

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 311  
Marine Aircraft Group 12  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force Pacific  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:MRS:ses  
5750  
03A27772  
3 October 1972

~~Confidential~~

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12

Subj: Command Chronology for the month of September 1972

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.4  
(b) GruO 5750.1G

Encl: (1) Command Chronology Narrative for period 1-30 September 1972

1. In accordance with the provisions set forth in references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

2. This report may be downgraded to unclassified upon the removal of enclosure (1).

*J. J. Caldas*  
J. J. CALDAS

VMA-311	
CMCC	
CONTROL NO.	<u>266-72</u>
COPY NO.	<u>1</u> OF <u>3</u>

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
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VMA-311

Sept 72

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
Period 1 September thru 30 September 1972

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PART I  
ORGANIZATION DATA

1. Designation Commander  
 Marine Attack Squadron 311 LtCol K. M. JOHNSTON 1 September - 7 September 1972  
 LtCol J. J. CALDAS 7 September - 30 September 1972
  
2. Location  
 1 September - 30 September 1972: Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam
  
3. Staff Officers  

Executive Officer	Maj. T. L. ELSER 1 Sept - 30 Sept
S-1 Officer	Capt. A. W. LIND 1 Sept - 30 Sept
S-2 Officer	Capt. J. L. BLOCHER 1 Sept - 30 Sept
S-3 Officer	Maj. M. R. SNEDEKER 1 Sept - 30 Sept
S-4 Officer	Capt. G. K. MITTEER 1 Sept - 30 Sept
Maintenance Officer	Capt. R. F. CAROLL 1 Sept - 30 Sept
NATOPS Officer	Capt. W. C. PETERS 1 Sept - 14 Sept
	Capt. J. F. PERRY 14 Sept - 30 Sept

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
<u>OFF</u> <u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u> <u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u> <u>ENL</u>
24 140	0 0	0 0

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DOWNGRADED AS 3 YEAR LIFETIME;  
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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. (C) The month of September saw VMA-311 heavily committed in combat operations over Military Regions III and IV RVN. One of the highlights of the month was the successful completion of 100 combat missions by five highly qualified pilots. Due to the outstanding maintenance provided by the maintenance department the squadron was provided 81% aircraft availability. The squadron was fragged for 26 daily sorties. Those sorties that were cancelled were due to weather and cancelled by higher headquarters. Two aircraft sustained battle damage from ground fire and returned to base safely. One aircraft will require depot maintenance and is awaiting a one time flight to rework.

2. (U) The squadron joined five new officers; 3 pilots, one ground aviation ordnance officer and one aviation avionics officer.

3. (C) The squadron weathered two extraordinary events.

On 3 September as the result of a violent moonsoon rain, the squadron offices and readyroom were flooded under 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches of water.

The second noteworthy event was the explosion of the VNAF bomb dump. The explosion sent a mushroom cloud 6,000 feet in the air, threw bomb fragments over the entire base and closed the airfield for two hours. Four VMA-311 aircraft had to divert into Tan Son Nhut AB since Bien Hoa was closed. More than a hundred VNAF aircraft were damaged or destroyed. Luckily no VMA-311 aircraft were damaged during the explosion.

4. (U) The squadron was honored by the visits of several high ranking dignitaries. Brig Gen. TAYLOR, Lt Gen. WILSON and Gen. ANDERSON toured the flight line and addressed the members of the squadron.

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (C)

3 September Squadron offices and readyroom flooded by 10½ inches of water as a result of moonsoon rain.

4 September VMA-311 executive officer leaves on emergency leave.

5 September 18 sorties lost due to weather.

6 September General TAYLOR visited VMA-311. 14 sorties lost due to weather.

7 September LtCol J. J. CALDAS assumed command of VMA-311.

10 September VNAF bomb dump explosion. Over 100 VNAF aircraft damaged.

12 September Squadron formation and awards ceremony held.

13 September VMA-311 flew 32 combat sorties.

17 September A/C # 151096 piloted by Col MACHO received battle damage.

24 September LtGen WILSON, CG, FMFPAC visited squadron.

27 September Gen ANDERSON, Assistant CMC visited VMA-311.

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2. (C) Summary of Air Operations

a. Sorties

Day Sorties Scheduled	780	Day Sorties Flown	745
Night Sorties Scheduled	0	Night Sorties Flown	0
Total Sorties Scheduled	780	Total Sorties Flown	745
		Write-in Sorties Flown	0

b. Units Supported

ARVN  
 KHMER

c. Types of Sorties

CASB	721
Test	14
Ferry	4
Training	0
Diverts/RTB	6

d. Hours Flown

Combat Hours	886.4
Operational Hours	21.7
Total Hours	908.1

e. Ordnance

20MM	20,029
MK-81	1,971
MK-82	1,793
MK-83	230
MK-84	1
5" ROCKETS	1,065
Total Tons:	905.91

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f. (C) <u>Bomb Damage Assessment</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
KBA (Confirmed) 43		
KBA (Probable) 1		
Sustained Fires 10		
Secondary Fires 1		
Secondary Explosions 106		
Structures	113	65
Fortified Positions	30	14
Sampan	28	10
Bridges	3	6
Bunkers	166	25
Gun Positions	1	
Supply Stacks	9	1
51 Cal. Sites	1	
Trench Lines	3	
Spider Holes	4	
82 MM Mortar	6	
Trucks	3	
Roads Cut	2	

3. (U) Summarization of Individual Sections

a. Personnel. During the reporting period 17 CPL's, 2 LCPL's and 1 PFC were promoted to thier present rank. One SGT was reduced to CPL.

b. Awards. One meritorious mast, One individual was awarded the Naval Achievement Medal, seven Air Medals were awarded.

c. Aviation Safety. During this reporting period this squadron had one minor accident (DEA) resulting from enemy ground fire. There were no injuries. To date, the squadron has accumulated 6641.7 hours of accident-free flying time.

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d. (C) Maintenance

Sched Maint Hrs.	279.3		Unsched Maint Hrs.	1290.5	
%	2.5		%	11.4	
NORS Hrs.	562.5	A/C Allowed	16	OP Ready	9207.7
%	4.9	Assigned	19	%	81.2
		On Hand	15		
NORM	2132.3				
%	18.8				

e. (U) Logistics. The squadron has listed below the Hard Down NORS Items and also the requisitions pending, filled, and pending from previous submissions.

(1) NORS

Work Unit Code

COLLAR ASSY	4449-23503
FIRE WARNING PIGTAIL	873765
STATIC POST	3820048501
TAIL PIPE ADAPTER	38140778501
RELAY UNIT	EB41B1

(2) Requisitions

NORS carried over from August	47
Total requisitions	318
Total filled	266
Total pending	49

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PART IV  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE

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