

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON 6
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO, San Francisco 96602

VMC-6 SAC FILES
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COPY 1 OF 6

10:CS:krp
5750-1
Ser: 03A06667
7 March 1967
Copy 1 of 6

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-28 February, 1967; submission of

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

- Encl: ✓(1) Part I; Organizational Data
 ✓(2) Part II; Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights Occurring from 1 February 1967 to 28 February 1967
 ✓(3) Part III; Significant Events

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

W. R. Maloney
W. R. MALONEY

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VMC-6 SAC FILES
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Copy _____ of _____

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10:CS:krp
 5750-1
 Ser: 03A06667
 7 March 1967
 Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

Part I: Organizational Data

1. Commanding Officer and staff with inclusive dates:

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel William R. MALONEY 1 - 28 Feb 67

Executive Officer: Major Edward J. SAMPLE 1 - 28 Feb 67

Operations Officer: Major James H. WALKER 1 - 28 Feb 67

Logistics Officer: Major Donald F. KELLEY 1 - 28 Feb 67

Intelligence Officer: Captain Nicholas E. BURKE 1 - 28 Feb 67

Administration Officer: Captain Keith K. KERR 1 - 28 Feb 67

2. Unit location with inclusive dates:

Ky Ha, Republic of Vietnam, 1 - 28 February 1967

3. Average monthly squadron strength:

<u>MARINE OFFICERS</u>	<u>MARINE ENLISTED</u>	<u>NAVAL OFFICERS</u>	<u>NAVAL ENLISTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
48	175	01	00	224

4. Important visitors to the squadron: Major General ROBERTSHAW, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, visited the squadron on 3 February and flew as a Co-pilot throughout the afternoon.

10:CS:krp
 5750-1
 Ser: 03A06667
 7 March 1967
 Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

Part II: Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights Occurring during the reporting period.

1. During the period 1 - 28 February 1967, VMO-6 had 25 aircraft assigned and with 4 of these in PAR maintained an average daily availability of 16. A squadron record of 1667.1 hours and 3,620 sorties were flown in the accomplishment of 932 missions. 697 passengers and 12 Med-Evacs were carried, while 194 Med-Evac escort missions were flown and 115 flights of fixed wing aircraft were controlled. During February the squadron accounted for 19 confirmed KBA bringing the total for the period 1Sept65 - 28Feb67 to 621.

2. During February the squadron participated in the following operations with the associated statistics:

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>7.62 EXPENDED</u>	<u>2.75 EXPENDED</u>
Desoto	492.3	1,174	19,355	1,532
Deckhouse 6 Phases 1 & 2	43.6	211	18,000	110
Rio Grande	40.4	106	18,500	78
Lien Ket 81 & 90	42.2	85	13,400	91
Giant Dragon	35.2	53	5,200	28
Independence	12.6	4	4,500	30
Pueblo	4.8	12	-	-

3. Narrative Summary of Ky Ha based activities:

1 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to the Quang Ngai Tropos Pad and return to the VIP Pad.

Major HENDRIX flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) from the ROK CP to various CP's in the ROK area.

LCol MALONEY TAC(A)'d and led a section of armed UH-1E's with Lt. GARNER on his wing, in support of a three zone landing of Republic of Korea Marine forces in the vicinity of BS 7584. The armed UH-1E's provided suppressive fire on all zones and LCol MALONEY expended "Oxwood 33" on BS 783853 when the UH-1E's and CH-46's took fire.

10:CS:krp
5750.1
Ser: 03A06667
7 March 1967
Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

When one of the Korean units came under heavy attack, LCol MALONEY prepped the zone for the insertion of a reaction force, but the enemy fire was so intense that the CH-46's were unable to make the landing and one CH-46 was damaged enough to force it to make an emergency landing at BS 781826.

LCol MALONEY's section then covered the insertion of a maintenance crew at the site of the "downed" CH-46 and later resumed their support of the Korean Marines who were in heavy contact with the enemy. LCol MALONEY controlled the expenditure of fixed wing on several targets and the CH-46's were finally able to insert the reaction force at BS 760837.

Later that evening Captain BARTLEY led a section in support of a Med-Evac for the same Korean forces at BS 762822. With Captain BARTLEY controlling a flareship and the UH-1E's providing suppressive fire, the CH-46's were able to get into the zone without casualty and retract the wounded Koreans.

2 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Quang Ngai and then to various CP's in the Nui Dang area.

Major HEALD led a section in support of Republic of Korea Marine landings in the area of the previous days activities. The helicopters received fire in all zones and the UH-1E pilots in providing suppressive fire destroyed 5 buildings and had 1 confirmed KBA.

Captain SWINBURN led a section in escort of an emergency retraction of the reconnaissance team "Club Car" at BS 727361. The UH-1E's layed down suppressive fire on the VC positions but the transport helicopter was driven off by enemy fire on his first attempt to land in the zone. Captain SWINBURN then spotted 5 VC in the open and directed the fire of Captain BARTLEY's section who had arrived on the scene to provide assistance. Captain BARTLEY's section recorded three KBA's and with all four UH-1E's providing suppressive fire, the transport helicopter was able to retract the team without casualty.

3 Feb 67 Lt. BUERGER flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) on several flights between the ROK CP and Chu Lai Air Freight.

On an escort of a Marine landing at BT 657043 Captain OLSON's flight recorded one confirmed North Vietnamese Army KBA.

Major DODDS' section escorted the transport helicopters on an

CONFIDENTIAL

10:CS:krp
 5750-1
 Ser: 03A06667
 7 March 1967
 Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

emergency retraction of "Co-Partner" from BT 190196. The UH-1E's fired on VC positions and Major DODDS controlled the expenditure of four flights of fixed wing, enabling the retraction to be accomplished without casualty.

Major HEALD acted as TAC(A) and led a section on the retraction of the Korean Marine forces in the area of the previous two days activities. The helicopters received fire from many locations and Major HEALD expended four flights of fixed wing on VC positions.

Captain WATERS' section was called out at 2250 for an emergency night retraction of "Caldonia", a reconnaissance team under attack at BS 762328. Contact with the team was lost prior to the UH-1E's arrival and several hours of searching could not uncover their location. The section was directed from their search for an emergency retraction of "Crankcase", who was under fire at BS 855215. The team was not in a suitable landing zone however and the VC were too close to enable them to move. Captain WATERS remained on station over the team controlling the dropping of illumination by a flare plane until 0345 at which time Captain SWINBURN arrived with a relief section. The UH-1E's remained on station until daylight, continuing the controlling of the flare plane, and providing continuous illumination for the team.

4 Feb 67

Captain ARICK launched with a section to escort the retraction of "Crankcase" but while enroute received word that "Caldonia" had been found at BS 746348. The flight diverted to extract "Caldonia" and when the transport helicopters received fire, Captain ARICK controlled an airstrike at BS 742349. The extraction was successful and the flight, after refueling, proceeded with the extraction of "Crankcase". The transport helicopters again received fire and Captain ARICK again controlled fixed wing in their expenditure on the VC positions.

Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Duc Pho and return to Chu Lai.

Captain ARICK led a section on a night TAOR sweep. The lead aircraft was equipped with a loudspeaker, and a Vietnamese Psychological Warfare representative made counter intelligence broadcasts throughout the flight.

5 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew MGen ROBERTSHAW on an aerial reconnaissance of the Mo Duc and Quang Ngai LSA's.

Captain OLSON led a section as escort on an emergency night retraction of "Cowhide" a reconnaissance team under attack at BT 181206.

CONFIDENTIAL

10:CS:kyp
 5750-1
 Ser: 03A06667
 7 March 1967
 Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

After he had run an airstrike on VC positions at BT 184196 the team was retracted without casualty.

6 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Quang Ngai and return to Chu Lai.

Major DODDS' section, while escorting a Marine lift into BS 517740, provided suppressive fire and recorded 7 confirmed KBA's and three probable KBA's.

7 Feb 67 Lt. SAUNDERS flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) on a tour of several of the ROK Btn. CP's.

Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Duc Pho, Binh Son and Tam Ky.

8 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Quang Ngai and Binh Son.

Captain WATERS' section launched on an emergency retraction of reconnaissance team "Donahue" from BS 432853. The helicopters took fire and Captain WATERS controlled two flights of fixed wing on the VC positions.

Major HEALD's section was launched to support a Marine unit that was pinned down at BS 7940. Major HEALD sighted two Marines that had been wounded and separated from their unit. Landing under extremely heavy enemy fire, with Major KELLEY, his wingman, providing cover, he was able to evacuate the two Marines.

The advent of "TET" and the subsequent truce slowed the squadron's operations until 13 February. Many reconnaissance flights were flown but all was quiet and contact with the enemy was at a minimum.

13 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES and party to BS 813385, BS 871323 and return to Chu Lai.

Captain KERR flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) to various company CP's in the ROK TAOR.

Major HEALD led a section from Nui Dang in support of "Donahue", a recon team under attack at BS 738379. The armed UH-1E's took VC positions under attack and were able to protect the team until Major DODDS arrived on station with the transport helicopters and a flight of fixed wing. Major DODDS controlled "Oxwood 08" flight in strikes on the enemy.

CONFIDENTIAL

10:CS:krp
5750-1
Ser: 03A06667
7 March 1967
Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

and with all four UH-1E's providing suppressive fire the transport helicopters were able to effect the retraction unscathed.

14 Feb 67 Captain KERR flew MGen ROBERTSHAW throughout the "Desoto" operational area.

Lt. GARNER flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) throughout the ROK TAOR.

17 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to BS 661780 then to the ROK CP and return.

Lt. ALMY flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) throughout the ROK TAOR.

Major HEALD began Operation "Lien Ket 81" with a landing zone prep for the landing of eleven hundred ARVN troops at BS 445780. Major HEALD controlled the expenditure of four flights of fixed wing and neutralized the area enough that the transport helicopters were able to complete the lift without damage.

Captain SWINBURN took over the role of TAC(A) when Major HEALD had a radio failure, and, expending three more flights of fixed wing, prepped the zone for a second landing of 500 ARVN troops at BS 451800. Again the transport helicopters completed the lift without damage.

Captain WATERS led a division of armed UH-1E's in escort of the transport helicopters with Major KELLEY leading a section on his wing. Both sections of UH-1E's laid down suppressive fire when the transport helicopters received light opposition and Captain WATERS, spotting four VC in the open at BS 445763, led his section in an attack. The UH-1E's were credited with four confirmed KBA's.

Simultaneously with the above, LCol MALONEY operating several miles to the north, began Operation "Rio Grande" with two landing zone preps at BS 430870 and BS 447842. Expending seven flights of fixed wing on the prep, LCol MALONEY was also successful in neutralizing the zones to the extent that no transport helicopters were struck by fire. Major DODDS, with Lt. GARNER on his wing, provided the armed helicopter escort for both landings.

Later in the morning LCol MALONEY and Major DODDS traded positions and Major DODDS conducted the landing zone prep for a Republic of Korea Marine landing at the commencement of Operation "Giant Dragon". Once more the prep, provided by five flights of fixed wing, was successful in that no transport helicopters were damaged on the landing.

CONFIDENTIAL

10:CS:krp
5750-1
Ser: 03A06667
7 March 1967
Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

18 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to BS 660755 and return.

Captain KERR flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) to Buddha Mountain and return.

19 Feb 67 Major DODDS, while escorting a resupply at BS 872332, spotted a VC with a rifle and killed him

20 Feb 67 Captain WATERS, while flying as Med-Evac escort fired on VC in a trench at BS 433754 and recorded 1 confirmed KBA and 2 probable KBA's.

Major KELLEY flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) to various ROK CP's and on several trips to Buddha Mountain throughout the day.

Captain SWINBURN's section launched out of Nui Dang on an emergency retraction of "Duckbill" from BS 465724. The UH-1E's received and returned fire and Captain SWINBURN controlled three flights of fixed wing in strikes on the VC positions.

21 Feb 67 Lt. LEVY flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) to Chu Lai and Quang Ngai.

Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to various CP's in the Chu Lai TAOR.

23 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Quang Ngai and return.

24 Feb 67 Captain SWINBURN flew BGen KIM (ROKMC) to various CP's in the ROK TAOR.

Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Nui Dang and return.

25 Feb 67 Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Nui Dang and return.

26 Feb 67 At about 1000 LCol MALONEY began a landing zone prep for a lift of 600 Marines in connection with Operation Desoto. LCol MALONEY prepped the zone, at BS 745380, with five flights of fixed wing and the transport helicopters were able to complete the lift with minimum opposition. Major DODDS led a division of armed UH-1E's in escort of the CH-46's with Captain WATERS leading a section on his wing. The armed UH-1E's provided suppressive fire, both on the initial assault, and against targets of opportunity, and Lt. ALMY recorded one KBA confirmed when he sighted VC with weapons at BS 756372 and took them under fire.

CONFIDENTIAL

10:CS:krp
 5750-1
 Ser: 03A06667
 7 March 1967
 Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

At approximately the same time that the last helicopter was landing in the Marine LZ, Captain OLSON began the prep for the landing of 700 Army of the Republic of Vietnam troops, thus beginning Operation Lien Ket 90. Captain OLSON expended five flights in prepping the LZ's which were at BS 718420 and BS 723422, and again the transport helicopters were able to complete the lift with only minimum opposition. Major DODDS again led his division in support and the UH-1E's again provided suppressive fire on the initial wave and against targets of opportunity.

After the initial landings had been completed, Captain WATERS remained as on station TAC(A), controlling fixed wing on strikes against targets called by the ground troops.

27 Feb 67 Captain ARICK, while providing reconnaissance cover for SLF forces, discovered 15 to 20 VC setting up an ambush and took them under fire. He was successful in breaking up an ambush but came under heavy fire and, taking hits in his engine, was forced to land on the beach. Fortunately the crew all emerged unharmed and the aircraft was recovered without mishap.

Lt. ALMY flew Major General TAYLOR (USMC) to the ROK CP and Nui Dang. He later flew BGen DESAUSSURRE to BS 635848 and return to the VIP Pad.

Lt. ROSS flew BGen STILES to Nui Dang and on many aerial reconnaissance flights in the Nui Dang area.

Major KELLEY, operating out of Nui Dang, was launched to cover an H-34^{that} had been shot down at BS 820378. Learning that the Co-pilot of the aircraft was still in it and that no one knew if he was alive, Major KELLEY courageously landed under enemy fire, and his Co-pilot, Captain RYAN and his crew Cpl. BEAUPRE and SSgt GILES evacuated the Co-pilot of the H-34.

28 Feb 67 Captain ARICK and Captain CAVERLY who had been operating for several weeks in support of the SLF with a detachment on board the Iwo Jima had an extremely busy day controlling fixed wing and providing suppressive fire for the Marines on Operation Deckhouse 6, Phase 2. Throughout the day, the UH-1E's took many uniformed NVA troops under fire and recorded 6 probable KBA's.

4. Narrative Summary of VMO-6 Kontum Detachment's Activities During February 1967

- a. Two VMO-6 UH-1E's departed for Kontum for detachment until 28

CONFIDENTIAL

10:CS:kyp
 5750-1
 Ser: 03A06667
 7 March 1967
 Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

February. The Officer in Charge of the detachment was Captain N. E. BURKE. The crew were as follows:

<u>1st Aircraft</u>		<u>2nd Aircraft</u>
Capt. N. E. BURKE	Pilot	1stLt. J. D. BODEN
1stLt. J. R. PETERSON	Co-pilot	2ndLt. D. T. ALMIDA
Cpl. J. I. COLLUM	Crew Chief	Cpl. R. E. DEAL
Cpl. L. J. BARRAN	Gunner	Cpl. E. J. DIORIO

b. During the month of February the detachment flew 188 hours on 359 sorties and 152 tasks. 943 2.75" rockets and 154,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition were expended.

c. A chronological summary of the detachment's activities follows:

31 Jan 67

Provided armed helo escort and close air support while a team was extracted from enemy territory under fire. Expended 56 rockets and 5000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition. The team was extracted with no casualties.

1 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and close air support while a team was inserted into enemy territory.

3 Feb 67

Extracted a team under heavy enemy attack. The troop helicopters took heavy automatic weapons fire during exfiltration. The fire continued until the operation was complete, however there were no casualties. Captain BURKE was nominated for the Silver Star, Co-pilot 1stLt. PETERSON for the Distinguished Flying Cross, crew members Cpl. J. I. COLLUM and Cpl. L. J. BARRAN for the Joint Commendation Medal with Combat "V".

5 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS while a team was inserted into enemy territory.

7 Feb 67

An emergency exfiltration was called by the team after contact

CONFIDENTIAL

10:CS:krp
5750-1
Ser: 03A06667
7 March 1967
Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

with numerically superior forces. The team's position was atop a mountain, altitude 2500', with no suitable LZ. During the retreat, the gun ships fired within 10 meters in order for the team to break contact. Because of their dead and wounded the team was evacuated from a bomb crater 200 ft. from the top of the mountain by hoist. While the troop helicopters hoisted out the team, the gun ships provided close air support. After expending all his ammo and burning down fuel, Captain BURKE also hovered and hoisted three team members out of the zone. Captain BURKE was nominated for a Distinguished Flying Cross and all of his crew members for the Air Medal.

9 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team insertion.

11 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team exfiltration.

14 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team insertion 2 KBA's confirmed by ground unit. Emergency night exfiltration of team. CAS for ground unit and emergency Med-Evac hoisted out of bomb crater. Captain BURKE was recommended for the Silver Star, Cpl. COLLUM for the Distinguished Flying Cross, 1stLt. PETERSON for the Bronze Star and Cpl BARRAN for the Bronze Star.

16 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team infiltration.

17 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team exfiltration.

19 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team infiltration.

21 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team exfiltration.

22 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team infiltration.

10:CS:krp
 5750-1
 Ser: 03A06667
 7 March 1967
 Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL24 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team exfiltration.

27 Feb 67

Provided armed helo escort and CAS for team infiltration.

28 Feb 67

Provided CAS for ground unit.

5. Narrative Summary of VMO-6 SLF Detachment's Activities during February 1967.

a. For a period from 14 February 1967 through 3 March 1967 VMO-6 had 2 aircraft TAD to the SLF. During this period the Klondike detachment flew a total of 309 sorties accomplished 143 tasks for a total of 130.3 hours. The detachment fired 651 2.75" rockets and 83,800 rounds of 7.62.

b. The following is a chronological summary of the detachment's activities:

14 Feb 67 (1720 - 1805), 2 aircraft were detached from VMO-6 and flown aboard the Iwo Jima.

16 Feb 67 (0835 - 1300), The initial landing for Deckhouse 6 (Phase I) was made with the Klondike aircraft providing escorts. Frosty Gold flights took fire from BS 903255 and BS 893235. Klondike supplied suppressive fire on these areas expending 41 rockets and 8,800 rds. of 7.62.

17 Feb 67 thru 25 Feb 67 The Klondike detachment flew in support of phase I of Deckhouse 6 amassing 182 sorties, 70 tasks, 71.8 hours firing 257 rockets and 45,300 rds of 7.62. Fixed wing controlled were OX118, 117, 07; Swiss 182, 173, 064, 032, 171.

27 Feb 67 Another landing was made by the SLF initiating Phase II of Deckhouse 6 on that day Klondike flew 5.2 hrs. fired 12 rockets and 1600 rds. of 7.63 for 14 sorties and 10 tasks.

28 Feb 67 thru 3 March 67 Klondike supported Phase II flying 35.0 hours with 87 sorties and 45 tasks accomplished firing 187 rockets and 29,600 rds. of 7.62. Klondike controlled 11 flights of fixed wing during this phase OX 124, 118, 121, 130, 128, 137; Swiss 170, 177, 178, 74 and Condole 33.

This completed VMO-6 participation in Deckhouse 6.

10:CS:krp
 5750-1
 Ser: 03A06667
 7 March 1967
 Copy 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

Part III: Significant Events

1. The following awards were presented during February 1967:

The Distinguished Flying Cross

Lieutenant Colonel William R. MALONEY
 Captain Kenneth D. WATERS
 Captain John C. ARICK
 First Lieutenant Steven C. WILSON

198 - Air Medals

Purple Heart Medal - Corporal B. T. GOSSAR

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry

Major Ronald E. HEALD
 Captain Kenneth D. WATERS
 Captain Charles SWINBURN

2. The following personnel were promoted to their present rank during the month of February 1967:

MACLELLAN, Alexander E.	1185270	Gunnery Sergeant
CRUMPLER, Herman M.	1914991	Staff Sergeant
HOOPER, James L.	2177966	Lance Corporal
NEWBERRY, John E.	2051287	Private First Class