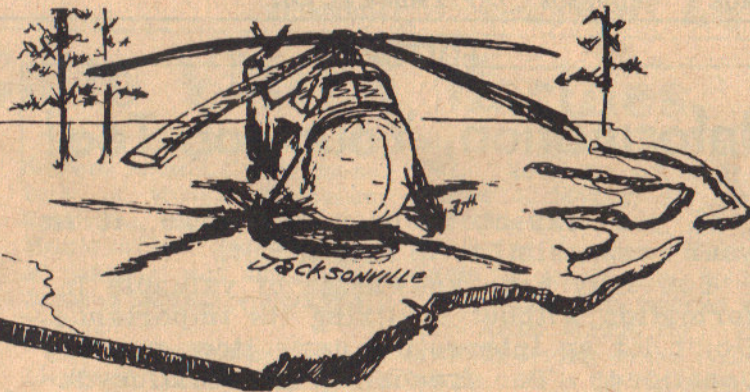


ROTOVUE



MCAF, NEW RIVER, JACKSONVILLE, N. C., HOME OF MAG-26, LARGEST MARINE HELICOPTER GROUP IN THE WORLD

Vol. 23 No. 21

Marine Corps Air Facility, New River, Jacksonville, N. C.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27, 1967

13 MACS-5 Marines Participate in NORAD

Thirteen Marines from Marine Air Control Squadron (MACS)-5 were part of a rapid airlift deployment on July 18 in support of Air Force Radar operations in Iceland.

The three officers and 10 enlisted men from MACS-5 joined members from three other Marine Air Control Group-28 units, MACS-8, MACS-9 and 3rd LAAM Battalion, in a joint operation

to form Sub Unit-1 MACS-9.

The Sub-Unit remained there for 44 days while an Air Force tracking station underwent a change of equipment. The station is part of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) which protects North America from surprise air attack.

The Marines left the U. S. with all necessary equipment aboard Marine air transports less than 24-hours after being ordered to mount-out. The unit was in full operation integrating Marine Corps equipment with the Air Force System in less than three days after arriving in Iceland.

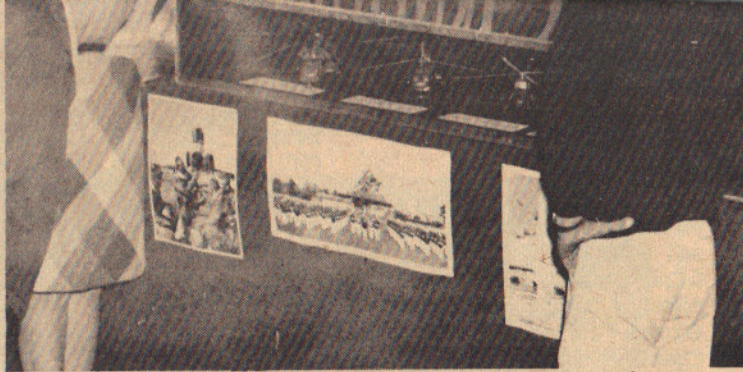
The Marines were functioning for the first time in the history of the Corps during deployment as part of NORAD, using their own equipment to track and identify all aircraft approaching the area.

Orders would have been given to intercept any aircraft the Ma-



CHANGE OF COMMAND—Major Robert A. Plamondon (left), new commanding officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162, Marine Air Group 26, is presented with the flag by Major Robert A. Plamondon (right), outgoing commanding officer.





UNDER THE BIG TOP—Spectators attending the Onslow County Fair in Jacksonville are treated to the military exhibit courtesy of New River Marine Corps Air Facility. The fair, open through Sunday (Oct. 1), features exhibits, rides and eats for countians of all ages. (OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY CPL. JOHN RUSSELL)

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October 1s

Let's Go Hunting Month

Orders would have been given to intercept any aircraft the Marines were unable to identify.

"It was imperative to maintain radar surveillance while the Air Force site effected its equipment change," said First Lieutenant George A. Ampagoomian, an air control officer from MACS-5 and executive officer for the operation. "They needed a unit which was ready and could be quickly deployed to meet this requirement."

Upon returning to the United States, General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, congratulated members of the sub unit, in a message saying, "I wish to extend a hearty well done to the members of the Second Marine Aircraft Wing who demonstrated such high proficiency during the recent rapid airlift deployment to Iceland."

Air Facility Marines who participated in the deployment were: First Lieutenants George A. Ampagoomian, Michael S. Shirley, Peter M. Clay; GySgt. George F. Dotts, NCOIC; Sgts. Joseph O. Jannazzo, Erskine D. Snow, J. Casanova; Cpls. Robert P. Baker, Jr., David L. Miller, John T. Egan, Anthony E. Travagliante, John J. Huber; and Pfc. Michael R. Castle.

CHANGE OF COMMAND—Major Robert A. Plamondon (left), new commanding officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162, Marine Aircraft Group - 26, salutes the squadron colors, prior to accepting them from Major Charles L. Nesbit, former squadron commander, during a change of command ceremony last Friday. (OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY CPL. JOHN RUSSELL)

Maj. R.A. Plamondon New HMM-162 CO

MCAF, NEW RIVER, N.C., September 22 — Major Robert A. Plamondon assumed command of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron - 162, Marine Aircraft Group - 26, during a change of command ceremony here September 22.

He relieved Major Charles L. Nesbit, who commanded the squadron since May 11, 1967. Major Nesbit received orders to the Fleet Marine Force, in the Western Pacific.

Major Plamondon's assignment closely follows another achievement in his military career. Last week he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight, while serving as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

A former enlisted Marine, from February 1951 until March 1953, he attained the rank of corporal while serving at Marine Barracks, Port Lyautey, French Morocco. He was commissioned a second lieutenant on March 15, 1953, following his graduation from the Basic School at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va.

Since receiving his commission, he has served in a variety of duty assignments including infantry platoon leader, embarkation officer, logistics officer, operations officer, squadron pilot and executive officer.

Prior to assuming his present duties, Major Plamondon served here as Executive Officer of Marine Observation Squadron - 1.

See Story, Page 3