

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

5750  
Ser #03A00572  
3:WPW:cf  
5 Jan 1972

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July 1971 to 31 December 1971  
Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1C  
Encl: (1) VMO-6 Command Chronology  
1. (U) In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.  
2. (U) This letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

10-0-6

*J. L. Norton*  
J. L. NORTON

MAG-36 S&C FILES  
720019  
Copy 1 of 6

VMO-6 S&C FILES  
SER: 004-72  
DATE: 7 Jan 72  
COPY 1 OF 7

*sent - Dec 1971*

ENCLOSURE (5)  
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MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON o  
Marine Aircraft Group 36  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1971 to 31 December 1971

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Marine Observation Squadron 6

LTCOL JEROME L. NORTON

SUBORDINATE UNITS

NONE

ATTACHED UNITS

NONE

2. LOCATION

1 JUL 71-31 DEC 71 MCAS (H) FUTEMA, OKINAWA

3. STAFF OFFICERS

<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>NAME</u>
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	1 JUL 71-30 JUL 71	MAJ EDWIN REICHTMAY
	31 JUL 71-31 DEC 71	MAJ GARRY HARLAN
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	1 JUL-27 DEC 71	MAJ PETER E. HEINAN
	28 DEC 71-31 DEC 71	CAPT RICHARD E. DIETHELM
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER	1 JUL 71-1 NOV 71	1/LT GORDON W. WHEELS
	2 NOV 71-31 DEC 71	CAPT RALPH LIPPE
OPERATIONS OFFICER	1 JUL 71-30 JUL 71	MAJ GARRY HARLAN
	31 JUL 71-22 OCT 71	MAJ RODNEY H. ALLEY
	23 OCT 71-31 DEC 71	MAJ JOHN J. CZERNIENSKI
LOGISTIC OFFICER	1 JUL 71-31 DEC 71	CAPT CHARLES W. ANDERSON
MATERIAL OFFICER	1 JUL 71-31 DEC 71	1/LT STEPHEN W. MCINTYRE
A/C MAINTENANCE OFFICER	1 JUL 71-30 JUL 71	MAJ RODNEY H. ALLEY
	31 JUL 71-20 DEC 71	CAPT FRANK J. KENNEDY
	21 DEC 71-31 DEC 71	CAPT JOHN P. RAY
SAFETY OFFICER	1 JUL 71-22 OCT 71	CAPT WILFRED P. WOLDYLA
	23 OCT 71-31 DEC 71	CAPT CARL H. YUNG
NATOPS OFFICER	1 JUL 71-30 SEP 71	1/LT GERROLD C. SLOMAYER
	1 OCT 71-31 DEC 71	CWG-3 WILLIAM T. HARTIGAN

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	USMC		USN	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
JUL	36	163	0	0
AUG	34	144	0	0
SEP	29	119	0	0
OCT	27	127	0	0
NOV	37	125	0	0
DEC	36	120	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1 July 1971, until 31 December 1971, VMO-6 stressed a program of full aircraft utilization aimed at meeting operational commitments while maintaining a comprehensive and varied training program to increase individual proficiency and overall squadron readiness. In consonance with this program, the squadron has exceeded the planned aircraft utilization figures for this period. It has met all assigned commitments. It has increased average pilot readiness by five percent and conducted an on-the-job training program for Aerial Observers. Furthermore, while accomplishing these tasks, an accident free safety record was established, and a high morale was maintained as witnessed by the squadron's excellent re-enlistment rate.

The pilot and aerial observer training program was based on supplementing the past experience level, as well as teaching new practical skills, while maintaining a safety oriented atmosphere. Several months were devoted to increasing pilot readiness in the specific areas of night operations, tactical formation flying, and day and night ordnance delivery to include guns, rockets, bombs, and flare illumination. Aerial Observer trainees received lectures in the areas of map reading, radio communications, TAC(A), and artillery and naval gunfire spotting. They were then flown locally and on deployments to apply these fundamentals in a realistic training environment. One trainee was designated during this period, two completed the requirements for designation in late December and the other made substantial progress. Two safety stand-downs were held as well as regularly scheduled training presentations. The safety stand-downs provided much thought and the first was favorably commented upon by all who saw its results. In addition to providing support to the III Marine Amphibious Force units on Okinawa, VMO-6 has participated in eleven (11) III MAF support deployments to NAS Cubi Point, Republic of Philippines, and NAS Atsugi, Japan. Deployments were in support of Third Marine Division, squadrons of the First Marine Aircraft Wing, and ships of the Seventh Fleet. Another deployment was in support of the U. S. Air Forces, Japan, in connection with Japan International Aerospace Show. In line with the squadron's mission, III MAF support was provided in the areas of TAC(A), artillery and naval gunfire spotting, aerial observation, simulated close air support and night GCI. The squadron flew two hundred and eighty (280) sorties and accumulated six hundred and fifty-nine (659) hours of flight time on deployments. Also local operations with the U. S. Air Force Eighteenth Tactical Fighter Wing consisted of sixteen (16) sorties and thirty-two (32) hours in the areas of TAC(A) and night illumination. Numerous favorable responses to the squadron's performance were received and extremely valuable experience was gained by all those aviators and observers involved.

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CONFIDENTIALPART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSJULY

The reenlistment rate for July was 66%.

12JUL71

A detachment of three (3) officers and fifteen enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Cubi Point on 12 July and returned on 10 August 1971. The detachment deployed to provide VMFA-115 with TAC(A) support, and to support a Naval Gunfire exercise. The detachment flew a total of eighty-seven point one (87.1) hours and forty-two (42) sorties during the period of 12 July through 31 July 1971.

17JUL71

A detachment of four (4) officers and eight (8) enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan on 17 July and returned on 6 August 1971. The detachment deployed to provide the 3rd Recon. Bn., 3rd Marines with TAC(A) and CAS. The detachment flew a total of forty-three point six (43.6) hours and twenty-two (22) sorties during the period of 17 July through 31 July 1971.

29JUL71

On 29 July 1971, the Officers and SNCO's attended a briefing by General L. F. CHAPMAN who was visiting MCAS(H) Futema.

AUGUST

During August 1971, VMO-6 received two (2) "Well Done's". The first, received from 31st MAU for support provided during the period of 12 July through 19 August 1971. The second, received from the 3rd Recon Bn., for support provided during the period of 17 July through 6 August 1971.

27-28AUG71

VMO-6 conducted its first Quarterly Safety Stand-down. Special emphasis was placed on shop safety within the Maintenance department, in addition to lectures on first aid and safe driving for all enlisted personnel. For pilots, emphasis was placed on survival to include lectures, demonstrations, and escape systems drill. The results of the Safety Stand-down was disseminated throughout the Wing by the Commanding General as an example of an outstanding Safety Stand-down.

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- 28AUG71 A detachment of four (4) officers and nine (9) enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan on 28 August and returned on 1 September 1971. The detachment deployed to provide support to the 3rd Bn., 4th Marines. The detachment flew a total of twenty-eight point five (28.5) hours and eleven (11) sorties during this period.
- 31AUG71 A detachment of four (4) officers and nine (9) enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Cubi Point on 31 August and returned on 14 September 1971. The detachment deployed to provide TAC(A) and CAS in support of the 3rd Bn., 4th Marines. The detachment flew a total of sixty-nine point seven (69.7) hours during thirty-four (34) sorties.

SEPTEMBER

- 11SEP71 A detachment of two (2) officers and three (3) enlisted with one (1) OV-10A aircraft deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan on 11 September and returned on 14 September 1971. The detachment deployed to provide aerial observation and simulated CAS for training exercises for the 3rd Bn., 4th Marines. The detachment flew a total of nineteen point four (19.4) hours and seven (7) sorties.
- 14SEP71 On 14 September 1971, VMO-6 was visited by the Assistant Wing Commander, BGen A. W. O'DONNELL.
- 15SEP71 On 15 September 1971, VMO-6 was visited by Capt. KUN-JU, 1stLt. CHEN, and 1stLt. MIN SHEN of the Chinese Marine Corps.
- 20SEP71 A detachment of four (4) officers and nine (9) enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan on 20 September and returned on 27 September 1971. The detachment deployed to provide the 3rd Bn., 4th Marines with simulated CAS and aerial observer training. The detachment flew a total of thirty-four point two (34.2) hours and fourteen (14) sorties during the period.
- 29SEP71 A detachment of three (3) officers and ten (10) enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft deployed to NAS Cubi Point to provide Naval Gunfire Exercise. For the period of 29 September through 8 October 1971 the detachment flew a total of nine (9) sorties accumulating twenty-three point four (23.4) flight hours.

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VMO-6 provided aircraft for control by MACS-4 in Ground Controlled Intercept Operations. A total of twenty (20) sorties and forty-five point four (45.4) flight hours were flown in support of this mission.

A night ordnance delivery program was initiated to qualify pilots in this phase of the OV-10A syllabus. A total of thirty (30) night ordnance sorties were flown accumulating fifty-six point three (56.3) flight hours. The result of this effort was that all pilots in the squadron were qualified in night ordnance delivery.

26OCT71 During the period 26 October through 7 November 1971, VMO-6 deployed one (1) OV-10A aircraft with one (1) pilot and one (1) enlisted to KOMAKE Air Base, Nagoya, Japan to participate in the Japanese International Aerospace Show. A total of four (4) sorties for a total of nine point three (9.3) hours flown while deployed.

29OCT71 VMO-6 received an "Atta Boy" from MajGen NETZGER on airmanship.

30OCT71 A detachment of two (2) naval aviators, two (2) aerial observers and five (5) enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft deployed to NAS Atsugi to provide CAS, TAC(A) and visual reconnaissance for training exercises conducted by the 3rd Marines. For the period of 30 October through 7 November 1971 the detachment flew a total of twenty-two (22) sorties accumulating fifty-six point four (56.4) flight hours.

NOVEMBER

VMO-6 continued to provide aircraft for control by MACS-4 in Ground Controlled Intercept Operations. A total of fourteen (14) sorties for a total of thirty-three point five (33.5) flight hours were flown in this mission.

1NOV71 On 1 November 1971, the then 3rd Marine Division Aerial Observation Unit was transferred in its entirety to VMO-6. At that time the unit was composed of five (5) designated NAO(T) and four (4) NAO-OJT. Upon transfer to VMO-6, a training syllabus was initiated to serve the dual purpose of qualifying OJT personnel and maintaining proficiency for Designated NAO(T). A series of briefings were initiated to

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provide OJT's with needed background in supporting arms. These briefings included artillery and Naval gunfire calls for fire and adjustment procedures, and close air support. Total instruction time was in excess of 12 hours. In addition, the briefings were followed-up by a series of flights during which the briefed principles were applied. The program culminated a series of Tactics-type flights which were designated to evaluate the NAO-OJT's ability to demonstrate his knowledge of supporting arms co-ordination. As a result of this type of training, one of the four (4) NAO-OJT was designated on 3 November 1971 and requests for designation of two (2) others were sent to HQMC in December 1971.

- 3NOV71 On 3 November 1971, 1stLt. Mike C. CLARK 0115231 was designated an Naval Air Observer (Tactical). He was the first so designated after the 3rd MarDiv AO unit was transferred to VMO-6.
- 8NOV71 On 8 November 1971, SgtMaj. John N. NEUNSSINGER relieved 1stSgt. Arthur T. TORRIZZO as the Squadron Sergeant Major.
- 23NOV71 On 23 November 1971, at the request of the S-3, 3rd Recon Bn., 3rd MarDiv, an AO assigned to VMO-6 delivered a class on "Capabilities and Limitations of Aerial Observers" to the Officers and SNCO's of the Battalion. The class consisted of a 45 minute lecture and a 1 hour demonstration utilizing an OV-10A from VMO-6. The following month, on 29 December 1971 another class was given to enlisted personnel of the 3rd Recon Bn. as part of the Battalians RIP (Recon Indoctrination Program) course. Subject matter and mode of presentation remained the same. It is anticipated that the class will become a standard portion of future RIP programs as 3rd Recon Bn. is continually implemented with new personnel.
- 29NOV71 A detachment of four (4) officers and five (5) enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Cubi Point on 29 November and returned on 1 December 1971. The detachment deployed to help provide a Training Readiness Evaluation of VMFA-232. The detachment flew a total of forty-seven point zero (47.0) hours and fourteen (14) sorties.
- 29NOV71 A detachment of four (4) officers and six (6) enlisted with two (2) OV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Atsugi,

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Japan on 29 November and returned on 1 December 1971. The detachment deployed to provide FET 1/4 with TAC(A) and CAS. The detachment flew a total of thirty-three point zero (33.0) hours and eleven (11) sorties during this period.

30NOV71 On 30 November 1971, VMO-6 was visited by Major General R. G. OWENS, the Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing.

DECEMBER

During December, Ordnance missions were expanded to include MK-76 practice bombing. This qualified five (5) additional pilots on the ordnance phase of pilot training.

8DEC71 On 8 December 1971, MSgt. Patsy A. CANALE relieved SgtMaj. John N. NEUNSSINGER as the Squadron Sergeant Major.

9DEC71 A detachment of ten (10) officers and nine (9) enlisted with four (4) OV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Cubi Point on 9 December and returned on 20 December 1971. The detachment deployed to participate in the combined PHIBLEX Fortress Light II exercise. Although the subject exercise was subsequently cancelled, the missions and hours flown, qualified two squadron OJT Aerial Observers for designation. The detachment flew a total of one-hundred fifty-eight point three (158.3) hours and sixty-four (64) sorties during this period in support of VMFA-232. During this deployment BGen. ODOMNELL had the opportunity to fly an OV-10A and witness a realistic exercise conducted for an AO trainee, during the flight BGen. ODOMNELL was able to participate in OV-10A ordnance delivery.

10DEC71 On 10 December 1971, BGen. E. F. MILLER, ADC of the 3rd Marine Division visited the Squadron.

10-11DEC71 The second Quarterly Safety Stand-down was conducted on this date. The highlight of this stand-down was the helicopter rescue hoist lift of both pilots and air observers using a CH-46D helicopter. Each crew-member was lifted by the horse collar device and several were also lifted by the 3 pronged penetrator seat. This period of instruction demonstrated some of the problems in a helicopter rescue.

20DEC71 On 20 December 1971, VMO-6 received a "Letter of Appreciation" from LtGen. Gordon M. GRAHAM, CG U.S. Air Forces Japan, for participation in the Japan International Aerospace Show.

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22DEC71 A detachment of four (4) officers and six (6) enlisted with two (2) CV-10A aircraft were deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan on 22 December and returned on 30 December 1971. The detachment deployed to provide BIA 1/4 with TAC(A) and CAS. The detachment flew a total of forty-eight point eight (48.8) hours and twenty-six (26) sorties during this period.

31DEC71 As of this date VMO-6 compiled a total of 3,432.9 accident free flight hours.

Air Operations Recapitulation

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>PLANNED UTILIZATION</u>	<u>FLIGHT HOURS FLOWN</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>
JULY	404.8	421.6	243
AUGUST	404.8	408.5	188
SEPT	441.6	470.7	207
OCTOBER	441.6	493.1	223
NOVEMBER	478.1	420.1	196
DECEMBER	515.2	566.6	223
TOTAL	2,686.4	2,780.6	1280

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PART IV.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE

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