



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

MARINE AIR CONTROL SQUADRON 7 (REIN)

P.O. Box 99170

Yuma, Arizona 85369-9170

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

S-3

9 Jan 98

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Squadron 7 (REIN)

To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group 38

Subj: **COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR PERIOD OF 1 JULY - 31 DECEMBER 1997  
(REPORT SYMBOL MC-5750.06)**

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1G  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8E  
(c) WgO 5750.2B  
(d) GruO 5750.1J

Encl: (1) Marine Air Control Squadron 7 (REIN) Command Chronology (Report Symbol MC 5750.06)

1. In accordance with references (a) through (d), the enclosure is submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. K. Wilkinson".

G. K. WILKINSON

Acting

**MARINE AIR CONTROL SQUADRON 7 (REIN)**

**COMMAND CHRONOLOGY**

**1 JULY TO 31 DECEMBER 1997**

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SECTION 1

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Unit Description

a. Reporting Unit Code: M00880

b. Table of Organization numbers: 8631/8632/8633/8634

2. Period Covered and Location: 1 July to 31 December 1997 at Cannon Air Defense Complex (CADC), MCAS Yuma, Arizona

3. Personnel Information

a. Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel  
Dennis M. Loftis  
1 July - 10 July

Lieutenant Colonel  
David W. McLawhorn  
11 July - 31 December

b. Executive Officer

Lieutenant Colonel  
George W. Simmons  
1 July - 10 July

Lieutenant Colonel  
Gregory K. Wilkinson  
11 July - 31 December

c Subordinate Commanders

Headquarters and Service Detachment  
(H&S Det)

Captain  
Anthony R. Luiz  
11 July - 7 September

Major  
Kevin L. Bywaters  
8 September - 31 December

Air Defense Detachment Alpha (AD Det A)	Captain Tracy L. Peacock 11 July - 31 December
Air Defense Detachment Bravo (AD Det B)	Captain Edwin O. Rueda 11 July 97 - 20 October 97
	First Lieutenant Lance T. Arp 21 October - 31 December
Air Defense Detachment Charlie (AD Det C)	Captain Robert D. Dozier 11 July - 31 December
Air Defense Detachment Delta (AD Det D)	First Lieutenant Jennifer E. Peters 11 July - 31 December
Air Traffic Control Detachment Alpha (ATC Det A)	First Lieutenant Karena A. Redd 11 July - 31 December
Air Traffic Control Detachment Bravo (ATC Det A)	First Lieutenant Scott A. McCoy 11 July - 31 December
Tactical Air Operations Center Detachment	Captain Jeffrey S. Kojac 1 July - 31 December

d. Principle Staff Members

Administrative Officer	Chief Warrant Officer - 4 David B. Fochtman 1 July - 10 July
	Captain Nancy A. Bortfeld 11 July - 21 July

	First Lieutenant Byron L. Schlather 22 July - 31 December
Chaplain	Lieutenant Peter H. Rosa 1 January - 30 June
Communications-Electronics Officer	Major Roger R. Renner 1 July - 31 December
Intelligence Officer	Second Lieutenant Mark W. Micke 1 July - 31 December
Logistics Officer	First Lieutenant Sidney R. Welch 1 July - 10 July
	Captain Anthony R. Luiz 11 July - 31 December
Operations Officer	First Lieutenant Craig R. Doty 1 July - 10 July
	Major Kevin L. Bywaters 11 July - 7 September
	Major Calvin D. Peters 8 September - 31 December
Supply Officer	First Lieutenant Lawrence A. Washington 1 July - 31 December
e. Staff Historian	First Lieutenant Erik E. Laufer 1 July - 10 July

First Lieutenant  
Peter A. Sterzing  
11 July - 31 December

f. Sergeant Major

Master Gunnery Sergeant  
Harry L. Karr  
1 July - 10 July

Sergeant Major  
Steven E. Blocker  
11 July - 31 December

4. Average Monthly Strength:

	USMC Officer	USMC Enlisted	USN Officer	USN Enlisted
July	69	733	2	4
August	63	698	1	4
September	61	676	2	4
October	58	641	2	5
November	57	618	2	5
December	55	606	2	5

5. Equipment:

AN/TPS - 59 Radar	1
AN/TPS - 63 Radar	2
AN/MRC - 138B (Radio set)	3
AN/MRC - 142 (Radio terminal set)	12
AN/MRC - 145 (Radio set)	3
AN/TYQ - 23 Tactical Air Operation Module	4
AN/TSQ-131 (Command and Control Sub-system)	4
AN/TSQ-120 (Air Traffic Control Tower)	2
AN/TPS-73 (Air Surveillance RADAR)	2
AN/TPN-22 (Precision Approach RADAR)	2
AN/TRN-44 (Tactical Air Navigational Aid)	2
AN/TRC-195 (Communications Central)	2
AN/TPN-30 (Precision Microwave Landing System)	2
AN/MSQ-125 (Battery Command Post)	6
AN/MPQ-62 (Continuous Wave Acquisition Radar)	7
AN/MPQ-61 (High Power Illuminator Radar)	13

XM-304 (Launcher/Transporter)	36
XM-501 (Loader/Transporter)	17
M927/28 (5 Ton Long bed Truck)	43
M923/25 (5-Ton Short bed Truck)	23
M936 (Wrecker)	4
M998 (High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle)	31
MEP - 003 (30 kW Tactical generator)	14
MEP - 005 (30 kW 60 Hz Tactical generator)	12
MEP - 006A (60 kW Tactical generator)	18
MEP - 007A/B (100 kW Tactical generator)	2
MEP - 16B	7
MEP - 114 (400 Hz Generator)	2
MEP - 813A (400 Hz Generator)	2
MEP - 816A (400 Hz Generator)	38

## SECTION 2

### NARRATIVE SUMMARY

#### Command, Operations, and Training

The Squadron's focus of effort - to ensure quality, versatility, and commitment to excellence - was clearly demonstrated throughout all training during the second half of 1997. The operational cycle continued to be challenging, while affording the support establishment the opportunity to complete the reorganization of Marine Air Control Squadron 7 and 1st Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion into Marine Air Control Squadron 7 (REIN).

Through most of July, August, and September, H&S Detachment completely consolidated the inventories of 1st LAAM Battalion and MACS 7. While H&S continued with the reorganization, the tactical detachments kept a high operational tempo. In July, ATC Det A's MMT det departed with the 15th MEU enroute to WESTPAC. The TAOC performed as a Theater Ballistic Missile Detection and Warning command and control agency in support of the 3d Fleet Joint Task Force Exercise 97-2 (JTFEX 97-2) from 14 to 28 July. From AD Det B, 1stLt Wilkins and 2ndLt Toland deployed to the U.S.S. Coronado and the U.S.S. Port Royal, respectively. While assigned to their warships they served as advisors on the deployment of HAWK assets in a combat scenario. In addition to their duties Lts Wilkins and Toland learned the functions and operations of command and control ships, duties of different sections aboard ship, and combat systems such as Stalker. From 20 to 31 July, Capt Ricketts and 1stLt Laufer served as Air Defense Liaison officers and 2ndLt Cisneros participated as an airspace planner in the Tactical Air Command Center (TACC) Future Operations Section at MEFEX 1-97. With the consolidation of the 7222 and 59XX MOSs in the HAWK community, the AD Dets stood down July through August in order to train the technicians on HAWK operations. Aggressive training was accomplished through numerous Operational Readiness Exercises (OREs) and tracking drills during Surface to Air Missile Suppression and Attack Flights (SAMSAFs). 1stLt Montecchi, from AD Det C, traveled to Marine Air Control Squadron-1 with a Battery Command Post (BCP) to participate in Air Defense Communication Platform (ADCP) and Joint Tactical Air Operations Module (JTAOM) validation testing. AD Det D, formed in June, immediately prepared for the upcoming WTI by focusing on operations and ensuring that the HAWK tactical equipment was ready for the 4-week deployment. HMMCWAR/HMMRAM testing kicked off with AD Det Marines deploying to McGregor Range, New Mexico.

In August, a team of professionals from Patuxant River, Maryland traveled to Yuma and El Toro to teach ATC Det A and B the Marine Air Traffic Control and Landing System (MATCALS) Operator's and Maintenance Course. In August, the AD Dets continued training with more OREs. At this point in training, the AD Dets started to



deploying away from the familiar terrain at Cannon Air Defense Complex (CADC) and out into the desert of Yuma, performing both day and night operations. In the first part of the month, AD Det C embarked their equipment, and with augments from H&S Det, deployed to All Service Combat Identification Evaluation Test (ASCIET) 97 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The Squadron continued to support the HMMCWAR and HMMRAAM testing, which took part in ASCIET 97 as an off line project. AD Det B's Base Section deployed a RES to the Miramar Air Show for static display the 14-18 August. From 21 - 26 August, the Det conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise. All hands from AD Det B participated in an extensive exercise simulating deployment and preparation in an emergency situation. Commanded by Capt Rueda, the Marines of Det B went through almost every aspect of deployment preparation, including NBC checkout, supply checkout, preparation of wills and powers of attorney, S-1 checkout, palletization of gear and end items, and a dependent briefing. The Detachment also received attachments from S-4, Communications Platoon, Medical and Public Affairs. Beginning with an early morning recall, the exercise was culminated with the departure of 40 Marines and a CWAR aboard a C-130 from VMGR-352. From the TAOC Det, Capt Ricketts and Lt Laufer later took part in Ulchi Focus Lens 97 (UFL 97), from 10 August to 1 September, as Marine representatives in the Joint Theater Missile Defense cell located at the Joint Air Operations Center, Osan, Republic of Korea.

In September, the comprehensive training programs for the AD Dets came to a close as focus shifted to preparation and work-up for WTI 1-98. By the end of the month, AD Dets A and D deployed to the R2301W range in support of WTI 1-98. They participated in numerous flight windows against both aircraft and simulated TBMs. Learning curves increased exponentially with the new detachment configuration and the MACCS integration of these air defense detachments. In addition to preparation for WTI 1-98, ATC Det A spent the month of September making preparations to support CAX 1/2-98. ATC Det B also played a part in WTI 1-98 with 3 Marines enrolled in the MMT course. They also prepared for the Base Relocation and Closure (BRAC) realignment, which requires them to support FAPs at the Miramar Air Station, vice El Toro. 1stLt McCoy met with ATC representatives from COMCABWEST, MCAS El Toro and MACS 1 ATC Detachment Bravo. Also, ATC Det B headquarters and maintenance personnel attended several coordination meetings for initial planning for the relocation of ATC Detachment Bravo to MCAGCC 29 Palms. During Joint System Training Exercise (JSTE) 97-03, the TAOC interfaced with multiple joint agencies and performed weapons, traffic, and surveillance functions. ATC Dets A and B established tactical digital information link (TADIL) - B from 15 to 19 September with the TAOC. Additionally, AD Det D played a minor role in JSTE. At the end of September, the Marines from AD Dets C, AD Det D and H&S Det returned from ASCIET following a very successful deployment.

During October, ATC Det A supported CAX by providing air traffic controllers, radar technicians, and communication technicians. During WTI, the Detachment again provided guided tours of the ATC compound. WTI proved to be an excellent proving

ground for the training of the AD Dets. Both AD Dets A and D performed in an exemplary manner, accomplishing the mission without difficulties. ATC Det B sent a detachment to NALF San Clemente Island with the AN/TPN-30 MLS providing critical support during NALF San Clemente's rework of their station equipment allowing the Navy to continue uninterrupted operations during training exercises. A MACS 7 (REIN) air intercept controller detachment, including Marines from MACS 1, deployed to Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, New Mexico from 18 October to 7 November. Capt Ricketts headed this detachment which operated from Cherokee Range Traffic Control facility at White Sands Missile Range. The detachment's mission was intercept control for the 20th Fighter Squadron of the USAF, as well as a Squadron of German Air Force F-4F Phantoms, during the German Air Force Fighter Weapons Instructor Course (FWIC) syllabus certification for Dissimilar Air Combat Tactics (DACT). At the end of October, the Squadron's operational tempo slowed enough for the detachments to concentrate on maintenance and the upcoming Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense (NBCD) Commanding General's Inspection (CGI).

In November, the Squadron held several Squadron-wide events including the Commandant's Planning Guidance (CPG) standdown and preparation for the December NBC CGI. Marines from AD Det B's Base Section, led by 1stLt Toland, emplaced a High Powered Illumination Radar (HIPIR), a Battery Command Post (BCP), and a Mobility Launcher (LT) with 3 training missiles on the MCAS Yuma flight line for the Winter Visitor Display on the 9th of November. ATC Det A made preparations for the January 1998 Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System (MCCRES) test. The Detachment also made preparations for the relocation to the 17xx area of MCAS Yuma. ATC Det B provided an ATC tower, Airport Surveillance RADAR (ASR) and Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) capabilities for Naval Air Weapons Station Point Mugu during the replacement of their ASR RADAR and the upgrade of their tower communications facilities. The AD Dets prepared for the annual service practice in February with numerous OREs and SAMSAFs. From 16 - 23 November, all hands from AD Det B deployed to Navajo Army Depot Activity in the vicinity of Flagstaff, Arizona. Led by 1stLt Arp, the Marines conducted platoon attacks, defenses, movement to contact, land navigation, small unit patrols, ambushes, and a live fire of the M-16A2, the M240G, the M249, and the M9. During each evolution Marines of every rank were put into leadership positions. The field work culminated with a 5-mile hike with full gear, packs, and crew served weapons. Once out of the field AD Det B carried on the traditions of our Corps and held a Warrior Night and Dining Out. For the Thanksgiving holiday, the Squadron joined with the rest of MCAS Yuma in a Safety Standdown. All Marines assigned to the Air Station and CADC marched from the MCAS Yuma Parade Deck to the Yuma Fairgrounds where guest speakers included Generals McCorkle and Bolden.

Third Marine Air Wing conducted an operational pause the first 2 weeks of December. At MCAS Yuma, AZ, from 2 to 12 December, the TAOC Det controlled flights for the MAG-11 sponsored exercise, Scorpion Wind 2-97. The TAOC Det held its

operational pause after Scorpion Wind, during the second 2 weeks in December. On the 3rd and 4th of December the Squadron scored an overall 98.6% and mission capable in all areas on the NBC CGI. ATC Det B provided an MMT for Tactical Landing Zone operations conducted in support of VMGR-352 at Bicycle Lake, Fort Irwin, California on unimproved runway surfaces. Preparations for the FIREX continued with the AD Dets holding missile handling and loader licensing classes. The month culminated with the Squadron feast on the 19th leading to the holiday routine.

### Personnel and Administration

The tempo of administrative activity remained high. The S-1 provided administrative and legal support to the Squadron headquarters and coordinated Marine Air Control Squadron 7 (REIN) administrative activities with the Marine Air Control Group-38 staff.

### Legal Action

The Commanding Officer is the Summary Court Martial Convening Authority for eight separate units: Headquarters and Service Detachment, Air Defense Detachment Alpha, Air Defense Detachment Bravo, Air Defense Detachment Charlie, Air Defense Detachment Delta, Air Traffic Control Detachment Alpha, Air Traffic Control Detachment Bravo, and Tactical Air Operations Center Detachment. As such the following legal proceedings were held at this level:

General Courts Martial	2
Special Courts Martial	6
Summary Courts Martial:	2
Non-Judicial Punishment:	115
Administrative Separations	17
JAG Manual Investigations:	7

### Awards

The Squadron recognized the outstanding Marines by presenting them with the following awards:

Meritorious Service Medals	5
Navy Commendation Medals	13
Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals:	76
Certificates of Commendation:	63
Meritorious Masts:	86
Letters of Commendation/Appreciation:	82

## Intelligence

The Squadron intelligence section continued to provide support to the Squadron staff and detachments. They provided several intelligence updates the Squadron officers on several subjects including India, Iraq, Iran, China, and North Korea. In addition, they kept busy providing intelligence updates, maps, and Tactical Aircrew Mission Planning System (TAMPS) coverage diagrams for the Squadron units during all of their exercises.

## Logistics and Supply

The logistics and embark sections of the Squadron was extremely busy supporting the high operational tempo of the Squadron. The section provided logistical support for transportation of things (TOT) and transportation of people (TOP) for all the Squadron exercises and deployments.

The maintenance management personnel kept extremely busy with Individual Training Standards training of Detachment personnel as well as the constant inspection and supervision of the multitude of maintenance intensive equipment within the Squadron.

## Communications and Electronics

Throughout this period the S-6 office continued to provide Local Area Network (LAN) connectivity. They have also provided valuable connectivity between the AD Dets and the TAOC during several operations. Proficiency improved with MRC-142, as was demonstrated when the Operational Communications Platoon, using a relay, and connected AD Det C to the TAOC, over the Gila Mountains.

### SECTION 3

#### SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 July 97	Battalion Gate to Gate Run
2 July 97	Holiday Safety Brief
3-6 July 97	4th of July Holiday Routine
6 July	AD Det D, H&S Det - HMMCWAR at McGregor Range
8 - 11 July 1997	ATC Det B - MCAS Yuma for MACS-7 (REIN) Change of Command
11 July	Retirement of 1st LAAM Bn Colors/MACS 7 (REIN) Change of Command with LtCol D. W. McLawhorn taking command for LtCol D. M. Loftis.
14 - 25 July	AD Det B, TAOC Det - JTFEX 97-2, Capt Gondek, 1stLt Wilkins and 2ndLt Toland embark aboard Naval vessels.
16-17 July	ATC Det A - equipment timeshare
18 July 1997	ATC Det B - 1stLt McCoy meets with Maj Nix (COMCABWEST), Capt Alexander (MCAS El Toro) and Capt Silcox (MACS-1 ATC Detachment Bravo) on FAP support for MCAS Miramar
20-26 July	AD Det C - JTAOM Testing at MACS-1
20 - 31 July	TAOC Det - Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise 1-97
22 July	AD Det C - ORE
22-23 July	ATC Det A - equipment timeshare
27-31 July	AD Det C - ADCP Testing at MCTSSA
28 - 29 July 1997	ATC Det B - 2ndLt Horton and SSgt Brackett to MCB Camp Pendleton for West Coast T&R Conference
3-5 August	AD Det C - Staging Gear at YPG Railhead for ASCIET
3 August - 13 August	AD Det D, H&S Det - Pre-ASCIET FIREX

4 - 8 August 1997	ATC Det B - Technician/Operator instructors at from Patuxent River MD; NAVAID technicians to NRAD San Diego for AN/TPN-30 technical training
6 August 97	AD Det A - ORE at AUX2
10 August - 1 September	TAOC Det - Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL) 97
11-15 August	ATC Det A - MATCALs Operator's/Maintainer's Course
14-15 August	AD Det D - ORE
14-18 August 97	AD Det A - RES to Miramar Air Show
15 August 1997	ATC Det B - Conducts NBC MOPP training
19-20 August 97	Raytheon delivers new Section Leader Boxes with updated software and RTUs for AD Dets.
20 August	AD Det D, H&S Det - HMMCWAR detachment deployed to ASCIET 97 for field testing
20 August -15 September	AD Det C, H&S Det - ASCIET at Camp Shelby, Mississippi
21 - 26 August	AD Det B - Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise
22 August	AD Det D - Aux-2 Day ORE
25 August - 12 September 1997	ATC Det B - Mr. Maynard Kirstine on site for technical assist on the AN/TPN-22 precision approach RADAR
26 August 1997	ATC Det B - MMT attends tactical communications training at MWCS-38
28 August 1997	ATC Det B - conditioning march
28-29 August	AD Det D - Aux-2 Night ORE
30 Aug - 1 Sept 97	Labor Day Holiday Routine
4 September 1997	ATC Det B - Communications section to Fullerton Municipal Airport for site survey
8-19 September	AD Det D, ATC Dets A & B, TAOC Det, H&S Det - JSTE

11 - 15 September 1997	ATC Det B - TADIL- B connectivity link checks with MTACS-38
11 September - 19 September	AD Det D, H&S Det - Post - ASCIET FIREX
13 - 16 September 1997	ATC Det B - Det to MCAGCC 29 Palms CA to provide technical assistance to AGSE ATC
13 September - 27 October 1997	ATC Det B - MMT reports to WTI for training
17 September 1997	ATC Det B - SSgt Biadasz, Sgt Simon and Cpl Warner augmented to MACS-1 ATC Detachment Bravo ISO WTI
22 - 25 September 1997	ATC Det B - Det to NRAD San Diego for AN/UYQ-34 technical assistance/repair
26 September 97	Squadron Chili Cookoff and Fun Fest
26 September 1997	ATC Det B - safety stand-down
27 September - 27 October	AD Det D - WTI 1-98
28 September 97	AD Det A - RES deploys to WTI 1-98
1-20 October 97	AD Det A - Base Section deploys to WTI 1-98
11-13 October	Columbus Day Holiday
16 October 1997	ATC Det B - Site survey team to NAWS Point Mugu for initial site survey
18 October - 7 November	TAOC Det - Holloman AFB Deployment
20 October - 14 November 1997	ATC Det B - Cpl Bryant and LCpl Herrera to NALF San Clemente ISO AN/TPN-30 operations
22-24 October	AD Det C - NBCD CGIP Prep Training
29 October 1997	ATC Det B - NAWS Point Mugu RADHAZ personnel on site for actual RF readings of AN/TPS-73 and AN/TPN-22 RADARs for HERP, HERF and HERO purposes
30 Oct - 3 Nov 97	CPG Standdown
4-5 November 97	Enlisted Marine Corps Birthday Ball

6 November 97	SNCO Marine Corps Birthday Ball
7 November 97	Officer Marine Corps Birthday Ball
8-11 November 97	Marine Corps Birthday/Veterans Day Holiday Routine
13 November	AD Det C - ORE/SAMSAFs (Site 50)
13 November 1997	ATC Det B - RADAR maintenance section to NAWS Point Mugu for RADAR site survey
14 November 1997	ATC Det B - Marine Corps Ball
16 - 23 November 1997	ATC Det B - Det to Fullerton Municipal Airport ISO FAA operations
16 - 23 November	AD Det B - Cold Weather/Leadership Training Exercise, NADA
17-21 November	AD Det D - Maintenance Stand Down
19 November 1997	ATC Det B - Detachment Headquarters and Operations personnel to MCAGCC 29 Palms for initial Detachment relocation meeting
19-20 November	AD Det C - ORE/SAMSAFs (Site 23)
22 November	AD Det B - Dining Out, vicinity of Flagstaff, AZ
26 November	Safety Standdown w/ MajGen McCorkle and MajGen Bolden at Yuma County Fairgrounds
26 November 1997	ATC Det B - Conditioning march
27-30 November	Thanksgiving Holiday Routine
29 November	AD Det B - Winter Visitor Static Display
1-12 December	Operational Pause
1-12 December	AD Det C - Loader Missile Handling Course
2 - 3 December 1997	ATC Det B - MMT to Bicycle Lake, Ft Irwin, CA ISO VMGR-352 tactical landing zone operations
2 - 12 December	TAOC Det - Scorpion Wind 2-97



3 December 1997	ATC Det B - Det to MCAGCC 29 Palms for RADAR site placement evaluation
3-4 December 97	NBCD CGIP
4 December	ATC Det A -Site survey at 17xx area
8-10 December 97	Supply Career Issue
11 December 1997	ATC Det B - Auxiliary and Communications section personnel to NAWS Point Mugu for shore power and communications set-up
15 - 19 December 1997	ATC Det B - NAVAIDS section to NRAD San Diego for AN/TPN-30 technical training
17 December 1997	ATC Det B - Holiday Safety Brief/Stand-down
17 December	AD Det C - Hump
18 - 19 December 1997	ATC Det B - RADAR section to NRAD for AN/TPS-73 DMCU repair/technical assistance
19 December 97	Squadron Holiday Feast
24-28 December 97	Christmas Holiday Routine
31 December	New Year's Holiday Routine

## SECTION 4

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- A. *Cactus Comet* article "1st LAAM to retire colors, merges with MACS-7 during change-of-command ceremony tomorrow" dated 10 July 1997.
- B. *Cactus Comet* article "1st LAAM run recognizes new Delta Battery" dated 10 July 1997.
- C. *Yuma Daily Sun* article "Workin' on the railroad" dated 5 August 1997.
- D. *Cactus Comet* article "Play day builds morale, supports key volunteers" dated 9 October 1997.
- E. Pictures of AD Det C equipment and Marines from ASCIET 1997:
  - 1. RES
  - 2. RES
  - 3. SAS
  - 4. SAS
  - 5. Base Section
  - 6. Base Section

# LINE VACUUS LOMEL

July 10, 1997

Volume 41 Number 25

## 1st LAAM to retire colors, merges with MACS-7 during change-of-command ceremony tomorrow

### 1st LAAM Bn officially deactivates

Col. Andrea C. Gagner  
Cactus Comet

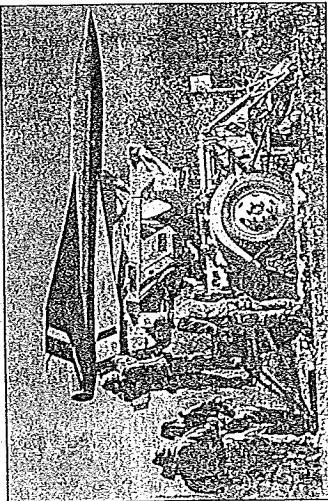
1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion, the last remaining active-duty Marine Corps LAAM battalion, will officially retire its colors during MACS-7's change-of-command ceremony on the parade field tomorrow.

Although LAAM and MACS-7 will begin the ceremony together, only MACS-7 will march off the parade deck at the conclusion of the ceremony under the guidance of the new commanding and executive officers, LtCol. David McLawhorn and LtCol. Gregory Wilkinson.

According to Maj. Kevin Bywaters, LAAM's acting-commanding officer, all aspects of the merger will finalize January 1998. About 557 LAAM Marines and seven sailors will join with 263 MACS-7 service members before reducing its personnel to 675 men and women over the next several years.

When LAAM first got word of the pending deactivation, many personnel became concerned about promotions and finding new MOSs. Since then, Bywaters said the Division of Manpower, Headquarters Marine Corps, has given the go-ahead for staff noncommissioned officer promotions this year. Staff selects can either wait for the outcome of the selection boards before switching MOSs or they can retain their current MOS up to 20 years.

"Some staff NCOs will get promoted but other Marines will have to lateral move to be



Col. Andrea C. Gagner

1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion maintenance personnel conduct final checks on one of the four HAWK Phase III Surface-to-Air Missile launchers before beginning LAAM's last live-fire exercise as a LAAM, Feb. 15. 1st LAAM will deactivate and merge with Marine Air Control Squadron-7 tomorrow.

eligible for promotion (except consistent with the deactivation of HAWK maintenance crew despite decreased manpower members), said Bywaters. "All the only mission change our Marines have a clearer idea concerns the targets of the of what lies ahead and where Homing All-the-Way-Killer missiles stand concerning them."

"We are fielding equipment not the only MOS this has ever happened and will ever happen to."

LtCol. Dennis Loftis, MACS-7 commanding officer, said Bywaters. "All HAWK equipment is currently in place to engage TBMs. We are updating our radar equipment, such as the AN/TPS-59 (V3) Radar and the Air Defense Communications Platform, our Communications Platform, our differently from battalions. Their data processing equipment."

officer promotions this year. Staff selects can either wait for the outcome of the selection boards before switching MOSs or they can retain their current MOS up to 20 years.

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## MACS-7 CO to transfer colors, unit preparing for new leadership

LtCol. Kevin E. Harris  
Cactus Comet

Marine Air Control Squadron-7 Commanding Officer LtCol. Dennis M. Loftis will relinquish his command to LtCol. David W. McLawhorn, 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion commanding officer, in a change-of-command ceremony on the Parade Deck July 11.

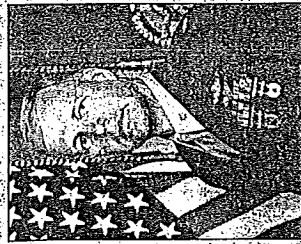
Loftis will join the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Pacific, at an amphibious base in Coronado, Calif.

Loftis owes his success to the troops. "I would like to believe in the troops," said Loftis. "Give the troops an opportunity to have responsibility, make them accept those responsibilities and hold them accountable for them. Make it so that they learn from them and not afraid to make a decision."

Loftis said he believes in the troops and their abilities. They go above and beyond the call of duty routinely.

"When I first got here, I told them I would take care of them to the best of my ability."

Loftis reminisced. "They should have fun; want to come to work. I got to know the troops extremely well. I always wanted to be approachable. The things we shared together professionally and personally are the things I will miss the most," he added.



LtCol. Dennis M. Loftis

Loftis was commissioned as a second lieutenant Sept. 1974. He earned the title Naval Aviator July 1976 after completing the Basic School May 1975, during his flight training.

In January 1978, 1st Lt. Loftis was assigned to 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, where he completed the Airborne School in Georgia. During his tour with the Marine Aircraft Group-16 detachment in January 1979, he graduated from Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1's Weapons & Tactics Instructor course.

As a major, he was assigned to Helicopter Marine Executive Corps Squadron-1, where he served as the training and security officer. From 1989 to 1990, he was designated as a White House aircraft commander and served as a Presidential Command pilot.

In July 1990, Major Loftis was transferred to 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, FMF, to serve as MACS-7 CO. Loftis said. "The squadron has had many successes. This is the best air control squadron in the Marine Corps. All the squadron successes belong to the troops. They are the ones who are responsible for the successes."

In my 23 years in the Corps, this is the best tour I ever had," said Loftis. "They give one-hundred-percent dedication to their duty. I owe my success in the Corps to my troops."

"They are important and a

Figure A

# 1st LAAM run recognizes new Delta Battery

Capt. Kevin E. Harris  
Cactus Comet

It was zero dark thirty in the morning when the echo of 350 Marines could be heard from miles away. The animals were uneasy in the nearby farms. The thundering rumble of their feet and voices sent ripples through the settled water in the canals. The fish swam recklessly in the canals, and birds swooped from the tree tops.

The Marines who were responsible for disturbing nature's quiet morning were from 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion and Marine Air Control Squadron-7. They took off from the Cannon Air Defense Complex paving their way eight miles along canals and through the streets of Yuma reaching their final destination, Ramada Field on the air station.

"There have been talks of developing a new battery in the battalion since June 2," said 1st Lt. Jennifer Coc, Delta Battery commanding officer.

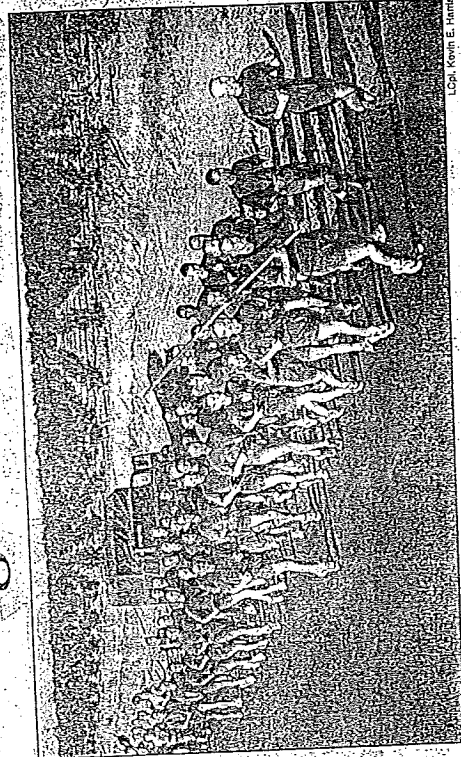
"The run yesterday formally recognized Delta Battery's existence... presenting us with our own 'guidon.'" There are currently 48 personnel in the company, she added.

The installation of the new battery is one of many changes 1st LAAM Marines are experiencing. The run was the first activity MACS-7 and 1st LAAM took part in. The units will become one tomorrow during a change-of-command ceremony.

Coc said that her main focus as commanding officer is the safety of her Marines. "You cannot replace individual Marines' lives. Safety along with mission accomplishment are on top of my list of priorities."

The new MACS-7 will have the same capabilities and advantages of any other unit in the Marine Corps, added Coc.

"Change is an opportunity to excel," has been 1st LAAM and MACS-7's motto for the last four or five months," said CySgt. Dalton Bagby, 1st LAAM



More than 350 MACS-7 and 1st LAAM Marines run along County 5E July 1. The run formally recognized 1st LAAM's new Delta Battery.



MACS-7 and 1st LAAM Marines eat breakfast at Ramada. Field after an eight-mile run through the streets of Yuma July 1.

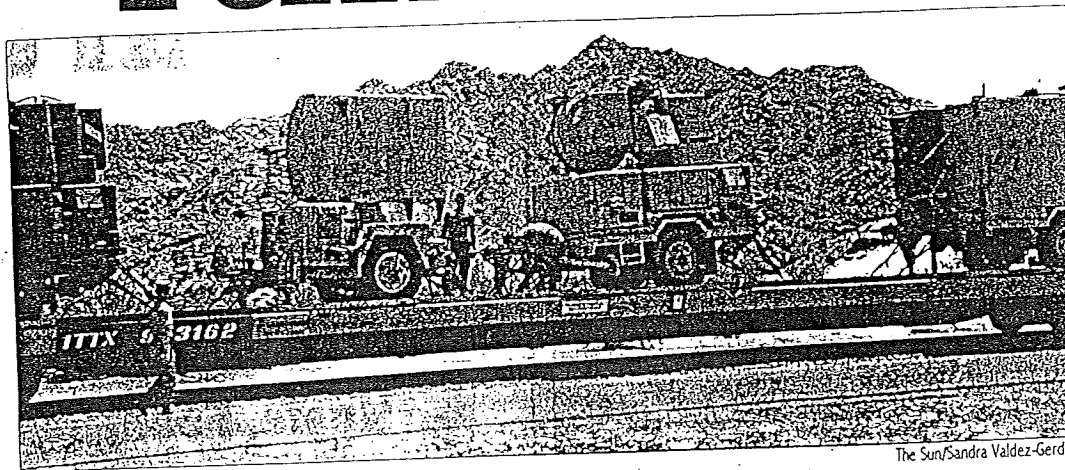
means things are progressing and headed in the right direction," he said. "MACS-7 will be known as the grunts of the air wing."

Figure B

# Workin'

on the

# railroad



The Sun/Sandra Valdez-Gerdes

U.S. MARINES load cargo onto rail cars at the Yuma Proving Ground rail spur near the Gila Mountains Tuesday.

## Marines use rail cars to transport equipment, get training

By SANDRA VALDEZ-GERDES  
Staff Writer

The 3rd Marine Aircraft Group hasn't transported equipment by rail car since 1988. The time before that it was in Vietnam.

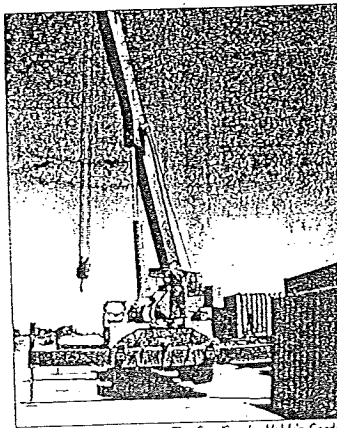
But under the scalding rays of the Yuma sun Tuesday, Marines from Marine Air Control Squadron 7 loaded more than 90 pieces — 380 tons — of cargo and equipment onto rail cars at the Yuma Proving Ground rail spur at Blaisdell, east of Yuma.

The equipment — which includes High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, radar equipment, five-ton trucks and missile launchers — will be shipped to Mississippi for use in a joint Marine Corps/Air Force exercise later this month called All Service Combined Identification Evaluation Team, or ACIET.

Marines from the 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion and Marine Air Support Squadron 3 in California also participated, directing the operation and loading rail cars. The equipment from El Toro arrived Sunday. Units had until Wednesday evening to complete the operation, but were wrapping things up Tuesday afternoon.

The 20 rail cars are scheduled to leave town in the next couple of days. The bulk of the gear is from Yuma.

The cargo is typically transported by air or truck, said Gunnery Sgt. Bert Garcia of the 3rd MAW in Santa Ana, Calif. However, unit commanders decided to transport the equipment by rail car this time to give the aircraft wing training they may need when deployed to other countries. The operation is also sav-



The Sun/Sandra Valdez-Gerdes

CARGO FROM Yuma and El Toro will be shipped via rail to Mississippi for a joint Marine Corps-Air Force exercise.

ing the federal government about \$50,000, he added.

"The most important thing is training to make us more deployable. That's my whole purpose," Garcia said. "Some of us old guys are getting ready to pass the torch to the younger Marines, and the experience needs to be passed down so they know what to do."

Debbie Perez, civilian surface freight operation branch supervisor, said the rail cars

will travel on Union Pacific Railroad to Beaumont, Texas.

There, the cars will be switched to the Kansas City Southern Railroad and travel the rest of the way to Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The cargo should arrive in 14 days.

By truck the cargo can be transported in four to five days.

Most Marines interviewed Tuesday said they had never done anything like it before and that their only complaint was the heat.

"Physically, it's not hard," said Cpl. James Ojeda, a Yuma-based Marine. "It's the heat and the humidity. It's real time-consuming. Everything has to be real exact. There's a lot of preparation and safety. All of the little nit-picky things."

The Marines raised the cargo boxes by forklift onto the rail cars. They drove the Humvees and missile launchers onto the first rail car using a ramp and then strategically moved the vehicles across the rail cars. The equipment was secured by heavy metal chains. Plywood guarded the vehicles' windows.

"It's a lot of work," said Lance Cpl. Tamara M. Rossig, a Yuma-based Marine. "But we're working together to get it done."

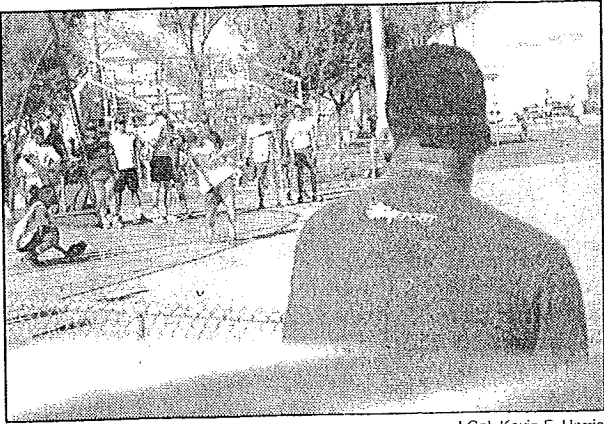
MACS-7 Lt. Sidney Welch commended the Marines on their high state of morale, even though they were working on steel rail cars in high temperatures.

"Safety was paramount. These guys put out in extreme conditions," Welch said.

The Marines will unload and load the equipment again when they arrive in Mississippi, and one last time when they return to Yuma next month after the 25-day exercise.

Figure C

Marines enjoy a friendly game of softball. MACS-7 Marines also played 3-on-3 basketball and tug-of-war not only to have fun, but to raise money for the Key Volunteer Program.



LCpl. Kevin E. Harris

# Play day builds morale, supports key volunteers

LCpl. Kevin E. Harris  
Cactus Comet

More than 200 Marines and their families from Marine Air Control Squadron-7 (Reinforced) participated in a field meet Sept. 29 aboard the air station.

The activities included softball, 3-on-3 basketball and single elimination volleyball tournaments, said SgtMaj. Steven Blocker, MACS-7(Rein) sergeant major. They also participated in tug-of-war contests and a fund-raising effort in support of the Key Volunteer Program.

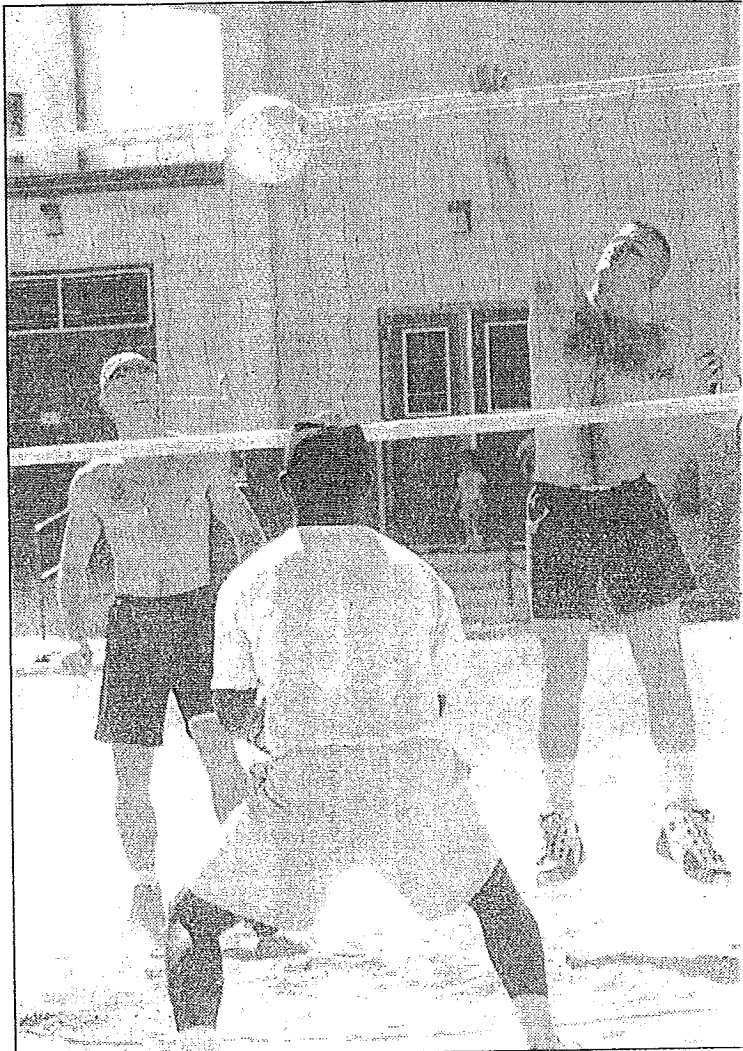
"The purpose of MACS-7's unit field meet was to build cohesion between the Marines," said Blocker. "This is the first time MACS-7 and 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion were involved together in a function like this since merging

earlier this year." "The field meet is a great opportunity for the Marines and their families to come together as a whole and interact with each other," said MSgt. Andy Anderson, MACS-7 supply chief. "It is also good for our morale. It was a nice change of pace for the unit."

The field meet was concluded by a chili-off, which was won by GySgt. Bruce Eisert, MACS-7 maintenance chief, with his famous '96 Chili.'

The field meet as a whole went really well, said Blocker.

With young children running around playing with each other, the competitiveness in the sports activities between the Marines, and the large gathering, everyone who participated had the opportunity to meet someone new.



LCpl. Kevin E.

MACS-7 sections spike, bump and block during the squadron field meet's single elimination volleyball tournament. This is the first meet the squadron has held since MACS-7 and 1st LAAM joined forces earlier this summer. The meet was to promote camaraderie and heighten morale between the Marines.

Figure D