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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CG, 1st MAW 3:BBS:rcj over 3480 Ser:  
0026165 dated 7 Oct 1965

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)

Subj: Historical Report, Yankee Team Operations from 1 July  
1965 to 30 September 1965; forwarding of (S)

Ref: (b) CMC ltr A03D22-KPS of 7Aug65

1. Forwarded in accordance with paragraph 3 of reference (b).



H. J. WOESSNER  
By direction

*Historical Report of Yankee Team Operations  
in Yankee Team Operations  
1965-30 Sept 65*

295 173

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR  
INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER  
12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10

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HEADQUARTERS  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO San Francisco 96601

3:BBS:rcj

3480

Ser: 0026165

OCT 1965

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From: Commanding General  
To: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
Subj: Historical Report, Yankee Team Operations from 1 July 1965 to 30 September 1965; forwarding of (S)  
Ref: (a) CG FMFPAC msg 140313Z Nov64  
Encl: (1) Subject Report  
1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in compliance with reference (a). The basic report was prepared by Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 1 and gives a mission by mission narrative of operations conducted by VM CJ-1 pilots during the stated period.  
2. Future report of VM CJ-1 Yankee Team activities will be included in the Monthly Command Chronology.

*Michael R. Yunc*  
MICHAEL R. YUNCK  
By direction

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR  
ANNALS NO AUTOMATICALLY  
DOD DIR 5200 10

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HISTORICAL REPORT OF VMCJ-1's PARTICIPATION  
IN YANKEE TEAM OPERATIONS (S)

PERIOD COVERED: 1 JULY 1965 - 30 SEPTEMBER 1965

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA SHEET

PART II NARRATIVE

PART III SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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Page 1 of 11 pages

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA SHEET

1. Designation of Reporting Unit: The unit involved is a detachment varying from two to four RF-8A type aircraft, pilots and supporting personnel. Parent Organization: Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 1.
2. Period Covered by Report: 1 July 1965 - 30 September 1965
3. Date of Submission of Report: 4 October 1965
4. Name and Rank of Commanding Officer: The Commanding Officer of Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 1 during the period covered in as follows:  
  
LtCol O. W. Corman, USMC 1 July 1965 - Present
5. Location of Command Post at End of Period: Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 1 (MINUS), Danang Air Base, Vietnam.

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PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The 1st of July found VMJ-1 Detachment Alpha embarked aboard the USS Oriskany. No flight operations were conducted this day. On 2 July VMJ-1 Detachment Alpha was released to Cubi Point to remain in a standby status while the USS Oriskany moved south to conduct operations in support of I Corps. A month long period of inactivity for VMJ-1 Detachment Alpha occurred as shown in Supporting Document No 1. Also during this period, personnel and aircraft were exchanged as shown in Supporting Document No 2.

On 4 August 1965 Detachment Alpha embarked aboard the USS Coral Sea and the ship sailed for Hong Kong. Lt. Sienicki flew a local navigation/photo on 5 August as the ship proceeded to Hong Kong.

The first operational flight during this period was conducted on 12 August 1965. Lt. Sienicki flew RT 2607/156 which was a photo recce of targets of opportunity from the DMZ to 19-00°N. Satisfactory coverage was obtained showing various bridges and roadways under construction.

Maj. Manning and Lt. Sienicki on 13 August launched on special recce missions into the area bounded by 105° 30' to 105° 40'E and 20° 25' to 20° 30'N to locate and photograph a possible SA-2 missile site believed to be in this area. Maj. Manning elected to approach the area at low level commencing his run-in just north of Thanh Hoa. Lt. Sienicki's low level run in was to begin over Hon Me Island and to approach the suspected area from the Southwest. Shortly after commencing his run, Maj. Manning was hit by flak and he was forced to eject in the vicinity of the SAR destroyers. Ejection and subsequent rescue were successful but moderate to severe back injuries were sustained. Lt. Sienicki encountered no flak but was unable to obtain photo coverage of his assigned search area due to low hanging clouds over the mountains west of the suspected area. Other Coral Sea aircraft continued the mission of searching for this new suspect SAM site. During operations this date three aircraft were destroyed and one was severely damaged but managed to recover aboard.

There were no flight operations for VMJ-1 conducted on 14 August. VFP-63 Det Delta flew two sorties, both BDA for an attack on the Vinh Army Barracks and Supply Depot. With the loss of PP920, VFP-63 Det Delta had no operational RF-8A aircraft as PP924 remained below deck in an AOC status. Both VMJ-1 aircraft, RM 16 and RM 17, constituted the only RF-8A aircraft in an up status aboard the Coral Sea.

Lt. Sienicki, five minutes before launch time for a BDA mission on 15 August was directed to fly a special recce #9 mission (photo recce of the area just south of Thanh Hoa, 19° 45'N 105° 40'E). This area was thought to be the site of a possible new SAM installation. Low altitude photos revealed nothing of interest in this area. Small arms fire was encountered while returning from the target area however no hits were taken by either the photo aircraft or his two F-8D escorts.

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Maj. Mitchell arrived aboard by COD as a replacement for Maj. Manning on 16 August. No VMCJ-1 Det operations were flown on this date. A strike on the Vinh Army Barracks was conducted on 17 August. Maj. Mitchell and Lt. Sienicki flew BDA in section and excellent results were obtained using KA-53 cameras.

All operations were cancelled on 18 August due to weather. On 19 August Maj. Mitchell flew a special low level recce of the Nam Dinh area penetrating the low altitude SAM II envelope of Site 1 and 3 in a search for suspected additional sites in that area. The flight was conducted between 500' and 5000' at an indicated airspeed of 600 kts. Good area coverage was obtained with a forward firing KA-45, CAX tri met in station two and KA-45 in the 15° oblique position. The KA-56 panoramic camera malfunctioned. Lt. Sienicki on 21 August flew BDA for a strike on the Thanh Hoa Barracks. Good coverage was obtained using the KA-45 at 6000'.

On 22 August the Coral Sea steamed south proceeding to Dixie station. Trouble in the ship's #3 engine necessitated this shift to southern waters. It was believed that temporary repairs could be completed while on Dixie station and that the ship could again steam north. VMCJ-1 Detachment Alpha remained aboard. However, on 23 August, Maj. Mitchell flew aboard the USS Oriskany to supplement an "Iron Hand" mission. The mission was a three wave strike against a suspected SAM Site just east of Kep airfield 30 miles Northeast of Hanoi. Damage was inflicted on the target however photos later revealed the complex to be heavy gun emplacement rather than a SAM site. Six A-4's were hit but all managed to return safely.

From 24 to 30 August a total of 34 in-country BDA missions were flown of which VMCJ-1 Det Alpha flew 13. While on Yankee station from 12 to 22 August a total of 32 photo sorties were flown of which VMCJ-1 Det Alpha flew 11.

VMCJ-1 Det Alpha aircraft and pilots shifted to the USS Oriskany on 1 September 1965. Maj. Mitchell flew in a 3 plane "Iron Hand" mission the afternoon of arrival. The mission was a SAM recce in the Haiphong to Hanoi area and was flown at 50' and 500 kts until the IP just northwest of Haiphong then the aircraft popped up to 1000' for all photography. The three aircraft separated and flew different routes after reaching the IP (retirement was made at 600 plus kts). LCDR Thalman, OIC of VFP-63 Det Golf aboard the Oriskany, was hit by small arms fire and diverted to Danang.

Due to bad weather, all flight operations were cancelled on 2 Sept.

On 3 Sept Lt. Sienicki flew a photo recce of route Hope in Laos however bad weather precluded decent photo coverage.

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Maj. Mitchell led another "Iron Hand" flight into the Haiphong area on 4 Sept. The three plane flight entered southwest of the Haiphong area and penetrated 80 miles at 50' altitude then separated. Photo coverage was excellent.

Lt. Sienicki flew BDA for a SAM hunt in the area north of Thanh Hoa on 5 Sept however no SAM's were located. Maj. Mitchell obtained excellent coverage for a strike on the Ha Tinh Barracks just south of Vinh.

The strike on the Ha Tinh Barracks was again scheduled for 6 Sept. Lt. Sienicki obtained excellent coverage utilizing a KA-53 camera. Maj. Mitchell attempted to photograph RTE #9 in the Tchepone area of Laos however weather again precluded coverage.

On 7 Sept Lt. Sienicki flew BDA for RT-30c-5 an armed road recce. This mission was also aborted because of weather. An alternate photo mission of pre-selected targets along the coast was attempted however weather again precluded adequate coverage. Maj. Mitchell flew BDA for another "Iron Hand" mission however no SAM's were located hence no photos were taken.

Maj. Mitchell again flew RTE #9 in the Tchepone area of Laos on 8 Sept. This time excellent coverage was obtained at 7000' with the KA-53 camera. Lt. Sienicki flew BDA for an "Iron Hand" mission north of Thanh Hoa. He was in company with Lt J. G. Rudolph of VFP-63 Det Golf. Their flight was called into an area on Hwy #1 about 25 miles north of Thanh Hoa to photograph some trucks that had been attacked by the A-4 strike group. As the two RF-8A's entered the area at 1000' and 600 kts they encountered extremely heavy light-automatic and 37 mm fire. Lt JG Rudolph's aircraft was hit and was seen to roll inverted and immediately plunge into the ground.

On 9 Sept Maj. Mitchell flew BDA for a combination strike on the Thanh Hoa bridge and SAM hunt however the mission was aborted because of weather. Commander Stockdale, Carrier Air Wing Commander, was shot down just south of Thanh Hoa and is believed to have been captured.

No flights were flown on 10 September. On the 11th, as per CTG-77 instructions, VMJ-1 Det Alpha departed the Oriskany and returned to Iwakuni. The flight was made non stop from PT Yankee utilizing in-flight-refueling from an A-3 Tanker approximately 140 miles out from the ship.

During this operating period from 1 September to 10 September 1965 VMJ-1 Detachment Alpha flew a total of 13 Photo missions. VFP-63 Detachment Golf flew 14 Photo missions.

On 12 September, VMJ-1 Detachment Alpha was reconstituted as shown on supporting document number 2. This Det proceeded to Cubi Point on 27 Sept and reembarked aboard the USS Oriskany on the 29 September. On 30 September the ship was enroute to Point Yankee.

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PART III  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Supporting document number 1; sets forth a chronological record of activity.

Supporting document number 2; contains a roster of personnel assigned to Yankee Teams during the reporting period.

Supporting document number 3; recapitulates sorties and flight hours by deployment.

Supporting document number 4; presents a glossary of terms.

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VMCJ-1 DETACHMENT ALPHA  
CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF ACTIVITY

1 July 1965 - 1 July 1965 - USS Oriskany CVA-34  
2 July 1965 - 10 July 1965 - Standby NAS Cubi Point  
11 July 1965 - 15 July 1965 - Standby MCAS Iwakuni  
16 July 1965 - 22 July 1965 - Standby NAS Cubi Point  
23 July 1965 - 3 August 1965 - Standby MCAS Iwakuni  
4 August 1965 - 31 August 1965 - USS Coral Sea CVA-43  
1 September 1965 - 11 September 1965 - USS Oriskany CVA-34  
12 September 1965 - 26 September 1965 - Standby MCAS Iwakuni  
27 September 1965 - 28 September 1965 - Standby NAS Cubi Point  
29 September 1965 - 30 September 1965 - USS Oriskany CVA-34

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT No. 1

~~SECRET~~Page 7 of 11 pages

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VMCJ-1 DETACHMENT ALPHA  
PERSONNEL ROSTER

1 July - 11 July 1965

Maj MITCHELL, J. J.  
 Lt GERMAN, I. J.  
 SSgt HODDER, J. C.  
 Sgt BRIANT, W. E.  
 Cpl HALL, G. G.  
 Cpl REESE, T. W.  
 Cpl SMOOT, J. N.  
 Cpl WELSH, P. C.  
 LCpl BRINKEMA, G. B.  
 LCpl DANE, D. G.  
 LCpl ISAACSON, T. J.  
 LCpl ZERVOUDAKES, J. W.  
 PFC HARRIS, J. W.  
 PFC HENDERSON, P. S.  
 PVT KYLE, J. D.

12 Sept - 30 Sept 1965

Lt YOUNG, H. W.  
 Lt DODSON, J. G.  
 SSgt TATARINOWICZ, T.  
 SSgt HODDER, J. C.  
 Cpl HENRY, D. W.  
 Cpl JENSON, W. L.  
 Cpl KIEFER, L. R.  
 Cpl MOORE, D.  
 Cpl OLIVER, E. O.  
 Cpl VONDENKAMP, T. A.  
 LCpl ZERVOUDAKES, J. W.  
 LCpl HILL, O. W.  
 LCpl MC CORMICK, F. R.  
 LCpl ISAACSON, T. J.

12 July - 11 Sept 1965

Maj MANNING, P. A. (NOTE 1)  
 Maj MITCHELL, J. J. (NOTE 2)  
 Lt SIENICKI, K. J.  
 Sgt ALLEN, R. P.  
 Sgt JONES, P. B.  
 Cpl ARENDZIAK, R. G.  
 Cpl OLIVER, E. O.  
 Cpl PIKE, J. H.  
 Cpl STEWART, R. S.  
 Cpl POSTON, R. M.  
 LCpl GUCKENBERGER, D. R.  
 LCpl HILL, L. W.  
 LCpl MC CORMICK, F. R.  
 LCpl PARKER, R. M.  
 LCpl ENGLEMAN, J. E.  
 PFC MUZIK, D. A.

Note 1 - 12 July - 13 August 1965

Note 2 - 16 August - 11 September 1965

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT No. 2

Page 8 of 11 pages

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VMCJ-1 DETACHMENT ALPHA  
PILOT FLIGHT ACTIVITY

<u>DATES</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>Total Yankee Team Missions Flown</u>	<u>Total Yankee Team Missions Flown by VMCJ-1 Pilots</u>	<u>Other Flights Flown by VMCJ-1 Pilots</u>
		<u>Sorties/Hours</u>	<u>Sorties/Hours</u>	<u>Sorties/Hours</u>
1 July - 2 July	USS ORISKANY	0/0	0/0	0/0
4 Aug - 31 Aug	USS CORAL SEA	0/0	0/0	24/46.8
1 Sept - 11 Sept	USS ORISKANY	7/15.2	3/6.5	10/20.7
29 Sept - 30 Sept	USS ORISKANY	*	*	* Note 1

\* Figures unavailable at this time

Note 1 These figures do not include normal cyclic operations around the ship, X-C hours etc.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT No. 3

Page 9 of 11 pages

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GLOSSARY OF TERMSYANKEE TEAM

- Code name for U.S. missions over Laos involving photographic, weather and electronics intelligence reconnaissance.

IRON HAND

- Code name applied to U. S. armed reconnaissance & photo missions designed to search for or destroy SA-2 missile sites.

ROLLING THUNDER

- Code name assigned to reprisal strikes against the DRV.

KA-53 CAMERA

- A 12" focal length camera employing the 5" negative format. Designed primarily for vertical photography, it's main feature is that of automatic exposure control.

KA-45 CAMERA

- A 6" focal length camera employing the 5" negative format. This camera can be used for either vertical oblique, or forward firing photography.

FORWARD FIRING PHOTOGRAPHY

- Camera located in nose section of the aircraft facing forward of the direction of travel. Line sight of the camera depressed from the horizontal, usually 25 degrees in the RF-8A. May be referred to as forward firing oblique. Used for low altitude reconnaissance, such as for approach routes, recce, etc. Also useful for bomb damage assessment. Scale of photography varies from foreground to background.

OBLIQUE PHOTOGRAPHY

- Camera facing outboard on either side of the aircraft perpendicular to the direction of travel. Line of sight of the Camera depressed from the horizontal usually 5, 15, or 30 degrees. Used for low altitude reconnaissance, such as for bomb damage assessment. Scale of photograph varies from foreground to background.

VERTICAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- Camera facing downward and perpendicular to direction of travel of aircraft. Line of sight of the camera depressed 90° from the horizontal. Used for low or high altitude reconnaissance and suitable for stereoptic viewing in imagery interpretation. Scale constant throughout photograph.

Supporting Document No. 4

Page 10 of 11 pages

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KA-56 PANOPAMIC CAMERA

- Aerial photographic camera utilizing a rotating prism device in front of the lens to produce lateral horizon to horizon coverage. Combines all the features of vertical and oblique photography in one camera system. Generally used for low level reconnaissance.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT No. 4

Page 11 of 11 pages

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