

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON 18
Marine Air Control Group 18
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602

5:DSC:seg
5750
01A00869
8 January 1969

CONFIDENTIAL - This letter is unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

From: Commanding Officer

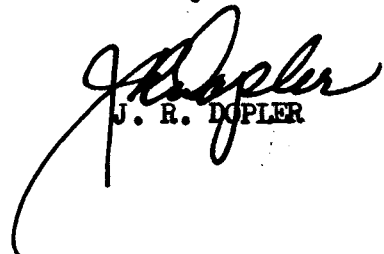
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group 18

Subj: Command Chronology for the month of December 1968

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for the month of December 1968

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded as directed by reference (a).


J. R. DOPLER

144HS-18

CMD CHRON

ENCLOSURE (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

DEC 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON 18

Period

1-31 December 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON 18

1. Officers filling Squadron Billets.

<u>BILLET</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
CO	LtCol John R. DOPLER	1-31 Dec 1968
XO	Maj Donald S. CREAL Jr.	1-31 Dec 1968
AdminOff	1stLt Lowell W. HINES	1-31 Dec 1968
TACO	Maj George N. ALLERTON	1-31 Dec 1968
MatO	1stLt John P. CLANCEY	1-31 Dec 1968
CommO	Maj Robert W. CHAMBERS	1-31 Dec 1968
MTO	2ndLt Peter L. WAAS	1-31 Dec 1968

2. The Squadron is under the organizational structure of T/O M-8615 and is located at Danang, Republic of Vietnam.

3. The average monthly strength was 36 officers and 192 enlisted.

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of December the Fixed Wing and Helicopter resources of the First Marine Aircraft Wing were coordinated and Controlled by the Tactical Air Direction Center. The Seventh Air Force maintains control of "Fragging" First Marine Aircraft Wing "Preplanned" tactical Fixed Wing missions and authorized "on-call" Fixed Wing tactical missions. The Airborne Hot Pad (FW) remains in operation.

2. During the month of December, the TADC coordinated a total of 7208 attack sorties, dropping 15,332 tons of ordnance. These 7208 attack sorties are further broken down into 5428 in country and 1780 out of country sorties. There were also 143 other tactical sorties; 322 ECM/ELINT sorties; 135 Photo and 74 IR sorties. The following units received the number of sorties and percentage of the total Air Support listed: 1stMarDiv 2288, 31.7%-3rdMarDiv 1187, 16.5% - 7thAF(Includes 38 escort sorties) 1434, 19.9% - 7thFleet(Barcap sorties and 13 escort sorties) 346, 4.8% - ROKMC 178, 2.5% - ARVN 118, 1.6%.

3. The out of country missions were further broken into the following categories: Steel Tiger(7thAF) 588, Commando Hunt(7thAF) 808, Barcap (7th Flt) 333, Escort(13 7thFlt)(38 7thAF) 51. First Marine Aircraft Wing Helicopters flew a total of 21,187 tasks moving a total of 13,374 tons of cargo, 106,435 passengers in a total of 54,338 sorties and a total of 15,549.1 flight hours. During December the First Marine Aircraft Wing supported the following operations: KENTUCKY, SCOTLAND II, NEVADA EAGLE, NAPOLEON/SALINE II, HENDERSON HILL, VERNON LAKE II, MEADE RIVER/SWIFT MOVE, DAWSON RIVER, VICTORY DRAGON VI, HARDIN FALLS, TAYLOR COMMON, MARSHALL MOUNTAIN, FAYETE CANYON, VALIANT HUNT, RAWLINS VALLEY, TODD FOREST.

CONFIDENTIAL

PART III - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. At 0400 on 23 December 1968 the Squadron was subjected to an enemy rocket attack. A 140 mm rocket struck communication wiring in front of barracks 5018 thereby causing an airburst. Shrapnel penetrated all three troop barracks (Barracks 5017, 5018, 5019) as well as the main water and sewer lines. Although the double tier 55 gallon sand filled barrels and the second deck took the burst of the shrapnel, the following Marines were wounded:

Cpl James H. WOODSELL USMC
 LCpl Gary L. COOPER USMC
 Pfc Randall R. NOLAN USMC
 LCpl William N. PEDERSON Jr. USMCR
 *Pvt Francis J. PETERS USMC

* Received his purple heart at the 1st Medical Bn. Hospital and was subsequently Medical Evacuated to the Naval Hospital at Guam.

2. The following personnel were promoted to their present rank during December 1968:

LCpl Gary L. COOPER	LCpl David J. McMANUS
LCpl Michael E. CREECH Jr.	LCpl Balty ROMERO
LCpl Terry L. CURL	LCpl Elbert RUFFIN Jr.
LCpl Alan D. GREEN II	LCpl James D. SYKES
LCpl Gerald W. HARRIS	LCpl Robert A. STRUVE
LCpl Stephen J. KNIZNER	Cpl William E. MERAS
Cpl Gary S. LOCKMAN	Cpl Gerald D. CAMPBELL
Cpl Stephen D. GIBSON	Cpl William A. SCHAARD
Cpl James A. HILL	Cpl Steven D. SHELDON
Cpl William K. HOBBS	Cpl Nicholas E. THIMARAS
Cpl Robert P. JALBERT	Cpl Gary N. WOJEWODA
Cpl Rexford I. KELLEY	Cpl James F. WOODSELL