

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

III MAF S & C

007696

CONTROL NUMBER

3P/MRB/dng
5750

003PA34372

8 December 1972

SECRET (UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosures)

From: Commanding General

To: Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) CTF 79 300846Z Apr 72 (C)

Encl: (1) CO, MAG-12 ltr 3:PDW:ewf 5750 Ser: 003A30672
of 1Nov72 (S)
(2) CO, MAG-12 ltr 3:RCL:rle 5750 003A32572 of
20Nov72 (S)

1. (U) In accordance with reference (a) the 1st MAF
Command Chronology for October 1972 was submitted 16 Nov-
ember 1972.

2. (U) The enclosed chronologies were not available for
inclusion with the 1st MAF Command Chronology and are
forwarded separately.

J. W. Parchen
J. W. PARCHEN
By direction

1st MAF S&C No.	Copy No
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2-3746 (4)

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

3:PDW:ewf
 5750
 003A30672
 1 November 1972

SECRET (Unclassified upon removal of enclosures)

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 October 1972 to 31 October 1972

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8
 (c) WgO 5750.14

Encl: (1)-Marine Aircraft Group 12 (FWD) Command Chronology
 (2)-Sub Unit 2, H&MS-12 Command Chronology
 (3)-Marine Attack Squadron 211 Command Chronology
 (4)-Marine Attack Squadron 311 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosures (1) through (4) submitted.

2. This cover letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosures (1) through (4).

D.C. Macho
 D. C. MACHO

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MAG 12 S&C	
CONTROL #	COPY #
00846A72	1 of 3

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DECLASSIFIED

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

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 OCTOBER 1972 TO 31 OCTOBER 1972

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SECRETPART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

CTU 79.3.7/MAG-12 (FWD)

COMMANDERMACHO, D. C., Col USMC
(1-31 October)SUBORDINATE UNITS

Sub-Unit 2, H&MS-12

PIXTON, M. F. III, Maj USMC
(1-31 October)

CTE 79.3.7.3/VMA-211

RANNEY, D. G., LtCol USMC
(1-31 October)

CTE 79.3.7.4/VMA-311

CALDAS, J. J., LtCol USMC
(1-31 October)2. LOCATION

Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam (1-31 October)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

MAAG, E. R., LtCol USMC
(1-31 October)

S-1

CLINE, J. T., Maj USMC
(1-31 October)

S-2

SERRATA, A. T., CWO USMC
(1-31 October)

S-3

HOLLAND, K. D., Maj USMC
(1-31 October)

S-4

BLACKINGTON, R. C., Maj USMC
(1-31 October)

HAD

PRIDGEN, N. E., Maj USMC
(1-31 October)SECRET

SECRET4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>		
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>CIV</u>
84	774	3	14	0	0	3

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SECRETPART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the past month the average strength for Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Fwd) has been 87 Officers and 788 enlisted. This is a slight increase over the past two months but is still somewhat below our authorized strength of 903.

As a result of one rocket attack during the month MAG-12 (Fwd) suffered one WIA who is currently hospitalized. Evacuation to CONUS is anticipated.

The discipline rate was up considerably from previous months with 39 cases of NJP and two courts-martial.

The in-country R&R policy continues to be a big success and is a large factor in the high morale enjoyed within the Group. This month 101 enlisted went to Vung Tau for three day R&R while an additional 126 went for one day. The response to the fourteen days annual leave policy continues to be good and 18 persons have applied for annual leave during the month.

2. During this reporting period the MAG-12 (Fwd) S-2 continues to receive, process, and report intelligence information to the Commanding Officer, group and squadron staff officers, Security Officer, pilots flying combat air support missions, and visiting dignitaries in the form of daily intelligence briefs. This information is received in the form of agent reports, prisoner of war reports, intelligence summaries, strike mission results, and advisories from the Third Regional Assistance Command, Tactical Operations Center (TRAC, TOC), 98th Advisory Group (Bien Hoa Province), Army Headquarters Operations Center (Long Binh), III DASC, 21st TASS(FAC), USAF Security Police and VNAF intelligence organizations.

Marine pilots flying combat air support missions continue to be briefed and debriefed by the S-2. During this reporting period 824 missions were briefed and debriefed with the following significant results inflicted on the enemy: 332 confirmed KBA; 150 fortified fighting positions destroyed, 56 damaged; 282 structures destroyed, 119 damaged; 20 sampans destroyed, 5 damaged; 380 bunkers destroyed, 21 damaged; 12 gun positions destroyed, 5 damaged; 3 trenches destroyed; 318 secondary explosions; 35 secondary fires; 4 bridges destroyed, 3 damaged; 1 storage tank destroyed, 5 damaged; 3 trucks destroyed, 3 damaged; 1 x 75mm RR destroyed; 6 x 51 caliber positions destroyed; 2 x 57mm RR destroyed; 10 stacks supplies destroyed. The Command's daily intelligence summary (INTSUM) is prepared from information received from the above intelligence organizations and pilot debriefings for a 24 hour period.

The S-2 conducted SERE training and processed personal authenticator cards for all newly assigned pilots. A pre-IG Intelligence/Classified Material Control inspection was conducted by Wing G-2 personnel on group and squadron S-2's and Classified Material Control Centers. Corrective action is being taken on noted discrepancies.

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The Counterintelligence Section assisted the S-2 in inspecting Secondary Control Points (SCP's) for MAG-12 and provided guidance and assistance in security matters to sections holding classified material. The CIT conducted Limited Records Checks as required and participated as a witness in a Special Courts Martial as a result of a search and seizure conducted by CI. Counterintelligence also maintained liaison with the 525th MI Detachment, 98th Advisory Group, NISO and OSI Officer in Saigon. Counterintelligence support was provided to USAF investigation section on special cases pertaining to married personnel.

3. Combat operations for MAG-12 (Fwd) continued undiminished throughout the month of October. The scheduled daily sorties remained stabilized at 52 equating to a 1.62 sortie rate. Aircraft utilization has been 2.0 hours per aircraft per day with an average availability of 89% at the start of daily flight operations. The month of October saw the end of the monsoon season in MR III and IV with the result that relatively few sorties were cancelled due to low ceilings and lack of workable targets. The hotline to 7th AF TACC continues to enhance MAG-12 communications while Group weather service which had depended primarily on the now defunct USAF metro facility at Long Tanh is provided by Tan Son Nhut metro who works with VNAF weather personnel and will give sequence reports if requested. The most reliable weather information received by returning pilots is passed by the duty MAG-12 Operations briefer who "eyeballs" homeplate conditions and passes Bien Hoa weather via UHF. The GRC-135 sent by 1st MAF to MAG-12 early in the month initially gave the Group two-way UHF communications up to 200 miles, or the full combat radius of Group aircraft. This radio, however, developed a glitch early in the month, was sent back to Wing, and as of this date it is still being worked upon at MWCS-18. An old ARC-51 (affectionately known as Big Brenda), while noisy, continues to provide reliable service out to 100 nautical miles.

BDA continues to be significant with a far greater percentage of troops in contact in MR III. The area around Bien Hoa Airbase from five to fifty miles has seen multiple airstrikes as the enemy moved in during the month. Frequently, airstrikes flown by MAG-12 aircraft are plainly visible from the flight line and the subsequent dull concussions of bombs throughout the day ^{HAVE} become routine. The hotly contested area around Quan Loi airfield has received diminishing attention both by tactical aircraft and the ARVN as the NVA has pressed further south. Only one MAG-12 A4E received damage as a result of DEA when a small arms round penetrated the port aileron during an airstrike on 21 October. Due to enemy proximity and activity, and continuous intelligence reports that the probability of attack by fire and/or sapper/ground assault was extremely high, MAG-12 (Fwd) deployed two thirty man reaction platoons in the flight line and cantonment area. These troops remained deployed each night, dusk to dawn, throughout the month. On 10 October 7th AF deemed the threat of attack sufficient enough to place twelve A4Es on alert status throughout the night. The attack between 0500 and 0520,

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the morning of the 22nd, consisted of sixty-one rounds of mixed 122mm and 107mm rockets. MAG-12 (Fwd) suffered one WIA and no significant damage to Group facilities. Runways and taxiways were relatively clear, damage was repaired efficiently, and flight operations were routine with the complete frag of fifty-two sorties flown.

Col D. C. MACHO received fourteen buckets of water (less buckets) as he exited his aircraft the afternoon of 30 October. The Group Commander had flown his 100th combat mission this deployment in the A4E.

BDA since MAG-12 (Fwd) deployed to Bien Hoa AB in mid-May is as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
KBA (C)	1613	
Structures	1394	383
Sampans	213	69
Fortified Fighting Positions	605	207
Bunkers	1220	134
Gun Positions	43	0
Mortar Positions	31	0
Tunnels	24	8
Trucks	19	9
Tanks	7	7
Bridges	31	41
Secondary Explosions	1285	
Secondary Fires	200	

During the month of October the Air Group's gun squadrons flew a combined total of 1907 flight hours, 1658 combat sorties, and delivered 2595 tons of ordnance.

4. During October MAG-12 Supply continued to process more than 200 requisitions daily. Although repeated requests for assistance have been made there still exists an unacceptable shortage of jungle utilities and boots. As an interim measure, many Marines were outfitted with USAF utilities provided from Bien Hoa AB USAF Supply. Though burdened with regular tasks, Supply was able to see to the preparation and shipment of some 500 beds, mattresses and pillows to Task Force Delta, these items having been gained from USARV at no cost to the Marine Corps.

At month's close five vans of the MCC-1 Calibration Complex were prepared for shipment to Nam Phong and Iwakuni. These vans will be moved by the regularly scheduled MAC flights.

During this reporting period embarkation representatives of III MAF and First MAW visited to acquaint themselves with the plan and preparations that have been completed or are currently underway for retrograde. Preparation of a damaged A4 for shipment by surface provided an opportunity to work this system of transportation and to become acquainted with the necessary documentation and other requirements for using this

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mode of transport.

MAG-12 Ordnance initiated a UR on LAU-10 B/A rocket launchers. Investigation revealed a failure of the detent pawl in 38 of 109 launchers. An engineering investigation has been initiated. Due to failure to receive proper lubricant for the MK-4 Gun Pod, utilization of this weapon was cancelled.

The EOD team, a combined unit of U. S. Marines, USAF and VNAF personnel, responded to 47 runway emergencies, 18 of which required EOD assistance. During this period EOD reacted to 17 station calls involving explosives and destroyed 130 tons of hazardous/unserviceable ordnance. 22 NVN 107/122mm rockets recovered from within the rocket belt surrounding Bien Hoa AB were destroyed. The rapport that exists between the men of the team is noteworthy and is a credit to CWO C. M. JOZAITIS, USMC, the team leader.

5. The Human Affairs Division of Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Fwd) has blossomed into it's own during this reporting period. During the month of October, 3780 hours of the initial 20 hours of Human Relations Training was conducted by the Wing HAD Team. It is realized that this initial program is far from what it was envisioned from the beginning but it has succeeded to the extent that it has formed a basis for communication, and is a good foundation for a follow-up program. Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Fwd) is fortunate in having excellent leadership exhibited by it's officers and Staff NCO's. This has been a big factor in troop morale and attests to the fine relationship exhibited by the enlisted men of this command.

One hundred sixty-three personnel participated in the World Wide Urinalysis screening program during this reporting period with 7 clinically confirmed cases of drug abusers, two of which were repeats. At the end of this reporting period, Marine Aircraft Group 12 has 7 Marines on the drug exemption program. Two Marines have been removed from the exemption program this month for continued drug abuse and they are being processed for administrative discharges.

The policy of Marine Aircraft Group 12 is to treat each case of drug exemption with individuality, and to keep the Marine in his present job with rehabilitation at the local level whenever possible.

MAG-12 (Fwd) was fortunate this month to have obtained the services of the MACV Drug Education Team located in Saigon. The team presented a 1½ hour drug seminar to 347 officers and men of MAG-12. The response to this presentation has been overwhelmingly in favor of this type of communication revolving around the drug problem.

A troop information orientation brief was presented to thirty newly arrived Marines during the reporting period. This orientation brief includes talks by the HAD Officer, Medical Officer, Security Officer, Operations Officer and the Chaplain. The briefing is designed to help the newly arrived Marine to adjust to his surroundings with as little confusion as possible.

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SECRETPART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Due to intelligence reports of high probability of ABF and sapper attack MAG-12 (Fwd) deployed two thirty man reaction platoons in the flight line and cantonment area for increased sapper detection. These platoons were drawn from H&MS and MABS and remained deployed each night from dawn to dusk throughout the month.

01 October: One A4E diverted to Binh Thuy VNAFAB due to mechanical difficulty.

02 October: One A4E returned Bien Hoa from Binh Thuy 1400H. Four sorties cancelled by 7th AF due to weather in target area.

03 October: Six sorties cancelled by 7th AF due to target weather. Two A4Es diverted to Tan Son Nhut due to weather at Bien Hoa AB.

05 October: Base defense exercise held at 2100H. LtGen MINH, Cinc VNAF, and battle staff present in the Joint Defense Operations Center (JDOC). Col TINH, Commanding Officer of 3rd VNAF Air Division, and MAG-12 Commanding Officer accompanied Gen MINH at JDOC and an inspection of base security. VNAF security elements were exercised in responding to simulated penetrations of the base perimeter.

08 October: CTU 79.3.7 OPREP-3/002 050950Z Sep 72 (C) closed this date. Primary cause of the accident was determined to be friendly civilians being in a location unknown to the ground commander or his U. S. advisors. MGen GARTH, CG TRAC, USA, arrived Bien Hoa 1400H. Briefed by Col MACHO and toured MAG-12 (Fwd) facilities. Departed 1530H.

10 October: Information received from intelligence sources indicated continued high threat to Bien Hoa AB and Saigon area. 7th AF placed two sections A4E aircraft on fifteen minute alert and four sections on one hour alert throughout the night. Squadron reaction platoons remained deployed throughout cantonment and flight line areas from dusk to dawn.

13 October: Local intelligence continued to predict very high probability of ABF and sapper attack. Two reaction platoons of thirty men each from H&MS and MABS continued to be deployed in the flight line and cantonment areas for increased sapper detection capability without a draw down on normal perimeter security forces.

14 October: Mr. Arthur LORD, correspondent for NBC, visited MAG-12 (Fwd). Was briefed by Col MACHO and toured MAG-12 (Fwd) facilities.

15 October: CTU 79.3.7 OPREP-3/003 140925Z Sep 72 (C) closed. Pri-

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mary cause of the accident was determined to be lack of coordination in communications between ground units.

17 October: MGen BROWN, CG 1st MAW, and his staff arrived Bien Hoa 171200H. Briefed by Col MACHO and toured MAG-12 (Fwd) facilities. Departed 171700H.

19 October: Damage to one A4E. Pilot experienced electrical failure followed by fuel flow guage exploding in his face. Made immediate landing Bien Hoa with eight unexpended MK82 LDGP bombs. Cleared runway with hot brakes which ignited fuel flowing from dump inadvertently left on. Pilot received minor burns to hand and face. A4E received CHARLIE damage.

21 October: One A4E received minor battle damage when struck by single small arms round in port aileron. Aircraft recovered at Bien Hoa.

22 October: Between 0500H and 0520H Bien Hoa AB received sixty-one rounds of 122mm and 107mm rockets. USMC casualties: 1 WIA. No significant damage to MAG-12 (Fwd) facilities and flight operations were routine with full fifty-two fragged sorties flown.

30 October: Col MACHO flew his 100th combat mission this deployment in the A4E.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Enclosures (1) through (4).

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