

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

3:CB:dls
5750
9 November 1969
SER:025-69

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

Subj: Command Chronology

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

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, Marine Air Support Squadron-3
1 - 31 October 1969

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

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

J. H. Dubois
J. H. DUBOIS

MASS-3

CMD CHRON

COPY OF 7

MASS-3
553-69

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON-3
1 - 31 October 1969
DA NANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanders and Staff Officers for the Reporting Period include:

Commanding Officer	1-31 Oct	LtCol John H. DUBOIS
Executive Officer	1-31 Oct	Maj Pasquale J. FLORIO
Administrative Officer	1-31 Oct	1stLt Wilkes R. MORGAN
Operations Officer	1-31 Oct	Maj Donald R. HUFFMAN
Services Officer	1-31 Oct	Maj Charles R. KEITH

2. Marine Air Support Squadron-3, Da Nang RVN

- a. CP, Da Nang ASRT, Da Nang DASC, Da Nang, RVN 1-31 Oct 1969
- b. An Hoa ASRT, An HOA, RVN 1-31 Oct 1969
- c. Chu Lai ASRT, Chu Lai, RVN 1-31 Oct 1969

3. Average monthly strength of Squadron

Marine Officers	46
Marine Enlisted	223
Naval Officers	0
Naval Enlisted	2

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of October MASS-3 continued to provide control and coordination for fixed wing and helicopter missions in support of III MAF operations. The CO of MACG-18 visited the Da Nang DASC on 8 and 25 October to observe the DASC in operation. During the period 14 through 16 October personnel from the Da Nang DASC established and operated an airborne DASC in a KC-130 from VMGR-152. The operation was considered very successful and the personnel concerned received very valuable training. A message of appreciation was received from CG, 1st MarDiv for the role DASC played in the emergency extraction of the Big Flower Recon Team on 22 October. Captain J. J. MCNAMARA relieved Major C. P. SWANN as OIC of Da Nang DASC on 23 October.

A helicopter direction center (HDC) was established at Landing Zone Ryder to aid the helicopter operations in Antenna Valley in support of the 7th Marine Regiment. The intent of the HDC was to keep track of all the helicopters in the 7th Marines' area by monitoring the various nets without benefit of having the aircraft check in with the HDC. Contributing to the problem was the fact that the helicopter and ground units were not officially made aware of the purpose and mission of the establishment of the HDC. Plans are now complete for the establishment of an HDC at Landing Zone Baldy. As a result of the problems ironed out at LZ Ryder, it looks very promising.

Da Nang and An Hoa ASRT's continue to receive top priority targets from the First Marine Division G-2. These targets are obtained from various forms of intelligence including agent reports, Chu Hoi statements, and aerial observer debriefs.

Aerial resupply was an important aspect of the Da Nang and An Hoa ASRT operations during October. On 7 October the 1st Marine Air Wing resupplied the 7th Marines from the air utilizing a KC-130 and the An Hoa ASRT. Twelve supply drops were made on two different targets with the 7th Marines recovering all their supplies in good condition. On several occasions since that date the An Hoa and Da Nang ASRT's have made practice drops utilizing the CH-53 helicopter and dummy loads. All drops to date have been on targets. Representatives of MASS-3 and VMCJ-1 discussed the procedures to be utilized giving as-

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assistance to VMJ-1 in accomplishing photo and infrared missions. Some problems were encountered in this regard in gaining proper artillery clearance but are expected to be worked out shortly.

An Hoa ASRT continued to provide support to the Americal Division. High priority targets are submitted on a regular basis and are struck with aircraft fraggd for that purpose through HORN DASC.

The S-4 section continued to be very busy with the completion of the addition to the mess hall, repairing sea huts, and assorted other tasks related to the establishment of a camp. There is a need to relocate the squadron offices to the top of Hill 327 to make room for billeting. The road to Hill 327 received considerable repair during the month and is holding up much better in the rain, but still far from complete. Shower and bathing facilities continue to be unsatisfactory though some headway is being made with the CB's installing the pipe which will feed the camp from the new tank which is to be constructed.

About fifteen members of the communications electronics section remain on Hill 200 to provide communication for Da Nang DASC. The DASC radios are to be remoted to Hill 327 utilizing a 25 pair cable to be installed by 5th Communications Battalion.

On 9 October the Electronics Communications Incorporated Technical Representative and three Marine technicians went to Thailand to utilize the AN/TYA-11 test bench and parts support available at an Air Force sight through an interservice agreement.

Close liaison has been established between MASS-3 and MASS-2 due to the planned redeployment of MASS-2. MASS-3 will assume control of two additional ASRT's and plans are presently under consideration concerning their support. In addition numerous personnel changes are anticipated and coordination between the squadron's will enable these transitions to take place with minimal effect upon MASS-3 strength and operational commitments.

The squadron Civic Action program during the month of October was again limited to liaison and cooperation with the MACG-18 Civic Action team and its endeavors. Coordination between the MASS-3 corpsman and the MACG-18 medical officer is currently underway to prepare to begin a squadron MedCap program in Hoi An hamlet.

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. On 5 October the Helicopter Direction Center at Landing Zone Ryder in support of the Seventh Marine Regiment became operational.
2. An aerial resupply was conducted by An Hoa ASRT on 7 October in support of the Seventh Marine Regiment.
3. CO, MACG-18 visited DASC on 8 and 25 October.
4. Communications personnel traveled to Thailand on 9 October to procure parts and test equipment for the TYA-11 from the Air Force.
5. Airborne DASC in operation for the period 14 through 16 October.
6. On 20 October a HUIE gunship from HML-367 under DASC control accounted for 20 enemy KIA.
7. Big Flower Recon Team was emergency extracted on 22 October. A message of appreciation was received from CG, 1st MarDiv.
8. Captain J. J. MCNAMARA became OIC of the Da Nang DASC on 23 October.
9. Representatives from the squadron met with VMJ-1 operations to discuss TPQ assistance in aerial photography missions on 28 October.
10. An all hand working party was staged 31 October, under the "self help" program. Work was concentrated on the improvement of the living facilities and the general police of the squadron compound.
11. The following operational data for the reporting period included:

<u>Da Nang DASC</u>	A. Da Nang DASC					<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USAF</u>	<u>USA</u>		
Fixed wing missions	667	11	32	20		730

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Helo missions	740	0	0	0	0	740
Med-evacs	590	0	0	0	0	590

B. ASRT 1-31 October 1969 Inclusive (USMC)

	<u>DaNang/A-11</u>	<u>AnHoa/A-1</u>	<u>ChuLai/A-7</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bombing missions	112	118	112	402
Targets hit	182	220	251	653
visual targets	1	0	0	1
Ordnance dropped (Tons)	496.297	480.585	438.859	1415.741
Sorties	145	153	120	418

C. ASRT 1-31 October 1969 Inclusive (USAF)

	<u>DaNang/A-11</u>	<u>AnHoa/A-1</u>	<u>ChuLai/A-7</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bombing missions	0	6	2	8
Targets hit	0	8	5	13
Visual targets	0	0	0	0
Ordnance dropped (Tons)	0	17.332	7.450	24.782
Sorties	0	8	3	11

D. ASRT 1-31 October 1969 Inclusive (USN)

	<u>DaNang/A-11</u>	<u>AnHoa/A-1</u>	<u>ChuLai/A-7</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bombing missions	7	21	13	41
Targets hit	9	28	20	57
Visual targets	0	0	0	0
Ordnance dropped (Tons)	19.199	56.068	27.586	102.853
Sorties	15	45	21	81

E. ASRT 1-31 October 1969 Inclusive (TOTALS)

	<u>DaNang/A-11</u>	<u>AnHoa/A-1</u>	<u>ChuLai/A-7</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bombing missions	149	178	127	454
Targets hit	191	256	276	723
Visual targets	1	0	0	1
Ordnance dropped (Tons)	515.496	553.985	473.895	1543.376
Sorties	160	206	144	510

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	<u>Da Nang/A-11</u>	<u>An Hoa/A-1</u>	<u>Chu Lai/A-7</u>
Total operating hours	7,626	14,026	25,280
Hours since rehab	3,225	14,770	20,846
Hours during October	450	542	570

G. During October 1969 MASS-3 participated in the following operations:

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Iron Mountain	Chu Lai ASRT
Frederic Hill	Chu Lai ASRT
Geneva Park	Chu Lai ASRT
Nantucket Beach	Chu Lai ASRT
Pipestone Canyon	Da Nang DASC, Da Nang ASRT, An Hoa ASRT

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