

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

**SECRET**

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 5750  
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 1 December 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 November 1972 to 30 November 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 *(MAR-12 (Fwd))*  
 (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) are 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 #
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1st MAW S&C No	Copy No
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1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November 1972 to 30 November 1972

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**SECRET**PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

CTU 79.3.7/MAG-12 (FWD)

MACHO, D. C., Col USMC  
(1-30 November)SUBORDINATE UNITS

Sub-Unit 2, H&amp;MS-12

PIXTON, M. F. III, Maj USMC  
(1-30 November)

CTE 79.3.7.3/VMA-211

RANNEY, D. G., LtCol USMC  
(1-30 November)

CTE 79.3.7.4/VMA-311

CALDAS, J. J., LtCol USMC  
(1-30 November)2. LOCATION

Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam (1-30 November)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

MAAG, E. R., LtCol USMC  
(1-30 November)

S-1

CLINE, J. T., Maj USMC  
(1-30 November)

S-2

SERRATA, A. T., CWO USMC  
(1-30 November)

S-3

HOLLAND, K. D., Maj USMC  
(1-30 November)

S-4

BLACKINGTON, R. C., Maj USMC  
(1-30 November)

HAD

PRIDGEN, N. E., Maj USMC  
(1-30 November)**SECRET**

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**SECRET**4. 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>
76	737	3	12	0	0	1

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**SECRET**PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the past month, the average strength for Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Fwd) has been 79 officers and 750 enlisted. This is far below the average strength since arriving in RVN and is partially due to advance parties being returned to Iwakuni in anticipation of the Group's return to that base. Onboard strength remains below our authorized strength of 903.

The Group suffered no casualties as a result of one rocket attack during the reporting period. Three enlisted Marines are currently hospitalized with fragmentation injuries as a result of an explosion in their quarters from an unknown cause. This matter is currently under investigation by NIS.

The discipline rate remained about the same as last month with 32 cases of NJP, three Summary Courts-Martial, and two Special Courts-Martial.

In-country R&R slowed down through part of the month due to the nonavailability of air transportation, however, ground transportation is now being utilized with very good success. Forty enlisted were sent to Vung Tau for one day and one night R&R and 101 were sent to Vung Tau for three and, in some cases, four days R&R. The response to the fourteen day annual leave policy continues to remain good and 35 persons have applied for annual leave during the reporting period. Additionally, ten men were sent out on seven day R&R combined with seven day annual leave under the Air Force 7 plus 7 program. These men were authorized to visit Hawaii and/or CONUS. An additional seven were sent out on straight seven day R&R to Hawaii and twelve of sixteen men scheduled for seven day R&R in Bangkok made that trip. All out of country R&R was on a standby basis.

Religious services show a marked increase in attendance as more Marines and Air Force personnel are attending. Eight Sunday services were held and attendance was 816 men. Twenty-six daily services were held with a total of seventy-eight men in attendance. Counseling cases were as follows: Army-11, Air Force-21, Civilians-9, Marines-34. The counseling cases dealt with such problems as drug exemption, marriage to Vietnamese Nationals, divorce, mental illness of family members, and adoption.

Our Civic Action program did slow down this month, however, the contributions to the orphanages continued at the same high level. The total amount of money donated runs in excess of \$1500.00. The donation of \$735.00 to the orphanage at Quang Tri, sponsored by VMA-211, makes this orphanage self-sufficient. Four men of the Group have been put in for the Vietnamese Civic Action Medal by Lt CUNG, VNAF Civic Action Officer.

2. During the reporting period the MAG-12 (Fwd) S-2 continued 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), III DASC, 21st TASS (FAC), USAF Security Police, VNAF Intelligence Organization,

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Combined Intelligence Center, Vietnam and Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

Marine pilots flying combat air support missions continued the briefing and debriefing by the S-2. During this reporting period 780 missions were briefed and debriefed with the following significant results inflicted on the enemy: 174 KBA, 221 FFP destroyed, 69 FFP damaged, 120 structures destroyed, 65 structures damaged, 42 sampans destroyed, 22 sampans damaged, 209 bunkers destroyed, 32 bunkers damaged, 14 bunkers uncovered, 5 gun positions destroyed, 7 tunnels destroyed, 390 secondary explosions, 27 sustained fires, 1 x 105mm gun destroyed, 1 x recoilless rifle destroyed, 1 communications center destroyed, 20 supply caches destroyed, 9 x 51 caliber positions destroyed, 1 supply dump destroyed, 2 bulldozers damaged, 1 gun pit destroyed, 10 bridges destroyed, 8 bridges damaged, 1 truck destroyed, 2 trucks damaged, 25 water buffalo KBA, 1 tank destroyed, 6 mortar positions destroyed, 1 ferry destroyed, 1 water tower destroyed, 1 Lambretta destroyed. The Command's daily intelligence summary (INTSUM) is prepared from information received from the above intelligence organizations and pilot debriefings for the 24 hour period.

The S-2 conducted intelligence briefing and processed personal authenticator cards for newly assigned pilots. Wing G-2 personnel conducted briefings on personnel of this command who are to assist in EGRESS RECAP.

The Counterintelligence Section provided guidance and assistance in security matters to sections of MAG-12 holding classified material. The CIT conducted Local Record Checks and provided "DAME" assistance as required. Counterintelligence also maintained liaison with other investigative agencies at Bien Hoa and Saigon. The Counterintelligence representative also participated in an EGRESS RECAP test exercise.

3. Combat operations for MAG-12 (Fwd) continued undiminished throughout the month of November. The scheduled daily combat sorties remain stabilized at 52 equating to a 1.62 sortie rate. Aircraft utilization has been 1.9 hours per aircraft per day with an average availability of 89% at the start of daily flight operations. November saw relatively few missions cancelled due to low ceilings and the subsequent lack of workable targets. A steady succession of bright, hot days signalled the end of the monsoon season in MR III and IV and a total of 22 combat missions were cancelled by 7th AF due to weather in the target area. MAG-12 (Fwd) weather service was further derogated by the departure of USARV metro from RVN and by the weather facility at Long Binh moving to Tan Son Nhut. The most reliable weather information received by returning pilots continues to be passed by the MAG-12 duty Operations Briefer who merely looks out the back door at local conditions when queried. UHF communications between the Group and airborne aircraft remains excellent due to the reliability of the ARC-51 located in the S-3 office.

BDA continues to be significant and November saw a far greater percentage of troops in contact in MR III and particularly around Bien Hoa Airbase. During the month it was common to see, hear, and feel airstrikes flown by MAG-12 A4s as close as three to five miles from the field. Enemy anti-aircraft fire has increased steadily in MR III during the month par-

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ticularly with respect to the SA-7 missile. Numerous reports of SA-7 launches just West of Bien Hoa have forced some changes in operating procedures. Presently all A4s are making an immediate turnout to the South on takeoff and, during recovery, transit the threat areas at high speed and altitudes above 9000 feet for a descending decelerating entry into the break. The whole Western quadrant of airspace off Bien Hoa has been made a restricted area by 7th AF. This area is defined by the 360 degree radial to the 270 degree radial five to twenty nautical miles off Tan Son Nhut TACAN. Only flights conducting airstrikes within this area are permitted to transit below 11,000 feet. Although the enemy anti-air threat has increased, a similar increase in pilot proficiency has allowed flights to steadily raise their weapons release altitude with no derogation of accuracy. It has become common for MAG-12 aircraft to visually dive bomb from a roll-in at altitudes of 14,000 feet, weapons release at 9000 feet, and pullout around 5000 feet. These tactics have been undeniably successful as MAG-12 (Fwd) aircraft have suffered no hits during the month although the fire incident rate has been much higher. The Group lost one A4 on a takeoff accident on 9 November when a starboard tire blew, directional control was lost, the pilot ejected, and the aircraft impacted 300 feet off the side of the runway, exploded and burned. (VMA-211 AAR 4-73A; AAE 151191: 9 Nov 1972, Pilot KEMPER).

The attack by fire the morning of 12 November included 55 122mm rockets in two separate volleys at 0300H and again at 0515H. No casualties or aircraft damage was suffered. One direct hit on a storage area behind Group Supply resulted in a quantity of paint and tires destroyed and heavy damage to one Marine Maintenance Facility. MAG-12 (Fwd) Marines turned out in force for a FOD walkdown of the dual 10,000' runways and, after a one hour delay, the full schedule of fifty-two sorties was flown.

On 10 and 11 November each squadron scheduled 32 and 20 sorties respectively enabling all hands to participate in the Marine Corps' 197th birthday. The traditional pageant was enacted at four separate celebrations and two-hundred and forty pounds of birthday cake were consumed.

The third week of the month saw the Group completing final preparations for the anticipated retrograde and flyaway on the 21st. A flurry of packing, painting, loading, flight planning, and dispatching advance parties to Cubi Point, Naha, and Iwakuni came to an abrupt halt when success of the peace talks failed to materialize. With no pause in flight operations the Group settled back down to routine combat operations.

Navy representatives from the USS ORISKANY visited MAG-12 (Fwd) with information that the ship would be launching airstrikes in MR III, and IV. They requested MAG-12 (Fwd) assistance on any divers or emergencies that might bingo into Bien Hoa. By the end of the reporting period MAG-12 (Fwd) had downloaded and turned three A-7s and two F-8s that arrived with hung ordnance.

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

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<u>Description</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
KBA(C)	1853	
Structures	1489	444
Sampan	243	91
Fortified Fighting Positions	794	144
Bunkers	1423	168
Gun Positions	51	4
Mortar Positions	40	4
Tunnels	114	8
Trucks	19	9
Tanks	8	7
Bridges	39	48
Secondary Explosions	1573	
Secondary Fires	227	

During the month of November the air group's gun squadrons flew a combined total of 1827.8 flight hours, 1564 combat sorties, and delivered 2444 tons of ordnance.

4. During November, MAG-12 S-4 assisted in procuring through USARV several hundred beds, mattresses, business machines, and other items for the Marines in Task Force Delta. These were airlifted to Nam Phong by Marine C-130's on random flights throughout the month.

In the latter half of the month, 22nd AF, PACAF notified MAG-12 of cancellation of eastbound C-141 flights through Bien Hoa. A backlog of some three C-141 loads of retrograde material now exists. A request to reduce this backlog by floater aircraft has been forwarded.

Due to the likelihood of a standdown and redeployment all units made preparations for embarkation, drafting manifesting lists, refurbishing and loading Conex boxes and other necessary preliminary tasks. Wing personnel from G-4 (Embark) and customs were on hand to assist. Two housetrainers, used for supply and ordnance were sealifted to MCAS Iwakuni.

At mid-month, an A-4 aircraft, damaged by fire and incapable of flight, was airlifted by a U.S. Chinook helicopter from Bien Hoa to the Newport shipping terminal in Saigon for onward sea transport to Cubi Point.

Throughout the month, varying quantities of jungle utilities and boots have arrived. This clothing has greatly alleviated what was a near calamitous shortage for MAG-12 (Fwd) Marines. There still exists a need for a cash sales point to allow purchase of badly needed items such as utility caps, belts, underwear and rank chevrons.

By directive, the calibration unit with its associated vans, vehicles and personnel was relocated to Nam Phong on a space available basis aboard regularly scheduled MarCor support C-141's. MAG-12 (Fwd) equipment requiring calibration was certified through December prior to the unit's departure.

From 23 through 25 November a safety inspection was held on all ord-

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nance sections. Ordnance procedures and spaces were inspected and found to be satisfactory. H&MS-12 ordnance section palletized and shipped 20 sealand vans of LAU-10A rocket pods and retrograde material. MK-4 gunpod operations came to a close and all gunpods were shipped to the rear.

With the withdrawal of USAF personnel of the 8th Aerialport Detachment, cargo preparation and aircraft loading and unloading of nonessential retrograde material has been slowed. These functions are now in the hands of contract U. S./Vietnamese civilians. Marines stand ready at all times to assist in this area.

5. During the month of November 40 Marines received the initial twenty hour package of Human Relations training. MAG-12 (Fwd) continues to remain 100% qualified for the initial training. Marines who received training in this area during November were stragglers and newly arrived Marines who had not received this training prior to arriving in Bien Hoa.

The Troop Orientation Briefing for newly arrived personnel was presented to all incoming personnel for the month. The effort here is to make every new member of the command feel welcome and an integral part of the team.

Something new was formally initiated this month in the form of Human Affairs seminars. These are conducted on the average of two per week with fifteen to twenty Marines participating and at the present time are being conducted by the Group HAD Officer. Squadron HAD Officers are being included in these seminars and will start their own program on the squadron level during the coming month.

896 personnel participated in the World Wide Urinalysis Screening Program during the month. There were thirteen clinically confirmed cases of drug abusers, none of which were repeats. At the end of this reporting period, MAG-12 (Fwd) had six Marines on the drug exemption program. There are presently three Marines awaiting administrative discharges for repeated drug abuse and one Marine awaiting disposition instructions from CMC for rehabilitation at a rehabilitation center.

The easy accessibility of drugs at Bien Hoa continues to be a problem in rehabilitating individuals on the Drug Exemption Program. It is still the intent, whenever possible, to keep the Marine concerned at the local level for rehabilitation.

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Due to intelligence reports of high probability of attack by fire and/or sapper attack, MAG-12 (Fwd) continued to deploy 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 until the 11th of the month.

05 November: Sixty orphans from the Nguc Nget Orphanage were invited aboard and fed cake and ice cream in the Bien Hoa general mess as the Group Commander donated \$1,000.00 to the orphanage.

09 November: Hellborne 04-1 (MSN #W007), VMA-211, aborted takeoff due to a blown tire, experienced control difficulty and ejected prior to departing runway. Pilot was uninjured. Aircraft rolled approx 300' down slight embankment, exploded, and burned for strike damage (See VMA-211 AAR 4-73A; A4E 151191; 9 Nov 1972, Pilot KEMPER).

LtGen BROWN, CG 1st MAW, and staff, enroute to Nam Phong visited briefly with the Group Commander.

10, 11 November: All officers and men of MAG-12 toasted the Marine Corps Birthday at four traditional celebrations. On alternate days each squadron scheduled 32 and 20 sorties respectively enabling all hands to participate in the festivities. CG Task Force Delta attended as guest of honor. Visiting dignitaries included BGen TINH, and Col CHIEU of the Vietnamese Air Force.

12 November: At 0300H and again at 0515H Bien Hoa Air Base received fifty-five rounds of 122mm rockets. MAG-12 (Fwd) sustained no casualties or aircraft damage. One rocket scored a direct hit on the storage area behind Group Headquarters resulting in loss of paint, tires, tire tubes, and heavy damage to one MMF. Flight operations were delayed one hour due to runway cratering and FOD.

13 November: Time/Life correspondents Mr. Bruce TIPPY and Mr. David MARSHAL visited MAG-12.

17 November: Eight sorties cancelled by 7th AF due to weather in the target area.

18 November: Twelve sorties cancelled by 7th AF due to target weather.

20 November: Mr. O. Ennio LACOBUCCI, Associated French Press correspondent, visited Bien Hoa Air Base. Although his attention focused primarily on VNAF activities, Mr. LACOBUCCI toured MAG-12 (Fwd), visited the Group Commander, and photographed several pilots.

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22 November: Mr. Jack FOISIE, of the Los Angeles Times, visited MAG-12 (Fwd). He interviewed the Commanding Officer and toured MAG-12 area.

23 November: CBS TV filmed a feature it titled "The Last Thanksgiving in Vietnam" showing Marines of MAG-12 (Fwd) eating Thanksgiving dinner in the Bien Hoa general mess. This footage together with shots of the Group flight line and A4E's launching on combat missions subsequently was aired for two minutes on US national TV during the evening news.

24 November: VAdm HOLLOWAY, ComSeventhFlt, arrived Bien Hoa at 241015H, was briefed by the Group Commander and his staff, and toured MAG-12 (Fwd) facilities. He departed at 241145H.

26 November: LtGen METZGER, CG III MAF, arrived Bien Hoa at 1415H. Briefed by Col MACHO and staff and toured Group area. Departed at 1600H.

29 November: BGen TAYLOR, CG Task Force Delta, arrived Bien Hoa 1000H, visited with Group Commander, and departed at 1200H.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Enclosures (1) through (4).

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