

HEADQUARTERS
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing FMFPac
FPO San Francisco 96602

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15 September 1966

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: ACoFS, G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) Wing Order 5750.1B

Encl: ✓(1) Part One - Organizational Data
✓(2) Part Two - Narrative Summary
✓(3) Part Three - Significant Events
✓(4) Part Four - Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted for the month of August 1966.

Victor A. Armstrong
VICTOR A. ARMSTRONG

Copy to:
CG, 1st MAW (Copy 1 of 7 plus enclosures)
CG, 1st MAW (Copies 2 thru 5 less enclosure (4))
File (Copy 6 less enclosure (4))
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PART I

1. Organizational Data Period 1 to 31 August 1966.

a. Commanding Officer and Staff of MAG-36.

CO	JOHNSON, William G.	COL (1-23 Aug)
	ARMSTRONG, Victor A.	COL (24-31 Aug)
XO	COSTELLO, Keith W.	LTCOL
ADJ	AMBROSE, Raymond H.	1STLT
S-1	CHAMBERS, D. L.	CAPT
S-2	PRESSON, Robert E.	MAJOR
S-3	ZITNIK, Robert J.	LTCOL
S-4	ALDWORTH, J.	LTCOL
Flt. Surgeon	SCHENK, Thomas	LT (USN)
MTO	MOFFETT, Forrest L.	CAPT.
EMB	PARKER, George R.	2NDLT
ORD	PARKER, George R.	2NDLT
Maintenance	CHRISTIE, C. O.	MAJOR
Communications	MEEKS, Clarence I.	CAPT
Civil Affairs	GONZALES, C. E.	CAPT
Avn Safety	BONNEY, R. A.	MAJOR
NATOPS	PURCELL, Robert D.	MAJOR
Legal	NONE	
Security	GONZALES, C. E.	CAPT

b. Commanders and Staff of attached units:

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H&MS-36

CO	MOONEY, T. G.	LTCOL
XO	HATCH, R. D.	MAJOR (1-11 Aug)
	BONNEY, R. A.	MAJOR (12-31 Aug)
MAINT O	CHRISTIE, C. O.	MAJOR

MABS-36

CO	KIRBY, Edward K.	LTCOL (1 Aug)
	CARLSON, William C.	LTCOL (2-31 Aug)
XO	BUCKNER II, Gordon H.	MAJOR
OPS	PETTIGREW, William M.	CAPT

HMM-361

CO	TWEED, M. D.	LTCOL
XO	KUCI, R. A.	MAJOR
OPS	DUPHINEY, R. W.	MAJOR

HMM-362

CO	GARROTTO, Alfred F.	LTCOL
XO	DUVALL, Raymond L.	MAJOR
OPS	BRAY, Richard P.	MAJOR

HMM-364

CO	SOMERVILLE, D. A.	LTCOL
XO	NEEDNAM, M. J.	MAJOR
OPS	RIORDAN, C. D.	CAPT

VMO-6

CO	MALONEY, W. R.	MAJOR
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XO

GREGORY, R. M.

MAJOR

OPS

DODDS, W. E.

MAJOR

2. Task Organization and Unit Location:

UNIT DESIGNATION	LOCATION	DATE
H&MS-36	KY HA	1-31 August 1966
MABS-36	KY HA	1-31 August 1966
HMM-361	KY HA	1-31 August 1966
HMM-362	KY HA	1-31 August 1966
HMM-364	KY HA	1-31 August 1966
VMO-6	KY HA	1-31 August 1966

3. Average monthly strength: August 1966

UNIT	Mar. Off.	Mar. Enl.	Navy Off.	Navy Enl.
MAG-36	254	1311	8	30
H&MS-36	47	259	0	0
MABS-36	20	499	4	30
HMM-361	50	158	1	0
HMM-362	51	157	1	0
HMM-364	51	128	1	0
VMO-6	35	110	1	0

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PART II

1. Narrative Summary.

a. During the month of August, 1966, MAG-36 continued to support the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions, the Vietnamese I CORPS forces and the newly arrived Republic of Korea Marine Corps Brigade; utilizing the entire spectrum of helicopter capabilities. Missions ranged from small troop lifts of reconnaissance teams, administrative and emergency tactical medical evacuations, to large strikes and logistic resupply missions.

b. Tactical aircraft recovery operations were totally successful on all occasions of downed aircraft. One UH-34D from HMM-364 was downed during a troop lift of the 2nd Battalion/5th Marines during Operation Colorado. The embarked troops provided security until other troops could be lifted in to their assistance. The HMM-364 Maintenance crew dismantled the aircraft under sporadic sniper fire and the plane was lifted out in sections by a CH-46 helicopter from MAG-16. Another UH-34D from HMM-362 experienced engine failure near Duc Pho in the vicinity of an estimated VC Battalion. On this occasion the "SPARROWHAWK" aircraft were launched with other MAG-36 aircraft to lift a reaction force of one company to protect the maintenance crew. The dismantled aircraft was lifted from the zone with the exception of the tail cone which had to be left behind due to the rapidly deteriorating tactical situation. This was the only instance of "SPARROWHAWK" utilization during the month.

c. OPERATION COLORADO. This large operation was conducted by the 5th Marine Regiment and elements of Republic of Vietnam forces supported by fixed and rotary wing aircraft from the 1st Marine Airwing. The operation was conducted between 6 and 15 August. Helicopter support was characterized by Battalion-sized troop-lifts, company resupply and med-evacs, artillery lifts, and refugee evacuation. On the opening day of the operation, 2100 Vietnamese Marines were Heli-lifted from the Quang Tin Provincial Headquarters at Tam Ky, which was the base of operations, into an unsecure landing zone at AT 984337 by 20 CH-46's from MAG-16 and 60 UH-34D's from both MAG-16 and MAG-36. Later that day the 2nd Battalion/5th Marines was lifted into positions near the landing zones which had received aerial preparation by several flights of MAG-11 and MAG-12 aircraft controlled by a VMO-6 TAC(A). On 7 August the 1st Battalion/5th Marines was lifted into positions at BT 076298, BT 038208 and BT 076208. An emergency lift of 105 Howitzer ammo to Que Son was completed by six UH-34D's from MAG-36, four CH-46's and one CH-37 from MAG-16. On 10 August the 1st Battalion/5th Marines became heavily engaged at BT 230235 and required emergency resupply and med-evac support. Heavy thunderstorm activity hampered escort aircraft and eight helicopters were hit by heavy automatic weapons fire and .50 caliber machine-gun fire while in the zone at BT 230235. SSgt R. T.

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WALSH, gunner in a UH-34D from FMM-362 was mortally wounded during this mass med-evac mission. The remainder of the operation was typified by company sized troop inserts and retractions, resupply/med-evac and TAC(A) missions which reacted to calls from the field bringing fixed wing ordnance to bear on cave entrances, trench lines, fighting holes, and huts. Weather played a significant role in this operation due to heavy thunderstorms, which occurred each afternoon, completely isolating units in the field from support aircraft. At 120255H the base camp at Quang Tin came under heavy mortar, small arms and recoilless rifle attack. No MAG-36 personnel were injured or aircraft damaged. During the remainder of the operation, one aircraft was airborne over the camp during all hours of darkness as a look-out.

d. MAG-36 supplied aircraft in support of OPERATION SWANNEE from 16 to 21 August, flying direct support missions from Marble Mountain Air Facility at Danang to landing zones in the Danang TAOR.

e. OPERATION JACKSON commenced on 27 August with 32 UH-34D's and two UH-1E's lifting the 3rd Battalion/5th Marines and the 3rd Battalion/7th Marines who manned blocking positions in the vicinity of BS 528845. On 28 August 790 troops were lifted to new positions at BS 450860. On 29 August MAG-36 aircraft stood by for possible employment but were not utilized and OPERATION JACKSON ended quietly.

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PART III

1. Significant Events.

a. From 9 to 11 August, the CMC toured the I CORPS Marine Corps posts and visited several forward Battalion CP's during OPERATION COLORADO. While in the CP of one of the units, his party received a burst of automatic weapons fire from BT 231229.

b. On 24 August in a Change of Command Ceremony on the South Mat, Col Victor A. Armstrong relieved Col William G. Johnson as Commanding Officer of MAG-36.

c. On 30 August major repair work commenced on the North Mat and continued construction of the North Mat Extension by MCB-3, with expected date of completion set for 1 October to coincide with the arrival of HMM-165.

d. On 31 August the advance party of HMM-165 arrived and augmented HMM-364.

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PART IV

1. Documentation.

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ANNEX G to PART IV

1. MCAF KY HA, RVN, North Mat & North Mat extension under construction.

(PHOTO)



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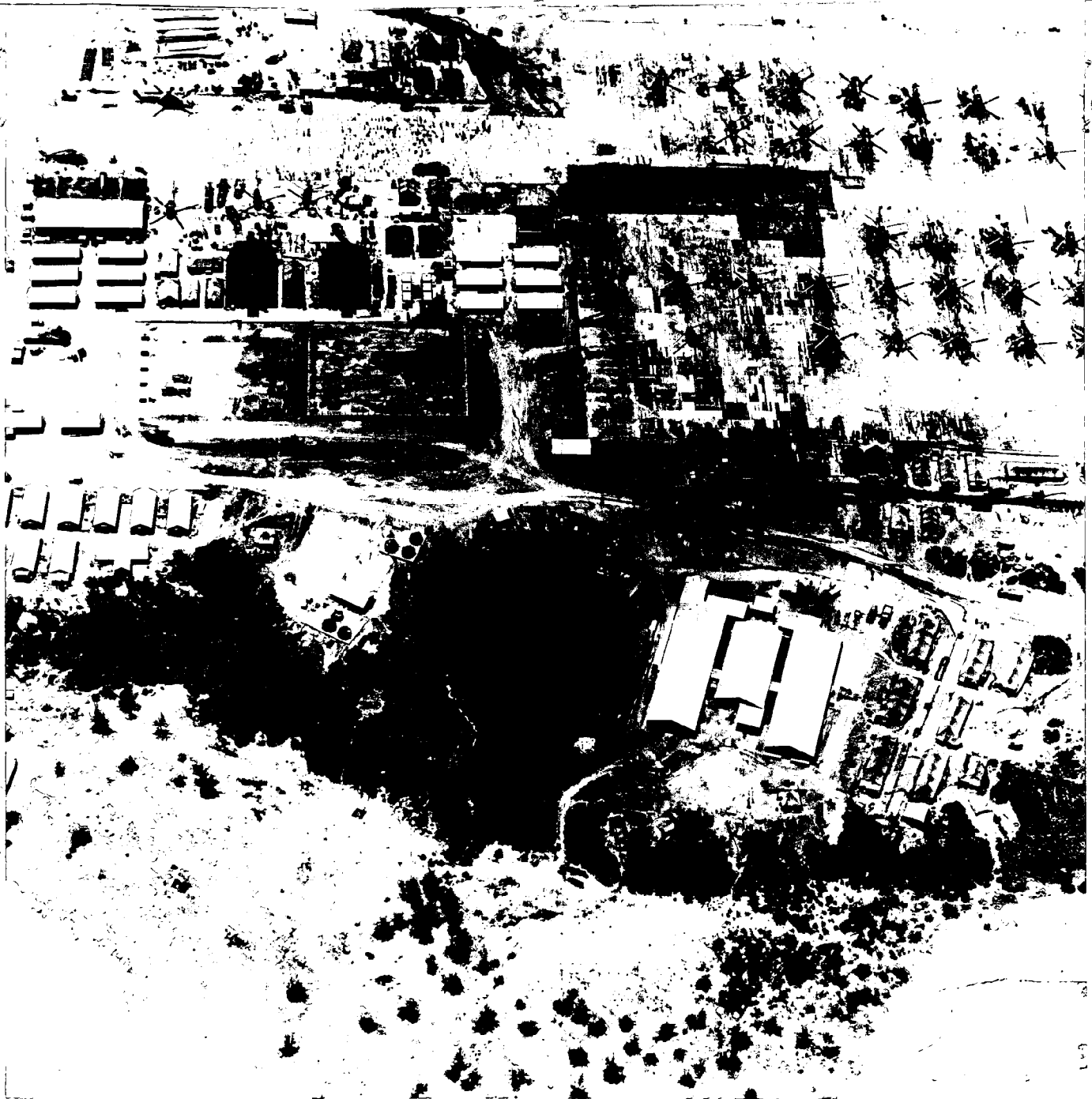
Enclosure (4)
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ANNEX H to PART IV

1. MCAF KY HA, RVN, looking SW showing center taxi-way and N Mat Repair area.

(PHOTO)



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Enclosure (4)
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ANNEX I to PART IV

1. MCAF KY HA, RVN, looking SW showing South Mat.

(PHOTO)



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ANNEX J to PART IV

1. MCAF KY HA, RVN, looking SE.

(PHOTO)



J-1

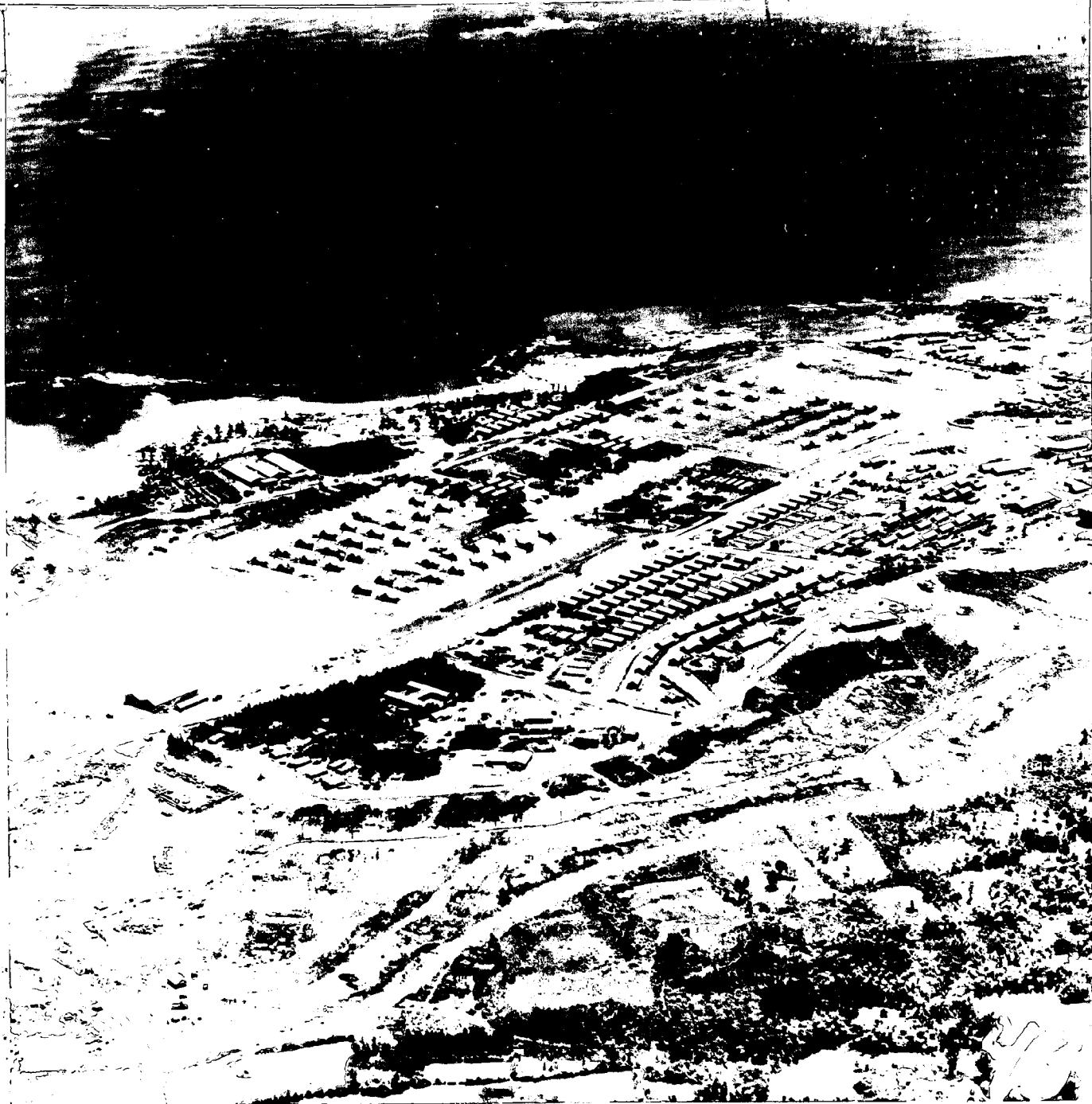
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ANNEX K to PART IV

1. MCAF KY HA, RVN, view looking East.

(PHOTO)



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Enclosure (4)
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ANNEX L to PART IV

1. MCAF KY HA, RVN, including MACS-7 & 1st MED BN.

(PHOTO)



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Enclosure (4)
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