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HEADQUARTERS
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco 96602

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III MAF SAC
007430
CONTROL NUMBER

3P:MRB:af1
5750
2 October 1972

SECRET (UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosures)

From: Commanding General
To: Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) CTF 79 300846Z APR 72

Encl: (1) CG, Task Force Delta ltr 3:JMB:jnr over 5750
Ser: 00324572 of 16 Sep 72
(2) CO, MAG-12 ltr 3:PDW:rlb over 5750 Ser: 003A25472
of 10 Sep 72

1. In accordance with reference (a) the 1st MAF Command Chronology for August 1972 was submitted on 20 September 1972.

2. The enclosed chronologies were not available for inclusion with the 1st MAF Command Chronology and are forwarded separately.

J. W. Parchen
J. W. PARCHEN
By direction

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1. MAF SAC No.	Copy No.
2583-72	1

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Task Force Delta

Aug 1972

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Task Force Delta
FPO San Francisco 96602

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3:JMB:jnr
5750
00324572

18 SEP 1973

~~SECRET~~

From: Commanding General
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: (1) Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 August 1972 through
31 August 1972.

Ref: (a) HCO 5750.1C
(b) WFO 5750.1P
(c) Admin ltr FAW 280655Z Apr 72 (U)

Encl: (1) Task Force Delta Command Chronology

1. (U) In compliance with the provision of references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. (U) This letter is down graded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

R. W. Taylor
R. W. TAYLOR

1st MAF SAC No.	Copy No.
2536-72	1

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HEADQUARTERS
Task Force Delta
FPO San Francisco 96602

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 AUGUST 1972 TO 31 AUGUST 1972

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Enclosure (1)

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PART I1. (U) DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Task Force Delta

BGen A. W. O'DONNELL
1-22 August 1972BGen R. W. TAYLOR
23-31 August 1972SUBORDINATE UNITS

Marine Aircraft Group-15

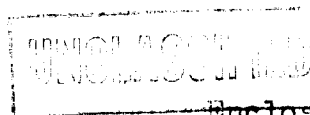
Colonel K. O'KEEFE
1-8 August 1972Colonel A. W. TALBERT
910-31 August 1972

Mobile Construction Battalion 5

Cmdr R. J. MCHUGH JR.
1-31 August 1972Marine Air Refueling Squadron 152
DetachmentMajor F. T. O'CONNER
1-6 August 1972Major A. E. THERIAULT
7-31 August 1972Headquarters and Maintenance
Squadron 36 DetachmentMajor D. J. COBB
1-31 August 1972Logistic Support Group
DetachmentMajor W. D. COOK
1-26 August 1972LtCol F. D. MCLEAN JR.
27-31 August 19727TH CIT
Detachment BCaptain S. L. MOYER
1-24 August 1972CWO-3 W. G. STERLING
25-31 August 19722. (U) LOCATION

Nam Phong RTAFB, Thailand

1-31 August 1972



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3. (U) STAFF OFFICERS

Chief of Staff	LtCol R. E. FAWES 1-31 August 1972
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1	Capt M. PALLO, JR. 1-31 August 1972
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2	Major J. M. BARNHART 1-31 August 1972
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3	LtCol M. J. BURNS 1-31 August 1972
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4	LtCol V. W. FAKELBAKER 1-31 August 1972
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5	Capt T. D. OWENS 19-31 August 1972
Supply Officer	Major E. C. JACKIE JR. 1-31 August 1972
Engineer Officer	Major L. B. NICE 1-31 August 1972

4. (S) AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		USAF	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
246	2374	28	488	0	7
USA		OTHER			
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Civilian</u>			
0	6	19			

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

The month of August saw Task Force Delta aviation units gradually improve their ability to conduct combat operations in support of 7th Air Force and the Republic of Vietnam. The scope of the operation which had previously included air-to-ground missions in and around the DMZ, PR-1 and PR-2 as well as air-to-air (BARCAP) missions along the

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eastern and western borders of North Vietnam was expanded further to include all-weather "systems" attacks by our A-6 heavy haulers into RP-1. During the endeavor to achieve efficient reliable combat operations the milestone of 1500 combat sorties from Nam Phong was passed.

On the minus side of the ledger, however, VMFA-232 lost an F-4J just short of runway 01 due to fuel exhaustion. The aircraft was returning from an Air Combat Maneuvering training flight at a time when the weather prevented visual navigation and all station navigational aids were inoperative or other wise not useable. Both aircrewmembers successfully ejected and sustained only minor injuries. They were recovered by TF Delta SAR aircraft. Tragedy struck again on 26 August when "Motion Alpha" flight from VMFA-232 was engaged by a flight of MIG aircraft in northeastern Laos and the wingman was shot down. The attack by the MIGs was not detected until a missile impacted and destroyed the number two aircraft due to a unique failure of radar and communications involving two separate control agencies as well as the Motion fighters. Again both aircrewmembers ejected and made voice contact with rescue aircraft. During the attempt to rescue the pilot, intense enemy ground fire forced the "Jolly Green" aircraft out of the zone. The second rescue aircraft succeeded in recovering the RIO with only minor injuries. Contact with the pilot, however was never re-established in spite of continuing efforts over the period of two days. He is presently listed as missing in action.

The construction effort continued to forge ahead during the month with the completion date of the second permanent mess hall and the on site hospital complex drawing significantly nearer. These facilities, when complete, will contribute to the overall health and morale of all assigned personnel. The completion of the helicopter pad and maintenance complex as well as the VMGR detachment maintenance area were further steps toward maximum efficiency. Their use coupled with the newly completed 250 ft by 500 ft AM-2 parking ramp extension allowed the helicopters to be moved from the south high speed turnoff. This same construction provided that the tankers could be parked along the west side of the AM-2 apron so that inbound C-130 aircraft could load and off-load on the apron adjacent to the air freight terminal. Work continued throughout the month on other high priority projects such as the electrical power distribution system, supply warehouse, MABS maintenance facilities, the avionics complex maintenance and storage facility and myriad other smaller projects. The highly

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critical runway spalling problem was corrected during the month by the application of epoxy cement patches. Those patches and the construction of AM-2 engine high power turnup areas off the runway have resulted in the elimination of any further damage to the runway surface.

VNGR-152 Detachment Delta continued their outstanding combat support effort without the loss of a single aerial refueling mission. They continued in fact, to average 100% availability in support of their vital operations. They not only flew 65 combat support missions, but also completed 70 administrative or logistic flights while satisfying a multitude of short fused, critical requirements. These efforts resulted in a total of 322.8 hours being compiled and 774,770 gallons of JP-4 being delivered to the fighters.

The all hands effort was also demonstrated by H&MS-36 Detachment Delta who flew 238 medevac, SAR or administrative sorties for a total of 194.3 hours. During these flights a total of 23,000 pounds of cargo, 1413 passengers and 16 medevacs were carried. 10 of the medevacs were emergency in nature. The exceptional professionalism of this detachment was demonstrated on 2 August when they were at the site of the crashed F-4J and had commenced pickup of the ejected crewmembers in less than five minutes after the unannounced ejection.

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 August 1972 | Special Colonel Tuantong (Thai Supreme Command G-3), Special Colonel Viscian (Thai Supreme Command G-2) Group Captain Nimol (new Nam Phong RTAFB Commander) and party of 18 received staff briefing tour of facility. |
| 2 August 1972 | First permanent mess opened. F-4J aircraft from VMFA-232 crashed three miles from Nam Phong returning from a training mission. |
| 8 August 1972 | Following visitors were briefed on operations, logistics, and construction matters:
Barry J. Shillito, Ass't SecDef (installations and Logistics)
LtGen Wooline, USA, CINCPAC J4
Thomas D. Morris, Ass't Comptroller General. |

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BGen Johansen, USA, DepDir, Supply and Maintenance Service and party of ten.

NajGen Spanjer, J3 CINCPAC, and party of three were briefed on operations. MajGen Brown, CG, 1st MAW and party of 12 were briefed on general situation. Command of MAG-15 passed from Col K. O'KEEFE to Col A. W. TALBERT.

10 August 1972	Governor Burie Tomlukno of Khon Kaen and party of eleven received orientation visit.
12 August 1972	VMA(AW)-533 flew first night systems mission.
13 August 1972	One Marine Lance Corporal from LSG Delta died from being overcome by carbon monoxide fumes while on authorized liberty in Udorn, Thailand.
19 August 1972	Construction of hospital complex completed.
23 August 1972	Construction of helicopter ramp and maintenance facility completed.
25 August 1972	"Miss America-USO Show" presented on stage adjacent to permanent mess.
26 August 1972	F-4J aircraft from VMFA-232 shot down by MIG aircraft during Line-backer mission. RIO recovered, but pilot is missing in action. All security towers for bomb dump completed. MAG-15 passed 1500 sorties since arrival at Nam Phong.
29 August 1972	VMGR maintenance facility completed.

PART IV

Chronologies of Subordinate Units

Commands & Supporting Documents

Filed sep-1. The document listed below is considered significant.

a. - MAG-15 Command Chronology.

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