed out 11 scholarships to children of Trung Toan and San Hai hamlets.

On 25 December a Christmas party was held at the Trung Toan Hamlet office. 500 children attended. Ice cream, candy, nuts, and cookies were served. Toys were given out as Christmas gifts.

During the month of December 164 children were brought to the MASS-3 area to attend movies shown by the MASS-3 Civic Action Team.

During the month of December ten bags of cement were given to individuals in San Hai and Trung Toan Hamlets.