

HEADQUARTERS
 Marine Aircraft Group 15
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

3/EJA/wjm
 5750
 03A28072
 6 Oct 72

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
 Via: (1) Commanding General, Task Force Delta
 (2) Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 September to 30 September 1972

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8
 (c) WgO 5750.1
 (d) Admin 1st MAW 280655Z Apr 72 (U)

Encl: (1) Marine Aircraft Group 15 Command Chronology

1. (U) In accordance with references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. (U) This letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

A. W. TALBERT
 A. W. TALBERT

CLASSIFIED BY: MAG-15 S-3
 SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO-YEAR
 INTERVALS
 DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 1978

✓ MAG-15 S&C FILES

001455-72
 COPY No. 1 of 5

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
FPO, San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September 1972 - 30 September 1972

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine Aircraft Group 15

COMMANDERColonel A. W. TAIBERT
1-30 September 1972SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 15

Maj R. N. PATRICK
1-30 September 1972

Marine Air Base Squadron 15

Maj W. W. HARDING
1-30 September 1972

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115

LtCol H. C. IVY
1-30 September 1972

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232

LtCol E. R. MAAG
1-7 September 1972
LtCol R. O. LAWRENCE
8-30 September 1972

Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533

LtCol J. C. BROWN
1-30 September 19722. LOCATIONNam Phong, Royal Thai Air Force
Base, Thailand

1-30 September 1972

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

LtCol R. O. LAWRENCE
1-7 September 1972
LtCol D. J. SLEE
8-30 September 1972

S-1 Officer

Maj M. W. MEREDITH
1-30 September 1972

S-2 Officer

CWO-2 T. R. BURNHAM
1-30 September 1972

S-3 Officer

LtCol E. J. ANDERSEN
1-30 September 1972

S-4 Officer

Maj W. COOPER
1-30 September 1972**UNCLASSIFIED**

Enclosure (1)

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	CIV
203	1900	2	10	16

ATTACHED STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
30	281	5	37

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of September, MAG-15 units continued to "press on" with the conduct of, and planning for, present and future combat operations. The solid base of combat experience built over the past few months continues to improve and solidify.

MAG-15 expended the majority of its efforts in conducting air to ground direct and close air support missions throughout Southeast Asia. In September 351 sorties were flown in Military Region One of South Vietnam, 93 sorties were flown in Route Package One of North Vietnam and 109 sorties were either diverted or fragged into the Barrel Roll area of Laos.

Additionally, emphasis was placed on improving our capability to support the Linebacker Strike missions being flown by the Seventh Air Force in Route Packages Five and Six of North Vietnam. Our air to air role generated 190 sorties for the barrier combat air patrol. Maintenance and supply efforts are continually directed towards providing more full system F-4's for the fighter mission.

A-6 all weather operations into Route Package One continued. DIANE navigation/attack systems maintenance work was stressed to increase the number of available system-capable aircraft. Near the end of the month a tangible result was noted when improved aircraft availability permitted an increase of 20 percent in the all weather frag sortie rate. Planning for eventual extension of A-6 operations into more Northern Route Packages commenced in September.

Planning was also completed in September to permit periodic 48 hour Safety/Maintenance stand downs of the operating squadrons. These stand downs will commence in early October. The goals of the stand downs are to obtain greater aircraft availability and to enhance the safety and professionalism of operations.

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A host of senior officers visited Nam Phong RTAFB during September. These included the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General E. E. ANDERSON; the Commander in Chief, Pacific, Admiral N. GAYLER; the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific, Lieutenant General L. H. WILSON; the Commanding General First Marine Aircraft Wing, Major General L. E. BROWN, and the Commander Fleet Air Western Pacific, Rear Admiral H. S. MOORE. The efforts of these visitors to improve the capabilities of this Air Group are noted with a feeling of pride in the Navy/Marine Corps team.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 September 1972 Rear Admiral H. S. MOORE, COMFAIRWESTPAC, was briefed by MAG-15 personnel on supply and logistics matters.

2 September 1972 MajGen L. E. BROWN, CG 1st MAW, was briefed by the MAG-15 CO and Staff.

8 September 1972 LtCol D. J. SIEE became the XO of MAG-15 as LtCol R. O. LAWRENCE assumed command of VMFA-232 from LtCol E. R. MAAG.

13 September 1972 Col A. W. TALBERT attended briefings with BGen R. W. TAYLOR, CG Task Force Delta, in Bangkok with COMUSMACTHAI and CINCPACFLT.

16 September 1972 Admiral N. GAYLER, CINCPAC, was briefed by MAG-15 CO and Staff.

25 September 1972 LtGen L. H. WILSON, CG FMFPAC, was briefed by MAG-15 CO and Staff.

27 September 1972 Gen E. E. ANDERSON, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, was briefed by MAG-15 CO and Staff.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The documents listed below are considered significant.

a.- MAG-15, S-1 Staff Chronology

b.- MAG-15, S-2 Staff Chronology

c.- MAG-15, S-3 Staff Chronology

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- d. ✓ MAG-15, S-4 Staff Chronology
- e. ✓ H&MS-15 Command Chronology
- f. ✓ MABS-15 Command Chronology
- g. ✓ VMFA-115 Command Chronology
- h. ✓ VMFA-232 Command Chronology
- i. ✓ VMA(AW)-533 Command Chronology
- j. ✓ Photo CG, FMFPAC Visit
- k. ✓ Photo ACMC Visit
- l. ✓ Photo CO, MAG-15

HEADQUARTERS
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
FPO San Francisco 96602

STAFF CHRONOLOGY
1-30 September 1972

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Part II Narrative Summary
Part III Sequential Listing of Significant
Events
Part IV Supporting Documents

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation Marine Aircraft Group 15 (S-1)	S-1 Officer Major M. W. MEREDITH
2. Location 1-30 September 1972	Nam Phong Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand
3. Staff Officers Asst S-1, 1-12 Sep 72 Asst S-1, 13-30 Sep 72 S&C Off, 1-30 Sep 72 RPS Off, 1-30 Sep 72	1stLt A. E. MATTOX Capt B. E. JANKIEWICZ 1stLt D. M. EGGS PUEHLER Capt D. F. DZIEDZIC
4. Average Monthly Strength	

USMC
OFF ENLISTED
4 12

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. To help improve the area of Personnel Accounting, initial implementations of MAPS (Marine Airwing Personnel System) inputs have been submitted from the squadrons of MAG-15 to 1stMAW (G-1), during September. This new system should provide this Group with current updated personnel information regarding MOS's, on board strength, losses, etc. which will be reflected on a computer readout. This system will provide data on a more timely basis than is currently possible under MMS (Manpower Management System).
2. The Navy Achievement Medal was presented to the Assistant S-1 Officer, 1stLt A. E. MATTOX on 8 September 1972 by Colonel A. W. TALBERT, CO, MAG-15.
3. Personnel meritoriously promoted during September 1972 totalled one to rank of Sergeant, five to Corporal, and fifteen to Lance Corporal.
4. In spite of rigorous combat demands imposed upon MAG-15 squadrons, this command has strived to maintain a healthy liberty program in which an individual has two options. He may choose to spend 36 hours every two weeks at Udorn, Thailand or 70 hours (two nights and one day) once a month at Bangkok, Thailand. Few men desire more liberty than this program provides due to monetary savings.
5. The "Outdoor Theater" has become a central attraction and has averaged five movies weekly with cancellations due to inclement weather. "The Topaz Four", an all girl USO show which originated in Salt Lake City, Utah featuring rock music, drew an unusually large gathering on 24 September. These special services programs are provided to help maintain an enthusiastic spirit among the men.

PART III SEQUENCED LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. None

PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. None.

SECRET

ENCLOSURE (1)

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HEADQUARTERS
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
FPO San Francisco 96602

STAFF CHRONOLOGY
1-30 SEPTEMBER

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- Part IV Supporting Documents

8-2, MAC-15

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

MAG-15 (S-2)

S-2 OFFICER

CWO-2 THOMAS R. BURMEIER

2. LOCATION

1-30 September 1972 Nam Phong Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand

3. STAFF OFFICERS

NONE

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

OFFICERS

ENLISTED

1

10

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During September the three operating squadrons of MAG-15 achieved excellent BDA. VFMA-115 joined with VFMA-232 in meeting MAG-15's barcap commitment. VMA(AW)-533 continued its single sortie night missions into RP-1 with excellent results. All three squadrons flew numerous missions into MR-I in support of ARVN forces and contributed significantly to the successful reoccupation of Quang Tri City by ARVN forces. When enemy action increased south of Danang, MAG-15 was again called upon to support the ARVN's. In doing so MAG-15 air crews interdicted enemy supply routes to the west of Ba To and Mo Duc allowing the ARVN forces to gain the initiative. When called upon to fly in support of friendly troops in the Barrel Roll area of Laos, all three squadrons once again achieved excellent results.

During September a MIG-21J was photographed at Gia Lam airfield in North Vietnam and there were reports of large barges moving from Haiphong south to the Vinh area carrying crates containing aircraft parts. Initially there was speculation that the MIG-21J was equipped with "J" band radar however, intelligence sources have negated that speculation and indications are that the MIG-21J carries spin scan radar now in use in North Vietnam. However, even without "J" band radar the MIG-21J could pose a serious threat because of its increased combat radius.

There are recent reports of new airfields under construction in North Vietnam. One of these, Quang Te, could become an additional threat to our barcap operations. The enemy is also mixing their air to air tactics in attempts to confuse U.S. strike aircraft.

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PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

North Vietnamese SAM battalions are firing more SAMs ballistically achieving very poor results. Miss distances of the missiles have been as great as one mile. This seems to indicate that the North Vietnamese are reluctant to use Fan Song radar because of the heavy toll levied on it by shrikes and standard arms.

In the month of September the Group S-2 in coordination with H&MS-36, Detachment "D", initiated a SAR school designed as a follow-up to the lectures conducted during August. The school curriculum consists of the following:

- a. Inserting air crews into unfamiliar terrain by helicopter.
- b. Once inserted, air crews are required to reach a pre-designated area. On reaching the area, personnel are required to use flares, a mirror, and radio equipment in attempts to vector the helicopter to their position.
- c. When satisfactory use of survival equipment is accomplished, air crews will then be extracted through the use of a jungle penetrator lowered by the rescue helicopter.

The Group S-2 conducted current situation briefings for MAG-15 on 3 September and for H&MS-15 on 11 September.

PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

26 Sep 1972 The pre-IG team from 1st MAW (G-2) completed their inspection of MAG-15 S-2. Results were satisfactory with minor discrepancies and several noteworthy areas were indicated.

27 Sep 1972 The assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant General ANDERSON, was briefed on enemy threats and tactics directly effecting the missions assigned to MAG-15.

PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Bomb damage assessment for the month of September extracted from intelligence summaries and operational report-4s.



INCLOSURE (1)
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~~SECRET~~BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

<u>TARGET</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS	226	-
TRUCKS	11	10
BUNKERS	88	13
SUPPLY STACKS	7	-
FIRE'S	84	-
STRUCTURES	50	13
85mm	1	4
107mm	1	0
KBA	12	-
25 METRE TRENCH LINE	1	-
30 FOOT TRENCH LINE	1	-
APC	0	4
FORD CUT	1	-
TANKS	1	0
BRIDGES	1	0
37mm	3	0

ENCLOSURE (1) TAB A

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STAFF CHRONOLOGY

1 September 1972 - 30 September 1972

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20-3, MAR-15

20-3
20-3

1.

Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONS-3 OFFICER

Marine Aircraft Group 15 (S-3)

LtCol E. J. ANDERSEN
1-30 September 19722. LOCATIONNam Phong, Royal Thai Air
Force Base, Thailand

1-30 September 1972

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Assistant S-3 Officer

Maj A. P. LORING
1-30 September 1972

Assistant S-3 Officer

Maj P. M. COLE
1-30 September 1972

Aviation Training Officer

Capt J. A. D'ERRICO
1-18 September 1972

Weapons Training Officer

Capt K. D. EDELEN
1-30 September 1972

NATOPS Officer

Capt J. P. BROWN
1-30 September 1972

GMS Training Officer

Capt E. J. CHAPMAN
1-30 September 1972

MARES/FORSTAT Officer

Capt R. L. BULLARD
1-30 September 19724. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHOfficer/Enlisted

7 5

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

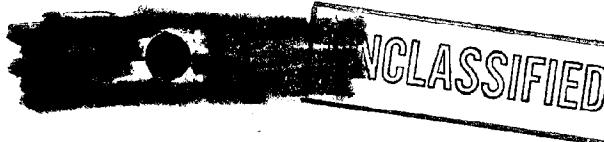
The month of September continued the fast pace of operations at RTAFB Nam Phong. Several operational briefings were presented to a variety of distinguished visitors. Air to air BARCAP missions in support of Air Force Linebacker strikes were flown on 28 days of the month as well as air to ground close and direct air support in Military Region I of South Vietnam, Route Package One of North Vietnam and the Barrel Roll Area of Laos.

The transition to the Northeast Monsoon with its attendant changing weather in Northern Laos has seen a partial shift of air to ground strike emphasis to this area. As a result LtCol E. J. ANDERSEN attended the Air Force Barrel Roll conference at Udorn RTAFB on 27 September for the purpose of coordinating the MAG-15 efforts in this area.

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By the end of the month the MAG-15 Human Relations Program had completed approximately 1800 Group personnel. The course consisted of twenty hours classroom instruction in accordance with the CMC Human Relations Draft program.

The first helicopter training in jungle extractions was conducted during the month. MAG-36 detachment CH-46 helicopters equipped with the standard Air Force Jungle Penetrator hoisting device were employed. The many apparent training benefits of this endeavor have established it as a continuing training program.

Little known, but of considerable significance, is the fine job being done by the Army communications detachment from Fort Huachuca, Arizona. The detachment operates the secure voice telephone terminal at Nam Phong RTAFB which has proven to be an invaluable tool in the conduct of operations at this site.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

16 September 1972 Maj A. P. LORING and MAJ P. M. COLE notified of selection to rank of LtCol.

18 September 1972 Capt J. A. D'ERRICO reassigned to VMFA-115

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.


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S-4

Staff Chronology
1-30 September 1972

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8-4, 1972

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation
MAG-15 S-4 S-4 Officer
W.F. Tremper, Maj 1-15 Sept
W.J. Cooper, Maj 16-30 Sept
2. Location
1-30 September Nam Phong RTAB
3. Staff Officers
Asst S-4 Base Development H.F. Pyle, Maj
Buildings and Grounds Officer (1-10) D.L. Schussele, Capt
Buildings and Grounds Officer (10-30) J.R. Defreytas, 1st Lt
Ground Safety Officer D.O. Weeter, 1st Lt
4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC USN OTHER
OFF ENL OFF ENL OFF ENL
4 8 0 0 0 0

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of September the following personnel changes were effected within the S-4 division. Major Pyle was assigned as the Assistant S-4/Base Development Officer. 1st Lt Defreytas transferred in from VMA(AW)-533 to replace Capt. Schussele as building and grounds officer and Capt. Schussele was transferred to VMFA-232.

On the 14th of September Colonel Smith, Assistant G-4 FMFPAC, and party visited informally with Task Force Delta, MAG-15 and LSG on supply and logistics matters.

The following projects were completed by NMCB-5 and accepted by MAG-15: two covered storage supply areas; northern throat, connecting the north/south taxiway with the Base Operations and VMGR-152 Detachment area; soil cement on road around main water point; the potable water distribution system to all mess halls.

The following major projects were completed by MAG-15: AM2 matted pad for the MCC-1 complex; AM2 matted pad for supply storage warehouses; electrical wiring and plumbing for the new hospital complex. MABS-15 completed installation of kitchen equipment (steam tables, dishwashing tubs, etc) in preparation for the opening of mess hall # 2 scheduled for mid-October.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL LISTING OF EVENTS

- 1 September 1972 - - - - - Rear Admiral Moore visited today and was briefed on Supply and Logistics matters.
- 3 September 1972 - - - - - Two Supply warehouses completed.
- 4 September 1972 - - - - - Major Pyle arrived.
- 6 September 1972 - - - - - 1st Lt. Defreytas transferred from VMA(M)-533
- 10 September 1972 - - - - - Capt. Schussele transferred to VIFMA-232
- 14 September 1972 - - - - - Col. Smith and party (C-4 MELPAC) arrived today.
- 15 September 1972 - - - - - MCC-1 moved onto A1-2 matted pad and is operational.
- 16 September 1972 - - - - - North taxiway throat to aircraft parking area is open.
- 18 September 1972 - - - - - Major Gremper departed.
- 19 September 1972 - - - - - Medical Department moved into the new hospital.
- 20 September 1972 - - - - - Potable water system to messhalls completed.
- 21 September 1972 - - - - - all soil cement operations on site completed.
- 22 September 1972 - - - - - Commenced construction of Ready Issue Ammo Dump.

PART IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE

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VISIT BY ACMC
L-R COL TALBERT-CO, MAG-15
BGEN TAYLOR-CG, TFD
GEN ANDERSON-ACMC
27 SEP 72
Nam Phong, Thailand

Photos By SSGT ALLEN



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