

HEADQUARTERS  
 Marine Aircraft Group 13  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
 FPO, San Francisco, Calif. 96602

3:RJD:twg  
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 17 October 1969

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 September 1969 to 30 September 1969  
 Ref: (a) WgO 5750.4

Encl: (1) MAG-13 Command Chronology  
 (2) H&MS-13 Command Chronology  
 (3) MABS-13 Command Chronology  
 (4) VMFA-115 Command Chronology  
 (5) VMFA-314 Command Chronology  
 (6) VMFA-122 Command Chronology  
 (7) VMFA-232 Command Chronology

Filed  
 Sep

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are herewith submitted.
2. Upon removal of the enclosures, this letter is downgraded to unclassified.

*Thomas E. Murphree*  
 Thomas E. MURPHREE

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S&C #	69-1146
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Marine Aircraft Group 13  
Command Chronology  
1 September 1969 to 30 September 1969

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Part One1. Organizational Data

## a. Headquarters, MAG-13 (1-30 September 1969)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Billet</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>Rank</u> <u>Actual</u>
Richard S. RASH	C.O. (1-14 Sep)	Col	Col
Thomas E. MURPHREE	C.O. (15-30 Sep)	Col	Col
Thomas E. MURPHREE	X.O. (1-14 Sep)	LtCol	LtCol
Hal W. VINGENT	X.O. (15-30 Sep)	LtCol	LtCol
Walter S. MEADS	Adj (1-5 Sep)	Capt	1stLt
George L. LEWIS Jr.	Adj (6-30 Sep)	Capt	Capt
Robert E. WINSLOW	SgtMaj	SgtMaj	SgtMaj
D. A. LEWIS	S-1	Maj	Maj
Bobby D. GALE	S-2	Maj	Capt
Robert R. NORTON	S-3	LtCol	LtCol
Edward C. JOHNSON	S-4	LtCol	LtCol

## b. Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 13 (1-30 September 1969)

Lawrence J. WILLIS	C.O.	LtCol	LtCol
James D. MOODY	X.O.	Major	Major
Edward GARDOZA	S-1	Lt	Capt
James D. MOODY	S-3	Capt	Major

## c. Marine Air Base Squadron 13 (1-30 September 1969)

Alfred W. DRAGO	C.O.	LtCol	LtCol
Norbert F. SCHNIPPEL	X.O.	Major	Major
Donald J. BERGER	S-1	W.O.	Capt
Myrl W. ALLENDER Jr.	BaseserO	Major	Major

## d. Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 115 (1-30 September 1969)

Edwin C. PAIGE Jr.	C.O.	LtCol	LtCol
Donald P. BOWEN	X.O.	Major	Major
Fredrick B. CRAIG	S-1	Lt	Major
Lester E. AMICK	S-2	Lt	Lt
Lawrence A. WHIPPLE	S-3	Major	Major
Jon R. GIBSON	S-4	WO	Major

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## e. Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 314 (1-30 September 1969)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Billet</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>Rank</u> <u>Actual</u>
Charles G. FREDERICK	C.O.	LtCol	LtCol
Donald WOJCIK	X.O.	Major	Major
Terrill J. RICHARDSON	S-1 (1-15Sep)	Lt	Capt
Lyle P. GREGADICK	S-1 (15-30Sep)	Lt	Major
Howard E. KERR	S-2	Lt	Capt
Robert C. JOHNSON	S-3	Major	Major
Allen W. MASSEY	S-4	WO	Capt

## f. Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 122 (7-30 September 1969)

John K. COCHRAN	C.O.	LtCol	LtCol
Richard D. DOWIE	X.O.	Major	Major
John J. ALLEN	S-1	Lt	Capt
Arnell B. TURNER	S-2	Lt	Lt
Billy H. SHAFER	S-3	Major	Major
George P. SWINNEY III	S-4	WO	Lt

## g. Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 232 (1-7 September 1969)

Ralph J. SORENSON	C.O.	LtCol	LtCol
Robert C. BAUGHMAN	X.O.	Major	Major
Thomas P. CLARK	S-1	Lt	Capt
Thomas J. BULLISON	S-2	Lt	Capt
Ralph D. MILLER	S-3	Major	Major
James C. REYNOLDS	S-4	WO	Major

Subordinate Units2. Task Organization and Unit Location

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>	<u>Date of Office</u>
HMM-43	Chu Lai, RVN	LtCol L. J. WILLIS	1-30 Sep 69
MAF-43	Chu Lai, RVN	LtCol A. N. DRAGO	1-30 Sep 69
VMFA-115	Chu Lai, RVN	LtCol E. C. PAIGE	1-30 Sep 69
VMFA-314	Chu Lai, RVN	LtCol C. G. FREDERICK	1-30 Sep 69
VMFA-232	Chu Lai, RVN	LtCol R. J. SORENSON	1-7 Sep 69
VMFA-122	Chu Lai, RVN	LtCol J. K. COCHRAN	7-30 Sep 69

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3. Average Monthly Strength

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>AGO</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>USAF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
		<u>NFO</u>			<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	
HQMS-13	22	4	27	479	0	0	0
MASS-13	8	2	8	512	0	4	27
VMFA-115	22	18	4	262	0	1	0
VMFA-314	21	23	4	254	0	1	0
VMFA-122	19	15	4	259	0	1	0
VMFA-232	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
GROUP	115	83	50	2058	1	8	31

4. Important Visitors to the Command

On 15 September 1969, the MAG-13 Change of Command was attended by Major General W. G. THRASH, Major General G. S. BOWMAN, Brigadier General W. G. JOHNSON, Brigadier General R. H. SPANGER and Brigadier General J. ROBERTS.

Part Two: Narrative Summary

a. Marine Aircraft Group 13 continued its support of III MAF and all other free world armed forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone, Laos and the Gulf of Tonkin.

b. On 7 September VMFA-122 "Red Devils" were relieved by the VMFA-122 "Crusaders".

c. Highlighting the month of September, MAG-13 changed command on 15 September 1969 with Colonel R. S. RASH being relieved by Lieutenant Colonel T. E. MURPHREE. The ceremony held on the MAG-13 flight line was attended by many distinguished guests.

d. On 19 September an F-4B from VMFA-122 received strike damage while attempting a night landing on a wet runway. The RIO ejected and required MEDEVAC while the pilot received minor injuries.

e. On 20 September, an F-4B from VMFA-314, while returning from a combat mission, crashed with both crew members reported KIA. In addition, the crew reported MIA in August 1969, was declared KIA.

Part Three: Significant Events1. Personnel

During the month of September, Marine Aircraft Group 13 had a loss of 19 officers and 218 enlisted personnel due to rotation and transfers. During the same period, 18 officers and 134 enlisted personnel reported to this Group for duty. The VMFA-232 deployment to MCAS Iwakuni included 47 officers and 280 enlisted personnel.

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## 2. Awards

The following medals were presented to MAG-13 personnel during the month of September:

- a. Navy Commendation Medal: 1
- b. Navy Achievement Medal: 3

During the same period, the following medals were recommended:

- a. Distinguished Flying Cross: 5
- b. Single Mission Air Medal: 6
- c. Bronze Star: 1
- d. Navy Commendation Medal: 20
- e. Navy Achievement Medal: 16
- f. Combat Action Ribbon: 7
- g. Navy & Marine Corps Medal: 1

## 3. Casualties

### Non-Hostile

- a. Total for September: 20
- b. Total Returned to Duty: 7
- c. Total Medevac: 11
- d. Total number of man days lost: 79

### Hostile

- a. Killed in Action: 5
- b. Died of Wounds: 0
- c. Wounded in Action: 0
- e. Died of Accidental Injury: 1

## 4. Civic Action

a. A Personal Response School was held at the MAG-13 Special Services building. The lecture included history, religion, customs and communication of attitudes. Approximately seventy-five people attended.

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b. During the week of 19 September, MAG-13 Marines helped in resettling a group of orphans. They had been initially settled north of Chu Lai Base, and were then moved into one of the empty MAG-13 Beach Barracks.

c. On 26 September, the Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated in the hamlets of Trung An, Vinh An and Hai Ninh. Cookies, candy and food aid were supplied by MAG-13 and propaganda pamphlets were passed out to adults.

##### 5. Morale and Welfare Programs

a. There are presently two Chaplains assigned to MAG-13. They have additional duties of coordinating Chaplain coverage for all Combined Action Platoons in Combined Action Group-1; Episcopal Coverage for Americal Headquarters and Catholic coverage for the Naval Support Activity.

b. Religious services conducted at MAG-13 Chapel consisted of the following:

(1) Protestant Services

- (a) Sunday - 8; attendance 139
- (b) Choir Practice - 5; attendance 35
- (c) Bible Study - 9; attendance 145
- (d) Christian Education - 3; attendance 9

(2) Catholic Services

- (a) Sunday - 8; attendance 377
- (b) Weekday - 18; attendance 65

(3) Ecumenical Services

- (a) Memorial Services-3; attendance 226

c. Services for units other than MAG-13

(1) Protestant Services

Sunday

- (a) Americal - 3; attendance 38

Weekday

- (a) Combined Action Platoons - 3; attendance 27

(2) Catholic Services

Sunday

- (a) NSAD - 4; attendance 168
- (b) FLSG-A/CAG-1-4; attendance 35

Weekday

- (a) Combined Action Platoon - 5; attendance 33
- (b) NSAD So Huynh - 1; attendance 5
- (c) Memorial Service MWSG-17; attendance 45

(3) Ecumenical Services

- (a) Memorial Services, CAG-1--2; attendance 133

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**d. Counselling and Interviews**

Counselling-10      Religious Instruction-3  
Interviews-4

**e. Red Cross Cases - 3**

**f. Hospital Visits - 9**

**g. Meetings and Trips**

Meetings - 2  
Trips - 2

**6. Intelligence**

a. The S-2 section continued to accomplish its mission of supporting MAG-13 with intelligence information by preparing daily briefs and debriefs for aircrews. All incoming flight personnel received their in-country brief from the S-2 section on Mondays and Fridays, and also on other days as required. During the month of September 1969, a total of 5 briefs were given by this section to newly arrived air crew members including VMFA-122. In addition, a weekly brief was prepared and presented at the Commanding Officer Conference.

**7. Operations**

**a. Air Operations**

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>Sorties</u>		<u>Hours</u>	
	<u>Combat</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Combat</u>	<u>Total</u>
H&MS-13 (C-117D)	11	137	41.8	123.9
VMFA-314 (F4B)	534	553	624.4	653.2
VMFA-115 (F4B)	471	500	581.8	605.5
VMFA-122 (F4B)	108	116	122.7	127.9
VMFA-232 (F4B)	34	35	34.8	35.3

**b. Operations Supported**

Frederick Hill, Iron Mountain, Geneva Park, Republic Square, Richland Square, Louisiana Lee, Pipestone Canyon, Idaho Canyon, Nantuckett Beach, Victory Dragon XV, Cumberland Thunder, Clayborne Shute, Iroquois Grove and Georgia Tar.

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c. Significant Bomb Damage Assessment

Bunkers: 191 destroyed  
Hootches: 204 destroyed  
Secondary Explosions: 31  
Secondary Fires: 63  
AAA Positions: 4  
Killed by Marine Air: 7 conf /2 probable

d. Total Ordnance Expended: 1127.1 tons.

8. Supply

a. MAG-13 Group Supply pulled, packed and manifested for embarkation F4J peculiars for the movement of VMFA-232.

9. Base Development

a. Construction was commenced on added ~~hard~~ covered revetments for the protection of MAG-13 aircraft. Although hampered by the adverse weather, construction is continuing at a satisfactory pace.

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