

HEADQUARTERS
Marine Air Control Group 18
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:KRB:drd
5750
003A02573
25 Jan 1973

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SECRET (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1), Parts 2 and 3 and enclosure (4))

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group 18
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July 1972 to 31 December 1972
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1D
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8B
(c) ForO 5750.1A
(d) WgO 5750.1B

MACG-18

Encl: (1) Marine Air Control Group 18 Command Chronology for period 1 July 1972 to 31 Dec 1972
(2) Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron 18 Command Chronology for period 1 July 1972 to 31 Dec 1972
(3) Marine Air Support Squadron 2 Command Chronology for period 1 July 1972 to 31 Dec 1972
(4) Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18 Command Chronology for period 1 July 1972 to 31 Dec 1972 (C)
(5) Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Command Chronology for period 1 July 1972 to 31 Dec 1972

filed sep

1. In compliance with references (a) through (d), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

W. J. McManus
W. J. MCMANUS
Acting

Classified by MACG-18
Subject to GDS of EO 11652
Automatically downgraded at Two
Year Intervals
Declassify on December 31, 1981

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MACG - 18
NO. *0022-73*

filed - Dec 1972

1st MAW S&C No	Copy No
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 July 1972 to 31 December 1972

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 - (2) Enclosure (3) Marine Air Support Squadron 2 Command Chronology
 - (3) Enclosure (4) Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18 Command Chronology (C)
 - (4) Enclosure (5) Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Command Chronology

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Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DesignationCommander

Marine Air Control Group 18

Col E. M. JONES
1 July 1972 - 5 July 1972
Col G. D. MCPHERSON
6 July 1972 - 31 December 1972

Subordinate Units

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron 18

LtCol L. B. MYERS
1 July 1972 - 10 July 1972
Maj R. A. GURLEY
11 July 1972 - 15 September 1972
Maj E. S. OLIN
16 September 1972 - 31 December 1972

Marine Air Support Squadron 2

LtCol J. H. THOMPSON
1 July 1972 - 27 July 1972
Maj H. E. CRAIG
28 July 1972 - 29 September 1972
Maj C. R. FRANKLIN
30 September 1972 - 31 December 1972

Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18

LtCol R. V. WALKER
1 July 1972 - 15 July 1972
LtCol R. A. BECKER
16 July 1972 - 31 December 1972

Marine Air Control Squadron 4

LtCol T. K. BURK Jr.
1 July 1972 - 31 December 1972

2. Location

Marine Air Control Group 18

1 July 1972 - 31 December 1972
MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron 18

1 July 1972 - 31 December 1972
MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

Marine Air Support Squadron 2

1 July 1972 - 31 December 1972
MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

Marine Air Control Squadron 4

1 July 1972 - 31 December 1972
MCAS Futema, Okinawa, Japan

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3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

LtCol R. P. ECKMANN
1 July 1972 - 23 September 1972
LtCol J. C. DIXON
24 September 1972 - 4 October 1972
LtCol W. J. MCMANUS
27 October 1972 - 31 December 1972

S-1

Maj M. T. NICANDER
1 July 1972 - 31 December 1972

S-2

LtCol J. C. DIXON
1 July 1972 - 4 October 1972
Maj L. A. SOLLBERGER
5 October 1972 - 27 November 1972
LtCol W. A. COHN
28 November 1972 - 31 December 1972

S-3

LtCol J. C. DIXON
1 July 1972 - 4 October 1972
Maj L. A. SOLLBERGER
5 October 1972 - 27 November 1972
LtCol W. A. COHN
28 November 1972 - 31 December 1972

S-4

Maj A. C. GETZ
1 July 1972 - 31 December 1972

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>Other</u>	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
105	784	0	0	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARYSECRET

1. Change of Command
2. IG Inspection
3. Support of SEA Operations
 - a. AIC's on ships.
 - b. AIC's in Thailand.
 - c. Comm Pers
 - d. SEA Interfare (& NKP tests)
4. Relocation of Units
 - a. MACS-4
 - b. MASS-2
5. Improvements to 1st MAW Air C & C Support
 - a. Upgraded Manual TACC
 - b. TYQ-1/TDCC/TAOC Plans.

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Commencing with the Group Change of Command on 6 July 1972 at which Col G. D. MCPHERSON received the Group colors from Col E. M. JONES, this six month period has been one of considerable personnel perturbation, preparation for, and participation in the biennial IG inspection during November, and significant support to the air war over North Vietnam. Additionally plans have been made for relocation of MACS-4 and MASS-2 and for improving the operational capability of the 1st MAW tactical air command and control system. These events are summarized in succeeding paragraphs.

In the area of personnel perturbation, it will be noted in Part I of this chronology that the Group Commander, Group Executive Officer, and three of the four squadron commanders and executive officers were changed during this period. Such changes were reflected throughout the Group in principal staff billets both in the Group and the squadrons. These changes while disruptive, have not significantly affected the Group's capability to carry out its operational mission.

The IG inspection which took place between 8 - 12 November, was preceded by a series of Group and Wing pre-inspections and consequently absorbed most of the Group's administrative effort through 12 November. The results of the inspection were generally favorable with high marks given for troop appearance and physical fitness and for mission readiness and capability.

Throughout the entire six months period continuing support was provided to air operations in Southeast Asia. This included the provision of Air Intercept Controllers (AIC's) to Navy Tactical Data System (NTDS) equipped ships of the 7th Fleet in the Gulf of Tonkin. This program, originally started in 1971 was extended through FY 73. During this period as many as four Marine AIC's were assigned to PIRAZ and NSAR ships, two each to the USS Reeves (DLG-24) and two to the USS Jouett (DLG-29). The period of TAD varied from 30 to 45 days and included excellent AIC experience in controlling CAP aircraft under combat conditions. Another similar program was instituted in June 1972 and continued during this six month period. This program provided three MACS-4 AIC's to augment USAF controllers at the Control and Reporting Center (CRC) at Udorn, Thailand and the Control and Reporting Points (CRP) at Ubon and Nakhon Phanom (NKP) Thailand and to assist in controlling Marine and Air Force bombers involved in SEA strike operations. By the of this period the USAF 621st Tactical Air Control Squadron had received sufficient Air Force Controllers to reduce the USMC augmentation to one AIC at the NKP CRP. Contribution by these controllers was considered so significant that one of them, 1st Lt G. M. GODSIL, was awarded the first CG, 1st MAW Outstanding Company Grade Officer of the Month award for his services. Associated peripherally with the activities of the CRC and CRP's in Thailand was the activity of the small Marine Tactical Data Communications Central (TDCC) detachment at the USAF Tactical Air

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Control Center (Northern Sector) of Monkey Mountain at Danang, SVN. This detachment operationally controlled by the 620th Tactical Air Control Squadron of the 7th Air Force and administratively and logistically supported by MACS-4 furnished the digital interface between the NTDS ships of the 7th Fleet in the Gulf of Tonkin and the USAF SEA Air defense control system. During this period the detachment was reduced in strength from 1 officer and 19 men to 1 officer and 15 men and plans were made to displace the entire TACC (NS) from Danang to NKP upon signing of a peace treaty. At the same time a test utilizing the TDCC equipment and personnel at NKP was planned to commence at truce day (X-Day) plus 5. The purpose of this test is to determine the feasibility of digital data transmission between NKP and Gulf of Tonkin NTDS ships. Upon completion of this test, plans call for the retrograde of the TDCC personnel and equipment to MACG-18 headquarters at Iwakuni. During this entire six months period MWCS-18 has provided vital assistance to Task Force Delta and MAG-15 at Nam Phong, Thailand in the form of communication operators, technicians and equipment. The number of personnel involved increased from 1 officer and 42 men at the beginning of the period to 3 officers and 53 men at the end. One of these officers has been designated as the Task Force Delta Communication Officer. Personnel are rotated every $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 months in order to provide combat training and experience to as many marines as possible.

Relocation of MACS-4 had been planned prior to this period but was actually executed during this period. Originally planned in order to give MACS-4 radars a better site for surveillance coverage and to eliminate a potential radar hazard to a proposed ordnance handling area, a site at an abandoned STRATCOM Nike Hercules missile Installation at MCAS, Futema was selected and turned over to MACS-4. As of the end of this period all MACS-4 personnel and equipment less warehouse supplies were moved from the old MACS-4 administration (CP) area. The radars remained at the former C & E site pending major construction effort at the STRATCOM site. Also required at this site is construction of a warehouse and of additional barracks space. This move was expected during this period due to the urgency of moving MASS-2 from Iwakuni to Okinawa in anticipation of MAG's 12 and 15 from SEA to Iwakuni. The move of MASS-2 was requested by the Group for the primary purpose of improving the MASS-2 ability to train Air Support Radar Teams (ASRT) since no simulated nor live bombing ranges are available at Iwakuni, Authority was received from (CGFMFPAC on 23 December 1972) to relocate MASS-2 to Futema subsequent to 15 January 1973. MASS-2 operations during this period were highlighted by the activities of their DASC at Camp Courtney, Okinawa and the ASRT at Cubi Point, Phillipines. Operating in support of the 3rd Division, the DASC actually assisted in the training of Tactical Air Control Parties for the 4th and 9th Marines and participated in some fifteen commex's with these same units. The ASRT during the same period conducted a combined total of 396 live and simulated bombing runs dropping a total of 177 bombs.

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During this period plans were made to upgrade the capability of the 1st MAW TACC to perform its mission function. Lack of aircraft and trained TACC personnel and concentration on preparation for the IG inspection had reduced the TACC combat potential to an unacceptable level. An energetic revitalization program of training was started late in this period and was progressing impressively by the end of the period. The purpose of this program is two fold: first, to bring the manual TACC to a reasonable combat potential and; second, to prepare personnel to receive and operate the new automatic TACC/TDCC equipment, (TYQ-1 and TYQ-3) when it arrives during the next period. Plans call for a digital link between the TACC at Iwakuni and the MACS-4 TAOC at Futema. This will permit TACC monitoring of TAOC operations including flight following of aircraft during air-to-air missile and gunnery practice and training GCI operations.

As a general statement, this period has been characterized by two distinct phases. The first dominated by preparation for the IG inspection and the second involved with an increasing tempo of mission oriented training, planning, and unit relocation to facilitate such training. Underlying both phases for the entire period has been the highly significant and successful Group support of SEA combat operations.

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PART III

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

6 July 1971 Col G. D. MCPHERSON assumed command of MACG-18 vice Col E. M. JONES. Ref: 1st MAW special order 241-72

8 - 12 November 1972 Biennial IG Inspection. Ref: 1st MAW Bulletin 5041 of 11 Jul 72

1 Jul - 31 Dec 1972 MACG-18 (MACS-4) continued to supply Air Intercept Controllers to Seventh Fleet. Ref: CTF seven nine msg 090717Z July 71 (C); CTE seven zero pt eight msg 121351Z May 72 (C); CG First MAW msg 230520Z May 72 (C).

1 Jul - 31 Dec 1972 MACG-18 (MACS-4) Air Defense Control Officers augmented US Air Force 621st Tactical Control Squadron in Thailand. Ref: 7th AF msg 011120Z Jun 72 (S); CINCPAC msg 170148Z Jun 72 (S).

1 Jul - 31 Dec 1972 MACG-18 (MWCS-18) supported Task Force Delta and MAG-15 at Nam Phong, Thailand with operations, technicians and equipment average number of personnel was 3 officers and 55 enlisted. Ref: 1st MAW OPORD 1-72 (1st MAW msg 270911Z May 72 (S)).

1 Jul - 31 Dec 1972 Marine Tactical Data Communications Control (TDCC) detachment at USAF Tactical Air Control Center (northern sector) on Monkey Mountain, Da Nang, RVN, continued to provide the vital tactical data system interface between 7th Fleet and 7th Air Force. Additionally, planning commenced for a test of the feasibility of digital data transmission between NAKHON Phanom, Thailand and Gulf of Tonkin NTDS ships. Ref: JCS msg 231936Z Sep 70 (TS); Admin CINCPACFLT msg 102202Z Dec 72 (S).

22 Sep - 31 Dec 1972 Relocation of MACS-4 to MCAS Futema completed except for Supply warehouse. Ref: CO MACS-4 ltr to CO MACG-18 sent 11100 dated 2 Sep 1972.

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23 Dec 1972

Authority received from CG FMFPAC to relocate MASS-2 from MCAS, Iwakuni to MCAS (H) Futema. Ref: CG FMFPAC msg 232207Z Dec 72 (S).

1 Nov - 31 Dec 72

Efforts were continued to up grade the capability of the 1st MAW TACC. Ref: CO, MACG-18 ltr to CG 1st MAW Ser 3500 dtd 11 Nov 72.

Planning continued for the arrival of the AN/TYQ-3 Ref: CO MACG-18 ltr to CG 1st MAW msg 090551Z Jan 73.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Command Chronologies of Subordinate Commands.

- Sited
ref*
- a. Appendix A - Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron 18
Command Chronology.
 - b. Appendix B - Marine Air Support Squadron 2
Command Chronology.
 - c. Appendix C - Marine Communications Squadron 18
Command Chronology.
 - d. Appendix D - Marine Air Control Squadron 4
Command Chronology.

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