

HEADQUARTERS  
 Marine Aircraft Group-12  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Fleet Marine Force Pacific  
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

UNCLASSIFIED

3: CED:jdh  
 Ser: 003A04568  
 14 February 1968  
 Copy 1 of 13

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-3)  
 Subj: Command Chronology; submission of (U)  
 Ref: (1) Wg O 5750.10  
 Encl: ✓ (1) MAG-12 Command Chronology for the month of January 1968

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

mag-12

*Dean Wilker*  
 DEAN WILKER

1st MAF S&C No.	Copy No.
654-68	1

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MAG-12 S&C	COPY
21L S&C	1

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SECRET

Jan 68

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MARINE AIRCRAFT

GROUP 12

CHU LAI REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY 1965 - 31 JANUARY 1968

~~DECLASSIFIED~~  
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~~SECRET~~PART IUNITS, COMMANDERS AND STAFF BILLETSMARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12COMMANDING OFFICER

Colonel Dean WILKER

1 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel LeRoy C. BARTON

25 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

ADJUTANT

First Lieutenant Jerry W. MCNULTY

16 Jul 67 - 17 Jan 68

First Lieutenant Paul THOBOIS, JR

18 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

S-1

Lieutenant Colonel Norman B. MCCRARY

18 Sep 67 - 9 Jan 68

Major Bonnie W. SUMMERS

10 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

S-2

Major Raymond F. LATTALL

28 Aug 67 - 31 Jan 68

S-3

Lieutenant Colonel Claude E. DEERING JR.

26 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

S-4

Lieutenant Colonel William D. SHIPPEN

10 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 121

4 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. KERN

25 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel John E. MILLER

25 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

S-1

Major Richard H. ULM

25 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

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~~SECRET~~PART I (Cont'd)S-3

Major Gerald H. SMITH  
Major Ray E. BRIGHT

1 Sep 67 - 14 Jan 68  
15 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

S-4

Major Donald E. KIRBY  
Major Richard P. BRENNAN

21 Nov 67 - 26 Jan 68  
27 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 211

1 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Francis H. THURSTON

1 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Fredrick P. SALZMAN

21 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

S-1

Major Bennie W. SUMMERS  
Major William K. PARKER

1 Jan 68 - 9 Jan 68  
10 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

S-3

Major Donald A. SCHAEFER  
Major Carl F. BERGSTROM, JR.

1 Dec 67 - 24 Jan 68  
25 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

S-4

Major Robert J. WIEDEMANN

1 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 311

1 Jun 67 - 31 Jan 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Richard B. TABER

22 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel James A. CURTIS

1 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

S-1

Major Robert W. WARDLAW

14 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

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PART I (Cont'd)S-3

Major John W. WARRENDER  
Major Darold L. GUTTORMSON

1 Aug 67 - 31 Dec 67  
1 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

S-4

Major Robert D. LIEPOLD  
Major Clifford L. MCCRAW

2 Oct 67 - 14 Jan 68  
15 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

MARINE ALL WEATHER ATTACK SQUADRON 533

1 Apr 67 - 31 Jan 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel William H. FITCH

2 Oct 67 - 31 Jan 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Ronald L. IVERSON

24 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

S-1

Major Robert L. GONDEK

21 Sep 66 - 31 Jan 68

S-3

Major Paul R. JONES JR.

1 Jan 66 - 31 Jan 68

S-4

Captain Mario A. CADENA

1 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

MARINE AIR BASE SQUADRON 12

15 May 65 - 31 Jan 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Leo J. LEBLANC JR.

3 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Major Charles F. MOSER

2 Nov 67 - 31 Jan 68

S-1

Captain Peter H. BREMFELD

4 Dec 67 - 31 Jan 68

BASE OPERATIONS OFFICER

Major Richard L. DENNIS

19 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

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**SECRET**PART I (Cont'd)S-4

Major Gerald L. ELLIS  
Major John D. INGRAHAM

2 Aug 67 - 20 Jan 68  
21 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

MARINE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL UNIT 67

Major Carl F. BERGSTROM JR.  
Major Samuel M. HORTON

19 Sep 67 - 22 Jan 68  
23 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68

HEADQUARTERS AND MAINTENANCE SQUADRON 12

16 May 65 - 31 Jan 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Dan G. ALEXANDER

10 Nov 67 - 31 Jan 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Major Donald L. YELEK

14 Sep 67 - 31 Jan 68

S-1

First Lieutenant Melvyn T. MORROW

26 Jan 67 - 12 Jan 68

FLIGHT OFFICER

First Lieutenant Roger G. MORGAN

3 Aug 67 - 31 Jan 68

MAINTENANCE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Richard F. SKINNER

27 Nov 67 - 31 Jan 68

2. MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12, CHU LAI AB, VIETNAM, RVN 16 MAY 65 - 31 JAN 68

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC O</u>	<u>USMC ENL</u>	<u>USN O</u>	<u>USN ENL</u>
VMA-121	28	160	1	0
VMA-211	31	148	1	0
VMA-311	30	170	1	0
VMA (AW)-533	40	225	1	0
H&MS-12	57	450	0	0
MABS-12 & MATCU-67	32	547	3	32
TOTAL	218	1700	7	32

4. IMPORTANT VISITORS TO THE COMMAND

General Leonard F. CHAPMAN  
LtGeneral Robert E. CUSHMAN  
MajGen Norman J. ANDERSON

CMC  
CG III MAF  
CG 1stMAW

12 Jan 68  
31 Jan 68  
31 Jan 68

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of January, increased ground activity within the ICTZ placed large demands upon all squadrons of Marine Aircraft Group-12. On approximately 21 January 1968 Operations SCOTLAND and LANCASTER increased their tempo markedly. This requirement for large numbers of close air support, direct air support and radar controlled bombing missions continued for the remainder of the month.

2. Marine Aircraft Group-12 flew a total of 3575 combat sorties during January 1968. This represented a thirty-five percent increase over the month of December 1967. Additionally, the number of tons of ordnance delivered increased from 5066 tons in December 1967 to 6472 tons during January 1968, an increase of twenty-eight percent.

3. Battle damage suffered by MAG-12 aircraft during January increased significantly. This was due in large part to the necessity to work at low altitudes in high threat areas during periods of bad weather. Two A-4E's from VMA-311 were lost during operation SCOTLAND on 21 and 23 January 1968. Both pilots ejected safely and were rescued by helicopters stationed on Khe Sanh within moments after parachute descent.

4. At approximately 0410H 31 January 1968, Chu Lai Air Base received approximately forty-eight rounds of enemy 122MM rockets and mortars of unknown caliber. Severe damage was suffered by all MAG-12 hanger and support facilities. This was caused by overpressure resulting from a direct hit on the Force Logistic Command Bomb Dump. The force of this explosion coupled with flying debris damaged eighteen MAG-12 aircraft. Four aircraft required extensive repair and one (C-117) was damaged beyond repair. Injuries were minor with only one enlisted requiring evacuation. This low injury rate is attributed to personnel being forewarned and in their bunkers when the attack commenced.

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PART III1. PERSONNEL

a. During the month of January, MAG-12 joined 24 USMC Officers and 242 USMC Enlisted personnel, rotated during the month were 11 USMC Officers and 275 USMC Enlisted personnel.

b. Projected losses for the month of February 1968: 7 USMC Officers  
165 USMC Enlisted

2. AWARDS

a. The following awards were awarded and recommended during January 1968:

<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
Distinguished Flying Cross	26	5
Bronze Star	3	15
Silver Star	2	0
Air Medal (Single Mission)	3	0
Navy Commendation Medal	34	5
Navy Achievement Medal	6	1
Air Medal (1st Award)	15	7
Gold Star (in lieu of)	149	83
Silver Star (in lieu of)	10	6

3. CASUALTIES

a. Captain Patrick P. MURRAY 091849 USMCR, reported missing in action 19 January 1968.

b. Major Hobart M. WALLACE Jr 068285 USMC, reported missing in action 19 January 1968.

c. Captain James D. MILLS 080124 USMC, reported missing in action 29 January 1968.

d. On 31 January 1968, Cpl Robert C. JONES 2128751 USMC, Cpl Dennis M. COLBERT 2136225 USMC, Cpl Walter R. THOMAS 2169286 USMC, Cpl Kenneth J. SMITH 2137177 USMC, Cpl Royer D. HOLLOWAY 2129740 USMC, and LCpl Eudoxio M. FLORES 1183432 USMC were injured during a rocket attack at Chu Lai Air Base. All wounded were treated and returned to duty except FLORES who was evacuated 3 February 1968.

e. On 17 January, GySgt Frederick SHIVERS 1270497 USMC, SSgt Larry H. MEISTER 1502220 USMC and Cpl Hobart S. BLOSSER 2195572 USMC were working with 20MM ammo when unexplained explosion occurred. SSgt MEISTER was evacuated 21 January 1968 and Cpl BLOSSER 30 January 1968. GySgt SHIVERS was treated at 1st Hospital and returned to duty.

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~~SECRET~~PART III (Cont'd)6. AIR OPERATIONS

a. MAG-12 flew 3645 sorties for a total of 4405.8 flight hours included were 3575 combat sorties which expended 6471.6 tons of ordnance for an average of 208.7 tons per day.

b. Combat missions were flown in support of III Marine Amphibious Force, I Corps, Seventh Air Force, Americal Division (USA), and ARVN. Major operations supported included the below listed with sorties, flight hours and ordnance expended on each.

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>FLIGHT HOURS</u>	<u>ORDNANCE (TONS)</u>
BADGER TOOTH	4	5.4	5.8
KENTUCKY	66	79.6	130.7
LANCASTER	175	231.3	370.4
NAPOLEON	52	78.3	84.7
NEOSHO	15	17.8	29.2
NIAGARA	217	236.1	341.8
OSCEOLA	26	32.3	79.0
SCOTLAND	545	705.2	988.3
WHEELER	6	6.2	9.4
A.I.S.	209	248.8	383.0

c. Take-offs and landings

	<u>A-4</u>	<u>F-4</u>	<u>A-6</u>	<u>HELO</u>	<u>TRANS</u>	<u>T&amp;G</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
West Runway	6940	3788	803	500	2350	1300	972	16,653
Crosswind Runway	0	0	0	97	0	0	15	112
East Runway	0	0	3	16000	11	1404	2750	20,168
Total	6940	3788	806	16597	2361	2704	3737	36,933

MAY65-31JAN68	177668	56008	806	132917	39279	30809	55211	492,698
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7. AIR CONTROL

<u>a. INSTRUMENT OPERATIONS TOTAL</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>MAY65-31JAN68</u>
Tactical Instrument Departures	1653	20,339
Radar Climbs	1840	18,605
Flight Followings	52	2,380
Tacan Approaches	120	5,781
Radar Vectors	2631	31,695
	6296	78,800

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**SECRET**PART III (Cont'd)

<u>b. RADAR APPROACHES</u>	<u>SURVEILLANCE</u>	<u>PRECISION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1-31 Jan 68 IFR	0	146	146
VFR	0	1569	1569
		<u>1715</u>	<u>1715</u>
May 65 - 31 Jan 68			31200

8. LOGISTICS

a. MAG-12 expended the following ordnance during the month:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
ANM-66	5
ANM-69	49
ANM-65	41
ML17A1	899
MK-81	5723
MK-82	17219
MK-77	929
FFAR	2135
CEU	92
20MM	21510
MK-83	101

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~~SECRET~~PART III (Cont'd)4. MORALE/WELFARE PROGRAMS

a. During the month of January, Special Services activities were concentrated in two main efforts. The first was in preparing the new MAG-12 Recreation Hut for its forthcoming opening. The second main effort has consisted of making water recreation equipment ready for the swimming and boating season just ahead.

A slight delay in electrical work has caused the opening date of the Recreation Hut to slide. It was originally hoped that the hut would be ready for operation on 29 January. The grand opening is now slated for the evening of 2 February. Opening day visitors will find an indoor theater ready for operation, two pool tables, two ping pong tables, two shuffle boards, a gear issue room and a television set for their pleasure. The opening of the weight room will follow shortly.

Much effort has already been devoted to preparation for the forthcoming boating and swimming season. New outboard motors are being put through the required break in procedures in a test cell. Others are being tuned up after a winter of inactivity. Two new aluminum boats were also obtained during the month. A building which once housed the gear issue room has been turned into an engine storage and repair shop. On the beach, two old life-guard towers have been repaired and a third built from scratch.

In the midst of building new facilities and changing others, routine activities have continued. The photo hobby shop has operated on a daily basis. The library has also been opened daily, but for fewer hours than during the month of December. The manager of the tape recording shop has just managed to keep this tape production abreast of the demand.

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**SECRET**PART IV1. Supporting Documents

## a. Squadron Command Chronologies

- ✓Appendix 1, VMA-121 Command Chronology
- ✓Appendix 2, VMA-211 Command Chronology
- ✓Appendix 3, VMA-311 Command Chronology
- ✓Appendix 4, VMA(AW)-533 Command Chronology
- ✓Appendix 5, F&MS-12 Command Chronology
- ✓Appendix 6, M&BS-12 Command Chronology
- ✓Appendix 7, MAG-12 S-1 Command Chronology

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
OF  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP TWELVE  
S-1 SECTION  
PERIOD 1 - 31 JANUARY 1968

PART ONEORGANIZATIONAL DATACOMMANDING OFFICER

COLONEL DEAN WILKER

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEROY C. BARTON

ADJUTANT

FIRST LIEUTENANT PAUL THOBOIS JR. 18-31 JAN 1968

S-1

LIEUTENANT COLONEL NORMAN B. MCCRARY

\* MAJOR B. W. SUMMERS -ASSISTANT

S-2

MAJOR RAYMOND E. LATALL

S-3

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLAUDE E. DERRING JR.

S-4

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM D. SHIPPEN - 10-31 DECEMBER 1967

IMPORTANT VISITORS

GENERAL LEONARD F. CHAPMAN, JR.	CMC	12JAN68
MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT E. CUSHMAN, JR.	CG III MAF	31JAN68
MAJOR GENERAL NORMAN J. ANDERSON	CG 1ST MAW	31JAN68

CASUALTIES

Captain PATRICK P. MURRAY 091819 USMCR  
Reported missing in action 19 January 1968

Major HOBART M. WALLACE JR. 068285 USMC  
Reported missing in action 19 January 1968

Captain JAMES D. MILLS 080124 USMC  
Reported missing in action 29 January 1968

On 31 January 1968, Cpl Robert C. JONES 2128751 USMC, Cpl Dennis M. COLBERT 2136225 USMC, Cpl Walter R. THOMAS 2169286 USMC, Cpl Kenneth J. SMITH 2137177 USMC, Cpl Royer D. HOLLOWAY 2129710 USMC, and LCpl Eudoxio M. FLORES 1183432 USMC were injured during a rocket attack at Chu Lai Air Base. All wounded were treated and returned to duty except LCpl FLORES who was evacuated 3 February 1968.

CASUALTIES

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## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

During the month of January 1968, MAG-12 joined 24 USMC Officers and 242 USMC Enlisted. Rotated during the month were 11 USMC Officers and 275 USMC Enlisted.

Projected losses for February 1968: 7 USMC Officers  
165 USMC Enlisted

## AWARDS

The following awards were awarded and recommended during January 1968:

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
DFC	26	5
BS	3	15
SS	2	0
SMAM	3	0
NCM	34	5
NAM	6	1
1stAM	15	7
GS(in lieu of)	119	83
SS(in lieu of)	10	6

## CIVIL AFFAIRS

Major Risner, MAG-12 Civil Affairs Officer, the Ly Tin District Chief, Major Nourse (Army advisor at Ly Tin) and several District officials delivered 192 cases of milk to the Ly Tra New Life and Khuong Daihamlets. The District Chief and Major Risner spoke to the people at Ly Tra of the continuing support the Americans would give to the Vietnamese people and wished them a Happy New Year.

With aid from MAG-16 helicopters, Major Risner, the District Chief and other officials delivered 60 cases of milk to CAP K-3 on Ky Hoa Island, CAP K-1 on Ky Xuan Island and CAP K-5 for further distribution to the Vietnamese people. Some milk was also delivered to the Ky Sanh villagers.

Civil Affairs personnel traveled to Quang Ngai City and bought 10 bags of rice for the Dong Cong Orphanage in An Tan. The rice was bought at the request of the sisters in charge who otherwise would have to have sent many of the orphans back to Tam Ky. The money was donated by the MAG-12 Catholic Chaplain.

Two 2-member teams of the MAG-12 Civic Action Team each spent 3 days on successive weeks with Combined Action Platoon K-4 which is located in the new MAG-12 area of responsibility. With the new base of operations enabling Civil Affairs to make a thorough investigation of the new area, much new information was found pertaining to the needs of the schools, aid stations and the people themselves. So far as a result of the project, four new schools have each received 10 forms enabling students to be sponsored for scholarships. Forty bags of cement and 32 sheets of aluminum roofing were delivered to



CAP K-4 for completion of the hospital located on the compound.

MAG-12 took part in several pacification meetings and celebrations. Major Risner and C/A personnel attended a Victory Celebration held by the Ly Tin District Chief after the 1 January attack on the District Headquarters. Pre-TET celebrations were attended at the Buddhist school in An Tan and the Village Chief's headquarters. TET was celebrated at the house of MAG-12's Informational Coordinator in An Tan and the District Chief's. One member of the C/A team was given the honor of being the "first-footer" in a Vietnamese home to bring luck to the family.

One-hundred fifty TET toys were delivered to the Dong Cong Orphanage. Forty-five were distributed to children in the hamlet of Trung An and the remaining 800 were delivered to the District Chief's for distribution.

The MAG-12 Catholic Chaplain delivered a truckload of building materials, food and clothing and two pallets of milk to the Dong Cong Orphanage. Eight pallets of cement have been delivered to Dong Cong for the foundation and early construction on the new Dong Cong high school. The finishing touches have been put on the nursery addition at the orphanage. One pallet of milk was delivered to the Protestant orphanage in An Tan. The Chaplain baptised a Vietnamese family which immediately afterwards attended its first Communion. All C/A members attended with the CAO as godfather of the family.

The Protestant Chaplain distributed 40 blankets and 58 boxes of food, clothes and toys to the Protestant orphanage in An Tan. Twenty-nine thousand five hundred piastres were donated to a school in Tam Ky.

A P.F. and his family were given aid in moving away from the area in front of the Ly Tin District Headquarters for reasons of safety. The P. F. was given 10 bags of cement, 10 2x4's and scrap lumber to help begin building his new house.

MAG-12 Civil Affairs personnel attended the 1½ day Wing Personal Response School held at MASS-3.

#### SPECIAL SERVICES

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In the midst of building new facilities and changing others, routine activities have continued. The photo hobby shop has operated on a daily basis. The library has also been opened daily, but for fewer hours than during the month of December. The manager of the tape recording shop has just managed to keep his tape production abreast of the demand. - Administrative highlights include the completion of a first draft of a Special Services SOP. The Special Services Information Sheet, first published during the month of November, has just been revised and will be ready for distribution on 1 February.

*B. W. Summers*

B. W. SUMMERS  
Major, U. S. Marine Corps  
Assistant S-1 Officer