

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

3/DGW:dlw
5750
2 Nov 1972

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36
(Attn: S-3)

Subj: Monthly Chronology; month of October 1972

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.3B

Encl: (1) VMO-6 October Chronology of U. S. Operations/
Support for Vietnam

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

J. N. Keathley
J. N. KEATHLEY
Acting

VMO-6

TAB J

Oct 72

VMO-6 OCTOBER CHRONOLOGY OF U. S. OPERATIONS/SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. <u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>
Marine Observation Squadron 6	LtCol D. E. DILLEY 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
<u>Staff Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>
<u>Executive Officer</u>	Major J. N. KEATHLEY 22 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
S-1 Officer	Captain N. J. BROSS 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
S-2 Officer	CWO-2 J. F. DONER 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
S-3 Officer	Major D. G. WORKMON 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
S-4 Officer	Captain L. D. GABLE 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
Human Relations Officer	Captain F. A. BEST 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Major G. A. ROSS 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
NATOPS Officer	Captain T. F. BRUNK 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972
Aviation Safety Officer	Captain V. L. GENNARO 1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972

Subordinate Units

NONE

1

ENCLOSURE (1)

Attached Units

NONE

2. Location

1 October 1972 - 31 October 1972 MCAS (H) Futema

3. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
USMC	36	129
USN	None	None
Other	None	None

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of October VMO-6 flew 631.6 hours. A portion of the hours were flown in support of the 12th Marines at NAS Atsugi, Japan (39.7), Squadron Training at NAS Cubi Point, Phillipines (95.3), and 3rd Recon Battalion at Ona Point Okinawa (4.6). The remainder of the monthly flight hours were utilized for normal pilot training. A breakdown of the missions flown included naval gunfire and artillery air spotting, night paradrops, ordnance delivery, tactical air control (air-borne), Squadron FEX manuevers, instrument and familiarization flights.

On 1 October, two aircraft departed MCAS (H)MFutema bound for NAS Atsugi, to support 12th Marines. Squadron aircraft were to be employed in aerial spotting for artillery located in the Fuji ranges. Due to interference by Japanese anti-war demonstrators and inclement weather, less than desirable air spotting was accomplished. On the one day that fire missions could be directed, results were so good that the 12th Marines requested additional OV-10 support for November. One difficulty was encountered in the area of movement support to Atsugi. The enlisted troops and officers scheduled to arrive Atsugi by USAF aircraft arrived two days late, due to either improper assignment of passenger status before leaving, or mismanagement of passenger status while enroute.

On 3 October, VMO-6 aircraft were employed in a night paradrop conducted by the 3rd Recon Battalion. Sixteen (16) jumps were recorded at the Yomatan drop area, utilizing eight personnel.

On 6 October, Admiral R. E. FOWLER, Jr., received a briefing on the functions and mission of the Marine Observation Squadron. After the brief, the Admiral flew a local fam hop with Captain Tom BRUNK, the squadron NATOPS Officer.

Additionally, on 6 October, four (4) aircraft departed for NAS Cubi Point to be used in spotting naval gunfire. The USS DEWEY was assigned to fire missions for these aircraft but she developed a hydraulic leak in her only gun mount. Fortunately, fourteen (14) missions were completed satisfactorily. Flight hours, not required for naval gunfire, were used to sharpen pilot ordnance delivery skills. Total ordnance expended was 203 2.75 rockets and 9,291 rounds of 7.62 ammunition. While in the Philippines all pilots and crew members completed JEST school training.

On 16 October, a preliminary Inspector General team arrived from 1st MAW Headquarters to carry out a Group wide inspection. VMO-6 provided several officers and staff NCO's for the personnel part of this function. In preparation for the Inspector General's visit, VMO-6 initiated platoon drill on a regular basis and carried out the first in a series of clothing inspections on 27 October.

On October 19th, a Squadron FEX was conducted using AH-1J Cobra and OV-10A Bronco aircraft jointly, introducing a new realm of realism into FEX problems. FAC(A) training was conducted for Cobra crews using sections of Broncos as close air support aircraft. Prior to this exercise, FEX close air support missions were simulated. Additionally, Broncos acting in the TAC(A) role, controlled the helicopters on constructive medevacs, insertions, and extractions. All of which served to keep pilots and AO's at peak efficiency.

On 24 October, a brief was conducted by the Commanding Officer and his department heads for Colonel J. E. DAUSMAN, Commanding Officer 12th Marine Regiment. After this brief the Colonel flew in an AH-1J aircraft.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 - 9 October The Atsugi Detachment supported the 12th Marines by spotting artillery fire in the Mount Fuji Ranges.
- 3 October VMO-6 carried out night paradrops with 3rd Recon Battalion.
- 6 October Admiral R. E. FOWLER Jr. visited VMO-6 and flew the OV-10 aircraft.

- 6 - 14 October Cubi Point Detachment conducted naval gunfire spotting and ordnance deliveries.
- 16 October MAG-36 was inspected by 1st MAW pre I.G. Team.
- 19 October A squadron FEX was conducted in the NTA.
- 21 October Major J. N. KEATHLEY, the new Executive Officer reported aboard.
- 24 October Colonel J. E. DAUSMAN received a brief on Squadron functions and flew in an AH-1J aircraft.
- 27 October A squadron clothing inspection was held in the troop barracks.