

**SECRET**

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

3/EJA/gma  
5750  
03A31272  
8 November 1972

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, Task Force Delta

Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 October to 31 October 1972

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) WgO 5750.1  
(d) Admin 1st MAW 280655Z Apr 72  
(e) Admin 1st MAW 170655Z Oct 72

Encl: (1) Marine Aircraft Group-15 Command Chronology

1. (U) In accordance with the provisions as set forth in references (a) through (e), enclosure (1) is submitted.

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

  
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 1980

MAG-15 SAC FILE

00/604-72

COPY No. 1 of 6

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 OCTOBER 1972 - 31 OCTOBER 1972

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- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine Aircraft Group 15

COMMANDERColonel A. W. TALBERT  
1-31 October 1972SUBORDINATE UNITSHeadquarters and Maintenance  
Squadron 15Maj R. N. PATRICK  
1-31 October 1972

Marine Air Base Squadron 15

Maj D. J. KIELY  
1-31 October 1972

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115

LtCol H. C. IVY  
1-31 October 1972

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232

LtCol R. O. LAWRENCE  
1-31 October 1972

Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533

LtCol J. C. BROWN  
1-31 October 19722. LOCATIONNam Phong, Royal Thai Air Force  
Base ThailandPERIOD

1-31 October 1972

3. STAFF OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LtCol D. J. SLEE

1-31 October 1972

S-1 OFFICER

Major M. W. MERIDITH

1-31 October 1972

S-2 OFFICER

CWO-2 T. R. BURNHAM

1-31 October 1972

S-3 OFFICER

LtCol E. J. ANDERSEN

1-31 October 1972

S-4 OFFICER

Major W. COOPER

1-31 October 1972

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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>CIV</u>
213	2024	3	0	17

ATTACHED STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
34	296	7	37

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(C) The month of October has seen considerable stabilization of the operations at and from Nam Phong, Thailand. In the air an increasing sortie rate has resulted from the transition to an essentially permanent operation with all aspects of the physical air base, its facilities, support and supply having overcome the growing pains which are a part of building an airfield from the ground up.

(C) As in previous months the majority of the Group's effort was directed toward direct and close air support. Six hundred eighty nine air to ground sorties were flown divided between South Vietnam (318), North Vietnam (86) and Laos (285). The fully developed Northeast monsoon saw a continual increase in the number of missions fragged into Laos as the weather deteriorated over the coastal regions of Vietnam.

(C) MAG-15 BARCAP mission support of the Seventh Air Force strikes into North Vietnam continued through 22 October. An indefinite halt to these missions was called on 24 October due to restrictions on strikes north of the 20th parallel. The release of the BARCAP air-to-air aircraft allowed a commensurate increase in the Group's air-to-ground effort with the daily fragged sorties for this mission increasing from 27 to 39.

(C) The A-6 night all-weather operations into Route Package One of North Vietnam continued at a constant rate during the month accounting for 86 sorties completed. The anticipated extension of A-6 missions into the more northern route packages has been held in abeyance due to the bombing restrictions mentioned above.

(C) An A-6 aircraft was lost during the early morning hours of 12 October in Route Package One of North Vietnam to presumed enemy action. The flight was engaged in low level road reconnaissance against moving targets. The crew is listed as missing in action.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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(C) The first 48-hour operating squadron maintenance/safety stand downs were effected in October and all indications point toward their producing enhanced flight safety and improved maintenance. These stand downs are expected to be a continuing program at Nam Phong.

(C) Vice Admiral J. L. HOLLOWAY III, COMSEVENTHFLT, toured the MAG-15 areas and observed air operations on 5 October. He attended a briefing which covered MAG-15 operations, base defense, and security. He was escorted by Major General L. E. BROWN, CG First Marine Aircraft Wing and Brigadier General R. W. TAYLOR, CG, Task Force Delta.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

2 October 1972	LtGen L. METZGER, CG, III MAF, visited MAG-15 in conjunction with a visit to Task Force Delta.
5 October 1972	Vice Admiral J. L. HOLLOWAY III, COMSEVENTHFLT and MajGen L. E. BROWN, CG, 1st MAW briefed by MAG-15 Staff.
12 October 1972	VMA(AW)-533 lost an aircraft (A-6) in Route Package One of North Vietnam from presumed enemy action. The pilot and bombardier/navigator are listed as missing in action.
17 October 1972	MajGen L. E. BROWN, CG, 1st MAW, visited MAG-15 in conjunction with a visit to Task Force Delta.
24 October 1972	Bombing north of the 20th parallel halted. MAG-15 BARCAP mission suspended.

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The documents listed below are considered significant.
  - A. - (U) Photo CG, III MAF visit.
  - B. - (U) Photo CG, III MAF visit.
  - C. - (U) Photo COMSEVENTHFLT visit.
  - D. - (U) Photo COMSEVENTHFLT visit.
  - E. - (U) Photo CG, 1st MAW visit.

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (1)

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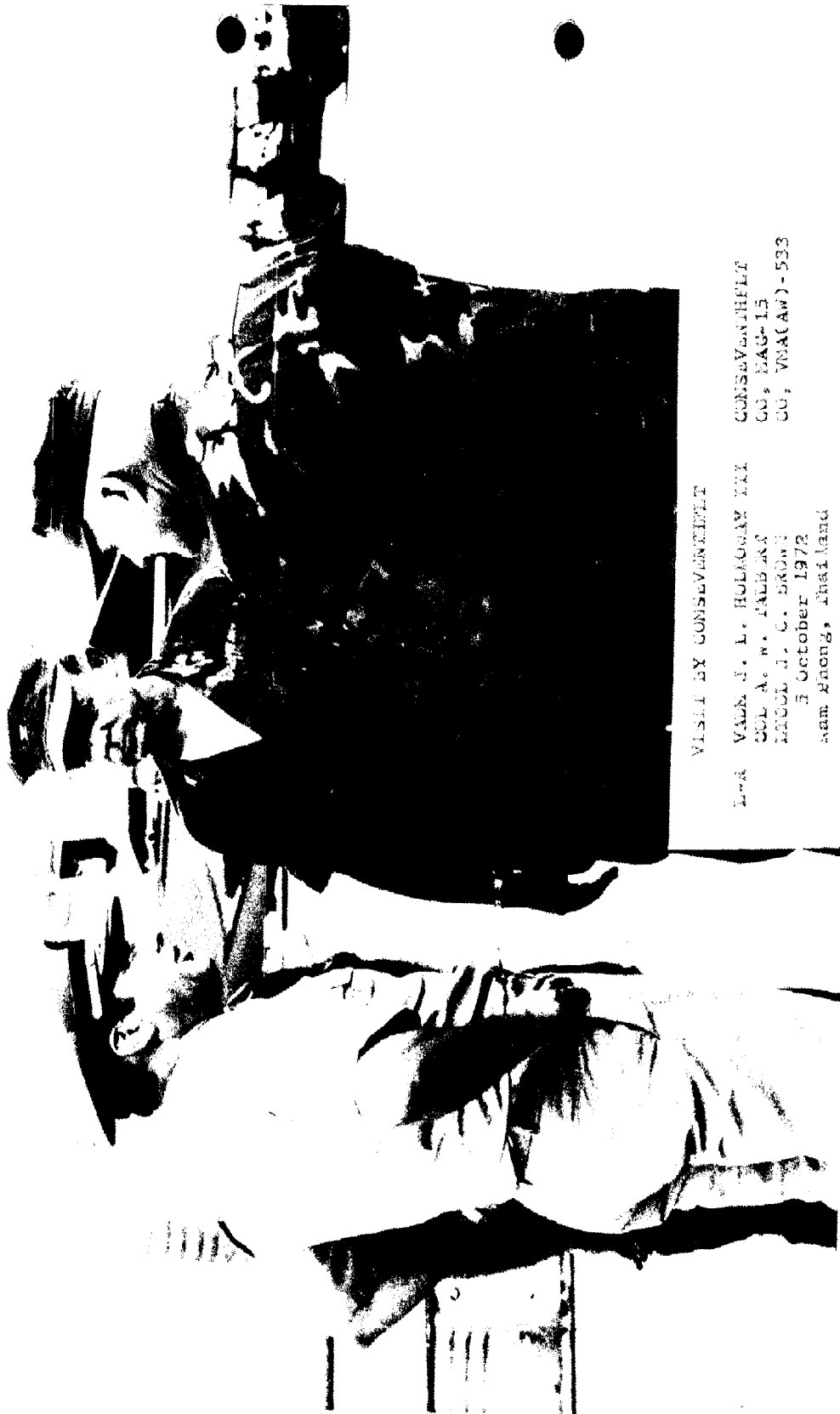
- F. ✓ (U) MAG-15, S-1 Staff Chronology
- G. ✓ (S) MAG-15, S-2 Staff Chronology
- H. ✓ (C) MAG-15, S-3 Staff Chronology
- I. ✓ (U) MAG-15, S-4 Staff Chronology
- J. ✓ (C) H&MS-15 Command Chronology
- K. ✓ (U) MABS-15 Command Chronology
- L. ✓ (C) VMFA-115 Command Chronology
- M. ✓ (C) VMFA-232 Command Chronology
- N. ✓ (C) VMA(AW)-533 Command Chronology

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VISIT BY CG, III MAF

LTJG EUGEN A. W. TAYLOR CG, Task Force Delta  
 LTJG L. METZGER CG, III MAF  
 COL A. W. TALBERT CG, MAC-15  
 2 October 1972  
 Nam Phong, Thailand



VISIT BY CONVENTIENT

L-4 VALN J. L. HOLLOMAN III  
COL A. W. TALEN  
MAJOL J. C. BRONN  
3 October 1972  
nam Phong, Thailand

CONVENTIENT  
CO, MAG-15  
CO, VMACW-533



VISIT BY COMNAVANTFLT

LOR MAJ D. J. KELLY  
 VADM J. L. HOLLOWAY III  
 COL A. W. TALBERT  
 EGGR A. W. TAYLOR  
 5 October 1972  
 Nam Phong, Thailand

CO, MAGS-15  
 COMNAVANTFLT  
 CO, MAG-15  
 CU, Task Force Delta



VISIT BY CG, 1ST MAG

L-3 NGEN L. E. BROWN

NGEN R. W. TAYLOR

COL A. W. JALBERT

17 October 1972

Nam Phong, Thailand

CG, 1ST MAG  
CG, Task Force Delta  
CO, MAG-15

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

STAFF CHRONOLOGY

1 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER 1972

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*8-1, MAG-15*

Enclosure 1

*OCT-1972*

*TAB. 1*

## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONS-1 OFFICER

Marine Aircraft Group 15 S-1

Maj M. W. MEREDITH  
1-31 October 19722. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONPERIOD

NAM PHONG RTAFB

1-31 October 1972

3. STAFF OFFICERS

ADJUTANT	- First Lieutenant A. E. MATTOX	1-31 October 1972
ASST S-1 OFFICER	- Captain B. E. JANKIEWICZ	1-31 October 1972
CMS OFFICER	- Captain D. F. DZIEDZIC	1-5 October 1972
CMS OFFICER	- First Lieutenant P. C. LOVE	6-31 October 1972
S&C OFFICER	- First Lieutenant D. M. EGGSPUEHLER	1-31 October 1972

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>
5	13	0	0	0	0

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During October, MAG-15 S-1 has continued to function routinely and perform administrative matters concerning five squadrons located at Nam Phong, Thailand and three H&MS-15 detachments; Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie.

To increase the number of sports activities available to members of this command and to broaden the scope of entertainment, special services has initiated the construction of a football and baseball field during mid-October, and an Enlisted Club/Recreation Center was erected and is presently being appropriately equipped. On 23 October, a group of four males and one female called "THE 21st CENTURY LTD." featured Black Soul, pop, and gospel music.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF EVENTS

NONE

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE

Enclosure (1)

(F)

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Marine Aircraft Group 15  
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B-2, 15 MAG

Enclosure (1)

SECRET

Oct 1972

TRAC

UNCLASSIFIED

## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine Aircraft Group 15 (S-2)

S-2 OFFICERCWO-2 T. R. BURNHAM  
1-31 October 19722. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Nam Phong Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand

PERIOD

1-31 October 1972

3. STAFF OFFICERS

None

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>
1	9	0	0	0	0

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(S) Clear weather during the last half of October contributed significantly to the increase in bomb damage assessment over that of the previous month. All three squadrons flew interdiction and direct air support missions obtaining excellent results. VMA(AW)-533 continued its single sortie night missions into Route Pack One and also flew day missions into MR-1, MR-11, and the Barrel Roll area. VMFA-115 and VMFA-232 increased their sortie rate into the Barrel Roll and Steel Tiger areas. The cancellation of the Linebacker BARCAP commitment accounted for the increased sortie rate into other areas.

(C) Reports of flare firings in RP-1 during the hours of darkness indicates that the enemy may be attempting to mark the flight paths of our aircraft in an attempt to warn AAA and SAM positions and give them a better ballistic firing capability.

(S) On 12 October an A-6 from VMA(AW)-533 was lost while on a night mission in RP-1. The last contact with the aircraft was at 111940Z. SAR operations were conducted with negative results.

(U) While peace negotiations are being conducted, both sides are battling fiercely for control of the populated areas in the low lands of South Vietnam to secure an advantageous position in the event of an in-place cease fire.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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(U) The Group S-2 continued situation briefings for all hands upon request from the squadron commanders. The S-2 in coordination with Detachment "D", H&MS-36, continued its jungle penetrator training for all aircrews.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

12 October 1972

A-6 from VMA(AW)-533 lost due to unknown causes. OPREP-3 DTG 112315Z Oct 72 refers.

24 October 1972

Linebacker strike missions north of the 20th parallel were suspended indefinitely.

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A. (S) Bomb damage assessment was derived from intelligence summaries and Operational Report-4's for the month of October.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

<u>DAMAGE</u>	<u>DENSITY</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS	304	-
SUSTAINED FIRES	63	-
TRUCKS	14	8
BRIDGES	1	0
BULBARS	96	11
ICM	38	-
CAVE	1	0
50 METER ROAD CUT	1	-
POW BARRIERS	5	0
TOWERS	1	1
AMMO CACHES	3	-
STRUCTURES	31	5
TANKS	1	0
STORAGE SHEDS	5	0
RICH	1 ton	-
SUPPLY STACKS	25	3
JEEP & TRAILER	1	0
ROAD CUTS	3	-
UNKNOWN CALIBER GUN	1	0
14.5 mm	2	0
12.7 mm	5	1
82 mm Mortar	1	0
85 mm GUN	1	0
23 mm GUN	1	1
37 mm GUN	4	2
122 mm GUN	2	0
130 mm GUN	1	3

ENCLOSURE (1) TAB A

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(2)

[REDACTED]

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

Enclosure (1)

[REDACTED]

Oct 72

TAB. 14

UNCLASSIFIED

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine Aircraft Group 15

S-3 OFFICERLtCol E. J. ANDERSEN  
1-31 October 19722. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONNam Phong, Royal Thai Air Force  
Base, ThailandPERIOD

1-31 October 1972

3. STAFF OFFICERS

ASSISTANT S-3 OFFICER Major A. P. LORING 1-31 October 1972

ASSISTANT S-3 OFFICER Major P. M. COLE 1-31 October 1972

AVIATION/WEAPONS TRAINING OFFICER Captain K. D. EDELEN 1-31 October 1972

NATOPS OFFICER Captain J. P. BROWN 1-31 October 1972

GMS TRAINING OFFICER Captain E. J. CHAPMAN 1-31 October 1972

MARES/FORSTAT OFFICER Captain R. L. BULLARD 1-31 October 1972

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

OFF	ENL
7	6

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(C) During the month of October air operations took place at an accelerating pace. BARCAP missions in support of Air Force Linebacker strikes in North Vietnam were flown through 22 October and totaled 114 sorties for the month. A-6 night systems missions in Route Package One of North Vietnam totaled 84 sorties. Middle through late October saw the Northeast Monsoon firmly established. Military Region One and Two weather frequently became unworkable for visual CAS and DAS with a substantial percentage of the 318 total sorties using Combat Sky Spot, TACAN or section ordnance releases with LORAN equipped Air Force aircraft. Conversely, the Barrel Roll and Steel Tiger areas of Laos became clearer and dryer permitting a greater number of sorties to be scheduled in those areas. A total of 285 sorties was flown into these areas.

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Enclosure (1)

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(C) BARCAP air-to-air support of Seventh Air Force Linebacker strikes was suspended indefinitely on 24 October as a result of bombing restrictions north of the 20th parallel. A commensurate increase in air-to-ground effort directed throughout South Vietnam and Laos was taken as an opportunity to increase both the F-4 and A-6 frag rate to 1.0 of on hand aircraft with atotal of 39 sorties scheduled daily.

(C) Commencing on 31 October repair work on the Nam Phong airfield runway necessitated decreasing the A-6 night Route Package One road RECCE sorties by two during the hours of 2330 to 0530 for an estimated period of fourteen to twenty days.

(C) A new MAC-15 Command Operations Center (COC) was put into operation during the third week of the month. This COC provides a consolidated communications capability to the Operations Duty Officer including direct secure teletype and telephone to the Seventh Air Force Headquarters in Saigon.

(U) The MATCU-62 Marine TRN-29 TACAN was certified and a TACAN approach to Nam Phong airfield published on 22 October.

(U) LtCol ANDERSEN attended the monthly Barrel Roll planning conference on 26 October at the 7/13th Air Force Headquarters at Udorn RTAFB.

(C) VMFA-115, VMFA-232, and VMA(AW)-533 each accomplished a 48 hour maintenance/safety standown during the month of October. Although the goals of increased aircraft availability and greater operational safety of this program are difficult to assess in the short term, all present indications point to its success in contributing to these goals.

### PART III

#### SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

24 October 1972 Linebacker BARCAP air-to-air missions suspended indefinitely.

### PART IV

#### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.

Enclosure (1)

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Marine Aircraft Group 15  
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ENCLOSURE (1)

TAB-2

B-4, 1146-15

Oct 72

## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine Aircraft Group-15 S-4

S-4 OFFICERMaj W. J. COOPER  
1-31 October 19722. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

NAM PHONG RTAFB

PERIOD

1-31 October 1972

3. STAFF OFFICERS

ASST S-4 OFFICER

-Major H. F. PYLE 1-24 October 1972

BASE DEVELOPMENT

-Captain E. SALANIUK 25-31 October 1972

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS OFFICER

-Lieutenant J.R. DEFREYAS 1-31 October 1972

GROUND SAFETY OFFICER

-Lieutenant D.O. WEETER 1-31 October 1972

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
4	8

<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
0	0

<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
0	0

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of October the following personnel changes were affected within the S-4 division. Major Pyle was transferred to MABS. Capt. Salaniuk transferred from VMFA-232 to replace Maj. Pyle as assistant S-4 and Base Development Officer. Additionally Capt. Salaniuk assumed the duties as Group Embarkation Officer from Maj. Cooper.

The following projects were completed and accepted by MAG-15; Installed air conditioned van for secure phone in MAG-15 S-3; Veri drive room became operational; Muse power was tied into flight line and the cantonment; Ready issue bomb dump; Galley #2 building; North south ammo road system; Base entrance road; Helicopter pad and connecting taxiway and access road; Shower units installed; extension matting for ramp area; Enlisted sleeping vans.

On 12 October the Group S-4 and cognizant sections were paid an informal staff visit by LtCol. Corliss, Assistant Wing G-4, Maj. Smith, Assistant Wing Comptroller, Capt. Humm, Assistant Wing Aircraft Maintenance Officer and 2nd Lt. Privett, Assistant Wing Avionics Officer. On 24 October the Wing NAMP Team arrived to conduct formal maintenance training for members of MAG-15.

ENCLOSURE (1)

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF EVENTS

9 October 1972 - - - - - Group S-3 Van installed and air conditioned for secure phone.

10 October 1972 - - - - - Veri drive room for aircraft generators operational.

12 October 1972 - - - - - Informal visit by staff members of Wing G-4

14 October 1972 - - - - - NMCB-5 departed

15 October 1972 - - - - - Muse power tie in to flight line and cantonment area.

Ready Issue Bomb dump completed (6 50X100 pads with berms)

Galley #2 building completed

North south ammo road, East west road ammo, Apron access road; base entrance road completed.

Helicopter pad (200'X250' M8A1 matting) and connecting taxiway and access road.

Lox facilities accepted

Cantonment road system completed.

16 October 1972 - - - - - Shower unit installation (including a 24 hour shower unit with piped in water from the main water point) completed.

17 October 1972 - - - - - 250' of extension matting laid for ramp area.

18 October 1972 - - - - - Construction began on enlisted club #2

22 October 1972 - - - - - Hospital air conditioning and sheet rock walls in operating room, X-ray room and pharmacy completed.

24 October 1972 - - - - - Maj. Pyle transferred to MABS.  
Capt. Salaniuk assigned as Asst. S-4/Embark Officer.

ENCLOSURE (1)

25 October 1972 - - - - - Enlisted sleeping vans became operational.

31 October 1972 - - - - - Racks and mattresses authorized for issue  
to all officers and E-7 and above.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE