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

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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
3/HLV/mkp  
FEB 07 1974

0039

~~SECRET~~ - 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*  
R. E. HAEBEL  
By direction

Copy to:  
CG, 1st MAW

*Task Force Delta*

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*Recd - 21 Apr 73*

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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

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CG Task Force Delta's ltr 3/NAS/jdl  
over 5750 ser. no. 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

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HEADQUARTERS  
Task Force Delta  
FPO San Francisco 96602

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3/NAS/jd1  
5750  
003A28273  
23 Oct 1973

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

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

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1D  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8B  
(c) WGO 5750.1B

Encl: (1) Task Force Delta Command Chronology

1. (U) 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).

*M. T. Jannell*  
M. T. JANNELL

CLASSIFIED BY: TFD G-3  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE 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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Enclosure (1)

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATAPART I1. (U) DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Task Force Delta

BGen R. W. TAYLOR  
1 Jul 1973 - 13 Aug 1973BGen M. T. JANNELL  
14 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973SUBORDINATE UNITS

Marine Aircraft Group-15

Col A. W. TALBERT  
1 Jul 1973 - 24 Jul 1973Col D. E. BJORKLUND  
25 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973Marine Aerial Refueling  
Squadron-152 DetachmentMaj L. W. ALLEN  
1 Jul 1973 - 1 Aug 1973Maj H. F. CLEMENCE  
2 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973Headquarters and Main-  
tenance Squadron-36  
DetachmentMaj J. G. McCABE  
1 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973Logistics Support  
Group DetachmentMaj J. P. MANGAN  
1 Jul 1973 - 25 Aug 1973Maj A. H. MULLIGAN  
26 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

7TH CIT Detachment

2NDLT J. L. FAIRCLOTH  
1 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 19732. (U) LOCATION

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

3. (U) STAFF OFFICERS

Chief of Staff

Col G. R. CAMPT  
1 Jul 1973 - 28 Aug 1973LtCol L. W. SCHWINDT  
29 Aug 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

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Assistant Chief of Staff  
G-1

CWO-2 D. EGAN  
1 Jul 1973 - 21 Sep 1973

Assistant Chief of Staff  
G-3

LtCol R. PLANT  
1 Jul 1973 - 28 Aug 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

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Task Force Delta tactical air units continued combat operations in the Khmer Republic 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 pounds 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

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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 COMUSMACTHAI "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

TOTAL HOURS	30,998
TOTAL SORTIES	18,559
TOTAL COMBAT HOURS	16,377
TOTAL COMBAT SORTIES	10,215
TOTAL BOMB TONNAGE	24,584

#### MAG-15 Operational Statistics

17 June 1972 - 21 September 1973

<u>FLIGHT DATA</u>	<u>VMFA-115</u>	<u>VMFA-232</u>	<u>VMA(AW)-533</u>
TOTAL HOURS	7,218	9,360	5,298
TOTAL SORTIES	4,537	5,792	3,106

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COMBAT HOURS	5,877	6,540	3,960
COMBAT SORTIES	3,566	4,510	2,139
HIGH MONTH HOURS	677.1	814.3	633.6
HIGH MONTH SORTIES	474	515	343
HIGH MONTH COMBAT HOURS	650.2	742.7	604.3
HIGH MONTH COMBAT SORTIES	455	460	328
TOTAL BOMB TONNAGE	7,522	9,278	7,784

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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)	250,099

17 June 1972 - 21 September 1973

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

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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 450th 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 01 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, briefed on the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program.

14 August 1973 VMFA-115 was presented the Meritorious Unit Citation for the period of 10 Nov 1968 to 20 May 1970

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BGen M. T. JANNELL assumed command of Task Force Delta this date.

15 August 1973 Bombing halt announced. All combat operations cease. Safety stand down commences.

16 August 1973 Task Force Delta units conduct Safety stand down.

17 August 1973 Task Force Delta units commenced training flights

VMA(AW)-533 was presented the FMFPAC Safety Award.

27 August 1973 Received warning order for retrograde.

30 August 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 August 1973 VMFA-115 commences tactical aircraft fly-away to NAF Naha, Okinawa.

1 September 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 September 1973 Surface lift by civilian trucking and organic trucking commences.

3 September 1973 Liaison team from COMUSMACV arrived to coordinate base turn over.

MAC airlift commences.

5 September 1973 Royal Thai Government representatives arrive and accept custody of the bomb dump.

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Leon. Guests

7 September 1973	Task Force Delta hosts luncheon. Guests include Major General THAWEE, Thai National Police General, Governor BURI, Khon Kaen Province, Mr. Jere BROH-KAHN, United States Consul, Udorn and Brigadier General HILDRETH, CG 13th AF ADVON.
10 September 1973	RTG representatives accept custody for the first portion of cantonment.
14 September 1973	MAC airlift complete, 1636 short tons flown out. PATMA airlift commences supplemented by organic C-130's.
15 September 1973	RTG representatives accept custody of remaining Nam Phong facilities.
17 September 1973	USS Puerto Rico arrives at Sattahip, Thailand for surface cargo destined for Iwakuni.
18 September 1973	Surface lift completed, 3081 short tons of cargo moved to deep water port at Sattahip, Thailand.
20 September 1973	USS Green Forest arrives at Sattahip, Thailand for surface cargo destined for Okinawa.
21 September 1973	Base turn over ceremonies conducted and remaining Marines depart to complete airlift. A total of 2147 Marines have been retrograded.

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VISITING VIP'S

PART IV

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Receiving Staff Briefings and Tour of Facilities

2 July 1973 Air Vice Marshal PRAWAT, Vice Commander  
RTAF TAC

7 July 1973 RGen HILDRETH, USAF, Commander 13th Advon,  
RTAFB Udorn, Thailand

22 July 1973 Col W.R. BEELER, USMC, Asst Chief of Staff  
G-3 FMAW, Col W.P. BROWN, 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 Col D.E. BJORKLUND, USMC

25 July 1973 MGen F.C. LANG, CG FMAW

14 August 1973 RGen 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 Represent-  
ative, 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, RGen HILDRETH, CG 13th AF  
Advon.

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

MGen F.C. LANG, CG FMAW

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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## 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)

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