

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

5750
Ser # 03A18972
3/JEM/raw
7 July 1972

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 January through 30 June 1972
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1
(b) GruO 5750.1
Encl: (1) VMO-6 Command Chronology

1. (U) In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. (U) This letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

D. E. Dilley
D. E. DILLEY

VMO-6

VMO-6 SRC FILES
SER: 144-72
DATE: 10 Jul 72
COPY 4 OF 7

MAG-36 CMCC FILES
051872
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Jan - June 1972

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ENCLOSURE (7)

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MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON 6
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
APO San Francisco 96303

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 January 1972 to 30 June 1972

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND EVENTS

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Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Marine Observation Squadron 6	LTCOL J. L. NORTON	1 JAN - 14 MAR
	MAJ G. HARLAN	15 MAR - 29 MAR
	LTCOL D. E. DILLEY	30 MAR - 30 JUN

SUBORDINATE UNITS

NONE

ATTACHED UNITS

NONE

2. LOCATION

1 JAN 72 - 30 JUN 72 MCAS(H) FUTEEMA, OKINAWA

3. STAFF OFFICERSPERIODNAME

EXECUTIVE OFFICER	1 JAN 72-14 MAR 72	MAJ G. HARLAN
	15 MAR 72-29 MAR 72	MAJ C.H. YUNG
	30 MAR 72-21 MAY 72	MAJ G. HARLAN
	22 MAY 72-30 JUN 72	CAPT G.A. ROSS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	1 JAN 72-16 FEB 72	CAPT R.E. DIETMEIER
	17 FEB 72-30 JUN 72	CAPT G.A. ROSS
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER	1 JAN 72-16 FEB 72	MAJ G. HARLAN
	17 FEB 72-30 JUN 72	CAPT R.E. DIETMEIER
OPERATIONS OFFICER	1 JAN 72-12 MAR 72	MAJ J.J. CZERWINSKI
	13 MAR 72-30 JUN 72	CAPT J.E. MURPHY
LOGISTIC OFFICER	1 JAN 72-29 MAR 72	CAPT C.W. ANDERSON
	30 MAR 72-23 JUN 72	1stLt G.W. PHELPS
	24 JUN 72-30 JUN 72	CAPT L.D. GABLE
MATERIAL OFFICER	1 JAN 72-29 MAR 72	1stLt S.C. MCINTYRE
	30 MAR 72-30 JUN 72	1stLt K.E. SMITH
A/C MAINTENANCE OFFICER	1 JAN 72-29 MAR 72	MAJ J.P. RAY
	30 MAR 72-30 JUN 72	CAPT E.F. THRUSTON

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SAFETY OFFICER

1 JAN 72-29 MAR 72
 30 MAR 72-30 JUN 72

MAJ C. H. YUNG
 CAPT W. J. BROSS

NATOPS OFFICER

1 JAN 72-21 FEB 72
 22 FEB 72-30 JAN 72

CWO-3 HARTIGAN
 CAPT T. F. BRUNK

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
JAN	30	126	0	0
FEB	34	125	0	0
MAR	31	112	0	0
APR	29	105	0	0
MAY	21	106	0	0
JUN	25	111	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1 January 1972 to 30 June 1972 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 CNO aircraft utilization figures for this period by over 80 hours. It has met all assigned commitments while maintaining an accident free safety record and a high morale as indicated by our re-enlistment rate of 63% for first term re-enlistees and 100% for career personnel.

The Pilot/Aerial Observer training program is based on past experience supplemented with new methods learned from recent combat involvement. Three new Aerial Observers were designated during this period all of whom saw action in the Republic of Vietnam. In April the squadron re-familiarized twelve Aerial Observers from 3d Marine Division in the OV-10A. This was a busy three day period; all 12 received flight physicals, seat and low pressure chamber lectures, were issued a complete set of flight gear compatible to the Marine OV-10A, and flew at least one familiarization ride in the OV-10A prior to assignment to 1st ANGLICO in DaNang. Less than a week later the six AO's in VMO-6 were temporarily assigned to H&MS-15 forward also in DaNang. All of these observers volunteered for duty knowing the hazards involved. They have flown over 1000 hours since their arrival in country in USMC TA-4F and USAF OV-10, O-2 and O-1 aircraft, performing all missions, including Forward Air Controller (Airborne) and Fast Forward Air Controller, Naval Gunfire Spotting, Artillery Spotting, and observation.

Detachments of two to six OV-10's and up to 20 personnel to such places as Phillipines, Japan and Korea have provided the squadron with training conditions which are not available locally yet are important in maintaining air and ground crew proficiency. It should be noted that on all squadron detachments the general feeling of those units which we have supported has consistently been that of sincere appreciation for the work we have done and a high regard for the professional manner in which VMO-6 has performed its tasks.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSJANUARY

With the holiday season recently passed, VMO-6 began the New Year with a Back-in-the-Saddle program for all squadron pilots and AO's including warm-up hops and refresher lectures. Knowledge of procedures, safety measures, and tactical doctrine were stressed as well as aircrew proficiency.

Within the six months all but three of the squadron officers including the Commanding Officer and all of the Department Heads plus 80% of the Enlisted personnel were to be transferred to CONUS. A rigorous program of indoctrination of new personnel in Squadron Standing Operating Procedures and policies was effected including the institution of extensive turn over folders and desk top procedures.

In December 1971 the squadron set a precedent by flying over CNO utilization for the OV-10. This was again accomplished in January, February, March and May. Hours for April and June were only 25 hours below utilization with the total for the second half of FY72 being more than 80 hours in excess of utilization.

16-27 January A detachment of 3 officers, 6 enlisted personnel, and two aircraft was deployed to NAS Atsugi Japan to provide Battalion Landing Team 2/5 with reconnaissance, observation and photography support. 26.0 hours were flown.

27 Jan - 3 Feb A detachment of 3 officers, 6 enlisted personnel, and 2 aircraft was deployed to NAS Cubi Point, Philippines to provide Spot/Observation support to U. S. Naval vessels. 39.2 hours were flown.

Personnel eligible to reenlist: 0
Hours flown this month: 534.9
Total accident free hours to date: 3970.2
Ordnance Expended:
2.75 inch rockets 179
7.62 M60 rounds 7196
MK-76 Bombs 113

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FEBRUARY

15-21 Feb

A detachment of three officers, six enlisted personnel, and two OV-10A's was deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan to support Battalion Landing Team 2/27 with aerial reconnaissance, observation and photography. 38.4 hours were flown.

Personnel eligible to reenlist:	6
Personnel reenlisted:	2
Hours flown this month:	523.3
Total Accident Free Hours:	4493.5
Ordnance Expended:	
2.75 inch rockets	179
7.62 M60 rounds	2155
MK-76 bombs	120

MARCH

During this month, VMO-6 changed Command twice, was inspected by the Commanding General 1st MAF, had two detachments deployed and appointed new heads to the following departments: Executive Officer, S-3, S-4, Maintenance, Material and Aviation Safety. 1stLt's ICERGER and KINGSTON were designated aerial observers.

The major task during March was the preparation of the squadron for a 10 day deployment of a six aircraft detachment to Taegu Korea for operation Golden Dragon. This was to be a joint ROK and USA Armed Forces exercise including an amphibious assault on the eastern coast of Korea.

10 March

Personnel inspection by Major General OWENS, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

13 March

Change of Command for VMO-6. Major Gary HARLAN relieved Lieutenant Colonel Jerome L. NORTON during formal ceremonies.

17-28 March

A detachment of 3 officers, 6 enlisted personnel and two aircraft was deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan to provide Battalion Landing Team 3/9 with reconnaissance, Observation and photography support. 28.1 hours were flown.

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30 March Change of Command for VMO-6. Lieutenant Colonel Donald E. DILLEY relieved Major Gary HARLAN during informal ceremonies.

24-25 March Safety Standown. The items covered included all aspects of flight and ground safety. Attendance was excellent .

Personnel eligible to reenlist:	2
Personnel reenlisted:	2
Hours flown this month:	533.3
Total accident free hours:	5026.8
Ordnance expended:	
2.75 inch rockets	320
MK-76 bombs	162
CBU-55 bombs	35
MK-45 flares	56

APRIL

Due to the build-up of enemy action in RVN the requirement for U. S. Forces was such that Operation Golden Dragon could not be completed as planned. Consequently this exercise was cancelled. However, PHIBLEX 1-72 was run in its place utilizing available assets from 1st MAF, 3rd MarDiv and ROK Air Force and Marines. The exercise was a complete success in all aspects and "Atabays" were frequent.

7-14 April A detachment of eight officers, seventeen enlisted personnel and four aircraft was deployed to ROK AFB Taegu, Korea in support of III MAF and ROK Forces. 75.0 hours were flown.

11 April Refresher training for twelve Aerial Observers from 3d MarDiv was provided subsequent to their transfer to 1st ANGLICO in DaNang, RVN to fly with USAF OV-10A's.

13 April Six Aerial Observers from this Command were transferred to H&MS-15 forward also in DaNang to be utilized as "Fast FACS" in the USMC TA-4F's.

23-26 April A detachment of six officers and three aircraft was deployed to NAS Iwakuni Japan to participate in the 1st MAF change of Command ceremonies.

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Personnel eligible to reconlist:	0
Hours flown this month:	534.7
Total accident free hours:	5561.5
Ordnance expended:	
2.75 inch rockets	53
MK-76 bombs	42

MAY

Due to increased operations in RVN and a lack of units requiring training support, VMO-6 had no deployments during the months of May or June. This period was utilized to increase our combat readiness through training and proficiency. The type of flights flown in the OV-10 and the conduct of each hop changed to include those maneuvers discussed in the OV-10 Tactical Manual.

Three (3) of the six (6) Aerial Observers sent to H&AS-15 Forward in DaNang in April were returned to VMO-6. One of these, 1stLt JACKSON, was designated an Aerial Observer prior to rotation back to conus. Three (3) remained in DaNang and began working with 1st ANGLICO and USAF OV-10A's. On 25 May Captain R.E. DIETHELMER was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Captain M. KANCOZ, Jr., received a Certificate of Commendation.

Personnel eligible to reconlist:	0
Hours flown this month:	579.6
Total accident free hours:	6141.1
Ordnance expended:	
2.75 inch rockets	50
7.62 M-60 rounds	924
MK-76 bombs	95

JUNE

June was an interesting month and for a short time the squadron worked at a feverish pace in preparation (pack-up, etc.) for deployment. On 23 June the squadron received the word that it was to be ready to move out within four hours of notice. All personnel immediately turned to readying all equipment for the move. This posture was maintained until 25 June when the squadron was advised to stand-down. There were mixed feelings of disappointment and relief but satisfaction that the squadron could deploy on short notice if required to do so.

During the week of 26-30 June VMO-6 underwent a functional management inspection conducted by MAG-36. The squadron received satisfactory grades in all areas.

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Personnel eligible to reenlist:	1
Personnel reenlisted:	1
Hours flown this month:	505.8
Total accident free hours:	6646.9
Ordnance expended:	
2.75 inch rockets	140
7.62 M-60 rounds	12,582
MK-76 bombs	96

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PART II
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE

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