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

3:JPF:mej  
5750  
5 April 71  
03A09571

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group 18  
Subj: Command Chronology

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

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, Marine Air Support Squadron 3 (REIN)  
1-31 March 1971

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the Marine Air Support Squadron 3 (REIN) (MASS-3) Command Chronology for March 1971 is submitted as enclosure (1).

2. This letter becomes unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).  
IAW OPNAVINST 5510.1C.

*W. C. Simanikas*  
W. C. SIMANIKAS

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MASS-3

MAR 1971

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON 3 (REIN)  
1-31 MARCH 1971  
DA NANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

## 1. Command and Staff Officers for the reporting period include:

Commanding Officer	1-31 Mar	LtCol W. C. SIMANIKAS
Executive Officer	1-31 Mar	Maj V. J. FULLADOSA
Administrative Officer	1-31 Mar	Capt P. J. CONNOR
Operations Officer	1-31 Mar	Maj J. P. FOX
Services Officer	1-31 Mar	Capt L. P. KLIPP
Comm/Elect Officer	1-31 Mar	Capt D. P. ABRAMS
OIC Da Nang DASC	1-31 Mar	Maj C. S. CAHASKIE
OIC Da Nang ASRT	1-31 Mar	Capt F. H. KOS
OIC Khe Sanh	1-30 Mar	Capt G. C. KIRKLAND
OIC Quang Tri ASRT	31 Mar	Capt G. C. KIRKLAND
OIC Birmingham ASRT	1-31 Mar	Capt D. G. DEL MAURO

## 2. Marine Air Support Squadron 3 (REIN), Da Nang, RVN, 1-31 March 1971

- a. CP, Da Nang DASC, Da Nang ASRT, Da Nang, RVN, 1-31 March 1971
- b. Birmingham ASRT, Birmingham FSB, RVN, 1-31 March 1971
- c. Khe Sanh ASRT, Khe Sanh, RVN, 1-30 March 1971
- d. Quang Tri ASRT, Quang Tri, RVN, 31 March 1971

## 3. Average monthly strength of the Squadron:

Marine Officers	44
Marine Enlisted	175
Naval Officers	0
Naval Enlisted	1

## 4. Visits

- a. NONE

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Squadron continued normal operations during the month of March. Construction of the defensive positions at the Khe Sanh ASRT were completed by the Squadron Utilities section and a security force was provided from Squadron personnel augmented by H & HS-18 personnel.

During the month the Squadron continued to operate three ASRT's located at Da Nang, Fire Support Base Birmingham and Khe Sanh in addition to Da Nang DASC located in the 1st Marine Division CP. Control of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft continued in support of I Corps area operations.

Upon order of Headquarters XXIV Corps the Khe Sanh ASRT stood down at 0500 the morning of 31 March 1971 and prepared for retrograde to Quang Tri to continue support for Operations Dewey Canyon II and Lam Son 719. All equipment was packed, staged and ready for airlift by 0800 with the first of two CH-53s arriving by 0945. The first load was set down at the ASRT site at Quang Tri by 1015 with the fourth, and last setting down at 1230. The fifth load, with two PU-670 generators, one TRC-75 HF radio, an external lift of one TSC-15 Communications Central and four communications personnel from Marine Wing Communications Squadron-1 was to proceed directly to LZ-11, 1st MAW Hq at Da Nang. While enroute, for reasons as yet unknown, the TCS-15 was inadvertently dropped at an altitude of approximately 2000 ft AGL. The pilot reported the position of the drop as the 282 radical at 8 1/2 nautical miles off of TACAN channel 103 (Quang Tri). This position would be approximately midway between Cam Lo and Dong Ha.

The convoy departed the Khe Sanh site at 1300 and arrived at Quang Tri at 1745. While enroute the convoy encountered one ambush. No Squadron personnel were injured but medical aid was administered by the Squadron Hospital Corpsman to an Army casualty on the truck immediately in front of the Squadron lead vehicle.

The TPQ-10 was reassembled and ready for a calibration hop at 1345. An aircraft arrived on station at 1600 but the calibration hop was unsuccessful due to a bomb impact error of 300 meters. An irregularity was discovered and corrected in the slant range computer and another calibration hop was rescheduled for 1000 1 April 1971. This second attempt was successful with an average bomb impact error of 15 meters. The ASRT experienced a total lapsed time from stand down to operational status at Quang Tri of only 29 hours.

The convoy departed Quang Tri for Da Nang at 0900 1 April and, with the exception of circumventing one blown bridge North of Hi Van Pass, had an uneventful trip arriving at 1300.

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The DASC coordinated numerous insertions and extractions of reconnaissance teams from the 1st Reconnaissance Bn. A total of 305 medevac missions carrying a total of 607 casualties were controlled by the DASC. 513 fixed wing missions and 624 helicopter missions were controlled by the DASC while the three ASRTs controlled 1264 aircraft composing 881 missions engaging 1042 targets with 2,966.642 tons of ordnance.

## PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

(U) 1. Administration. The following personnel were promoted to their present rank:

Capt J. BRIGADIER  
1stLt E. F. HARTMAN  
Sgt A. J. WASCH  
L/Cpl G. C. JOYNER

(C) 2. Personnel. The following Officer joined in the month of March:

1stLt H. G. DEMMLER from H&HS-18

A total of 34 enlisted personnel joined during the month.

(U) 3. Command relationships/Command and Control. Maj Gen ARMSTRONG, CG 1st MAW visited Khe Sanh ASRT on 2 March 71. Lt Gen ROBERTSON, CG III MAF visited Khe Sanh on 7 March 71. Brigadier General E. H. SIMMONS, ADC, 1st Mar Div and Brigadier General B. K. GERIVITZ, in coming ADC, 23d Infantry Division, U. S. Army visited the DASC on 10 March 1971.

(C) 4. Air Control. The three Air Support Radar Teams and the Direct Air Support Center continued normal operations.

(C) 5. Special Operations. The DASC assisted in the recovery of eight downed helicopters and the emergency extraction of two recon teams. Khe Sanh ASRT continued operations in support of Operations Dewey Canyon II and Lam Son 719.

(U) 6. Civic Action. NONE

(C) 7. Ground Defense. None except for Khe Sanh.

(U) 8. Training. A total of fifteen hours of technical training was conducted and due to operational commitments no GMS training was conducted during the month.

(C) 9. Logistics. All sections continued to emphasize efforts in preparation for embarkation.

(C) 10. Supply. The squadron Supply Section processed 219 formal requisitions and filled 131 orders from stock for a total processing of 350 orders. There were 36 requisitions for items not carried in the supply system. The overall gross effectiveness was 60% with a total net effectiveness of 72%. The distribution of the four priorities authorized for this Squadron is as follows:

Priority	Percentage
02	10%
05	45%
12	45%
17	0%

(U) 11. Engineering. NONE

(U) 12. Maintenance. NONE

(C) 13. Communications/Electronics. All of the ASRT's were visited to provide technical assistance and conduct on site inspections. One TRC-75 was installed at Birmingham ASRT on 1 March. One GRM-98 van, received from MWCS-1, was installed on Hill 327. On 21 March one TSC-15 was installed on Hill 327 for a continuous HF net with Birmingham, Quang Tri and Khe Sanh when needed.

(U) 14. Construction. NONE

(U) 15. Motor Transport. Routine support was continued by the M. T. Section which until 23 March was combined with the H&HS-18 M. T. Section. In addition three convoys were dispatched from Da Nang to Khe Sanh in support of that ASRT.

(U) 16. Informational Services. No news releases were sent to Home Town Newspapers during March.

(U) 17. Casualties. NONE

(U) 18. Awards. 1stLts ECKERT and MOSELER each received an Air Strike Flight Medal.

(U) 19. Morale and Welfare. During the month the Squadron had the following number of personnel on R & R:

Hawaii	7 Persons
Bangkok	5 Persons
Hong Kong	2 Persons
Sydney	4 Persons
Taipei	2 Persons

The Squadron had the following number of personnel on RON:

Korat	3 Persons
Ubon	8 Persons
Udorn	8 Persons
Hong Kong	1 Person

(U) 20. Air Defense. N/A

(U) 21. Base Defense and Military Construction . Work continued, by Khe Sanh ASRT team members, to up grade the bunkers, fields of fire and perimeter defense at that site.

(C) 22. The operational statistics for the month of March 1971 includes;

A. Da Nang DASC.

<u>DA NANG DASC.</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>USAF</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Fixed Wing Missions	480	5	28	513
Helo Missions	624	0	0	624
Medevacs	305	0	0	305

B. ASRT 1-31 March 1971 Inclusive (USMC)

	<u>A-17 DA NANG</u>	<u>B-2 BIRMINGHAM</u>	<u>A-8 KHE SANH</u>	<u>A-8 QUANG TRI</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bombing Missions	46	84	78	1	209
Targets Hit	89	119	82	3	293
Visual Targets	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Dropped (Tons)	186.613	307.272	285.252	2.104	781.241
Sorties	65	96	125	1	287

C. ASRT 1-31 March 1971 Inclusive (USN)

	<u>A-17 DA NANG</u>	<u>B-2 BIRMINGHAM</u>	<u>A-8 KHE SANH</u>	<u>A-8 QUANG TRI</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bombing Missions	1	3	100	0	104



Targets Hit	1	3	103	0	107
Visual Targets	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Dropped(Tons)	4.208	9.468	528.613	0	542.289
Sorties	4	6	270	0	280

D. ASRT 1-31 March 1971 Inclusive (USAF)

	<u>A-17</u> <u>DA NANG</u>	<u>B-2</u> <u>BIRMINGHAM</u>	<u>A-8</u> <u>KHE SANH</u>	<u>A-8</u> <u>QUANG TRI</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bombing Missions	14	13	311	0	338
Targets Hit	22	16	321	0	359
Visual Targets	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Dropped(Tons)	34.118	27.262	980.615	0	1041.995
Sorties	26	24	354	0	404

E. ASRT 1-31 March 1971 Inclusive (RAAF)

	<u>A-17</u> <u>DA NANG</u>	<u>B-2</u> <u>BIRMINGHAM</u>	<u>A-8</u> <u>KHE SANH</u>	<u>A-8</u> <u>QUANG TRI</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bombing Missions	5	60	98	0	163
Targets Hit	9	90	105	0	204
Visual Targets	0	0	0	0	0
Sorties	5	61	124	0	190
Ordnance Dropped(Tons)	12.300	127.600	263.220	0	403.120

F. ASRT 1-31 March 1971 Inclusive (RVNAF)

	<u>A-17</u> <u>DA NANG</u>	<u>B-2</u> <u>BIRMINGHAM</u>	<u>A-8</u> <u>KHE SANH</u>	<u>A-8</u> <u>QUANG TRI</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Bombing Missions	5	8	54	0	67
Targets Hit	9	9	61	0	79
Visual Targets	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Dropped(Tons)	11.628	17.774	168.595	0	197.997
Sorties	9	7	87	0	103

G. ASRT 1-31 March 1971 Inclusive (TOTALS)

	<u>A-17</u> <u>DA NANG</u>	<u>B-2</u> <u>BIRMINGHAM</u>	<u>A-8</u> <u>KHE SANH</u>	<u>A-8</u> <u>QUANG TRI</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Bombing Missions	71	168	641	1	881
Targets Hit	130	237	672	3	1042
Visual Targets	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Dropped(Tons)	248.867	489.376	2226.295	2.104	2,966.642
Sorties	109	194	960	1	1264

H. ASRT Operating Hours as of 31 March 1971

	<u>A-17</u> <u>DA NANG</u>	<u>B-1</u> <u>KHE SANH/QUANG TRI</u>	<u>B-2</u> <u>BIRMINGHAM</u>
Hours in March	799	797	799
Since Rehab	3,255	N/A	N/A
Total Hours	unk	10,881	10,541