

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

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 14 April 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: (a) WgO 5750.1C

Encl: ✓(1) MAG-12 Command Chronology for the month of March 1968



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

C. B. Armstrong, Jr.
 C. B. ARMSTRONG, JR.

12-048

1st MAW S&C No.	Copy No.
1595-68	1

MAG-12 S&C#	COPY#
520 68	1



MARINE AIRCRAFT

GROUP 12

CHU LAI REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY 1965 - 31 MARCH 1968

PART I1. UNITS, COMMANDERS AND STAFF BILLETSMARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12COMMANDING OFFICER

Colonel C. B. ARMSTRONG, JR. 8 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel LeRoy C. BARTON 25 Sep 67 - 31 Mar 68

ADJUTANT

First Lieutenant Paul THOBOIS, JR. 18 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-1

Lieutenant Colonel Norman B. MCCRARY 18 Sep 67 - 17 Mar 68
Major Bennie W. SUMMERS 18 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-2

Major Raymond F. LATALL 28 Aug 67 - 21 Mar 68
Captain W. H. SMITH 22 Mar 68 - 27 Mar 68
Major J. P. KISH 28 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-3

Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. RASDAL 21 Feb 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-4

Lieutenant Colonel William D. SHIPPEN 10 Dec 67 - 10 Mar 68
Major D. A. LERPS 11 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 121

4 Sep 67 - 31 Mar 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. KERN 25 Sep 67 - 10 Mar 68
Lieutenant Colonel William D. SHIPPEN 11 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Glen H. BARLOW 25 Feb 68 - 31 Mar 68

 PART I (Cont'd)S-1

Major Richard H. ULM

25 Dec 67 - 31 Mar 68

S-3

Major Ray E. BRIGHT

15 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-4

First Lieutenant Richard E. MUSSER

1 Feb 68 - 31 Mar 68

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 211

1 Dec 67 - 31 Mar 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Leo J. LEBLANC, JR.

29 Feb 68 - 31 Mar 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Frederick P. SALZMAN

21 Dec 67 - 31 Mar 68

S-1

Major William K. PARKER

10 Jan 68 - 10 Mar 68

Major Thomas R. FISHER

11 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-3

Major Carl F. BERGSTROM, JR.

23 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-4

Major Robert J. WIEDEMANN

25 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 311

1 Jun 67 - 31 Mar 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Richard B. TABER

22 Sep 67 - 10 Mar 68

Lieutenant Colonel Norman B. MCCRARY

11 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel James A. CURTIS

1 Jan 68 - 19 Mar 68

Major Donald L. YELEK

20 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

PART I (Cont'd)S-1

Major Robert W. WARDLAW
 Captain Thomas W. KRIMMINGER

14 Dec 67 - 12 Mar 68
 13 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-3

Major Darold L. GOTTORMSON
 Major John A. HERBER

1 Jan 68 - 12 Mar 68
 13 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-4

Major Clifford L. MCCRAW

15 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68

MARINE ALL WEATHER ATTACK SQUADRON 533

1 Apr 67 - 31 Mar 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel William H. FITCH

2 Oct 67 - 31 Mar 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Ronald L. IVERSON

24 Dec 67 - 31 Mar 68

S-1

First Lieutenant John L. THOMPSON
 Major Richard T. POORE

24 Feb 68 - 1 Mar 68
 2 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-3

Major Paul R. JONES, JR.

1 Jan 66 - 31 Mar 68

S-4

Captain Mario A. CADENA
 Captain Richard A. PARTIN

1 Jan 68 - 21 Mar 68
 22 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

MARINE AIR BASE SQUADRON 12

15 May 65 - 31 Mar 68

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel John H. MILLER

26 Feb 68 - 31 Mar 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Major Donald A. SCHAEFER

1 Feb 68 - 31 Mar 68


PART I (Cont'd)S-1

Captain Peter H. ERENFELD
 Captain Peter A. KRUEGER

4 Dec 67 - 25 Feb 68
 2 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-3

Major Richard L. DENNIS
 Captain Frederick R. DONOVAN

19 Sep 67 - 6 Mar 68
 7 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-4

Major John D. INGRAHAM

21 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68

MARINE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL UNIT 67OFFICER IN CHARGE

Major Samuel M. HORTON

23 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68

HEADQUARTERS AND MAINTENANCE SQUADRON 12COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Dan C. ALEXANDER

10 Nov 67 - 31 Mar 67

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Major Donald L. YELEK
 Major Raymond F. LATALL

14 Sep 67 - 18 Mar 68
 22 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

S-1

Warrant Officer William R. TONER

11 Feb 68 - 31 Mar 68

FLIGHT OFFICER

Captain Roger G. MORGAN

3 Aug 67 - 31 Mar 68

MAINTENANCE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Richard F. SKINNER

27 Nov 67 - 31 Mar 68

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

PART I (Cont'd)3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC O</u>	<u>USMC ENL</u>	<u>USN O</u>	<u>USN ENL</u>
VMA-121	29	158	1	0
VMA-211	21	158	1	0
VMA-311	28	171	1	0
VMA(AW)-533	49	250	1	0
H&MS-12	57	426	0	0
MABS-12 & MATCU-67	30	556	2	32

4. IMPORTANT VISITORS TO THE COMMAND

Major General Frank C. THARIN

Deputy Commander FMFPac

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of March, MAG-12 dropped a record 7534.4 tons of ordnance and flew a near record 4387.7 hours and 3558 sorties. The ordnance expended comprised the largest tonnage delivered by any fixed wing Marine Air Group during the Vietnam conflict. The 7534.4 tons surpassed the previous record set by MAG-12 in February by 529 tons. Of the 4387.7 hours and 3558 sorties, 97.7% of the hours and 97.4% of the sorties were in direct support of combat operations. This makes the March totals for sorties the third highest on record, surpassed only in May 1967, and January 1968. The total hours are the fourth highest, however the combat hours are third behind May and July 1967. This outstanding record was accomplished while working in temporary maintenance spaces and during the transition period to the single manager concept of control, which resulted in numerous changes to procedures and a reduced frag. From 21-31 March the MAG-12 frag was reduced from a previous average of 98 sorties/day to 64 sorties/day average.

2. Operation 3-68 (Khe Sanh strongpoint resupply) continued to be supported by VMA-121, 211 311 and H&MS-12, flying 276 sorties during March. As pilot experience and familiarity with the area increased the resupply operation developed into a well coordinated and effective operation. On numerous occasions the visibility, reduced to 1-2 miles in haze, presented problems in target acquisition; but the experienced MAG-12 aviators were able to provide the necessary close support.


PART II (Cont'd)

3. There were several command changes within the group during March. On 8 March Colonel C. B. ARMSTRONG JR. assumed command of MAG-12 from Colonel Dean WILKER. MABS-12, VMA-121, 211 and 311 also changed Commanding Officers and new S-1 and S-4 officers were assigned.

4. On 22 March an A4E aircraft was lost due to direct enemy action. The pilot ejected and was rescued. On 24 March, a second A4E crashed as a result of an unsuccessful take-off abort. The pilot attempted to eject as the plane exploded but the parachute failed to fully deploy and the pilot was fatally injured.

PART III1. PERSONNEL

a. During the month of March, MAG-12 joined 27 USMC Officers and 213 USMC Enlisted personnel, rotated during the month were 5 USMC Officers and 162 Enlisted personnel.

b. Projected losses for the month of April 1968: 24 USMC Officers
163 USMC Enlisted

2. AWARDS

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

<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
Navy Cross	2	0
Distinguished Flying Cross	16	13
Bronze Star	6	0
Silver Star	8	0
Air Medal (Single Mission)	8	18
Navy Commendation Medal	44	1
Navy Achievement Medal	44	1
Air Medal (1st Award)	262	0
Purple Heart	1	0
Certificate of Commendation	8	0

3. CASUALTIES

a. Captain Charles W. PORTERFIELD 082117/7501 on 24 March 1968, Chu Lai, RVN pilot of A4E aircraft attempted aborted take-off for unknown reasons, followed by unsuccessful ejection. Death was caused by fractured skull.

PART III (Cont'd)4. AIR OPERATIONS

a. MAG-12 flew 3686 sorties for a total of 4555.3 flight hours. Included were 3593 combat sorties which expended 7534.4 tons of ordnance for an average of 243.1 tons per day.

b. Combat missions were flown in support of III Marine Amphibious Force, I Comps, 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>
NAPOLEON/SALINE	4	7.6	7.3
JEB STUART	2	1.7	3.3
KENTUCKY	47	55.4	105.9
LANCASTER	44	56.3	103.5
HOUSTON	14	14.2	25.0
NIAGARA	1430	1706.5	3048.9
SCOTLAND	1039	1226.5	2339.5
WHEELER/WALLOWA	9	7.7	13.3
A.I.S.	961	1250.5	2230.8
RT 547	11	13.6	14.3
TAMPA	3	2.6	4.6
SANDRI IV	11	15.2	13.3

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&G</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
West Runway	7445	4456	986	801	2599	900	1755	17956
Crosswind Runway	13	0	0	1	0	0	12	13
East Runway	0	0	0	17000	4	800	3312	22115
Total	7458	4456	986	17802	2603	1700	5079	40084

MAY65-31MAR68 191625 63556 2731 165207 43387 33167 66229 563902

5. AIR CONTROL

a. INSTRUMENT OPERATIONS TOTAL	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAY65-31MAR68</u>
Tactical Instrument Departures	1771	24639
Radar Climbs	2003	23529
Flight Followings	30	2460
Tacan Approaches	30	5902
Radar Vectors	1862	35996
	5696	92526

PART III (Cont'd)

b. <u>RADAR APPROACHES</u>	<u>SURVEILLANCE</u>	<u>PRECISION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1-31 Mar 68 WO	1	24	25
IFR	1	214	215
VFR	76	1299	1375
	<u>78</u>	<u>1537</u>	<u>1615</u>

6. LOGISTICS

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TONS</u>
ANM-66A2	5.6
ANM-59A1	4.8
MK-81	1265.6
MK-82	4891.0
MK-77	661.7
FFAR (2.75")	67.8
FFAR (5.00")	62.6
CBU	281.6
20MM	7.2
ML17LA	181.8
M84	60.7
MK-12	44.5

SECRET

PART IV

1. Supporting Documents

a. Squadron Command Chronologies

✓Appendix 1, VMA-121

✓Appendix 2, VMA-211

✓Appendix 3, VMA-311

✓Appendix 4, VMA(AW)-533

✓Appendix 5, HAMS-12

✓Appendix 6, MABS-12

✓Appendix 7, MAG-12 S-1

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

PART ONEORGANIZATIONAL DATACOMMANDING OFFICER

COLONEL C. B. ARMSTRONG, JR.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL L. C. BARTON

ADJUTANT

FIRST LIEUTENANT PAUL THOBOIS JR.

S-1

LIEUTENANT COLONEL NORMAN B. MCRARY 1-17 MARCH 1968

MAJOR B. W. SUMMERS 18-31 MARCH 1968

MAJOR W. K. PARKER ASSISTANT 17-31 MARCH 1968

S-2

MAJOR R. E. LATALL 1-21 MARCH 1968

CAPTAIN W. H. SMITH 22-27 MARCH 1968

MAJOR J. P. KISH 28-31 MARCH 1968

S-3

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT W. RASDAL

MAJOR R. C. BARRETT - ASSISTANT 12-31 MARCH 1968

S-4

Lieutenant COLONEL W. D. SHIPPEN 1-10 MARCH 1968

MAJOR D. A. LERPS 11-31 MARCH 1968

CASUALTIES

Captain Charles W. PORTERFIELD 082117/7501 on 24 March 1968, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam pilot of A4E Aircraft attempted aborted take-off for unknown reasons, followed by unsuccessful ejection. Death was caused by fractured skull.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

During the month of March 1968, MAG-12 joined 27 USMC Officers and 213 USMC Enlisted. Rotated during the month were 5 USMC Officers and 162 USMC Enlisted.

Projected lossess for April 1968: 24 USMC Officers
163 USMC Enlisted

AWARDS

The following awards were awarded and recommended during February 1968:

AWARD	RECOMMENDED	AWARDED
NC	2	0
DFC	16	13
BS	6	0
SS	8	0
SMAM	8	18
(NCM)	(44)	(1)
(NAM)	(44)	(1)
AM	262	0
PH	1	0
C of C	8	0
NMCM	0	10

CIVIL AFFAIRS

During the month of March, 75 bags of cement were delivered to the Bo De School for completion of the new school building. The Long Binh School received 2 truckloads of lumber in the form of rocket mortar boxes donated by VMA-121 for construction of a gate at the Buddhist pagoda in the rear of the school. A truckload of concertina and regular barbed wire was delivered to the Ky Lien Village Chief for construction of a barrier fence to surround the Chu Lai New Life Hamlet. The following day 1,000 sandbags, 108 rolls of concertina, 90 rolls of regular barbed wire and 200 steel fence poles were also delivered to the Village Chief of Ky Lien. The Long Binh School was painted by a local painter for the price of 3,000 VN\$. The Long Binh Hamlet Gate was also painted by a local painter for 600 VN\$.

A total of 46,000 VN\$ was presented to 61 students in the MAG-12 Scholarship program along with 5,000 VN\$ to 6 children in the Gen. Walt Scholar-

ship program. School supplies for approximately 100 children were presented to the Long Binh School. An undetermined number of miscellaneous school supplies were delivered to the Ly Tin District Headquarters for further distribution in the Ky Sanh Village area. 50 English books were delivered to the Ky Lien School and the Bo De School. Five new volunteer teachers from MAG-12 have begun teaching English in the area schools.

Cookware and utensils were presented to the Dong Cong Orphanage during the middle of the month and 2 sewing machines were delivered to the District Chief for distribution to 2 P.F. widows whose husbands were killed while defending the District Headquarters on January 2nd of this year. Three boxes of clothes, 2 boxes of toys, 1 box of shoes, 100 blankets, 4 boxes of soap, 2 boxes of miscellaneous health and comfort items, 2 boxes of tooth brushes and paste, and 2 boxes of candy were delivered to the District Chief for further distribution to Ky Sanh Village. Fifty yards of white cloth were presented to the Ky Khuong Hospital for use as sheeting. Four thousand VN\$ was presented to the Dong Cong Orphanage to purchase milk and spoons. The Protestant Chaplain took 75 bars of soap to the orphanage in Tam Ky. A concentrated effort by the members of MAG-12 and the residents of An Tan Hamlet resulted in a general clean-up of the area. Two thousand sandbags were given to Father Phuc at the Catholic Church along with 1 blackboard each to the Long Binh and Khuong Long schools. Water containers in the form of 5 barrels were given to a family in An Tan. A flight to Danang was arranged by the CAO for 8 Notables from the Ly Tin District to meet with General Lam at I Corps Headquarters. Lieutenant Brooks, MABS-12 CAO, accompanied them on the journey to act as guide and interpreter. Three hundred pounds of clothing, toys and "USO Packs" were delivered to the Army CAO for distribution to needy families at the Ly Tra Refugee Hamlet.

The CANCO met with the Headmaster of the Chu Lai School to discuss the possibility of MAG-12 financial aid in the completion of construction of new classrooms. Weekly meetings were held with the Ky Lien Village Chief and various hamlet chiefs in conjunction with Chu Lai Base Commander to discuss the best tactical use of materials in the building of a barrier fence around the Chu Lai New Life Hamlet. A Parent Council meeting was held at the Long Binh School to discuss the MAG-12 Scholarship Program and various Personal Assistance projects. The CAO met with the Village and Hamlet chief to plan and coordinate a general clean-up of An Tan. The Civic Action Team met with the Ly Tin District Sub-sector Advisor for a general discussion of combined Projects in the area. Colonel Farrell along with members of the CAT, toured the Chu Lai New Life Hamlet's defenses and later met with village elders to discuss further assistance. Members of the CAT attended graduation ceremonies for the "Combat Youth" of Ky Lien Village at the Village Chief's Headquarters.

The MAG-13 CAO, Captain Kain, toured the MAG-12 area of responsibility with the MAG-12 CANCO and discussed the possibility of combined projects in the area.

A box of trip-flares was delivered to the Ky Lien Village Chief for use in the new perimeter fence surrounding the New Life Hamlet. Two flag-poles, a large Vietnamese flag, a desk and chair were delivered to the Long Binh School along with a See-Saw built by members of MAG-12.

The Monthly Wing Personal Response School was held on the 29th of March in the MAG-13 area. Twenty members of MAG-12 attended.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Planned or actual construction is still underway in the Special Service section. The major project completed during March was an indoor stage for the Recreation Hut. It is a 12'X24' structure, elevated approximately three feet from the floor of the building. The stage will accomodate live floor shows, since it is of required size and wired for electricity. Forms are now being set in place for the eventual pouring of a concrete basketball court. It is hoped that the court will be completed during April. At the present time plans are being drawn for a completely enclosed handball court. Once this project has been formally approved by the Wing Recreation Council, ordering of materials and actual construction can begin.

On Wednesday, 27 March, the Diana Dawn Show appeared in the Recreation Hut. This was the first "live" appearance of any professional show in the building. Special Services personnel spent most of the day of the 27th preparing the building for the show. Many extra chairs were brought into the Recreation Hut to seat what turned into a "standing room only" crowd.

The water recreation program swung into full operation during the month of March. Permits have been issued to many men in the Group, allowing them to operate the boats in which they are qualified. The ski boat has been used to a lesser degree than the other boats because of maintenance problems and a generally choppy sea state. At present, however, it is again in an "up" status. New face masks, swim fins, and spear guns have been obtained to meet the needs of swimmers and skin divers. MAG-12 swimmers were very safety conscious during the month as the life-guards were required to make only three saves in March.

B. W. Summers
B. W. SUMMERS
Major USMC
S-1 Officer