

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

**CONFIDENTIAL**

3:HGB:dls  
 5750  
 9 September 1969  
 SER: 23-69

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From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group-18(Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.10  
 (b) GruO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, MASS-3, 1-31 August 1969

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), the MASS-3 Command Chronology for August 1969 is submitted as enclosure (1).

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

*W. H. Jackson Jr.*  
 W. H. JACKSON JR.

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Marine Air Support Squadron-3

1-31 August 1969

Chu Lai, Da Nang RVN

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Part I Organizational Data

- (U) Commanding Officer 1-31 August 1969 Lt Col William H JACKSON JR.  
 Executive Officer 1-31 August 1969 Maj Jerry D. ODEN  
 Operations Officer 1-31 August 1969 Maj Donald R. HUFFMAN  
 Services Officer 1-31 August 1969 Capt Marvin L. CREEEL  
 Admin Officer 1-31 August 1969 1stLt Wilkes R. MORGAN  
 OIC, MASS-3 Det.  
 #1 Da Nang 1-9 August 1969 Maj Donald S. CREAL JR.
- (C) MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON-3, Chu Lai, Da Nang RVN  
 a. MASS-3 CP, Chu Lai, RVN, 1-31 August 1969  
 b. MASS-3 CP, Da Nang, RVN, 1-31 August 1969  
 c. Da Nang DASC, Da Nang ASRT, Da Nang RVN, 1-31 August 1969  
 d. An Hoa ASRT, An Hoa, RVN, 1-31 August 1969  
 e. Chu Lai ASRT, Chu Lai, RVN, 1-31 August 1969
- (U) Average monthly strength of Squadron:  
 Marine Officers 45  
 Marine Enlisted 218  
 Naval Officers 0  
 Naval Enlisted 2

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Part II Narrative Summary

(C) Several important moves were made by MASS-3 during the month of August. These moves revolved around the movement of the CP from Chu Lai to Da Nang. On 9 August the first element moved by truck convoy carrying two truck loads of operational equipment. On 9 August the S sections followed via C-130 carrying the necessary field equipment needed to maintain their normal work and become fully operational with a minimum loss of time. A five truck convoy moved additional equipment to Da Nang on 14 August. Finally on 20 August the largest element, including Motor Transport and Supply, traveled by ship to Da Nang. The S sections were temporarily established in the former 1st LAAM Bn headquarters building. Within two weeks the sections were completely moved up to Hill 327 where the entire Squadron will eventually be located. Supply and Motor Transport sections will remain at the MACG-18 area until adequate facilities are provided on Hill 327. With the exceptions of Chu Lai ASRT, An Hoa ASRT, and Da Nang DASC all other elements will be located on Hill 327. A number of Communications personnel are temporarily located on Hill 200 and will remain there until the DASC radios can be effectively removed from Hill 327.

Previous to MASS-3's move to Hill 327, the Hill was occupied by "C" Battery of 1st LAAM Bn, a much smaller unit. Facilities were not adequate for a unit the size of MASS-3. Additional Southeast Asian Huts were moved by truck from Hill 200 and MACG-18 area. Upon arrival at Hill 327 several of these huts were damaged and require extensive repair before they can be occupied. The water stowage capability (6000 gal) is inadequate, there are no wash basins installed and shower facilities are totally inadequate. Work requests have been submitted and plans made to rectify this situation.

Plans are in progress to build an annex to the mess-hall, which will provide space for additional equipment and facilities to properly feed the Squadron.

It is expected that all hands will gain considerable experience in all phases of the self help program before the Squadron is fully encamped.

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Chu Lai and Da Nang ASRTs were both moved to new locations during the month of August. Chu Lai ASRT is now located near MAG-12 in Chu Lai. The Naval Support Activity Detachment, Chu Lai built the bunker, and the ASRT team is still in the process of fortifying it. Da Nang ASRT moved from Hill 200 to the Squadron CP on Hill 327. The 7th Engineers built the bunker for Da Nang ASRT. Neither systems experienced any operational difficulties as a result of the move. Each ASRT was operational shortly after arrival.

During the month of August, elements of MASS-3 participated in a new and highly effective type of operation in support of 1st Mar Div. A Marine Reconnaissance team spotted a large concentration of enemy troops traveling along a trail complex each evening just prior to darkness. A representative of the First Marine Division contacted Da Nang DASC and discussed a possible AN/TPQ-10 strike to be pre-planned with aircraft on station and called in upon observation of enemy movement. Da Nang DASC arranged for the aircraft, and did a great deal to coordinate information between the Division and the ASRT's. Both An Hoa and Da Nang ASRTs were briefed prior to the night of execution. The operation required very precise timing and careful coordination between the Recon team, Da Nang DASC, supporting aircraft and the ASRTs. The execution was very successful resulting in 48 enemy KIAs.

MASS-3 has provided representatives which have discussed the operation, and formulated guidelines for future missions of this kind. The report concerns coordination problems which arose during execution, and was compiled at the request of the CG 1st Marine Division.

The MASS-3 Civic Action team has been in a period of transition from completion of its program in Trung Toan hamlet near Chu Lai, and acquiring another area of responsibility in the Da Nang area. Due to transition of the squadron to the new area, the team has not yet began working in the Da Nang area.

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Part III Significant Events

1. (C) Operations: Air Support Operations for the month of August:

	DASC				
Da Nang 1-31 August 1969	USMC	USN	USAF	USA	TOTAL
Fixed Wing Missions	1365	16	197	38	1616
Helo Missions	788	Ø	Ø	Ø	788
Med-Evacs	888	Ø	Ø	Ø	888

	<u>ASRT 1-31 August 1969 Inclusive (USMC)</u>			
	<u>Da Nang</u>	<u>An Hoa</u>	<u>Chu Lai</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bombing Missions	67	302	102	471
Targets Hit	124	528	240	892
Visual Targets	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
Ordnance Dropped (Tons)	223.548	1180.969	317.769	1722.286
Sorties	67	303	108	478

	<u>ASRT 1-31 August 1969 Inclusive (USAF)</u>			
	<u>Da Nang</u>	<u>An Hoa</u>	<u>Chu Lai</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bombing Missions	4	20	11	35
Targets Hit	6	27	20	53
Visuals Target	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
Ordnance Dropped (Tons)	4.100	46.740	47.234	98.074
Sorties	5	26	17	48

	<u>ASRT 1-31 August 1969 Inclusive (USN)</u>			
	<u>Da Nang</u>	<u>An Hoa</u>	<u>Chu Lai</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bombing Missions	1	Ø	1	2
Targets Hit	2	Ø	2	4
Visual Targets	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
Ordnance Dropped (Tons)	2.63	Ø	2.104	4.734
Sorties	2	Ø	2	4

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ASRT 1-31 August 1969 Inclusive (Totals)

	<u>Da Nang</u>	<u>An Hoa</u>	<u>Chu Lai</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Bombing Missions	72	322	114	508
Targets Hit	132	555	262	949
Visual Targets	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
Ordnance Dropped (Tons)	230.278	1227.709	367.107	1825.094
Sorties	74	329	127	530

2. System operating hours as of 31 August 1969:

	<u>Da Nang</u> (Float)	<u>Da Nang</u>	<u>Chu Lai</u>	<u>An Hoa</u>
	<u>A-12</u>	<u>A-11</u>	<u>A-7</u>	<u>A-1</u>
Total operating hours	Ø	6,925	24,406	*12,885
Hours since Rehab	Ø	2,524	19,972	13,629
Hours during August	Ø	292	664	688

\* Reflects only hours of operation with MASS-3

3. MASS-3 units participated in the following operations during the month of August:

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Fredrick Hill	1-31 August 1969	Chu Lai ASRT
Iron Mountain	1-31 August 1969	" " "
Genva Park	1-31 August 1969	" " "
Nantucket Beach	1-31 August 1969	" " "
Lemar Plan	1-31 August 1969	" " "
Pipestone Canyon	1-31 August 1969	Da Nang DASC, Da Nang ASRT, and An Hoa ASRT
Durham Peak	1-20 August 1969	" " " " " "

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