



HEADQUARTĘRS

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



3:RWR:jwe Ser:003A10668 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,

1st MAW S&C No. Copy No.

#AG-12 SAC# COPY# | 5 2 0 6 8 /





MARINE AIRCRAFT

GROUP 12

CHU LAI REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY 1965 - 31 MARCH 1968





## PART I

## 1. UNITS, COMMANDERS AND STAFF BILLETS

#### MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12

#### COMMANDING 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

## <u>s-1</u>

Lieutenant Colonel Norman B. MCCRARY
Major Bennie W. SUMMERS

18 Sep 67 - 17 Mar 68
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

#### <u>S-3</u>

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

#### <u>S-4</u>

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



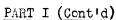




# PART I (Cont'd)

	<u>S-1</u>							
	Major Richard H. ULM	25	Dec	67	_	31	Mar	<b>6</b> 8
	<u>S-3</u>							
	Major Ray E. BRIGHT	15	Jan	68	-	31	Mar	68
	<u>S-4</u>							
	First Lieutenant Richard E. MUSSER	1	Feb	68	-	31	Mar	68
MAR	INE 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 Major Thomas R. FISHER						Mar Mar	
	<u>S-3</u>							
	Major Carl F. BERGSTROM, JR.	23	Jan	68	-	31	Mar	68
	<u>s-4</u>		•					
	Major Robert J. WIEDEWANN	25	Jan	<b>6</b> 8	-	31	Mar	68
MAR	INE ATTACK SQUADRON 311	1	Jun	67	-	31	Mar	68
	COMMANDING OFFICER							
	Lieutenant Colonel Richard B. TABER Lieutenant Colonel Norman B. MCCRARY						Mar Mar	
	EXECUTIVE OFFICER							
	Lieutenant Colonel James A. CURTIS Major Donald L. YELEK						Mar Mar	





## <u>S-1</u>

Major Ro	bert W.	. W.	ARDLAW
Captain	Thomas	W.	KRIMMINGER

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

# <u>s-3</u>

Major	Darold	$\mathbf{L}_{ullet}$	GOTTO	RMSON
Major	John A.	. H	ERBER	

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

## <u>s-1</u>

First Lieutenant John L. THOMPSON Major Richard T. POORE

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

#### <u>S-3</u>

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

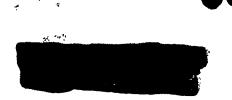
Lieutenant Colonel John H. MILLER

26 Feb 68 - 31 Mar68

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Major Donald A. SCHAEFER

1 Feb 68 31 Mar 68



<u>s-1</u>



# PART I (Cont'd)

Captain Peter H. ERENFELD Captain Peter A. KRUEGER	4 Dec 67 - 25 Feb 68 2 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68
<u>s-3</u>	
Major Richard L. DENNIS Captain Frederick R. DONOVAN	19 Sep 67 - 6 Mar 68 7 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68
<u>S-4</u>	
Major John D. INGRAHAM	21 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68
MARINE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL UNIT 67	
OFFICER IN CHARGE	
Major Samuel M. HORTON	23 Jan 68 - 31 Mar 68
HEADQUARTERS AND MAINTENANCE SQUADRON 12	
COMMANDING OFFICER	
Lieutenant Colonel Dan C. ALEXANDER	10 Nov 67 - 31 Mar 67
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
Major Dohald L. YELEK Major Raymond F. LATALL	14 Sep 67 - 18 Mar 68 22 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68

<u>S-1</u>

Warrant Officer William R. TONER

11 Feb 68 - 31 Mar 68

FLIGHT OFFICER

Captain Roger G. MORGAN

3 Aug 67 - 31 Mar 68

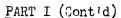
MAINTENANCE OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Richard F. SKINNER 27 Nov 67 - 31 Mar 68

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12, CHU LAI AB, VIETNAM, RVN 16 MAY 65 - 31 MAR 60







#### 3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	USMC O	USMC ENL	USN O	USN ENI
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	Ó
MABS-12 & MATCU-67	30	556	2	32

## 4. IMPORTANT VISITORS TO THE COMMAND

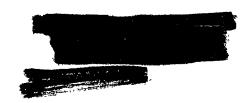
Major General Frank C. THARIN

Deputy Commander FMFPac

#### PART II

### NARRATIVE 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 incressed 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 III

#### 1. 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:

AWARDS	RECOMMENDED	AWARDED
Navy Cross	2	0
Distinguished Flying Cross Bronze Star	<b>1</b> 6 <b>6</b>	13 0
Silver Star	8	0
Air Medal (Single Mission) Navy Commendation Medal	77 8	18
Navy Achievement Medal	44	ī
Air Medal (1st Award)	262	0
Purple Heart Certificate of Commendation	8	Ő

### 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'a)

## 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.

OPERATION	SORTIES	FLIGHT HOURS	ORDNANCE (TONS)
MAPOLEON; SALINE JEB STUART KENTUCKY LANCASTER HOUSTON NIAGARA SCOTLAND	4	7.6	7.3
	2	1.7	3.3
	47	55.4	105.9
	44	56.3	103.5
	14	14.2	25.0
	1430	1706.5	3048.9
	1039	1226.5	2339.5
WHEELES, AVALLOWA A.I.S. RT 51:7 TAMFA SAMURI IV	9	7.7	13.3
	961	1250.5	2230.8
	11	13.6	14.3
	3	2.6	4.6
	11	15.2	13.3

c. Take-offs and landings

	<u>A-4</u>	<u>F-4</u>	<u>A-6</u>	HELO	TRANS	T&G	OTHERS	TOTAL
West Runwa <b>y</b> Crosswind Runw East Runway Total	7445 ay 13 0 7458	14456 0 14456	986 0 0 986	801 1 17000 17802	2599 0 14 2603	900 0 800 1700	1755 12 3312 5079	17956 13 22115 40084
MAY65-31MAR68	191625	63556	2731	165207	1:3387	33367	66229	. 463902

#### 5. AIR CONTROL

a. INSTRUMENT OPERATIONS TOTAL	FEB	MAY65-31M/R68
Tactical Instrument Departures Radar Climbs Flight Followings Tacan Approaches Radar Vectors	1771 2003 30 30 1862 5696	24639 23529 2460 5902 35996 92526



# PART III (Cont'd)

b.	RADAR APPROA		SURVEILLANCE	PRECISION	TOTAL
	1-31 Mar 68	WO IFR VFR	1 1 76 78	24 214 <b>12</b> 99 1537	25 215 13 <b>7</b> 5 1615

# 6. LOGISTICS

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

PREM	TONS
ANM-66A2	5.6
ANN-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
SOMM	7.2
M171A	181.8
M84	60.7
I-K-12	44.5





# 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

Mppendix 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 ONE

### ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

## COMMANDING 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

#### <u>S</u>-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 ALE Aircraft attempted aborted take-off for unknown reasons, followed by unsuccessful ejection. Death was caused by fractured skull.



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 DFC BS SS SMAM (NCM) (NAM) AM PH C of C	2 16 6 8 8 8 (44) 262 1	0 13 0 0 18 (1) (1) 0 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 Buddist 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 barked wire and 200 steel fence poles were also delivered to the Village Chief of Ky Lien. The Long Binh School was partitled 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 Scholarship.





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 while 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 consentrated 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 flagpoles, 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'X2h' 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
Major USMC
S-1 Officer