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MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON 2
Marine Wing Headquarters Group 1
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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5750
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5 October 1966
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Headquarters Group 1

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1 (U)

1. Organizational Data

a. Subordinate Units

(1) ASRT Alpha - AN/TPQ-10 system #11 located at ChuLai, RVN.
(2) ASRT Bravo - AN/TPQ-10 system #2 located on hill 225, DaNang, RVN.
(3) ASRT Charlie - AN/TPQ-10 system #6 located at DongHa, RVN.
(4) ASRT Delta - AN/TPQ-10 system #12 located at DongHa, RVN.
(5) DASC located at 3rd Marine Division Command Post, DaNang, RVN.
(6) DASC located at 1st Marine Division Command Post, ChuLai, RVN.
(7) DASC located at 4th Marine Regiment (Forward Command Post, DongHa, RVN.
(8) DASC located at 4th Marine Regiment (Rear) Command Post, PhuBai, RVN. (1 through 16 September)

b. Period Covered 1 September through 30 September 1966.

c.

Commanding Officer	LtCol H. HUNTER, JR.
Executive Officer	Maj. E. S. PAYNE
Operations Officer	Maj. J. L. NORTON
DASC DaNang OIC	Capt. J. W. GIBBONS
DASC ChuLai OIC	Capt. R. J. THOMPSON
DASC DongHa OIC	Capt. J. J. DEENEY
ASRT Alpha OIC	1st Lt. J. M. O'NEILL, JR.
ASRT Bravo OIC	Capt. J. P. FOX
ASRT Charlie OIC	Capt. R. M. ONDRICK
ASRT Delta OIC	Capt. D. A. QUIDAS
Administrative Officer	1st Lt. R. L. KING
Supply Officer	Maj. L. D. HARPOLD

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
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MASS-2 Cmd Chron

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Communications Officer	Capt. J. W. AYERS
Motor Transport Officer	1st Lt. B. M. BIGGS

2. Chronological Listing of Significant Events

a. 4 September. Lieutenant General KRULAK, CG, FMFPAC visited the DASC at CHULAI.

b. 5 September. Lieutenant General KRULAK, CG, FMFPAC and Major General ROBERTSHAW, CG, 1stMAW visited the DASC at DANANG.

c. 9 September. Lieutenant General WALT, CG, III MAF, and Mister MORGAN of the American Broadcasting Company visited the DASC at DONG HA during Operation PRAIRIE. Brigadier General LEE, CG, 2nd ROK Marine Brigade visited the DASC at CHULAI for a briefing.

d. 11 September. Brigadier General STYLES, ADC, 1stMAR DIV, visited the DASC at CHULAI.

e. 12 September. Received planning guidance for operations NORTH CAROLINA and SOUTH CAROLINA from Plans Officer, 3rd MAR DIV. Lieutenant Colonel H. . HUNTER releived Lieutenant Colonel E. M. JONES as Commanding Officer, MASS-2.

f. 13 September. Issued warning order to all subordinate units concerning Operation NORTH CAROLINA. Survey Team sent to DONG HA to survey possible ASRT sites at CAMLO and DONG HA for support of NORTH CAROLINA.

g. 14 September. Received 1st MAW OPORD 318-66 for Operation PRAIRIE (Expanded) (Modified NORTH CAROLINA). Viet Cong (VC) units harrassed MASS-2 Survey Party south of DONG HA. Small arms fire received and VC removed survey stocks. VC booby trap trails leading to survey site. ASRT CHARLIE located at PHUBAI alerted for air movement to DONG HA at first light 15 September.

h. 15 September. ASRT CHARLIE airlifted by C-130 to DONG HA. Survey of ASRT position at DONG HA completed. DASC at PHU BAI alerted for air movement to DONG HA to reinforce the Mobile DASC already in position there. Ready for air movement within five (5) hours. Major General ROBERTSHAW, CG, 1st MAW visited DASC at DONG HA.

i. 16 September. DASC at PHU BAI air lifted to DONG HA by C-130.

j. 17 September. ASRT CHARLIE at DONG HA became operational. DASC at DONG HA now capable of conducting large scale air opetations.

k. 18 September. Received planning guidance from III MAF and Detachment C-1, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in conjunction with Radar Bombing support for Special Forces Camps within I Corps Tactical Zone.

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1. 24 September. Unidentified station entered TAD #1 during AN/TPQ-10 radar bombing mission and commenced voice and noise jamming. ASRT Bravo was able to complete mission despite jamming.

3. Statistical Data

a. Direct Air Support Centers

	TOTAL MISSIONS		
	Fixed Wing	Helicopter	Med-Evacs
(1) DASC, 3rd Mar Div CP	295	1,103	441
(2) DASC, 1st Mar Div CP	443	1,305	263
(3) DASC, 4th Mar (Fwd) CP	777	853	228
* (4) DASC, 4th Mar (Rear) CP	101	248	36
TOTALS	1,616	3,509	968

* DASC, Phu Bai deactivated on 16 September 1966

b. Air Support Radar Teams

	No. of Missions	No. of Targets	No. of A/C Cont.	Tons of Bombs
(1) ASRT ALPHA - CHU LAI	420	459	422	485.6
(2) ASRT BRAVO - DANANG	287	371	314	374.9
(3) ASRT CHARLIE-DONG HA	313	579	332	512.7
(4) ASRT DELTA - DONG HA	482	763	503	599.5
TOTALS	1,502	2,172	1,571	1,972.7

4. Narrative Summary

a. Administration. The average overall strength of the squadron increased from last month, the average being as follows:

Officers	50
Enlisted(USMC)	219
Enlisted (USN)	2

One SSgt accepted appointment as WO(W1), eleven CPL's were promoted to Sgt, forty-one LCpl's were promoted to Cpl and twenty-two PFC's were promoted to LCpl.

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b. Civil Affairs. During the month 2nd Lt. R. D. BONDURANT instructed five faculty members of HOA MY Primary School in basic english twice each week. The squadron corpsmen assisted Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Mar Div with its medical Civil Affairs Program treating approximately 150 Vietnamese Nationals at HOA PHAT and AN KHE hamlets.

c. Special Services. Special services consisted of several beach runs, nightly movies, continued use of the squadron book exchange library, weight lifting room, volleyball court and archery range.

d. Operations and Training.

At the beginning of the reporting period, four Direct Air Support Centers and four Air Support Radar Teams were in active support of all operations conducted by Marine units in III MAF. The mobile DASC at Dong Ha was augmented on 16 September by personnel and equipment from the DASC at Phu Bai. At this time a fully operational DASC was established at Dong Ha to support operations in that area. The DASC, at Phu Bai, has been deactivated, thus only three permanent DASC's are operating in the III MAF area.

Along with the movement of the DASC at Phu Bai to Dong Ha, the ASRT at Phu Bai was also moved to Dong Ha. With these two ASRT's under the control of the DASC at Dong Ha, the squadron is capable of providing twenty-four hour radar bombing with 100 percent backup. Near the end of September, the tempo of operations at Dong Ha increased to the point of full utilization of the AN/TPQ-10 Radar Course Directing Centrals at Dong Ha.

As a result of heavier radar bombing commitments, the total tonnage during September far exceeded any month since the AN/TPQ-10 systems were introduced in the country. During September a total of 1979.9 tons of bombs were dropped under radar control on 2,172 targets. This brings the ASRT totals since coming to Vietnam to 9,956 missions dropping 12,127.6 tons of ordnance.

During September the registration of TPQ bombing support for nine different Special Forces camps was completed. This registration completed Phase I of a project levied on MASS-2 for radar bombing support of Special Forces camps during the forthcoming monsoon season.

Basic and local interest training was conducted during the month at both the Da Nang C.P. and the Chu Lai detachment. Operational commitments at Phu Bai and Dong Ha did not permit adequate time for formalized training. All sections reported having conducted technical training.

e. Supply and Services. This month showed an increase in logistic requirements due to the movement of the DASC and ASRT at Phu Bai to the Dong Ha area. Air transportation for these requirements was arranged through normal channels and filled on an "as available" basis.

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Camp construction has continued on maintenance of existing structures and the replacement of head facilities. An extension was completed on the Staff NCO Club and also to shower facilities. Construction material has been received promptly from MWHG-1 and is being air lifted to Dong Ha for decking and strong backing erected tentage.

Additional support was received from MWHG-1 and 1st MAW to aid in vigorous programs to help the generator problems mentioned last month.

5. Commanders Comments. The facts reported above are considered to be timely and of significant value for historial purposes. Once again the Air Support Radar Teams have set a new record for ordnance tonnage. This is not attributed to an increased capability within the squadron, but rather to more effective utilization by the ground commanders of this means of air support.

Over eighty personnel from the squadron have developed the new detachment at Dong Ha. This is by far the largest detachment the squadron has formed and, in effect, at Dong Ha the Wing now has a MASS(-) in the northernmost section of I Corps. The MASS-2 buildup at Dong Ha from an isolated ASRT of 15 people to a detachment capable of all air control and air support missions assigned an air support squadron has been accomplished professionally and with a minimum of growing pains. Plans to make the camp permanent are well underway, a detachment headquarters section has been formed, and it is expected that within sixty days the camp construction/improvement projects at Dong Ha will be completed.

H. Hunter, Jr.
H. HUNTER, Jr.

DISTRIBUTION:

MWHG-1	(7)
S-3	(1)
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