

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 115
Marine Aircraft Group 13
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco 96602

03:LRE:rlh
5750
03A06969
10 Mar 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) WgO 5750.1C
(c) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) WMA-115 Command Chronology for the period 1-28 February 1969

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1-28 February 1969.

R. R. Norton
R. R. NORTON

WMA-115

CMD CHRON

WMA-115 S&C
CONTROL NO. 0917-69

DATE REC'D 11 MAR 1969

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ENCLOSURE (4)

FEB 1969

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 115
Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam
1-28 February 1969

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PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA1. Commander and Staff

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------|------|
| NORTON, R. R. | Commanding Officer | LtCol | 1-28 |
| PAIGE, E. C. JR. | Executive Officer | Maj | 7-28 |
| WELSH, K. H. | Executive Officer | Maj | 1-6 |
| WELSH, K. H. | Operations Officer | Maj | 7-28 |
| BRITTON, O. W. | Operations Officer | Maj | 1-6 |
| MEISSNER, H. W. | S-1 Officer | Maj | 6-28 |
| HENDERSON, W. A. | S-1 Officer | Capt | 1-5 |
| CRIFE, D. L. | S-2 Officer | 1stLt | 1-28 |
| CANNAVA, J. | Logistics Officer | Capt | 1-28 |
| HUNTER, D. R. | Aviation Safety Officer | Capt | 1-28 |
| SLONE, H. A. | Maintenance Officer | Maj | 1-28 |
| WALLESTAD, J. E. | Flight Surgeon | LtCmdr | 1-28 |
| HOLZKAMP, F. W. | Sergeant Major | SgtMaj | 1-28 |

2. Task Organization and date

VMFA-115 Chu Lai AB, RVN LtCol Robert R. NORTON LtCol 1-28 Feb 1969

3. Average Strength

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| a. Marine Officers | 40 | |
| 1) Naval Aviators | 21 | |
| 2) Naval Flight Officers | 15 | |
| 3) Aviation Ground Officers | 4 | |
| b. Naval Officers | 1 | |
| c. Marine Enlisted | 223 | |
| d. Naval Enlisted | 0 | |
| e. Total | 264 | |

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

February saw the Silver Eagles fly 401 Combat sorties in support of operations throughout Southeast Asia.

Operations and units supported were: Taylor Common, Task Force Alpha, the 3rd Marine Division, Nevada Eagle, Fayette Canyon, Scotland II, Dewey Canyon, the Korean Marines and the 7th Fleet.

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During February, the Silver Eagles destroyed 56 bunkers and damaged 10. VMFA-115 also destroyed 75 structures and damaged 42. The bomb damage assessment included 33 secondary fires, 207 secondary explosions, 32 killed by marine air, 105 meters of trench line, 5 trucks, 7 automatic weapons, 16 fighting holes, 3 road slides, and 1 arms cache.

To acquire this Bomb Damage Assessment, VMFA-115 expended 845.4 tons of ordnance. Ordnance dropped by type was:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 397 Mk 81 S/E | 250 lb bombs |
| 2001 Mk 82 S/E | 500 lb bombs |
| 148 Mk 77 | 500 lb Napalm |
| 91 Mk 117 | 750 lb Conventional bombs |
| 165 CBU 24/49 | |
| 122 Mk 83 | 1000 lb Conventional bombs |
| 6 Mk 77 | CS/Sand |
| 513 5.00 | Zuni FFAR |
| 3 LAU 60/A | 2.75 Pod |
| 2 LAU 69/A | 2.75 Pod |

One outstanding mission for the Silver Eagles took place on 17 February 1969. Captain HENDERSON and Captain TRUE with Captain HUNTER and Captain CARROLL in the wing position, destroyed an active enemy 37mm gun site. The flight, Manual Zero Eight, was launched on a Commando Hunt mission to work with Nail-29. After a successful rendezvous with the airborne Forward Air Controller at night and in very difficult weather, the flight proceeded to destroy the gun site and cause a secondary fire, despite heavy ground fire.

A Bomb Damage Assessment of two hundred secondary explosions was given to Manual Eight Zero on the night of 20 February 1969. The flight, led by Captain CANNAVA and Captain MARSHALL, with Major PAIGE and 1stLt CRIPE flying wing, worked with Nail-87, in the Steel Tiger region. Despite heavy ground fire and adverse weather, the flight was able to accurately put its ordnance on target and come up with this remarkable Bomb Damage Assessment.

Another outstanding mission for the Silver Eagles was on 26 February 1969. Lovebug 263 was scrambled off the hot pad, led by Captain EVANS and 1stLt SINGLETON with Captain HENDERSON and 1stLt CRIPE flying wing. The flight rendezvoused with the Forward Air Controller over the target area where troops were reported in contact. With the weather rapidly deteriorating and the friendly position already obscured by clouds, the Forward Air Controller spotted enemy troops on a ridge line and called the flight in on them. Using the Mk 4 gun pod, napalm and snake-eye bombs, the flight covered the target area, and a final count revealed thirty enemy killed in the strike.

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1. Personnel. On the 5th of February the squadron joined a new pilot, 1stLt R. M. LARSON, and on the 28th another new pilot, 1stLt M. C. WHOLLEY, and an ordnance officer, 2ndLt V. D. DEITZ joined VMFA 115.
2. Operations. During February many crew members reached mission milestones. Maj PAIGE, Capt's BAKER, BUTTERFIELD, and CANNAVA and 1stLt's BOOTH, COUGHLIN, DOBBINS and JORDAN all reached the 100 mission mark.
3. Bonds. During February, Lt WATSON reported the Savings Bond Program had an 85% participation rate.
4. Promotions. February saw the promotions of three members of VMFA 115. Captain BLAND reached his present rank as well as LCpl's NESBITT and BADE.
5. Training. Captain KALHER and Lt COUGHLIN attended Forward Air Controllers school on Okinawa, and Captain EVANS attended NBC school, also on Okinawa. Captain THAGARD and 1stLt SPOON attended the Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape course at Clark AFB in the Philippines.
6. Morale. During February, 22 officers and men from the squadron took advantage of R&R quotas to various spots in the Far East. Places visited included Hawaii; Sidney, Australia; Tokyo, Japan; Bangkok, Thailand; Hong Kong; Penang and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

7. Air Operations

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Total Flight Hours | 474.9 |
| Total Sorties | 407 |
| Combat Flight Hours | 447.7 |
| Combat Sorties | 401 |
| High Day Hours | 28.0 |
| High Day Sorties | 25 |
| Average Pilot Hours | 21.3 |
| Average Pilot Sorties | 19 |
| Average RIO Hours | 31.2 |
| Average RIO Sorties | 27 |
| Non-Squadron Aircrew Hours | 38.6 |
| Non-Squadron Aircrew Sorties | 34 |