

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON 6
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36

Subj: Chronology of Significant Events from 1 January 1967 through 31 January 1967.

Ref: (a) 1stMAWO 5750.1A
(b) GruO 5750.1

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the following is submitted:

a. Organization data.

- (1) Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel W. R. MALONEY 1-31
- Executive Officer: Major E. J. SAMPLE 1-31
- Operations Officer: Major J. H. WALKER 1-31
- Logistics Officer: Major D. F. KELLEY 1-31
- Intelligence Officer: Captain N. E. BURKE 1-31
- Administration Officer: Captain K. K. KERR 1-31

(2) Marine Observation Squadron Six, Ky Ha, Republic of Vietnam

(3) Average monthly strength 170

b. Narrative of significant events occurring during this reporting period:

1 Jan 67. Weather held most of the squadron's aircraft on the ground on the first day of the new year, however Lt. ROSS managed to ferry Lt.Gen. KRULAK and party on a tour of the C.P.'s in the Chu Lai area.

3 Jan 67. Captain CHIARAMONTE carried BGen. STILES and party to Quang Ngai and returned to the VIP pad.

Major DODD'S section suppressed fire in support of a troop lift at BS 722420.

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4 Jan 67. Major KELLEY carried RAdmrl WHITE (USN) and BGen OWENS on a tour of the Chu Lai - Ky Ha Air Facilities.

Captain SWINBURN carried BGen KIM (ROKMC) to DaNang where the general met most of the I Corps Marine Commanders.

6 Jan 67. Captain SWINBURN flew Lt.Gen. CHIN (ROKMC) and BGen KIM (ROKMC) from MAG-13 to Ky Ha and return to MAG-13.

Lt. BUERGER flew Maj.Gen. NICKERSON to various C.P.'s in the DaNang area.

7 Jan 67. Lt. BODEN flew BGen STILES to various C.P.'s in the Chu Lai area.

Lt. GARNER flew Maj.Gen. NICKERSON to various points in the DaNang area.

LtCol. MALONEY acted as TAC(A) and conducted a landing zone prep in support of a 500 man troop lift into BS 792597. The UH-1E's and the transport helicopters received fire from several places and the UH-1E's suppressed this fire effectively.

8 Jan 67. Captain BURKE and Major KELLEY carried Gen Wallace M. GREENE JR., Commandant of the Marine Corps; LtGen WALT, Maj.Gen NICKERSON, BGen STILES and parties, on shuttle runs between the VIP pad and MAG-12. The party also stopped at several C.P.'s in the Chu Lai TAOR.

Lt. RANKIN carried MGen KYLE from Phu Bai to YD 532318 and return.

Lt. BALLENTINE acted as TAC(A) and led a section in armed escort of a landing of 200 troops at BS 628543. Throughout the day, Lt. BALLENTINE, Capt. ARICK, and Lt. WILSON alternated with sections providing support for the ground troops. Late in the afternoon, the weather deteriorated and on the extraction of the troops, Lt. BALLENTINE had to lead the transport helicopters into the pickup zone one group at a time. While the transport helicopters were returning to Ky Ha, one of them was forced to land at BS 788835 due to battle damage. Lt. BALLENTINE and Capt. ARICK then provided recover with their sections until the downed CH-46 could be repaired and flown out of the zone.

9 Jan 67. Maj. WALKER flew BGen KIM and party to various ROK C.P.'s.

Lt. BALLENTINE flew BGen STILES to the Quang Ngai tropod pad and while waiting there flew comedienne Martha RAYE and party to the Quang Ngai air strip.

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Capt SWINBURN led a section to cover the retraction of the troops from the site of the previous days downed CH-46. While orbiting the zone Capt SWINBURN's aircraft drew fire from BS 781828 and his wingman Lt. GARNER immediately fired rockets into the V.C. positions. Capt SWINBURN then expended "Oxwood 114" flight on the same positions.

10 Jan 67. Lt. BODEN flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) from the ROK C.P. to Chu Lai Air Freight.

Lt. PEPERSON flew MGen NICKERSON from the 111 MAF pad to the Hilltop pad.

Lt. WILSON began a busy evening for the squadron when his aircraft was shot down while attempting to pickup a Korean Marine med-evac in a "hot" zone at BS 546867. Major DODDS and Lt. BALLENTINE who were overhead at the time immediately began attacking the V.C. positions to protect both the downed crew and the Korean Marines in the zone. Capts ARICK and SWINBURN arrived on station in time to escort a CH-46 into the zone to pickup the crew, and then all four UH-1Es helped escort a "Sparrowhawk" into the zone. By this time the weather had deteriorated and night had fallen making the last portion of the operation an extremely hazardous one. Later in the evening, Capt WATERS, operating under extremely hazardous weather conditions, led the successful evacuation of ten wounded Koreans in the same area.

Unfortunately, L/Cpl SOUKUP received wounds in the stomach when, flying as Lt. WILSON's Crew Chief, he evacuated the downed aircraft and came under fire in the zone.

11 Jan 67. Major KELLEY flew Under Secretary of the Navy M.R. BALDWIN on a tour of the Chu Lai area. Also aboard the aircraft were MGen NICKERSON and BGen STILES.

12 Jan 67. Lt. RANKIN flew MGen NICKERSON around the DaNang area throughout the day.

13 Jan 67. Major KELLEY flew BGen STILES to BT 439084 and return to the VIP pad.

14 Jan 67. While inserting a reconnaissance team at BS 693485, Major DODDS' flight received and returned fire at BS 689495. The armed UH-1Es' were credited with one confirmed KBA and one probable KBA.

Operating out of Phu Bai, Lt. MOTLEY lost control of his aircraft through what was reasoned to be enemy fire striking his control surfaces. The aircraft landed in a shell crater among heavy jungle cover and all of the crew emerged alive but injured. Major HENDRIX the UH-1E section leader spotted the downed aircraft when the occupants threw out a smoke grenade, and he remained on station directing the rescue efforts.

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17 Jan 67. Lt. BALLENTINE flew BGen STILES from the VIP pad to Tam Ky and returned.

18 Jan 67. Lt BODEN flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) from the ROK C.P. to Quang Ngai and returned.

Major DODDS TAC(A)'d for the neutralization of 50 caliber positions at BS 473854. The armed UH-1Es' took and returned fire in the area.

Operating out of Phu Bai, Capt CHIARAMONTE led a section in support of an emergency reconnaissance team retraction at YD 558233. The armed UH-1Es' placed suppressive fire on V.C. positions near the zone and the transport helicopters effected the retraction unscathed.

Later in the day Capt CHIARAMONTE joined on Lt. RANKIN's wing for another emergency retraction at YC 906996.

19 Jan 67. Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES and party to several C.P.s in the Chu Lai complex.

Capt KERR flew BGen KIM on a tour of the ROK unit CP's, and received fire from BT 3217.

Lt RANKIN flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) on a tour of the Korean C.P.'s.

21 Jan 67. Lt. ROSS received fire on an approach to Nui Dau (BS 874325) with BGen STILES aboard.

Capt WATERS was leading a section in support of a troop lift when the helicopters took fire from BS 455763. The UH-1E's returned fire and Capt BURKE flying the number two position recorded 1 V.C. confirmed KBA.

22 Jan 67. Lt. THATCHER flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) and party from Chu Lai to the ROK C.P.

23 Jan 67. Capt SWINBURN flew BGen KIM from ROK C.P. to Chu Lai and return to Chu Lai.

Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES from the VIP pad to BT 325178 and returned.

24 Jan 67. Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to BS 562958, BS 573922 and return to the VIP pad.

Major KELLEY flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) on tours of the Korean Marine Corps C.P.'s.

Major DODDS launched on an emergency TAC(A) mission in response to a report by "Donahue" of V.C. in the open at BS 458713. Major DODDS controlled the expenditure of Oxwood 137 flight who recorded 8 confirmed KBA's. The armed UH-1E's received and returned fire in the same area

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and were credited with 2 confirmed KBA's.

25 Jan 67. Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Quang Ngai and return.

Capt OLSON and Lt. BODEN were both scrambled with sections to assist a Marine Force under attack at BS 633952. When a transport helicopter was shot down in the zone, all UH-1Es expended their ordnance on the V.C. positions and Capt OLSON controlled the expenditure of Oxwood 146 flight and Swiss 064 flight.

26 Jan 67. Capt ARICK led a section to support a road survey crew that had come under heavy enemy attack at BS 793409. The UH-1Es received fire from several locations and used their ordnance for suppression. Capt ARICK also controlled four flights of A-4's in attacks on V.C. bunkers and trench complexes.

Capt SWINBURN while on a med-evac mission to pickup wounded Marines from the above action near Duc Pho, diverted to assist in the attempted rescue of a downed O-1 pilot at BS 793397. While an Army UH-1E Slick landed at the site, Capt SWINBURN orbited overhead expending his ordnance on V.C. who were aiming heavy fire at both the Army UH-1B and the Marine UH-1E. The O-1 pilot could not be found at the wreckage site and the Army co-pilot took a round through the leg before leaving the zone.

27 Jan 67. Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES from Chu Lai to DaNang and return.

Lt. SAUNDERS flew RAdmrl COWAN (USN) from Chu Lai to "C" Med to DaNang.

While Capt BURKE was leading an escort on a recon retraction at BT 136064 the helicopters took fire which the UH-1Es returned. Capt BURKE then controlled Oxwood 02 flight in a strike on the V.C. positions. The UH-1E's recorded three probable KBA's.

28 Jan 67. Lt. GARNER's section was escorting a recon team insertion at BT 239143 when the team received fire in the zone after leaving the helicopters. Lt. GARNER suppressed the enemy fire by controlling two flights of fixed wing in strikes on the V.C. positions.

LtCol MALONEY and Major HEALD led sections as armed escort for the transport helicopters on the lift into BS 814388 to begin Operation DeSoto. The transport helicopters received fire on the lift and LtCol MALONEY controlled Oxwood 132 flight on a strike at BS 825404.

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The ground troops, almost immediately after leaving the landing zone, ran into extremely heavy enemy opposition and Major HEALD who had relieved LtCol MALONEY as the TAC(A) on station, began controlling fixed wing aircraft in strikes on the enemy positions. With the initial landing completed, VMO-6 was on its way to breaking several squadron records; both for hours flown, and for fixed wing aircraft expended in one day.

Throughout the remainder of the day and into the night, squadron pilots remained on station acting as TAC(A)'s. Major HEALD expended four flights of fixed wing from 0745 to 1322. Capt ARICK expended two flights from 1000 to 0225. Capt BARTLEY expended eight flights from 1130 to 1920. Major WALKER expended five flights from 1400 to 2030. Captain WATERS expended three flights from 1740 to 2338 and Lt. BALLENTINE expended two flights from 2000 to 2345. At midnight, VMO-6 had logged 127.2 flight hours and had expended twenty seven flights of fixed wing.

29 Jan 67. The Squadron TAC(A) support for Operation DeSoto continued with Capt SWINBURN relieving Capt ARICK on station at 0145. Between 0145 and 0400 Capt SWINBURN expended three flights of fixed wing, and between 0400 and 0600 LtCol MALONEY expended one flight. From approximately 2400 until daylight, the UH-1Es and the flaeships overhead received continuous air bursts at various altitudes and locations.

The operational area remained relatively quiet from daybreak until 1100 when Capt BARTLEY began escorting several troops lifts and resupplies into the area. The helicopters received fire from various sources and Capt BARTLEY expended Oxwood 341 at BS 815405. The UH-1E's while expending at the same place were credited with two KBA's by the ground troops.

Capt WATERS assumed the TAC(A) role at 1400 and by 1800 had expended two more flights of fixed wing on the area.

Elsewhere in the Chu Lai area, Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES from Chu Lai to Quang Ngai and returned.

30 Jan 67. Lt. ROSS again flew BGen STILES to Quang Ngai and return.

LtCol MALONEY acted as TAC(A) for a lift into BS 683937. He expended three flights of fixed wing on the landing zone prep and one flight on snipers positions at BS 655935.

Major HEALD TAC(A)'d to support several emergency med-evacs in Operation Desoto expending Oxwood 08 for fire suppression.

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Captain ARICK was launched as the leader of a gunbird section to escort two emergency recon team retractions. The helicopters took fire on both, and the UH-1E's expended their ordnance in suppression. Capt ARICK also expended Condole 054 on V.C. positions at BS 446715.

31 Jan 67. Capt OLSON acted as on station TAC(A) throughout the morning for Operation DeSoto. He expended five flights of fixed wing on targets in the area.

Major HEALD relieved Capt OLSON on station and expended Oxwood 130 flightson BS 824395.

Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES from Chu Lai to the ROK C.P. and return.

Capt ARICK led a section in support of a troop retraction from BS 729762. When the transport helicopters received mortar fire in the zone, the UH-1E's spotted the flashes and expended Swiss 062 flight on the positions.

c. Squadron statistics for period 1 January through 31 January 1967.

(1) Aircraft Assigned	24 (Includes 3 in PAR)
(2) Average Daily Availability	16
(3) Flight hours	1200
(4) Missions	558
(5) Sorties	2,744
(6) Ton Cargo	00
(7) Troops/Passengers	472
(8) Med Evacs	6
(9) Flights of fixed wing controlled	90
(10) Med Evac Escort	221
(11) Klondike KBA Confirmed Total from 1 Sept 65 - 602 to 31 January 1967.	

From 0730, 28 January 1967 to 2400, 31 January 1967 the squadron had the following totals for Operation DeSoto:

Sorties	205
Tasks	79
Hours	125.1
Flights of fixed wing expended	42
7.62 ammunition expended	17,950
2.75" rockets expended	355

d. The following awards were presented during January 1967:

- (1) Major W. E. DODDS - The Distinguished Flying Cross
- (2) 79 Air Medals
- (3) Gunnery Sergeant W. T. FORSYTHE - The Navy Commendation Medal
- (4) 6 Purple Hearts

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e. The following personnel were promoted to their present ranks during the month of January 1967:

MAJOR

Ronald E. HEALD

CORPORAL

Richard C. AULT
 Lannie J. BARRAN
 Guadalupe G. CONTRERAS
 Robert W. CRUTCHER
 Thomas N. FARLEY
 Bruce T. GOSSAR
 Arden D. HAAS
 Terry L. HULSE
 Donald J. MILLER

Max R. NICKERSON
 Jerry M. POPE
 John J. RIGGI
 Jimmy L. ROBERSON
 Richard N. SOUKUP
 Lonnie P. WESSON
 Harold A. WHIPPLE
 Richard WOERTZ

LANCE CORPORAL

Jerry F. DEHART
 Donald D. DOHNERT
 Jimmy R. EVANS

James R. KING
 Nicky E. LOWRY
 Ronald L. RUSSOM


 W. R. MALONEY

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