

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS HEADQUARTERS, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII FPO, SAN FRANCISCO 96610



IN REPLY REFER TO: 3/HLV/mkp FEB 0 7 1974

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SECOND LINCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on CG, Task Force Delta's ltr 3/NAS/jdl 5750 Ser No. 003A28273 of 23 October 1973

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July 1973 through

21 September 1973

1. Forwarded.

R. E. HAEBEL By direction

Copy to: CG, 1st MAW

UNCLASSIFIED

C-21 Sept 7



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS HEADQUARTERS 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF FPO, SAN FRANCISCO, 96602

in reply refer to: 7/EHM/wra 5750 8 Jan 1974

SECRET

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CC Task Forme Delta's ltr 3/NAS/jdl over 5750 ser. to. 003A28273 of 23 Oct 1973

From:

Commanding General

To:

Commandant of the Marine Corps

Via:

Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj:

Command Chronology for period of 1 July 1973 through

21 September 1973

1. Forwarded.

2. This chronology is late because it has been used as a reference source for The Rose Garden Story, a document of lessons learned from our experience at Nam Phong.

W. P. BROWN Chief of Staff

CLASSIFIED BY: 1st MAW CMCC SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11625 AUTOMATICALLY DOWN-GRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1981.

FMFPac Copy _______ of ______





HEADQUARTERS Task Force Delta FPO San Francisco 96602



From:

Commanding canoral CICIE

To:

Commandant of the Marine Corps

Via:

Commanding General, Hirst Marine Aircraft Wing Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacifiq

Command Chronology for period of 1 July 1973 through Subj: 21 September 1973.

Ref:

- (a) MCO 5750.1D
- (b) FMFPACO 5750.8B
- (c) WgO 5750.1B

Encl: (1) Task Force Delta Command Chronology

- 1. (II) In compliance with the provisions of references (a) through (c) enclosure (1) is submitted.
- 2. (U) This letter is down-graded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

T/JANNELL

CLASSIFIED BY: TFD G-3 SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EYECUTIVE ORDER 11625 AUTOMATICALLY DOWN-GRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1981

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1973 to 21 September 1973

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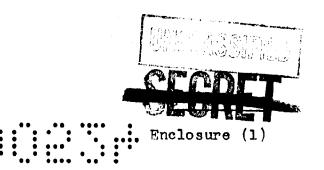
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIF-ICANT EVENTS

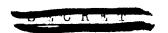
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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA



PART I

1. (U) DESIGNATION

SIGNATION COMMANDER

Task Force Delta BGen R. W. TAYLOR 1 Jul 1973 - 13 Aug 1973

BGen M. T. JANNELL 14 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Marine Aircraft Group-15 Col A. W. TALBERT

1 Jul 1973 - 24 Jul 1973

Col D. E. BJORKLUND

25 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

Marine Aerial Refueling Squadron-152 Detachment Maj L. W. ALLEN
1 Jul 1973 - 1 Aug 1973

Maj H. F. CLEMENCE

2 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-36 Detachment Maj J. G. McCARE 1 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

Logistics Support

Maj J. P. MANGAN

1 Jul 1973 - 25 Aug 1973

Group Detachment

Maj A. H. MULLIGAN

26 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

7TH CIT Detachment

2NDLT J. L. FAIRCLOTH 1 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

2. (U) LOCATION

Nam Phong RTAFB, Thailand 1 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

3. (U) STAFF OFFICERS

Chief of Staff

Col G. R. CAMPLASSIFII 1 Jul 1973 - 28 Aug 1973

LtCol L. W. SCHWINDT 29 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973



Enclosure (1)





Assistant Chief of Staff

CWO-2 D. EGAN

Assistant Chief of Staff G-3

LtCol R. PLANT 1 Jul 1973 - 28 Aug 1973

1 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

LtCol N. A. SMITH

29 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

Assistant Chief of Staff G -4

LtCol R. C. TASHJIAN

1 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973



Enclosure (1)





NARRATIVE

PART II

Task Force Delta tactical air units continued combat operations in the KhmeraRepublic from 1 July 1973 to 15 August 1973.

During this period the F-4 squadrons continued their air to ground support in the Khmer Republic flying twelve (12) to twenty (20) sorties per day. The A-6 involvement continued to be five (5) night sorties daily. As previously reported, the F-4s were used in direct air support with the A-6s being used for night targets and RADFAC beacon bombing. During this final period the F-4's flew 572 combat sorties while the A-6's flew 216 combat sorties.

H&MS-36 Detachment Delta is again to be commended for their extraordinary professionalism and efficiency. In flying their diverse missions during this period the detachment logged 377 sorties for a total of 297 hours, transporting 1217 passengers and 30,830 bounds of cargo. The only problem encountered was the grounding of all CH-46's due to rotor blade problems. Fortunately this occurred after the 15 August cease fire.

Since 1 July 1973, VMGR-152 Detachment Delta has continued their exemplary support of Task Force Delta. During this period they logged 365 sorties for 1348 hours while dispensing 894,531 gallons of fuel to 360 receiver aircraft.

On 15 August 1973, the cessation of United States involvement in combat operations was announced and Marine Corps air support in Cambodia came to an end. The following day, all Task Force Delta units conducted a safety stand down.

On 17 August 1973, the air units of Task Force Delta returned to a vigorous training schedule as they had done earlier in February. The uncertainty of the cease fire necessitated constant training so as to remain an effective force in readiness.

After the 15 August cease fire every effort was made to ready Task Force Delta for a possible retrograde movement while maintaining a high level of operational readiness. A program of equipment inspections had identified many excesses which were retrograded as early as feasible. Also identified





were many unserviceable items. These items were turned over to in-country disposal sites so as not to unnecessarily increase retrograde shipping requirements.

On 27 August 1973, Task Force Delta received the retrograde warning order and continued preparations for retrograde in accordance with Task Force Delta OpPlan 1-73 and the COMUS-MACTHAI "Green Lite" Programming Directive of 10 August 1973. On 30 August the "execute" was received and the first A-6's flew out followed by the F-4's on 31 August and 1 September. The base facilities were vacated by an air and surface lift that commenced on 3 September and terminated on 21 September. Portions of the facilities, as they were vacated, were turned over to the Royal Thai Government. In the retrograde movement, 2147 Marines were withdrawn, primarily by air, and 3081 short tons were surface lifted while 1636 short tons were airlifted. On 21 September 1973, formal ceremonies dedicated the base facilities to the Royal Thai Government. Thai representatives included LtGen KANJORN, Asst D C/S Thai Supreme Command; Col SERI. Thai Supreme Command: and Col NIMOL, RTAFB Nam Phong Commander. The United States Marine Corps was represented by MGen F. C. LANG, CG First Marine Aircraft Wing and BGen M. T. JANNELL, CG Task Force Delta. Commander United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand was represented by Col CURTO, USAF, Chief of Staff of COMUSMACTHAI.

The following operational statistics are reported for the operations of Task Force Delta at the "Rose Garden".

Task Force Delta Operational Statistics

17 June 1972 - 21 September 1973

	HOURS SORTIES	30,998 18,559
_	COMBAT HOURS COMBAT SORTIES	16,377 10,215
TOTAL	BOMB TOWNAGE	24.584

MAG-15 Operational Statistics

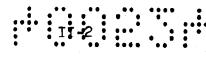
17 June 1972 - 21 September 1973

\mathbf{F} .	LIGHT	DA'l'A
-		

TOTAL HOURS
TOTAL SORTIES

VMFA-115 VMFA-232 VMA(AW)-533

7,218 9,360 4,537 5,792 5,298 3,106









•	_		
COMPAT HOURS COMBAT SORTIES	5,877 3,566	6,540 4,510	3, 960 2, 13 MM (M) M (COUTIER)
PIGH MONTH HOURS HIGH MONTH SORTIES	677.1 11711	814.3 515	433.6 343 343
HIGH MONTH COMBAT HOURS HIGH MONTH COMBAT SORTIES	650 . 2 4 5 5	742.7 460	604 • 3 328
TOTAL BOMB TONNAGE	7,522	9,278	7,784

H&MS-36 DET "D" Operational Statistics

17 June 1972 - 21 September 1973

TOTAL HOURS	2,356
TOTAL SORTIES	2,956
SAR SORTIES	80
AIRCREW RESCUED	12
MEDEVAC SORTIES	68
MEDEVAC PATIENTS	64
TOTAL PASSENGERS	13,176
TOTAL CARGO (LBS)	25li,099

VMGR-152 DET "D" Operational Statistics

17 June 1972 - 21 September 1973

TOTAL :	HOURS	6,766
TOTAL :	SORTIES	2,168
ATREF	TOTAL HOURS	5,281
ATREF	TOTAL SORTIES	1,500
TOTAL	JP-4 GIVE AWAY (GAL)	4,568,533
TOTAL	PECETVER AIRCRAFT	3,988





SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVEN

P	A	F	ľ	ŗ	Ι	Ι	Ι	

1	July 1973	VMFA-115's Birthday. Through 1 July 1973 VMFA-
		115 has flown 34,597 combat sorties in support of the Republic of Vietnam, Laos and the Khmer Republic.
3	July 1973	LtCol H.C. IVY flew his L50th combat mission prior to being relieved by LtCol C.V. SMILLIE who assumed command of the Silver Eagles of VMFA-115.
16	July 1973	A T-28 from the 56th SOW, RTAFB Udorn, lost an engine and crashed just short of the approach end of runway Ol at Nam Phong 0805G. Both aircrewmen were rescued, uninjured.
18	July 1973	Necessary Maintenance/Repairs were completed on 3,000 feet of runway/taxiway at Nam Phong.
19	July 1973	MOTION ONE (VMFA-232) flight, Mission NR6755 reported a possible SA-7 fired at the flight while on target in Cambodia, reported by MAG-15 OPREP-4.
20	July 1973	BGen R.W. TAYLOR, CG Task Force Delta, visited Gov CHAROEN of Udorn Province and MGen SAWONG, Northeast Thailand Army Commander.
25	July 1973	Col D.E. BJORKLUND relieved Col A.W. TALBERT as Commanding Officer of MAG-15 at 0930G.
3	August 1973	The MACTHAI Drug Abuse Team completed lectures to Task Force Delta personnel.
8	August 1973	MAG-15 F-4 Squadron's daily combat sorties were increased to twenty (20).

10 August 1973 Dr. R.S. WILBUR, Asst Secretary of Defense,

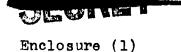
Health and Education, visited Nam Phong, brief-

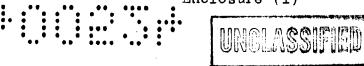
ed on the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program.

14 August 1973 VMFA-115 was presented the Meritorious Unit Citation for the period of 10 Nov 1969 to 20

May 1970

III-1





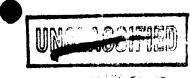
		BGen M. T. JANNELL assumed command CASSIFIE Task Force Delta this date.	3
1 5 Au	ngust 1973	Bombing halt announced. All combat operations cease. Safety stand down commences.	-
16 At	ngust 1973	Task Force Delta units conduct Safety stand down.	
17 Au	ngust 1973	Task Force Delta units commenced train- ing flights	
		VMA(AW)-533 was presented the FMFPAC Safety Award.	
27 Au	igust 1973	Received warning order for retrograde.	
30 Au	ngust 1973	Received execute order for retrograde. Today is designated as "R"day.	
		Last SITREP of Task Force Delta.	
		ALCE Team aboard.	
		VMA(AW)-533 commences tactical aircraft fly-away to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.	
31 Au	ngust 1973	VMFA-115 commences tactical aircraft fly-away to NAF Naha, Okinawa.	
1 Se	eptembe r 1973	Approximately 50 press correspondents aboard to observe the departure of the last tactical aircraft from Nam Phong. U.S. and foreign press were represented.	
		VMFA-232 commences tactical aircraft fly-away to NAS Cubi Point, Philippines.	
2 Se	ptember 1973	Surface lift by civilian trucking and or- ganic trucking commences.	
3 Se	eptember 1973	Liaison team from COMUSMACTHAI arrived to coordinate base turn over.	
		MAC airlift commences.	
5 Se	eptember 1973	Royal Thai Government representatives arrive and accept custody of the bomb dump.	
		III-2 UNGLASSIFIE	

1			•		ONG LASON DE
	7	September	1973	Task Force Delta hosts lunche include Major General THAWET, Police Ceneral, Governor BURI Province, Mr. Jere BROH-KAHN, States Consul, Udorn and Brig eral HYLDRETH, CG 13th AF ADV	on. Guests Thai National Khon Kaen United adier Gen-
	10	September	1973	$R^{m}G$ representatives accept cuthe first portion of cantonme	
	14	September	1973	MAC sirlift complete, 1636 sh flown out. PATMA airlift complemented by organic C-130's.	mences sup-
	15	September	1 °73	RTG representatives accept curemaining Nam Phong facilitie	
	17	September	1973	USS Puerto Rico arrives at Sa Thailand for surface cargo de Iwakuni.	
	18	September	1973	Surface lift completed, 3081 of cargo moved to deep water Sattabip, Thailand.	short tons port st
	20	Septembe r	1973	USS Green Forest arrives at S Thailand for surface cargo de Okinawa.	
	21	September	1973	Base turn over cermonies condremaining Marines depart to cairlift. A total of 21/17 Marheen retrograded.	omple te



Enclosure (1)







VISITING VIP'S

PART IV

Receiving Staff	Briefings	and Tour	$\circ f$	Facilities
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2 July 1973	Air Vice	Marshal	PRAWAT,	Vice	Commander
	R ጥልፑ ጥልሮ				

7	July	1973	PGen.	HILDRETH	I, USAF,	Commander	13th	Advon,
			Pu VE	lidorn.	Tha iland	l		

22 July 1973	Col W.R. BEFLER, USMC, Asst Chief of Staff
· ·	G-3 FMAW, Col W,P, PROWN, USMC, FMAW, Col
	O.L. OWENS, USMC, Asst Chief of Staff G-1
	FMAW, Capt W.R. HOWARD, USN, FMAW Chaplain
	and Capt W.J. HODDER, USN, FMAW Dental
	Officer

24 July 1973	4-1 D	777	BJORKLUND,	TTOMA
20 1017 1973	COLU	. M: .	BAIDBELIND.	11.5 1916
	V		7.00 + 17.77 O 11+0 P	V ~~ + + V

14 August 1973 PGen M.T. JANNELL, Incoming Commanding General, Task Force Delta

18 August 1973 MGen M.P. RYAN, CG III MAF

19 August 1973 MGen F.C. LANG, CG FMAW

25 August 1973 RAdm J.R. FISHER, USN, COMPACDIVNAVFACENGCOM

29 August 1973 Gen J.W. VOGT, COMUSSAG/7th Air Force

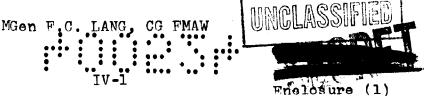
1 September 1973 LtGen KANJORN, Asst D C/S, Thai Supreme Command and Staff

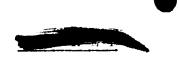
5 September 1973 Col SERI, Thai Supreme Command Representative, for base turn-over

7 September 1973 MGen F.C. LANG, CG FMAW

MGen THAWEE, Thai National Police, Gov BURI, Khon Kaen Province, Mr J. BROH-KAHN, U.S. Consul, Udorn, BGen HILDRETH, CG 13th AF Advon.

21 September 1973 LtGen KANJORN, Asst D C/S, Thai Supreme Command







SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

PART V

- 1. The documents listed below are considered significant.
- a. Marine Aircraft Group-15 Command Chronology (Submitted via 1st MAW)
- b. Logistics Support Group Delta Command Chronology (Submitted via 3rd FSR)
 - c. Task Force Delta OpPlan 1-73 (Enclosed in Original only)
- d. COMUSMACTHAI "Green Lite" Programming Directive of 10 August 1973 (Enclosed in Original only)

